

The Boston Globe

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THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2023

State takes aim at local opposition to shelters

New code combats restrictive ordinances

By Samantha J. Gross
GLOBE STAFF

Facing pushback from some communities, the Healey administration is adopting a new housing code that explicitly exempts emergency shelters from local zoning restrictions that prevent hotels, motels, and other properties from being used to accommodate the swelling tide of homeless and migrant families.

While many communities have pledged to welcome those families, a number have bristled at hosting a surge of new residents, even temporarily. Some point to local ordinances that restrict the length of hotel stays or cite the lack of funds for schools that would be stretched with an influx of new families.

The resistance from the towns adds another roadblock to the state's effort to house homeless fam-

ilies amid a housing shortage that makes it difficult and very expensive to provide shelter.

“We need every community to be part of the solution by welcoming families into shelter and building more affordable housing so we can address the root cause: a sustained, substantial housing shortage,” Samantha Kaufman, a spokesperson for the Department of Housing and Community Development, said in a statement.

The state's 1983 “right-to-shel-

ter” law obligates officials to immediately house eligible families, pushing officials to find shelter options on short notice. At the same time, the number of migrants arriving from troubled places such as Haiti is escalating.

On Tuesday, 23 new families eligible for shelter entered the state system, and the number of families staying in hotels or motels climbed to 814, more than double that in late January, according to state fig-

SHELTERS, Page A9

Again, Fed hikes rate to fight inflation

May be last for a while, with concerns about a recession

By Jim Puzzanghera
GLOBE STAFF

Despite slowing economic growth, another bank failure, and a showdown over the debt limit, Federal Reserve officials Wednesday raised a key interest rate for the third time this year but signaled it might be the last one for a while.

The quarter percentage point increase, the 10th straight hike by the Fed's monetary policy committee, underscored how officials are prioritizing their fight against still-elevated inflation over fears that higher borrowing costs will push the nation into a recession. The central bank's benchmark rate is now between 5 percent and 5.25 percent, the highest since 2007.

The rate has reached the level the Fed had projected for the end of 2023, and analysts expect officials to hold off on any more increases in order to gauge how the tighter credit conditions affect an economy being buffeted by strong headwinds.

In a statement, the Fed said it would “closely monitor” incoming economic data and take into account a delayed effect from the higher rates in “determining” whether additional increases are necessary. That wording was softer than in its last statement in March, when the Fed said it anticipated additional hikes might be appropriate.

In a news conference after the announcement,

RATE, Page A8

Tax shortfall gives state a dose of reality

April revenue is \$2.2 billion below same month last year

By Matt Stout
GLOBE STAFF

The good times, it seems, are ending.

After years of sometimes record-breaking budget surpluses, state tax revenue plummeted in April, falling nearly \$2.2 billion below what the state collected in that month a year ago and leaving Massachusetts running — by one measure — \$700 million below projections for the year to date.

Lawmakers and budget officials have long braced for a slowdown, but the extent of the drop for April, typically the strongest month, caught some on Beacon Hill by surprise. Collections fell more than \$1.6 billion short of what officials originally projected for the month, according to data released Wednesday, and quickly cratered what had been an overachieving revenue picture.

The state had closed March with \$868 million more in revenue than it originally anticipated. The reversal in fortunes last month now opens the possibility that the state may need to tap a roughly \$1.7 billion escrow account it built using surplus money from a year ago to close any potential gap in the \$52 billion budget.

REVENUES, Page A12



CRAIG F. WALKER/GLOBE STAFF

“Being a mother was the most important thing for me,” said Shayla Johnson, shown with her son, 16-month-old Ronin.

FOR BREAST CANCER SURVIVORS, NEW HOPE ON PREGNANCY

Pausing hormone blockers, which fight recurrence, may be OK, study says

By Kay Lazar
GLOBE STAFF

Young women who recover from breast cancer have long faced an agonizing choice: jeopardize their chances of having children or risk the possibility of their cancer quickly returning.

The powerful hormone blockers many take for years after their tumors are removed help keep the cancer from recurring, but the drugs can be toxic for a developing fetus.

