

# The Boston Globe

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MONDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2024

## Fewer students to bus, but rising costs

Some cite stalled consolidation plans for Boston schools; service delays continue

By James Vaznis  
GLOBE STAFF

Daily ridership on Boston school buses has fallen by nearly 10,000 students over the past decade, while transportation spending has increased by tens of millions of dollars, according to a Globe review.

A little more than 22,000 stu-

dents are now boarding the buses each day, about a 30 percent decrease from a decade ago.

Yet the number of buses on the road has remained about the same, approximately 640, which are dispatched daily to more than 200 public, private, and charter schools across the city. That, in turn, is challenging a transportation sys-

tem plagued with service delays and driving up annual spending, which is expected to exceed \$171 million this school year.

The ridership drop largely reflects a more than decade-long decline in student enrollment in Boston Public Schools and offers another window into the financial strain it is causing. With fewer students attending the district's 119 schools, more bus seats are being left empty, as BPS must maintain routes to get students to under-

rolled schools.

Superintendent Mary Skipper was supposed to announce a sweeping plan in the spring to consolidate schools, which could have reduced bus routes, but scaled it back significantly.

The Globe findings make clear BPS cannot keep delaying decisions on school closures, said Marty Walz, interim president of the Boston Municipal Research Bureau.

"The growing cost of transporta-

BPS, Page A12

## For Trump, a symbolic detour to his old base

N.Y. rally part of effort by both candidates to widen audience, push themes

By Sam Brodey  
GLOBE STAFF

NEW YORK CITY — For former president Donald Trump, it was a commanding visual: thousands of supporters packing an iconic arena just days before the presidential election.

The fact that perhaps only a few of those die-hard supporters inside Madison Square Garden could actually cast a meaningful vote for Trump wasn't just beside the point. It was the point.

"This is where Republicans are not supposed to come," bellowed former New York mayor Rudy Giuliani, who was ordered by a judge on Tuesday to turn over his Manhattan penthouse and other possessions to two Georgia election workers he defamed in 2020. "Which is why Donald Trump came here!"

It wasn't the first time in this campaign that such a swaggering declaration could have been made. In a race defined by fierce competition for a handful of battleground states, Trump has routinely ignored political logic by campaigning in such states as New York, California, and Colorado, all of which Vice President Kamala Harris is expected to win handily.

Harris, too, has quietly made her own trips out-

TRUMP, Page A9

### North toward hope

## Migrants are moving into a Western Mass. town, and straining its schools. Now the welcome mat is fraying.

BY BETH TEITELL AND JOHN HILLIARD | GLOBE STAFF  
DATA REPORTING BY CHRISTOPHER HUFFAKER



KAYLA BARTKOWSKI FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

Luissiana Colmenarez Sabedra kissed her dad, José Luis Colmenarez Apostol, after school in West Springfield. The town is trying to accommodate one of the largest temporary resettlements of migrants and refugees per capita in Massachusetts.

A series exploring how new migrants are reshaping Massachusetts' political, social, and economic landscape.

**W**EST SPRINGFIELD — The school day was not yet 30 minutes old, but on the first floor of the district's central office, in the small, overstuffed cubicle of social worker Jackie Willemain, the problems were already piling up.

A first-grader from Haiti hadn't shown up at school, again. Memorial, one of the el-

ementaries, needed supplies — wipes, underwear, pants — for students who were homeless. Abigail, a 13-year-old from Haiti, was suffering headaches from squinting to see the board, but was afraid to tell her mom because she feared glasses would be too expensive.

Willemain's eyes flashed frustration; of course, the child was eligible for free glasses. She turned to the young man standing by her desk, Morad Majjad, the district's multilingual family liaison. "The case worker should have taken care of this," she said, as much to him as to the universe.

Willemain, 44, has spent her entire career helping people, or trying to. Sometimes, after school, or on weekends, she drives around town, collecting clothes and shoes for her students; she's given a church a "wish" list and regularly posts on Facebook for specific needs. But over the last two years, her caseload has grown fivefold, she said, with more than half of the students from migrant families. School resources have grown but not kept pace.

She wants to live out the affirmations printed on her pink mouse pad — "Stay Posi-

MIGRANT EDUCATION, Page A6

## Pa. race key to Democrats' Senate hopes

With majority in danger, incumbent Casey faces tough GOP challenge

By Jim Puzzanghera  
GLOBE STAFF

PHILADELPHIA — In a nondescript storefront near Temple University, Pennsylvania Senator Bob Casey was looking for some divine intervention.

The right person was there to assist: Georgia Senator Raphael Warnock, a Baptist minister and the latest in a parade of Democratic colleagues to campaign with Casey in the toughest race of his 18-year Senate career. His reelection is crucial to preserving the Democrats' slim hopes of holding their Senate majority.

"If there was ever a time, Reverend Warnock, when I needed prayers, it'd be now," Casey told him on Wednesday as they tried to fire up a crowd of about 50 college students and other supporters before the Nov. 5 election. "So if you can just keep praying, I could use them."

Casey, 64, is locked in a race that polls show is neck-and-neck against Republican Dave McCormick, 59, a wealthy former hedge fund chief executive. It's the undercard to the equally tight presidential battle here between Vice President Kamala Harris and former president Donald Trump.

PENNSYLVANIA, Page A9

## In battle over logging in N.H. national forest, climate change at center

By Erin Douglas  
GLOBE STAFF

GORHAM, N.H. — In a lively stand of birch, beech, and maple trees with fluttering bits of fall color, an old battle between familiar foes in the White Mountains rages again: To chop or not to chop?

Forest managers say yes. Environmental activists say no. This decades-old dispute has taken on new urgency as the planet races to cut planet-warming emissions and the impacts of climate change become more pronounced.

In New Hampshire, environmental activists are now suing over a project to log within 3,000 acres of the White Mountain National Forest just northeast of Mt. Washington and south of Gorham. They argue that logging there would release too much carbon dioxide at a time when humanity ought to be doing the exact opposite.

The Forest Service argues that logging and letting the forest regrow in these areas will eventually absorb as much carbon

LOGGING, Page A12

## JETTISONING THE JETS



MATTHEW J. LEE/GLOBE STAFF

Patriots center Ben Brown (left) celebrated with Rhamondre Stevenson after his game-winning touchdown against the Jets on Sunday to beat New York, 25-22. Quarterback Drake Maye, however, left the game with a head injury. C1.

Nearly half of all voters are skeptical that the American experiment in self-governance is working, a poll has found. A2.

Boston city officials are responding to calls to address safety concerns at Forest Hills Station in Jamaica Plain after a man was struck by an MBTA bus there earlier this month. B1.

Both Israeli and Iranian leaders are taking measured tones after the two countries exchanged attacks earlier this month. A4.

Profiles of the country's most impressive doctors, scientists, and researchers on the cusp of their careers, as selected by the Globe's sister publication STAT. D1.

### On the bright side

**Monday:** Sunny and dry. High 50-55, low 39-44.

**Tuesday:** Partly sunny. High 54-59, low 48-53.

Sunrise: 7:13. Sunset: 5:42.

Obituaries, B6.  
Comics and Weather, D4-5.

VOL. 306, NO. 120

Suggested retail price  
\$4.00

