

‘They feel that they can be helpful in avoiding a catastrophe for our country.’

PHIL JOHNSTON, *a former chair of the Massachusetts Democratic Party*

## Kennedys make sure there’s no doubt — they’re for Biden

Say they fear RFK Jr. could funnel away votes in close race

By Emma Platoff  
GLOBE STAFF

When President Biden appeared in Philadelphia for a campaign stop on Thursday afternoon, he was surrounded by generations of Kennedys who all made it clear Biden is the only presidential candidate poised to carry on the legacy of their dynasty.

It was their sharpest public rebuke yet of Robert F. Kennedy Jr., their relative and the political

independent who has traded on the family name in his long-shot bid for the presidency. More than a dozen members of the Kennedy family endorsed Biden for reelection, making clear that while they share a last name with RFK Jr., the family is in lockstep behind the Democratic incumbent.

As she introduced the president, Kerry Kennedy — the sister of RFK Jr. and daughter of former US attorney general Rob-

ert Kennedy — lauded Biden as “my hero.”

“President Biden has been a champion for all the rights and freedoms that my father and uncle stood for. That’s why nearly every single grandchild of Joe and Rose Kennedy supports Joe Biden,” Kennedy said, referring to her first cousins.

Then, as if to remove all doubt, she added: “That’s right: The Kennedy family endorses

**KENNEDYS, Page A7**

## Israeli airstrikes target Iran base, officials say

Apparent assault follows sanctions from US, allies

By Farnaz Fassihi, Roman Bergman, and Patrick Kingsley

NEW YORK TIMES

The Israeli military struck Iran early Friday, according to two Israeli defense officials, in what appeared to be Israel’s first military response to Iran’s attack on Israel five days earlier.

Three Iranian officials confirmed that a strike had hit a military air base near the city of Isfahan, in central Iran, early Friday, but did not say which country had mounted the attack. Fars News, an Iranian news agency affiliated with the Revolutionary Guard, said that explosions were heard near Isfahan’s civilian airport, adding that the cause of the blasts was not immediately clear.

Flight tracking websites showed that civilian planes had diverted their routes away from the area.

The Israeli military declined to comment. All the officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss it publicly.

The explosions came less than a week after Iran fired more than 300 missiles and drones at Israel, its first direct attack on the country, in response to an Israeli strike on an Iranian diplomatic compound in Syria that killed seven Iranian officials on April 1.

For days, Israeli leaders have threatened to respond to Iran’s strikes, which turned the two countries’ yearslong shadow war into a direct confrontation.

The Israeli military declined to comment about the explosions Friday in Iran.

On Thursday, the United States and Europe-

**IRAN, Page A5**

## TOMORROW’S WORKFORCE KISSING MASS. GOODBYE

Spiraling housing costs are fueling an exodus as the population grays

By Dana Gerber and Kirkland An

GLOBE STAFF

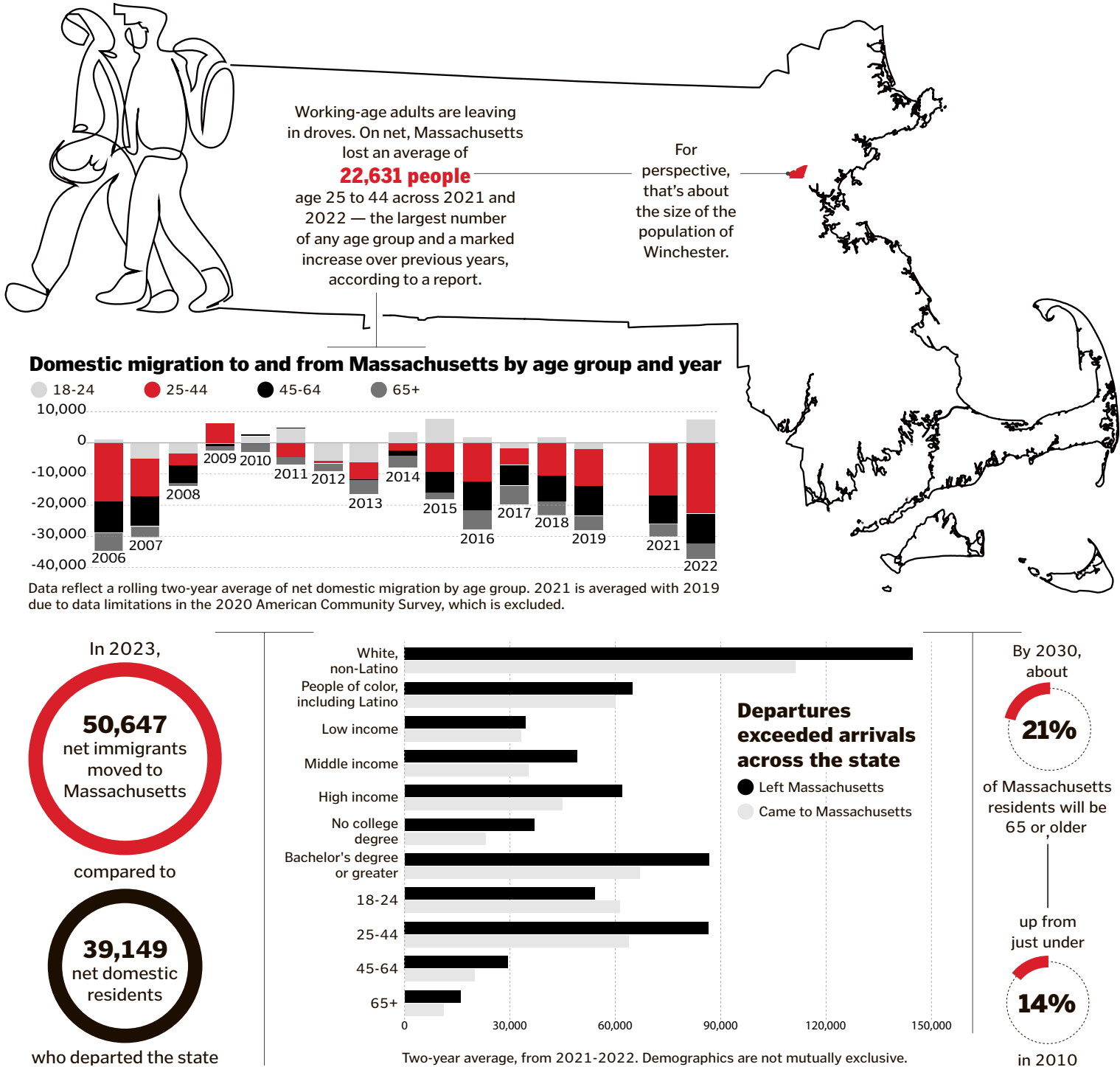
Throughout the pandemic, policy makers and labor economists sounded the alarm over the increasing number of people fleeing Massachusetts for other states — and what their exodus could mean for the future.

