

The Boston Globe

Serving our community since 1872

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2024



PHOTOS BY ERIN CLARK/GLOBE STAFF

After 16 years, the wait for another banner was over. The Celtics then opened the season by hammering the Knicks, 132-109. **C1.**

ROCKING THE RAFTERS ONCE AGAIN

Celtics mix past and present to celebrate their 18th championship

DAN SHAUGHNESSY
COMMENTARY

Born in 1946, winners of multiple championships in every decade from the 1950s through the 1980s, the Boston Celtics and their extra large family gathered on Causeway Street to raise the franchise's 18th championship banner Tuesday night before opening their season on the parquet floor with a 132-109 massacre of the New York Knicks.

It was a night to honor Jayson Tatum, Jaylen Brown, and the other Celtic champs who shredded the NBA in a



"You're the best fans in the world and let's do it again," Jayson Tatum told the crowd.

16-3 playoff run that concluded just four months ago.

Tatum (37 points in 30 minutes, and he was 8 of 11 on 3-pointers) and Brown (23 points, 5 of 9 on threes) picked up where they left off as the Celtics hit a record-tying 29 from long range against the punch-drunk Knicks.

"I can honestly say, you're the best fans in the world and let's do it again," Tatum told the crowd before the 2024 NBA champs took turns pulling on ropes to raise the banner.

As is so often the case with this fabled franchise, it also was a night to honor the past. And the world champion Boston Celtics have more great

SHAUGHNESSY, Page C2

Hospitals at impasse, thousands to lose care

Children's and UMass unable to agree with insurer; Tenet dispute could affect many more

By Jonathan Saltzman and Dana Gerber
GLOBE STAFF

At least 22,000 Massachusetts residents will soon lose access to their primary care doctors and specialists at Boston Children's Hospital and UMass Memorial Health in Worcester because their insurer, Point32Health, was unable to negotiate a new contract with the health systems.

And the number of patients scrambling could grow soon to nearly 40,000 because Point32Health, the state's second-largest insurer, is also at an impasse with a third health system, Tenet Healthcare, the for-profit owner of three hospitals in the Worcester and Framingham areas.

The breakdown in negotiations leaves patients in the lurch at a perilous time for health care in Massachusetts: there is a shortage of primary care doctors, many hospitals are losing money, and the state is digging out of the mess caused by the bankruptcy of another for-profit hospital chain, Steward Health Care.

Point32Health, the owner of Tufts Health Plan and Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, on Tuesday said 9,400 patients at Children's and 17,000 patients at UMass will no longer be able to see their doctors there as of Jan. 1 with their current insurance. Children's Hospital gave a different number for the patients affected: about 5,000.

The loss of Children's and UMass Memorial will affect only a Tufts health plan available to customers who use the state's online health insurance marketplace. The plan, called Tufts Health Direct,

PATIENTS, Page A9

Wanting to make difference, outsiders flood battlegrounds

By Emma Platoff
GLOBE STAFF

NEW HOPE, Pa. — When Cherise Udell made the announcement on Facebook in August, she acknowledged, "This is a bit CRAZY!"

She and her daughter Ella were committed to electing Kamala Harris president this fall, but they knew their efforts could only go so far at home in reliably red Utah. So they packed into their green Kia and drove to Pennsylvania, the center of the political universe.

A month and more than 2,000 miles later, Cherise Udell, 58, and Ella Udell, 18, were driving alongside the Delaware River on a recent Monday afternoon, canvassing for the Democratic ticket in battleground Bucks County. Now, they spend their days loading up their car with yard signs and bumper stickers, then heading into the unfamiliar Pennsylvania terrain to deliver campaign merchandise and persuade undecided voters.

