

The Boston Globe

Serving our community since 1872

SATURDAY, JULY 6, 2024

Biden hit with tough questions on health

Steers away from concerns about his fitness, rejects independent medical exam

By Colleen Long and Seung Min Kim
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MADISON, Wis. — President Biden, fighting to save his endangered reelection effort, used a highly anticipated TV interview Friday to repeatedly reject taking an independent medical evaluation that would show voters he is up for serving another term in office while blaming his disastrous debate performance on a “bad episode” and saying there were “no indications of any serious condition.”

“Look, I have a cognitive test every single day,” Biden told ABC’s George Stephanopoulos, referring to the tasks he faces daily in a rigorous job. “Every day, I have that test. Everything I do. You know, not only am I campaigning, but I’m running the world.”

The 81-year-old Biden made it through the 22-minute interview without any major blunders that would inflict further damage to his imperiled candidacy, but it appeared unlikely to fully tamp down concerns about his age and fitness for another four years and his ability to defeat Donald

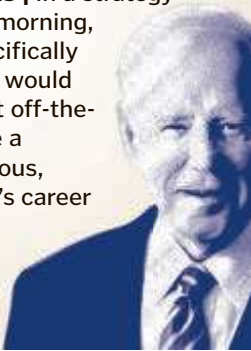
BIDEN, Page A6

Biden's next steps

Ad campaign | \$50 million ad campaign this month meant to capitalize on high viewership moments like the Summer Olympics that begin in Paris on July 26.

Battleground states | Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris, first lady Jill Biden, and second gentleman Doug Emhoff are scheduled to travel to every battleground state this month.

Off-the-cuff moments | In a strategy memo released Friday morning, the campaign also specifically emphasized that Biden would participate in “frequent off-the-cuff moments” — once a hallmark of the gregarious, glad-handing politician’s career that have nonetheless dwindled throughout his presidency.



SOURCE: ASSOCIATED PRESS

Healey says that president should ‘carefully evaluate’ path

By Matt Stout and Samantha J. Gross
GLOBE STAFF

With President Biden’s candidacy under intense scrutiny, a slew of Democratic governors raced to his side, literally. On social media or in press conferences, they voiced their support, reaffirmed Biden’s commitment, or touted the president’s accomplishments.

It made the public silence of Governor Maura Healey only louder.

Long one of Biden’s leading surrogates, Healey called Biden’s debate performance “tough to watch,” but offered little else. She and her aides declined to comment about the meetings she’s attended with the president and other governors at one of the most crucial times for Biden’s campaign. She gave no defense or public support for the president.

On Friday, Healey made her first substantive remarks, releasing a statement in which she said the “best way forward right now is a decision for the President to make.”

“Over the coming days, I urge him to listen to the American people and carefully evaluate whether he remains our best hope to defeat Donald Trump,” Healey said, adding that Biden “saved our democracy in 2020 and has done an outstanding job over the last four years.”

“Whatever President Biden decides, I am committed to doing everything in my power to defeat Donald Trump,” she said.

While not saying Biden should drop out of the race, as a handful of Democrats have urged, Healey

HEALEY, Page A6

A new collegiate path

BC opens school at old Pine Manor campus for low-income students



CRAIG F. WALKER/GLOBE STAFF

Michael Melo, seen with his sister, Melissa, hopes to earn a bachelor’s degree after finishing his two years at Messina College.

By Mike Damiano and Hilary Burns
GLOBE STAFF

BROOKLINE — On Sunday, 110 teenagers, almost all of them low-income, first-generation college students, will move into renovated dorms on a grassy hillside campus here. They are the first class to enroll at Messina College, a new two-year undergraduate school run by Boston College on the former Pine Manor College campus.

Among them is Michael Melo, a Roxbury teen who lives in public housing with his sister and supports himself with long shifts serving food at Mass General Brigham. He is exactly the kind of student Messina aims to serve: driven but disadvantaged. He got middling grades in high school while working 20 to 30 hours a week. “I never thought I would see myself going to college,” he said.

