

# The Boston Globe

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2024

## Israel debates response to Iran attack

Aims for deterrence while avoiding all-out war

By Ronen Bergman, Isabel Kershner, Julian E. Barnes, and Russell Goldman  
NEW YORK TIMES

TEL AVIV — Israeli leaders on Tuesday were debating how best to respond to Iran's unprecedented weekend airstrike, officials said, weighing a set of options calibrated to achieve different strategic outcomes: deterring a similar attack in the future, placating their American allies, and avoiding all-out war.

Iran's attack on Israel, an immense barrage that included hundreds of ballistic missiles and exploding drones, changed the unspoken rules in the archrivals' long-running shadow war. In that conflict, major airstrikes from one country's territory directly against the other had been avoided.

Given that change in precedent, the calculus by which Israel decides its next move has also changed, said the Israeli officials who requested anonymity to discuss Iran.

"We cannot stand still from this kind of aggression," Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari, the spokesperson for Israel's military, said Tuesday. Iran, he added, would not get off "scot-free with this aggression."  
MIDEAST, Page A4

## Skeptics wary as city shifts its planning process

By Tiana Woodard  
GLOBE STAFF

When Mayor Michelle Wu earlier this month moved the city's planning department into City Hall, she saw it as a new chapter in Boston's history, where any changes to each of the city's neighborhoods would be informed by its own residents. But some community advocates, pointing to the damage inflicted by the Boston Planning and Development Agency over the years, are skeptical the move will fix the problems that plague city development or allow their voices to be heard.

"It's really hard to see how we can move past" the distrust people have over the agency's role in overseeing development and razing neighborhoods in the last mid-century, said Steve Hollinger, a Fort Point resident who has closely followed the city's development process. "They need people they can believe in, people that they believe will do the right thing."

Many residents agree that the city's approach  
PLANNING, Page A7



### Pollen around

**Wednesday:** Cooler.  
High 53-58. Low 41-46.

**Thursday:** Even cooler.  
High 46-51. Low 39-44.

Sunrise: 5:59 Sunset: 7:28  
**Weather and Comics, G6-7.**  
**Obituaries, C11.**

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Suggested retail price  
\$3.50



**The first seven jurors were chosen** for Donald Trump's first criminal trial. **A2.**

**New England saw a dramatic spike in antiseptic incidents** after Oct. 7, the ADL said. **B1.**

**The median price of a home in Greater Boston shot up to \$900,000.** **B5.**

**Getting rid of invasive plant species is as easy as — eating them.** But you have to be careful. **G1.**



SUZANNE KREITER/GLOBE STAFF

Samantha Frechon hasn't attended a day of school this academic year and spends much of her time in her bedroom.

## Getting an unwelcome education

Mother of teen with disabilities battles cash-strapped Braintree for the right placement

By Mandy McLaren  
GLOBE STAFF

BRAINTREE — Like most 14-year-olds, Samantha Frechon has wants: a Monstera plant for her bedroom, Japanese cheesecake, a reprieve from her mom's judgment of her baggy, black clothes.

But, more than anything, the Braintree eighth-grader desires something other kids her age are typically eager to ditch: "I just want to go to school," Samantha said one recent afternoon, sitting cross-legged on her neatly made

Federal law requires public schools to pay for so-called out-of-district placements when they cannot meet a student's special education needs in-house

**\$90,000**

Tuition for the private school placement for Samantha Frechon that Braintree has declined to pay this academic year

**\$9 million +**

Cost of all out-of-district special education placements incurred by Braintree

twin bed.

It's in this room, with a giant tawny teddy bear propped in the corner, that Samantha has spent the school year, sleeping the day away or numbly scrolling through her phone, waiting for her nightmare to be over. Caught in a web of adult grievances and bureaucratic dysfunction, the special education student hasn't been to school a single day this academic year.

Samantha has been in a state of academic limbo since the Braintree Public Schools unilaterally decided in September.  
SPECIAL EDUCATION, Page A12



JONATHAN WIGGS/GLOBE STAFF

Study subjects' meals were closely monitored to track the effects of foods.

## A taste of a future where your perfect diet is on the plate

By Felice J. Freyer  
GLOBE STAFF

Jon Hamdorf is a free spirit who lives for adventure. His latest was a little different.

It started in mid-January when he checked into a 12th-floor room in a drab brick building in Boston's Chinatown. At age 70, Hamdorf has no permanent address and spends his days traveling or living on his boat in

Maine. But for this jaunt, this intrepid soul was confined to a rigid schedule, required to eat specific meals that were handed to him, and forbidden to go outside without a chaperone — all in the service of science.

"This, to me, is like going to Nepal or going to Israel. It's like another adventure," said Hamdorf, a retired CPA.

The thrill, he said, lay in the pur-

NUTRITION, Page A8

## AG says competitive electricity market no bargain for most

Sees \$578m in extra payments by consumers

By Sabrina Shankman  
GLOBE STAFF

We've all gotten the pitch — a letter, call, even a sales rep at the door — from an energy company promising big savings on electric bills by switching from our local utility.

Critics have long contended that too many of those offers are part of a pernicious bait-and-switch scheme and end up costing consumers much, much more than if they had stayed with their utility. The Massachusetts attorney general's office has been tallying that cost for years, and its latest dollar figure is a whopping \$578 million in additional payments by consumers over an eight-year period from July 2015 through June 2023.

The new report from Attorney General Andrea Campbell's office also zooms in on the winter of 2022-2023 — a period when rates offered by Massachusetts utilities, Eversource and National Grid, soared, sometimes more than doubling. While that should have presented the perfect opportunity for the competitive electric supply market to deliver on its longstanding promises to provide individual residential customers with significant savings by locking in longer-term rates, the savings didn't always pan out.

The report found that while the period from July 2022 to June 2023 did result in overall savings for customers of competitive electric suppliers, low-income customers continued to experience losses of more than \$750,000, collectively.

And the overall savings during that 12-month period —  
ELECTRICITY, Page A7



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