

# The Boston Globe

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## Complaints of bias linger on N.J. force

New State Police leader was cited in four cases where he served as 2nd-in-command

By **Danny McDonald, Shelley Murphy, and Sean Cotter**  
GLOBE STAFF

The veteran policeman tapped to helm the scandal-plagued Massachusetts State Police is the subject of at least four discrimination complaints that allege he bypassed qualified candidates who were gay, female, and people of color for promotions while fostering a culture of

cronyism during his time as a leader at the New Jersey State Police, according to a Globe review.

Geoffrey D. Noble is expected to start as Massachusetts State Police colonel next month, following a lengthy career in New Jersey that saw him rise to deputy superintendent, the second-in-command, before his retirement from that force in 2022.



Geoffrey Noble

how the agency polices the public, a Globe review found. One government report that examined New Jersey State Police data from 2009 to

That agency has a lengthy and well-documented history of racial and gender bias accusations both in how its workforce is managed, as well as

2021 found a troubling pattern in the way troopers treated motorists who were people of color. Black motorists were nearly 90 percent more likely to be searched when stopped than white drivers, and Hispanic drivers were 46 percent more likely to be searched than white ones.

In New Jersey, Noble's appointment to oversee the Massachusetts State Police earlier this month has raised eyebrows among some police reform advocates, who pointed to unresolved complaints against him.

**NOBLE, Page A10**

## FIERY BLAST OUTSIDE HOUSTON



BRETT COOMER/ASSOCIATED PRESS

A massive pipeline fire burning for hours Monday in La Porte, Texas, began after a vehicle was driven through a fence and struck an above-ground valve, officials said. Local police and FBI agents found no evidence of terrorist activity, they said. One firefighter was slightly injured in a bid to help keep the fire from spreading to nearby homes. **A2.**

## High energy costs pummel low-income residents

By **Sabrina Shankman**  
GLOBE STAFF

When it comes time to pay bills each month, Latoya Blue has to decide: how much can go to food and rent, and how much for heat and electricity?

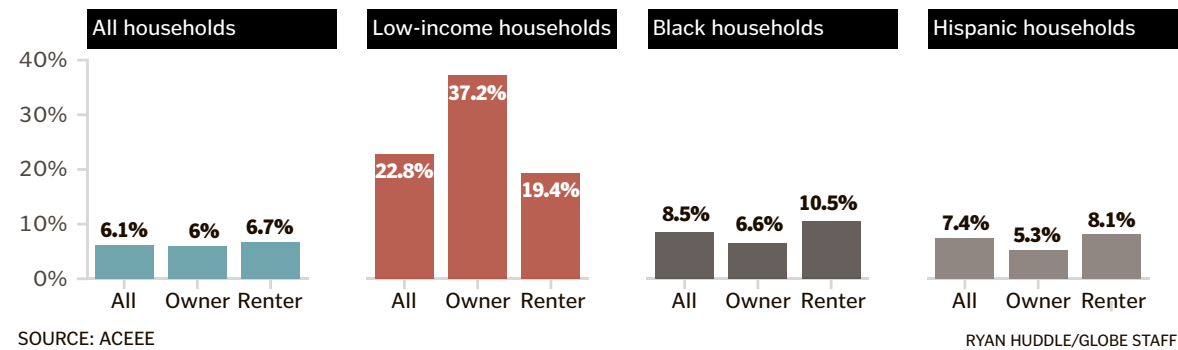
She needs to keep things consistent at her Hyde Park apartment, and make sure her sons — including an 18-year-old with special needs — have what they need. So the rent and food are an easy yes. But that makes energy bills, which seem to keep getting higher, harder to cover.

"It's never, ever been easy," she said. At times, her utilities have been close to being shut off. "I don't know what was going on this year. This year, there was no buffer."

Blue is one of thousands of Boston residents facing this squeeze. According to a recent report from

### The burden of household energy bills

A recent report looked at the energy burden of the hardest-hit 25 percent of low-income households. In Boston, in that quartile, those residents spend nearly 23 percent of their household income on energy bills.



the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy, Boston has among the highest energy burdens of 25 US cities, defined as the percentage of household income spent on energy costs.

Energy bills have historically been high in the city and state because Massachusetts is near the end of natural gas pipelines and is beholden to fuels from outside the state, namely oil and gas, and both

are known for being vulnerable to price spikes.

