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'Child care is a linchpin. It's central to our agenda.'

GOVERNOR MAURA HEALEY

HEALEY PUSHES TO BRING CHILD CARE TO MANY MORE



The governor visited a pre-K classroom at the Mystic Valley YMCA in Malden as she made her announcement Tuesday.

\$38.7 million to expand low- or no-cost preschool options for 4-year-olds to all 26

Gateway cities by 2026 \$75 million to fund the expansion of

child care subsidies to families that earn up to 85 percent of the state median income

to maintain the **Commonwealth Cares for** Children grants

By Diti Kohli and Samantha J. Gross

MALDEN — Governor Maura Healey proposed a major expansion of child care in Massachusetts on Tuesday, saying she would include nearly \$590 million in additional funding in her proposed budget for the next fiscal year while sign-

ing an executive order to explore partnerships with employers to increase access to early education statewide.

Surrounded by public officials and advocates in school Partnership Initiative. the Mystic Valley YMCA, Healey hailed her new "Gateway to Pre-K" agenda as a necessity for providers struggling with the rising cost of labor and operations, and for the future of the state's economy at large.

"Child care is a linchpin" for Massachusetts, Healey said at the event, with a row of toddlers seated in front. "It's central to our agenda, both for

families, for education, for workforce, for business development."

Healey's proposal would include \$38.7 million to expand low- or no-cost preschool options for 4year-olds to all 26 Gateway cities by 2026. Twelve Gateway cities — which include Brockton, Fall

River, Haverhill, Holyoke, Lawrence, Lowell, Lynn, Malden, New Bedford, Salem, Springfield, and Westfield currently offer those options through the Commonwealth Pre-

Another \$75 million would fund the expansion of child care subsidies to families that earn up to 85 percent of the state median income.

Today, residents are eligible for the Child Fare Financial Assistance program if they earn 50 percent or less of the state median income, or \$61,106 for a household of three people. Healey's proposal **CHILD CARE, Page A7**

In N.H., looking for signs of a race

Trump calls for 'big margins' while rivals try to make move

By Emma Platoff, Samantha J. Gross, and Matt Stout

ATKINSON, N.H. — A day after Donald Trump romped to victory in Iowa, the Republican primary blew into snow-covered New Hampshire, where any chance Nikki Haley or Florida governor Ron DeSantis has to disrupt the former's president march to the GOP nomination likely rests in this early-voting state where Trump appears, relatively

speaking, vulnerable. All three candidates held events in the state on Tuesday, following months of Haley climbing in local polling, DeSantis fading from view here, and the field thinning around them.

What hasn't changed a week before the Jan. 23 primary - and was only affirmed by his 30 percentage point win in Iowa — is Trump's grip on the party. His appearance here at the Atkinson Country Club represented more a victory lap than appeal to any undecided voters in a state where Haley, the former United Nations ambassador, has inched closer as former New Jersey governor Chris Christie, entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy, and others have dropped from the field.

"I know that New Hampshire will never let us down," Trump told the crowd before introducing Ramaswamy, who dropped out of the race Monday and touted Trump as the choice at what he called a **NEW HAMPSHIRE, Page A5**

To local core, Trump can still do no wrong

By Emma Platoff and Steven Porter GLOBE STAFF

It was yet another moment that for any other candidate might have spelled disaster.

Speaking at a rally last month in Durham, N.H., former president Donald Trump said that immigrants are "poisoning the blood of our country," a remark that echoed the white supremacy of Adolf Hitler, and immediately drew condemnation from around the world.

Jamie Brassill heard it differently. "I don't think he meant that," said the Manchester, N.H., Republican, who still plans to support Trump again in the GOP primary Tuesday.

"The blood of our country is not white, it's every mixed kind," said Brassill, who works as a delivery driver for Instacart. "I think it was just a poor choice of words, and he means they're ruining the infrastructure of our country."