‘This program has the ability to create an on-ramp for students who have been left by the wayside for far too long.’

ANTHONY ABRAHAM JACK,
BU professor and author of “*The Privileged Poor: How Elite Colleges Are Failing Disadvantaged Students*”

Messina’s mission is to give students like Melo a traditional, liberal arts college experience, with the academic and social benefits that come with communal life and study. The school is opening at a time when rising tuition and inflationary pressures are turning the on-campus college experience into a luxury many students can’t afford, especially those who aren’t straight-A high school students who can win admission to the country’s most selective institutions and access the more generous financial aid those schools usually offer.

BC leaders say the Messina project is a return to the school’s 19th-century roots, when it was founded to educate the children of Irish Catholic immigrants who were often excluded from other colleges. It is also some-

MESSINA, Page A7

Hidden trophy stash now even harder to find

Display under Longfellow Bridge has gone missing

By Spencer Buell
GLOBE STAFF

CAMBRIDGE — For a decade, the underside of the Longfellow Bridge on this end of the Charles River has been home to one of the city’s strangest, and most beloved, DIY landmarks.

In this otherwise drab concrete overhang along Memorial Drive, passersby could find scores of gleaming trophies, topped with tiny statuettes of soccer players, bowlers, ice skaters, and countless other athletes, some of them many decades old. A row of medals tied up side by side — 5k pendants, academic decathlon medallions, you name it — jingled in the breeze like wind chimes.

Joggers doing laps, or MIT lecturers out for a stroll, were intrigued by the oddball sight as they stumbled across the display. Others, lured by listings on Google Maps, and write-ups in Atlas Obscura (as well as in this newspaper) made pilgrimages. Some even opted to part with their own childhood trophies by anonymously adding them to the collection.

Now, suddenly, they’re just about all gone.

At some point this spring, they vanished without warning. And no one seems to know where they went.

“It was pretty much licked clean,” said the man who originally put them

TROPHIES, Page A10

Plymouth balks at tribe’s request

Questions need to note legacy of Wampanoag

By John Hilliard
GLOBE STAFF

Melissa Ferretti grew up in south Plymouth, immersed in her hometown’s legacy as the Pilgrims’ first settlement in America. As chairwoman of the Herring Pond Wampanoag, she was equally immersed in the history and traditions of her tribe.

So she was shocked as she watched members of a town committee late last month balk at her tribe’s request to recognize their legacy with a brief land acknowledgment

that would be delivered before meetings. Such statements are declarations that have been made by many progressive governments, schools, businesses, and organizations across the US recognizing Indigenous people and their status as the original inhabitants of North America.

Instead, some members of Plymouth’s 18-seat Committee of Precinct Chairs questioned whether saying those words would put the town at risk. It could create controversy in town, said one. Another wondered if it would lay the groundwork to begin renaming local schools. Board member Betty Cavacco said the town’s lawyer should look at it first.

PLYMOUTH, Page A10



JOHN TLUMACKI/GLOBE STAFF /FILE/2021

A statue of Wampanoag leader Massasoit stood over Plymouth Harbor. The tribe’s territory through history has included large swaths of present-day Massachusetts.

America’s employers delivered another healthy month of hiring in June, adding 206,000 jobs and again displacing the US economy’s ability to withstand high interest rates. **D1.**

Kansas’ highest court strongly reaffirmed that the state constitution protects abortion access, striking down a ban on a common procedure and laws strictly regulating abortion providers. **A2.**

Britain’s new prime minister, Keir Starmer, vowed to reverse the hopelessness that grew over 14 years of Conservative rule and said he would lead a mission of national renewal. **A4.**



Flash in the pan

Saturday: Stormy, windy. High: 81-86. Low: 71-76.

Sunday: Partly sunny. High: 88-93. Low: 71-76.

Sunrise: 5:14 Sunset: 8:23

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

Obituaries, **C9.**

VOL. 306, NO. 6

*

Suggested retail price
\$4.00



0 947725 4

27612