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FOR MIGRANTS IN MASS., THE STRUGGLE GOES ON

Haitians who've left so much behind try to find their bearings in Mattapan

By Danny McDonald

GLOBE STAFF

Every day the cramped offices of the Immigrant Family Services Institute in Mattapan Square are a whirlwind of activity, with newly arrived migrants coached in navigating the bewildering bureaucracy of their new world while ready to recount the terrors that forced them to flee their homeland.

► **Plan for new leadership in Haiti appears to crumble.** A7.

One is Vladimyr Jean Pierre, who arrived from Haiti in November via a federal humanitarian parole program. To get his work authorization, he must be fingerprinted by US Citizen and Immigration Services. But thanks to a forecast of a nasty nor'easter, when he showed for his appointment at the relevant government office outside Boston in February, it was closed. He has not been able to reschedule. He hopes the staff here can help. He wants to work.

Back home, Jean Pierre worked in radio broadcasting and production. But the gang violence that has gripped his country restricted his ability to move around freely; more and more places became too dangerous to visit. The justice sys-

MIGRANTS, Page A7



SUZANNE KREITER/GLOBE STAFF

Jacques Doutchy passed his one-month-old baby, Atalinda Nefertari, to his wife, Gigie Zaldo, at the Immigrant Family Services Institute.

House lines up behind a possible TikTok ban

Critics say it's too narrow; Mass. delegation divided

By Jim Puzanghera

GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON — As TikTok users flooded Congress with calls opposing a bill that could ban the popular video app in the United States, Representative Jake Auchincloss said his office received one so disturbing that it convinced him the legislation was needed.

“We got a voicemail from a young individual threatening suicide if we banned TikTok. That is a case in point . . . of the deleterious impact that these apps are having on our youth,” the Newton Democrat said, adding that another voicemail came from a person sobbing hysterically over a potential ban. “I mean, Congress needs to get a grip on this.”

Auchincloss was part of an overwhelming bipartisan House majority on Wednesday that voted 352-65 to approve the Protecting Americans from Foreign Adversary Controlled Applications Act, which would ban TikTok in the United States unless ByteDance, its Chinese owner, sells to a non-Chinese company in six months. The mental health impact of TikTok on young people was only part of Auchincloss's motivation — he added that he also is concerned that the Chinese government

TIKTOK, Page A6

Despite need, primary care harder to find

Fed up with administrative tasks, doctors moving on

By Felice J. Freyer

GLOBE STAFF

When Justin Ritter first met his new primary care doctor two years ago, she asked him a simple question: How was he feeling? He replied, honestly, that he felt fine, no complaints.

But as Dr. Vicki Noble questioned Ritter, 40, about his life, his work as a nursing supervisor on the night shift, and his recent weight gain and fatigue, she sensed something was amiss, Ritter recalled. She ordered some tests and diagnosed a thyroid condition that required medication, he said.

Ritter benefited from a primary care doctor whose expert listening spared him potentially serious health consequences. But then the Belchertown resident suffered the consequences of a system that often doesn't support that kind of care: Noble quit private practice within a year, unwilling to rush through the 18 patients a day her group required.

Noble joined an exodus of primary care physicians weary of administrative tasks mandated by insurance companies and the seemingly endless data entry required by electronic medical records, all while receiving lower salaries compared with physicians in other specialties. To

PRIMARY CARE, Page A10



Primary care doctor
\$294,000 a year



Pediatrician
\$242,000 a year



Cardiologist
\$544,000 a year



Orthopedic surgeon
\$624,000 a year

National averages
SOURCE: Doximity Physician Compensation Report



CRAIG F. WALKER/GLOBE STAFF

Elias Perea of Northhill Wilkston Security greeted a migrant family at the shelter at the Melnea A. Cass Recreational Complex.

‘We change the climate of any environment we’re in. People feel safe.’

CHRIS WOMACK, part of a private security team employed by the Nubian Square Foundation, which staffs the shelter at the Melnea A. Cass Recreational Complex in Roxbury

In emotional time, security on alert at shelters

By Samantha J. Gross

GLOBE STAFF

Will Dunn and Chris Womack walked the perimeter of the indoor track at the Melnea A. Cass Recreational Complex in Roxbury, waving hello to homeless families perched atop blue cots and fist-bumping members of the security team they lead.

Pausing for a moment, Dunn, a tall man with a white beard, puffed his cheeks out at a toddler, who responded with a giggle.

Dunn and Womack lead a 24-member private security team employed by their Roxbury nonprofit,

the Nubian Square Foundation, which has been staffing the shelter since it opened last month. Under a subcontract with the provider running the shelter, the state pays them \$20,000 a week to provide three shifts of around-the-clock security for the families inside, while working the perimeter to keep protesters or others at bay.

Emergency shelters across the state have always required some element of security. But the rapid expansion over the last year of the shelter system, which now houses migrant families in nearly 100 communities, and heightened pub-

lic scrutiny of new arrivals fleeing violence, political unrest, and economic turmoil in their home countries has created a more urgent need.

Families living in the emergency shelter system — which hit a state-set cap of 7,500 families late last year — have fled turbulent conditions in countries such as Haiti and Venezuela in search of reliable employment and safety for their families. But here, they have also faced mistrust and hate, from residents in Dedham railing against “hand-outs” to immigrants, to neo-Nazis

BACKLASH, Page A7

Doomed cranberry bogs get new life in climate fight



DAVID L. RYAN/GLOBE STAFF

Jeremy Sanders worked on a walkway over an excavated bog in Nantucket that is becoming wetlands again.

By Erin Douglas

GLOBE STAFF

NANTUCKET — Sinking their boots deeper into the thick, black muck, scientists oohed and aahed among themselves. The object of their affection: a field of upturned mud.

“This is so beautiful,” said Beth Lambert, director of the Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration.

The mess at the century-old Wind-swept Cranberry Bog on Nantucket could be beautiful come summer when plants return. But right now?

“It kind of looks like a bomb has gone off,” said Jennifer Karberg, director of research and partnerships for the Nantucket Conservation Foundation, which owns the bog.

The bog is in the thick of a transformation that will undo more than a

century of farming and restore the land to its native wetland ecosystem. Wetlands reduce the impacts of sea level rise and coastal erosion by acting as a sponge that can absorb flood waters. They can also mitigate climate change by storing carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas. Both make them a key strategy for the state's battle to adapt to and fight climate change.

The soil at what was once a 231-acre organic cranberry bog is being upturned, removed, and jumbled as part of the wetland restoration project supported by a \$1 million grant from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The total cost of the project will likely be more than \$3 million.

Cranberries, which are native to New England, have a deep history in Massachusetts, where they've been

CRANBERRIES, Page A10

In a surprise, a judge in Atlanta quashed six charges against Donald Trump and his allies in the Georgia election interference case. **A2.**

Governor Maura Healey proposed a blanket pardon of marijuana possession convictions in the state. **B1.**

Spring trainer

Thursday: Some sun, nice. High 51-56. Low 40-45.

Friday: A few showers. High 48-53. Low 38-43.

Weather and Comics, D5-6.

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