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Pastor, lawyer, and now, city councilor

Culpepper brings raft of experiences to diverse, marginalized community

By Niki Griswold
GLOBE STAFF

Rev. Miniard Culpepper's Dorchester home is a monument to history. Portraits of Black trailblazers such as Martin Luther King Jr. and Louis Armstrong hang on the living room walls. Framed photos of Culpepper with political figures includ-

ing Nelson Mandela and Bill Clinton adorn bookshelves and fill storage boxes — too many to display. Years' worth of signed holiday cards from the Obamas cover the surface of a side table. They're mementos he's collected over a long and multifaceted career working on presidential campaigns

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CRAIG F. WALKER/GLOBE STAFF

"The community wanted a voice that they have heard and they can support and . . . have confidence" in, said Rev. Miniard Culpepper.

Trump expresses hope on peace deal

Territory, EU troops still major sticking points between Russia, Ukraine

By Aishvarya Kavi and Katie Rogers
NEW YORK TIMES

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — President Trump said while hosting President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine on Sunday that he believed Russia and Ukraine were "maybe very close" to ending a nearly four-year war, even as Russia rejected some terms sought by Ukrainian negotiators. Trump met with Zelensky at his Mar-a-Lago residence in Florida to discuss a revised 20-point peace plan. Zelensky said the latest proposal developed by Ukraine and the United States was nearly complete, and both leaders stressed that the lengthy peace talks would continue. Significant obstacles remain, chief among them the willingness of President Vladimir Putin of Russia to sign on to the peace framework pushed by Kyiv and Trump's top negotiators. "He wants to see it happen, he wants to see it," Trump said Putin told him about his interest in reaching an agreement. The US president said that before greeting Zelensky he had spoken with the Russian leader for more than two hours. "He told me very strongly," Trump said. "I believe him." Still, Trump seemed intent Sunday to avoid raising expectations for an imminent deal too high

UKRAINE, Page A6



\$100,000 H-1B visa fee could gut special education at schools

Private institutions with imported workers may have to turn away students

By Mariana Simões
GLOBE STAFF

When President Trump announced this fall that employers would have to start paying \$100,000 to hire foreign-born workers on an H-1B visa, he focused on big companies like Amazon and Google being "very happy" to pay. At the Higashi School in Randolph, which serves children on the autism spectrum, there was nothing to be happy about. Almost one out of five staff members at the school were hired on an H-1B visa, amid a chronic shortage of qualified US workers willing to work in special education. "There is no way that we can afford the



PHOTOS BY CRAIG F. WALKER/GLOBE STAFF

Nimo (top) led students as Daniel worked with Wilson (above), at the Boston Higashi School in Randolph.

\$100,000 fee," said executive director Mike Kelly. Without the foreign staff, over the next two years, the school would have to drop about 30 percent of the 185 students it serves, kids who need more specialized care than they could get in public schools, he said. Boston Higashi is one of five special education private schools in Massachusetts relying the most on foreign-born staff because they lack qualified local candidates, according to a Globe review of the US Citizenship and Immigration Services database. None could afford the higher fee and all five said they would have to slash enrollment due to reduced staffing.

VISAS, Page A7

A Big Tobacco reckoning may lurk for foods

Activists adopt past tactics to target ultraprocessed items

By Tal Kopan
GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON — In filing a first-of-its-kind lawsuit against major food companies this month, San Francisco City Attorney David Chiu accused them of borrowing the tactics of another powerful industry: tobacco. So in turn, he took a page from the playbook used against those giants. Chiu is part of a growing group of advocates, academics, and policymakers who argue that the ultraprocessed foods that fill up Americans' shopping carts are addictive and bad for their health, and they are hoping the moment is ripe for a reckoning like the one that came for tobacco in the 1990s. They may have an ally in the Trump administration. The US health secretary, Robert F. Kennedy Jr., has called ultraprocessed food "poison" and, in at least one case, "genocide," an unprecedented level of criticism for the food industry from the

FOOD, Page A10



Temperate tantrum

Monday: Much warmer, rain. High 47-52, low 20-25.
Tuesday: Much colder, cloudy. High 23-28, low 19-24.
Sunrise: 7:13. Sunset: 4:20.
Weather and comics, **D4-5**.
Obituaries, **B6**.

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The company that bought Ben & Jerry's and the cofounders' foundation are battling over who gets to oversee the charity. **D1**.

US airstrikes on Islamic terrorists in Nigeria have rattled local Nigerians and are bringing out mixed reactions, they say. **B1**.

Brigitte Bardot died at 91. The touse-haired French sex symbol shook up the movie industry before walking away from the set to devote her life to saving animals. **B6**.

Zohran Mamdani is portrayed as a man of the people, but if his followers want to see his inauguration as New York City mayor, they'll need to open wide their wallets. **A2**.

The Celtics turned in a rare sloppy performance, falling to the Trail Blazers, 114-108, in Portland. **C1**.

For the Patriots, a roaring return to familiar turf

Maye leads team out of years of wilderness and to AFC East title

TARA SULLIVAN

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Week after week this NFL season, the Patriots have written their story of revival, a new coach and a young quarterback waking the echoes of past dominance. They added their latest chapter early Sunday afternoon in New Jersey, dismantling the Jets, 42-10, as five more touchdown passes from second-year quarterback Drake Maye helped push their record to 13-3, paving the road to a postseason that starts in two more weeks.

But their official return to the upper echelon of the football world was penned later in the day, when the Eagles put the finishing touches on a win over New England's AFC East rival Buffalo, thus clinching the division for the Pats.

And just like that, the Patriots are back, back atop a division they used to dominate with such regularity it felt like a birthright for a generation of area fans, back to asserting their authority like they did from 2009-2019, when they won the AFC East every year, or from 2003-2007, when they also never failed to finish first, a record run of winning that covered six Super Bowl vic-



DANIELLE PARHIZKARAN/GLOBE STAFF

tories. Of course it couldn't last forever, and as the franchise bid farewell to Tom Brady and then said goodbye to Bill Belichick, they ceded their perch to the Bills, who took the last five division titles. But like a heavyweight fighter back to reclaim their title, the Patriots, under first-year coach Mike Vrabel, came roaring into the ring.

SULLIVAN, Page C5

Tight end Hunter Henry scored a touchdown during the Patriots' 42-10 win over the Jets on Sunday.