

‘Whatever you’re seeing in November, it’s going to be a whole lot worse in January.’

DR. ERIC DICKSON,  
chief executive at UMass  
Memorial Health

## Nearby hospitals hit after Steward

Influx of patients following closures further strains ERs

By Jason Laughlin

GLOBE STAFF

After weeks of increasing worry about her mother’s chronic stomach issues, Lynn Bourgeois finally took a day off from work to bring her mother, Angela Aupperlee, to the emergency department at Leominster Hospital.

They arrived around 7:30 a.m. on Oct. 28. Almost seven hours later, the women hadn’t gotten any further than the waiting room, where they sat alongside dozens of others, some so sick that staff gave them bags to vomit into, Bourgeois said.

“You lose all your humanity in the waiting room,” she said.

Once they were seen, the 82-year-old Aupperlee was placed in a bed in a hallway with four other patients. Workers were caring and attentive, Bourgeois said, but clearly busy. It took about 10 hours for Aupperlee to be admitted to a hospital room. Eventually, after a follow-up appointment, she was diagnosed with colon cancer and is now recovering from surgery.

“I don’t think I’m going to go back,” said Bourgeois, who lives in Leominster. “If she gets sick again I think I’ll take the [extra time] . . . and go to Emerson” Hospital in Concord, 24 miles away.

But Emerson, too, is facing a surge of patients. Each hospital is within 20 miles of Nashoba Valley Hospital, one of two Massachusetts facilities in the Steward Health Care system that closed almost three months ago. Emerson and Leominster hospitals are now struggling with an influx of patients as Steward’s collapse and the closure of its hospitals continues to send shock waves through already overburdened emergency departments.

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CRAIG F. WALKER/GLOBE STAFF

Brigham and Women’s Faulkner Hospital has seen a 14 percent increase in ER patients over last September.

## Companies skeptical tariffs are ‘greatest thing’

Trump’s confident in their power, but manufacturers here see more minuses than pluses

By Hiawatha Bray

GLOBE STAFF

For President-elect Donald Trump, the math seems pretty simple: Slapping high tariffs on foreign-made goods sold in the United States will generate billions in revenue for the federal government, while boosting domestic manufacturers and generating an economic boom.

Trump is also counting on tariffs as a weapon to bend US trading partners to his will. On Monday, he threatened to levy a 25 percent tariff on goods from Canada and Mexico unless the two countries stop illegal drugs and migrants crossing into the United States. Trump also said he would raise tariffs on Chinese imports by 10 percent unless that country prevents the smuggling of illegal drugs into the United States.

“Tariffs are the greatest thing ever invented,” Trump has declared.

But it hasn’t felt that way at Riverdale Mills, a Northbridge company that employs 120 workers who make steel

►Canadian officials denounce tariff threat. A6.

TARIFF, Page A6

## After election, EV incentives may be facing rough road

By Aaron Pressman and Erin Douglas

GLOBE STAFF

When Peter Lamarine wanted to replace his 2013 Toyota Tacoma, the \$15,000 in state and federal rebates for electric vehicles helped seal the deal for a new Ford F-150 Lightning, bringing the pricey pickup down to \$65,000 and within reach for the Southborough high school teacher.

“Without those credits, I would still be driving that Tacoma red pick-

up with a six-speed stick shift,” Lamarine said. “That I can tell you for a fact.”

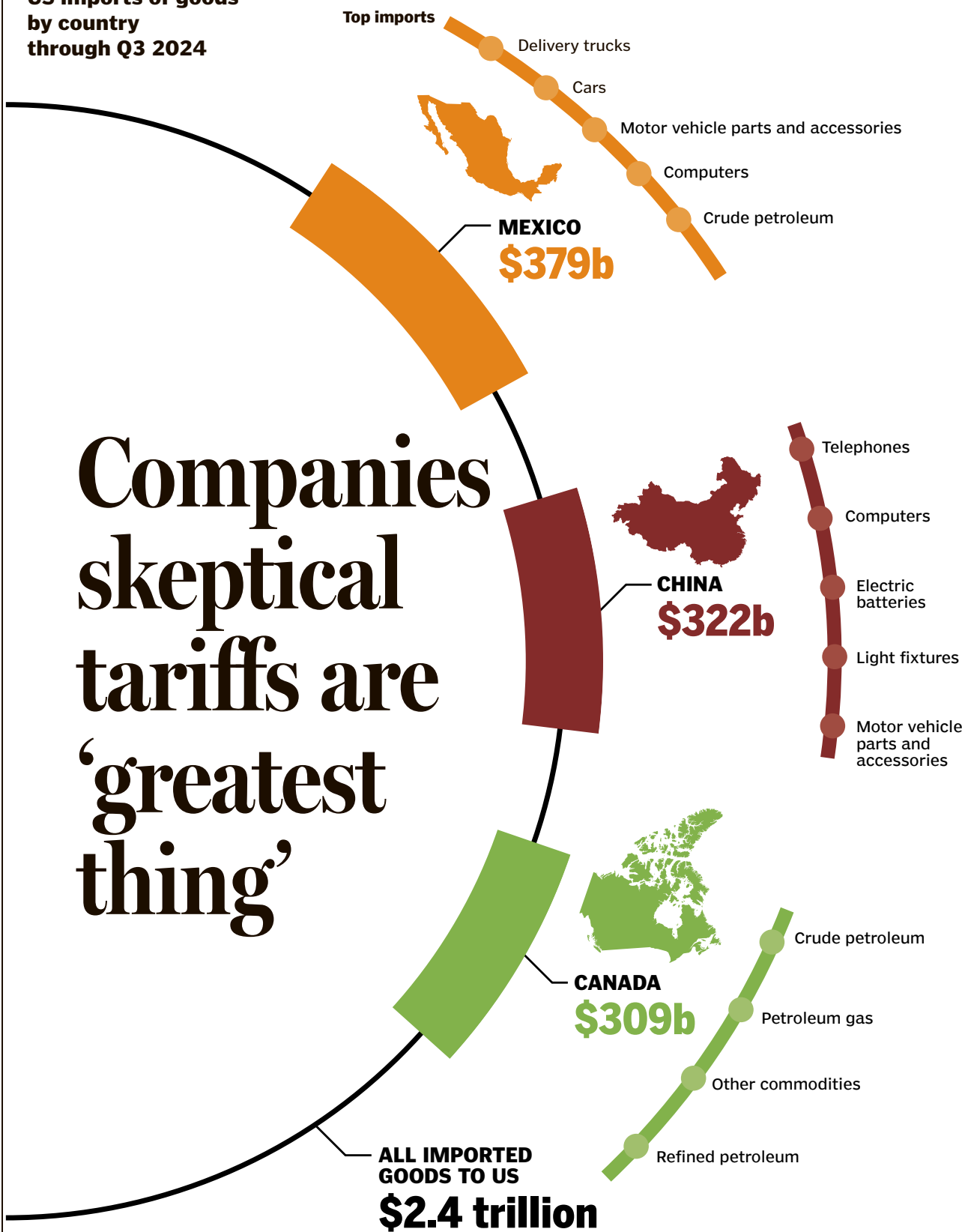
In addition to saving Lamarine money on gas and offering a smoother driving experience, the Lightning also moved Massachusetts one more small step to achieving its climate goals of net zero carbon emissions by mid-century. The transportation sector accounts for 37 percent of greenhouse gas emissions in Massachusetts and the state

