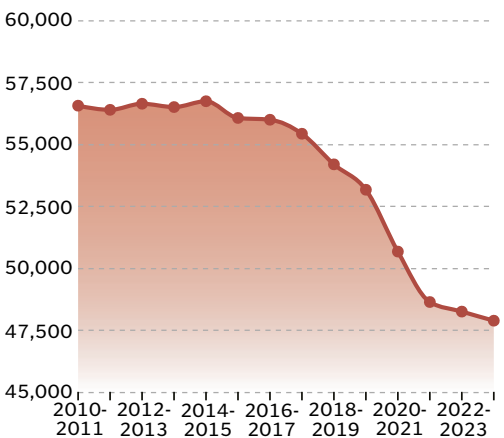


## BPS has lost over 8,000 students since last wave of closures



SOURCE: Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education • Enrollment includes Boston's six in-district charter schools. GLOBE STAFF

## BPS backs off sweeping closures of schools

Community must be involved, Skipper says

By Deanna Pan and Christopher Huffaker  
GLOBE STAFF

Boston Public Schools has scaled back immediate plans for sweeping school closures despite warning for months about the hard decisions necessary to contend with dwindling enrollment and persistent inequities in student experiences.

Instead, the district has proposed consolidating two schools that already share a campus and closing its last standalone middle school, which was already announced in January. The district has lost more than 8,000 students, or 14 percent of its enrollment, in the last decade, but it has not reduced seat capacity to the same extent.

Superintendent Mary Skipper said the district doesn't have the community's trust yet to enable extensive changes, including mass closures. Despite calls from the public to release a comprehensive multiyear plan detailing future closures and mergers, Skipper said the district will introduce new proposals on an annual basis.

BPS, Page A12



ILLUSTRATION BY SHARON CHEN/ADOBE STOCK

## A little lesson in chipping away at the patriarchy

By Beth Teitell  
GLOBE STAFF

When Erin DeCew reads to her little girls at bedtime — the three cuddling in their Somerville play room, enjoying a favorite such as “A Sick Day for Amos McGee” — it's a scene as traditional as it gets. Except for one thing.

In the book, the animals whose zookeeper has fallen ill are all male. But DeCew, a nurse practitioner, pulls a switcheroo. “I gender the owl, the elephant, and the tortoise female,” she said.

*The owl scratches her head with concern. The tortoise stretches her legs. The elephant playing chess arranges her pawns and polishes her castles.*

Call it one small step for microfeminism, a new but old movement of tiny and not-so-tiny rebellions that aim to slay the status quo, one “I’m speaking” at a time.

Microfeminism can be in-your-face or sly, as public as refusing to be on a panel that doesn't include

MICROFEMINISM, Page A8

## 3 countries back a Palestinian state

Spain, Norway, and Ireland rebuke Israel, saying independence can't wait

By Aaron Boxerman, Emma Bubola, and Michael Levenson  
NEW YORK TIMES

JERUSALEM — Spain, Norway, and Ireland said Wednesday that they would recognize an independent Palestinian state, delivering a diplomatic blow to Israel that showed the country's growing isolation on the world stage more than

seven months into its devastating military offensive in the Gaza Strip.

In closely coordinated announcements, the leaders of the three countries said that Palestinian independence cannot wait for a negotiated peace deal with Israel's right-wing government, which largely opposes a two-state solution, has been expanding settlements in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, and

is continuing to bombard Gaza without either toppling Hamas or bringing home all its hostages.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel has also frustrated world leaders — and two members of his war Cabinet — with his refusal to establish a postwar plan to govern Gaza, where the health authorities say that more than 35,000 people have been killed.

Simon Harris, the Irish prime minister, linked his government's decision to Ireland's quest for independence from Britain. “From our

own history, we know what it means: Recognition is an act of powerful political and symbolic value,” he said at a news briefing.

The announcements by all three countries came just days after the International Criminal Court's chief prosecutor requested arrest warrants for Netanyahu and Israel's defense minister, Yoav Gallant, on suspicion of war crimes. He also sought warrants for three top leaders of Hamas.

