

Drug that protects babies from RSV running short

Demand outpaces supply in Mass.

By Felice J. Freyer
GLOBE STAFF

The seasonal surge in the respiratory illness RSV has begun in Massachusetts, as prospects dim for adequate supplies of a drug that experts had touted as a lifesaver for babies.

“The surge is on its way,” said Dr. Laura J Cardello, director of inpatient pediatrics at South Shore Hospital. “We’re not at the peak, but we’re definitely on the upswing.” In the last two weeks, RSV was diagnosed in half of children seen at the hospital for respiratory illness, and it is expected to soon become

the dominant virus, Cardello said.

In August, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended nirsevimab, a monoclonal antibody, for all infants under 8 months entering their first RSV season, calling it “a powerful new tool” to protect babies from a leading cause of hospitalization.

But no sooner had doctors started ordering the drug than the manufacturer, Sanofi, announced it would not be able to meet the demand.

Last month’s hopes for a quick resolution of the supply problems with nirsevimab have been dashed. “It was optimistic thinking,” said Dr. Rick Malley,

RSV, Page A8

Nearly
22,000
doses
have been
distributed to
hospitals and
medical practices
in Massachusetts,
but there are
roughly
80,000
children
who would have
been eligible this
season

Israeli troops raid hospital in search for Hamas base

Military says guns found as hunt continues; Palestinians trapped inside are interrogated

By Patrick Kingsley
and Iyad Abuheweila

NEW YORK TIMES

JERUSALEM — Since Israel’s ground troops invaded the Gaza Strip 19 days ago, the fate of its war has become largely entwined with the fate of the territory’s largest hospital.

Israeli soldiers on Wednesday morning stormed that hospital, Shifa, searching its corridors and rooms for evidence to support Israel’s assertion that the sprawling medical complex doubles as a secret military command center. Over

the course of the day, they hunted for weapons and interrogated those they found inside, according to Israeli officials and Palestinians at the hospital.

►UN Security Council calls for humanitarian pauses, release of hostages. A6.

The early-morning raid was seen by both sides as a watershed moment in the conflict, capable of shaping the pace and extent of the war.

