

The Boston Globe

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MONDAY, MAY 19, 2025

Gas pipeline hopes, challenges reemerge

Trump touts project as fix to high costs of region's energy, but critics warn of hurdles

By Jim Puzzanghera
GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON — As Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey and leaders of other Northeast states try to reduce high energy costs, President Trump is pitching a simple but controversial solution: resurrect a major pipeline project to bring

more natural gas to the region. “The most expensive energy, almost, in the world is in New England, because they have no way of getting it there because it’s been held up by New York,” Trump told reporters this spring during an Oval Office event. “And this one pipeline will save per family \$2,500 just on

heating and another \$2,500 on everything else.” But, critics of the Constitution Pipeline, which would carry natural gas from Pennsylvania to a regional interconnection point in eastern New York, say those savings are wildly inflated, in part because customers would have to help pay construction costs estimated to be more than \$1 billion. Years of environmental and regulatory challenges led developers to abandon the proj-

ect in 2020. Now, Trump has made the Constitution Pipeline a priority and the lead company behind it recently said it will only go forward if there is “sufficient customer demand and support from Northeast governors.” That’s where the politics of energy becomes complicated. Most of the region’s governors want to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels such as

PIPELINE, Page A7

Israel expands ground attacks

Officials will allow food aid to stem starvation in Gaza; cease-fire talks continue

By Isabel Kershner
NEW YORK TIMES

JERUSALEM — The Israeli military announced Sunday that its forces had begun “extensive ground operations” throughout the northern and southern Gaza Strip, advancing its plan to move farther into the enclave and seize more land in an intensified campaign aimed at pressuring Hamas amid negotiations for a cease-fire. At the same time, the Israeli government said it would allow “a basic quantity of food” to enter Gaza. The announcement comes 11 weeks after it halted the entry of all goods and humanitarian assistance in an attempt to force Hamas into accepting a modified cease-fire deal. President Trump has been clear about the need to avert a looming famine in Gaza and some Israeli military officials had privately concluded that Palestinians there faced widespread starvation unless aid deliveries were restored soon. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s office explained the abrupt reversal in Israeli policy as an “operational need to enable the expansion of the military operation to defeat Hamas,” adding in a statement that the military had recommended the step. The statement did not say exactly when the resumption of aid would begin, or how or where it would be distributed. Plans for a new American-

GAZA, Page A6

Frustration, written in Capitol letters

Some Democrats say it’s time to toss old-style tactic

By Tal Kopan and Jim Puzzanghera
GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON As President Trump’s administration rolls out dramatic changes to the federal government and policy, lawmakers have been responding with a tried and true tactic: reaching for the letterhead. The formal congressional letter has long been a way to demand information from Cabinet officials and to presage investigations. But at a time of growing Democratic frustration about what many see as insufficient pushback from their elected officials, the missives are drawing mockery. Senator Chuck Schumer was skewered on social media and by late-night TV hosts last month after telling CNN’s Dana Bash that Democrats had fired off their written concerns to Trump about his targeting of Harvard University and other schools. “We sent him a very strong letter just the other day, asking eight very strong questions about why this isn’t just a pretext,” Schumer said, referring to a letter from Jewish Democratic senators to Trump

LETTERS, Page A7



JOHN TLUMACKI/GLOBE STAFF

Sophy Theam put her hand on the photo of her husband, Sayon Soeun, who was forced to become a Cambodian soldier as a child.

By Danny McDonald
GLOBE STAFF

LOWELL — Sophy Theam gestured toward a photo of her family taken decades ago, pointing out that both her belly and her sister’s in the image are bloated from hunger. Her brother isn’t in the frame. He had already died of starvation at only 3 months old, as the Khmer Rouge savaged Cambodia. “At 2-years-old, I was finding my own food, eating banana peels and sawing down baby corn to survive,” said Theam. The photo of Theam and her family is on display on the fifth floor of an old mill building overlooking a canal in Lowell. It’s part of an exhibit commemorating the 50th anniversary of the fall of Phnom Penh, when the Khmer Rouge took over the Cambodian capital and seized power in the country, leading to a period of death and exodus. Now, decades later, the exhibit offers an opportunity to recall the horror of the genocide and recognize the resiliency of those who survived. The Khmer Rouge’s radical policies led to the deaths of an estimated 1.7 million people from starvation, disease, overwork, and execution. The regime, which ruled Cambodia from 1975 to 1979, was led by Pol Pot, a name that would become globally synonymous with murderous despots.

