

Sorority, fraternity ties key for Harris

Greek groups vow broad voter mobilization

By Lissandra Villa de Petrzalka
GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON — When Vice President Kamala Harris took the stage at Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc.'s Boulé in Houston last week, she had a political message for the members of the historically Black sorority.

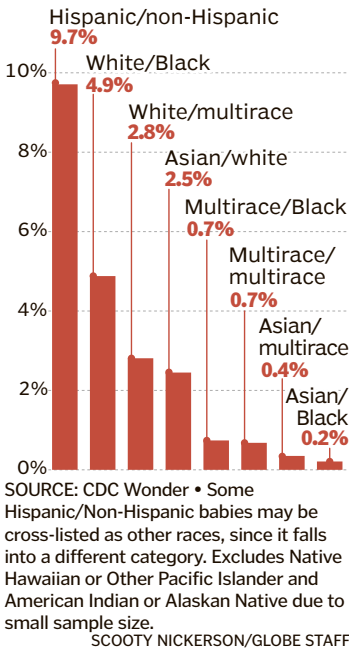
"In this moment, once again, our nation is counting on you to energize, to organize, and to mobilize," Harris said. "To register folks to vote and get them to the polls, because when we organize, mountains move. When we mobilize, nations change. And when we vote, we make history."

Harris, who belongs to Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., was speaking to the group as a fellow member of one of the National Pan-Hellenic Council's historically Black fraternities and sororities. While the council doesn't make endorsements, the political importance of the visit was unmistakable.

These fraternities and sororities, also known as the Divine Nine, have long played a major

HARRIS, Page A7

Multiracial babies in Mass. as share of all births in 2022



Weighing impact of multiracial population

By Scooty Nickerson
GLOBE STAFF

For Kristin Wallace, a Boston mother of two whose ancestry is a mix of Syrian, German, and Jamaican, questions about her racial identity never cease.

At the grocery store, she said, cashiers try to speak with her in Spanish, assuming incorrectly that she's Latina. When walking in public with her two daughters, who present as more white, many assume she's the nanny. Sometimes, strangers even confront her in public.

"I still have to explain, my mom is from Syria, and my dad is Jamaican and German," she said.

But complex multiracial identities, such as Wallace's, are no longer as rare in Massachusetts or across the United States. In recent years, the number of people who identify as multiracial has been growing rapidly, especially as more and more multiracial babies are born.

The issue has come to the fore after former president Donald Trump made headlines

IDENTITIES, Page A7

'I want a place to stay with my family while I work to help the family.'

JD JOHN, migrant from Haiti staying in the Chelsea overflow shelter

Shelter families get reprieve



JOHN TLUMACKI/GLOBE STAFF

2 Cape towns fight nonprofit over plans for homeless care

By John Hilliard
GLOBE STAFF

A proposal to convert a nursing home on Cape Cod into a shelter for dozens of homeless families is facing stiff resistance from two towns, pitting officials against the nonprofit developer behind the project.

The Hyannis-based Housing Assistance Corp. wants to convert the former South Dennis Health Care Facility on Love Lane into a 79-unit Family Transition Shelter. The plan includes educational programming to help families learn how to live independently and ultimately move into homes of their own.

But the Dennis Planning Board

and the Harwich Select Board are objecting, raising concerns about traffic, stormwater, and the number of families planned for the site. The property is located in Dennis, but it is only accessed by road through Harwich.

The proposal is the latest flashpoint over how to confront a record increase in homelessness in Barnstable County, fueled in large part by a sharp decline in affordable housing on Cape Cod. And at a public meeting in the spring, opponents tried to link the shelter plans with the state's struggles to accommodate thousands of migrant families who have entered Massachusetts in recent months.

HOMELESS, Page A10

On Friday, people walked out the gate of the former Baystate Correctional Center in Norfolk, which operates as an overflow shelter.

