

For Biden, gears may be slipping in Mich.

EV push alienates a key constituency: autoworkers

By Jim Puzzanghera

GLOBE STAFF

WATERFORD TOWNSHIP, Mich. — Dan Mayville, a skilled trades worker at a Ford engine factory, readily admitted that United Auto Workers negotiators last fall scored an excellent contract with “sick money” for employees like him after a strike against the Big Three automakers. But the union’s recent endorsement of President Biden left him feeling cold.

As he waited on Feb. 17 in single-digit wind-chills for a rally by former president Donald Trump in this Detroit suburb, Mayville said Biden’s aggressive push for electric vehicles made him the wrong choice for UAW members.

“I’m not a fan because it does kill jobs. We’re witnessing it now,” said the 49-year-old tool and die maker from nearby Flat Rock wearing a red “Trump 2024” knit cap. “A lot of the autoworkers in my plant are for Trump.”

Trump hammered home a similar message on the threat from electric vehicles about four hours later to a frigid crowd of roughly 3,000 people in an airport hangar in Michigan. The pitch — filled with familiar falsehoods and overwhelmed by rants against his court cases — is key to Trump’s effort to swing this pivotal battleground state back to his column in November.

“Michigan, you’re going to get so screwed,” Trump predicted of the electric vehicle transition, claiming that all EVs soon will be made in

MICHIGAN, Page A6

US expresses hope on deal for Gaza truce

Framework possible but details remain elusive

By Niha Masih and Leo Sands

WASHINGTON POST

Officials negotiating cease-fire talks for Gaza have tentatively agreed to the “basic contours” of a deal, White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan said Sunday, adding that the United States hopes a final agreement can be reached “in the coming days.”

Sullivan, speaking on CNN’s “State of the Union,” declined to give specifics but urged negotiators to move swiftly on any deal, which could see ramped-up aid to Gaza and the release of some hostages still held by Hamas.

“We hope that in the coming days, we can drive to a point where there is actually a firm and final agreement on this issue,” he said. “So we are telling everyone, including the Israeli government, that it is our firm position that every effort be exercised to get to this agreement, and then we can move forward from there.”

Sullivan’s remarks came after a round of talks was held in Paris on Friday, when officials from Israel, Egypt, the United States, and Qatar, which acts as an intermediary for Hamas, met to discuss a new framework for a deal. Negotiations had stalled over the past few weeks after Israeli forces pressed further into Gaza and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called Hamas’s cease-fire demands “delusional.”

MIDEAST, Page A5

Ring in the old

Landlines still have a hold on many Massachusetts households



PHOTOS BY KEN MCGAGH FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

Wanda, 10, daughter of Jordyne Wu of Newton, talked to a friend on an old-fashioned rotary telephone in her home.

By Dana Gerber

GLOBE STAFF

It was 6 p.m. on a school night, and 10-year-old Wanda was talking on the phone with a friend. It would have been an unremarkable scene if not for the phone itself: a retro-style black contraption with a rotary dial made of bronze and this thing called a telephone line snaking its way to a jack in the wall.

It looked more appropriate for 1954 than 2024.

“Are you still here?” she said into the receiver, trying to execute a three-way call. “OK, good. Hang on.” Supervising the tête-à-tête was her mother, Jordyne Wu, who had the landline phone installed in their Chestnut Hill home in December as a way to teach her children communication skills before they are ready for cellphones. (The vintage aesthetic, she said, was a bonus).

It’s an analog routine that many predicted would not survive into Wanda’s generation, destined for the same fate as VCRs and 8-tracks. But despite being sentenced long ago to technological obsolescence, household landlines have stubbornly stuck around. This is particularly true in the Northeast, where in 2022, 42 percent of adults lived in a house

A landline ‘strengthens some of those connections that you otherwise don’t have just by calling somebody directly.’

SPENCER ROSS, a Burlington resident who maintains a landline in his home because of its intangible benefits



Wu also got a red “emergency style” landline phone for her husband.

with a landline — the highest share of any region in the country, per the latest data from the National Center for Health Statistics.

It’s true that landlines are far outnumbered by their mobile counterparts; there were 7.8 million cellphone subscriptions in Massachusetts as of June 2022, compared to 1.3 million residential landlines (either classic switched access lines or “voice over internet protocol” subscriptions that require a broadband connection to place a call), according to the Federal Communications Commission.

But landline loyalists, while they do tend to skew older, are far from Luddites. In interviews, more than a dozen Massachusetts residents who have hung on to their handsets — and, all of whom also have cellphones — cited safety, comfort, and simplicity as factors for why they haven’t cut the cord (or cordless).

“It’s like stability,” said Kirk Shilts, a 63-year-old chiropractor who lives in Hingham. “In this day and age where we move around so often, it’s home base.”

And in rare instances when cellular coverage is down — such as during the widespread AT&T outage Thursday — landlines exact their comeuppance: They are still more effective at

LANDLINES, Page A10

When the college price tag is unknown

Delays in financial aid leave high school seniors in limbo

By Maddie Khaw

GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

Kathy Bishop’s daughter, Tori, a senior at Wakefield Memorial High School, is the type of person who likes to have things planned out.

So she was on top of her college applications in the fall, submitting her forms and essays by the deadlines for early action. Tori was excited when she found out she got into her top choices, including Endicott College and the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. And if things had gone as planned, she would have been on track to sift among financial aid offers and pick her school well ahead

of the May 1 deadline, and then enjoy a stress-free final semester of high school.

But things didn’t go as planned — not for Tori or thousands of other high school seniors across the country, whose families are in limbo because of significant delays in the dreaded form used to determine financial aid, the US Department of Education’s Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

The Education Department overhauled the notoriously headache-inducing FAFSA form in an effort to make it easier for college applicants to get needed aid, expanding eligibility measures and simplifying the process. But the revisions took longer than expected to finish, and applications weren’t available to prospective students until Dec. 30, rather than in October as usual.

FAFSA, Page A7

The Supreme Court on Monday will hear arguments on the most important First Amendment cases of the internet era. A2.

A group seeks to use an 18th-century Mattapan farm to bolster education and wellness in urban neighborhoods. D1.

For years, the CIA has been building a partnership with Ukraine that has exposed Russian secrets and helped Kyiv fend off attacks. A4.



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Weather and comics, **D4-5.**

Obituaries, **C9.**

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JESSICA RINALDI/GLOBE STAFF

The Rev. Stephen Josoma was saddened by the Dedham zoning board’s rejection of an expanded meal plan for migrants.

Rift erupts in Dedham over rejected bid to expand meal service for migrants

By John Hilliard

GLOBE STAFF

DEDHAM — The Rev. Stephen Josoma can’t understand the uproar that has gripped the town — a bitter, raw debate over the preparation of meals for migrant families and other homeless people staying in state emergency shelters.

Josoma has been pastor of St. Susanna Church for more than 20 years, he said, and the Dedham community he knows is generous. Residents support

people in need, including immigrants. Donations of money, food, household goods — whatever is needed — will roll in when he asks for help, he said.

So when people packed the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting Wednesday to oppose the proposed expansion of a catering service to prepare meals for people staying in emergency shelters in nearby communities, Josoma was thunderstruck. Some comments di-

rected at migrants were “inhuman,” he wrote in his weekly church bulletin.

“It just saddened me, I try to get my head around it,” Josoma said in an interview. “I’m not even sure where it’s coming from.”

The proposal, which was rejected by the zoning board, would have expanded the catering service, which is located at the former Victory Grille, next door to the Inn at Ded-

DEDHAM, Page A10