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Democrats seek boost from woes on court

Ethical concerns among justices seen as possible election year advantage

By Lissandra Villa de Petzelka
GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON — When the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, it didn't just make abortion a top political issue. It turned itself into a political lightning rod.

And for Democrats — who for years have lagged behind conservatives in making the court a key part of their election year pitch — the Supreme Court's actions, both inside and outside the chamber, may have opened a new line of attack on the campaign trail.

"[Democrats] should be making clear that the Republican-appointed justices on the Supreme Court are acting as part of the Republican Party. They're not separate from politics, they're not floating high on some cloud above us," said Sarah Lipton-Lubet, president of Take Back the Court Action Fund, which is focused on the court and threats to democracy. "It is just far past time to abandon this false notion that criticizing this fundamentally broken court and its disastrous rulings is somehow beneath the dignity of Democrats."

Justices and the choices they make are already top of mind in the presidential race. President Biden recently predicted in Philadelphia the next president would have the opportunity to appoint "a couple of justices" and brought up how "pro-

DEMOCRATS, Page A6

Statewide 911 outage puts focus on aging infrastructure

By Sean Cotter and Nick Stoico
GLOBE STAFF

The entire 911 emergency phone system went down across the state for several hours Tuesday, the second such outage to hit Massachusetts in three months, raising new concerns about the aging infrastructure supporting it just as the region endures a threatening heat wave.

The outage, which occurred on a day with a heat index well into the 90s, is the latest example of what experts say are so-called sunny-day outages, that often result from failing equipment.

"We're in a situation where the national infrastructure has become fragile," said John Chiaramonte, president of consulting services for Mission Critical Partners, which works with 911 providers and conducted an audit of Boston's 911 center two years ago.

Local, state, and federal authorities should focus on making sure there are redundancies that prevent the crucial system from going down like this, he said.

"People call 911 on the worst days of their lives," Chiaramonte said. "We don't have other op-

911, Page A8

A day that went from coffee to champagne

From daily rituals to a night like no other, Celtics didn't veer from championship path

By Adam Himmelsbach
GLOBE STAFF

On Monday morning, before he would lead the Celtics into Game 5 of the NBA Finals with a chance to clinch the franchise's first championship since 2008, coach Joe Mazzulla opened a cupboard in his home and asked his wife, Camai, what mug she wanted to use.

This is how the two start almost every day together. They sit and drink coffee and discuss their children and their faith and the Celtics. And even though this would end up being one of the biggest days of his life, Mazzulla has relentlessly preached he would not change his approach — regardless of the spotlight.

So Camai asked him to get her "Don't let Monday win" mug, and they sat and

talked and traded playful barbs like usual.

"I told him, 'Don't you push my buttons this morning,'" Camai said, smiling.

Next, Mazzulla took Nike, their rottweiler, for a walk before leaving for work. Sometime around then, Celtics superstar Jayson Tatum and his trainer, Nick Sang, were arriving at the Auerbach Center, following a similar theme.

Yes, the Celtics had missed their chance to sweep the Mavericks in Game 4 three days earlier, but there was no need to change anything. Tatum received his usual pregame treatment and completed a weightlifting session, eager for the opportunity the night would

CELTICS, Page C5



BARRY CHIN/GLOBE STAFF

Celtics forward Jayson Tatum reached for a high five with head coach Joe Mazzulla in the fourth quarter Monday.

'If I talk to the school, maybe they're able to help me, especially because my daughter goes there.'

NATALIA MACEDO, describing her thoughts before seeking help



ERIN CLARK/GLOBE STAFF

Jaylene Macedo checked on her fish, which was on the window sill in her family's new Brighton apartment. Natalia Macedo, Jaylene's mother, was homeless for seven months with her daughters before they got the apartment.

Surge in students without homes

Boston schools seek to connect families with help as rents rise, shelters fill

By Christopher Huffaker
GLOBE STAFF

The paint on the walls was dirty and peeling and the windows looked out onto Blue Hill Avenue, filling the room with sounds of fights on the streets, vehicles whizzing past, and people talking and yelling.

Jaylene Macedo, then 6, couldn't focus amid the chaos. The first-grader shared one cramped room with two beds in the Roxbury homeless shelter with her mom, Natalia

Macedo, and younger sister, Ava.

She didn't feel safe, often climbing into her mother's bed until she fell asleep. For months, she kept asking her mother, "When are we going to have our own house?" or "When do I get my room back?"

Jaylene is one of more than 5,000 students in Boston Public Schools — more than 10 percent of the district's population — who have experienced homelessness at some point this school year. It's a record level for the district,

a troubling trend that has been on the rise since the 2021-2022 school year. Across the country, students who are without permanent housing — whether in a shelter like the Macedos, on the street, or couch-surfing with family or friends — often suffer stark outcomes.

Data show they perform dramatically worse than their peers on state tests and graduate on time less frequently. Statewide,

HOMELESS STUDENTS, Page A9

WILLIE MAYS 1931-2024

Powerful hitter, agile fielder, 'a guy born to play baseball'

By Paul Duggan
WASHINGTON POST

Willie Mays, a perennial all-star center fielder for the New York and San Francisco Giants in the 1950s and '60s whose powerful bat, superb athletic grace, and crafty baseball acumen earned him a place with Babe Ruth atop the game's roster of historic greats, died June 18. He was 93.

The San Francisco Giants announced his death on social media but did not provide other details. Mr. Mays was the oldest living member of the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

"If there was a guy born to play baseball," Boston Red Sox legend Ted Wil-



ASSOCIATED PRESS/FILE

Mr. Mays was named to 24 All Star teams in 18 seasons, some in years when two such games were played.

liams, one of his 1950s contemporaries, said late in life, "it was Willie Mays."

With such demigods as Jackie Robinson and Hank Aaron, Mr. Mays, from Jim

MAYS, Page C11

Harvard dean argues faculty should not speak their minds

By Mike Damiano
GLOBE STAFF

A Harvard dean pulled off the seemingly impossible this week: uniting the opposing factions on Harvard's campus.


His method? He put forward an argument so offensive to Harvard professors that pro-Palestinian and pro-Israel faculty members joined together to denounce him.

In an op-ed in the student newspaper last week, Dean of Social Science Lawrence Bobo said that faculty members who excessively criticize the university should be subject to discipline. It was a stance that seemed, to Bobo's critics, like a direct attack on the bedrock academic principle that university faculty should be free to express their opinions.

Not so, Bobo argued, in the essay titled "Faculty Speech Must Have Limits."

"A faculty member's right to free speech does

HARVARD, Page A7



A toast to you

Wednesday: Sunny, hot.
High: 91-96. Low: 70-75.


Thursday: Partly sunny, hot.
High: 91-96. Low: 71-76.

High tide: 10:09 a.m. 10:14 p.m.
Sunrise: 5:07 Sunset: 8:24

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All lobster rolls are good lobster rolls, but are they best hot or cold? **G1.**

The gunman who killed five people and wounded 19 at an LGBTQ+ club in Colorado Springs in 2022 was sentenced to 55 concurrent life sentences and a 190-year sentence with no possibility of parole. **A2.**

The median-priced single-family home in Greater Boston sold for \$950,500 in May, according to a real estate group. **B5.**

The Tewksbury man accused of killing a 15-year-old allegedly abused her and threatened to kill her and her grandmother, prosecutors said. **B1.**