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JESSICA RINALDI/GLOBE STAFF

Paul Cully checked out the view as he hiked at the Massabesic Audubon Center in Auburn, N.H.

STUCK RIDING THE UNMERRY-GO-ROUND

In the post-COVID world, many still feeling a little lost and lonely

By Janelle Nanos
GLOBE STAFF

To Kris Rehm, the world just feels smaller now. Rehm and her husband had a vibrant social life before COVID. But like many people, they relocated during the pandemic, changing their son's school and adjusting to life in Needham, where they moved from Roslindale. Ever since, she's struggled to regain the kind of community she once had. "Frankly," the 52-year-old said, "we are a little sad and lonely." Rehm isn't sure whether to blame the move or the fact that working remotely now gives her fewer chances to engage with oth-

'A lot of these key metrics that we track have sharply worsened. Americans have just not bounced back post-COVID.'

DAN WITTERS, of Gallup's National Health and Well-Being

Doomscrolling

Put down that phone. Incessant scrolling could harm health. **D1.**

ers. She was trained as a neuroscientist, and sometimes she wonders if the experience of the last few years has even altered her brain. "We're back to normal, but life is different, and we might be different," she said. "Maybe, our hippocampuses have shrunk a little bit." As we approach the five-year anniversary of COVID's first emergence in our lives, the crisis and its aftermath have altered our society in countless ways. It upended our economy, weakened trust in institutions, and stoked political partisanship, particularly on the digital platforms that capture ever more of our attention. And we're still only beginning to fully understand the consequences, **DOOM, Page A7**

The Patriots 19-3 thrashing of the Chicago Bears was the team's most complete game of the season. **C1.**

Education experts are urging state leaders to quickly establish new ways to ensure high school graduates have the tools to succeed, now that voters eliminated the MCAS graduation requirement. **B1.**

Educators in three North Shore communities vowed to continue their strikes in bids to improve their wages and their schools. **B1.**

A shooting on the campus of Tuskegee University in Alabama on homecoming weekend killed one person and injured 16 others. **A2.**

A VETERAN OF WAR, A VETERAN OF MUCH LIFE



ERIN CLARK/GLOBE STAFF

Joe Landry enjoyed a comfy seat while surrounded by family members during his 100th birthday celebration last month at American Legion Post 183 in Shirley. Landry, a World War II veteran, turned 100 on Oct. 14. **B1.**

Cost-cutting efforts get sharp reviews

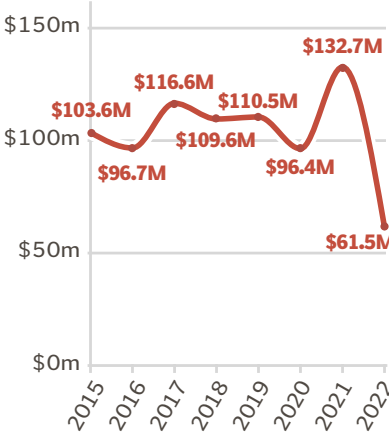
Lesley students, faculty question aim of university

By Diti Kohli
GLOBE STAFF

A year after mass layoffs at Lesley University, some students and professors say mishandled cost-cutting efforts threaten the Cambridge school and its reputation as a leader in arts, teaching, and mental health education.

At least three professors have stepped down from supervisory posts since last October, alleging the administration cut their compensation unfairly. Accreditation for two academic programs have been in jeopardy recently. And Lesley's physical footprint — spread across three pockets near Harvard Square — has shrunk with the sale of 24 properties over three years. Some students said they see the

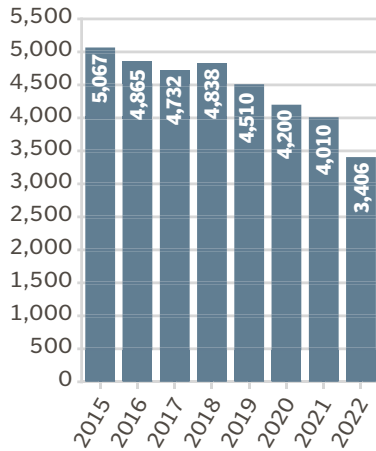
The total revenue for the college plummeted by more than half from 2021 to 2022.