Now a new international study led by Boston researchers offers hope. It found that allowing up to a two-year break in hormone suppression therapy to allow women the

chance to get pregnant and breast feed did not appear to increase the risk of cancer recurring during the roughly 3½ years that participants were followed.

The findings, published Wednesday in the New England Journal of Medicine, focused on women with hormone receptor-positive breast cancer, the most common form.

Doctors usually recommend that women with this type of cancer delay pregnancy for five to 10 years while they undergo follow-up hormone suppression therapy, which reduces their chances of having a recurrence. The medication slows or stops the growth of hormone-sensitive tumors by blocking the

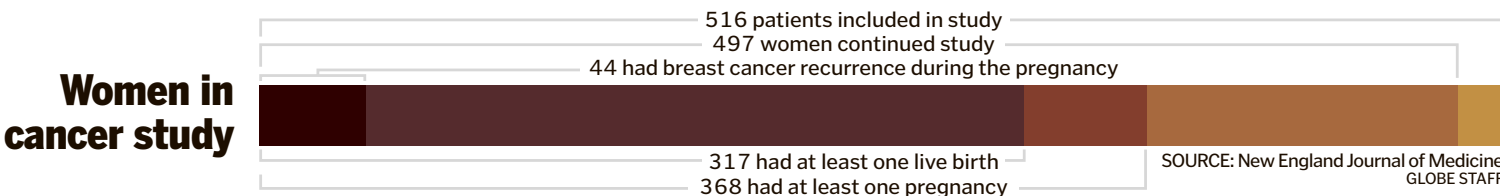
body's ability to produce hormones or by interfering with their effects on breast cancer cells.

But that years-long pause in childbearing can be distressing for women keenly aware that their biological clock is ticking as their peak reproductive years slip away.

Historically, doctors have also been concerned that elevated levels of the hormones estrogen and progesterone during pregnancy would increase the risk of the breast cancer coming back

“It's no longer sufficient to say, ‘You survived your cancer, you should be grateful and

BREAST CANCER, Page A9



Ukraine denies trying to kill Putin by drones

Unclear who was behind Kremlin explosions

By Anton Troianovski and Haley Willis
NEW YORK TIMES

After a pair of explosions above the Kremlin early Wednesday, Russia accused Ukraine of trying to assassinate President Vladimir Putin with a drone attack, but Kyiv denied any involvement in an incident that could raise the already high stakes in Europe's biggest conflict since World War II.

Video footage verified by The

New York Times showed what appeared to be two drones detonating over the Kremlin 15 minutes apart, the first shortly before 2:30 a.m. Russia called it an unsuccessful “attempt on the life of the president” by Ukraine that was foiled by Russian “electronic warfare systems,” but did not release any evidence of a Ukrainian link.

The Ukrainian government asserted that Russia had manufactured the incident to distract attention from Ukraine's expected imminent counteroffensive and possibly justify escalation by Moscow. A drone attack at the deeply symbolic heart of Russian


PUTIN, Page A6

BETWEEN THE LINES



DAVID L. RYAN/GLOBE STAFF

Sailors worked Wednesday on the rigging of the clipper Stad Amsterdam, which is docked at Fan Pier in the Seaport. The ship will be open Sunday from 11 to 4.



Play it again (damn)

Thursday: Showers, cool. High 47-52. Low 42-47.


Friday: The usual. High 49-54. Low 45-50.

High tide: 11:11 a.m., 11:22 p.m.
Sunrise: 5:36 Sunset: 7:47

Weather and Comics, D5-6. Obituaries, C11.

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A seventh-grade student armed with pistols and Molotov cocktails shot and killed eight children and a security guard in an attack on his school in Serbia. A4.

A poetry scholar has discovered what's believed to be the earliest known full-length elegy by Phillis Wheatley, the Boston-based author considered the first African American to publish a poetry book. B1.

The FDA approved a vaccine for the respiratory syncytial virus in adults who are 60 and older. A2.

A man who spent 30 years in prison will receive a \$13 million settlement from Lowell for a wrongful arson conviction. B1.