

# The Boston Globe

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‘She’s getting on that bus every day ready, willing, and able to learn. And she’s not.’

JESSICA CLARK, on the struggles of her daughter in Maynard



PHOTOS BY SUZANNE KREITER/GLOBE STAFF

Fifteen-year-old Eloise Clark worked on her homework in her bedroom at home in Maynard.

## Entangled in the words, and in the system

Students with a common disability can learn to read with the right instruction, but many Massachusetts schools don’t, or won’t, provide it

BY MANDY McLAREN/GLOBE STAFF

### 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

Eleven-year-old Parker Goldman knew he was different. A natural-born engineer, he had a mind teeming with ideas — a fix for his classroom’s broken faucet, a pulley system for his bedroom door. He re-imagined movie endings and conjured new TV plot lines. But when it came to writing his thoughts down, Parker couldn’t form the words.

While classmates at his Hingham elementary school devoured chapter books during silent reading time, he thumbed through the same picture book again and again. He could barely read.

Parker has dyslexia, a common learning disability that can make reading difficult. That shouldn’t have prevented him from keeping up with his classmates, though. Kids with dyslexia are no less intelligent than other children. They simply need tailored teaching, sometimes lots of it. But Parker’s school wasn’t giving him enough of the help he needed, an omission that battered his self-worth and cast a cloud over his ability to succeed — at school and, ultimately, in life.



Parker’s situation would be a difficult personal tragedy if it were unique. But he is one of likely many thousands of children with dyslexia who are in the same boat in Massachusetts, representing an enormous shortfall in the state’s duty to teach its children to read. Despite a federal law that promises all students with disabilities free, appropriate public education, school after school is failing to ad-

DYSLEXIA, Page A4

Sarah Goldman spent years advocating for her son, Parker, to get the right kind of instruction he needed for his dyslexia in Hingham Public Schools.

## A slippery slog to icy finish in Iowa

Easy win likely for Trump as GOP contests begin

By Jess Bidgood and James Pindell  
GLOBE STAFF

AMES, Iowa — Stacey Insisiengmay, a devoted supporter of former president Trump, had everything she needed on Sunday to help her candidate at Monday night’s Iowa caucuses.

She had her white and gold “Trump Caucus Captain” hat, designating her as a super-volunteer whose job it is to get people to the polls and speak on behalf of Trump. She had a list of elderly people who might need rides. She had a little time to work on her speech.

But, after two days of heavy snow in her hometown of Davenport, there was one very important thing she did not have: a plowed street.

“I did make a phone call and my alderman is on it,” said Insisiengmay over the phone. But, she vowed to make it to the caucuses on Monday night plowed street or not. “We have a Jeep.”

The contest for the Republican nomination for president in Iowa slipped, slid, and in some cases trudged toward a close on Sunday, as new difficulties emerged for crucial volunteers like Insisiengmay and the candidates themselves. After their months of planning, organizing, and campaigning, a blizzard’s aftermath and plunging temperatures injected a final blast of uncertainty into the last hours of a race that Trump has long seemed des-

IOWA CAUCUS, Page A7

## Wielding anger, AI, billionaire takes on colleges

Ackman now targets MIT, vows plagiarism review

By Stephanie Ebbert and Mark Arsenault  
GLOBE STAFF

Combine the unchecked power of artificial intelligence with the outrage of campus counter-cancel culture and the vengeance of a billionaire scorned.

That’s the threat Harvard donor and combative hedge fund manager Bill Ackman has wielded this month, as he declared war on MIT, promising an AI-powered plagiarism review of all university faculty and leadership. Just days earlier, he had been instrumental in the ouster of Harvard president Claudine Gay, who was faulted for ineffectual defenses against campus antisemitism and allegations of plagiarism in her past work.

Then the tables were turned, and Ackman’s wife, former MIT professor Neri Oxman, was accused of plagiarism in her own dissertation. In the days that followed, Ackman blamed MIT for the story by Business Insider, protested vociferously that his wife was not given enough time to respond, and promised a characteristically relentless response.

ACKMAN, Page A10

## Plane crash kills three

A small plane went down near a mountain in Western Massachusetts. **B1.**

**The gap between Israel and the United States appeared to widen** with the White House stating it’s time to scale back the military offensive in the Gaza Strip while Israeli leaders again vowed to press ahead. **A3.**

**The twists and many sharp turns of a rental car nightmare** offers some lessons. **The Fine Print, D1.**

**The man behind his firm’s buying spree of minor league baseball teams**, including the Worcester franchise, reveals his strategies. **C1.**

## A King matchmaker, in an unmarked grave

Recognition sought for woman who introduced MLK Jr. to Coretta Scott

By Tiana Woodard  
GLOBE STAFF

She’s known as the Cupid of Twelfth Baptist Church, the legendary secretary who paired Martin Luther King Jr. with Coretta Scott in 1952 before they embarked on a global peace movement.

But amid a sea of gravestones at the St. Joseph Cemetery in West Roxbury, it can be tough to find the whereabouts of this matchmaker. During a visit to the site, Clennon L. King had to phone a cemetery worker and count out the gravestones to find the bare spot he was looking for, wedged between the ornate tombstones of two families.

Mary Louise Powell, in an unmarked grave. “We’ve got to do something about this,” King said aloud, during his visit.

For years, Clennon L. King, a documentary filmmaker and historian with no relation to the Kings, has worked to honor the legacy of the civil rights leaders by commemorat-

MLK, Page B4



JOHN TLUMACKI/GLOBE STAFF

A mural of MLK Jr. talking on the phone to his future wife, Coretta, on the former site of the Twelfth Baptist Church.

  
Dreamsickle of a day

**Monday:** Some sun, chilly. High 32-37, low 24-29.

**Tuesday:** Snow returns. High 30-35, low 22-27.

Sunrise: 7:11. Sunset: 4:36.

Weather, **D4-5.**  
Obituaries, **C9.**

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