

Boston Sunday Globe

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AUGUST 18, 2024

Big swing in mood as party gathers

Democrats roll into convention feeling energized

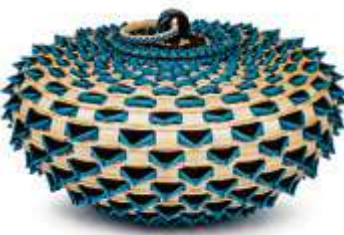
By Jim Puzzanghera
GLOBE STAFF
LARGO, Md. — A month ago, Effie S. Hillian was prepared to vote for President Biden against Donald Trump. She just wasn't thrilled about it.

"I'm a Democrat. . . . I'm going to vote Democrat," said the 71-year-old retired teacher from Upper Marlboro, Md. "It's the right thing to do. But when the tide turned, it was like a shot of adrenaline."

That tide washed Biden out of the race on July 21 after a disastrous debate and swept Vice President Kamala Harris to the top of the Democratic ticket. It also brought Hillian and her friend, Regina A. Young, 68, to a packed community college field house Thursday. They arrived four hours early to see the first joint appearance by Harris and Biden since the political tsunami struck as Democrats demonstrated their newfound unity ahead of the start of the party's convention Monday.

"We feel recharged," Young, also a retired teacher from Upper Marlboro, said as they sat

DEMOCRATS, Page A13



Jeremy Frey carries the ancient practice of ash-woven baskets into the here and now.
SundayArts, N1.

Eight decades ago, a wealthy woman helped create the discipline of crime scene investigation. Read about the murder she couldn't forget.
Globe Magazine.



Cloud control

Sunday: Cloudy, breezy.
High: 72-77. Low: 64-69.
Monday: Cloudy, humid.
High: 75-80. Low: 61-66.
Sunrise: 5:55 Sunset: 7:40
Complete report, **A22.**
Deaths, A16-21.

VOL. 306, NO. 49
*
Suggested retail price
\$6.00



Roby Saint-Vil prepared formula for his 1-month-old daughter, Ruthny Taika Saint-Vil Poulard, as his partner, Wilda Poulard, held her. The Haitian family has been living at the Dr. Alfredo Pumarejo temporary shelter in Matamoros, Mexico.

FROM THE SOUTHERN BORDER, DESTINATION BOSTON

Despite warnings from governor, many migrants queueing in Mexico see Massachusetts as the land of opportunity

STORY BY GIULIA McDONNELL NIETO DEL RIO
PHOTOS BY ERIN CLARK
GLOBE STAFF

REYNOSA, Mexico — Sixteen-year-old Stanley Cesaire cooked eggs in an outdoor kitchen for his mother and 1-year-old brother, surrounded by the thick smoke coming off the stove. They were staying at a migrant shelter just over the border from Texas, where they had slept in a single camping tent for almost six months.

In the 100-degree heat, Cesaire wiped the sweat from his face with his T-shirt, imagining how different his life would be once he and his family finally made it to the United States.

"I have a dream to go to Boston," he said in Spanish. "My aunt would tell me how . . . the snow falls when it's cold. I'd like to see it."

As Haitian migrants like Cesaire, stranded in Mexican cities across the border from Texas, anxiously await their turn to enter the United States, one hoped-for destination comes up, again and again: Boston.

In interviews in Reynosa and other nearby cities last week, dozens of Haitians told similar stories. They'd trekked thousands of miles through jungles, deserts, mountains, and cities. As soon as they could, they registered for an appointment with US Customs and Border Protection through a phone app called CBP One. They were biding their time in Mexican shelters, waiting for the app to give them a date when

MIGRANTS, Page A14

'Should we be doing something different?'

BEVERLEY WEMPLE, *director, Water Resources Institute at the University of Vermont*

Whipsawed and washed out in Vt.



KAYLA BARTKOWSKI FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

James Bengston dug his rakes out from a foot of mud in his garage after the flash flooding that occurred on July 30 in St. Johnsbury, Vt.

By Erin Douglas
GLOBE STAFF

ST. JOHNSBURY, Vt. — In this small town nestled along the Passumpsic River in the Northeast Kingdom, the floods swept away patches of dirt roads, knocked beams off bridges, and obliterated big chunks of what were thriving vegetable gardens. The water left behind mud, mosquitoes, and shell-shocked Vermonters.

The water came to the tops, sides, and bottoms of hills, leaving a swath of destruction seemingly without any rhyme or reason. The aftermath looks like something akin to a tornado's unpredictable path.

"It was widespread throughout the entire town, but at the same time, you can be on one street that's not affected at all, and then go one block over and you see complete devastation."

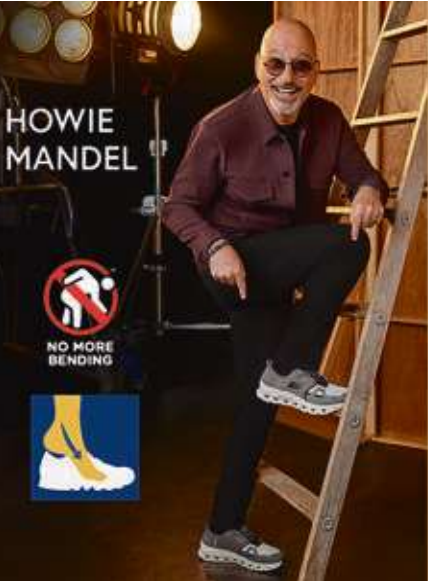
FLOODING, Page A11

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