

# The Boston Globe

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## A hot mic confirms cold hard truth

Schools often fail to support disabled, as a parent learns

By Mandy McLaren  
GLOBE STAFF

Gaurav Jashnani couldn't believe his eyes.

The words, laid out in black and white, stung: administrators from his child's Northampton elementary school seemingly calling him "a pain in the ass" and saying the district would "go to war" with him over his parental advocacy. And even more stunning, they admitted the district doesn't provide students with disabilities, like his child, with the services to which they are legally entitled.

It was all there, in a transcript of a January special education meeting for his child, that Jashnani, a college professor, was reading weeks later. The unsettling exchanges captured on the transcript took place after he had left the room as the educators unknowingly continued to record themselves, believing the meeting was over.

"What is going to happen to my kid if the principal, the counselor, and the special education coordinator are sitting there saying they're going to war with me for asking that they provide accommodations to help my child learn?" Jashnani recalled thinking that day in mid-March. "What are they going to do to my child?"

It was the beginning of a saga that would lead to Jashnani reading the transcript comments aloud at a School Committee meeting, spurring a school district investigation and prompting outrage among other parents.

**NORTHAMPTON, Page A7**



Devra First checks out Little Sage in the North End, with chef Tony Susi at the stove (above, potato gnocchetti). **G1.**

Non-tenure-track faculty at Wellesley College went on strike, leaving students with a dilemma. **B5.**

Attorney General Pam Bondi directed prosecutors to seek the death penalty against Luigi Mangione in the killing of a health care chief executive. **A2.**

Hopes faded of finding many more survivors of the earthquake in Myanmar. **A3.**



Springing us along

**Wednesday:** Chilly, late rain. High 38-43. Low 34-39.

**Thursday:** Clearing, warmer. High 60-65. Low 53-58.

High tide: 2:34 a.m., 3:14 p.m.  
Sunrise: 6:25 Sunset: 7:11

**Weather and Comics, G6-7. Obituaries, C9.**

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## Trump's targets feeling the pain



BRETT PHELPS FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

Demonstrators gathered Tuesday at Harvard University to protest the Trump administration's threats to cut federal funding and its immigration policies. **B1.** Princeton is the next to be threatened. **A4.**

## Harvard braces for what his conditions will be

By Mike Damiano  
and Hilary Burns  
GLOBE STAFF

As Harvard reeled from the Trump administration's announcement Monday that it might cut billions in federal funding if the school "allow[s] antisemitism to fester," a central question remained unanswered.

What, exactly, does the administration want Harvard to do?

At Columbia University, the Trump administration made similar threats last month and canceled \$400 million in funding. Then it sent a list of demands the school must meet to combat antisemitism and control pro-Palestinian protests.

But Harvard has already undertaken many similar actions during its response to allegations of antisemitism on campus in the 15 months since former Harvard president Claudine Gay resigned.

"We fully embrace the important goal of combatting antisemitism, one of the most insidious forms of bigotry" and "have devoted considerable effort to addressing" it, Harvard president Alan Garber said in a letter Monday night after the government announced a "review" of nearly \$9 billion of research funding destined for Harvard and affiliated institutions, including top research hospitals like Mass General Brigham and

Boston Children's Hospital.

At Columbia, the White House asked university leaders to implement so-called time, manner, and place restrictions on campus protests. Harvard did that last year, and then enforced those policies when students and professors protested in a campus library.

The government told Columbia to adopt a formal definition of antisemitism, and cited as an example the definition that Harvard had already adopted on Jan. 21, the day after the presidential inauguration.

The administration instructed Columbia to place its Middle East studies

**HARVARD, Page A6**

'I like that people are talking about antisemitism, and I wish that more people would, but I don't think that he's genuine. And I don't think he is going to help.'

EVAN EPSTEIN,  
Harvard student,  
talking about  
President Trump

## President appears to set a plan: 'reciprocal' tariffs, in effect today

By Tony Romm, Ana Swanson,  
and Jeanna Smialek  
NEW YORK TIMES

President Trump has settled on a final plan for sweeping "reciprocal" tariffs, which are expected to take effect Wednesday after he announces the details at an afternoon Rose Garden ceremony.