(Some historians and many Cambod-

KHMER ROUGE, Page A6



At a Lowell exhibit, the work of Cambodian sculptor Chanthou Oeur depicts the atrocities of the Khmer Rouge.

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‘For a lot of us,
we bury it deep
down, deep
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to survive, to
function.’

VESNA NUON, a city
councilor who formerly
worked for the Middlesex
district attorney’s office

Biden has prostate cancer

The cancer is considered aggressive, with cells spreading to bones, but treatment can be effective, doctors say. **A4.**

Russia unleashed one of its most expansive air attacks, mostly targeting Kyiv, a day before President Trump was expected to talk with President Vladimir Putin of Russia. **A3.**

Prosecutors are hesitating and defense lawyers are cheering the state’s new rules on how evidence is handled in court. **B1.**

Currents dragged a Mexican tall ship into the Brooklyn Bridge, killing two sailors. **A2.**

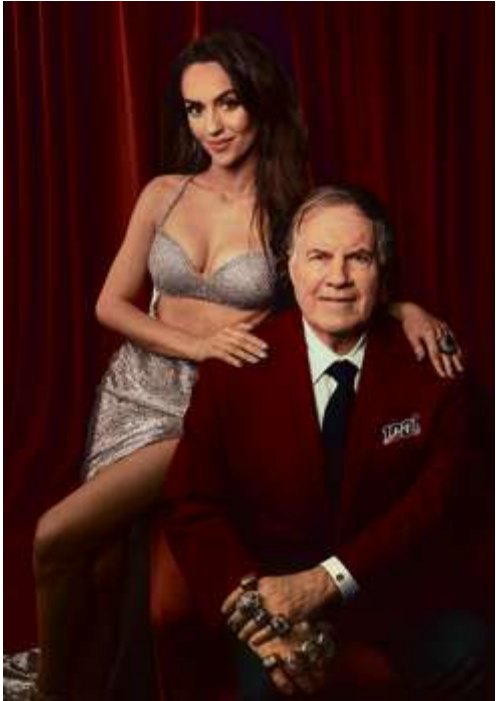
‘It is what it is?’ Belichick facing a blitz of attention.

24-year-old Hudson’s influence on coach has many mystified

By Mark Shanahan
GLOBE STAFF


The most successful coach in NFL history is in a Holiday Inn ballroom in Portland, Maine. The lights are low and Devon Cole’s “Play House” is pumping as two dozen young women, many of them teenagers in tiny dresses, are dancing on a stage. In spite of his grimace, familiar to anyone who watched him stalk the Patriots sideline for two-plus decades, Bill Belichick is not indifferent to the hijinks in front of him. He’s here — sitting in the

front row, no less — to support his 24-year-old girlfriend, Jordon Hudson, a chestnut-haired former cheerleader competing, again, for the Miss Maine USA crown. At the end of the opening number, Hudson winks in Belichick’s direction and, turning on her heel, struts confidently off stage to change into a bikini. It’s a head-scratching scene — one of many since Belichick, 73, got involved with a woman who is nearly a half-century younger. The May-December melodrama is not only the subject of intense media interest — Hudson has been tracked by paparazzi for months — but it’s raised questions about Belichick’s judgment and the effect the relationship could have on his new job at the University of North Carolina, where he signed a \$30 million guarantee. **HUDSON, Page A10**



TODD ROSENBERG/GETTY IMAGES

Jordon Hudson also handles publicity and business management for Bill Belichick.



A wind’s a wind

Monday: Windy and cloudy.
High 63-68, low 46-51.

Tuesday: Cloudy and windy.
High 55-60, low 46-51.

Sunrise: 5:46. Sunset: 8:03.
Weather and comics, **D4-5.**
Obituaries, **C8-9.**

VOL. 307, NO. 139

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Suggested retail price
\$4.00