Massachusetts has long had high prices for electricity, much of which is now generated by burning natural

**ENERGY, Page A10**

## Scramble to protect candidates intensifies

Second assassination bid prompts push to accelerate funds to Secret Service

By **Tal Kopan and Jim Puzzanghera**  
GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON — After the Secret Service foiled Sunday's apparent assassination attempt on Donald Trump — the second in less than two months — there is a growing call to provide the agency with more resources to protect the candidates in the final weeks of the presidential campaign.

"One thing I want to make clear is: The service needs more help," President Biden told reporters Monday. "And I think Congress should respond to their need."

But with fewer than 50 days before Election Day, it's unclear if there's enough time for help to arrive.

Congress is two weeks away from federal funding running out across the government without any clear plan to extend it, let alone to give the Secret Service more money. A House task force created to investigate how a gunman was able to fire a bullet that grazed Trump's ear in Butler, Pa., in July is making progress but isn't due to issue its report until December. And even if additional funds were approved, getting it into Secret Service coffers for technology or hiring and training more agents could take more time than the agency has.

**SECRET SERVICE, Page A6**

### Trump suspect

Officials said an alleged gunman hid at the former president's golf course for 12 hours before agents shot at him. **A6.**

## Malice festers half a world away in Newton

City officials grapple with divisions from Mideast war

By **John Hilliard**  
GLOBE STAFF

NEWTON — For nearly a year, the Rev. Kenneth F. Bailly has grown increasingly worried about his community. Newton has deep, broad connections to the Middle East, and war raging between Israel and Hamas has been pulling the city's residents apart.

Residents divided over the nearly year-long conflict have argued bitterly on social media. Tempers have flared as protests, and counterprotests, occupy public spaces. And last week, that simmering anger finally breached when a pro-Israel demonstrator allegedly shot a Palestinian supporter who had started a streetside brawl.

"Anger is usually a reflection of pain, and for me, and my colleagues and companions, there's just so much pain around this," said Bailly, who leads both the city's interfaith organization and the Newton Highlands Congregational Church. "I perceive a widespread grief."

**NEWTON, Page A7**

MICHAELA MABINTY DEPRINCE 1995-2024

## From brutal horror to a place of grace and soaring talent

By **Bryan Marquard**  
GLOBE STAFF

Long before fame made her name recognizable throughout the ballet world, Michaela Mabinty DePrince was dismissively called "Orphan 27" — designated the least likely to be adopted from among the children in a Sierra Leone facility where an uncle had abandoned her during the country's brutal civil war.

By age 4 she was protecting other children and helping them survive in a place where her own survival was never a given. One day she saw rebel fighters torture and kill a pregnant teacher she admired, and barely survived their rage herself.

"Dance with your heart," she advised

aspiring young performers in a 2018 interview with a ballet website when her star was rising as a Dutch National Ballet soloist.

"I have really tried to have a positive mind-set about myself as much as I possibly can," she told biscuitballerina.com. "I also try to remind myself that those traumas don't need to define my present. They are in the past, and it's time to look towards the future."

Ms. DePrince, who joined the Boston Ballet as a second soloist in 2021 and used her burgeoning renown to highlight the plight of children in war-torn countries, was 29 when she died Sept. 10 in New York City. Her family said the cause of death was not immediately clear.

**DEPRINCE, Page A5**



ASSOCIATED PRESS/FILE

Ms. DePrince grew up ostracized in an orphanage. She would become a second soloist dancer with the Boston Ballet.

### Ray to go

**Tuesday:** Mostly sunny.  
High 76-81, low 59-64.

**Wednesday:** Clouds move in.  
High 71-76, low 60-65.

Sunrise: 6:27. Sunset: 6:50.

Weather and comics, **D5-6.**

Obituaries, **C9.**

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**Nurses assert that poor staffing and equipment shortages endanger patients** at Framingham Union Hospital. **D1.**

**Friends of a State Police recruit who died in training recalled** a driven, athletic man who loved criminal justice, museums, and history. **B1.**

**The Patriots lost linebacker Ja'Whaun Bentley,** their top tackler for the past three seasons, to a season-ending injury. **C4.**

**The company operating the Titan submersible neglected safety concerns, ex-employees** said in testimony at the first day of Coast Guard hearings on last year's deep-sea disaster. **A2.**

**US and Israeli officials met to discuss the threat** from Hezbollah in Lebanon. **A3.**