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt confirmed the timeline in a briefing with reporters Tuesday, adding

►Retailers face a reckoning. **B5.**

ing that Trump had been huddling with his trade team to hash out the finer points of an approach meant to end "decades of unfair trade practices."

When pressed on whether the administration was worried the tariffs could prove to be the wrong approach, Leavitt struck a confident note: "They're not going to be wrong," she said. "It is going to work."

The administration has been weighing several different tariff strate-

gies in recent weeks. One option examined by the White House is a 20 percent flat tariff on all imports, which advisers have said could help raise more than \$6 trillion in revenue for the US government.

But advisers have also discussed the idea of assigning different tariff levels to countries depending on the trade barriers those countries impose against American products. They have also said that some nations might avoid tariffs entirely by striking trade deals with the United States.

Speaking to reporters in the Oval Office on Monday, Trump said the United States would be "very nice, relatively speaking," in imposing tariffs on a vast number of countries — including US allies — that he believes are unfairly inhibiting the flow of US exports.

"That word reciprocal is very important," Trump told reporters. "What they do to us, we do to them."

By Tuesday, Leavitt said the president had made a decision and was

**TARIFFS, Page A6**

## MGB finds research terminated

By Robert Weisman,  
Chris Serres,  
and Kay Lazar  
GLOBE STAFF

The deepening Trump administration budget cuts have hit Mass General Brigham, the nation's largest hospital recipient of research grants, and other Massachusetts universities and hospitals, canceling tens of mil-

►Unspent COVID relief for Mass. schools cut. **B1.**

lions in funding and shutting down medical research programs in areas such as primary care, reproductive health, and pandemic preparedness.

Over the past few weeks, nearly three dozen research programs led by Harvard-affiliated Massachusetts General Hospital and Brigham and Women's Hospital were terminated by the National Institutes of Health and other federal agencies, according to researchers tracking the cuts.

In February, the administration attempted to cut billions of dollars in overhead expenses for research, such as utilities and the upkeep of laboratories, before a federal judge put that move on pause.

The latest cuts will affect research programs awarded at least \$70 million at MGB hospitals' labs over multiple years, with most of that money already paid but at least

**CUTS, Page A5**

## A RECORD-SETTER



Senator Cory Booker held the floor for 25 hours and 5 minutes as he railed against President Trump in a "talking filibuster." **A4.**

## SPLIT DECISION

The Democratic-backed candidate for the Wisconsin Supreme Court beat a Trump-endorsed challenger, while Republicans took two Florida House seats in special elections. **A2.**

## Looking for a rebirth, Fitchburg turns to artists

By Malcolm Gay  
GLOBE STAFF

FITCHBURG — When Nick Capasso arrived at the Fitchburg Art Museum more than a decade ago, the abandoned school opposite the museum served as a stark reminder of the challenges facing this once-prosperous mill town on the banks of the Nashua River.

The city's downtown had been hollowed out as the paper and other industries departed. Median household incomes had fallen well below state levels, and the old B.F. Brown School, attended by generations of area schoolchildren, sat gathering dust, its windows covered with red plywood.

So Capasso, FAM's director since 2012, was receptive when developer Marc Dohan approached him with an idea to convert the school and two other buildings into affordable housing for artists.

"The last thing I wanted was three boarded-up buildings across the street from the art museum," said Capasso, whose museum played a supportive role in the project. "If our community doesn't thrive, the art museum's not going to thrive. It's just that simple."

Now, after more than a decade of work, developers have completed renovations to the erstwhile school, which began leasing 68 units of artist-preferred affordable housing in March. The \$45 million project, where one-bedrooms start at less than \$1,200 and roughly 70 percent of the units are deemed affordable, is a critical piece in Fitchburg's broader bid to leverage arts and culture to revitalize the Gateway City.

"We decided to build on our unique strengths and try to stimulate the local creative economy," Capasso said, "which in turn

**FITCHBURG, Page A7**



LANE TURNER/GLOBE STAFF

Steven Cook (left) and Marc Dohan of NewVue Communities (right) in the auditorium of renovated building now housing artists in downtown Fitchburg.