

# The Boston Globe

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2024 PARIS OLYMPICS

## SETTING A HIGH BAR, HE'S READY TO SOAR



NAOMI BAKER/GETTY IMAGES

"I want to make gymnastics grow, because I love it so much," Frederick Richard said. "It's changed my life."

Stoughton native Frederick Richard wants to be a face of the Olympics, and open the door for Black kids

By Adam Himmelsbach  
GLOBE STAFF

**P**ARIS — As Frederick Richard discusses his place as an elite gymnast, he is asked to name other athletes who inspired his journey. For the first time in this conversation, the 20-year-old Stoughton, Mass., native sounds stumped.

Then his voice begins to rise with confidence.

"I always just imagined myself doing all of these crazy skills," he says. "I imagined myself going to the Olympics and doing all of this stuff that I'd invented, things that had never been done before. That was the person I was always chasing."

Richard could become one of the faces of the Paris Olympics for the US as men's gymnastics qualifying begins Saturday. He is young and energetic and personable, with more than 680,000 TikTok followers and a burning desire to show the world what it has been missing.

He wants to become a transformational figure in a sport that generally only commands attention in the US every four years, with the women's team doing most of the heavy lifting (the US men haven't medaled in the team event since 2008). He wants to fundamentally alter the way gymnastics are viewed in the US and open doors for Black children in community.

**RICHARD, Page C5**



**In the spotlight**  
Organizers put focus on Paris icons. **C1.**

**Not here**  
Shirley Leung wonders what could have been in Boston. **B5.**

## Police watchdog says it needs more power

Under honor system with departments, database of misconduct has many holes

By Dan Glaun  
GLOBE STAFF

"That doesn't tell me much, and it doesn't tell the public much, and that's not what we want."

ENRIQUE ZUNIGA, POST's executive director, saying that even when information is included, it is often too vague

Over the last 15 years, the City of Taunton settled at least two police brutality lawsuits against one of its detectives, and in one case an outside investigator found he had used unreasonable force. But the department did not discipline him, so a database of complaints against police maintained by the state does not include any mention of the detective.

Similarly, the database gives no hint that a police lieutenant in Mendon was demoted and given 18 months of criminal probation for allegedly beating, harassing, and threatening a fellow officer in 2014. Meanwhile, the Boston Police Department still has dozens of internal investigations that it is late in fully reporting, according to the agency that

maintains the database, the Massachusetts Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission, or POST.

In all, more than one-third of the state's 430 law enforcement agencies did not have any officers listed in the commission's public database, even though in at least some cases they should have been, nearly four years after the agency was established as the first statewide watchdog of police conduct.

Now, recognizing gaps in public disclosures, POST officials have drafted new regulations to give the commission more oversight powers to make sure information is properly included, as well as establishing a certification for entire police departments, not just individual officers. That determination could be based on audits of a police department's compliance with the state regulations.

The proposed changes are part of an ongoing push, described in public meet-

**POLICE, Page A7**

## As Boston adds more lanes, bikes are making inroads

But with missing connections, safety still an issue

By Taylor Dolven  
GLOBE STAFF

Not long ago, riding a bike down a stretch of South Huntington Avenue in Jamaica Plain was only for the brave. Navigating the sliver of pavement between cars whizzing by on their left and drivers opening their doors on their right, bikers did their best to avoid getting run over or "doored."

Now, riders can cruise next to the curb on the right side, protected by a row of parked cars from the hazards of the narrow lane left for drivers.

This stretch of road from Centre Street to Heath Street has recently joined a

growing number of miles of Boston streets with bike lanes meant to protect bicyclists, slow down drivers, reduce the risk of crashes, and ultimately get more people to feel comfortable biking. The theory — bolstered by studies and experiences from similar cities — is that if there is a safe path for biking, more people will take it, in turn reducing climate-change-causing emissions, traffic deaths, and mind-numbing congestion.

There's reason to believe it's starting to work in Boston, with the city aiming to expand the bike lane network so that half of residents live within a three-minute

**BIKES, Page A7**



LANE TURNER/GLOBE STAFF

Holly Eisenberg, who commutes from her home in Back Bay to her office downtown, said her biggest concern is cars and delivery scooters.

## Democrats face hard choices on migrants

Across US as in Mass., political, fiscal pressure builds for leaders to act

By Samantha J. Gross and Giulia McDonnell Nieto del Rio  
GLOBE STAFF

Governor Maura Healey has drawn flak from both the left and the right for her recent moves to control the costly emergency shelter system by limiting stays and prioritizing Massachusetts residents over migrants. Progressive Democrats said the moves were "shameful" and accused her of "eviscerating" the state's longstanding right to shelter, while Republicans mocked the governor for embracing a policy one of their own had pitched a few weeks ago.

Meanwhile, for many local officials who've been fielding angry calls and enduring raucous meetings, the announcement of dramatic new restrictions came as a relief. In Norfolk, for instance, home to a large overflow shelter, officials praised Healey's decision, saying it allows them to support the shelter "without overtaxing" its ability to serve residents.

The recent changes have laid bare a harsh reality for the tens of thousands of migrants who have fled violence and poverty in their home countries: Even in a Democratic stronghold like Massachusetts, generosity for new arrivals, however tired

**SHELTERS, Page A8**

► **State turns to consultants to help control shelter costs. B1.**

## New Bedford considers camp for homeless

Advocates say something has to be done, but others fear making crisis worse

By John Hilliard  
GLOBE STAFF

NEW BEDFORD — Elizabeth Cordeiro leaned on her cane as she eyed the ruins of her makeshift camp, her voice a mix of despair and anger.

After two years of living in a half-dozen or so tents clustered in the woods near a strip mall, she returned after being away for a few days to find the tents she shared with a partner and another couple slashed open. Their contents — clothing, bedding, personal belongings — had been smashed into the dirt.

The 65-year-old New Bedford native said she doesn't want to live this way but cannot afford an apartment amid surging rents. And as she struggles, she believes city leaders need to do more to help residents like her.

"They seem to think we don't have a homelessness problem," Cordeiro said. "Well, yeah, you do."

Some local advocates agree. They point to the scores of people living in a few dozen camps set up under bridges, in abandoned buildings, and in woodlands. So as cities across the country, empowered by a recent Supreme Court decision, move to tear down homeless encampments, the advocates

**NEW BEDFORD, Page A8**

**Israeli forces retrieved the bodies of five Israeli hostages in the Gaza Strip** amid growing pressure for a cease-fire that would free the remaining captives. **A4.**

**A Black eighth-grader in the Brookline Public Schools allegedly endured a year-long pattern of racial harassment** by classmates, according to a complaint. **B1.**

**Economic growth picked up more than expected in the spring**, as cooling inflation and a strong labor market kept people spending. **B5.**

**"Deadpool & Wolverine" tries to bring back the old Marvel universe box-office mojo.** How's the movie? Mark Feeney's take, **G1.**



Shiny happy, people

**Friday:** No humidity. High 82-87. Low 65-70.  
**Saturday:** Another beauty. High 80-85. Low 64-69.

High tide: 3:29 a.m., 4:01 p.m.  
Sunrise: 5:31 Sunset: 8:10  
**Weather and Comics, G6-7. Obituaries, C11.**

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