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Warriors in the battle against global warming



MICHAEL G. SEAMANS FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

A cow grazed at the Wolf's Neck Center for Agriculture and the Environment in Freeport, Maine.

New England's at the forefront of efforts to cut methane — and it starts with cows

By Ivy Scott
GLOBE STAFF

Plugging leaky pipes, composting, and adding seaweed to dairy cows' diets may not seem to have anything in common, but all three are ways organizations across New England are working to reduce the amount of methane, a potent greenhouse gas, released into the atmosphere.

Those efforts have helped position New England at the forefront of a movement to reduce methane, widely considered low-hanging fruit in global efforts to slow the rapid warming of the planet, which has intensified devastating natural disasters and threatens to make parts of the globe uninhabitable.

"Methane is one of the fastest le-

vers we can hit, and we should hit it fast right now," said Audrey Schulman, cofounder of HEET, a Boston-based climate nonprofit. "Because [with] climate change, the next 20 years are going to matter a lot — this is one way that we can slow down what's happening . . . buying us a little more time."

Methane, a main component of natural gas that is also naturally produced by cows, traps more than 80 times more heat than carbon dioxide within its first 20 years in the atmosphere. The molecule breaks down much faster, though, losing potency over time. Although methane occurs naturally in wetlands and other habitats, humans are responsible for roughly 60 percent of methane emis-

METHANE, Page A10

★ CAMPAIGN 2024 ★

As pressure builds, Biden pushes back

More signs of diminished support for him

By Annie Karni
NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — President Biden fought back Friday against escalating pressure from Democrats questioning his viability as a candidate, publicly and privately defending his decision to continue running as rank-and-file lawmakers continued to call on him to end his reelection bid.

One day after a serviceable news conference that had been meant to quell the growing resistance within the party to Biden's candidacy, lawmakers returned to their home

districts anxious and uncertain about how to proceed. Their House leader made it clear directly to Biden that his members still harbored deep concerns over the president's candidacy. And as he held a rally in the battleground state of Michigan, prominent Democrats were not by his side.

But at the rally in a high school gymnasium in Detroit, Biden dug in, telling a raucous throng of supporters, "I'm not going anywhere." What he saw there was unlikely to change his mind. An adoring crowd chanted "Don't you quit!" as Biden delivered a fiery message, at times poking fun at former president Donald Trump as he drew a sharp contrast with his predecessor.

BIDEN, Page A6

Project 2025 keeps giving for Democrats

Extreme blueprint for Trump helps them shift focus from Biden

By Sam Brodey
GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON — The morning after President Biden's disastrous debate performance threw his candidacy — and the Democratic Party — into turmoil, Senator Chris Murphy of Connecticut sought to change the subject.

"I'm about substance, not style. After last night's debate, I'm more panicked than ever at Trump's agenda," Murphy wrote on X to his more than 1 million followers. He then posted a video with a simple message.

"I want to talk to you today

about something called Project 2025," Murphy said.

That's the name of an ambitious proposal released last year by the Heritage Foundation, a right-wing think tank that hopes it can offer the blueprint for a second Donald Trump term. It proposes both sweeping reforms and minor changes for every agency of the federal government: abolishing the Department of Education, pursuing a national abortion ban, implementing a mass deportation policy, and even banning pornography. It would also make employees of

PROJECT 2025, Page A7

Case against Baldwin dismissed

A judge in New Mexico found the state withheld evidence that could have shed light on how live rounds got onto a film set. The case is now officially over. **A2.**



Boston sees many reasons for unprecedented decline in shootings

By Dan Glaun
GLOBE STAFF

On a warm night recently, Boston Police Commissioner Michael Cox stood on the outskirts of Dorchester's Harambee Park, gazing across the street at Franklin Field, a public housing complex where two children and three adults were shot last September.

This year, there have been no shootings at Franklin Field, according to Boston police data — and historically few in the city as a whole, despite recent spasms of violence in Dor-

chester, Mattapan, and Roxbury. It is a sharp decline that has made Boston, already one of the country's safest large cities, a national outlier.

