

After more defeats, Haley pulls out of race

Last Trump challenger made little headway

By Jess Bidgood
GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON — Former South Carolina governor Nikki Haley, once a member of the Trump administration who became the last major candidate still standing against her old boss in the Republican presidential primary, suspended her campaign on Wednesday.



Nikki Haley did not endorse Donald Trump on Wednesday.

Haley's departure from the race will hardly reshape the contours of a contest that former president Donald Trump has dominated for months, but it makes him the presumptive nominee and rids the field of the last voice articulating a case against him as he attempts to bring the whole GOP apparatus under his control.

"I am filled with the gratitude for the outpouring of support we've received from all across our great country. But the time has now come to suspend my campaign," she said. "I said I wanted Americans to have their voices heard. I have done that. I have no regrets."

After announcing her decision, she acknowledged Trump would likely be the party's nominee but declined to immediately endorse him.

"It is now up to Donald Trump to earn the votes of those in our party and beyond it who did not support him," she said, standing in front of a neat row of American flags. "And I

HALEY, Page A6

In spotlight tonight, Biden has much to gain — or lose

Will be watched for signs of aging in State of Union

By Jim Puzzanghera
GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON — For President Biden, Thursday night's State of the Union address might very well be less about the message than how he performs as the messenger.

Polls show the biggest liability for the 81-year-old Biden is his age in the near-certain rematch with Donald Trump in November. The annual speech could yield the largest TV audience Biden will get in 2024, which offers him an opportunity to show millions of Americans he's capable of handling another four years in the world's most demanding job.

At the same time, any slip up — verbal or physical — will amplify the substantial worries that he's not.

"The stakes are about as high as they can get, other than Election Day itself," said Barbara A. Perry, professor in presidential studies at the University of Virginia's Miller Center. "If there is a gaffe, it will be played over and over again."

White House and Biden campaign officials say he will tout his accomplishments and lay out his agenda for a second term. They began rolling out parts of that agenda this week, including a renewed push against so-called junk fees on credit cards and other services that in-

SPEECH, Page A6

At center of storm, Harvard ponders neutrality

Some colleges opting for silence to try to ease conflicts but they still face heat

By Mike Damiano and Hilary Burns
GLOBE STAFF

For nearly five months, Harvard has been engulfed in controversies over what to say about the Israel-Hamas war. Now, a growing chorus of professors and administrators is proposing a simple solution: silence.

At Harvard and other universities, momentum is building for "institutional neutrality," the principle

that university leaders should refrain from taking positions on weighty social and political matters. That idea was, until recently, a fairly obscure concept debated within the academy. But after the Oct. 7 Hamas attack on Israel plunged many American universities into turmoil, and thrust their leaders into debates over an intractable conflict, schools from Cambridge to California are considering adopting institutional neutrality as a

matter of official policy.

Interim Harvard president Alan Garber is assembling a working group to study the matter. Columbia's University Senate recently adopted institutional neutrality in a unanimous vote. Faculty groups at the University of Pennsylvania and Yale University are pushing their leaders to do the same.

Proponents argue that adopting neutrality will make universities more governable and protect their mission of fostering open inquiry. Universities, they say, should be forums for debates, not participants in

them. But critics say the idea of a neutral university is a chimera. Endowments invest in fossil fuel stocks and some schools accept donations from representatives of autocratic regimes. Neutrality, critics say, is a way to deflect scrutiny and avoid taking morally correct but inconvenient stands.

Momentum for institutional neutrality built during the fall semester as schools were buffeted by conflicts over their statements about the war. A few schools, such as Brandeis University — a school with a strong Jew-

HARVARD, Page A7

SHORTAGES AND DESPERATION



MOHAMMED ABED/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Palestinians scrambled on Wednesday to buy a small amount of sugar and sage from a shop at the Bureij refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip. Talks between Israel and Hamas over the release of dozens of Israeli hostages have stalled. **A4.**

Maine shooter had evidence of brain injury, BU researchers find

Could have been factor in breakdown, they say; no CTE

By Sean Cotter
GLOBE STAFF

Robert R. Card II, the man who killed 18 people in a mass shooting in Lewiston, Maine, in October, had evidence of significant traumatic brain injury at the time of the shootings, according to an analysis of his brain tissue by researchers from Boston University that was released Wednesday by Card's family.

The statement also includes what is believed to be the first public apology from the Card family for the attack.

Researchers at BU's Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy center said the injuries detected in his brain likely contributed to Card's symptoms in the months leading up to the attacks. Card was a US Army Reservist and a



LEWISTON POLICE

Robert R. Card II is believed to have been exposed to thousands of blasts at an Army training site.

longtime weapons instructor who worked at an Army hand grenade training range, where it is believed he was exposed to thousands of low-level blasts.

The BU scientists said their analysis revealed "significant degeneration, inflammation, small blood vessel injury," and other damage to "the

nerve fibers that allow for communication between different areas of the brain."

"These findings align with our previous studies on the effects of blast injury in humans and experimental models," said Dr. Ann McKee, director of the BU CTE Center, which is carrying out the post-mortem study of Card's brain at the request of the Maine chief medical examiner's office. "While I cannot say with certainty that these pathological findings underlie Mr. Card's behavioral changes in the last 10 months of life, based on our previous work, brain injury likely played a role in his symptoms."

However, McKee said the center found no evidence of another form of brain injury, chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE), the condition that silently destroys the minds of athletes after years of repetitive hits and that can only be diagnosed after death.

Before the shootings, Card's fami-

CARD, Page A7

The Massachusetts House voted to approve new limits on how long most homeless families can live in state-run emergency shelters. **B1.**

The School Committee approved a stricter cellphone policy at Brockton High School, where students have allegedly used them to record fights between classes. **B1.**

An environmental group and Boston residents urged a state judge to temporarily halt any action on a project that would redevelop White Stadium. **B1.**

WBUR is considering eliminating jobs as it struggles with a precipitous decline in advertising revenue. **D1.**

A total solar eclipse will pass through parts of New England next month, and Hiawatha Bray has tips about taking photos safely on the big day. **D1.**



Out in the wash

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For Sox' Dominican stars, a different kind of home run

The games will be played at Estadio Quisqueya Juan Marichal, named after the Hall-of-Famer, who also pitched briefly for the Red Sox.



DANIELLE PARHIZKARAN/GLOBE STAFF

Country excited about weekend exhibition games

By Alex Speier
GLOBE STAFF

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic — Spring training's typically understated rhythms will receive a jolt this weekend.

On Friday, a large Red Sox contingent will travel to the Dominican Republic for a pair of weekend exhibition games against the Rays in Santo Domingo's legendary Estadio Quisqueya Juan Marichal. For past and current Red Sox from the Caribbean nation, the idea of a homecoming game is deeply meaningful.

"I'm 48 years old. Every time I come into the

country, there is a point of excitement when I'm going home," said David Ortiz. "It's a very special place for all of us."

"It's very big for the country to have these games," pitcher Brayan Bello said through a translator. "People are excited. I'm glad the Red Sox are doing it."

This isn't the team's first such visit. In 2000, the Red Sox and Astros played an exhibition game at Quisqueya. The game was poorly attended, drawing criticism from players such as Pedro Martinez that Dominican fans had been

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