Israel says Shifa, in Gaza City,

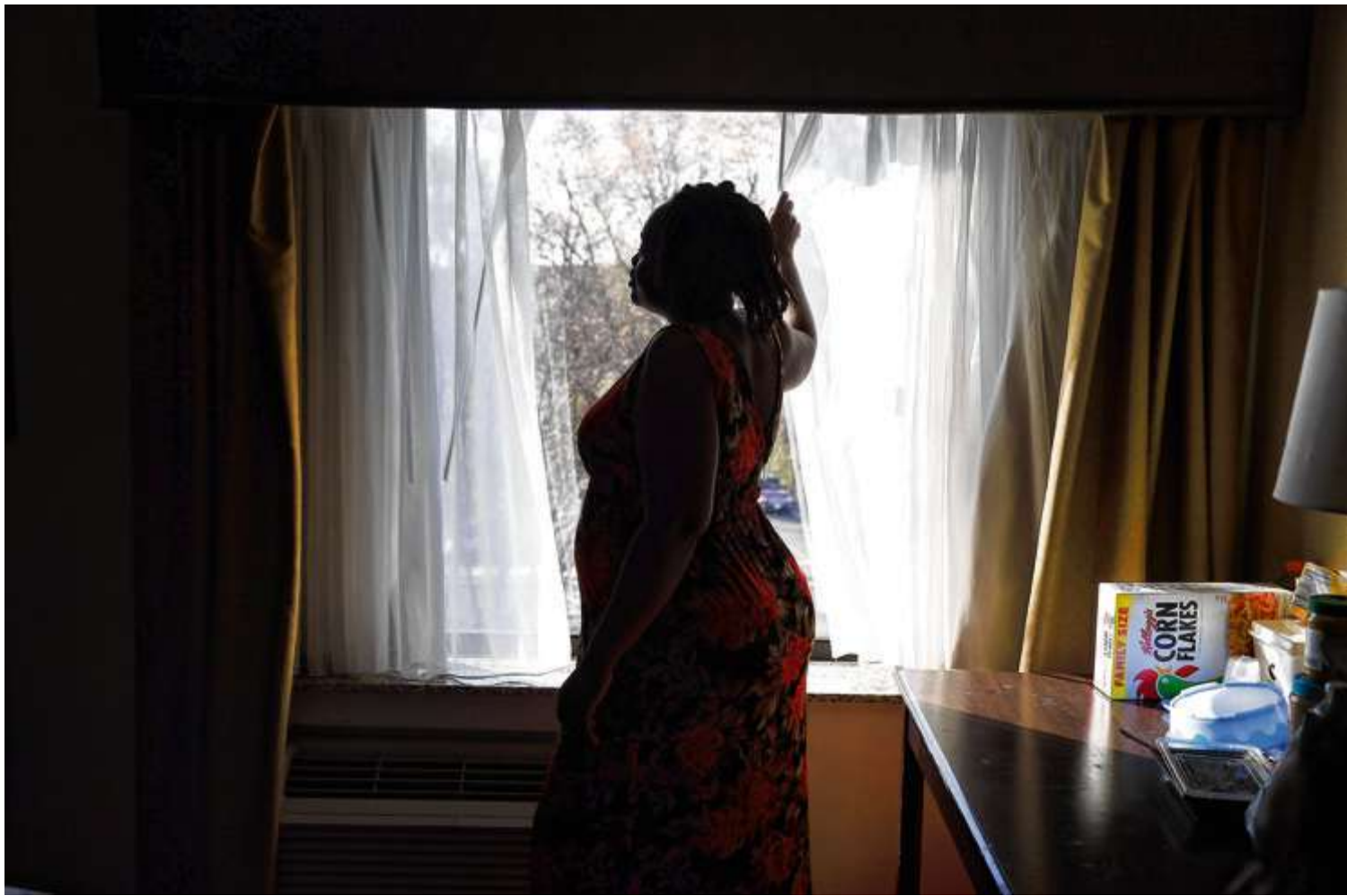
conceals an underground military base and has presented its capture as a key metric of Israeli success. The Israelis also say that Hamas’s use of the hospital highlights how the group defends itself with human shields.

Hamas and the hospital’s leadership have denied the Israeli assertions. Shifa, they say, is nothing other than a medical center and sanctuary for thousands of people uprooted by Israel’s strikes on Gaza. For Palestinians, the Israeli military’s focus on a major hospital, when such facilities are typically off-limits during times of war, is proof of its disregard for Palestinian life.

GAZA, Page A6

‘It’s not the best, but we feel safe.’

NIXON BLAIS, who has been living in a Woburn hotel with his wife and son for three months



PHOTOS BY JOHN TLUMACKI/GLOBE STAFF

Kelide Bagiudy and her husband and children came to the United States from Haiti three years ago, hoping for a better life.

LOST IN SHELTER DEBATE: THE PEOPLE HANGING ON

Housed in hotels, often lacking papers to work, migrants struggle to stay positive

By Samantha J. Gross
GLOBE STAFF

WOBURN — For three months, Nixon Blais’s family has been living in a roadside hotel, waiting for paperwork to clear so the young father can get a construction job.

In Haiti, which Blais and his wife, Dieulene Pluvoise, fled in 2017, their 4-year-old son, Bronwly, would be enrolled in school by now. But here, he plays games on a tablet and sifts through a bag of donated games. His three older siblings remain in Haiti, though Blais hopes to reunite the family eventually.

For now, the trio rely on food provided by the state — powdered milk,



Bagiudy’s two children, Ashley, 3, and Joaquin, 5, are sharing a bed at a Woburn hotel. Bagiudy is expecting a third child in January.

cereal, iced tea mix, and pre-made meals — as Blais moves through the tedious and time-intensive process of obtaining permission to work legally in the United States.

