

With no deal in Legislature, shelter issue still unresolved

House and Senate at odds about overflow sites

By Matt Stout
GLOBE STAFF

Democratic lawmakers' failure to reach a deal on a wide-ranging spending bill Thursday threw into limbo hundreds of millions of dollars designed to sustain Massachusetts' emergency shelter system, pushed to the brink by a tide of homeless and migrant families.

The collapse of a potential agreement on billions of proposed spending on the Legislature's final day of formal session this year capped a days-long scramble on Beacon Hill.

Acting months after Governor Maura Healey made her request for additional shelter funding and other items, the Democrat-led chambers passed differing versions of the \$2.8 billion bill only in the last week. As midnight came and went, they remained at odds early Thursday on how exactly the state should spend \$250 million designated for an emergency shelter system shouldering a crush of migrant families.

The road ahead could be fraught. The delay in reaching a deal transfers notable leverage to the Legislature's small Republican caucus, whose members all voted against the package. If legislative leaders try to push a deal through any of the usually lightly attended informal sessions that dot the calendar until the end of the year, any one Republican could object and stall it.

"The [Democratic] leadership made Washington actually look functional," quipped House mi-

LEGISLATURE, Page A6

Mass. schools are struggling to provide for migrant students

By James Vaznis
GLOBE STAFF

The number of migrant students in Massachusetts public high schools has tripled over the last 15 years, but many of them left without a diploma or fluency in English, according to a report released Thursday that questions whether schools are prepared for a new onslaught of students.

High schools registered a record number 5,600 migrant students in 2022, the last year of the period examined in "Rising Numbers, Unmet Needs: Immigrant Newcomers in Massachusetts High Schools" by the Annenberg Institute at Brown University.

Half of new migrants last year registered at just 14 high schools, and they comprised 10 percent or more of the student populations at seven schools: Boston International, Lynn Classical, Lynn English, East Boston High, Chelsea High, Framingham High, and Marlborough High. Many lack English fluency and have had extended disruptions in learning before enrolling here.

The report's researchers anticipate high schools in the state could set a record again this school year, given the ongoing wave of migrants. That surge has stretched emergency shelters to a breaking point and is increasingly straining public schools.

The increases add to the challenges Massachusetts schools have faced for years with English learners, who have among the lowest achievement levels of students statewide. The Annenberg report

MIGRANT STUDENTS, Page A6

T puts a price on repairs — \$24.5b

Estimate has more than doubled since 2019

By Taylor Dolven
and Laura Crimaldi

GLOBE STAFF

The MBTA needs a gobsmacking \$24.5 billion to repair and replace its decrepit track, stations, trains, signals, and other assets, an agency analysis released Thursday shows, providing the long-awaited tally of how broken the transit system is.

The T's repair and replacement backlog — which only covers updating the current system, not delivering long-promised upgrades like commuter rail electrification or climate resiliency improvements — is more than twice as

high as when the T last calculated its backlog, in 2019. Then, the T estimated it would need about \$10 billion in repairs.

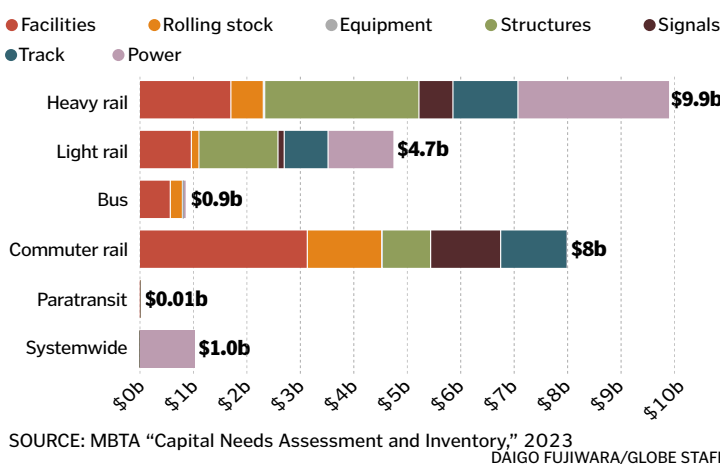
In Thursday's announcement, the T said its assets are deteriorating far faster than the agency is updating them. All in all, about 64 percent of T assets now need updating.

