

The Boston Globe

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MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2023

CRADLE OF DOUBT

On co-sleeping, official warnings ignored

Internet is full of parents who bed-share with babies, saying risks are exaggerated

This story, the second in a three-part series, was reported and written by Deirdre Fernandez and edited by Patricia Wen.



Public health authorities paint a dire picture: Mothers who sleep in the same bed as their babies put their infants at an increased risk of a tragic sleep death —

perhaps, they say, three times higher. And the death is often attributed to the mother herself, sometimes moving in her sleep onto the child. It is a horror beyond imagination. How many loving parents would take this chance?

Most of them. Surveys show that some 60 percent of mothers acknowledge they have shared their bed with their baby at some point, and those may be just the ones honest enough to admit it. Their abundant thoughts on social media — some defiant, others confessional — offer a spirited counterpoint to the strict messages from top public health agencies and pediatricians' groups. These parents believe the bed-sharing risks are exaggerated and can be mitigated, and

they see positive reasons to co-sleep. "Co-sleeping with my baby is THE BEST. Sorry not sorry," one mother posted on TikTok with photos of her cozing up to her infant in her adult bed, a message that garnered 30,000 likes. "Co-sleeping made me a better Mom. Why? Because I get adequate sleep!" one mom posted on Instagram. "Breastfeeding and co-sleeping is like a match made in heaven," another. **INFANT DEATH, Page A9**



Brian Marvel, as Santa Claus, waved while greeting runners during a recent fund-raiser for the Greg Hill Foundation.

Santa Claus is coming — into money

In high demand, area impersonators say playing St. Nick can be lucrative

By Diti Kohli
GLOBE STAFF

For Brian Marvel, becoming Santa was an investment — a \$13,000 one, to be exact. The former Uber driver and wine consultant spent that two years ago on red suits, leather belts, bells, and oversized metal keys to the North Pole, plus the smaller expenses oft forgotten: liability insurance, background checks, gas mileage, and fees to launch his Santa website.

It was well worth it: The 54-year-old Saugus resident worked 99 gigs last year as a highly-coveted "real-bearded" St. Nick, and is primed to hit 100 this season. Now Marvel expects to make upwards of \$20,000 between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

"I was initially surprised at the cost of everything," he said. "But like I said to my wife early on, I should've done this years ago. It is far and away the most joyful way to work for yourself, and the community needs you."

Indeed, it does. Professional Santas are in short supply as demand for impersonators skyrocketed in the past few **SANTA, Page A8**



Edward Campbell, as Santa Claus, laughed with Justice Edwards, 3, and her mother, Shaleea, during the Black Santa Boston Brunch.

Jumpin' Jack splash

Monday: Rain, heavy at times. High 59-64, low 40-45.
Tuesday: Cloudy, showers. High 47-52, low 28-33.
Sunrise: 7:08. Sunset: 4:13.
Obituaries, **C12**.
Comics and Weather, **D4-5**.

Boston Public Schools are facing major budget cuts, with jobs, programs, and at least one school on the line, as hundreds of millions of dollars in pandemic aid are expiring. **B1**.

Boston Tea Party Museum workers are in awe over a key figure's preserved documents, provided by a descendant. **B1**.

VOL. 304, NO. 171

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Suggested retail price
\$3.50



Write-in bid aims to help Biden win N.H. primary

With his name not on ballot, party works to avoid embarrassment

By Steven Porter and Matt Stout
GLOBE STAFF

CONCORD, N.H. — With just weeks before the state's presidential primary, Democrats in New Hampshire are trying to lure volunteers from Massachusetts. They've reportedly launched a fledgling super PAC. On Thursday, they took the obvious, if extraordinary, step of modeling exactly how they want voters to fill out their ballot on Jan. 23.

Vote Joe Biden, they say. Or rather, write "Joe Biden."

This multipronged effort to convince voters to write in the president's name underscores the politically difficult — and fundamentally strange — effort before them: to convince voters not only to show up at the polls next month but also cast a ballot for someone who in-

entionally chose to keep his name off it.

"This is certainly different," said Joe Caiazzo, a political consultant and an alum of Bernie Sanders' 2020 presidential campaign who is helping organize volunteers from Massachusetts. "I don't think that intraparty politics have damaged people's commitment to the president."

Leaders of the "Write-In Biden" campaign in New Hampshire trotted out a giant sample ballot on Thursday to show voters precisely how to support the incumbent president. During a news conference, state Representative Angela Brennan used a big black marker to demonstrate where to write President Biden's name and which oval to fill, while urging voters to forgo picking any of the 21 names that will actually be printed on the Democratic ballot.

"While this process is simple and easy, we know that not all voters are familiar with it," the Bow Democrat said. **BIDEN, Page A7**

IS IT OVER NOW?



CHARLES KRUPA/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Taylor Swift (left) cheered with Brittany Mahomes (center), the wife of Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes, during Sunday's game between the Chiefs and Patriots in Foxborough. Travis Kelce, a Chiefs tight end, is Swift's boyfriend. Patriot fans, though, had little to cheer about as Kansas City defeated New England 27-17. **C1**.

Israel vows to 'fight to end,' bombs Gaza sites

US defense secretary will meet with Netanyahu, seek scaled-down military action

By Rachel Abrams, Adam Sella, and Thomas Fuller

NEW YORK TIMES

The Israeli military bombarded dozens of sites in the Gaza Strip over the weekend as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed to keep fighting in the territory, even as anguish over the Israeli military's accidental killings of three hostages raised new questions about how his government is prosecuting the war.

The military said Sunday that it had struck 200 locations in Gaza over the previous 24 hours amid a mounting outcry over the civilian toll there and calls for restraint by three of Israel's most important allies.

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin was flying to the Middle East on Sunday, the latest in a series of senior Biden administration officials to travel to the region, to press Israel to scale back its military campaign. And the foreign secretaries of Britain and Germany issued a joint call for a "sustainable" cease-fire, a change in tone from their previous voice of support for Israel.

Austin will meet this week with Netanyahu and Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant to discuss in detail when and how Israeli forces might carry out a new phase of fighting. American officials envision it as involving smaller groups of elite forces **MIDEAST, Page A6**

Emotions on war divide K-12 students

Schools struggle to ease tensions, promote dialogue

By Niki Griswold

GLOBE STAFF

Just as controversy surrounding responses to the Israel-Hamas war has roiled university campuses, tensions also have spilled over into K-12 schools in Greater Boston, where staff and leadership are struggling to navigate how to address the conflict with students.

Students on both sides of the conflict have said they feel frustrated, misunderstood, and marginalized. Dozens of students, including many at Boston Latin and New Mission High School, have protested in support of Palestinian rights, while some Jewish students have said they feel pressure to be silent in their support of Israel and their faith. Both sides have expressed concern about increasing antisemitism and Islamophobia in schools and the community.

Administrators are grappling with the balance **STUDENTS, Page A8**