

# The Boston Globe

Serving our community since 1872

SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 2025

## After arrest, questions abound



SUZANNE KREITER/GLOBE STAFF

David Prum and his dog Lulu stopped on Mason Street in Somerville where Rümeysa Öztürk was taken into custody.

### 'Why would they choose her?' Friends, family struggle to understand

By Giulia McDonnell Nieto del Rio and Samantha J. Gross  
GLOBE STAFF

Rümeysa Öztürk's loved ones could hardly comprehend what they saw in the video of masked immigration agents in plainclothes grabbing her on the street this week in Somerville. Öztürk, a 30-year-old graduate student who was on her way to an Iftar to break her Ramadan fast with friends, was speaking on the phone to her mother in Turkey when it happened and shrieked in apparent fright.

The Department of Homeland Security said Öztürk had "engaged in activities in sup-

port of Hamas, a foreign terrorist organization that relishes the killing of Americans."

But friends and family said Öztürk isn't actually much of an activist, let alone a terrorist sympathizer. They described her as a soft-spoken academic who cares deeply about children and studies the representation of kids in media.

"If any of the people involved in her detention could just sit down and talk with her for 30 seconds, they would know that this was a huge mistake," said Madeline McGee, 28, who studied alongside Öztürk at the Eliot-Pearson Child Study and Human Development, **Page A7**

### Legal analysts see conflict with rights of free speech and due process

By Sean Cotter and Shelley Murphy  
GLOBE STAFF

The arrest of Rümeysa Öztürk, a Tufts University PhD student from Turkey, on a residential street in Somerville on Tuesday was carried out under federal immigration law and President Trump's directives to remove any noncitizen seen as "anti-Semitic," including college students who engaged in pro-Palestinian campus protests.

But legal analysts said it also raised a series of questions over its constitutionality, including whether it violates rights to free speech and due process. Öztürk was here law-

fully on a student visa, and although she had voiced support for the pro-Palestinian movement at Tufts, she was not known as a prominent leader, and was not accused of any violence or crimes.

On Friday, US District Judge Denise Casper ordered the government not to remove Öztürk from the US until the judge rules on jurisdiction issues. And she gave the government until 5 p.m. Tuesday to respond to a petition Öztürk's team filed Friday saying authorities violated her freedom of speech and due process rights.

The legal analysts said **TUFTS, Page A7**

## Developer plans to run for mayor, sources say

O'Brien would join Wu, Kraft in race to lead city

By Niki Griswold and Catherine Carlock  
GLOBE STAFF  
and Shirley Leung  
GLOBE COLUMNIST

Thomas N. O'Brien, one of Boston's most prominent real estate developers, is expected to announce next week that he will challenge Mayor Michelle Wu in this fall's mayoral election, according to four people he has briefed on the matter.

The timing would put O'Brien's announcement before Wu holds her own formal kickoff to reelection next Saturday in the South End. The Globe reported earlier in March that O'Brien was considering a mayoral bid, and Politico Massachusetts reported his imminent announcement Friday morning.

O'Brien served for a time as the top city planner under former mayor Thomas M. Menino and currently leads HYM Investment Group, which is building two of the city's largest real estate devel-



Thomas O'Brien

**O'BRIEN, Page A10**

## Read case jury selection likely to be a trial

By Sean Cotter  
GLOBE STAFF

Last year, it took two weeks and a pool of more than 400 potential jurors to find an impartial panel of people to try the case of Karen Read, the woman accused of killing her boyfriend with her car and leaving him to die in the snow after a night of heavy drinking.

Now, lawyers and the judge in the case will have to do it all over again, and legal analysts say the effort will be all the more complicated by the media sensation that has become of the case: the appeals, the additional headlines, the magazine profiles, and the social media hullabaloo.

Anyone in Norfolk County who didn't know about the Read case before surely knows about it now — and has likely developed their own views on the case, legal analysts said.

"This level of publicity poses some real challenges for the court and for both sides in the case," said Keith Pounds, a jury consultant based in Chi-

**READ, Page A10**

### LAW FIRMS TAKE DIFFERING PATHS

A prominent international law firm reached a deal with President Trump to avert a punishing executive order, just hours after two firms sued over similar orders. **D1.**

### VICE PRESIDENT AND WIFE VISIT GREENLAND

In remarks with reporters, JD Vance said the United States had to "wake up" to China's and Russia's designs on the island. **A6.**

### COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY GETS NEW LEADER

A week after bowing to a series of demands from the Trump administration, the school announced the exit of its interim president, Katrina Armstrong. **A2.**

## Parents, physicians fear what Medicaid cuts could mean for children in Mass.



JONATHAN WIGGS/GLOBE STAFF

Hutchins Bernard and her daughter, Victoria, rely on MassHealth to pay for Victoria's medicines.

By Jason Laughlin  
GLOBE STAFF

If she paid out of pocket, Hutchins Bernard would spend about \$8,000 a month to cover the different epilepsy medications her 5-year-old daughter needs.

Going without them, even for a day, isn't an option. "If she doesn't take it on time, she's going to have a seizure," Bernard, of West Roxbury, said.

Fortunately, Bernard, who works at Boston Medical Center, doesn't have to pay anything for the medications nor for the weekly speech therapy or care from a neurologist for her child's autism. Her daughter is among the nearly 50 percent of Massachusetts chil-

dren 18 and younger enrolled in MassHealth, the state's Medicaid program, which also provides care to people with low income, seniors, and people with disabilities.

Now, parents, policy makers, and health providers are holding their breath as Republicans in Congress weigh potentially billions of dollars in cuts to Medicaid. Federal dollars pay for more than half of MassHealth's \$20 billion annual budget.

"MassHealth is a cornerstone for children's health in Massachusetts," said Katherine Howitt, director of the Massachusetts Medicaid Policy Institute, an independent

**MEDICAID, Page A6**

### Mainly rain, it is plain

**Saturday:** Showers. High: 40-45. Low: 33-38.

**Sunday:** Cloudy. High: 39-44. Low: 38-43.

Sunrise: 6:32 Sunset: 7:07

Comics and Weather, **D4-5.**

Obituaries, **C9.**

**A former Haitian mayor was found guilty of visa fraud** for hiding his involvement in the killing and torture of political opponents. **B1.**

**The Town of Middleborough dropped its lawsuit against the state over the MBTA**

**Communities law,** after agreeing to expand an existing zoning district. **D1.**

**The Israeli military launched airstrikes in the southern outskirts of Beirut** for the first time since a US-brokered cease-fire in November. **A4.**

## DEADLY EARTHQUAKE



FACEBOOK/KHON SU CHEEVIT ADEET MAI SUAY ROK NA/AFF

This frame grab from video footage posted on Facebook showed workers running from a building as it collapsed at a construction site in Bangkok following an earthquake Friday. **A4.**

VOL. 307, NO. 88

Suggested retail price  
\$4.00



0 947725 4