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ASSOCIATED PRESS/FILE

In 1964, Ethel Kennedy joined her husband shortly after he announced he was running for Senate in New York.

ETHEL KENNEDY 1928-2024

## Through family's joy and pain, she endured

By Joseph P. Kahn  
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

Ethel Kennedy, the steadfast matriarch of a dynastic political family whose legacy includes a cascade of triumphs, tragedies, and trials since the assassination of her husband, Robert, a half-century ago, died Thursday, her family said. Mrs. Kennedy, one of the last living links to the Camelot era, was 96. Born into privilege and married into political royalty, Mrs. Kennedy led an often glamorous life. Yet, it was a life seared by excruciating losses, including the deaths of her

husband and two of her sons.

"It is with our hearts full of love that we announce the passing of our amazing grandmother, Ethel Kennedy," her grandson Joseph P. Kennedy III, a former Massachusetts congressman, said in a post Thursday on social media. "Along with a lifetime's work in social justice and human rights, our mother leaves behind nine children, 34 grandchildren, and 24 great-grandchildren, along with numerous nieces and nephews, all of whom love her dearly."

Mrs. Kennedy, who had a home in Hyan-

nis Port at the family's storied compound, suffered a stroke in her sleep last Thursday. The family did not say where she died.

"She was a devout Catholic and a daily communicant, and we are comforted in knowing she is reunited with the love of her life, our father, Robert F. Kennedy; her children David and Michael; her daughter-in-law Mary; her grandchildren Maeve and Saoirse; and her great-grandchildren Gideon and Josie," Joseph Kennedy III said. In 1968, Mrs. Kennedy was a mother of

**KENNEDY, Page C11**

## This time, election officials are in it together

Sharing strategies to combat vote testers

By Sam Brodey  
GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON — Last month, the people who run the elections that will decide the future of the country assembled inside a conference room at the Gerald Ford Presidential Library at the University of Michigan.

Election administrators, from secretaries of state to county clerks — all hailing from the most important battleground states — were there to brief reporters about their plans to secure the 2024 election in light of the torrent of conspiracies and furor Donald Trump unleashed in his attempt to reverse his defeat four years ago.

For the effort to strengthen a strained and worn-down democratic system, however, the fact that the officials gathered in one room, so close to an election, may have been as significant as what any of them said.

The scene reflected an underappreciated dynamic that has unfolded during this turbulent new era for elections in the United States. Long isolated in their own state or local jurisdictions, election officials across battleground states and across the country are engaging with one another — talking, collaborating, co-

**ELECTIONS, Page A5**

## A boost for MFA to show more modern art

\$25 million gift will fund four new galleries

By Malcolm Gay  
GLOBE STAFF

The Museum of Fine Arts announced Thursday that it has received a \$25 million gift to bolster its modern art program, the museum's largest investment in work of a more recent vintage since it opened the Linde Family Wing for Contemporary Art more than a decade ago.

The gift, donated by the Wyss Foundation, will fund two new staff positions as well as extensive renovations to create four new galleries that total more than 5,500 square feet of exhibition space that are set to open next year.

MFA director Matthew Teitelbaum said the gift arose from a conversation he began nearly a decade ago with Swiss philanthropist Hansjörg Wyss and his late wife, Rosamund Zander, about art, the MFA, and the strengths and shortfalls of its collection.

"It's very exciting," said Teitelbaum, who added that the collection has many 20th-century works that haven't been exhibited in a long time. "I'm not going to say this will complete us, but it will allow us to tell a story in our gallery."

**MFA, Page A8**

## A blow but not a knockout for most

Milton spares urban areas, but tornadoes take a toll on Atlantic coast



REBECCA BLACKWELL/ASSOCIATED PRESS

A woman looked at the kitchen of her devastated home in Palmetto, Fla., after Hurricane Milton passed through. The storm tore much of the roof off Tropicana Field in St. Petersburg, home of baseball's Tampa Bay Rays.



JULIO CORTEZ/ASSOCIATED PRESS

By Patricia Mazzei, Audra D.S. Burch, and Jenna Russell

NEW YORK TIMES

SIESTA KEY, Fla. — Hurricane Milton cut an uneven path of destruction as it tore across Florida from the Gulf of Mexico late Wednesday and entered the Atlantic Ocean on Thursday, largely sparing the densely populated cities around Tampa Bay but spawning deadly tornadoes far from its center.

