

# The Boston Globe

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2024

## Judge tosses out macabre cases against Harvard

Families of donors sued over sale of body parts from school's morgue

By Felice J. Freyer  
GLOBE STAFF

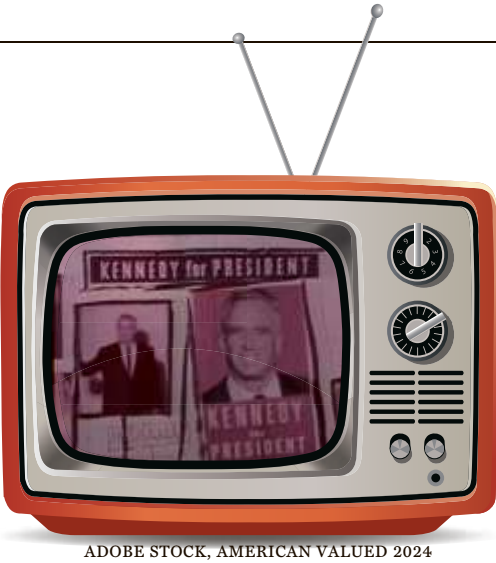
A Suffolk Superior Court judge on Monday dismissed all the lawsuits against Harvard Medical School over the theft of body parts from its morgue, saying that the allegations from donors' families "do not plausibly suggest" that Harvard failed to act in good faith and do not show Harvard was responsible for its morgue manager's conduct.

Forty-seven close relatives of people who donated their bodies to the medical school to educate students had brought 12 suits accusing Harvard of failing to protect the human remains, after the morgue's manager, Cedric Lodge, was arrested on charges of stealing and selling parts of bodies that were supposed to be cremated.

Plaintiffs' lawyers said they planned to appeal. And the decision angered some relatives of donors, who criticized Harvard for dodging responsibility.

"Bravo, Harvard. You've just denigrated and undermined all the intent of people that wanted to donate their bodies for good," said Jennie Dunkley, whose late husband, Barry, had donated his body. "I am absolutely horrified."

MORGUE, Page A7



ADOBE STOCK, AMERICAN VALUED 2024

## Pro-RFK Jr. PAC ad spurs controversy

Highlights outside groups' shadowy role in campaigns

By Tal Kopan  
and Lissandra Villa de Petrzelka  
GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON — Midway through the Super Bowl on Sunday night, a familiar jingle rang out, at least for viewers of a certain age. An ad for Robert F. Kennedy Jr., borrowed his uncle John F. Kennedy's famous 1960 "Kennedy" commercial, used this time to promote the younger Kennedy's independent presidential campaign.

Within minutes, Kennedy had posted a video of the ad on the social media site X. That was followed a few hours later by an apology from Kennedy to angry family members, in which he explained the ad was placed without his input or knowledge by an outside political action committee supporting his campaign.

Still, he did not delete the ad from his page, and it remained pinned to the top of his profile

KENNEDY, Page A6

## SNOW FORECAST IS DOWNGRADED, BUT REGION STILL BRACES FOR STORM

By Nick Stoico, John R. Ellement,  
and Travis Andersen  
GLOBE STAFF

Predictions for a powerful winter storm to hit southern New England on Tuesday were downgraded late Monday afternoon following a southern shift in the storm's path that will send the heaviest snow to southeastern Massachusetts, while the Boston

area may see up to 6 inches of accumulation, forecasters said.

The revised totals were far below earlier predic-

►Milton housing vote delayed to Wednesday. D1.

tions that called for up to a foot of snow in the city and led dozens of school districts, including Boston, to an-

WEATHER, Page A10

### Closures

Boston and other school districts in the state will be shuttered; courts will be closed statewide; Governor Maura Healey has asked nonessential state workers to stay home.

ADOBE STOCK

## New twist in corruption scheme



CRAIG F. WALKER/GLOBE STAFF

Ruben Laroche, 47, says he never asked for the shortcut that got him his commercial driver's license without taking the exam.

### Trucker's allegations implicate RMV worker, broaden trooper scandal

By Laura Crimaldi  
GLOBE STAFF

He studied the manual, got a learner's permit, and took professional driving lessons to prepare for the commercial driver's license test.

But Ruben Laroche, 47, of Attleboro, says he got his license in 2018 without taking the exam, even though he didn't ask for the shortcut. Instead, he said that the day before his scheduled test, a friend who worked at the Registry of Motor Vehicles asked for his

learner's permit and Laroche gave it to him.

From there, his permit exchanged hands again — from his friend at the Registry to a State Police trooper who signed it and gave Laroche passing marks on the skills test, which he never took. Then the friend returned the signed permit to Laroche.

"I was shocked and asked him how he managed to do this," Laroche wrote in an affidavit submitted on Feb. 2 as part of a lawsuit he filed against the Registry to get his now-suspended license back. His friend told him

"not to worry, that someone had owed him a favor," the affidavit said.

Laroche's court filings mark the first time a Registry worker has been implicated in the alleged scheme in which four current and former Massachusetts troopers are accused of falsifying results on commercial driver's license tests, some in exchange for bribes. His lawsuit and sworn statement were filed in court three days after the accused were arrested.

TROOPER, Page A7

## For journalism students, uncertainty is the headline

Must navigate media hit by wave of layoffs, cutbacks

By Aidan Ryan  
GLOBE STAFF

For years, journalists and professors have warned young reporters that the industry they were preparing to enter wasn't the most stable. But even through a decades-long contraction, a steady stream of young people has continued to forge ahead into the field — hopeful that their generation will be the one to reverse the field's decline.

But a barrage of bad media news to start 2024 is testing the resolve of even the hardest optimists in journalism education. As students in Boston and beyond openly wonder whether there will be a place for them in journalism, professors are re-evaluating how they prepare students for a profession in a seemingly constant state of contraction.

"There is so much variation

and fluctuation in news media these days," said Meg Heckman, an associate professor of journalism at Northeastern University. "We have to teach our students how to navigate that and how to be flexible and versatile."

In January alone, the Los Angeles Times, Business Insider, and Time magazine were among the newsrooms that laid off journalists. Iconic magazines Na-

JOURNALISTS, Page A10



NATHAN KLIMA FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

Student journalists at Framingham State University at work on The Gatepost.

Several bills aiming to prevent child exploitation on social media sites are being proposed both in Congress and state legislatures. But civil libertarians say such laws may violate user privacy and threaten First Amendment rights. D1.

Former president Donald Trump faces a crowded calendar of legal proceedings this week. With four criminal trials, plus several civil cases, the judicial system faces a test of its capacity to handle such a range of accusations. A2.

### NORTHEASTERN CAPTURES THE BEANPOT

Northeastern captain Justin Hryckowian held aloft the men's Beanpot trophy after defeating Boston University at TD Garden on Monday. Gunnarwolfe Fontaine's goal with 28 seconds left in overtime lifted NU to a 4-3 win, its second straight title and fifth in six years. C1.



DANIELLE PARHIZKARAN/GLOBE STAFF

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\$3.50



Tuesday: Wet snow.

High 36-41, low 25-30.

Wednesday: Windy and cold.

High 31-36, low 20-25.

Obituaries, C8-9.

Comics and Weather, D5-6.

