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PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Former president Trump arrived to speak at a caucus night party Monday night in Des Moines.

Trump breezes to Iowa victory

DeSantis bests Haley in race for second place; caucuses held in historically brutal weather

By Jess Bidgood
GLOBE STAFF

DES MOINES — Former president Donald J. Trump claimed his crown in Iowa on Monday night, with early returns showing about half of the voters who trudged to their caucus sites in frigid weather had handed him his first victory of a campaign with no histor-

ic parallel.

Three years after Trump lost reelection to President Biden, touching off a turbulent period in which he sought to overturn the 2020 election, was widely blamed for his party's underperformance in the 2022 midterms, and then was indicted four times, his win in conservative Iowa is concrete — if unsur-

prising — evidence of his dominance of the GOP base that seems intent on making him his party's presidential nominee.

In the closely watch contest, Governor Ron DeSantis of Florida muscled his way to a second-place finish, according to the Associated Press, a result that may give a second wind to his fledgling campaign and

could blunt the momentum of former South Carolina governor Nikki Haley, who has climbed the polls here in recent weeks. With 95 percent of the vote in late Monday, DeSantis had 21 percent to Haley's 19 percent.

But neither came anywhere near Trump's decisive lead — a fact the former president seemed to acknowledge in his victory speech.

"I want to congratulate Ron
IOWA CAUCUS, Page A5

A probe into gunman's brain and his history

BU center seeks to learn effects from Army blasts

By Adam Piore
GLOBE STAFF

For close to a decade before Robert Card II went on a murderous rampage in Lewiston, Maine, the 40-year-old army reservist spent two weeks every summer helping to teach young cadets from the Military Academy at West Point how to throw grenades.

Now scientists at Boston University's Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE) Center are leading an effort to determine whether Card's proximity to the pressure waves unleashed by those exploding grenades may have damaged his brain. His fellow soldiers told The New York Times Card was exposed to as many as 10,000 low-level training blasts.

At some point his personality began to change. In the months leading up to the Maine shootings, Card's family, friends, and colleagues repeatedly raised concerns about his increasingly delusional, paranoid behavior, warning law enforcement about his potential for violence.

While traumatic brain injury has been called
CTE, Page A10

Fidelity, other big finance players, jump into crypto

Investment sales get OK but one giant is skeptical

By Suchita Nayar
GLOBE STAFF

Don't look now, but crypto is back. And this time, it is bringing some of the biggest names in traditional finance along with it.

Last week, US regulators approved a long-debated investment product that will allow everyday investors to buy into bitcoin through their regular stock brokerage accounts and retirement funds. The move could introduce billions of dollars of investment demand into a cryptocurrency market that had already made a quiet — if pronounced — recovery following its epic collapse in 2022.

Among the financial titans cleared to sell "exchange traded funds" that invest directly in bitcoin are Boston's Fidelity Investments and other heavies such as BlackRock and VanEck. On Fidelity's investment platform, one of the largest in the world, you can now buy these ETFs right along-

BITCOIN, Page A10



JOHN TLUMACKI/GLOBE STAFF

A 17-year old who asked to be identified by her initial, T., thinks the Boston Public Schools have given up on her.

When even texting is a struggle: Lack of reading skills batters self-worth

It's the experience of likely thousands of Massachusetts teens, students who are allowed to slide along without becoming competent readers

THE GREAT DIVIDE

Race, class, and opportunity in our schools

Lost in a world of words: Part of a series of stories examining the literacy crisis in Massachusetts

BY NAOMI MARTIN | GLOBE STAFF

CHICOPEE — Sterling's phone buzzed. The lanky 17-year-old, sitting on his family's brown sofa, opened his buddy's text and scanned the letters on the screen. Something about a car. Like always, though, he couldn't decipher some of the words, which made the whole thing a confusing blob.

If Sterling were alone, he would have his phone read the hard words aloud. But his stepdad was nearby, so Sterling turned to him with the question he has to ask so often — at home, in classrooms, and in his high school's auto shop: *What does this say?*

"I'm disappointed in myself," said Sterling, who requested the Globe use only his middle name to protect his privacy. "It makes me feel weird. It makes me feel like I don't fit in."

This is reading failure, when poor reading skills become an obstacle to full participation in daily life. It's the experience of likely thousands of teenagers across Massachusetts each year, students who not only are failed by schools in early elementary years, but who are allowed to slide

LITERACY, Page A6

'I'm disappointed in myself. It makes me feel weird. It makes me feel like I don't fit in.'

STERLING, a Chicopee teen who struggles to read and who asked to be identified by his middle name

Sticker shock hits Essex County voters

A new Whittier Tech site would cost \$445 million

By Billy Baker
GLOBE STAFF

HAVERHILL — When Maureen Lynch made her presentation at a public meeting in Georgetown, pitching a new building for the regional trade school where she is the superintendent, things got so contentious that she initially canceled the rest of the tour of the 11 cities and towns in the school district.

The tour eventually resumed, as did the incensed responses to her presentation. This is because Lynch is not presenting a proposal so much as a costly ultimatum, one that has roiled northern Essex County.

As Lynch frames it, voters have only two options, and both of them are painful: Either approve a new \$445.6 million building for Whittier Tech,

WHITTIER, Page B4



NATHAN KLIMA FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

It's been no secret that Whittier Tech, a 50-year-old regional trade school in Haverhill, needs major work. Above, the school's carpentry space.

On a slopping block

Tuesday: Snow mix with rain.
High 33-38, low 19-24.

Wednesday: Clearer, still windy.
High 28-33, low 19-24.

Sunrise: 7:11. Sunset: 4:37.

Weather and comics, **D4-5**.

Obituaries, **C9**.

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Ayo Edebiri won the Emmy Award for best supporting actress, one of several awards for "The Bear" and just days after the Dorchester native took home an acting award from the Golden Globes. **B6**.

The victims in Sunday's Greenfield plane crash were identified as flight school's founder, chief pilot, and student. **B1**.