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FLU CASES RISE ACROSS STATE

The flu is surging across Massachusetts, with a particular strain of the virus "hitting hard and fast." There have been more than two dozen recorded deaths so far. Page A8

TODAY'S MUST-READS

BOSTON

'Sanctuary city' law targeted by Justice Dept.

As a judge weighs whether to dismiss a lawsuit brought by the Department of Justice against Boston over its "sanctuary city" law, federal officials claim the city impedes and obstructs immigration agents from enforcing laws.

Mayor Michelle Wu previously called the lawsuit an "unconstitutional attack" on Boston, and city officials are seeking to have the case dismissed.

Full story, Page A5

HADLEY

Over 150 animals removed from home

More than 150 animals, including some that are illegal to have as pets, were removed from a home in Western Massachusetts Wednesday.

MSPCA-Angell's law enforcement team and Hadley Police removed the animals from poor conditions at a property in Hadley. The majority of the animals were birds, including chickens, geese, cockatiels and parrots.

Full story, Page A3

STATE

Seat belt use in Mass. at all-time high

The number of people using seat belts while traveling Massachusetts' roadways has never been higher, according to state officials.

Seat belt use among the motorists and passengers in the state ticked higher for the third straight year.

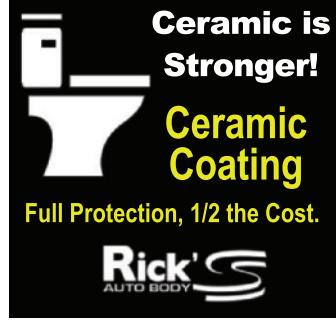
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WEATHER

Mostly cloudy, late showers.

High: 44°; Low: 28°

EXPANDED WEATHER, A8



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SPRINGFIELD

Bail review petition denied



LaMar Cook, right, appears with his attorney, Kedar Ismail, in Hampden Superior Court in Springfield on Thursday. (DOUGLAS HOOK / THE REPUBLICAN)

Former governor's aide remains jailed on drug, firearms charges

BY GRETA JOCHEM

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A Superior Court judge on Thursday morning denied a petition to review the bail set for LaMar Cook, a former aide to Gov. Maura T. Healey facing drug and firearm charges.

"My read of the statute procedurally is that at this point further review here in Superior Court of that bail is

not proper," Judge Sarah Hamilton said. She said Cook may be able to get the bail amount reviewed in District Court.

Police arrested Cook, 45, in late October after they said they found 8 kilograms of cocaine delivered to him at the state building on Dwight Street. When they searched his residence, police discovered a pistol

that was not registered to him.

His bail was set at \$75,000 for the drug charges and \$10,000 bail for firearms charges. Police also found drugs at an Amherst hotel where Cook formerly worked. They accuse him of trafficking those drugs also.

His attorney, Kedar Ismail, filed a petition Monday in the Hampden Superior Court attempting to reduce

the bail. Ismail argued his client had not exhausted his bail review opportunities.

Assistant District Attorney Kerry Beattie disagreed. "We already litigated this," she told the judge.

Initially, a judge decided after a dangerousness hearing that Cook would be held without the right to

SEE BAIL, PAGE A2

MINNEAPOLIS

Minnesota governor says state must play a role in probe into ICE killing

BY REBECCA SANTANA AND TIM SULLIVAN

Associated Press

Minnesota must play a role in investigating the fatal shooting of a Minneapolis woman by an Immigration and Customs Enforcement officer, Gov. Tim Walz insisted Thursday, pushing back against the Trump administration's decision to keep the investigation solely in federal hands.

A day after the unidentified ICE officer shot and killed 37-year-old mother of three Renee Nicole Good as she tried to drive away on a snowy Minneapolis street, tensions remained high, with dozens of protesters venting their outrage outside of a federal facility that's serving as a hub for the administration's latest immigration crackdown on a major city.

"We should be horrified," protester Shanta Hejmadi said as demonstrators shouted "No More ICE," "Go Home Nazis," and other slogans at a line of Border Patrol officers, who responded with tear gas and pepper spray. "We should be saddened that our government is waging war on our citizens. We should get out and say no. What else can we do?"

Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem, President Donald Trump and others in his administration characterized the shooting as an act of self-defense and cast Good as a villain, suggesting she used her vehicle as a weapon to attack the officer who shot her.

Vice President JD Vance weighed in Thursday, saying the shooting was justified and that Good was a "victim of left-wing ideology."

SEE ICE, PAGE A2



U.S. Border Patrol Cmdr. Gregory Bovino arrives as protesters gather outside the Bishop Henry Whipple Federal Building on Thursday in Minneapolis, Minn. (TOM BAKER / ASSOCIATED PRESS)

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- What to know about the rules for officers firing at a moving vehicle, Page A5

HOLYOKE

Interim school superintendent settles in bias case

Lawsuit against city, school district will continue

BY NAMU SAMPATH

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Claims against Anthony Soto, interim superintendent of the Holyoke Public Schools, alleging that he was allegedly complicit in discrimination against a former district student, will not move forward, a new federal court filing says.

In 2024, a former Holyoke Public Schools student filed a federal discrimination lawsuit against the city of Holyoke, the school district and Soto, claiming that the district "deliberately (ignored, and refused) to investigate, allegations of sex-based discrimination and harassment" after being the only girl on the high school's varsity football team.

A Wednesday filing in U.S. District Court in Springfield shows that the plaintiff's attorneys and Soto's attorney have come to a settlement in the case, agreeing to drop the claims against Soto. The claims against the city and school district will continue.

The motion has yet to be approved by a federal court judge, according to the docket.



SEE LAWSUIT, PAGE A2