

Boston Sunday Globe

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JANUARY 4, 2026

US seizes Maduro, flies him to N.Y.

Pushing the boundaries of 'America First' again

By Natalie Allison, Cat Zakrzewski, and Michael Birnbaum
WASHINGTON POST

President Trump on Saturday demonstrated how expansively he is willing to exert US power abroad, removing a foreign leader who had not threatened military force against the United States

and declaring that Washington could assume long-term control in Venezuela.

The operation echoed those by past hawkish US presidents to overthrow leaders in Iraq and Panama, raising questions about whether Trump's "America First" doctrine is being redefined as he authorizes successive foreign attacks and pursues regime change in the South American

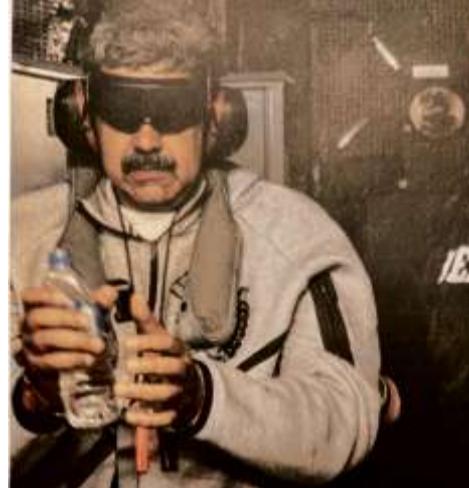
ANALYSIS, Page A7

A long time coming

The raid capped off months of accusations, threats. A6.

Mixed feelings

In Boston, some Venezuelans celebrated but others are wary about what is to come. B1.



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President Trump posted a picture that he described as the captured President Nicolás Maduro. A6.

Trump says US will 'run' Venezuela for now but offers no details

By Eric Schmitt,
Tyler Pager,
Anatoly Kurmanov,
and Carol Rosenberg
NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — President Trump said Saturday that the United States had captured Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and flown him out of Venezuela to New York to face drug charges, the stunning culmination of a months-long campaign by the Trump administration to oust the authoritarian leader.

The United States would

"run" the country until a proper transition of power could be arranged, the president said hours later, raising the prospect of an open-ended commitment.

US forces seized Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores. Trump said in a social media post at 4:21 a.m. Officials said the raid was led by helicopter-borne Special Operations forces. In an interview Saturday morning on Fox News, Trump said that the soldiers had captured the couple in their fortified residence and that he had

VENEZUELA, Page A7

Starting to wobble at the top of the class

Mass. may lose long-held edge on national tests

By Christopher Huffaker
GLOBE STAFF

If you're governor of the state that effectively introduced universal public school education in the United States, the one thing you want to avoid is losing the state's ranking as having the smartest kids in the country.

Massachusetts is the richest, most highly educated state, where the nation's first public school was founded and home to

Horace Mann, the 19th-century reformer known as the Father of American Education. And for the past two decades, governors could brag how students from Massachusetts have consistently beaten every other state on all four main tests on the Nation's Report Card.

But now that perch atop the education hierarchy is in jeopardy, as the edge Massachusetts has long held over the nation is shrinking dramatically: Test scores have been sliding for nearly a decade and many students here have not recovered from the pandemic as much as

EDUCATION, Page A11

Mass. lead on most Nation's Report Card tests has shrunk

This chart shows the difference in the percentage of students scoring at NAEP Basic level or above. For example, in 2024, 82 percent of Massachusetts students scored Basic or above on Grade 4 math, compared to 76 percent nationwide, so Massachusetts led by 6.



SOURCE: Nation's Report Card

CHRISTOPHER HUFFAKER/GLOBE STAFF

Scientists say these bone-chilling days do not mean climate change is taking a vacation — they may be another sign of it. Metro, B1.

With space tourism around the corner, space medicine is about to become a specialty, and Boston is becoming a hub for it. Ideas, K1.

Hollywood could use some resolutions for the new year, says movie critic Odie Henderson, and he's got them. Sunday Arts, N1.

Check out Christopher Muther's top travel choices for the coming year. Sunday Arts, N11.

The Patriots look ahead as they cap the regular season. Sports, C1.

The Globe Magazine isn't publishing today. Puzzles are on B5.

Jan. Jan. Jan.

Sunday: Flurries early.

High 31-36. Low 13-18.

Monday: Sunny but cold.

High 22-27. Low 21-26.

Complete report, A24.

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'Cut out all the money'

Inside the Trump and MAGA campaign against Harvard

Second in a three-part series reported by Hilary Burns, Mike Damiano, and Patricia Wen. Today's story is by Damiano and Burns.

"We're at Harvard in Harvard Square," Steve Bannon said, leaning into a microphone, and "every morning feels like Christmas morning."

It was Feb. 8, just three weeks into Donald Trump's second term, and every day brought a new delight for Bannon: executive orders attacking DEI, mass firings of government workers, and a steady stream of liberals freaking out on MSNBC.

Now, Bannon — former senior adviser to the president, spiritual leader of the MAGA movement, and ex-convict released last year from prison — was recording his podcast, War Room, in a small office above a falafel shop just a few hundred yards from Harvard's front gates.

"Congratulations on returning to your alma mater,"

said Jack Posobiec, a far-right influencer who'd called in to the show. "They don't realize that Steve's up there in Beantown, because if they did, they'd be out with the pitchforks."

For Bannon, there was no place more "inside the wire of the enemy camp" than Harvard, he said in an interview with the Globe. So there was something surreal, even for him, about coming to Cambridge as an honored guest — invited by conservative student groups to deliver a keynote address at their annual conference.

The visit to Cambridge was something of a homecoming. He had loved his years at Harvard Business School in the 1980s. "It was fabulous," he said. But he had felt increasingly alienated from the university as, in his view, it slid further and further toward the radical left. Now for the first time in a long time he felt optimistic about the future of the university, and the country.

HARVARD, Page A12

Steve Bannon, a Harvard Business School alum, believes strong action against his alma mater is vital.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY RYAN HUDDLE, PHOTO BY JOEL SAGET

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