Palestinian leaders in the West  
ISRAEL, Page A6

## TEMPERATURE SPIKE



JOHN TLUMACKI/GLOBE STAFF

After weeks of cool and wet spring weather, Wednesday finally offered a sign of things to come, particularly at Revere Beach, where people played volleyball under crystal-clear skies. The temperature topped out at 89 in Boston, but things won't be as nice Thursday, with thunderstorms in the forecast. Memorial Day weekend is looking good. D6.

‘I’m looking at a lot of opportunities now, and I have nothing to report.’

JOSH KRAFT

## Josh Kraft vs. Wu? Maybe, insiders say

Rumored to be considering a run, he'd have resources and recognition

By Niki Griswold  
GLOBE STAFF

Gold and black balloons adorned the sixth floor of a municipal building in Roxbury. Music and the smell of chicken and fried rice filled the air. A wealthy philanthropist — the only white person in the room — offered inspirational words to students of color on their graduation from a civic engagement program.

“The power of our democracy is in all of you, in the future,” Josh Kraft, the younger son of billionaire New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft, told the students, who ranged in age from 14 to 22. “You have

the power to fight for values like freedom, equity, cultural diversity, and all of that through your involvement in democracy. One of the great ways to be involved in democracy is through giving back and philanthropy.”

For the 57-year old Kraft, a fixture of the nonprofit and philanthropic scene in Boston for more than 30 years, speaking at a ceremony in one of the city's most diverse neighborhoods was a natural continuation of his advocacy work.

But to many political observers, the event also was an obvious political opportunity,

KRAFT, Page A8



KEN MCGAGH FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

Josh Kraft, son of the New England Patriots' owner, posed for a photo with Shiaka McIntosh after a graduation.

## 13 Harvard protesters won't get degrees today

Board rejects faculty recommendation; students can take part in graduation

By Hilary Burns  
GLOBE STAFF

CAMBRIDGE — Harvard University's top governing board on Wednesday rejected the recommendation of faculty to allow 13 pro-Palestinian students who participated in a three-week encampment in Harvard Yard to receive their degrees with their classmates.

Impacted students will be able to participate in commencement ceremonies Thursday but will not receive diplomas, jeopardizing post-graduation plans.

The announcement came two days after some members of Harvard's Faculty of Arts and Sciences voted to grant degrees to the 13 students and as the university prepared for the pomp and circumstance of one of the most important days of the academic year. And it follows a fierce debate on college campuses nationwide over the appropriate sanctions for pro-Palestinian demonstrators who set up encampments to protest the Israel-Hamas war.

The decision Wednesday shocked faculty who feel strongly that student protesters are being unfairly punished, largely because of political pressure on university leaders.

“I’m upset,” said Ryan Enos, a professor of government. “This was pure hubris by the Corporation. To think a bunch of billionaires that visit Cambridge a couple times a year could tell the professors who educate these students that they know better than them who deserves to earn degrees — the audacity is breathtaking. In my opinion, the Corporation is not worthy of

►Students celebrate Class Day. B2.

HARVARD, Page A8

Ipswich voters strongly supported a ballot question to remove the historic dam at the center of town, in one form or another, since 1637. B1.

GBH laid off 31 employees, 4 percent of its workforce, and suspended production of three TV programs, CEO Susan Goldberg told employees. D1.

Last summer, another provocative symbol was displayed at Justice Samuel Alito's vacation house in New Jersey, two years after an upside-down American flag was flown outside his Virginia home. A2.

Salisbury Beach will receive \$1.75 million from the state to help build up sand dunes ravaged by multiple storms. B1.

The Celtics hope to have an easier time with the Pacers in Game 2 Thursday night. C1.



## Crashing the party

Thursday: Thunderstorms. High 81-86. Low 62-67.

Friday: Hot but not humid. High 80-85. Low 59-64.

High tide: 12:07 p.m.

Sunrise: 5:15 Sunset: 8:07

Weather and Comics, D5-6. Obituaries, C11.

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