“It’s not the best, but we feel safe,” Blais said in Haitian Creole.

The family’s life offers a window into the life of migrants in Massachusetts, often fleeing violence in their home countries, who are caught in the middle of a game of a political football between Beacon Hill and Washington, D.C., over the state’s overburdened shelter system. While politicians trade platitudes and blame, families who are already here

MIGRANTS, Page A7

Victims’ families consider suits in Maine shooting

Army’s handling of Card will face more scrutiny

By Sarah Ryley
GLOBE STAFF

Families of those killed or injured in the Maine mass shooting are exploring potential litigation against the Army and other agencies for failing to take actions to disarm the assailant, an Army reservist, despite numerous reports he was delusional and fixated on violence.

If filed, the claims would be at least the fifth time in recent years that shooting victims have used the courts to hold the federal government accountable for such bloodshed.

“For my clients, money and compensation is the least of their concerns,” said Travis Brennan, an attorney with the Lewiston-based firm Ber- man & Simmons. “They want answers; they want accountability. They want to ensure that it doesn’t happen again.”

Since 2021, the Justice Department has paid \$360 million in settlements stemming from three mass shootings, which occurred in 2015, 2017, and 2018 and left a total of 92 people dead or wounded. And at least one other lawsuit is pending, which involves a single victim killed by a former Marine.

After each of the shootings, the federal gov-
LAWSUITS, Page A9

Kendall Square ‘bump factor’ has biotechs connecting again

By Robert Weisman
GLOBE STAFF

CAMBRIDGE — It’s just before noon on a chilly Wednesday, and Bob Coughlin is making the rounds at Catalyst, a Kendall Square restaurant popular with biotech entrepreneurs and scientists on the hunt for investment capital or research col- laborators.

Coughlin, who helps companies find office and lab space, moves about the dining room, shaking hands with leasing agents, greeting startup found- ers, and chatting up business prospects.

“Lunch in Kendall Square,” said Coughlin, a managing director for life sciences at commercial real estate firm JLL. “On any given day, you can run into a top biotech CEO or a world-renowned scientist.”

The vaunted “bump factor” is thriving again in this biosciences hub after a pandemic that limited
KENDALL SQUARE, Page A8



DAVID L. RYAN/GLOBE STAFF

Rodolfo Rohr (left), CEO of LarmorBio, talked with Harvey Lodish, a Genzyme founder, at Catalyst in Kendall Square.

Brookline has agreed to open up its commercial districts to more condo and apartment construction after Town Meeting members overwhelmingly approved a rezoning plan. **B1.**

New Hampshire scheduled its first-in-the-nation presidential primary for Jan. 23 and now may face sanctions for flouting the Democratic National Committee’s calendar. **B1.**

A panel created years ago to recommend changes to Mas- sachusetts’ controversial seal and motto is disbanding without offering specific sub- stitutes for either. **B1.**

Even without a few key parts, the Celtics had enough to stop the 76ers, 117-107. **C1.**

President Xi Jinping of China told President Biden it’s “unre- alistic” for either superpower to expect to “remodel the other,” as they met in California. **A2.**

The Senate pushed toward a vote on a temporary govern- ment funding package as law- makers sought to keep the holi- day season free of suspense. **A2.**

Patriots quarterback Mac Jones has struggled mightily this season, but Dan Shaugh- nessy wonders if fans have been a bit too hard on him. **C1.**



Spring leaning

Thursday: Unseasonably warm. High 58-63. Low 41-46.

Friday: More of the same. High 62-67. Low 52-57.

High tide: 12:43 a.m., 12:47 p.m.

Sunrise: 6:36 a.m. Sunset: 4:21 p.m.

Weather and Comics, D5-6. Obituaries, C10.

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