

In VP debate, a surprising twist: civility

Walz and Vance keep the focus on policy issues

By Sam Brodey
GLOBE STAFF

With millions of voters watching, Senator JD Vance of Ohio and Governor Tim Walz of Minnesota could have brawled over childless cat ladies and “weird” taunts, but the first and only vice presidential debate wasn’t really about them — it was about their potential bosses and the stark differences in their visions for the country.

One particular exchange during the 90-minute CBS News de-

bate on Tuesday night underscored the dynamic: during an extended back-and-forth on immigration, Walz and Vance both agreed that the other wanted to genuinely fix problems in the system, but their running mate didn’t.

In this bitter and unsavory political environment, those brief moments of agreement — as well as the relatively substantive policy discussion on display — were perhaps disorienting. “This is a healthy conversation,” Walz said at one point, during an exchange on guns, in which Vance expressed sympathy over a story the Minnesota governor told about his son witnessing a

DEBATE, Page A6



MATT ROURKE/ASSOCIATED PRESS

The candidates talked up their running mates Tuesday night while generally avoiding personal clashes.

Parents protesting trans athlete sue

Say school violated free speech rights

By Steven Porter
GLOBE STAFF

Tensions over transgender athletes in high school sports collided in mid-September at a girls’ soccer match in Bow, N.H., where a few parents protested on the sidelines because one player on the visiting team, a transgender girl, was allowed to compete.

The protesting parents sued the Bow School District on Monday, alleging officials violated their First Amendment rights by shutting down their protest against the transgender

athlete, Parker Tirrell, a 16-year-old sophomore from Plymouth Regional High School, and issuing “no trespass” orders.

The four plaintiffs had worn pink wrist bands with a black “XX” on them at the Sept. 17 game to express their view that girls’ sports should be limited to athletes with two X chromosomes. After the game, one plaintiff, Kyle Fellers, stood in the parking lot with a poster that said “Protect Women’s Sports for Female Athletes,” according to the lawsuit.

PROTEST, Page A10

BREAKING THE CHAIN



JESSICA RINALDI/GLOBE STAFF

With Steward Health Care officially out of the hospital business in Massachusetts, a sign at the Holy Family Hospital campus in Methuen was taped over Tuesday, with a new owner, Lawrence General Hospital, taking ownership. Lawrence CEO Dr. Abha Agrawal (left) said she felt a sense of “hope and optimism and opportunity.” **B5.**



OHAD ZWIGENBERG/ASSOCIATED PRESS

People in Shores, Israel, took cover Tuesday as sirens wailed during the missile attack.

Attack heightens Mideast tension

Iran unleashes 180 missiles on Israel; most intercepted

By Patrick Kingsley, Aaron Boxerman, and Eric Schmitt
NEW YORK TIMES

JERUSALEM — Iran fired waves of ballistic missiles at Israel on Tuesday evening, the Israeli military said, an attack that sharply escalated the conflict between Israel and Iran and threatened to engulf the Middle East in all-out war.

Initial reports indicated Israel’s missile defense system, with help from US forces, intercepted most of the missiles. There were no immediate reports of casualties in Israel, but one Palestinian man was killed by falling shrapnel in the occupied West Bank.

“Based on what we know now, the attack appears to have been defeated and ineffective,” President Biden said Tuesday, noting that the US military “actively supported” Israel’s defense. He added, “Make no mistake, the United States is fully, fully, fully supportive



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The barrage came less than 24 hours after Israel invaded Lebanon.

of Israel.”

Biden’s national security adviser, Jake Sullivan, told reporters that American naval destroyers had joined Israel in shooting down inbound missiles. He said there was “meticulous joint planning in anticipation of the attack.”

Iran fired about 180 missiles during the assault, the Israeli military said, a significant barrage that forced millions of Israelis to take cover in bomb shelters for more than an hour.

Fiery balls of light could be seen falling from the sky.

MIDEAST, Page A5

‘If you don’t have a pharmacist in the back you don’t sell anything in the front.’

DAVID MARCOTTE, *Kantar market research firm*

Reality takes a bite out of CVS’s big dreams

Complexity of move into health care wasn’t fully grasped

By Janelle Nanos
GLOBE STAFF

Blame the pickleball paddles. Over the past year, CVS has made a concerted push to court seniors to enroll in its Aetna Medicare programs by offering free sports equipment, fishing rods, and other enticements. It worked maybe a little too well for CVS, as the surge in new customers backfired when the medical costs for those sporty seniors spiraled well beyond the company’s expectations.

It was an example of how the big idea behind the unprecedented merger of a retail pharmacy chain with a health insurance company did not quite pan out as expected. Now, after the Woonsocket, R.I.-based health care giant had to again reduce its profit outlook and

with its stock taking a pummeling on Wall Street, CVS is reportedly considering breaking itself into two smaller companies to keep its critics at bay.

On Monday a double dose of news suggested the potential for significant changes: First, the company announced it will lay off 2,900 white-collar workers, as part of a broader plan to shed \$2 billion in expenses and improve financial performance.

That was followed by a report from Reuters that CVS’s board is considering splitting its legion of retail pharmacies and its struggling Aetna insurance operation into separate companies entirely.

CVS has declined to comment on that report, which emphasized that no decision has been made. But should CVS go through with it, the move would essentially undo the massive \$70 billion acquisition of Aetna seven years ago, reflecting a pullback of the drugstore chain’s vast ambitions and leaving both

CVS, Page A10

At Harvard, fear of speaking out is widespread

By Hilary Burns and Mike Damiano
GLOBE STAFF

Close to half of Harvard professors and students surveyed for a report are afraid to express their views on campus, citing fear of criticism on social media, damage to their reputations, or the risk of discrimination and harassment complaints.

The report released Tuesday, written by a working group tasked with studying the campus climate and formed by Harvard president Alan Garber six months ago, highlights ways the Ivy League school can improve the environment for “robust intellectual exchanges.”

The group found that 51 percent of surveyed faculty and staff reported they would feel very or somewhat reluctant to lead a classroom discussion on a controversial topic. Likewise, 45 percent of students surveyed said they were somewhat reluctant or very reluctant to share their views on controversial issues in the classroom. With regards to academic work, 41 percent of faculty and staff said they were somewhat reluctant or very reluctant to research a controversial subject.

Garber confirmed receiving the group’s recommendations.

HARVARD, Page A7

Overcast, away

Wednesday: Cloudy, cool. High 61-66. Low 53-58.

Thursday: Sunny, warmer. High 66-71. Low 55-60.

Sunrise: 6:43 Sunset: 6:23

Weather and Comics, G6-7. Obituaries, C9.

Governor Maura Healey plans to immediately put into effect a gun law passed over the summer, dashing the hopes of gun rights activists. **B1.**

As Hurricane Helene’s death toll neared 160, rescuers worked to reach isolated spots. **A2.**

Breast cancer rates climbed 1 percent a year from 2012 to 2021, and even more sharply among women younger than 50. **A7.**

Ode to Tupperware

The company, which was founded in Massachusetts, recently declared bankruptcy — mainly because it had become a victim of its own success, writes Devra First. **G1.**



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