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Tugging at the strings of nation's heartland

In the battle of New Yorker vs. Californian, VP choices duel over Midwestern street cred

By Sam Brodey
GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON — One is a camo-wearing former high school football coach and proud Democrat from farm country. The other is a staunch conservative whose rise from a blue-collar Rust Belt family to Yale and Silicon Valley made him a famous author and politician.

The two vice presidential contenders, Democratic Governor Tim Walz of Minnesota and Republican Senator JD Vance of Ohio, have policies, profiles, and tones that can seem worlds apart. But they have one important thing in common: deep Midwestern roots.

With the Democratic and Republican presidential tickets led by a Californian and a New Yorker, respectively, both camps have tapped running mates

from the nation's middle, banking on their ability to appeal to voters in such key battlegrounds as Michigan and Wisconsin. Whether Walz or Vance proves to be a more credible messenger could influence the outcome of a tight election, triggering a jousting match over Midwestern bona fides.

The battle over who most authentically represents the heartland isn't just about regional dialects, clothing, and cuisines. It speaks to a broader competition over just what qualifies as "real" America, and what kind of campaigning speaks to it. While neither directly represents a swing state, the campaigns are hoping their candidate will appeal to the key swing voters in Rust Belt and rural states that could decide the election.

VICE PRESIDENT, Page A6



‘The reason that [Walz] works is . . . that the vibe matches the substance.’

PETE BUTTIGIEG
Transportation secretary on Governor Tim Walz (above)



‘At the end of the day, JD for me seems to connect at an authentic level with folks.’

JOSH CULLING, an Ohio GOP official on Senator JD Vance (above)

FLUSH WITH SUCCESS



STAN GROSSFELD/GLOBE STAFF

You would be right in thinking this is not a typical Cape Cod sight and vibe. But the members of the Old Ladies Against Underwater Garbage are anything but typical. From left, Jane Driscoll, Robin Melavalin, Susan Baur, Mary Grauerholz, and Marci Johnson are part of a team that scours the mucky bottoms of Cape Cod ponds and watering holes for trash. Their quarry here? A toilet hauled from Johns Pond in Mashpee, much to the delight of Diane Hammer (background). For more on their watery exploits, **go to As I See It column, B1.**

Sox star suspended after using homophobic slur

Duran apologizes; outfielder will sit out for two games after yelling at Fenway fan

By Peter Abraham
GLOBE STAFF

Jarren Duran, whose dynamic play has helped put the Red Sox in unexpected playoff contention, was suspended by the team for two games for yelling a homophobic slur at a heckling fan at Fenway Park on

Sunday.

The decision was reached on Monday in conjunction with Major League Baseball and came less than a month after Duran was chosen the Most Valuable Player of his first All-Star Game, part of a breakout season for the 27-year-old outfielder.

“I just let the moment get the best of me,” said Duran, who claimed the person had been heckling him throughout the game. “Just said something I shouldn’t be saying.”

In the sixth inning of the game against Houston, a man yelled, “Tennis racket, tennis racket, you need a tennis racket,” while Duran was at the plate.

Duran turned toward the seats

behind him and said, “Shut up,” followed by an expletive and the slur.

“There was no intent behind the word that was used. It was just the heat of the moment. It just happened,” Duran said.

The Red Sox issued an apology that they attributed to Duran hours after the game, but only to news outlets who inquired about the incident. The team acted more forcefully

DURAN, Page C2

City approves White Stadium demolition

Parks panel advances Wu’s redevelop plan but lawsuit is still pending

By Stella Tannenbaum
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

Mayor Michelle Wu’s plan to redevelop White Stadium into a gleaming sports facility for Boston students and a new professional women’s soccer team received a key approval Monday, paving the way for demolition of the dilapidated Franklin Park venue to potentially begin this fall.

The unanimous vote by the Boston Parks and Recreation Commission came after about a dozen people spoke against the roughly \$100 million project, largely about environmental, public access, noise, and traffic concerns. A lawsuit aimed at stopping the project remains pending. Another dozen people expressed

WHITE STADIUM, Page A7



ANDREW BURKE-STEVENSON FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

A summer bike camper rode along the dilapidated track in Franklin Park’s White Stadium. Demolition of the facility may begin this fall, officials said.

Cambridge kept \$1.4m settlement secret

Council voted without details of claim alleging Police Dept. harassment

By Spencer Buell
GLOBE STAFF

The request before the Cambridge City Council in December 2020 was shrouded in secrecy.

Several councilors who were asked to approve a \$1.4 million payment said they were told in a closed-door meeting only that it involved harassment at the Cambridge Police Department, and that a seven-figure settlement would resolve the issue.

Some voted against spending so much taxpayer money without knowing the details, but the settlement was ultimately approved.

Now public documents obtained by the Globe detail for the first time what Cambridge officials wanted to keep hidden: The city quietly settled with three female Cambridge police officers who had accused a high-profile sergeant of sexual harassment, including allegedly sending inappropriate messages, creating a hostile work environment, and retaliating against them when they complained.

The women said in sworn complaints filed with the state that their harasser was Cambridge police Sergeant James Crowley, the white officer who made national headlines 15 years ago this summer when he arrested Harvard professor Henry Louis

SETTLEMENT, Page A10

A spotlight on murky digital forensics

Read case reveals competing ‘realities’ of technologies

By Sean Cotter
GLOBE STAFF

Despite its made-for-TV elements, the Karen Read trial featured an array of critical evidence from cellphones and computers that turned out not to be as clear or convincing as the kind often featured on “Law & Order,” “CSI,” and other popular crime series.

Inconsistencies in phone call records; a confusing time stamp on a Google search to learn how long it would take for a person to die in the cold; health data that showed a person descending a stairway — or maybe in a car.

While some forensic work is well established, such as DNA evidence, other technologies aren’t quite as grounded, as the Read trial showed. In particular, the field of digital forensics continues to evolve, shaped by court challenges and advancing technology. So, questions around the validity of that data have become the latest frontier in what legal observers call the “battle of experts”: dueling interpretations of an unsettled science.

And, with enough legal prowess — and financial resources — defendants can line up parades of

DATA, Page A7



Make it a double

Tuesday: Mix of sun, clouds.
High 81-86, low 65-70.

Wednesday: See Tuesday.
High 78-83, low 65-70.

Sunrise: 5:50. Sunset: 7:48.

Weather and comics, **D5-6.**

Obituaries, **C9.**

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Opponents of the state’s recently passed gun law took the first step in seeking a ballot question to toss out the restrictions. **B1.**

The United States dispatched more warships and a submarine to the eastern Mediterranean Sea, as concerns mounted over a potential Iranian attack on Israel. **A3.**

Steward Health Care, for the fourth time, has postponed a hearing on the attempted sale of its hospitals in Eastern Massachusetts. **D1.**

A journal retracted three papers about MDMA-assisted psychotherapy following the Food and Drug Administration’s rejection of the treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder. **D1.**