

An old-fashioned helping hand



A volunteer from the Mennonite Disaster Service prepared to install insulation in a home in Brookfield, Vt., damaged by fire and flood.

Mennonite women join recovery effort for a Vermont family

STAN GROSSFELD
AS I SEE IT

BROOKFIELD, Vt. — Amid the backdrop of whining power drills is the soothing sound of young women singing hymns as they paint.

The women are volunteers from the Mennonite Disaster Service who willingly gave up their vacations to help rebuild a house in Central Vermont that was ravaged first by fire and then by flooding. These are construction workers of a different cloth, eight women in their 20s from Pennsylvania, all dressed in the traditional Old Order Mennonite garb of long dresses and bonnets.

Their motives are pure. They're not pushing religion.



The volunteers measured drywall and insulation. For nearly 75 years, the group has been sending crews around the country to help others.

"We want to help people that need help," said one. "It's very rewarding." Asked her name, she softly shook her head.

"Just say one of the Mennonite girls. We're not here for fame. We just came to help these people that need us."

The others nodded in agreement. They are joined by an Amish wood cutter and a Mennonite crew chief, who retired after 30 years as a journalist.

Monica Hampton, the owner of the house, who is not Mennonite, sings their praises while holding her 2-month-old, JJ.

"I think they're amazing," Hampton, a registered nurse, said as she worked alongside them. "I feel more than blessed. I don't even have words for how grateful I am. They do the work of God and they are here to help

GROSSFELD, Page B4

'It's going to cost hundreds of millions of dollars to get the Steward hospitals back to a reasonable level.'

DAVID E. WILLIAMS, *president, Health Business Group consulting firm*

Cost to rescue Steward hospitals: \$700m

Price tag for taxpayers highlights how the effects of hospital crisis may linger

By Robert Weisman
GLOBE STAFF

Governor Maura Healey's plan to rescue six struggling Steward Health Care hospitals could cost taxpayers as much as \$700 million by 2027, according to people with direct knowledge of the bailout plan.

The massive cash infusion, needed

to stabilize critical facilities weakened by the bankrupt company's collapse, underscores how the effects of the hospital crisis may linger beyond Steward's expected retreat from the state.

While the outlines of Healey's plan have been made public, her administration has not yet disclosed the po-

tential cost, which the Globe confirmed with multiple people briefed on the planning who asked not to be identified because of the sensitivity of the plans. Administration officials wouldn't confirm the price tag.

Some of the funding would come from federal matches for MassHealth, the state Medicaid program, or assessments on all hospitals to bolster the operations of those with large numbers of low-income patients.

STEWART, Page A10

Divided visions for Boston Carnival

Arguments arise over how to evolve and who should lead

By Tiana Woodard
GLOBE STAFF

The children appeared as colorful as a kaleidoscope in their extravagant Carnival masquerade outfits. In green, orange, red, gold, pink, and adorned with rhinestones, feathers, crowns, and masks, they strutted and danced through the streets of Jamaica Plain and toward English High School.

►New route set for J'ouvert parade. B1.

Last weekend's Junior Carnival presented by the Caribbean American Carnival Association of Boston is a staple of Boston's Carnival season, a beloved annual tradition that celebrates the region's Caribbean influences through dozens of parades, concerts, and balls spread over the final weeks of summer.

But some longtime participants are worried Boston's Carnival might be losing its

CARNIVAL, Page A10



KEN MCGAGH FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

Aliyah Janae Jackson, 13, parade queen, marched in last Saturday's Kiddies Carnival parade put on by the Boston Society of Caribbean Culture and Heritage.

Powell signals rate cut ahead

Change would lower most borrowing costs

By Larry Edelman
GLOBE STAFF

Jerome Powell, chair of the Federal Reserve, all but promised on Friday that central bank officials would cut interest rates next month as they shift their focus from fighting inflation to protecting the job market.

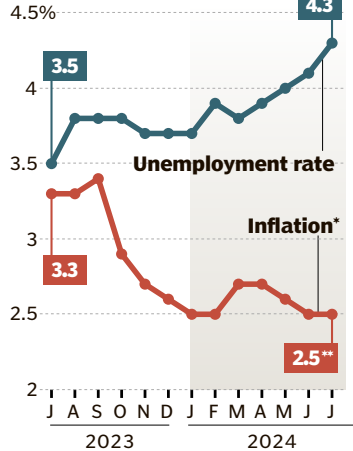
The long-anticipated shift, which could mark the beginning of series of interest rate cuts, would mean lower borrowing costs for car loans, credit cards, and mortgages, and for business loans. The average rate on a 30-year, fixed-rate mortgage has already fallen to 6.5 percent, according to Freddie Mac, from 7.8 percent in October, partly in anticipation of the Fed lowering rates.

A September rate cut would also put the Fed in a politically delicate situation. Donald Trump has complained that it would be unfair for the Fed to lower rates so close to the November election, even though he never hesitated to criticize

FED, Page A6

Opposite directions

Inflation is retreating but the unemployment rate is rising.



SOURCE: US Labor Department, US Bureau of Economic Analysis via Bloomberg, *Personal Consumption Expenditures Index, year-over-year change, **Federal Reserve estimate
GLOBE STAFF

Ukraine has launched a series of strikes at airfields, ports, and oil depots in Russia aimed at degrading the Kremlin's war effort. **A4.**

The White House national security adviser will travel to China to meet with the country's foreign minister, in the latest high-level meeting aimed at defusing tensions. **A6.**

Judge Beverly J. Cannone rejected a motion to dismiss some of the charges against Karen Read following a July mistrial. **B1.**



Perfect pair

Saturday: Sunny, pleasant. High: 81-86. Low: 64-69.

Sunday: Partly sunny. High: 81-86. Low: 65-70.

Sunrise: 6:01 Sunset: 7:31 Comics and Weather, **D4-5.**

Obituaries, **C9.**

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RFK Jr. suspends bid, backs Trump

Says he'll withdraw from battleground ballots

By Emma Platoff
GLOBE STAFF

Robert F. Kennedy Jr., the independent presidential candidate who ran one of the most significant third-party bids in decades, suspended his campaign Friday and endorsed former president Donald Trump.

►Kennedy siblings describe 'a sad ending to a sad story.' B1.

In a lengthy speech in Arizona, Kennedy said he would withdraw from the ballot in key battleground states, ending weeks of speculation about his political future as he faced challenges to ballots in multiple states and lagging support in the polls.

Kennedy said he did not believe he had a realistic path to the White House "in the face of this relentless, systematic censorship and media control," leaning into themes of unfair treatment that have animated his campaign.

He said he would work to pull his name off the ballot in about 10 battleground states where he feared he would be a spoiler and tip the election for Democrats. But Kennedy said his name would stay on the ballot in solid red and solid blue states that he did not consider competitive and urged supporters in those places to vote for him anyway.

"I am not terminating my campaign," Kennedy said. "I am simply suspending it, and not ending it."

But questions remain as to whether, and where, Kennedy will be able to remove his name from the ticket. In the crucial swing state of Michigan, for example, Kennedy qualified for the ballot by earning the nomination of the

KENNEDY, Page A7