

The Boston Globe

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US ready to back Gaza aid resolution

UN vote may come today; war pause no longer in draft

By Farnaz Fassihi and Michael Levenson
NEW YORK TIMES

After nearly a week of intense negotiations, the United States said Thursday night that it is ready to support a United Nations Security Council resolution that would call for more desperately needed aid to enter the Gaza Strip. A vote is not expected until Friday at the earliest.

Linda Thomas-Greenfield, the US ambassador to the UN, told reporters that the United States had “worked hard and diligently over the course of the past week” with the countries that had proposed the resolution, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates, to ensure that “we put a mechanism on the ground that will support humanitarian assistance and we’re ready to vote for it.”

“I won’t share how I will vote,” she said, but added that if the resolution were put forward as written, it would be one “we can support.”

Earlier Thursday, a US official, speaking on the condition of anonymity given the sensitivity of the talks, said high-level negotiators from Washington and Cairo had been seeking common

TALKS, Page A6

COVID may loom, but few in Mass. ready

Only 17% up on boosters, far lower than in the past

By Adam Piore
GLOBE STAFF

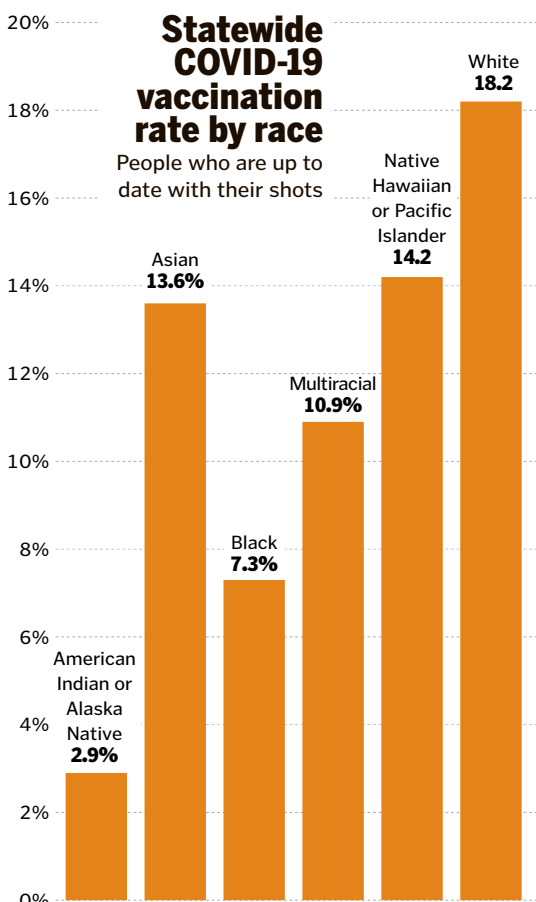
The post-Thanksgiving COVID-19 wave is threatening to become an annual rite of passage, as predictable as Black Friday crowds and holiday weight gain. But public health officials say this year’s seasonal surge has a new, potentially deadly wrinkle: the lowest vaccination rates since the start of the pandemic.

►Some hospitals bring back mask rules. B1.

Though the latest version of booster shots confers broad protection against a new, highly contagious variant that is expected to gain dominance in the coming weeks, just 17 percent of Massachusetts residents have received it, according to the latest numbers from the Department of Public Health.

That’s down from the nearly 50 percent uptake for the first booster shot in 2021 and 25 percent for the bivalent booster at this time last year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

VACCINATIONS, Page A9



Plagiarism question divides Harvard

Some perceive double standard in backing for Gay, while others see her as victim of politics

By Mike Damiano and Hilary Burns
GLOBE STAFF

More than a week ago, Harvard’s top board sought to quell a building controversy over plagiarism allegations against its new president, Claudine Gay, saying an independent review found several instances of inadequate citation in her writings but no violations of the university’s research misconduct stan-

dards.

But Harvard’s response addressed only a portion of the allegations against her, leading to an awkward second round of correctives to her academic writings this week that, far from settling the matter, brought new scrutiny and criticism to the revered school.

The controversy began with a conservative activist circulating the first allegations online, and entered

new territory this week when a Republican-controlled congressional committee demanded Harvard turn over all documentation related to its review of Gay’s writings. The collision of partisan politics with a question of academic integrity has left some Harvard faculty members conflicted, and added to a sense of deep anxiety at a university that for two months has been roiled by debates and protests related to the Israel-Hamas war.

