

The Boston Globe

Serving our community since 1872

SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 2025



PHOTOS BY CHARLES KRUPA/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Marilu Domingo Ortiz inspected the damage after ICE agents removed her and her husband from their car.

No answers: ‘They took my husband without proof’

ICE confrontation an increasingly familiar story across US

By Esmy Jimenez
GLOBE STAFF

NEW BEDFORD — Monday morning, Marilu Domingo Ortiz and her husband, Juan Francisco Méndez, were on their way to a dentist appointment, blocks from their home, when suddenly, law enforcement in green vests approached their car. Domingo Ortiz turned to her husband, an immigrant from Guatemala who is in the United States seeking asylum protection, with a sinking feeling in her stomach.

The couple sought to remain in their car until their lawyer could be on the scene. But within a half-hour, a US Immigration and Customs

Enforcement agent smashed the rear window with an ax, forcibly removed them from the vehicle, and arrested Méndez.

“I tried being strong in the moment,” said Domingo Ortiz, who with her husband has a 9-year-old son. “But when I thought about my son and what I was going to tell him if he asks about his dad, I started crying.”

A video of the confrontation, which Domingo Ortiz filmed, has been viewed by hundreds of thousands of people across the United States, as first reported by the New Bedford Light.

Méndez, 29, is among the scores of foreign nationals being picked up by federal immigra-



Juan Francisco Méndez has no criminal record, his lawyers said this week.

tion agents in public as part of the Trump administration's push to deport people not in the country legally, as well as migrants with even minor US criminal histories or with views that run afoul of the president's political priorities, such as international students who've had visas revoked over pro-Palestinian campus advocacy.

NEW BEDFORD, Page A6

US judge orders detainee back to Vt.

Cites constitutional concerns in calling for student's transfer from La.

By Samantha J. Gross and Nick Stoico
GLOBE STAFF

Rümeysa Öztürk, the Tufts University graduate student from Turkey being held in an immigration facility in Louisiana, must be returned to Vermont by May 1, a federal judge ruled Friday.

Judge William K. Sessions III has set a bail hearing for May 9 in federal court in Vermont, where Öztürk was first taken after her arrest in Somerville by federal agents in late March, before being sent to Louisiana.

“Öztürk has raised significant constitutional concerns with her arrest and detention which merit full and fair consideration in this forum,” Sessions wrote in a 74-page ruling released Friday night.

► Mistaken deportee says he's been moved out of notorious Salvadoran prison. A2.

The ruling came days after a federal immigration judge in Louisiana denied bond to Öztürk with government lawyers contending she was both “a flight risk and a danger to the community.”

The two rulings highlight the jurisdictional questions that have been raised about where her case should be heard: in an immigration court or a federal district court.

Sessions' decision was a response to a petition by Öztürk's lawyers Wednesday night for her to be sent from Louisiana to Vermont by Friday.

“Accordingly, the Court denies the government's request to dismiss the Petition and orders that Ms. Öztürk be transferred to ICE custody within the District of Vermont.”

The court stayed its order for four days to allow either side to appeal.

OZTURK, Page A6

Nurses' brain tumors raise alarms

Probe widens at Newton-Wellesley Hospital

By Kay Lazar
GLOBE STAFF

Six recently reported cases of benign (noncancerous) brain tumors among nurses at Newton-Wellesley Hospital's fifth-floor maternity unit have sparked uneasiness among workers there, even as hospital leaders insist that the facility is safe and that a rigorous ongoing investigation has uncovered no environmental risk.

Now, the Globe has learned the in-

vestigation is expanding. On Wednesday, an inspector from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health joined a staffer from the US Occupational Safety and Health Administration at the hospital to observe working conditions on the maternity floor. The state DPH is collaborating with OSHA, a federal agency that checks work sites for safety issues, the department said in a statement.

On Friday, the state health depart-

ment's Division of Radiation Control Program planned to return to Newton-Wellesley to review information previously provided by the hospital and to perform some confirmatory measurements, the statement said.

Exposure of moderate-to-high doses of ionizing radiation, such as from medical imaging devices, has been linked to a higher risk for benign brain tumors.

Disease trackers said more scrutiny is needed by independent experts

NURSES, Page A10

Trump pressure on Harvard turns to foreign ties, funding

By Mike Damiano
GLOBE STAFF

In another effort to ratchet up the pressure on Harvard University, the Trump administration is demanding the school turn over documentation about funding from overseas sources, as well as details about Harvard employees and researchers who have dealings with foreign governments or institutions.

Federal officials also want Harvard

to provide email usernames for expelled foreign students.

In its request announced Friday, the US Department of Education said it found Harvard's disclosures of foreign gifts and contracts are “incomplete and inaccurate.”

“As a recipient of federal funding, Harvard University must be transparent about its relations with foreign sources and governments,” Secretary of

HARVARD, Page A7



DAVID L. RYAN/GLOBE STAFF

SOLEMN PROCESSION — A man representing Jesus Christ walked through the South End during live Stations of the Cross put on by the Cathedral of the Holy Cross to mark Good Friday.

his first public appearance in Jerusalem. A6.

A bill to give first responders in Massachusetts a 25-foot buffer zone from bystanders is concerning to advocates of free speech. B1.

The Boston Marathon Fan Fest this weekend has a full slate of events for adults as well as children. B1.

The United States will abandon efforts to end the war in Ukraine if it proves impossible to broker meaningful progress in the next few days, Secretary of State Marco Rubio said. A4.

Israeli airstrikes across Gaza killed at least 25 people including children, hospital workers said, as the new US ambassador to Israel made

VOL. 307, NO. 109

Suggested retail price
\$4.00

For breaking news, updated stories, and more, visit our website:

BostonGlobe.com

After 30 years, running in place

‘Reggie’ needs an overhaul but funding is an issue

By Danny McDonald
GLOBE STAFF

When the Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center in Roxbury opened 30 years ago, it was hailed as a state-of-the-art facility, with the Globe claiming the building boasted “the only high school track of its kind in the country.”

An untold number of runners have pounded across its surface over the intervening years and it remains the statewide anchor of the high school indoor track scene. Annually, an estimated 300,000 people visit the “Reggie” in some capacity, the vast majority of them during indoor track season.

But entering its fourth decade this year, the Reggie is facing the inevitable reckoning for that amount of wear and tear and use. The roof leaks. The HVAC system is old. The floor could use a new track. The bleachers, which can seat more than 3,000, are believed to be



LANE TURNER/GLOBE STAFF

Meb Keflezighi, a former Boston Marathon winner, led students in exercises on the track at the Reggie.

original. It is still considered a gem of the neighborhood, as evidenced by some recent sharp elbows about who gets to use the track there, but the gem has lost some of its shine.

“We’re doing everything we can to maintain it and take care of it as best we can, but it needs a complete overhaul,” said Mi-

chael Turner, executive director of business development and marketing for the Reggie.

And there are stark fiscal realities. The center costs between \$3.5 million and \$4 million to run annually. It's operating at an annual average deficit of about \$2 million, which is covered by

LEWIS CENTER, Page A10


One-shot deal
Saturday: Summer-like.
High 77-82. Low 50-55.
Sunday: Cooler, breezy.
High 59-64. Low 40-45.
Weather and Comics, D4-5.
Obituaries, C9.



VOL. 307, NO. 109

Suggested retail price
\$4.00

For breaking news, updated stories, and more, visit our website:

BostonGlobe.com