The storm whipped barrier islands that were still recovering from Hurricane Helene two weeks ago and swamped inland communities with surge from rivers and creeks and copious rainfall. But its landfall just south

of the booming Tampa-St. Petersburg region kept Tampa Bay from surging, a worst-case scenario.

In the Sarasota region, where Milton came ashore, the damage seemed largely caused by wind and not ruinous.

But on the state's Atlantic coast, which also experienced hurricane-force winds, tornadoes that sprang from Milton's outer edges were catastrophic. At least five people died when a tornado hit a retirement community in Fort Pierce, Governor Ron DeSantis said. They were among a total of at least 11 deaths reported by of-

**HURRICANE, Page A7**

## Financial pressures faced by more colleges hit home for Brandeis

By Mike Damiano  
GLOBE STAFF

WALTHAM — Brandeis University stands apart in the higher education world with its combination of an intimate, liberal arts feel and powerhouse research operation that produces scientific breakthroughs and wins Nobel Prizes.

But what worked for Brandeis for decades can also work against it: Its unique character has long forced the school to live on the budgetary edge, stretching tuition from a few thousand students and a medium-sized endowment to compete with institutions that are several times its size.

Now, in the midst of widespread financial trouble in higher education and

declining enrollment at Brandeis in particular, the Waltham school finds itself in an intensifying budget crunch and trying to fend off what some fear could be the beginning of a long-run decline.

"Its finances are just stretched very thin compared to its mission," said Larry Ladd, a higher education finance and governance expert with the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges.

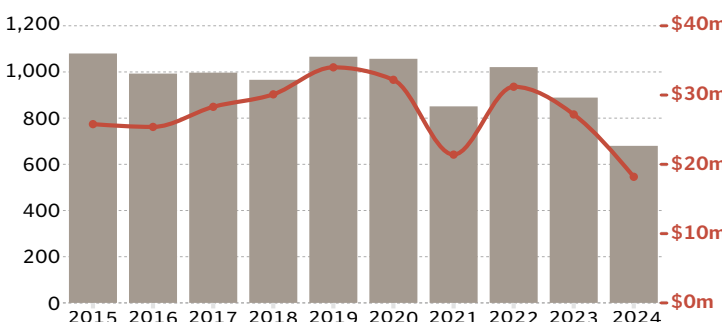
Graduate student enrollment has nose-dived, the university's national ranking, which helps it attract international students who pay full tuition, has dropped precipitously, and, as of this semester, undergraduate enrollment has

**BRANDEIS, Page A8**

### Fewer graduate students, more budget stress

Tuition revenue from Brandeis graduate students fell 46 percent from 2019 to 2024.

● Enrollment ● Net tuition revenue



SOURCE: Brandeis University data obtained by the Globe • 2024 enrollment figure is for the fall 2023 semester only. 2024 revenue figure is a Brandeis forecast from May. Enrollment figures are a measure of "full-time equivalent" students.

CHRISTINA PRIGNANO/GLOBE STAFF

## Bruins get it started

With his contract dispute resolved, goalie Jeremy Swayman was welcomed by Boston fans Thursday night as the Bruins opened their home season with a 6-4 win over Montreal. **C1.**



JOHN TLUMACKI/GLOBE STAFF

Inflation dropped to its lowest point since it first began surging more than three years ago, adding to encouraging economic news. **B5.**



Israeli airstrikes hit areas of central Beirut, killing at least 22 people and leaving neighborhoods smoldering, Lebanon's health ministry said. **A3.**

### Shorts story

**Friday:** Very nice. High 64-69. Low 54-59.

**Saturday:** Even nicer. High 69-74. Low 43-48.

Sunrise: 6:53 Sunset: 6:08

High tide: 6:01 a.m., 6:11 p.m.

**Weather and Comics, G6-7. Obituaries, C11.**

A judge approved a class action lawsuit on behalf of 150 inmates at the state's maximum-security prison who say they were brutalized. **B1.**

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