It also comes on the heels of another controversy, over Gay’s equivocal answer at a congressional hear-

ing on campus antisemitism about whether calls for genocide of Jews would violate Harvard’s rules.

On Wednesday, Harvard announced newly discovered instances of “duplicative language without appropriate attribution” in Gay’s PhD dissertation completed at Harvard in 1997, but said she had not committed “research misconduct.”

That left some on campus grumbling that a student found to have committed the same infraction might face suspension, in part because students and faculty are gen-

HARVARD, Page A9

‘Where else does a mother who doesn’t speak the language go?’

BETH CHAMBERS, Catholic Charities



SUZANNE KREITER/GLOBE STAFF

Three-year-old Smaelle ate breakfast in the overflow shelter run by Catholic Charities Boston.

FOR SHUT-OUT FAMILIES, A PLACE TO STAY AWHILE

Temporary shelter provides for migrants on hold because of state’s limit

By Samantha J. Gross
GLOBE STAFF

The building feels more like a co-op apartment than a homeless shelter. Groups of small children run around, playing tag, watching videos, or coloring on sheets of construction paper. In the two kitchens, mothers cook big meals for everyone to share.

The former convent outside Boston has in the past served the needy and sheltered victims of domestic violence. Now, it’s offering a haven to migrant families for whom there is no room elsewhere.

The shelter, operated by Catholic Charities Boston with the help of funding by Unit-

ed Way of Massachusetts Bay, opened the day before Thanksgiving, and is playing a crucial role in helping the state house eligible families and pregnant women who haven’t yet en-

►State plans to open another overnight shelter, in a former courthouse. B1.

tered the formal emergency shelter system.

It’s a waypoint, not a permanent housing assignment, but it beats being in the cold. And it’s serving an urgent need.

“Where else does a mother who doesn’t speak the language go?” said Beth Chambers, vice president of basic needs for Catholic Charities.

As of Wednesday, the wait-list for those seeking emergency shelter had grown to 357 families, a handful of whom are staying here. The Globe is not publishing the location to protect the privacy of the families.

In one of the state’s typical emergency shelters, children are quickly enrolled in local schools. Here, because of the impermanent nature of the shelter, children aren’t able to attend nearby schools, so they must entertain themselves.

On a recent morning, 5-year-old Axel wandered around the kitchen with a glass of apple cider while his father ate breakfast. He carried a backpack full of crayons and toys,

SHELTERS, Page A8

Caroling, caroling — then a terrible shock

2 singers — one a 77-year-old woman and one 82 — punched by teen boys

By Sean Cotter
GLOBE STAFF

They had just finished singing “Joy to the World” outside the window of a woman recovering from a stroke. It was Sunday afternoon and the Christmas carolers from a Mattapan church next launched into “Silent Night” when all was no longer calm.

Out of nowhere, a 77-year-old caroler named Dorothy was struck in the head, so suddenly that she thought “something must have fallen from the house.”

Instead it was possibly the most un-Christmasy thing to happen to anyone, much less a senior bringing good tidings to her neighbors: a fist, the first strike from an unseen attacker who hit her, again and again, from behind.

“My head was literally spinning,” said Dorothy, who asked that her last name not be used out of concern for her safety. “They just started punching me all in my head and my back.”

She was with a small group

CAROLERS, Page A8



New England ski areas, such as Lost Valley in Auburn, Maine, are starting to recover from Monday’s storm, making snow as much-needed cold weather settles in. B5.

Rudy Giuliani filed for bankruptcy after being ordered to start paying \$148 million in damages. A2.

Tufts Medicine avoided financial calamity, satisfying bondholders, but it’s still losing money. B5.

The contours of a bipartisan border security and immigration deal are taking shape as Congress leaves town. A2.

Despite the Patriots’ season, Bill Belichick still has leverage, writes Ben Volin. C1.



Bright off the bat

Friday: Clear and cool. High 33-38. Low 25-30.

Saturday: A few clouds. High 39-44. Low 33-38.

High tide: 6:56 a.m., 7:30 p.m.

Sunrise: 7:10 Sunset: 4:15

Weather and Comics, G6-7. Obituaries, C11.

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