

# The Boston Globe

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2023

## Civilians find no safety as fighting intensifies

By Matthew Mpoke Bigg, Ben Hubbard, and Michael Levenson  
NEW YORK TIMES

Israeli soldiers pushed into the heart of the largest city in the southern Gaza Strip on Tuesday, Israel and Hamas said, amid some of the most intense bombing and ground combat of the war and growing concerns that there is almost nowhere left for desperate civilians to flee.

The Israeli offensive drove deep into the southern Gaza

city of Khan Younis — “Hamas’s military capital,” the Israeli military said — which was home to more than 200,000 people before the war but swelled during the conflict with people who heeded an earlier Israeli order to evacuate all of the northern enclave.

Heavy bombardment was heard Tuesday from inside Nasser Hospital, the city’s largest, where many Palestinians had sought shelter and were sleeping in hallways. Video

GAZA, Page A4

‘Universities have stoked the flames of an ideology which goes by many names: antiracism, anticolonialism, critical race theory.’

REP. VIRGINIA FOXX

‘We embrace a commitment to free expression.’

CLAUDINE GAY, Harvard president

## Attacked, college leaders defend campus speech

GOP lawmakers tie antisemitism to school cultures; presidents stress balance

By Mike Damiano and Hilary Burns

GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON — The leaders of three top universities faced fiery congressional questioning Tuesday about antisemitism and ideological diversity on their campuses, with conserva-

tive lawmakers accusing them of fostering an environment where, the Republicans claimed, intimidation of Jews is tolerated, as the Israel-Hamas war rages.

“Institutional antisemitism and hate are among the poisoned fruits of your institutions’ cultures,” Representative Virgin-

ia Foxx, a North Carolina Republican, said to Harvard University president Claudine Gay, MIT president Sally Kornbluth, and University of Pennsylvania president Liz Magill.

The university leaders acknowledged that antisemitism, as well as Islamophobia, is on the rise in society and on their campuses and said they had sometimes stumbled in recent

COLLEGES, Page A9

### NIGHTMARE IN MISSION HILL

A frightened teen gave police the name of the man he’d heard was the killer in the Stuart case, then took it all back the next day. But it was too late for the man he’d named, Willie Bennett, who was suddenly the prime suspect in the case, his name and story blasted all over town.

## ‘WHY WERE YOU LYIN’ TO ME?’

CHAPTER 4



ERIN CLARK/GLOBE STAFF

A photo of Willie Bennett after his arraignment at Brookline District Court on Nov. 13, 1989, is projected on the former police homicide unit in South Boston, where teenagers (transcripts below) were questioned by police about Bennett in the Stuart case.

ON NOVEMBER 2, 1989 P.O. HOLLAND CAME TO THE UNIT AND INFORMED US THAT HE HAD TALKED WITH ERIC WHITNEY. ERIC TOLD HIM THAT HE RECEIVED HIS INFORMATION FROM HIS PARTNER DERRICK JACKSON TWO DAYS AFTER THE MURDER. THAT JACKSON WAS IN JURY BENEFIT ( TO ) JURY BENEFIT. JACKSON STATED

Take House -  
Me & four other -  
William Bennett

Q - What did he tell you?

A - He said that his uncle had committed this crime, had shot the Stuart family.

This series was reported by Adrian Walker, Evan Allen, Elizabeth Koh, Andrew Ryan, Kristin Nelson, and Brendan McCarthy. This story was written by Allen.

Late on the night of Nov. 3, 1989, a Boston police detective walked into an interrogation room on the second floor of the homicide unit in Southie and sat down at a table opposite a twitchy Black teenager.

The detective was Peter O’Malley. He was in his late 50s, with white hair, a paunch, and a voice as gruff and smoky as a barroom. The other detectives called him “the Colonel,” and they knew: When the Colonel walked into an interrogation room, he came out with a confession.

O’Malley was considered a closer, and the Stuart case needed closing.

And he was certain that this teenager sitting across from him was the key.

It had been 11 days since a pregnant white woman was murdered and her husband shot shortly after they left a birthing class at Brigham and Women’s Hospital.

The city of Boston was gripped by an almost hysterical terror. Photographs of Chuck and Carol Stuart were everywhere — the picture of what could go wrong when a nice suburban couple ventured into what one newscast called “a city whose very arteries are coated with layers

STUART, Page A6

## Biden may struggle to turn infrastructure win into votes

By Jim Puzzanghera  
GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON — The day after President Biden signed a \$1.2 trillion bipartisan infrastructure law two years ago, he traveled to a decaying bridge in Woodstock, N.H., to tout the transformation that would come from one of his biggest legislative accomplishments.

Standing on the deck of the span over the Pemigewasset River under lightly falling snow, Biden pledged the legislation would speed up the replacement of such aging infrastructure.

“Folks, when you see these projects starting in your hometowns, I want you to feel what I

feel: pride — pride in what we can do together as the United States of America,” Biden proclaimed in November 2021.

But two years later, that pride remains deferred. Instead, the bridge epitomizes the complexity of implementing the most sweeping overhaul of roads, bridges, railways, and other infrastructure in decades. It also demonstrates the challenge of Biden getting credit for a landmark law that White House officials acknowledge will take years for its full benefit to be felt as his reelection campaign looms.

The \$3.2 million rehab project in Woodstock isn’t scheduled

INFRASTRUCTURE, Page A8



TANNER PEARSON FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

**SPEAKING OUT** — With President Biden in town Tuesday to raise money for his reelection campaign, several hundred pro-Palestinian protesters gathered on Tremont Street to call for a permanent cease-fire. At one of his fund-raisers, Biden condemned Hamas over reports of alleged sexual violence. **B1.**

## Police contract would cut back on arbitration

30 crimes no longer eligible for appeal

By Danny McDonald  
GLOBE STAFF

The new labor contract reached between Mayor Michelle Wu’s administration and Boston’s largest police union includes unprecedented reforms that will allow the city to fire officers accused of serious offenses, such as murder and rape, and bar them from appealing those dismissals through arbitration.

Details of the new five-year pact released Tuesday show that 30 crimes would now not be eligible for arbitration, if an officer is indicted for them or if they

feature in a sustained internal department finding. They include murder, rape, kidnapping, drug trafficking, human trafficking, armed robbery, and hate crimes. Disciplinary measures related to other allegations of misconduct, such as use of excessive force, would still be subject to arbitration.

Currently, a police officer facing any disciplinary matter can seek arbitration, a process sometimes used to overturn disciplinary orders. Earlier this year, city officials said five members of the

WU, Page B4

**A judge ordered state Treasurer Deborah Goldberg to postpone a hearing that could pave the way for firing Shannon O’Brien** as the top cannabis regulator, ruling that it lacked “basic due process.” **B1.**

**A Newton city councilor apologized to a colleague for sending her “unwanted and unwelcome” messages** at a meeting. **B1.**

**The Senate approved hundreds of military promotions** after Senator Tommy Tuberville withdrew his blockade over his opposition to Pentagon abortion policy. **A2.**

**CVS Health is planning to overhaul how it prices prescription drugs**, doing away with the complex formulas that typically govern what patients pay for medications. **B5.**

**In their first big move of the offseason, the Red Sox traded outfielder Alex Verdugo to the Yankees** in a rare deal between the two rivals. The Sox got three pitching prospects in return. **C1.**

**Cookbooks can be a perfect holiday gift**, both useful and personal. Check out some of the year’s best. **G1.**

### Most valuable layers

**Wednesday:** Cloudy and cold. High 34-39. Low 22-27.

**Thursday:** Sunny, still cold.

Sunrise: 6:58 Sunset: 4:11

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

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