

# The Boston Globe

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2025

## As chaos, peril gripped Brown, these firefighters charged in



DAVID L. RYAN/GLOBE STAFF

Providence Fire Captain Bob Cataldo (back to camera) got a hug from Joseph Molis, assistant chief.

In an era of mass shootings, many first responders face new, unprecedented duties

By Amanda Milkovits  
GLOBE STAFF

PROVIDENCE — Two young students were on the pavement of Manning Walk, bleeding from gunshot wounds. Bystanders sought to comfort them, trying to reassure them as the students groaned in agony. *They would be OK.* One took off his shirt and pressed it over one victim's wounds to help stem the bleeding.

Providence firefighters ran toward them.

*What happened?* the firefighters asked. One of the wounded students spoke: A masked man walked up and shot them.

And then, there were more gunshots. They seemed to be coming from the hulking seven-story Barus and Holley physics and engineering building nearby.

People screamed and ran. Police officers raced by, shouting, *Get out! Get out!*

The firefighters worked fast to bandage the wounded students, while also looking around.

Watching the fleeing crowd. Glancing up at the rooftops. The gunman could be anywhere.

"It went from zero to one hundred like that," said Fire Captain Robert Cataldo.

In a modern world of mass shootings

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MATTHEW J. LEE/GLOBE STAFF

Derek Lisi, a custodian who has worked at Brown University for 15 years, said he shared his suspicions.

## University custodian says he saw man casing building weeks before attack

By Spencer Buell  
GLOBE STAFF

A Brown University custodian says that weeks before a gunman opened fire, killing two people and wounding nine others, he saw the suspect nearly a dozen times and shared suspicions about the man with an on-campus security guard.

Derek Lisi, who has worked at Brown for 15 years, said he had taken note of a man pacing the hallways, peering into classrooms, and ducking into a bathroom to avoid being seen.

### A question of security

Federal officials revealed a probe of safety at Brown University, and the campus police chief was placed on leave. **B1.**

"He'd been casing that place for weeks," Lisi said in an interview.

The custodian said he had seen a man matching the description and photos of the suspect, shared by the police, in and around Brown's Barus and Holley building about 10 times beginning in early No-

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## President halts wind projects offshore

Vineyard site among five targeted in latest salvo

By Sabrina Shankman  
GLOBE STAFF

Citing national security concerns, the Trump administration suspended five federal leases for offshore wind projects on Monday — the latest salvo in the White House's fight against renewable energy. Two New England projects, Vineyard Wind and Revolution Wind, were among those caught in the crosshairs.

In a social media post, Interior Secretary Doug Burgum called the projects "expensive, unreliable, heavily subsidized."

An Interior Department press release stated wind turbines pose a threat by interfering with radar, a claim disputed by industry experts. It appears to be a new tactic, just two weeks after a federal judge said the Trump administration did not have the authority to stop wind farm leases via executive order.

Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey slammed the administration's move to suspend the leases.

"Energy costs are already too high. It makes absolutely no sense for the Trump Administration to halt construction on a project that is bringing

**WIND, Page A10**

## Ex-CIA chief accuses DOJ of tampering

Seeks to prevent inquiry from being directed to judge favorable to Trump

By Charlie Savage  
NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — Former CIA director John O. Brennan sought on Monday to prevent the Justice Department from steering a sprawling investigation into political adversaries of President Trump to a judge in Florida who issued rulings favorable to Trump during his classified documents case.

The request, addressed to Chief Judge Cecilia M. Altonaga of the US District Court for the Southern District of Florida, was extraordinary. It would be highly unusual for a chief judge to block a colleague from overseeing an investigation. But a lawyer for Brennan argued that under the circumstances, she had the authority and a duty to do so.

In a 16-page letter, the lawyer, Kenneth L. Wainstein, asserted that the Justice Department, in what he portrayed as a violation of prosecutorial ethics, appeared to be planning to "manipulate grand jury and case assignment procedures" to put the investigation into Trump's perceived foes under Judge Aileen M. Cannon.

Citing a pattern of the judge's rulings in the

**JUDGE, Page A5**

### Where treetops glisten

**Tuesday:** 1-3 inches of snow.  
High 34-39, low 30-35

**Christmas Eve:** Flurries.  
High 37-42, low 24-29.

Weather and comics, **D5-6.**  
Obituaries, **C9.**

**Nurses at Boston Medical Center Brighton authorized a potential three-day strike** as their union negotiates its first contract with new leadership. **D1.**

**Victims of Jeffrey Epstein called on Congress** to make sure the Justice Department releases key files. **A2.**

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## MGB fattens bottom line as other hospital groups falter

Turns profit amid its expansion and despite accelerating headwinds buffeting industry

By Jessica Bartlett  
GLOBE STAFF

Despite uncertainty and concern buffeting Massachusetts hospitals, the state's largest health system saw its finances improve last year, turning a small operating surplus and receiving a boon from investment income.

Mass General Brigham on Friday reported a \$59.2 million operating gain in the year ending in September, a 0.3 percent margin, compared to a \$45.7 million gain in the same period the previous year. Those numbers, along with a sizable gain from investments, contributed to a \$2.4 billion net margin. Last year, the system reported \$2 billion in net gains.

The results come after MGB undertook the largest layoff in its history in

February, aiming to cut more than \$240 million in salary and benefits expense in the face of what executives said were financial pressures. Though expected to save money annually, the reductions cost the system \$53 million in the last year.

"The layoffs may well have been appropriate," said Dr. John Freedman, CEO of Freedman HealthCare, a Massachusetts-based national health policy consulting firm. "Even though they are profitable, they may have needed them. Sometimes it's good to organize. But it does call into question the alarm they shared at the time that they had to do that or they would be in big trouble."

Friday's financial report not only shows the maneuverability of the state's

**MGB, Page A10**

### PATRIOTS PASSION



STAN GROSSFELD/GLOBE STAFF

Amani Lubega, 12, and her brother Malik, 11, reached up to the heaters on the outside deck of The Harp, just outside Gillette Stadium in Foxborough. The pair were among thousands of fans who share stories, food, drinks, and camaraderie outside the stadium every game week, **As I See It, B1.** More on the Patriots' return to the playoffs, **C1.**