

## Migrant workers filling a big need

State programs are paying off for employers

By Katie Johnston  
GLOBE STAFF

In the midst of the migrant crisis, there is opportunity: thousands of new arrivals eager to find jobs that employers around the state are desperate to fill.

And those mutual needs are starting to be met. Migrants living in at-capacity emergency shelters are trickling into the workforce: packaging cooking oil in Ayer, caring for patients with developmental disabilities in Waltham, gearing up to clean hospital rooms in Salem.

But getting to that point has required a massive undertaking. After holding clinics to speed up the work authorization process, the state launched a job skills training program that allows migrants living in shelters to start learning — and earning a stipend — while they wait for the US government to issue them work permits, and just announced two new hires dedicated to connecting migrants with jobs. Workers from MassHire Career Centers are going into shelters to connect migrants with English classes and help them find jobs. And employers are opening their doors to shelter residents — donating space for training sessions and even hiring translators to assist new hires.

Salem Hospital has offered

**MIGRANTS, Page A4**

## In Uvalde, a police ‘failure’

A near-total breakdown in protocols hindered the response to the 2022 school shooting, and the refusal to rapidly confront the killer cost lives, the Justice Department said. **A2.**

**Newton teachers will go on strike Friday** following more than a year of often acrimonious contract negotiations. **B1.**

**Attorney General Andrea Joy Campbell warned Milton officials that the town could face legal action** if a referendum vote nullifies an ambitious zoning proposal. **B1.**

**Eviction filings in Massachusetts have climbed steadily in the last year**, with pandemic relief no longer an option. **B5.**

**The snow and ice remain on Boston sidewalks** and people aren't happy about it. **B1.**



### Top coating

**Friday:** Light snow.  
High 28-33. Low 13-18.

**Saturday:** Windy, frigid.  
High 20-25. Low 13-18.

High tide: 5:26 a.m., 6:02 p.m.  
Sunrise: 7:09    Sunset: 4:41

**Weather and Comics, G8-9.**  
**Obituaries, C10.**

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CRAIG F. WALKER/GLOBE STAFF

Parts of South Ocean Grove Circle in Dennis Port collapsed in last week's storms.

Officials are considering ways to buy out homeowners now dangerously close to the ocean. But many won't go.

By Sabrina Shankman  
GLOBE STAFF

In the age of climate change, as sea levels rise and more intense storms wear away the natural landscape that had protected coastal communities for generations, state and local officials are considering more radical measures, including paying people to abandon their waterfront properties altogether.

Massachusetts, for example, is exploring the feasibility of a program that would purchase particularly vulnerable or extremely damaged properties from their owners, rather than continue to expose the buildings to further risk, a concept known as managed retreat.

In her annual State of the Commonwealth address Wednesday night,

Governor Maura Healey acknowledged the reality of a changing climate and proposed a permanent disaster relief resiliency fund to help communities recover from natural disasters such as floods and storms. "Severe weather isn't going away anytime soon. Let's future-proof our communities and be ready when help is needed," Healey said.

Last week, communities up and down the Massachusetts coastline felt the impacts of strong storms combined with naturally occurring high tides. In Salisbury, for example, sand dunes that had protected waterfront properties were wiped away by crashing waves and powerful winds that ripped away stairs, decks, even doors that had kept the waters at bay.

**COASTAL FLOODING, Page A5**

**EXPECTED SEA LEVEL RISE, COMPARED TO 2000**

**↑ 1.3 ft.**  
2050

**↑ 4.3 ft.**  
2100

**↑ 7.5 ft.**  
2150

## GOP cuts Johnson some slack, for now

Speaker uses same tactic to avert partial shutdown that doomed McCarthy

By Jim Puzzanghera  
GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON — For the second time in nearly three months, House Speaker Mike Johnson on Thursday committed the same fireable offense as his predecessor: relying on Democrats to pass a short-term spending bill to avoid a government shutdown with no strings attached.

But unlike Kevin McCarthy, who was booted as speaker in October by Republican rebels after 270 days, Johnson's job appears safe — at least for now.

"Mike Johnson is only on day 85," Representative Dusty Johnson, a South Dakota Republican and McCarthy ally, said Wednesday. "I think there's an appreciation for the difficult hand of cards that he has to play."

House Republicans desperately want to avoid a repeat of last fall's chaotic and embarrassing attempt to choose a new speaker, which sidelined the chamber for more than three weeks as they cycled through one failed candidate after another. So they're giving Johnson more leeway to extend a two-tiered government funding deadline to early March under an agreement he reached with Senate majority leader Chuck Schumer, a New York Democrat.

The latest temporary spending bill headed to President Biden Thursday night after congressional passage before a partial government shutdown was set to start on Saturday. The Senate approved the measure 77-18 and the House followed suit

**JOHNSON, Page A6**

## Spotlight dims in N.H. with quieter race and changing media

By Aidan Ryan  
GLOBE STAFF

The New Hampshire primary has been a media spectacle for decades. Reporters flock to diners and main streets in search of pithy quotes from undecided voters. National news stations rent out restaurants and large event spaces to broadcast live from the state.

But this year is shaping up to be quieter. While news organizations are still sending correspondents and broadcast stations will anchor live coverage from the ground, the typical frenetic atmosphere in the days leading up to the election is more subdued.

"This time has definitely got a whole different feel," said Shawn Monahan, director of sales and marketing at the DoubleTree by Hilton Manchester Downtown, which for years has been the unofficial headquarters of the primary's media scene. "They're all here," Monahan added, referring to the national news outlets, "but production on their end is definitely scaled back from what we've seen in other primaries."

MSNBC's "Morning Joe," which broadcast from the now-closed J.D.'s Tavern at the DoubleTree in 2016, won't be there this year, Monahan said. The Washington Post, which booked space at the hotel in previous cycles, did not for 2024. And the number of radio stations filling out the part of the hotel referred to as Radio Row is "nowhere near" as many as in the past, Monahan said.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE, Page A7**

## That vegan milk upcharge brings a latte of complaints

By Beth Teitell  
GLOBE STAFF

Should the lactose intolerant have to pay more for their oat milk lattes? The question sounds like fodder for "Saturday Night Live." But the issue is real.

In late December, 10 plaintiffs who are lactose intolerant or have milk allergies filed a class action suit alleging that Dunkin' discriminates against them by charging extra — by as much as \$2.15 on a single drink.

Considering that the lactose *tolerant* are already paying a ridiculous amount for the elaborate coffee drinks to which we've all apparently become hostage, the surcharge lands hard.

The suit, filed in US District Court in the Northern District of California, asserts that there is "no material difference between the costs of regular milk and Non-Dairy Alternatives" and claims that Dunkin' has unjustly enriched itself off the backs of the lactose-challenged — to the tune of \$250 million.



ALLY RZESA/GLOBE ILLUSTRATION

A check of local outlets found that around here the upcharge is often 50 cents, but depending on the drink and the location, the surcharge could be lower or not levied at all. If you hit a Dunkin' on Summer Street on the way to your cousin's to pick up a large macchiato with whole milk, it's going to run you \$5.51 (including tax). But sub in plant-based milk, and you're looking at \$6.05.

Dunkin' has not yet responded to the lawsuit, opposing counsel said, and did not return Globe emails seeking comment.

Lactose can cause significant discomfort for those who can't digest it. Vomiting, cramps, diarrhea. People with a milk allergy can go into anaphylaxis. Some people are surprised to hear it, but in 2008, when the Americans with Disabilities Act was updated, the conditions were included. That means discrimination against sufferers is prohibited in areas that include public ac-

**PLANT MILK, Page A5**