A train or station that is not in what is called a "state of good repair" costs more to operate and maintain and faces a higher risk of failure, the T said. But the agency emphasized that those assets are still safe.

MBTA, Page A7

Fixing the T

(In billions of dollars)



PHOTOS BY DAVID L. RYAN/GLOBE STAFF

The lower roof of Winthrop Center has grass, another of the ways it distinguishes itself from other downtown towers.

5 PASSIVE HOUSE PRINCIPLES



No thermal bridges



Superior windows



Ventilation with heat recovery



Quality insulation



Airtight construction

SOURCE: Passive House Institute
ADOBE STOCK

SAVING ITS ENERGY FOR A CLEANER FUTURE

Winthrop Center is largest office building to meet efficiency standards

By David Abel
GLOBE STAFF

From a distance, the new skyscraper looks like any other generic glass tower looming over downtown Boston.

But it's the bowels of the building — in its curtains of glass, in its thickly insulated walls, and in its specially designed ventilation systems — that make it distinct from the others.

The \$1.4 billion, 691-foot Winthrop Center on Federal Street is the world's largest office building certified as "passive house," a designation that means it's among the world's most energy-efficient buildings. To be certified, passive house buildings must meet strict standards for heating and cooling, insulation, and natural lighting.

"This building is important because it paves a path for new development," said Brad Mahoney, director of sustainable development at Millennium

PASSIVE BUILDINGS, Page A7



Despite the building's many features, it will continue to use natural gas for heating and cooling. In the future, similarly sized buildings will have to run on electricity.

Search for tunnels below hospital continues



MAHMUD HAMS/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Palestinians walked past the rubble of the al-Saqa Mosque, damaged during an Israeli strike, at Khan Yunis.

Israel points to some evidence but no confirmation; hostage found dead

By Patrick Kingsley
and Thomas Fuller

NEW YORK TIMES

JERUSALEM — Israeli troops Thursday scoured the largest hospital in the Gaza Strip for a second day, searching for a Hamas presence or any evidence that the armed Palestinian group had used tunnels underneath it as a secret base, even as Israel came under increasing pressure from Western allies to curtail civilian deaths and ease the suffering of Gaza's population.

Although the military has yet to present public documentation of a vast network of tunnels, an Israeli military spokes-

person, Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari, said troops had uncovered a Hamas tunnel shaft underneath the Shifa Hospital complex, as well as a vehicle on the hospital grounds packed with a large number of weapons. Videos released by the military showed the tunnel shaft, as well as grenades, ammunition, and assault weapons.

"They have all this evil hidden here," a soldier says in a video clip.

The military earlier announced that in a structure "adjacent" to the hospital, which is in northern Gaza, it

MIDEAST, Page A4

An estimated 450 patients at Salem Hospital may have been exposed to the HIV virus and the hepatitis virus when staff used a medically inferior process to deliver medication intravenously during endoscopic examinations. **B1.**

Looking back on the Big Dig, opinions differ: Was it the best thing that ever happened to Boston — or a cautionary tale about a massive boondoggle gone awry? **B5.**

Representative George Santos said he won't seek reelection after the House Ethics Committee found "substantial evidence" he violated federal law. **A2.**

"The Crown" returns for its final season, and Elizabeth Debicki's performance as Princess Diana is the main attraction, critic Matthew Gilbert says. **G1.**



Heat of the moment

Friday: Still warm. High 62-67. Low 50-55.
Saturday: Clouding up, breezy. High 54-59. Low 32-37.
High tide: 1:30 a.m., 1:35 p.m.
Sunrise: 6:37 Sunset: 4:21
Weather and Comics, G8-9. Obituaries, C10.

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