Last week, during a peace walk with 30 church leaders, police officers, and Dorchester residents, Cox knocked on wood as he spoke to those gathered around him.

"The fact is that we're in a good space and we want to keep it going," he said.

Within days, that tenuous peace would be tested, after two people were killed on July

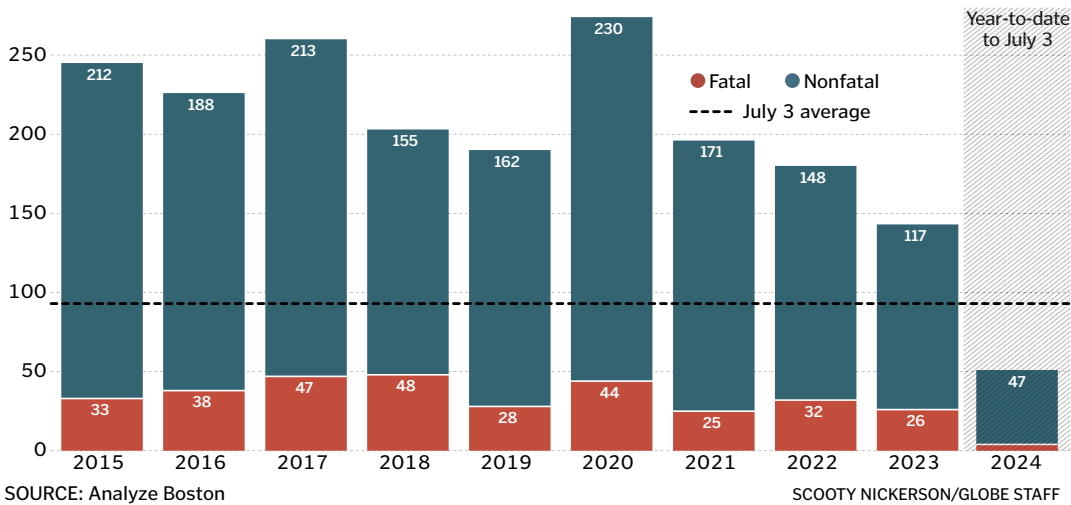
5. Another suffered serious injuries in a shooting Tuesday, and on Wednesday, five people, including an 11-year-old, were shot in Dorchester.

But the violence, while harrowing for the city and the families involved, did not change the overall trajectory. According to city data, Boston's decline in gun violence this year is unprecedented. Both nonfatal shootings and homicides have dropped sharply from 2023, which was itself one of the least violent years in recent

CRIME, Page A10

Fatal and nonfatal shootings in Boston, 2015-2024

From 2015 to 2023, Boston averaged 93 shootings by July 3. This year, there were 51.



SCOOTY NICKERSON/GLOBE STAFF



MICHAEL G. SEAMANS FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

Robert F. Kennedy Jr. took a few selfies with his supporters on Tuesday in Freeport, Maine.

An opening for a Kennedy moment, but nothing more

By James Pindell
GLOBE STAFF

ABOARD A BOAT ON CASCO BAY, Maine — On Tuesday night, former president Donald Trump jovially teased thousands of supporters at a campaign rally about whether he should announce his vice presidential pick right then and there. In Washington, President Biden hosted a NATO reception of world leaders while members of his own party appeared on television questioning whether he should end his reelection bid.

At the same time, Robert F. Kennedy Jr., the independent candidate polling a distant third in the presidential election, faced a different question inside the flagship L.L. Bean store in Freeport, Maine.

Would he like to join their loyalty program to unlock coupons and make it easier to return the three flannel shirts and patterned blue swim trunks he was purchasing?

He agreed, responding with "Robert" and "Kennedy" when asked for his first and last name. Eventually, Jason, the middle-aged clerk, put it all together.

KENNEDY, Page A7

Strike zone

Saturday: Storms, humid. High 78-83. Low 70-75.

Sunday: Hot but drier. High 84-89. Low 71-76.

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