### Trump’s Trade War II

Making good on a campaign promise, President-elect Donald Trump says he will impose new tariffs on Canada, China, and Mexico on his first day in office until they take steps to block the flow of illicit drugs and migrants into the United States. The nation’s largest trading partners, the three provide a significant amount of the crude oil, consumer electronics, lumber, machinery, and vehicles consumed in the United States.

SOURCE: US Bureau of Economic Analysis

### US imports of goods by country through Q3 2024



## Israel, Hezbollah agree to cease-fire

US-brokered deal raises hopes war in Lebanon over

By Aaron Boxerman, Adam Rasgon, Euan Ward, and Michael Levenson

NEW YORK TIMES

JERUSALEM — The Israeli security Cabinet on Tuesday night approved a deal for a cease-fire with Hezbollah in Lebanon, signaling that more than a year of conflict will soon be suspended, and raising hopes around the region that Lebanon’s deadliest war in decades could be over.

The cease-fire will take effect at 4 a.m. Wednesday, President Biden said at the White House.

The 10-1 vote by Israeli ministers came after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu publicly embraced the proposal in a televised speech to the nation.

Just hours earlier, Israeli forces had pounded the heart of Beirut and Hezbollah-dominated neighborhoods south of the city with some of the heaviest airstrikes of the war, sending residents fleeing in a panic.

Biden said he had spoken with Netanyahu and with Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati, and “I’m pleased to announce their governments have accepted the United States’ proposal to end the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah.”

Biden said that although the agreed-on cease-fire is for 60 days, “This is designed to be

ISRAEL, Page A4

## For once, COVID is largely under control in Mass. this holiday

By Jason Laughlin

GLOBE STAFF

Since COVID-19 first appeared, surges of new cases have become as common around Thanksgiving as cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie.

That may not be the case this year.

Waste water tests this month show remarkably low levels of the coronavirus in the Boston area, the lowest in late November since 2020. At a time when the virus’s presence is typically ramping up, the Boston region is instead seeing the opposite. The past three weeks of data show COVID levels remaining largely static, and even decreasing through much of the month.

“I’m actually very pleasantly surprised to see that low level,” said Dr. Sabrina Assoumou, an infectious disease physician at Boston Medical Center and an associate professor of medicine at Boston University.

Waste water testing, which identifies viral particles in sewage, is among the most effective early warning systems for COVID surges. In the seven-day period ending Nov. 21, the average count of COVID virus particles in waste water in the northern section of the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, which includes Boston and its northern and western suburbs, was about 63 percent lower than in the same period last year. The count was 51 percent lower than last November in the suburbs to the south of the city, including those as far west as Framingham.

Other indicators corroborate what the waste water tests show. Massachusetts report-

COVID, Page A10

### Early bird special

Wednesday: Sunny, pleasant.  
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Thursday: Rain.  
High 42-47. Low 34-39.

Weather and Comics, G6-7.

VOL. 306, NO. 150

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A federal judge delivered a setback to a Hingham High School senior whose parents are suing over discipline he got in relation to his use of AI. B1.

Russia said that Ukraine had struck its territory again with US-supplied missiles. A3.

Some transgender activists say it’s time to rethink their confrontational ways. A2.

Devra First looks back at a year of delicious foods available as a result of immigration. G1.

## Teacher strikes over in Beverly, Marblehead

The tentative contract agreements after more than two weeks of stalemate end two of the state’s longest educator work stoppages in decades. B1.



DANIELLE PARHIZKARAN/GLOBE STAFF

### HOW SWEET IT IS

— It’s a big week all around the state for high school football, and some teams got to play at Fenway Park on Tuesday. Nantucket beat Martha’s Vineyard in overtime, and assistant coach Vaughan Machado celebrated. C5.