

The Boston Globe

Serving our community since 1872

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2024

A year after Lewiston tragedy, gun reforms few and narrow

Maine lawmakers reject red flag law, ban on some weapons; victims' response mixed

By John Hilliard and Sean Cotter
GLOBE STAFF

LEWISTON, Maine — US Representative Jared Golden, his face drawn tight, took to the lectern at Lewiston City Hall and stunned the room. It was less than a day after Maine's deadliest mass shooting, and one of Congress's most ardent gun rights supporters said he'd now back a federal assault weapons ban.

"The time has now come for me to take responsibility for this failure," said Golden, speaking as authorities searched for the shooting suspect. "Which is why I now call on the United States Congress to ban assault rifles like the one used by the sick perpetrator of this mass killing in my hometown of Lewiston, Maine."

For advocates who had struggled for years to enact tighter gun laws, Golden's statement resonated both be-

cause of the public plea and its messenger. Golden, a conservative Democrat who represents a rural district that twice voted for former president Donald Trump, was suddenly taking their side on a key gun control issue.

But nearly a year after Robert R. Card II killed 18 and wounded 13 at a Lewiston bowling alley and then a bar, there is no ban on such weapons in Maine or the nation — nor much chance of one — and other steps toward toughened gun control rules have been halting and limited. Although state lawmakers enacted mea-

MAINE, Page A7



JOHN TLUMACKI/GLOBE STAFF

In Auburn, Maine, Arthur Barnard embraced Kristy Strout in her kitchen, where she has a memorial to her late husband, and Arthur's son, Artie Strout.



PHOTOS BY ERIN CLARK/GLOBE STAFF

Michele Ferrari tried on a lace dress during the American Repertory Theater's costume shop sale in Cambridge.

All the world's indeed a stage

Merely a player? Or a Halloween hunter? A.R.T. has a costume for you.

By Lindsay Crudele
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

CAMBRIDGE — What is the difference between clothing and costume?

In the wardrobe department of Cambridge's American Repertory Theater, it is a question Alycia Marucci navigates on a daily basis. Her work — running the department and outfitting the actors who take the theater's stage — is using dress to tell stories. After each production, the company often archives the capsule wardrobes that result, and the collection dates back decades. Some items, such as sport jackets, stick around to be used as staples, but when it comes to the strange, the spectacular, and the specific, some items may languish in obscurity for decades.

But last spring, as the department prepared to relocate its storage, the team decided to set some of these pieces free. So for four days this month, the theater has opened its closets to the public, which is invited to help prune the collection through a series of sales. Marucci estimates that more than

COSTUMES, Page A4



About 200,000 items are for sale, some from shows performed decades ago at the venerable theater.

Mayor, businesses closer on tax deal

After months of talks, proposals appear to come down to half-point on rates

By Catherine Carlock
GLOBE STAFF

With a deadline fast approaching to send out the city's next round of tax bills, Boston business leaders and the Wu administration remained at odds Monday over the mayor's contentious plan to hike commercial property tax rates and ease a sharp potential hike on homeowners and landlords.

Long-simmering tensions over the issue broke into the open over the weekend, with dueling "compromise" proposals that appear close but are just far enough apart on a key issue — what share of the city's tax burden should be born by commercial buildings instead of residential — that the impasse continued.

After seven months of talks among City Hall, the state Legislature, and the business community over how to properly balance property taxes amid slumping office building valuations, four key business groups on Friday proposed a compromise: They'd support a temporary increase in commercial tax rates of 6.5 percentage points above current levels, or 181.5 percent of residential rates, and back off their insistence on cuts to the city's \$4.6 billion budget — a move they considered a substantial concession, especially given the city budget's 8 percent increase from the previous year.

TAXES, Page A5

Mass. lags on requirements for graduation

Other states have several thresholds. Here, only one: passing the MCAS.

By Christopher Huffaker
GLOBE STAFF

Two states require that students take independently-administered civics tests to graduate high school. Eight have comprehensive exit exams. And a vast majority require students to earn credits in multiple math, science, and language classes. In all, 47 states, including Massachusetts, require an exit exam or specific course requirements to graduate.

That means Massachusetts could soon be in select company. It has essentially no course requirements to graduate. And next month, it could get rid of its exit exam.

Voters in November will weigh Question 2, a teachers union-backed measure that would repeal the state mandate that students pass 10th grade MCAS exams in math, English, and science. A recent Suffolk University/Boston Globe poll found about 58 percent of respondents supported the ballot measure.

Massachusetts is already something of an outlier, but if the measure passes, it will be even more of one. While almost every other state requires

QUESTION 2, Page A5

In N.C., Trump dismisses 'cognitive decline' speculation

By Sam Brodey
GLOBE STAFF

GREENVILLE, N.C. — Roughly 20 minutes into his speech at a Monday rally, former president Donald Trump couldn't help but bring up the topic increasingly shadowing his 2024 comeback bid.

"All those idiots back there will say, 'He's cognitively impaired,'" Trump said, nodding at the TV cameras before assuming a high, mocking voice. "He's cognitively impaired!"

The crowd of thousands of Trump supporters, who loudly packed an arena at East Carolina University, raised their voices to jeer at the suggestion.

Among many in the audience, the former president's recent performance on the campaign trail — from unusually rambling answers to a bizarre episode in which he stopped a town hall to play his favorite songs — was hardly something to worry about, even as Vice President Kamala Harris increasingly questions his

TRUMP RALLY, Page A6

Celtics' bridge . . .

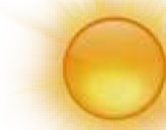
Star player Jaylen Brown (below) hugged Jeanine Russell, widow of Celtics' icon Bill Russell, at a ceremony renaming in Russell's honor the bridge from the North End to Charlestown. **B1.**

. . . and banner

Brown and his teammates tip off their season tonight with the raising of the title banner. **C1.**



PAT GREENHOUSE/GLOBE STAFF



Swing in 60s

Tuesday: Cooler, stellar.
High 67-72, low 52-57.

Wednesday: Warmer, stellar.
High 73-78, low 53-58.

Sunrise: 7:06. Sunset: 5:51.

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

Obituaries, **C10.**

VOL. 306, NO. 114

Suggested retail price
\$4.00



0 947725 4 43216