

# The Boston Globe

Serving our community since 1872

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 2024

## Teachers increasingly willing to go on strike

Despite costs, including fines, unions find it's worth it to get what they want

By James Vaznis  
and Mandy McLaren  
GLOBE STAFF

More than 40,000 students in Massachusetts have missed one or more days of school due to illegal teachers strikes over the last two years, disrupting classroom time for students and forcing their parents to scramble for child care.

Teachers say that cost, while unfortunate, is necessary to force school administrators to agree to improved working conditions. And the strategy appears to be working for them: teachers unions are winning better pay and other benefits they say will keep them in the classroom.

And with the latest walkout, in

Newton on Jan. 19, five teachers unions have gone on strike in the last two years — the biggest uptick in decades. Two other unions voted to strike but then secured 11th-hour contract deals.

For many school committees and superintendents, the strikes seem unstoppable: Not even court-imposed fines for violating state law that prohibits public employees from walking out are enough to get teachers back into classrooms.

In Newton, the union is seeking a 13 percent cost of living increase over three years and better pay for instructional aides; the School Committee has offered 8 percent, according to a School Committee analysis prior to the strike. If the Newton teachers are successful, it could prompt others to raise the threat in their own contract negotiations, said Erin O'Brien, an associate professor of political science at the University of Massa-

STRIKES, Page A7

‘It is long overdue for Steward to address its mounting financial issues and the impact it has on workers and patients.’

CARI MEDINA, vice president of 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East, in a memo to workers at Steward hospitals



SUZANNE KREITER/GLOBE STAFF

Nabil Haque's wife, Sungida Rashid, suffered with internal bleeding a day after delivering her daughter, Otindria.

## UNPAID BILLS A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH

Steward's struggles left a hospital unprepared for a new mother's emergency

By Jessica Bartlett  
GLOBE STAFF

Sungida Rashid gave birth at St. Elizabeth's Medical Center in October, and barely a day later she was bleeding to death.

The 39-year-old's heart had already stopped once. Medical teams revived her, but the clock was ticking. Doctors soon identified the problem: a bleed deep within her liver. In the operating room, caregivers had a plan to quickly treat it, but the staff there soon discovered something

alarming — the embolism coil that doctors could have used to stop the bleeding wasn't available.

Weeks prior, the hospital's inventory of the devices had been repossessed, according to

►Legislators working to prevent closure of hospitals in the crisis. B5.

ing to hospital staff. A company rep from the manufacturer, Penumbra, explained to staff that Steward Health Care, the parent company for St. Elizabeth's, hadn't paid

the bill.

Some of the staff members at the Brighton hospital had feared this would happen, raised the alarm with executives, discussed it among themselves. But the warnings hadn't reached all staff. Now, as the emergency unfolded before them, they did not have the coils.

According to court records, similar invoices had been going unpaid for more than a year throughout the nine-hospital Steward system in Massachusetts — from

STEWARDS, Page A10

## Social media making Gaza war hit home

Shades of Vietnam War, when graphic TV footage helped shape public opinion

By Daniel Kool  
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

Mol McNulty mourns for a man he never met in a land he's never visited.

For weeks, Ahmad J Ismael was among a handful of Gazan journalists and civilians McNulty checks in on every morning, as they post photos and videos chronicling death and destruction in their besieged home while the Israel-Hamas war drags on.

“You want to make sure this person is OK,” said McNulty, a 22-year-old Stoneham resident.

But Ismael's Instagram account went silent shortly before the new year. Within days, McNulty learned Ismael was killed in an artillery blast by the Israeli Defense Forces, according to a post by Ismael's friend Motaz Azaiza, a

Gazan photographer with more than 18 million followers on Instagram.

“Motaz, his best friend, had posted a picture of his body,” McNulty recalled, stuttering with emotion. “I was shocked.”

McNulty is one of many people in Massachusetts and around the country who have turned to social media for updates about the war in Gaza, largely from the Palestinian perspective. While in the war's early days, images of the Oct. 7 Hamas attack and the seized hostages spread online, social media swiftly became inundated with pictures of the Israeli bombing of Gaza, showing piles of dead bodies, flattened buildings, and children trapped under rubble. Often, the footage comes uncensored.

GAZA, Page A5



CRAIG F. WALKER/GLOBE STAFF



ASSOCIATED PRESS/FILE

Above, Mol McNulty displayed a video from Gaza on his Instagram feed. Most American homes had televisions as the Vietnam War escalated and viewers saw things they hadn't been exposed to before.

## Handling of Card before shooting defended

Sheriff says deputies were warned not to engage directly with him at checks

By Daniel Kool  
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

AUGUSTA, Maine — Officials from the Sagadahoc County Sheriff's Department, under fire for how they handled multiple warnings about the man who killed 18 people in Maine's worst mass shooting, testified Thursday to an independent commission that they behaved appropriately in the months preceding the deadly attacks.

The sheriff's department had received different warnings about the shooter, Robert Card II: one from family members in May that he had been exhibiting paranoia and had access to guns; another in September from Card's superiors in the Army Reserve who worried his behavior could lead him to become violent.

But Sheriff Joel Merry told the state commission investigating the shooting and police response that his deputies were warned by “those who knew Card” not to engage directly with him during wellness checks and “believed that the matter with Mr. Card had been resolved.”

Officials also argued they had no legal way to take him into protective custody.

Deputy Chad Carleton testified that Card's son and ex-wife, who had expressed concerns over his mental state, also warned that a visit from law enforcement might upset him.

LEWISTON, Page B4

## Opposition by Trump likely dooms possible border deal

By Annie Karni  
NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — For months, Senate Republicans have been working with Democrats on a deal they have described as a once-in-a-generation opportunity for a conservative border security bill, and for weeks, they have hinted that they are tantalizingly close to an agreement.

Their timing could not be worse.

As former president Donald Trump moves closer to becoming his party's presidential nominee and Republican lawmakers consolidate behind him, he is wielding a heavier hand than at any time since leaving office over his party's agenda in Congress. His vocal opposition to the emerging border compromise has all but killed the measure's chances in a divided Congress as he puts his own hard-line immigration policies once again at the center of his campaign.

His shadow has always loomed large over the Republican-controlled House, which has opened congressional investigations to defend him, launched an impeachment inquiry into his chief rival, and approved legislation to reinstate the hard-line immigration

BORDER, Page A6

Climate advocates called on Governor Maura Healey to oppose the proposed expansion of a gas pipeline they say would worsen the climate crisis. B1.



Umbrella policy

Friday: Drizzle, again. High 41-46. Low 34-39.

Saturday: Cloudy but dry. High 40-45. Low 31-36.

High tide: 11:34 a.m.

Sunrise: 7:04 Sunset: 4:50

Weather and Comics, G8-9. Obituaries, C9-10.

VOL. 305, NO. 26

Suggested retail price \$3.50



0 947725 4

Bill Belichick's coaching opportunities seem to be disappearing, with reports that the Falcons job is filled. C1.