The Boston Blobe

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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2024



Server Dina Vieira joined picketing led by Local 26 at the Fairmont Copley Plaza in Boston. Hotels targeted also include Boston Park Plaza, Hilton Boston Logan Airport, and Hampton Inn Boston Seaport. The work action is due to end late Tuesday,

Boston hotel workers on strike

3-day action calls for added staff, better wages in face of high cost of living

By John Hilliard GLOBE STAFF

Nearly 900 Boston hotel employees joined thousands of fellow hospitality workers across the country on the picket line Sunday to demand higher wages and better working conditions after failing to broker new labor agreements with the nation's major hotel chains.

The Unite Here labor union said 10.000 hotel employees at Hilton, Hyatt, and Marriott hotels in eight cities, including Boston, went on strike Sunday. Among other cities

affected were Honolulu, San Francisco, San Jose, San Diego, and Seattle. The strikes, which are expected to last two or three days, are calling for a reversal of pandemic-era staffing reductions in the hotel industry, which has not yet returned to pre-COVID levels, according to the union.

Strikes have also been authorized at hotels in Providence; New Haven; Baltimore; and Oakland, Calif., the union said. The union represents about 40,000 hotel workers with contracts that end this year, it has said.

In Boston, hundreds of workers at the

Hilton Boston Park Plaza, Hilton Boston Logan Airport, Hampton Inn Boston Seaport, and Fairmont Copley Plaza hotels began their strike at 5 a.m. Sunday, according to Lynette Ng, a spokesperson for Unite Here Local 26, which represents hospitality workers in Massachusetts and Rhode Island, including the striking hotel employees in Boston. They're expected to remain off the job until Tuesday at 11 p.m., she said.

The Boston strikes, launched in the middle of the last weekend of the city's summer

STRIKE, Page A10

Harris's childhood recasts middle class ideal

Highlighting upbringing is a political tradition, yet hers had a modern twist

By Tal Kopan

WASHINGTON - When Kamala Harris stood onstage at the Democratic National Convention for the biggest speech of her life, she tucked an economic pitch into her biography: "The middle class is where I come from," she said.

As she fights to win over voters struggling with stubbornly high prices, Harris has been drawing on her own life story to paint herself as a champion of the middle class. It's far from novel for a politician to do so, but what is unique on the presidential stage is Harris's background.

It's a story that's very different than the ones told by President Biden, whom she replaced on the Democratic ticket, and by Donald Trump, whom she is facing in November — both known for their ability to appeal to working-class voters. But Harris is hoping her narrative,

one that features her mother, an immigrant, working as a scientist and raising two multiracial children by herself, both reflects and gives her more credibility with Americans to-

"The middle class isn't monolithic, and the story that she's telling is a fantastic insight not only into her background, as she is informing voters

HARRIS, Page A7

Ukraine launched drone attacks against energy facilities across Russia, while

its second-largest city saw 40 civilians wounded in sustained missile attacks. A4.

Diabetes and weight-loss drugs such as Ozempic and Wegovy reduced the risk of **COVID-19-related deaths** among obese and overweight patients by almost 20 percent, researchers from Brigham and Women's Hospital found. B1.

Heard the speculation that the state's two biggest casinos, **MGM Springfield and Encore** Boston Harbor, might be up for sale? Don't bet on it, columnist Shirley Leung writes. **D1.**

Take it outside

Monday: Sunny, pleasant. High 77-82, low 54-59. Tuesday: A gorgeous day. High 73-78, low 55-60. Sunrise: 6:11. Sunset: 7:16. Obituaries, C9.

Comics and Weather, **D4-5.** VOL. 306, NO. 64

Suggested retail price

\$4.00





RYU TAKES **FM TROPHY**

Haeran Ryu of South Korea (right) celebrated after her victory at TPC Boston in Norton on Sunday. The FM championship was the second career LPGA win for Ryu, who took home the winner's purse of \$575,000. She won in a sudden death playoff against fellow South Korean Jin Young Ko. **C1.**

Thousands pressure Netanyahu over war

Crowds take to streets after Israeli military finds 6 hostages dead in tunnel

GLOBE NEWS SERVICES

TEL AVIV — Thousands of grieving and angry Israelis surged into the streets Sunday night after six more hostages were found dead in Gaza, chanting "Now! Now!" as they demanded that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reach a cease-fire with Hamas to bring the remaining captives home.

The mass outpouring appeared to be the largest such demonstration in 11 months of war and protesters said it felt like a possible turning point, although the country is

deeply divided. Israel's largest trade A Newton gathering union, the Histadrut, further pressured the government by calling a general strike for Monday, the first since the Oct. 7 Hamas attack that started the war. It aims

had local ties. B1. **Battle pause** Fighting was halted to

allow a polio vaccina-

Close to home

mourned; one victim

tion campaign. A6. to shut down or disrupt major sectors of the economy, including banking, health care, and the country's main airport.

The Israeli military said Sunday that Hamas had killed the six hostages before its forces could rescue them. The six bodies were found Saturday in a winding tunnel under the southern city of Rafah, said Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari, the military's chief spokesperson. The bodies were about a half mile from where a seventh hostage, Farhan alKadi, was found alive last week.

"They were brutally murdered by Hamas terrorists a short time before we reached them." Hagari said. The Israeli Ministry of Health said in a

HOSTAGES, Page A6

Colleges work to head off fall strife on Gaza

As students plan to resume protests, schools impose restrictions, seek dialogue

> By Hilary Burns GLOBE STAFF

Students involved on either side of the Israel-Palestinian protest movements did not take the summer off. Now, after weeks of planning and with classes soon back in session, they are preparing to revive demonstrations and increase pressure on campus leaders to heed their demands.

And school administrators have some news for them: There won't be a repeat of the encampments and disruptions that roiled campuses last spring.

Rafi Ash, a rising junior at Brown University. wants to get "everyone who supports divestment" of university assets from Israeli interests to gather on the campus green ahead of a vote by the school's governing board this fall that campus leaders had promised in exchange for the removal of a protest

"We want that vote to pass," Ash said.

Shabbos Kestenbaum, a recent Harvard Divinity School graduate who sued the university over its handling of campus antisemitism, continues to spread the word about what he says are hostile conditions on campus for Jewish students.

"If universities are not going to do their due dili-

CAMPUSES, Page A7

Cool (and creamy) trek finds more, but pricier, EV charging options

By Aaron Pressman and Sabrina Shankman

GLOBE STAFF

In late 2022, two Globe reporters took on the arduous - you could say selfless - task of driving around New England in electric vehicles to test out the region's charging infrastructure, and also try the best doughnuts we could find. We did advance planning and had a few charging issues, but nothing too serious.

Well, a lot has changed since then — mostly for the better, but not all.

Across New England, the number of DC fast chargers is up 54 percent since the end of 2022.

In Massachusetts, there are 908 fast chargers. up from about 585 during our previous trip. Tesla has opened its proprietary Supercharger stations to some other brands. And charging prices are up — way up in some cases.

So we figured it was time to hit the road

Inspired by the new Massachusetts Ice Cream Trail, we switched from doughnuts to frozen treats. And to test the improved charging infrastructure, this time around we didn't preplan our charging stops or even leave home with fully charged batteries.

ROAD TRIP, Page A10



JONATHAN WIGGS/GLOBE STAFF

Aaron Pressman and Sabrina Shankman tested EV chargers, and top-ranked ice cream, on a New England road trip.