

The Boston Globe

Serving our community since 1872

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

In VP debate, a chance for rivals to shine

Vance and Walz, both new on national stage, to expose each other's weaknesses

By Sam Brodey
GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON — When Senator JD Vance and Governor Tim Walz step behind their podiums on national TV this Tuesday, it won't be either candidate's first debate brawl.

In Vance's case, that's literal: In 2021, as a candidate for US Senate in Ohio, he broke up a standoff between two rival candidates during a GOP primary debate that was inches away from turning physical.

The near fistfight between Josh

Mandel, a leading right-wing hopeful, and Mike Gibbons was avoided after Vance — one of three candidates who had been uncomfortably watching the confrontation — stood up and said, "Guys, sit down. Come on."

When the drama had subsided, Vance used his next question to tee off on Mandel for instigating it. "What a joke," he said, to applause.

It came to be seen as a pivotal moment for Vance, who was struggling to gain traction at the time in

the crowded primary.

"He looked a hell of a lot better than I did," recalled Gibbons, in an interview with the Globe. "He said exactly the right thing at exactly the right time. And frankly, he went up in the polls after that."

Having won a number of competitive US House races and two statewide contests for Minnesota governor, Walz has faced sharp attacks before, but has often ignored them or sought to deflate them with deceptively sharp humor.

In 2018, his first run for governor, Walz faced persistent pressure from his Republican opponent, Jeff Johnson, who repeatedly noted

when Walz did not fully answer sensitive questions on undocumented immigration and single-payer health care.

In one memorable moment, Johnson pressed Walz over the extent of his knowledge of TV attack ads from Alliance for a Better Minnesota, a key outside group backing the Democrat, which Republicans called dishonest.

"Here's my pro tip, Jeff," quipped Walz. "I don't watch TV during these last two weeks." He went on to defeat Johnson by more than 10 points.

The combat should remain strict-
VP CANDIDATES, Page A7

Israel attacks its foes on 3 fronts

Long-distance airstrike on Yemen amplifies fears of wider war in the region

By Christopher Maag, Euan Ward,
and Adam Rasgon

NEW YORK TIMES

Israel's military on Sunday attacked its enemies in two countries and the Gaza Strip, including with a long-distance airstrike in Yemen amid escalating violence between Israel and its Iranian-backed proxies across the Middle East, inching the combatants closer to regional war.

Israel's show of military force reached from Lebanon, where Israeli forces targeted Hezbollah, to the province of Hodeidah in Yemen, where its warplanes flew more than 1,000 miles to attack power plants and shipping infrastructure. At the same time, the military's war against Hamas in Gaza continues, and movements by the Israeli army along its northern border over the weekend suggested preparations for a possible ground invasion of Lebanon.

"The IDF is determined to continue operating at any distance — near or far — against all threats to the citizens of the state of Israel," the Israeli military said Sunday, referring to the Israel Defense Forces.

Early Monday, the first apparent Israeli airstrike on central Beirut in nearly a year of conflict
MIDEAST, Page A6

News outlet: Let voters ask the questions

Vermont Public's election coverage puts its focus on issues raised by residents

By Aidan Ryan
GLOBE STAFF

MONTPELIER, Vt. — On a sunny late August day in Vermont's state capital, two journalists listened as a middle-aged man sporting a baseball cap and long beard said he was fearful of being forced to leave his home.

The man, a longtime resident, was concerned about rising property taxes and wanted politicians to do something about it. Vermont Public journalists Brittany Patterson and Bob Kinzel took notes, but didn't grill him with questions or try to elicit pithy quotes.

The conversation was one of hundreds that Vermont Public's journalists have had with residents this year, part of its inaugural effort to shift the focus of its political and election coverage from
VERMONT, Page A8



ERIN CLARK/GLOBE STAFF

Gerrilee Thou rinsed off her 2-year-old son, Ace, at the kitchen sink in their Malden home.

On poverty's edge, as deportation looms

Malden family struggles to find resources and answers to father's detention

By Danny McDonald
GLOBE STAFF

MALDEN — Down to her last \$100, her eldest son dying, and her husband in a jailhouse 45 miles away, Gerrilee Thou fears what might come next.

"I try not to cry," said the 43-year-old mother of six recently at a cafe in Malden Center. "I don't want my kids to feel like 'My mom can't do it, I'm scared.'"

It's been a trying summer for the Thous. The household's breadwinner, Vibol Thou, is a man without a country who can't seem to outrun his troubled past.

Immigration authorities detained him the day after the Fourth of July



Vibol Thou with his son, Vibol Jr., in an undated family photo. The child, born blind and deaf, faced a health crisis this summer.

during a scheduled check-in with US Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Thou and his attorneys said the reason for his detention is unclear to them. ICE says he is "unlawfully present" in the country after an immigration judge issued a removal order against him more than 20 years ago.

Now Thou, who used to run an asphalt paving business, spends his days calling his wife from the Plymouth County Correctional Facility while he waits for the American immigration apparatus to decide his fate. At home, his wife tries to put up a smiling front for their children, whose ages range from 1 to 21. She misses her partner, whom she met
THOU, Page A12

It became a foodie mecca, now Maine looks to climate tech

With lower costs, nearby forests and coastline, Portland is luring investment, entrepreneurs

By Sabrina Shankman
GLOBE STAFF

PORTLAND — A couple of decades ago, something weird started happening in Maine: Restaurants suddenly became good — like, award-winning, national-recognition good.

Attracted by a combination of low overhead costs, ample local seafood, and farm-fresh produce, big-city chefs packed their knives and set up shop in Portland. And lo and behold, a foodie town was born.

Now, Maine is hoping to strike gold a second time, once again drawing on the promise of comparatively low costs and local resources — this time, in the climate tech sector.

This corner of the tech world, focusing on advancements to combat climate change, is well established in Silicon Valley, Boston, Greater Denver, and New York. But Maine officials and experts say

the state has something unique to offer, including its vast forests and history of forest industries, a large network of shuttered former mills, and a lengthy coastline in a part of the country considered ideal for offshore wind development.

This enthusiasm for Maine was on display on a recent weeknight in downtown Portland, as a hundred or so young-to-middle-aged entrepreneurs huddled around high-top tables and charcuterie spreads for the launch of the Roux Institute's ClimateTech incubator. It's an initiative of Northeastern University that will focus on breakthrough technologies to address the climate crisis. Among the companies cropping up there are SeaDeep, which uses advanced computer vision and machine learning to map, explore, and monitor underwater resources; Elipsa, which is using artificial intelligence to make industrial equip-
MAINE, Page A8

CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?



DANIELLE PARHIZKARAN/GLOBE STAFF

Before his final Red Sox broadcast, Hall of Fame radio announcer Joe Castiglione was congratulated Sunday by former Boston Red Sox pitcher Pedro Martinez and former Red Sox first baseman Kevin Youkilis. The ceremony at Fenway Park honored Castiglione for his 42 years in calling Red Sox games. **C1.**

The southeast United States is grappling with a rising death toll and shortages of vital supplies in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene. **A2.**

Kris Kristofferson has died. The singer and actor was 88. **B6.**

Gray expectations

Monday: Partly cloudy.

High 65-70, low 55-60.

Tuesday: Mostly cloudy.

High 62-67, low 54-59.

Obituaries, **B6.**

Comics and Weather, **D4-5.**

For breaking news, updated stories, and more, visit our website:

BostonGlobe.com

VOL. 306, NO. 92

*

Suggested retail price
\$4.00

