

# The Boston Globe

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## Schools call cold turkey on screen time

### Cambridge considers ban for youngest students as studies show possible harms

By Spencer Buell  
GLOBE STAFF

Deciding where and how to set limits on screen time is one of the key parenting challenges of 2026. Left to their own, well, devices, many children would happily paw at an iPad all day. Now, with new guidance on the

potential harms, some Cambridge school officials say it's time to draw a big bright line for its youngest pupils, and take classrooms back to a time before YouTube dance videos, math games, and soothing cartoon compilations: no screen time through second grade. "We know it's in the best interest

of kids, especially early childhood learners, to not be in front of screens," said Caitlin Dube, a Cambridge School Committee member with a child in the public schools. "You only get to be 5 once."

The proposed rule, one of the most restrictive of its kind in Massachusetts, would "suspend all student-facing screen use for students" from pre-K to the second grade for the remainder of the school year, or until the district finishes a review of

screen time that is currently underway. It is set to come up for a vote at a committee meeting this month.

Several officials involved in statewide education said they hadn't heard of a policy like this one, focusing on the youngest learners, being enacted in another Massachusetts school district, although there has been plenty of dabbling with approaches like it in schools across the country, some-

SCREENS, Page A7

## US suffers losses in air war over Iran

### Search on for missing airman from first jet downed in combat

By Eric Schmitt, Helene Cooper, and Thomas Fuller

NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — American forces rescued an airman whose warplane was shot down over Iran on Friday, but the uncertain fate of a second crew

►The White House wants about \$1.5 trillion for defense in the 2027 fiscal year, roughly a 40 percent increase from this fiscal year. A2

member prompted a risky search operation on Iranian soil, US and Israeli officials said.

The loss of the warplane, an F-15E Strike Eagle, is the first known instance of a US combat aircraft going down over Iran since the war began more than a month ago.

Iran's ability to shoot down the fast and agile F-15E came three days after the leaders of the Pentagon claimed "an increase in air superiority" over the skies in Iran. The downing of the jet suggested that Iran, whose military and air defenses have been heavily bombed, still had some command of its airspace. An American helicopter was hit dur-

IRAN, Page A4

## AT HOME OPENER, A REGULAR FAMILY AFFAIR

Travis Gonick has made a father-son(s) outing for Fenway's first game a tradition since 2012, first with TJ, now 14, and then twins Taylor and Tyler, now 11. Photographed by the Globe over the years, clockwise from below, the family outside Fenway on Friday, then high-fiving inside. TJ in 2015 first through the turnstiles and as an infant in 2012. B1, C1.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: FINN GOMEZ FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE; ERIN CLARK/GLOBE STAFF; JESSICA RINALDI/GLOBE STAFF; BARRY CHIN/GLOBE STAFF

## Pigments tell the stories of our imagination

### Vials of color at a Harvard museum offer a fresh perspective

By Joshua Miller  
GLOBE STAFF

I was at the Harvard Art Museums and a hallway of color caught my eye: glass cabinets full of little vials and jars in a thousand varieties of red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple. What, I wondered, was going on up there?

Seeking more information, I met with Narayan Khandekar, the conservation scientist who oversees the Forbes Pigment Collection and holds the extraordinary stories behind the many hues housed at the museums. The pigments, it turns out, were collected over decades and centuries from all around the world, and in them lie answers to questions of chemistry, history, philosophy — oh, and maybe also an antidote to our poisonous national and international moment.

Dubious? Read on! Take ultramarine blue. Back in the day, they ground up lapis lazuli, mined in Af-

HARVARD, Page A7



PHOTOS BY JOHN TLUMACKI/GLOBE STAFF

From a rock mined in Afghanistan, the pigment ultramarine blue was created and used by Sandro Botticelli to color the cloak of the Virgin Mary.

TRUMP, Page A6

Russian strikes killed at least eight people across Ukraine, including in a "massive" attack near the capital, local authorities reported. A3.

The amount of money some of Boston's largest tax-exempt nonprofits paid the city last fiscal year fell far below what was requested, data show. B1.

Tensions over Boston University's signage policy have escalated over the past week. B1.

There is a glimmer of hope in the state's jobless numbers, writes Larry Edelman. D1.

### Against the grayin'

Saturday: Cloudy, cooler. High: 57-62. Low: 35-40.

Sunday: Breezy, rainy. High: 60-65. Low: 37-42.

Sunrise: 6:22 Sunset: 7:13 Comics and Weather, D4-5.

Obituaries, B6.

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## Vt. wants oil industry to cover repairs

### State prepares bills as its law faces court fight

By Paul Heintz  
GLOBE STAFF

When Tropical Storm Irene barreled into Vermont in 2011, Sue Minter learned a lesson that would stick with her to this day: "Nature always wins."

Nearly 11 inches of rain inundated parts of the state that August, turning typically placid rivers into raging torrents that tore up close to 600 miles of state roads, damaged 200 bridges, and stranded more than a dozen communities. Seven people lost their lives.

As a leader of the state's transportation agency and its recovery operations, Minter spent years not just rebuilding, but fortifying Vermont's infrastructure for floods yet to come — with wider culverts, tougher bridges, and more floodplains to absorb deluges, for an estimated \$850 million.

"We tried to build back stronger," she said. "And for us, that meant build for the future."

Those efforts have been vindicated as the new infrastructure has fared better in the face of catastrophic flooding that has swept Vermont since, devastating parts of the state for three straight years and causing more than \$1 billion in damage.

"There weren't 600 miles of road lost in 2023 or 2024 or 2025," Minter said.

Now, Vermont is embarking on a far more ambitious campaign to harden infra-

VERMONT, Page A7

'He's a big sports fan. He is a big musical fan as well.'

SEAN SPICER, former press secretary to President Trump

## Where in the world is President Trump? Everywhere it seems.

### But some see risk in being omnipresent

By Jim Puzanghera  
GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON — Call Donald Trump the omnipresent president.

When the Supreme Court heard its biggest case of the year on Wednesday, he was in the audience, a first for a sitting president. That night, there he was again, delivering a prime-time address on the major broadcast and cable news networks about the war he launched in Iran.

Holding court with reporters, jetting off on foreign trips, attending sporting events, his face draped on federal buildings in Washington, Trump seems to be everywhere, all at once. And that's only going to continue.

He'll be front and center as the nation celebrates its 250th birthday and co-hosts the men's World Cup soccer tour-

nament this summer, not to mention the 2028 summer Olympics in Los Angeles.

But there's a political risk of overexposure in a nation that demonstrated in 2020 it could tire of Trump's pervasiveness and crave a less flamboyant president.

Already a constant on cable news answering questions in the Oval Office, presiding over hours-long Cabinet meetings or press conferences with world leaders, Trump also tries to stay in the spotlight by showing up at events presidents have rarely, if ever, attended.

In addition to the Supreme Court oral arguments on birthright citizenship, Trump was the first sitting president to attend a mixed martial arts UFC fight in 2019, the antiabortion rights March for Life in 2020, and the Super Bowl in 2025.

In December, he notched another first when he donned a tuxedo to serve as master of ceremonies at the Kennedy Center Honors gala after his allies took over the institution