SOURCE: 2024 Private College Viability App

quality of a Lesley education declining, even as tuition climbed to more than \$32,000 a year. With 24 core faculty terminated in October 2023, the remaining 89 professors are run

From 2015 to 2022, enrollment at Lesley declined by nearly a third.



DANA GERBER/GLOBE STAFF

ragged, they say. Fewer research opportunities are available in highly specialized fields, including in the expressive therapies, one of Lesley's

LESLEY UNIVERSITY, Page A10

N. Korean troops set to join fray in Ukraine

50,000 soldiers gather to reclaim occupied Kursk territory, says US, Kyiv

By Julian E. Barnes, Eric Schmitt and Michael Schwartz
NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — The Russian military has assembled a force of 50,000 soldiers, including North Korean troops, as it prepares to begin an assault aimed at reclaiming territory seized by Ukraine in the Kursk region of Russia, according to US and Ukrainian officials.

A new US assessment concludes that Russia has massed the force without having to pull soldiers out of Ukraine's east — its main battlefield priority — allowing Moscow to press on multiple fronts simultaneously.

Russian troops have been clawing back some of the territory that Ukraine captured in Kursk this year. They have been attacking Ukrainian positions with missile strikes and artillery fire, but they have not yet begun a major assault there, US officials said.

Ukrainian officials say they expect such an attack involving the North Korean troops in the coming days.

For now, the North Koreans are training with Russian forces in the far western part of Kursk.

The Russian-North Korean offensive looms as President-elect Donald Trump prepares to reenter office with a stated goal of ending the war quickly. Trump has said little about how he would settle the conflict, but Vice President-elect JD Vance has outlined a plan that would allow Russia to keep the territory it has seized in Ukraine.

Some US military and intelligence officials have grown more pessimistic about Ukraine's overall prospects, noting that Russia has steadily gained ground, both in Kursk and in eastern Ukraine. Officials say the setbacks are partly a result of Ukraine's failure to solve critical shortfalls in troop strength.

President Biden has been deeply supportive of Ukraine, pushing Congress to approve billions of dollars in aid and having the US military and spy

UKRAINE, Page A5

Trump could short-circuit clean fuel shift

Mass. among recipients of programs GOP targets

By Erin Douglas and Aaron Pressman
GLOBE STAFF

President-elect Donald Trump doesn't think climate change is a problem and wants the government to stop spending money on what he's called a "hoax" and a "scam." Now, the question is whether he will — or even can — stop the momentum for a clean energy industry that got a big infusion of cash under President Biden.

When Trump retakes the White House in January, he'll find a country retooling its electric grids to accommodate clean power, deploying electric vehicles, and constructing wind turbines and solar farms.

But the incoming Trump administration could significantly slow that transition by attempting to block unspent federal dollars for climate action and by rolling back rules to cut carbon emissions. Both tactics would further risk putting the US behind on its climate goals at a critical moment for the planet and hurt the emerging climate tech and clean energy sectors, experts said.

The Biden administration in 2022 passed the Inflation Reduction Act, the largest spending package in US history focused on curbing climate change. It authorized hundreds of billions of dollars in federal loans, grants, and tax breaks to turbocharge the clean energy industry.

The uncertainty brought by a Trump administration could be "suffocating" for emerging clean energy and clean tech industries, which face

TRUMP, Page A6



Back on the beam

Monday: Warmup, sun late. High 66-71, low 46-51.
Tuesday: Much cooler. High 50-55, low 32-37.
Sunrise: 6:30. Sunset: 4:25.
Weather and comics, **D4-5.**
Obituaries, **B5-6.**

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