

# The Boston Globe

Serving our community since 1872

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2023

## ‘Their bond is really getting them through this’

Vt. shooting victims rely on friendship from their West Bank childhood as they recover

By Sean Cotter, Shannon Larson, and Kevin Cullen  
GLOBE STAFF  
BURLINGTON, Vt. —The mothers of Hisham Awartani, Kinnan Abdalhamid, and Tahseen Ali Ahmad, the three international Palestinian

students shot in Vermont, were all close friends after their sons were born 20 years ago, so it was inevitable their children would play together. And those ties only increased over the years as the trio grew up in

the West Bank, tightened by shared kindness, humor, and, in particular, razor-sharp intellects. All three are, by all accounts, exceptional students, who made their way to elite US universities. “I think that’s why they stayed together for all these years,” said Abdalhamid’s uncle, Radi Tamimi. Now those deep connections are helping them recover from the at-

tack, according to interviews with Abdalhamid, family members of the three young men, mutual friends, and classmates. “We are relying on each other,” Abdalhamid said during a telephone interview Monday. “We use humor a lot, and we’re recovering fairly fast.” His uncle echoed those thoughts. **VERMONT, Page A10**

## \$3b state spending bill signed into law

Measure had been delayed over GOP objections to migrant shelter provisions

By Matt Stout and Samantha J. Gross  
GLOBE STAFF

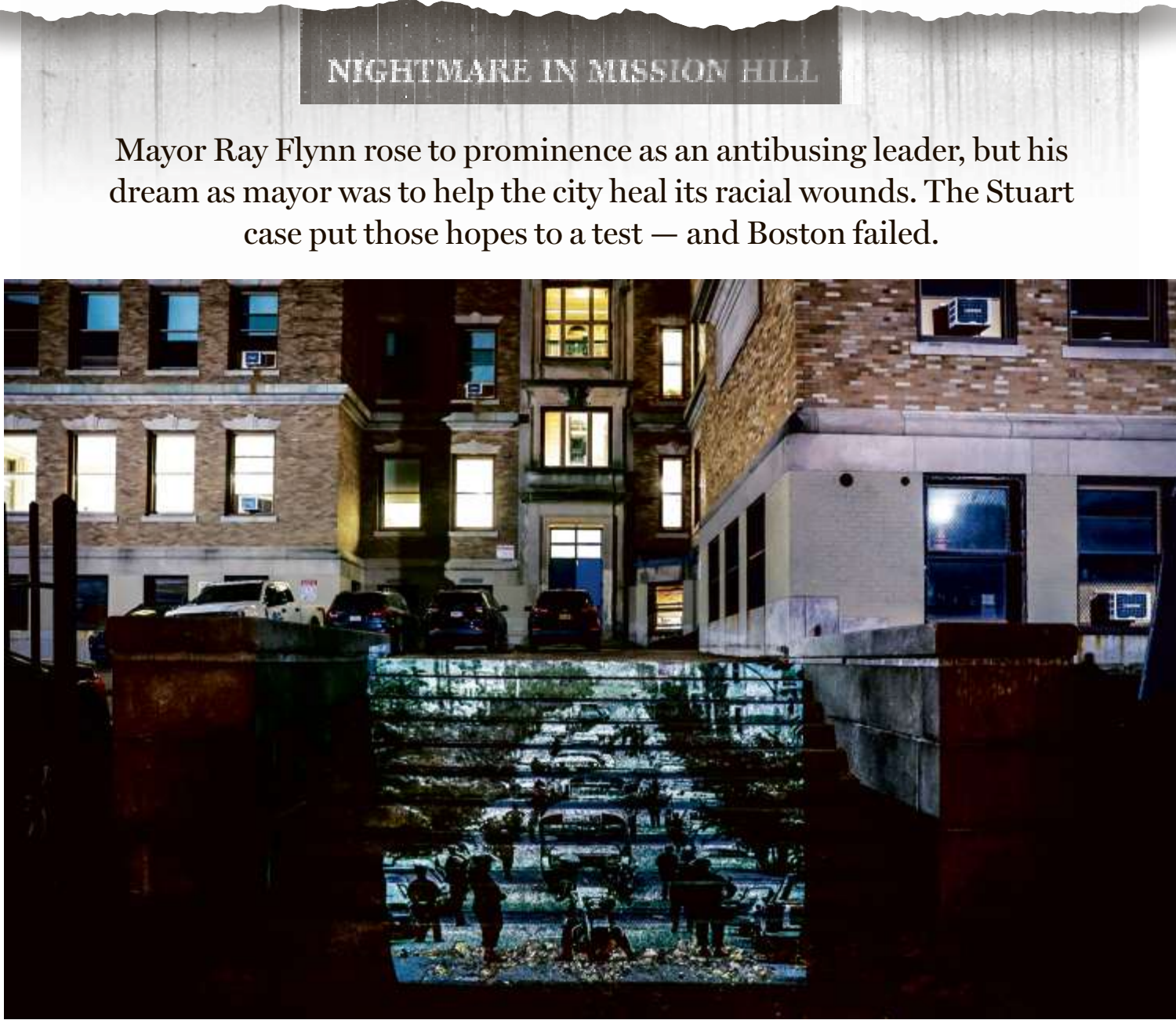
Massachusetts lawmakers on Monday passed an overdue \$3 billion spending bill after dozens of Democrats showed up for informal House and Senate sessions to break a GOP logjam in chambers they firmly control. Governor Maura Healey almost immediately signed the legislation, ending days of partisan drama. Democratic leaders and the House’s small GOP caucus blamed each other for slowing a bill that touches everyone from homeless and migrant families to state employee paychecks. The bill stalled three separate times since Thursday after House Republicans used a procedural move to halt informal sessions, which are typically sparsely attended. The rules of informal sessions, which prohibit roll call votes and debate, can often empower a single lawmaker to derail legislation, which the GOP did by challenging whether enough of the chamber’s 159 representatives were present for a vote. But not on Monday. With more than 100 lawmakers present for the House’s initial count, lawmakers established a rare quorum for the informal sitting. That allowed Democrats to sidestep the parliamentary hurdle Republicans had previously used, and vote, 105-14, to give initial approval to the \$3 billion package. Hours later, the Senate did the same, voting 20-3 along party lines. The House and Senate then **LEGISLATURE, Page A10**