Now, a new report has shed some light on who, exactly, these runaways are. And it probably does not bode well for the state’s long-term economic competitiveness.

Boston Indicators, the research arm of the Boston Foundation, published an analysis exploring trends in so-called domestic outmigration in Massachusetts, or people leaving for elsewhere in the United States. Looking at a two-year average across 2021 and 2022, the analysis found that the people moving out of Massachusetts were predominantly white, middle- and high-income earners, and college-educated.

Particularly dire: Working-age adults are leaving in droves. On net, Massachusetts lost an average of 22,631 people ages 25 to 44 across 2021 and 2022 — the largest number of any age group and a marked increase over previous years, according to the report. For perspective, that’s about the size of the population of Winchester.

**MASSACHUSETTS, Page A7**



## Judge’s order could put girl with disabilities in large school

By Mandy McLaren

GLOBE STAFF

A Norfolk Superior Court judge on Thursday issued a ruling denying a 14-year-old special education student the right to return to her previous, private school — a decision that leaves the girl’s educational future uncertain.

Judge Catherine Ham sided with Braintree Public Schools in denying Samantha Frechon’s right under special education laws to return to either of her last two schools, including a Hingham private school where last year she had been thriving academically and socially. Her order instead could result in Samantha having to attend a large traditional public school, something she has not done since early elementary school. The move could be detrimental to Samantha, who has multiple disabilities, including autism, and struggles to learn in a typical classroom setting. Samantha has not been able to attend school this academic year.

Collins Fay-Martin, an attorney representing Samantha, said the decision would leave the eighth-grader “in a worse position than she was in.”

The girl, who also has ADHD, generalized anxiety disorder, and post-traumatic stress disorder, is currently in a residential treatment center.

**SCHOOL PLACEMENT, Page A10**

## Up for the challenge of her life

Battling brain cancer, Mary Beth Williams focused on running the Marathon, and finding new hope

By Shannon Larson

GLOBE STAFF

Two years ago, Mary Beth Williams was running through the Vermont woods with a friend, their breath forming misty clouds in the January air. Suddenly, she began to slur her words. Her body froze.

*This must be a stroke*, she thought before she collapsed on the cold trail.

Her running partner, Eric Brigham, called for an ambulance, which rushed her to the University of Vermont Medical Center in Burlington. After a series of tests and scans, a doctor told her the devastating news. She had suffered a seizure, caused by a sizable tumor in her brain.

The cancer was incurable and would likely prove fatal within the decade.

“So, it’s just how much time do you have,” she recalled.

The next month, a surgeon at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston tried to remove her tumor as she lay awake, but stopped the high-risk procedure when she had a seizure.

“I was in a really dark place,” Williams said. “Somehow, I just switched over to: at least I have 10 years.”

Facing the unthinkable, she found relief and a new purpose in distance running, eventually setting her sights on the Boston Marathon. On Monday, Williams, 49, finished the race in 4 hours and 42 minutes, a feat of resilience emblematic of the storied event. She and Brigham, 54, now a couple, ran side by side the entire way.

**RUNNER, Page A10**



Mary Beth Williams and Eric Brigham got ready for the race on Monday. They ran side by side the whole way.

**James Parker was granted parole more than two decades after he pleaded guilty as a teen** to his role in the 2001 murder of two Dartmouth professors. **B1.**

**Steward Health Care temporarily closed the hematology oncology infusion center at its Good Samaritan Medical Center** in Brockton, forcing scores of patients to look elsewhere for care. **B5.**

**The Maine Legislature approved sweeping gun safety legislation**, months after the deadliest shooting in state history. **B1.**

**“Sasquatch Sunset,” a movie of grunts, not words, makes a quiet point** with its conservationist themes. **G1.**

### Sun blocked

**Friday:** Still cloudy, breezy. High 52-57. Low 42-47.  
**Saturday:** Overcast again. High 61-66. Low 39-44.  
**Weather and Comics, G6-7. Obituaries, C9.**

VOL. 305, NO. 110

Suggested retail price \$3.50

