

House Democrats stick to the plan on GOP

Their strategy while still in minority: Let foes self-destruct

By Tal Kopan
GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON — House Democrats have a plan for 2024: Try to make it look a lot like 2023.

While Republicans in the House are hoping the new year will let them turn the page on the conflict, ineffectiveness, and drama that defined their majority last year, Democrats

are hoping to use the strategies they practiced to stoke the flames of GOP chaos, this time with an election fast approaching.

“We’ve had the good sense to allow our colleagues on the other side of the aisle to self-destruct in living technicolor,” said Virginia Democratic Representative Gerry Connolly.

Last year involved several historic moments in the House, including the first-ever ousting of a speaker at the hands of his own party and weeks of unsuccessful votes to replace him. The Demo-

cratic strategy, meanwhile, was to stay out of the way and project calm. Democrats stayed in lockstep through the series of votes, amplifying the divisions on the GOP side. Throughout the year House Republicans repeatedly struggled to pass even messaging bills and at times saw embarrassing defeats of basic procedural measures, as Democrats kept defections minimal and forced the GOP to muster its own votes amid a fractious conference.

The question remains whether Democrats will be able to convince voters to hand them back the reins

merely by highlighting the alternative. They won’t be running in a vacuum — President Biden’s unpopularity could be a drag on the ticket.

And they’re facing tough odds to retake the House. The Cook Political Report, a nonpartisan electoral rankings site, gives Democrats at least a slight edge in 201 congressional seats and Republicans the edge in 210, leaving 24 seats (10 currently held by Democrats, 14 by Republicans) as “toss-ups” in the battle to claim the House majority.

DEMOCRATS, Page A5

Funds from US putting Harvard in crosshairs

College unlikely to lose money, but Congress has an opening

By Jim Puzzanghera
GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON — Claudine Gay’s resignation as Harvard’s president hasn’t ended the university’s troubles with its congressional critics, who are zeroing in on hundreds of millions of dollars in federal money that flows to Cambridge every year.

Gay’s decision to step down has done nothing to deter North Carolina Republican Virginia Foxx, who recently launched an investigation in the House Education and the Workforce Committee into the handling of antisemitic incidents at Harvard and other elite universities.

The findings “could jeopardize federal funding, depending on where our investigation goes. No taxpayer dollars should flow to colleges that failed to protect students, all students,” Foxx told the Globe. “Harvard’s problems are much larger than one leader. . . . They solved one of their problems right now, I think, the short-term problem. But it isn’t solving the long term problem.”

Still, Harvard probably is not at risk of losing its federal funding, higher education experts said.

“At the end of the day, the resolution is unlikely to involve a complete elimination of federal funds to Harvard. That’s just extremely rare,” said Kenneth Marcus, who headed the Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights from 2018-20.

HARVARD, Page A7

Search for a leader has been an insular, and unique, process

By Diti Kohli
GLOBE STAFF

When a typical university begins looking for a new president, it follows a pretty standard playbook: A search committee is assembled, comprising board members, faculty, and staff. A call is put forth for thoughts and nominations. An outside recruiting firm is brought in to help broaden the hiring pool. Together, these groups vet top candidates and plumb any misgivings — legal, moral, or, yes, academic.

But Harvard is not a typical university.

The nation’s oldest and most prestigious college chooses its leaders through a more insulated process, according to three professors of higher education. A search committee made up of the Harvard Corporation, the 12-person board responsible for university affairs, and three members of the second-highest governing Board of Overseers selects a presidential nominee. Faculty, staff, and student committees advise the effort but have no decision-making role, nor, according to one Harvard governance expert, does the school typically employ an external recruiter.

Once the corporation picks a final candidate, the university’s broader Board of Overseers must vote to approve the pick.

Now, in the wake of Claudine Gay’s resignation just six months into her presidency, questions

SEARCH, Page A7



NATHAN KLIMA FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

Mourners at a vigil outside Lynn City Hall on Wednesday held photos of Isaiah Acevedo, who was shot and killed last week.

INCREASED VIOLENCE CLOUDS LYNN’S RENEWAL

With young people at center of mayhem, city struggles to find a solution

By John Hilliard
GLOBE STAFF

LYNN — Kisha Santiago cradled a poster board showing a collage of photographs of grinning, laughing children. Her voice wavered as she paused over one of the faces: her nephew as a little boy, hugging another child.

The boy in the picture, Isaiah Acevedo, had grown into a 16-year-old who attended Lynn Classical High School. He was always happy, with a big smile on his face, Santiago said.

“He was a great boy,” she said, “he was a family boy.”

But Acevedo’s life, and that of Kyle Mel,

RECENT SHOOTINGS IN LYNN

Dec. 27 » Two teenagers were killed in a shooting near Camden Street.

Dec. 26 » Three teens were wounded in a shooting near Pizza Hut on State Street.

Sept. 13 » Police ordered a shelter-in-place after gunfire was reported. No injuries were reported.

Sept. 2 » A drive-by shooting outside a party on Essex Street killed two people and wounded five. Another man was killed in a separate shooting on Lincoln Street.

19, were cut short on Dec. 27 by gunfire, the latest victims in an alarming increase in violence in recent months that has sown grief and raised anxiety just as Lynn is experiencing some measure of renewal. The killings have brought calls for a more urgent response to quell the mayhem that community leaders worry will ensnare more young people.

“There is a heightened level of fear,” said the Rev. Bernadette Hickman-Maynard, pastor of Bethel AME Church in Lynn. “These incidents are devastating, they’re tragic. It’s sad, and it is maddening that this continues.”

LYNN, Page A6

Attacks heighten fears of a wider Mideast war

By Eric Schmitt, Julian E. Barnes, Helene Cooper, and David E. Sanger
NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — American, Israeli, and Lebanese officials insist that few parties want Israel’s war in the Gaza Strip to become a wider conflict that engulfs the Middle East.

But the assassination of a top leader of Hamas in Lebanon on Tuesday, and the deaths of scores of people in twin explosions in Iran on Wednesday, threatened to bring the Middle East — and the United States — closer to the brink of a regional war, which the Biden administra-

tion has tried to stave off since Hamas’s deadly attacks against Israel on Oct. 7.

Just hours after the bombs went off in Iran, the United States and 12 of its allies issued a written warning to another militia group in the region, the Houthis of Yemen, who have been mounting nearly daily missile, drone, and seaborne attacks on commercial vessels.

So far the United States has held back from retaliating against Houthi bases in Yemen, in large part because it does not want to undermine a fragile truce in Yemen’s civil war.

WAR, Page A4

ON THE ROAD AGAIN



DAVID L. RYAN/GLOBE STAFF

It’s been a while since the region experienced a snowstorm, but it looks like one is in the cards for this weekend. Mountains of salt for road treatment were unloaded Thursday at Eastern Minerals in Chelsea. More on the preparations, **B4**.



Golden state

Friday: Bright, pleasant. High 34-39. Low 26-31.

Saturday: Snow late. High 34-39. Low 31-36.

High tide: 5:39 a.m., 6:07 p.m.

Sunrise: 7:13 Sunset: 4:25

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

VOL. 305, NO. 5

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Suggested retail price
\$3.50

BPS Superintendent Mary Skipper assured principals that the most extreme scenario of a new facilities plan won’t happen. **B1.**

The MFA’s online collections search was damaged by a cyberattack on a digital management service. **B1.**

A gunman killed a sixth-grader and injured five other people at a school in Iowa. **A2.**



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