

Speeding the switch to electric vehicles

Under rule, most new cars by 2032 zero-emission

By Coral Davenport
NEW YORK TIMES

The Biden administration on Wednesday issued one of the most significant climate regulations in the nation's history, a rule designed to ensure that the majority of new passenger cars and light trucks sold in the United States are all-electric or hybrids by 2032.

Nearly three years in the making, the new tailpipe pollution limits from the Environmental Protection Agency would transform the US automobile market. A record 1.2 million electric vehicles rolled off dealers' lots last year, but they made up just 7.6 percent of total US car sales, far from the 56 percent target under the new regulation. An additional 16 percent of new cars sold would be hybrids.

Cars and other forms of transportation are, together, the largest single source of carbon emissions generated by the United States, pollution that is driving climate change and that helped to make 2023 the hottest year in recorded history. Electric vehicles are central to President Biden's strategy to confront global warming, which calls for cutting the nation's emissions in half by the end of this decade. But EVs have also become politicized and are a flashpoint in the 2024 presidential campaign.

"Three years ago, I set an ambitious target: that half of all new cars and trucks sold in 2030 would be zero-emission," said Biden in a statement. "Together, we've made historic progress. Hundreds of new expanded factories across the country. Hundreds of billions in private investment and thousands of good-paying union jobs. And we'll meet my goal for 2030 and race forward in the years ahead."

VEHICLES, Page A7

The United States would reportedly cut off funding for the main UN agency that provides aid to Palestinians in Gaza under a spending agreement on track to soon become law. **A4.**

Massachusetts appears poised to outlaw revenge porn after years of disagreement. **B1.**

Measles is resurging in pockets of the United States as the antivaccine movement becomes more potent. **A2.**

Curt Schilling has declined the Red Sox' invitation to be part of the April 9 Opening Day ceremonies at Fenway Park, Dan Shaughnessy writes. **C1.**



Blow drier

Thursday: Partly sunny, windy. High 38-43. Low 24-29.

Friday: Still chilly. High 42-47. Low 33-38.

High tide: 9:45 a.m., 10:20 p.m.
Sunrise: 6:45 Sunset: 6:58

Weather and Comics, D5-6. Obituaries, C10-11.

VOL. 305, NO. 81

*

Suggested retail price
\$3.50



As migrants pour in, a closer look at why, and how the state is handling it

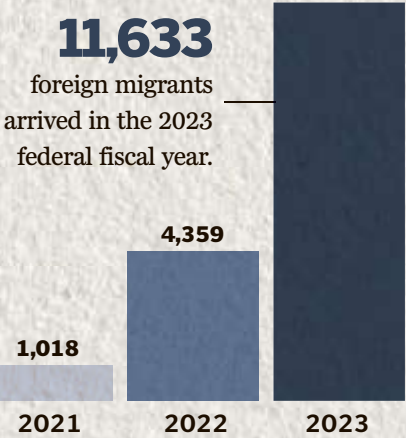


STORY BY MADDIE KHAW | GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

Since the Massachusetts emergency shelter system reached its state-imposed 7,500-family capacity in November, the state has been embroiled in debates over the locations of overflow shelter sites, distribution of aid and resources for migrants, and how long families should be allowed to stay in emergency shelters.

The crisis has brought immigration to the forefront of local politics, highlighting concerns about border security and, at times, bringing anti-immigrant sentiments to the surface.

Here's what you need to know about the migrant crisis in Massachusetts.



A Massachusetts **RIGHT-TO-SHELTER LAW** requires the state to offer shelter to homeless families and pregnant women. Although there traditionally is no limit on how long families can stay in shelters, the Massachusetts House recently passed a bill to impose a nine-month maximum stay for most homeless families. The legislation will now go to the Senate.

What's the cost to the state?

A \$3 billion spending bill passed in December pumped **\$250 million** into the emergency shelter system, with up to \$50 million allotted toward the creation of overflow shelters.

Shelter program costs are expected to reach nearly **\$1 billion** this fiscal year and another \$1 billion in the next.

The House is weighing a supplemental spending bill that seeks to drain a surplus budget account of nearly **\$900 million** to continue sheltering homeless and migrant families both this year and next.

End of June

The state will need \$224 million more for the emergency shelter program before the end of the current fiscal year.

By July

Costs are then expected to reach an additional \$915 million for the next fiscal year.

