

Arthur T. Demoulas gets ax in family feud

Board controlled by sisters ousts Market Basket CEO

By Jon Chesto
GLOBE STAFF

After helping build his family’s grocery business into a powerhouse supermarket chain, Arthur T. Demoulas was fired as chief executive of Market Basket in a power struggle with his sisters that raises questions about the company’s future leadership, culture, and prices.

This was the second time in a dozen years Demoulas was involved in a bitter family feud for control of the Tewksbury-based chain. This time, though, the ending could be quite different from what happened in 2014 when he prevailed over his cousin’s side of the family after a

►Customers wonder what’s next. D1.

protracted showdown that elevated him and the supermarket chain to pop culture status, at least around New England.

The Market Basket board of directors, who were appointed by the three Demoulas sisters who own a controlling interest in the company, said it fired him after being unable to resolve longstanding issues of control and succession through a mediation process. In a lawsuit filed in Delaware business court Wednesday, the board members claimed they were forced to choose between accepting Demoulas’s autocratic control or protecting a vibrant and growing business for the long term.

Beloved by many of the Tewksbury-based company’s 30,000-plus employees, Demoulas is considered one of the shrewdest and most successful grocers in the country. But he had a

MARKET BASKET, Page A10

Lacking options after drubbing, Kraft is quiet

By Emma Platoff and Niki Griswold
GLOBE STAFF

He said on Tuesday that he would fight on. But on Wednesday, Josh Kraft did not let out so much as a battle cry: On the first day of the general election contest for mayor of Boston, Kraft did not hold a campaign event or address the media, a highly unusual move.

Where does the struggling mayoral candidate go from here? That’s the biggest question in Boston politics after incumbent Michelle Wu trounced him in Tuesday’s preliminary

►Crowded field to succeed Fernandes Anderson on City Council narrowed to two. B1.

election for mayor, securing 72 percent of the vote to his 23 percent — a stunning 49-point margin that stands out in Boston political history.

The lopsided victory leaves Kraft with few options, none particularly appealing. Might he drop out, as some strategists suggest he should? Could he remain in the race, not expecting to surpass Wu but drawing attention to the issues most important to him? Or will he continue to pour money into his candidacy, battering the mayor as hard as he can, in an attempt to reverse his fortunes in November?

When he spoke to supporters and media Tuesday night, the nonprofit leader and son of the New England Patriots owner pledged to keep campaigning.

“I believe in life, there’s always a path. It’s just hard work and sweat equity,” Kraft said.

MAYOR, Page A10



PAT GREENHOUSE/GLOBE STAFF

Mayor Michelle Wu held a press conference the day after finishing first in the preliminary with a 49-point margin.

GOP influencer shot dead



PHOTOS BY TESS CROWLEY/THE DESERET NEWS VIA ASSOCIATED PRESS

People who attended the campus event at Utah Valley University reacted as Charlie Kirk was fatally shot on Wednesday.

Kirk, a youth activist and CEO of Turning Point USA, was speaking at college

By Michael Levenson, Robert Draper, and Thomas Fuller
NEW YORK TIMES

Charlie Kirk, a close ally of President Trump’s and the founder of the nation’s preeminent right-wing youth activist organization, was fatally shot Wednesday, a slaying that spread shock and fear across the country at a time of deep and menacing divisions.

Kirk, 31, was struck about 20 minutes after he began speaking on the campus of Utah Valley University in Orem. The shot was fired from more than 100 yards away, possibly from a rooftop, officials said.

Officials had taken two people



Kirk, 31, gave out MAGA hats before speaking. The shooting was the latest in a spate of recent politically connected violent incidents.

into custody by late Wednesday as part of their investigation, but both were released without being charged in relation to the shooting. It was unclear if anyone else was in law enforcement custody.

Not long after saying that a subject had been apprehended in Kirk’s killing, FBI Director Kash Patel posted on social media late Wednesday that the person had been “released after an interrogation,” adding, “Our investigation continues.”