Despite eviction notices, only a handful leave overflow sites as five-day limit is reached

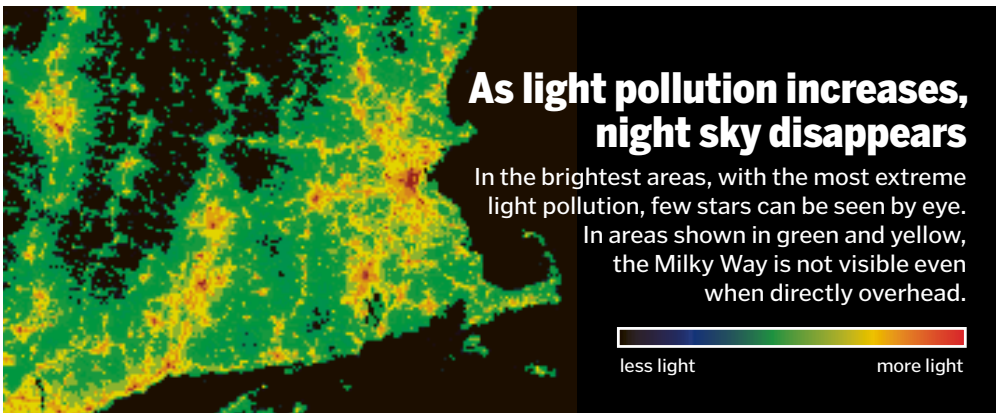
This story was reported by Mike Damiano, Samantha J. Gross, and Danny McDonald of the Globe staff and Globe correspondents Helena Getahum-Hawkins, Auzzy Byrdsell, Jacqueline Munis, Rachel Umansky-Castro, and Natalie La Roche Pietri. It was written by McDonald.

Friday marked the first day migrant families could be evicted from state overflow shelters, but many of those who were issued eviction notices seem to have been granted a last-minute, temporary reprieve.

Last week, shelter workers told 57 families they would have to leave overflow shelters by Friday morning. State officials said the evictions were necessary to make room for other families waiting for space.

Of those 57, state officials said that by the end of Friday 11 families had left the overflow shelters for other accommodations, including longer-term shelters, or were provided tickets for transportation to other locales.

SHELTERS, Page A10



SOURCES: Jurij Stare, www.lightpollutionmap.info, NASA's Black Marble
JOHN HANCOCK/GLOBE STAFF

Some are predicting an end to our starry light shows

Bill assuring dark nights doesn't pass in Mass.

By Sabrina Shankman
GLOBE STAFF

There are moments when Earth feels small, when it becomes abundantly clear that we're all just sitting on a rock, spinning through the galaxy — like this year's solar eclipse, for instance, or the northern lights that danced across New England skies in May.

That magic returns late Sunday evening, when the Perseid meteor shower peaks, raining as many as 75 meteors per hour across the night sky. But as astronomer Tim Brothers prepares for a Perseid-watching event at the MIT Wallace Astrophysical Observatory, he worries: How many more of these will be visible in Massachusetts?

Each year, because of an increase in light

pollution as urban areas get brighter, less and less of the night sky is visible. Nationally, light pollution is growing at a rate of about 10 percent a year, according to a 2023 study, as high-powered LED bulbs light up highways, parking lots, and buildings like Christmas trees.

What that means is that in most places in Massachusetts, it's no longer possible to see the Milky Way. And in some places, when you look up, you no longer see many stars.

Advocates have been working for years to pass legislation in Massachusetts to regulate light pollution, and this year everything was falling into place to get things done. But, like many bills left to the last minute, the stargazers walked away from Beacon Hill

DARK SKIES, Page A6

About 400 million people worldwide have been afflicted with long COVID, according to a new report. **A2.**

Israeli troops launched a new assault into the southern Gaza city of Khan Younis. **A4.**

The union representing nurs-

es at Brigham and Women's Hospital has reached a tentative deal with hospital management. **D1.**

Company officials unveiled a plan to recover from the failure of a wind turbine blade that scattered debris into the ocean and onto beaches. **B1.**



ASHLEY LANDIS/ASSOCIATED PRESS

A golden moment

Sha'carri Richardson anchored the US women's 4x100-meter relay team to an Olympic win, after taking the handoff from Gabby Thomas. Full coverage, **C1, 6-8.**

Lawn weekend

Saturday: Clouds breaking. High: 85-90. Low: 66-71.

Sunday: Less humid. High: 80-85. Low: 64-69. Comics and Weather, **D4-5.** Obituaries, **C10.**

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