

In study, ‘problem’ gamblers on rise in Mass.

Many now say betting is too widely available

By Joey Flechas
GLOBE STAFF

Two years after sports betting was legalized in Massachusetts, a rapidly growing share of bettors in the state describe themselves as “problem” or “pathological” gamblers and say gambling has damaged a key relationship in their lives, according to a troubling new survey.

The regular bettors disclosed they have more than doubled what they spend on gambling in a typical month — to \$2,280. And now, a clear majority of them believe the harms of gambling outweigh the benefits, according to the study, funded by the Massachusetts Gaming Commission and conducted by researchers at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

The Legislature in 2022 voted to legalize sports betting on phone apps and in casinos, with the law taking effect early the next year. Massachusetts was the 36th state to allow it. Surveys have shown that about 60 percent of Massachusetts adults participate in some form of gambling.

The new UMass survey found a significant increase in the share of regular gamblers who think legal betting is now too widely available in the state, and a corresponding drop in the share who think all gambling should be legal.

The report does not explicitly link shifting attitudes solely to the rise in sports betting, but researchers note that “in the wake of sports betting legalization, monthly gamblers in the 2023 and

GAMBLING, Page A10

Epstein files keeping Trump on defensive

By Luke Broadwater
NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — Throughout his presidency, Donald Trump has proved himself adept at evading the controversies that have dogged him on an almost daily basis. With the vast powers of the presidency at his disposal, he often succeeds in pivoting the national conversation to focus on political terrain he finds more favorable, like immigration or crime.

But for weeks now, there has been one controversy the president has been unable to evade: the public clamor over his ties to Jeffrey Epstein, the deceased sex offender.

Now, with the release this week of new information from Epstein’s estate, including a suggestive note apparently signed by Trump, the drip-drip-drip of revelations is complicating the White House strategy of brushing off the entire controversy.

The president’s press secretary, Karoline Leavitt, on Tuesday was once again confronted with questions about the so-called Epstein files, a collection of documents from the law enforcement investigation into Epstein’s abuse of girls and women.

The White House has denied for weeks that Trump sent a bawdy birthday note to Epstein in 2003, the subject of an earlier Wall Street Jour-

EPSTEIN, Page A6



DANIELLE PARHIZKARAN/GLOBE STAFF



BEN PENNINGTON FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

Mayor Michelle Wu and challenger Josh Kraft spoke to their supporters Tuesday night at their respective election parties.

Wu crushes Kraft in test of strength

With preliminary over, both will get down to business of November

By Emma Platoff
GLOBE STAFF

The expected one-on-one showdown for Boston mayor between Michelle Wu and challenger Josh Kraft is now officially underway, with Wu on track for a sweeping win in the city’s preliminary election on Tuesday.

While city election returns were still trickling in slowly, Wu led Kraft by a decisive, double-digit margin that leaves him on the back foot for the final two months of the campaign. With 57 percent of precincts reporting, Wu had drawn 70 percent support to Kraft’s 25 percent — a staggering 45 percentage point advantage.

There had been relatively little mystery

WU

70%

57% precincts reporting

KRAFT

25%

SOURCE: Associated Press

about the outcome for the two spots in the final election. Two other candidates, activist Domingos DaRosa and perennial candidate Robert Cappucci, had drawn minimal support in public surveys of the race.

Yet even after the candidates spoke, and as results continued to trickle in slowly, the biggest question in the mayor’s race remained unanswered Tuesday night: What would Wu’s margin of victory be?

Early, unofficial returns showed the incumbent with a large advantage, which, should it hold, would set a challenging course for Kraft, who always faced an uphill

battle against the popular Democrat.

Wu celebrated in a spirited address to supporters at Adams Park in Roslindale, where purple lights illuminated the trees and upbeat music from a live band filled the air.

“Voters across our city left no doubt: In Boston, wins can’t be bought,” Wu said in a reference to the millions of dollars Kraft and a political action committee have spent against her so far.

“The next eight weeks are about more than the remaining two names on the ballot,” Wu said. “It’s a test of who we are. It’s a test of whether we believe in our city as a place of possibility and promise, whether Boston will keep going as a home for everyone.”