## Israeli forces expand war in southern Gaza

Approach key city; civilians say they feel trapped; US seeks ship escorts in Red Sea

By Hiba Yazbek, Christoph Koettl, and Michael Levenson  
NEW YORK TIMES

Israel widened its military assault against Hamas in the southern part of the Gaza Strip on Monday, with armored vehicles rolling closer to its main city and strikes pummeling urban areas, where images showed smoke rising from flattened buildings and people carrying bodies swaddled in blankets. Satellite imagery analyzed by The New York Times showed that the Israeli military had expanded its ground offensive into southern Gaza starting, soon after the collapse of its weeklong truce with Hamas. As of Sunday, dozens of armored vehicles had moved into the area, according to the satellite images. The strikes on Monday came as the Israeli military again warned civilians to leave parts of Khan Younis, southern Gaza’s largest city, and to move to places farther south, including Rafah, on the Egyptian border. The evacuation order echoed similar directives that Israel gave before sending troops into northern Gaza in late October. **MIDEAST, Page A7**



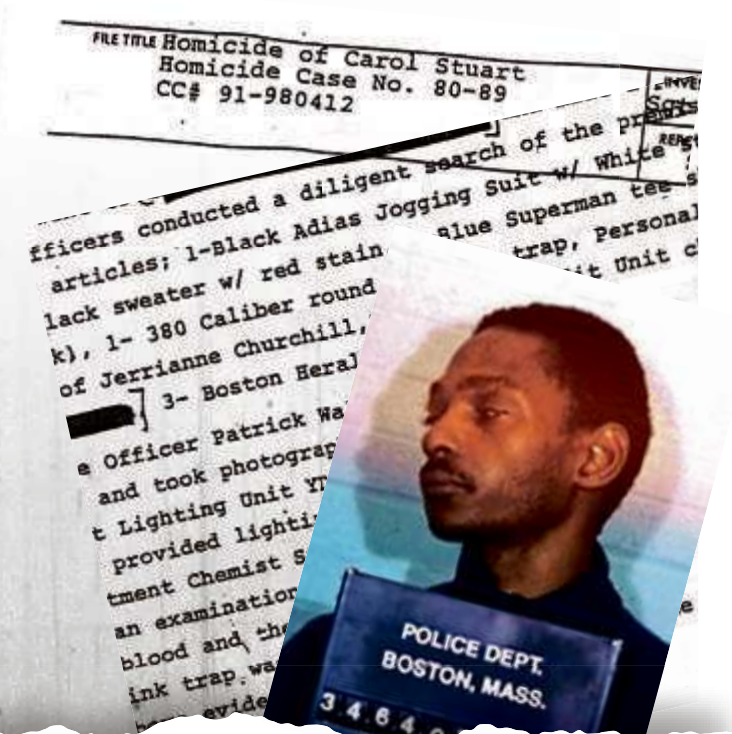
A photo of school buses on Fifth Street in South Boston in 1974 is projected on former South Boston High School, where students were bused as Boston’s schools were desegregated. Below, a police photo of Alan Swanson, an early suspect in the Stuart shootings.

## CHASING AFTER LEADS AND RUMORS. AND HISTORY.

### CHAPTER 3

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

In the days after the murder, the good people of Massachusetts thought they saw the shooter everywhere. The Boston police broadcast his description far and wide: Black, male, 5’10”, 150 to 160 pounds, thin build, shaggy facial hair. And the community responded, calling in tip after tip to the dedicated hot line. There he was, at the mall in blue Nikes; there he was, selling newspapers in Cambridge; there he was, walking through the leafy suburb of Canton with a limp. He looked “hinky,” he smelled like urine, he was almost 7 feet tall, he wore a black tweed coat. It was as if people could conjure him up by looking into a mirror and calling his name three times. The police chased every single one of these leads. Hundreds of them. They came up empty-handed, again and again. Until Oct. 28, 1989 — five days into the biggest manhunt the city of Boston had ever seen, five days of searching for the shooter **STUART, Page A4**



### Chills, no thrills

**Tuesday:** Mostly cloudy. High 38-43, low 29-34.  
**Wednesday:** Cloudy, brisk. High 34-39, low 22-27.  
Sunrise: 6:57. Sunset: 4:12.  
Obituaries, **C9**.  
Comics and Weather, **D5-6**.

VOL. 304, NO. 158  
\*  
Suggested retail price  
\$3.50



**Harvard, MIT, and UPenn are at “the center” of campus antisemitism**, a GOP congresswoman asserted ahead of a hearing featuring the colleges’ leaders on Capitol Hill. **B1**.  
**Women won’t hold as many seats as men on corporate boards in Massachusetts until 2044, a survey has found.** We can do better, columnist Shirley Leung writes. **D1**.  
**The White House is warning that money to help Ukraine is running out**, as it presses Congress for more funding. **A3**.

## Claim asserts Meta gift unduly swayed Harvard

By Travis Andersen  
GLOBE STAFF  
and Daniel Kool  
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT  
Joan Donovan, a prominent online disinformation specialist, is seeking “an urgent and impartial investigation” into allegations of improper donor influence at Harvard University’s Kennedy School, which she claims fired her after she began analyzing a trove of documents pointing to “significant public harm” caused by Facebook par-

ent Meta. Donovan alleges in a whistleblower complaint filed on Monday that she met resistance from her superiors, culminating in her termination, as the university was discussing a \$500 million gift from a foundation run by Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg and his wife, Priscilla Chan, in December 2021. An expert on disinformation and a vocal critic of Meta, Donovan joined the Kennedy School **DONOVAN, Page B4**



**MATCHING UP** — The Celtics’ Jrue Holiday defended against the Indiana Pacers’ Tyrese Haliburton in Monday’s game in Indianapolis. Boston lost, 122-112, knocking the team out of the NBA’s In-Season Tournament. **C1**.