"I just signed up, and I showed up at their office on Saturday, and the poor office has not — we were supposed to turn there? So sorry," Cherise said to her daughter, as the car whizzed by their right turn. "The poor office," she resumed, referring to a local Democratic campaign outpost in this Philadelphia suburb, "has not been able to get

BATTLEGROUND, Page A6

Worst intersections are in underserved areas

Roxbury, Dorchester built for speed; Mass. and Cass is the least safe

Boston intersections with the most traffic incidents, 2015-2024		
Intersection	Crashes	Pedestrian involved
Massachusetts Avenue & Melnea Cass Boulevard	124	49
Albany Street & Massachusetts Avenue	96	37
Columbia Road & Washington Street	70	14
Blue Hill Avenue & Columbia Road	62	3

SOURCE: City of Boston — Data for 2024 through May 31

By Shannon Larson and Scooty Nickerson
GLOBE STAFF

Drivers traveling at breakneck speeds, some blowing through red lights. Sprawling multilane roadways, where traffic is constantly buzzing. Pedestrians occasionally darting across the road without looking. Cyclists swerving to avoid vehicles in a crossway.

In Boston, thousands of people pass through bustling intersections like these every day.

Many of the most dangerous intersections are in historically underserved communities, such as Roxbury and Dorchester, and were built not with pedestrian

safety in mind, but with fast-moving cars as the priority, urban planners and city officials said.

Hundreds of serious and fatal collisions have occurred at those junctions in the past decade, according to a Globe analysis of the city's "Vision Zero" database, which relies on data from Boston Emergency Medical Services.

Boston has averaged about 1,900 serious or fatal crashes every year since 2015, when the city committed to eliminating traffic deaths and injuries. There has been a general downward shift since then, but the city has

INTERSECTIONS, Page A9

Kennedy says he can clean up US — with Trump's help

Incredulity greets 'Make America Healthy Again'

By Tal Kopan
GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON — When Robert F. Kennedy Jr. dropped out of the presidential race and endorsed Donald Trump, he rebranded his campaign website.

Instead of Kennedy 2024, visitors are greeted with "MAHA," which stands for "Make America Healthy Again," a large banner proclaiming "a vote for Trump is a vote for Kennedy,"

and a new fund-raising appeal for Kennedy's campaign account. His ideas, the website says, need support as they are "entering the DNA of the MAGA movement and totally changing the conversation in America."

He's not entirely wrong.

Since Kennedy left the race in August, the "MAHA" concept has permeated Trumpism, upending conventional policy domains as Republicans who have long been champions of industry and deregulation are calling out the idea of corporations run amok. In Kennedy's telling, Americans are getting chronically

KENNEDY, Page A7

'We're going to let him go wild for a little while, then I'm going to have to maybe rein him back, because he's got some pretty wild ideas but most of them are really good I think.'

DONALD TRUMP, on Robert F. Kennedy Jr.



LANE TURNER/GLOBE STAFF

EVERYTHING BUT THE ALCOHOL — Zero-proof beverage pairings are starting to make inroads in the Boston area, particularly at Forage in Cambridge. Above, chili-rubbed strip steak was paired with Michelin Throwing Stars — a black pepper and peach puree with tarragon vinegar. **G1.**

The Legislature's top Democrats left open the possibility of changing two ballot proposals should voters OK them, including the MCAS requirement and one involving the state auditor. **B1.**

Single-family home sales in Greater Boston dropped last month to the lowest mark for September since 1995. **B5.**

Hamas is still a potent guerrilla force with fighters and munitions to enmesh the Israeli military in a continued grinding war. **A3.**

Nurse practitioners are reshaping health care, with numbers nearly quadrupling since 2010. **B5.**

Milds to go
Wednesday: Warm as usual. High 71-76. Low 56-61.
Thursday: Quite windy. High 63-68. Low 43-48.
High tide: 4:29 a.m., 4:40 p.m.
Sunrise: 7:07 Sunset: 5:49
Weather and Comics, G6-7. Obituaries, C11.

VOL. 306, NO. 115

Suggested retail price \$4.00

