

Witnesses say inmate was beaten before death

Corrections officers accused of overreacting

By Danny McDonald
GLOBE STAFF

The footage is grainy, but one thing is clear: The moments leading up to Shacoby Kenny's Dec. 8 death were chaotic.

Incarcerated at the Suffolk County House of Correction, Kenny, a 32-year-old man with a history of mental health problems, appeared to square up with a corrections officer before running around a room that resembles a cafeteria, chased by men in uniforms. One tried to stop him and failed. He scampered out of the frame of the video surveillance, then reentered it.

Eventually, a group of officers surrounded Kenny near a stairwell, the internal video surveillance of the altercation obtained by the Globe shows. At least one of the corrections officers threw punches. The scrum, with Kenny at the center, eventually collapsed to the ground. He was pronounced dead the next morning.

Four witnesses to the fight, speaking on the condition of anonymity because they were incarcerated with Kenny and fear retribution, described to the Globe what they saw that day, helping to flesh out details that are hard to discern on the surveillance tape. The witnesses described corrections officers punching Kenny, kneeling him in the ribs, and kneeling on his neck when he was down on the ground.

"Whatever the situation was, he didn't have to die like that," one witness said.

PRISON, Page A6

Anti-Trump backlash could be a bump in road for Ayotte

By Steven Porter
GLOBE STAFF

CONCORD, N.H. — Republican Governor Kelly A. Ayotte has delivered a string of conservative policies, as promised. Her polling and fund-raising numbers are decent. And the only Democratic challenger in the 2026 gubernatorial race so far said the prospect of anyone preventing Ayotte from winning reelection is an "insanely unlikely scenario."

With a year under her belt as New Hampshire's chief executive, Ayotte is well-positioned to seek a second two-year term. Even so, this race will once again test her staying power in a political era dominated by President Trump.

Her campaign coincides with a midterm election that Democrats are framing as a referendum on the sitting president and his GOP allies. If the anti-Trump backlash is more intense in 2026 than it was during his first presidency in 2018, Ayotte could find herself among the Republicans who suffer.

Ayotte has proven she can outperform Trump in this purplish state, where independent voters often split their tickets to support federal Democrats and state-level Republicans. In 2024, when Trump lost the state by 2.8 percentage points, Ayotte won by more than 9.3 percentage points. In 2025, her job-approval rating remained higher than Trump's among

AYOTTE, Page A7

Israel targets humanitarian groups

Bans more than 30 from Gaza Strip over new rules

By Melanie Lidman and Sam Mednick
ASSOCIATED PRESS

JERUSALEM — Israel on Tuesday said it had suspended more than two dozen humanitarian organizations, including Doctors With-

out Borders and CARE, from operating in the Gaza Strip for failing to comply with new registration rules.

Israel says the rules are aimed at preventing Hamas and other militant groups from infiltrating the aid organizations. But the organizations say the rules are arbitrary and warned that the new ban would harm a civilian population desperately in need of humanitarian aid.

Israel has claimed throughout the war that Hamas was siphoning

off aid supplies, a charge the United Nations and aid groups have denied. The new rules, announced by Israel early this year, require aid organizations to register the names of their workers and provide details about funding and operations in order to continue working in Gaza.

The new regulations included ideological requirements — including disqualifying organizations that have called for boycotts against Israel, denied the Oct. 7, 2023, attack,

or expressed support for any of the international court cases against Israeli soldiers or leaders.

Israel's Ministry of Diaspora Affairs said more than 30 groups — about 15 percent of the organizations operating in Gaza — had failed to comply and that their operations would be suspended. It also said that Doctors Without Borders, one of the biggest and best-known groups in Gaza, had failed to re-

AID, Page A4

ICE FISHING



PHOTOS BY JOHN TLUMACKI/GLOBE STAFF



As part of the Boston Harbor annual ice sculpture stroll on New Year's Eve, Don Chapelle (above) worked with his crew carving a nurse shark surrounded by rays and tropical fish outside the New England Aquarium. The bitter cold conditions have made things a little easier this year. More on First Night attractions, **B1**.



As tariffs sink in, small businesses feel pain

Uncertainty is their biggest challenge, with no sign of relief

By Jim Puzzanghera
GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON — Curio Spice Co. proudly notes that it buys the cinnamon, ginger, and other spices it grinds and mixes at its Winchester, Mass., factory directly from small and women-run farms around the world.

Variety may be good for cooking, but the global supplier model has become a liability for small businesses

like Curio as President Trump's high — and frequently shifting — tariffs drive up the cost of imported goods.

"We source from 30 countries. All of them have different tariffs, from 50 percent to 19 percent," said Claire Cheney, the company's founder and "blender-in-chief," who saw her tariff bill jump to about \$10,000 this year from almost zero in 2024. "It is exhausting to be kind of beaten down by this sense of uncertainty, checking the news every morning and checking the White House tariff schedule."

In early July, the Globe spoke with Cheney and other small business owners about the tariffs that were be-

ing rolled out and found the impact was just starting to be felt.

Six months later, the effects are clearer. And they're anything but festive this holiday season.

Curio Spice is one of many small businesses finishing a difficult year of dealing with Trump's tariffs. Business owners interviewed by the Globe described an atmosphere of anxiety and uncertainty as they struggled to plan for on-again, off-again tariffs, wrestled with how much of the cost to pass on to customers, scrambled to find alternate suppliers, and scoured their operations for savings.

TARIFFS, Page A7

Patriots' Diggs faces charges

Stefon Diggs, a star wide receiver, is accused of choking and hitting a woman who had been working as his chef. **C1**.



The last drop

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TATIANA SCHLOSSBERG 1990-2025

With a journalist's voice, she wrote of family's latest tragedy



JFK LIBRARY FOUNDATION

Tatiana Schlossberg, 35, described in The New Yorker her surprise at the cancer diagnosis in 2024.

By Penelope Green
NEW YORK TIMES

Tatiana Schlossberg, an environmental journalist and a daughter of Caroline Kennedy — and granddaughter of President John F. Kennedy — whose harrowing essay about her rare and aggressive blood cancer drew worldwide sympathy and praise for Ms. Schlossberg's courage and raw honesty, died on Tuesday. She was 35.

Her death was announced in an Instagram post by the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation, signed by her family. It did not say where she died.

Titled "A Battle With My Blood," the essay appeared online in The New Yorker on Nov. 22, the 62nd anniversary of her grandfather's assassination. (It appeared in print in the Dec. 8 issue of the magazine with a different headline, "A Further Shore.") In it, Ms. Schlossberg wrote of

how she learned of her cancer after the birth of her daughter in May 2024. There was something off about her blood count, her doctor noticed, telling her, "It could just be something related to pregnancy and delivery, or it could be leukemia."

It was leukemia, with a rare mutation. Ms. Schlossberg had a new baby, and a 2-year-old son.

"I did not — could not — believe that they were talking about me," she wrote. "I had swum a mile in the pool the day before, nine months pregnant. I wasn't sick. I didn't feel sick. I was actually one of the healthiest people I knew. I regularly ran five to ten miles in Central Park. I once swam three miles across the Hudson River — eerily, to raise money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society."

SCHLOSSBERG, Page A6