"He shouldn't have said something like that that people would take the wrong way," she added. But, after all, Brassill said, "He's just a regular

Trump has enjoyed enduring popularity amid multiple criminal cases and legal entanglements, even as his ugly rhetoric, promises to govern as a dictator for one day, and threats to imprison his political opponents draw widespread criticism. Voters like Brassill are the reason why. A core

TRUMP, Page A4

Case puts focus on police response to mental issues

Questions raised about SWAT team leaving man in crisis, possibly endangering firefighters

By Sean Cotter GLOBE STAFF and Alexa Coultoff GLORE CORRESPONDENT

The first report of gunshots behind an apartment building in Mattapan came shortly before midnight on Dec 29 The next round of gunfire was

four hours later, again behind the same building.

This time, police found shell casings outside and a man in a second-

floor window waving a flashlight. A SWAT team was called in and spoke with the man, who told them he was alone and suffering a psychotic episode. The officers left after he refused to come out.

The next gunshot came through the apartment door eight hours later, as firefighters were trying to enter to put out a fire.

The 48-year-old resident of the apartment, Julius Allen Owens, was arrested after police said he jumped out of a window and broke his ankle. A police report said a handgun was recovered at the neighboring building where he was arrested. Officials commended a Boston police SWAT team for taking him into custody without firing any weapons.

►What Mass. resi-

dents think about the

state of the state. B1.

But the close call with firefighters has raised questions about why police didn't take Owens into custodv earlier, and whether they adequately investigated the possibility that he had a gun and was a threat to himself or others. The case also casts a spotlight on the challenges police face when confronting people suffering a mental health crisis.

Boston Police Commissioner Michael Cox said the department is reviewing its handling of the case.

"We are looking into it to make sure we did all we could," Cox said He declined to comment on the specifics of Owens's case, but said police cannot enter someone's home without sufficient cause.

Dennis Galvin, president of the Massachusetts Association for Professional Law Enforcement, said it appeared that, based on details released so far, officers could have immediately sought a search warrant for Owens's apartment after inter-

POLICE, Page A7

Law's fine print sucks the juice out of pole-mounted chargers



The state says that EV charging equipment must meet efficiency standards. By Aaron Pressman

They've been a game-changer for city dwellers who want to buy electric vehicles: curbside chargers attached to utility poles. In Melrose and Wilmington, where the first were installed, they provide the driveway-less with a way to fuel up without the cost and inconvenience of digging up side-

But now that more cities and towns want to sign up, they're hitting a huge roadblock: It's no longer legal to purchase or install the chargers in Massachusetts because of an unintended consequence of the state's 2022 climate law. (Previously installed chargers are not affected.)

The law required that EV charging

equipment and many other kinds of appliances and gear meet efficiency standards cataloged by the Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnership, a nonprofit that works across 12 states and the District of Columbia on sustainability programs. While 172 different pieces of equipment related to EV charging meet the energy efficiency standards, the pole-mounted EV chargers do not. As of Jan. 1, 2023, products in cat-

egories mentioned in the climate law, including electric vehicle supply equipment, "may only be sold or installed in Massachusetts if they are certified by their manufacturer as compliant," the state Department of Energy Resource said in an email.

CHARGERS, Page A6

The MBTA had another meltdown, this time caused by a failed electrical cable that shut down Orange and Red Line stations while the Green Line was already partly closed, leaving commuters

waiting for shuttle buses in the snow. B1. A blast

from the past The B-Side Lounge

in Cambridge has been gone since 2008, but some of the team has brought the magic back at the Bluebird Bar in West Newton. And oh those drinks, writes Devra First. **G1.**



Top Democrats and Republicans in Congress released a \$78 billion tax compromise but it faces long odds. A2.

An aging population could spell trouble for the Massachusetts economy. **B5.**

Step, crackle, plop

Wednesday: Still icy, breezy. High 26-31. Low 18-23.

Thursday: Not as cold. High 30-35. Low 24-29. High tide: 3:32 a.m., 3:56 p.m.

Sunrise: 7:10 Sunset: 4:38 Weather and Comics, G6-7.

> VOL. 305, NO. 17 Suggested retail price

> > \$3.50

