

Legislature comes up short at the end of the day

Lack of action on key bills has insiders and outsiders calling for a better way

By Anjali Huynh and Samantha J. Gross
GLOBE STAFF

Advocates, activists, and others with business before the Legislature woke up Thursday to see what lawmakers accomplished in their final, 23-hour-long day of formal proceedings, and expressed the same sentiment again and again: disappointment.

Left behind

Major bills the Legislature failed to pass

- Change to Boston's property tax method
 - Economic stimulus for life sciences and other industries
 - Additional liquor licenses in Boston
 - New stadium for New England Revolution
- More, B1.

The House and Senate gaveled out after 19 months of work, having sent to Governor Maura Healey three major legislative packages, including a \$5.2 billion housing bill, but left on the table numerous others intended to tackle some of the most pressing issues facing the state.

It's hardly the first time the Legislature has left important work to the final minute: Two years prior, a similar scenario unfolded with lawmakers up all night, only for a major tax relief proposal to die at the close of session.

Current and former politicians, however, said the dysfunction in the Legislature has increased in recent years, as control over what legislation moves forward is increasingly consolidated

LEGISLATURE, Page A7

Trump's attack no surprise to Democrats

False claims about race recall birther strategy with Obama

By Tal Kopan and Sam Brodey
GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON — Former president Donald Trump's attacks this week on Vice President Kamala Harris's biracial background brought a new dimension to the 2024 election, but for veterans of the political arena, they felt like a well-known throwback.

Trump's false suggestions that Harris has recently switched her racial identification from Indian to Black are reminiscent of his promotion of conspiracy theories about former President Barack Obama's heritage, the beginning of a through-line of his political career of attacking the racial heritage of nonwhite opponents and rivals.

So though they decried Wednesday's attacks, Democrats said they found them unsurprising.

"This is who he is," said Georgia Senator Raphael Warnock. "He came into politics riding on the birtherism line. And now he's trying to convince Black people that their greatest adversary is brown people. It's un-American."

Harris is the daughter of a Jamaican father and

TRUMP, Page A6



FEDERAL SECURITY SERVICE/RTR VIA ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich was released Thursday after 16 months in a Russian prison.



Some of the prisoners released by Russia (from left): American citizens Alsu Kurmasheva and Paul Whelan; another Western prisoner, Vladimir Kara-Murza; political prisoners and human rights advocates Oleg Orlov, Sasha Skochilenko, Ilya Yashin, and Andrei Pivovarov; and Lilia Chanyшева, one of the prisoners with ties to Alexei Navalny.

'Their brutal ordeal is over'

3 Americans, including Wall St. Journal reporter, freed from Russia in swap

By Anton Troianovski and Mark Mazzetti
NEW YORK TIMES

BERLIN — A prisoner swap Thursday among seven countries freed Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich and two other Americans held in Russia, along with several jailed Russian dissidents, in a deal whose size and complexity has no parallel in the post-Soviet era.

The trade freed 15 people imprisoned by Russia and one by its ally Belarus, in return for eight held in Western countries, including a convicted assassin and several held as Russian spies. It was all the more remarkable for taking place 2½ years into Russia's

invasion of Ukraine, which the Kremlin has cast as a war for Russian survival against the United States and its allies who are arming and financing Ukraine.

The deal, culminating a long and elabo-

► Russian convicted in Boston of hacking is among the released prisoners. B2.

rate web of negotiations behind the scenes, delivered a diplomatic victory for President Biden, who has long pledged to bring home imprisoned Americans and to support Russia's ruthlessly repressed democracy advocates, journalists, and war critics.

"Their brutal ordeal is over, and they're

free," Biden said at the White House, speaking of the freed Americans, whose relatives flanked him. "Moments ago, their families and I were able to speak to them on the phone from the Oval Office," he said, and he wished them "welcome almost home."

The exchange took place at the international airport in Ankara, Turkey's capital, and involved seven planes ferrying the 24 prisoners from the United States, Germany, Poland, Slovenia, Norway, and Russia, according to the Turkish government, which has positioned itself as a mediator between Moscow and the United States throughout the war in Ukraine.

PRISONERS, Page A10

Months later, arrests still follow student protesters

Hundreds of cases remain unresolved

By Hilary Burns
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ASSOCIATED PRESS

AMHERST — Since her arrest at a protest at the University of Massachusetts, Annie McGrew has been pivoting between two sets of hearings: one in court, for misdemeanor charges, another at school, for violations of the college's conduct code.

It has kept the graduate student from work toward finishing her dissertation in economics.

"It's been a really rough few months for me since my arrest,"

McGrew said. "I never imagined this is how UMass would respond."

Some 3,200 people were arrested on college campuses this spring during a wave of pro-Palestinian tent encampments protesting the war in Gaza. While some schools ended demonstrations by striking deals with the students, or simply waited them out, others called in police when protesters refused to leave.

Many students had those charges

dismissed. But hundreds of cases have yet to be resolved on campuses with the highest number of arrests, according to an analysis of data gathered by the Associated Press and partner newsrooms, including The Boston Globe.

Some of those students face uncertainty in their academic careers, while others harbor doubts about whether to stay enrolled in college at

PROTESTERS, Page A10

2024 PARIS OLYMPICS



PASCAL LE SEGRETAIR/GETTY IMAGES

SHE DOES IT AGAIN — Simone Biles came from behind in the all-around gymnastics final on Thursday to pick up another gold medal — her sixth, and ninth medal overall. She also became the third woman to be a two-time Olympic champion, and at 27, the oldest all-around champion since 1952. **More on the day, C1, 4-6.**

Charger issue has Black drivers saying no to EVs

By Hiawatha Bray
GLOBE STAFF

As producer of a podcast and radio show on automotive technology, Ken Chester drives plenty of electric vehicles. He likes their quick acceleration, creature comforts, and quiet rides. But he still won't give up his gasoline-powered SUV for an electric car.

Chester is emblematic of two facts of life in the auto industry. First, EVs remain a hard sell. And second, they are a particularly hard sell in Black communities.

Black car buyers such as Chester are embracing EVs at a much slower pace than other consumers. Black people, who buy about 8 percent of all new cars, purchased only 4.5 percent of the EVs sold in the United States in the first quarter of the year, according to the research firm S&P

EVS, Page A7

Leaders in Boston and Chelsea asked the governor to rescind her new shelter policy restricting stays to five days. **B1.**

The MBTA's new "tap-to-go" payment system got mixed reviews from subway riders. **B1.**

Celtics star Jaylen Brown took the first step toward his goal of creating a "Black Wall Street" in Boston by launching Boston XChange. **B5.**

Generation X and millennials have an increased risk of getting certain cancers compared with older generations. **A2.**

Israel said it killed the Hamas commander believed to have been an Oct. 7 planner. **A4.**

Patriots linebacker Matthew Judon was back on the field after missing workouts because of a contract issue. **C1.**



Lightning load

Friday: Hot, T-storms. High 85-90. Low 72-77.

Saturday: Hot, T-storms. High 85-90. Low 71-76.

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Sunrise: 5:38 Sunset: 8:02

Weather and Comics, G6-7. Obituaries, C9.

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