

Saugus residency rules are criticized

Lawyers say new policy blocks migrant students

By Deanna Pan
GLOBE STAFF

As the influx of migrants into Massachusetts increased in summer 2023, Saugus Public Schools adopted a new admissions policy that requires families to prove residency with identification documents that many immigrants lack and threatened “criminal and civil penalties” against those who did not comply.

Now, on the eve of a new school year, attorneys for two advocacy groups on Thursday warned the Saugus School Committee that its policy is illegally blocking newly arrived children from enrolling in violation of state and federal law.

And, within hours of that warning from the advocacy groups, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education also intervened, reaching out to Saugus Public Schools to “clarify” its enrollment criteria.

“All school districts in Massachusetts are required to ensure students have equal access to a free public education regardless of their or their parents’ immigration status,” a department spokesperson said in a statement.

Saugus School Committee Chair Vincent Serino, who acts as the board’s spokesperson, did not return requests for comment. Vice Chair Tom Whittredge, when reached by phone, said he wasn’t authorized to speak publicly about the issue.

Although federal and state law is clear about the obligation of public school districts to educate all students, immigration advocates say the state’s new rule capping the time families can stay at temporary overflow shelters to five days has sowed uncertainty for migrants attempting to enroll their children in school.

Advocates also fear districts are using the new rule as an excuse to keep migrant students out of their schools in the wake of community hostility and budget constraints.

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RICH PEDRONCELLI/ASSOCIATED PRESS/FILE

In 2012, as California’s attorney general, Kamala Harris discussed a package of banking reform bills.

Harris uses bank battle to show her commitment

Says her work as AG reflects her care for average Americans

By Jim Puzzanghera
GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON — In 2011, rookie California Attorney General Kamala Harris faced a crucial choice: go along with her counterparts nationwide nearing a settlement with big banks over legally questionable home foreclosure practices or push for more money for homeowners in her state, which was the epicenter of the housing crash.

Believing the offer by the banks of \$2 billion to \$4 billion for California was woefully inadequate, Harris pulled out of the talks later that year. The bold move angered the bankers and annoyed attorneys general from many other states. But the brinkmanship worked. She leveraged California’s clout to ultimately win about \$20 billion in mortgage relief for home-

HARRIS, Page A5

Ukraine incursion signals sharp shift

Aggression surprises Moscow, changes tone

By Julian E. Barnes
and Eric Schmitt
NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — Ukraine’s incursion into a sliver of Russia is likely to make it harder for Moscow to mount a major renewed offensive in Ukraine’s east and is the kind of surprise operation that could eventually impose real costs on the Kremlin, according to US officials.

As the ground assault continued Thursday, Kyiv launched a large-scale

drone attack on military airfields deep inside Russia, hitting and damaging at least two.

The aggressive actions have rattled the Kremlin and could alter the narrative of the war. The ground strike in particular may ultimately have strategic significance, though US officials caution that they will need to see how it plays out to draw firmer conclusions. It could also help rebuild sagging morale among Ukraine’s troops and war-weary popula-

UKRAINE, Page A4



TATYANA MAKEYEVA/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

People received aid at a Russian Red Cross distribution point in Kursk on Thursday following Ukraine’s offensive into Russia.



Surge in construction amid industry slowdown creates rise in vacancies for life sciences buildings

By Jon Chesto
GLOBE STAFF

When demand for office space cratered during the COVID-19 pandemic, many developers doubled down on building lab space instead. Lately, it sure seems like they went overboard.

With newly built life sciences buildings hitting the market at a much faster rate than they can be filled, the availability of lab space in Greater Boston has skyrocketed, to the point where it rivals that of the pandemic-battered office market.

It’s a massive shift, in a short time.

Three years ago, in the depths of the pandemic, only around 1 percent of existing lab space in the region was vacant or available via sublease. Today, commercial real estate brokerage Colliers reported last week, that number is 21.5 percent, and vacancies are expected to grow in the coming months as more buildings open. For comparison, the availability rate for office space in Greater Boston is 22.7 percent.

There are fundamental differences between the lab and office markets — notably that most lab work, unlike office work, needs to be done in person. But the sharp rise in lab vacancies is a stark reminder of how quickly fortunes can change for a hot industry, even a still thriving one like Boston’s biotech.

This shift represents more of a problem within the real estate industry than in life sciences, be-

LABS, Page A7

Up and up

The availability rate for lab and life science real estate in Greater Boston has surged since the start of 2022.

SOURCE: Colliers



DAVID L. RYAN/GLOBE STAFF

The building at 601 Congress St. in the Seaport District was renovated into lab space, which has not been filled.

COVID boosters are back in season

Updated shots likely to arrive in September

By Adam Piore
GLOBE STAFF

The recent surge in COVID-19 infections nationwide is a reminder: It’s not too early to start thinking about fall booster shots.

Driven in large part by the arrival of a new family of variants informally known as “FLIRT,” COVID infections nationwide spiked almost 18 percent in the first week of August, according to the most recent numbers provided by US Centers for Disease Control. In the Boston area, infections recently reached their highest levels since January before beginning to fall.

The Globe spoke with infectious disease experts about when we can expect updated COVID-19 booster shots to arrive, the best time to get them, and the latest recommendations for other respiratory diseases, including newly developed vaccines

FALL BOOSTERS, Page A7

Dr. Katrina Armstrong is the interim president of Columbia University, but on the day of the Marathon bombings, she was starting work at Massachusetts General Hospital. **A2.**

Expectant parents in Massachusetts are likely to have more freedom choosing where and how they give birth following the passage of a sweeping maternal health bill. **B1.**

Steward Health Care has again moved back a court hearing to ask a bankruptcy judge to approve the sale of its Massachusetts hospitals, the fifth delay in the past three months. **B5.**



A light filter

Friday: Pleasant, hazy. High: 72-77. Low: 65-70.

Saturday: Cloudy, humid. High: 78-83. Low: 65-70.

Sunrise: 5:53 Sunset: 7:43 Comics and Weather, **G6-7.**

Obituaries, **C9.**

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