Even if lawmakers embrace Gov. Maura Healey's plan, aides acknowledge the state would still fall \$91 million short of covering the costs of the program for next fiscal year.

What about the US government's response?

President Biden also proposed a **\$106 billion** supplemental funding request last year that aimed to address immediate national security concerns, including \$4.4 billion in funding for a federal migration strategy with \$1.4 billion in aid to states and localities.

But the issue of immigration — and US border policies — remains contentious. Texas and 20 other Republican states challenged the CHNV program, but were dismissed by a federal judge earlier this month.

Despite such efforts, it was GOP lawmakers who last month blocked a bipartisan border bill to tighten border restrictions and provide supplemental funding to Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

As of March 11, about half the families enrolled in the state emergency shelter system were migrant, refugee, or asylum-seeking families, a total of **3,775**



Several factors play into the influx, including a humanitarian parole program implemented by the Biden administration last year and the May 2023 expiration of Title 42, a pandemic policy that made it easy to quickly expel people who crossed the border without authorization.

The state's shelters now house homeless and migrant families in



They are at full capacity, leaving some migrants and homeless families stuck on wait lists.

Where are migrants coming from?

72 percent of the state's recent migrants come from Haiti, which has become engulfed by violence and chaos, with gang leaders rampaging around the capital, Port-au-Prince, and sowing unrest. Millions of Haitians are hungry and desperate as they face threats to their food supplies, clean water, and health care.



Most Haitian migrants are arriving in Massachusetts by plane, Vince Rivers of the Immigrant Learning Center said, through the **Humanitarian Parole Program for Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans, and Venezuelans** implemented by the Biden administration last year.

The CHNV process allows **30,000 migrants per month** from these four countries to enter the United States for a two-year period after passing a background check and securing a sponsor.

SOURCES: State Office for Refugees and Immigrants; Healey administration; New York Times, Associated Press, and Washington Post wire services

ASHLEY BORG/GLOBE STAFF/ADOBE STOCK

Inflation hampers economy and Biden

Progress has stalled but Fed still sees 3 rate cuts this year

By Jim Puzzanghera
GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON — A recent uptick in inflation poses double trouble for the economy and President Biden's reelection, increasing what Americans pay for staples such as gas and rent while potentially delaying interest rate cuts that could ease their financial burden and boost economic growth.

Inflation declined significantly last year from a four-decade high in 2022, partly because the Federal Reserve has aggressively raised interest rates to tamp down spending by consumers and businesses. The effort has been surprisingly successful, with the economy avoiding the recession and job losses that usually accompany the strategy.

But progress in bringing inflation all the way back down to normal has stalled in recent months, thanks to factors such as rising gas prices, which now are higher than they were a year ago in Massachusetts and nationwide, according to AAA. The

INFLATION, Page A6



JOHN TLUMACKI/GLOBE STAFF/FILE 2023

Aidan Kearney has been charged with multiple counts of witness intimidation, and spent two months in jail.

Grabbing the spotlight and ruffling feathers

‘Turtleboy’ blurs roles as reporter and Read advocate

By Aidan Ryan
GLOBE STAFF

For more than a decade, Aidan Kearney — better known as the blogger “Turtleboy” — has attracted thousands of followers with his defiant, caustic, and profanity-laced takes on local crime, government, and political grievance. But nothing has captured his attention, or that of his audience, quite like the Karen Read murder case.

The Holden blogger has upended the Canton case with a torrent of posts and videos that position Read not as the prime suspect, but as a main victim. Read has pleaded not guilty to charges that she murdered her boyfriend, John O’Keefe.

“I’ve staked my entire reputation on her innocence,” Kearney said in an interview. “That’s how much I believe in her.”

TURTLEBOY, Page A9

South Boston divided on whether parade’s getting to be too much

By Niki Griswold and Maddie Khaw
GLOBE STAFF AND GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

Numerous complaints about public debauchery, littering, and destruction of property during this year’s St. Patrick’s Day Parade in South Boston have ignited a debate about the future of the long-running event, with City Councilor Ed Flynn calling for it to be relocated from his neighborhood if revelers don’t straighten up.

The parade, organized by the South Boston Allied War Veterans Council, has been held in the neighborhood for more than 100 years. But while the parade has long been known for large crowds, public drinking, and rowdiness, some South Boston residents say the crowds this year were far more out of control and created an environment that is no longer safe or family friendly.

PARADE, Page A8