“Today,” she continued, “you answered those questions loud and clear. You sent a message to Josh Kraft, to Donald Trump, and

PRELIMINARY, Page A10

►Council races narrow field. B1.

In Boston, a higher risk on foot for some

‘Nationwide, cities don’t really deal with who is getting hit by cars — they deal with where. We were the first people, to my knowledge, to get at this.’

MARK BRENNAN, *study author and professor at Rutgers University*

Pedestrians from neighborhoods of color more likely to be hit

By Claire Thornton
and Scooty Nickerson
GLOBE STAFF

Karen Esther de la Cruz waits for buses and trains in Boston most days, making her way to a job cleaning houses in neighborhoods far from her own. Sitting at Roxbury’s Nubian Station one recent afternoon, she described traveling to Quincy, Beverly, even Providence for work.

Having to rely on public transportation can be a challenge, but so is navigating the streets of Boston on foot, she said. The 32-year-old worries about get-

ting struck by cars as she walks down busy streets during morning rush hour, when traffic feels “muy peligroso” — very dangerous, she said.

For de la Cruz and many other workers of color, navigating streets on foot is especially dangerous in Boston, one of the most collision-prone cities in the country. Data from Boston’s Emergency Medical Services department shows residents of neighborhoods of color are nearly four times as likely to be hit by cars compared with Bostonians from predominantly white communities. For low-income households, injuries and medical costs resulting from car accidents have a more drastic economic effect, researchers said.

The study from Boston’s EMS de-

PEDESTRIANS, Page A7

Hasbro move just latest hit for struggling R.I. city

By Alexa Gagosz
GLOBE STAFF

PAWTUCKET, R.I. — Hasbro’s relocation from Pawtucket to Boston is a symbolic and economic blow to Rhode Island, stripping the state of one of its few corporate headquarters and raising questions about its ability to retain legacy employers.

Local business and political leaders say the move underscores the powerful allure of Boston’s vast talent pool and healthy corporate ecosystem. And they are bracing themselves for the impact Hasbro’s decision will have on jobs, tax revenue, and on Pawtucket’s efforts to reinvent its downtown.

The city had long been known as

home to the Pawtucket Red Sox, a minor league farm team for the Boston Red Sox, and to Hasbro, whose iconic Mr. Potato Head and Mrs. Potato Head statues are landmarks in the state’s fourth-largest city. But the Paw-Sox moved to Worcester after their 2020 season, tearing a hole in the community that’s only been partially filled by a shiny new soccer stadium.

“This is a painful reality for the people of Pawtucket, who stood by Hasbro for over a century,” said Mayor Donald Grebien.

Textile mills and other factories once lined the banks of the Blackstone River in Pawtucket and played a major role in the country’s Industrial Revolution, bringing reliable blue-collar jobs and industry to Rhode Island.

Its evolution in the 21st century

HASBRO, Page A7

ESCALATION IN THE MIDEAST



JEHAD ALSHRAFI/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Displaced Palestinians fled northern Gaza on Tuesday and headed south after Israel ordered the evacuation of Gaza City. Meanwhile, an Israeli airstrike targeted senior members of Hamas’s leadership in Qatar, bringing the Mideast war to a close US ally. **A3.**

The Supreme Court said it will quickly weigh the legality of most of President Trump’s sweeping tariffs. A6.

A new report from the “Make America Healthy Again” commission led by Robert F. Kennedy Jr. arrived with little fanfare — or teeth. A2.

Tufts University is waiving tuition for middle-income families, part of a wider movement to make college affordable for more students. B5.

The reading skills of US high school seniors are the worst they’ve been in three decades, according to new data. A2.

It’s always a good time to eat tacos, so check out Devra First’s list of 10 of the best spots for them. G1.



You’re in the unclear

Wednesday: Maybe a shower. High 65-70. Low 54-59.

Thursday: Warming up. High 74-79. Low 57-62.

High tide: 1:22 a.m., 1:43 p.m.

Sunrise: 6:19 Sunset: 7:02

Weather and Comics, G6-7.

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\$4.00