Immediately after the shooting, leaders from across the political spectrum flooded social media with messages expressing horror and anger. But in a sign of the

KIRK, Page A6

‘If someone is retreating, where’s the “imminent threat” then?’

REAR ADMIRAL DONALD J. GUTER

Boat US attacked appeared to have turned back, undercutting Trump self-defense claim

By Charlie Savage and Helene Cooper
NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — A Venezuelan boat that the US military destroyed in the Caribbean last week had altered its course and appeared to have turned around before the attack started because the people onboard had apparently spotted a military aircraft stalking it, according to US officials familiar with the matter.

The military repeatedly hit the vessel before it sank, the officials added, speaking on the condition of anonymity to discuss a sensitive matter. President Trump has said he authorized the strike and claimed the boat was carrying drugs.

The disclosures provide new details about a military operation that was a startling departure from using law enforcement means to interdict suspected drug boats. Legal specialists who have called it a crime to summarily kill suspected low-level smugglers as if they were wartime combatants said the revelations further undercut

the administration’s claim that the strike was legally justified as self-defense.

Trump announced the strike last week, saying it took place in international waters and had killed 11 people who he said were transporting drugs “heading to the United States” and were part of a Venezuelan gang, Tren de Aragua. He has not put forward evidence to support those assertions but has said “we have tapes of them speaking.”

While the White House has not provided a detailed legal rationale, it has put forward the outlines of a novel argument that using lethal military force is permissible under the laws of armed conflict to defend the country from drugs because 100,000 Americans die annually from overdoses. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said people suspected of smuggling drugs toward the United States pose “an immediate threat.” Trump, in a letter to Congress, justified the attack as a matter of self-defense.

DRUGS, Page A7

Frozen funding may flow soon at Harvard

Trump administration indicates it’ll restore grants as it appeals ruling

By Aidan Ryan, Anjali Huynh, and Sarah Rahal
GLOBE STAFF

Harvard University is one step closer to getting its money back.

The university said Wednesday that it received multiple notices the federal government will begin restoring research grants that were revoked as part of President Trump’s campaign to curb liberal bias at the Cambridge school, which the administration also accused of tolerating antisemitism on campus.

“Harvard has begun to receive notices of reinstatements on many

of the previously terminated federal awards from a range of federal agencies,” a Harvard spokesperson said. “So far, payments have not been restored on these awards.”

The moves come one week after a federal judge in Boston ruled the Trump administration’s cancellation of nearly \$3 billion in research funding was illegal and called the government’s efforts to curb antisemitism on college campuses a “smoke-screen.”

The Trump administration has said it will appeal, but the notifications indicate the White House is preparing to comply with the ruling in the meantime.

A Health and Human Services of-

ficial who was not authorized to speak publicly told the Globe the department is “complying with the court’s decision.”

The agency oversees both the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health and canceled nearly \$2.2 billion in funding, according to The New York Times. The National Science Foundation also said it will reinstate awards it had made to Harvard.

A White House spokesperson did not immediately respond to a request for comment, and several other federal agencies that oversee grants to Harvard could not immedi-

HARVARD, Page A7

More than a dozen Russian drones entered Poland overnight, prompting NATO to scramble fighter jets to shoot them down in an escalation of the war in Ukraine. **A3.**

The Perseverance rover has come across speckled rocks that could possibly be evidence of past life on Mars. **A2.**

Soldiers in Nepal’s capital ordered people to stay home after the military came out in force overnight to halt two days of deadly unrest. **A3.**

Kamala Harris says it was “recklessness” for Democrats to leave it to Joe Biden to decide whether to continue seeking another term last year. **A5.**

Aroldis Chapman gave up his first run since July as the Red Sox lost to the A’s, 5-4. **C1.**



Simply the best

Thursday: Very nice. High 74-79. Low 58-63.

Friday: Partly cloudy, cooler. High 65-70. Low 53-58.

High tide: 2:11 a.m., 2:30 p.m. Sunrise: 6:20 Sunset: 7:01

Weather and Comics, D5-6. Obituaries, C9.

VOL. 308, NO. 73

*
Suggested retail price
\$4.00

