

# The Boston Globe

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## As figures shift, Wu plan loses support

Business groups that had agreed on tax bill's details now back move to put it on hold

By Matt Stout  
GLOBE STAFF

Mayor Michelle Wu's bid to soften anticipated increases in property taxes on homeowners in Boston by hiking commercial rates suffered a series of setbacks Thursday when prominent business groups backed a Boston state senator's move to

again stall the proposal, throwing its passage into deeper uncertainty.

The fraying support for the proposal came after Wu's office released new data showing that residential tax bills would increase by 10.5 percent without the legislation — far less than her administration had previously estimated, including as

recently as October.

Wu needs the Legislature's permission to increase the tax burden on commercial properties, and the House of Representatives had already passed a compromise tax bill the mayor had hatched with business groups.

But on Thursday, Senator Nick Collins, a South Boston Democrat, moved to table the bill for the second time this week, delaying a potential vote on the proposal until at

least Monday, when the Senate meets again. Collins argued the city's new data showing the increases homeowners face without legislative action are “far off” from the earlier, more dire projections Wu had released in pressing for the bill's passage.

The move to push off a vote also quickly earned support from the business groups with whom Wu had negotiated the details of the bill just

WU, Page A7



NEW YORK POLICE DEPARTMENT

Police released two photos of the man they suspect killed Brian Thompson.

## No answers yet as search for shooter continues

Reportedly had stayed at hostel; gun is focus of probe

By Ed Shanahan  
NEW YORK TIMES

NEW YORK — Security-camera images of a man wearing a hooded jacket and an easy smile. A fake ID. A cellphone found on a Manhattan sidewalk. Bullets marked with the words “deny” and “delay.”

Investigators chased those and other leads Thursday as the search for the person who fatally shot Brian Thompson, the CEO of the huge insurer UnitedHealthcare, stretched into a second day.

By late Thursday, the shooter's travels before the brazen slaying were coming into focus, a senior law enforcement official said. The man arrived in New York on a bus from somewhere south of the city on Nov. 24, checked into an Upper West Side hostel sometime after that, left on Nov. 29, and checked back in the next day, the official said.

As the search for the suspect continued, law enforcement authorities appeared to be focused on a gun bought in Connecticut that resembled the one used in what police say was a targeted attack.

The shooting stunned a city heading into a festive holiday season, shocked an industry that re-

SHOOTING, Page A7



SUZANNE KREITER/GLOBE STAFF

At a legal clinic in Burlington, Franky Michel and Genese Joseph waited with their children, Leah Winshaida and Enzo Giovanni.

## Immigrants scramble to solidify their standing before Jan. 20

By Giulia McDonnell Nieto del Rio  
GLOBE STAFF

BURLINGTON — As rain poured down outside, Heberson Narcisse and his wife, Angeline Joseph, waited for help at a pop-up legal clinic for immigrants here recently, their 3-month-old daughter, Keyou, in Joseph's arms.

They were among hundreds of families, many of them Haitian, who were hoping to gain a stronger legal foothold in the United States before President-elect Donald Trump takes office.

“A lot of people are telling me that this president is going to deport us, the immigrants,” Narcisse, 29, said. “That's why I want

Fearing Trump will strip them of protected status, many get legal help to try to protect themselves from being deported

to go through all the process here.”

Like many others here, he entered the country legally under a two-year humanitarian parole program granted by the Biden administration, and for some that period is ending soon. At this legal clinic, they could apply for temporary protected status, granting another layer of security to their lives. It shields people from certain countries experiencing violent armed conflict, environmental disasters, and other humanitarian conditions from deportation for a temporary period.

They are among thousands in Massachusetts racing to get their applications in to se-

IMMIGRANTS, Page A6

## Environmental justice programs now cross their fingers and hope

By Erin Douglas  
GLOBE STAFF

Dozens of electric school buses in Boston. Solar panels atop a grocery store in Dorchester. And in Chelsea, community gardens, open spaces, and reflective roofs to deflect summer heat.

Those are just a few of the dozens of environmental projects planned in low-income areas and communities of color in Massachusetts that are being underwritten by the multibillion-dollar climate and infrastructure bills passed during the Biden administration. As much as tens of millions of dollars in federal grants and tax credits are slated to go to the state's historically disadvantaged neighborhoods to build clean energy, transportation, and climate infrastructure.

However, under President-elect Donald Trump, it's unlikely that such projects will ultimately get funded — and many worry that even those already under contract are at risk since the federal government allocates the money only after the projects are built at local expense. Trump

CLEAN ENERGY, Page A6

## By degree, he's reaching his goal at last

Football dreams ended in his first Harvard game, but graduation dream didn't

TARA SULLIVAN

Ben Abercrombie, Harvard football player, loved nothing more than diving into the numbers of sports. Whether by adding to his own tackle total as a standout freshman safety or parsing the odds of victory for the other half of his Crimson heart, his hometown University of Alabama.

For as long as battles have been waged on the fields of play, numbers have helped tell the stories. But these days, a different set of numbers help tell Ben's story, reflecting the challenges of a life forever altered on Sept. 16, 2017.

That's when Abercrombie,



KATELYNN STALABOIN

Ben Abercrombie, shown with his parents, Sherri and Marty, was paralyzed in 2017.

playing his first career game for Harvard at the University of Rhode Island, broke his neck making a tackle. The freak collision left Ben paralyzed from the neck down, and left a family, a football program, a college campus, and an extended Boston community finding a new way forward.

Now, with an important milestone in that journey approaching, it is those different numbers that help quantify the heart and determination of this inspiring young man.

Three, as in hours it takes Ben (with the help of his parents, Marty and Sherri) to get up and ready for each day.

SULLIVAN, Page C5



### Freeze spirited

**Friday:** Windy and cold. High 31-36. Low 24-29.

**Saturday:** A little better. High 36-41. Low 27-32.

High tide: 2:27 a.m., 2:32 p.m.  
Sunrise: 6:59 Sunset: 4:11

**Weather and Comics, G6-7. Obituaries, C9.**

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**Syrian rebels stormed into the city of Hama as government forces withdrew**, bringing the rebels one step closer to the capital Damascus. **A3.**

**The judge presiding over the murder case against Brian Walshe, who allegedly dismembered his wife, ruled that the man's lawyers are not entitled to all the data** from the lead investigator's phone. **B1.**

**Eight years after the state legalized marijuana, long-promised pot cafes could be opening** within the next year. **B5.**

**The first significant snowfall of the season dumped up to 10 inches** in Central and Western Massachusetts. **B1.**

**“Flow,” an animated film from Latvia about a cat, is one of the best movies of the year**, writes critic Odie Henderson. **G1.**