

# The Boston Globe

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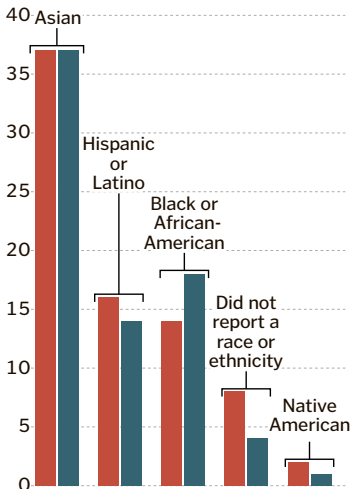
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2024

## Fewer Black first-years enroll at Harvard

### Population of incoming Black students at Harvard drops

● Fall 2024 ● Fall 2023

SOURCE: Harvard University • Harvard did not disclose the percentage of white students in the incoming class of 2028. Fewer than 1 percent identified as Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander for 2023 and 2024. CHRISTINA PRIGNANO/GLOBE STAFF



### In line with some top schools after ban on affirmative action

By Hilary Burns

GLOBE STAFF

Harvard University is the latest elite university to report a decline in enrollment for Black first-year students this fall, a year after it lost a pivotal Supreme Court case that resulted in a nationwide ban on race-conscious affirmative action in college admissions.

Black students make up 14 percent of first-year students, Harvard said Wednesday, down from 18 percent last

year. The share of Asian American students held steady, however, while Hispanic enrollment grew slightly.

Around New England, Amherst College, MIT, Tufts University, and Brown University have also reported enrolling a smaller percentage of Black first-year students this year compared to last year.

It may be early, however, to draw conclusions about the extent to which the Supreme Court's ban on race-conscious admissions policies is affecting diversity at top higher education institutions. Black student enrollment held mostly steady at Princeton University and Yale University, perplexing both advocates and critics of affirmative ac-

HARVARD, Page A10

## Abortion stance still a struggle for Trump

### Position on a US ban, veto unclear in debate

By Jim Puzzanghera and Tal Kopan

GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON — Donald Trump has tied himself up in verbal knots talking about abortion throughout his career, and his contortions on it during Tuesday night's debate have some Republicans concerned about his ability to deliver a clear message on a pivotal issue in the final weeks of the campaign.

The Republican presidential nominee struggled to articulate his position, twice dodging a direct question about whether he would veto a national

►Local Haitians and advocates criticize Trump for debate comments. B1.

abortion ban — and in the process contradicting a public statement from his running mate last month that he would. At the same time, Vice President Kamala Harris delivered a clear position in favor of abortion rights, challenging Trump in a way that President Biden had difficulty doing.

So while Democrats now have a candidate at ease talking about abortion, Republicans are saddled with one who clearly remains uncomfortable with it.

“Do you or don't you? Will you or won't you?” Alaska Senator Lisa Murkowski, a Republican who supports abortion rights, said of Trump's waffling. “We didn't get a clear direction from him.”

But Republicans who want more abortion restrictions said Trump was making a smart political move by being vague on a tricky issue for the party. Trump, they said, simply acknowledged the reality

ABORTION, Page A7

## For third-party candidates, some unexpected help

### GOP boosts Stein in N.H. hoping she'll drain some votes from Democrats

By Emma Platoff

GLOBE STAFF

Jill Stein is a left-leaning environmentalist running for president as head of the Green Party, as she has in several prior elections. Jefferson Thomas is a longtime GOP operative whose firm, the Synapse Group, has worked for a prominent Donald Trump surrogate and an Elon Musk-affiliated super PAC.

Thomas might seem like an unlikely ally for Stein. Yet records filed with local election officials show he has submitted signatures for her in at least four New Hampshire municipalities this election cycle, helping the third-party candidate secure a spot on the potential swing state's presidential election ballot.

Now, Stein is certified to compete in New Hampshire in November. And the Democratic National Committee, alongside other Democratic-aligned groups, is raising alarms that Thomas and other GOP operatives are boosting third-par-

SIGNATURES, Page A6



ADAM GRAY/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

## 23 YEARS LATER, A DAY TO REMEMBER

Sept. 11 ceremonies were held Wednesday locally and across the nation. Above, people in New York City looked at the names of victims at the South Tower Memorial Pool. President Biden, former president Donald Trump, and Vice President Kamala Harris stood together at ground zero for the reading of the names. **A6.** At right, families and friends of victims with Massachusetts ties gathered at the Public Garden for a wreath-laying ceremony. Another ceremony was held at the State House. **B1.**



DAVID L. RYAN/GLOBE STAFF

## Fight is lost but it wasn't in vain, substation foes say

By Sabrina Shankman

GLOBE STAFF

A decade after Eversource first filed papers to erect a substation in East Boston, opponents lost their final attempt to block it Wednesday with the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruling the project could continue forward.

In a unanimous decision, the

court rejected what had been the opponents' “last Hail Mary” — an argument that the substation's approval should be overturned because it violates a 2021 state law intended to protect low-income communities like East Boston from the burden of industrial infrastructure.

Now, after years of community

protests, a nonbinding ballot question, and seemingly endless legal proceedings, the advocates who led the fight against the substation — arguing that the utility failed to engage the community early on, that the location is unsafe, and that it is being built on space previously promised by the City of Boston as soccer fields — are moving on.

“Obviously we're very disappointed with the decision,” said Anxhela Mile, a lawyer with the Conservation Law Foundation who filed the appeal along with the environmental grass-roots group GreenRoots.

The case highlighted one of the greatest challenges to the state's

SUBSTATION, Page A5

## On the rise — and on the outs?

### Rapid7's CEO, a Boston star, may face a battle with activist investors

By Aaron Pressman

GLOBE STAFF

It was a sea of handshakes and hugs for Corey Thomas, the longtime chief executive of cybersecurity company Rapid7, at the annual meeting of the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce in May.

As 1,500 guests including the governor and chief executives of the city's largest companies dined on short ribs and garlic mashed potatoes, Thomas took the stage as the chamber's incoming chairman, marking his rise to the top of the local business scene. Rapid7 was already one of the state's top cyber tech employers, its headquarters next to TD Garden and logo emblazoned on the jerseys of Bruins players.

“A big part of what makes Boston special is the community — how employers, civic leaders, and universities and colleges and high schools interact to actually develop real talent,” Thomas told the throng.

But within days, Thomas's 12-year tenure running Rapid7 would come under scrutiny from an activist New

RAPID7, Page A10



LANE TURNER/GLOBE STAFF/FILE

Corey Thomas, who has led Rapid7 for 12 years, may be targeted as the cybersecurity company struggles.



### Shining, see?

**Thursday:** Beautiful again.  
High 78-83. Low 59-64.  
**Friday:** You guessed it.  
High 80-85. Low 62-67.  
High tide: 6:28 a.m., 6:40 p.m.  
Sunrise: 6:21 Sunset: 6:58  
**Weather and Comics, D5-6.**  
**Obituaries, C8-9.**

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**The Boston School Committee voted to move ahead on the controversial White Stadium renovation,** the latest board to give its stamp of approval. **B1.**

**Inflation continued to recede,** paving the way for the Fed to lower interest rates for the first time since 2020. **D1.**

**High doses of Adderall were associated with an elevated risk for a first-time episode of psychosis or mania,** according to a McLean Hospital study. **D1.**

**Nurses at Brigham and Women's Hospital ratified a new contract,** averting a threatened strike, union officials said. **D1.**

**Israeli airstrikes across Gaza hit a UN school sheltering displaced Palestinian families** as well as two homes, killing at least 34 people. **A4.**

