

The Boston Globe

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On state median income, we're #1

Near 6 figures, but wealth gap is stark

By Dana Gerber and Daigo Fujiwara-Smith
GLOBE STAFF

The median household income in Massachusetts neared \$100,000 in 2023, a 1.5 percent increase over the year prior when adjusted for inflation, a sign that residents are inching closer to pre-pandemic buying power, although the gap between the poor and the wealthy in the state remains pronounced.

At \$99,858, the median income was the highest of any state in the country, lagging only Washington, D.C., according to estimates out Thursday from the US Census Bureau. That's about a \$1,500 hike from the previous year, when adjusted for inflation, the first time that figure has grown since the onset of the pandemic. Even so, that remains short of the 2019 high of \$102,632 (in today's dollars).

INCOME, Page A5

Median household income by state and territory, 2023

TOP 5

District of Columbia \$108,210

Massachusetts \$99,858

New Jersey \$99,781

Maryland \$98,678

New Hampshire \$96,838

BOTTOM 5

Arkansas \$58,700

Louisiana \$58,229

West Virginia \$55,948

Mississippi \$54,203

Puerto Rico \$25,621

SOURCES: US Census Bureau's American Community Survey 1-year estimates • NOTE: Dollar figures are adjusted for inflation in average 2023 dollars.
DAIGO FUJIWARA-SMITH/GLOBE STAFF

No de la Torre, and no answers

Steward CEO could be found in contempt of Congress for skipping Senate hearing



PHOTOS BY KAYLA BARTKOWSKI FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

Ralph de la Torre was represented by an empty chair at the hearing. A criminal referral to the US attorney could lead to prison time

By Aaron Pressman and Tal Kopan
GLOBE STAFF

Lawmakers in Washington, D.C., moved to punish Steward Health Care chief executive Ralph de la Torre on Thursday after he skipped a Senate hearing on the struggles of his bankrupt hospital chain. At the same time, a bipartisan chorus of senators signaled support for legislation to prevent a repeat of the Steward collapse at another health care system.

Senators had hoped to grill de la Torre at a high-profile hearing of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee in the Capitol, but had to make do verbally attacking an empty chair.

Although he was subpoenaed to testify, the high-flying heart surgeon who built Steward into the country's largest for-profit hospital chain while extracting hundreds of millions of dollars for himself and his financial partners, private equity firm Cerberus Capital Manage-

‘Steward didn’t pay the vendor, and there weren’t any bereavement boxes. Nurses were forced to put baby remains in cardboard shipping boxes.’

ELLEN MACINNIS, a nurse who worked at St. Elizabeth's Medical Center for 25 years



ment and real estate investment trust Medical Properties Trust, refused to appear, citing the company's ongoing bankruptcy proceedings.

After the hearing, committee chair Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont scheduled a vote for Sept. 19 on two resolutions — one civil, one criminal — to hold de la Torre in contempt of Congress for defying the subpoena.

“A witness cannot disregard and evade a duly authorized subpoena,” Louisiana Senator Bill Cassidy, the committee's ranking Republican, said during the hearing.

A civil contempt finding for de la Torre could lead to a judge ordering him to testify, while a criminal referral to the US attorney could lead to prison time — much like the four-month sentence Donald Trump ally Steve Bannon is serving for rejecting a subpoena to testify about the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol.

In brief interviews after the hearing, both Sanders and Cassidy predicted the
STEWARDS, Page A8

US may facilitate arms for Ukraine

By David E. Sanger, Helene Cooper, and Eric Schmitt
NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — President Biden appears on the verge of clearing the way for Ukraine to launch long-range Western weapons deep inside Russian territory, as long as it doesn't use arms provided by the United States, European officials say.

The issue, which has long been debated in the administration, was expected to come to a head Friday with the first official visit to the White House by Britain's new prime minister, Keir Starmer.

Britain has already signaled to the United States that it is eager to let Ukraine use its “Storm Shadow” long-range missiles to strike at Russian military targets far from the Ukrainian border. But it wants explicit permission from Biden in order to demonstrate a coordinated strategy with the United States and France, which makes a similar missile. US officials say Biden has not made a decision, but will hear from Starmer on Friday.

If the president approves,
UKRAINE, Page A9

EMTs hope whole blood will transform treatments

Possible tool to save victims from bleeding to death

By Adam Piore
GLOBE STAFF

By the time paramedic Leo Reardon and Dr. Mike Valkanas arrived at the scene in Canton on a dark summer night in 2015, the teenager had already begun to bleed to death.

He was 16, a new driver. He'd gone outside wearing flip-flops to move a Jeep blocking a relative's car, a job so quick and easy he hadn't bothered to close the vehicle door. Then his foot slipped on the gas pedal,

sending the vehicle hurtling backward with such force that he tumbled out the open car door. Somehow, he ended up underneath the left front tire, which crushed his pelvis and tore open his femoral artery.

Reardon and Valkanas used every tool in their arsenal to try and save the boy. But his wounds were internal, he was losing blood too fast, and they had no means of replacing it. The teenager, who was still talking when they first arrived, went into shock, lost consciousness, and bled out in front of them.

“It’s one of those cases that’s always there,” Valkanas
WHOLE BLOOD, Page A9

In a study of **2,785** patients suffering from severe traumatic hemorrhage, Dr. Crisanto M. Torres showed that those who received whole blood infusions had a risk of mortality rate that was **37%** lower than those who received traditional component therapies alone.

As police expand use of DNA, courts will draw the line

Lawyers for Nilo, suspect in 8 sexual assaults, challenge genealogy searches and matching

By Sean Cotter
GLOBE STAFF

It looks pretty straightforward on the TV crime shows: Police obtain DNA evidence from a crime scene, run it through their computers, and up pops a surefire match.

However, one type of DNA work that's relatively new, known as investigative genetic genealogy, is more complex and indirect, requiring police to conduct a kind of connect-the-dots among a pool of possible genetic matches.

Now, such genealogy searches are facing a stress test in the courts, with

the most high-profile challenge in Massachusetts coming from attorneys for Matthew Nilo, who is accused of sexually assaulting eight women in Charlestown and the North End in 2007 and 2008. They argue that the method violated their client's legal rights against unreasonable search and seizure.

“It's the entire case,” Nilo's attorney Rosemary C. Scapicchio said in a hearing last Thursday to get prosecutors to turn over more evidence and information about how police identified him from a match on an ancestry site and then obtained a sample of his DNA
DNA, Page A8

HITTING THE WALL

Boston Firefighter Reagan Li rappelled on the Green Monster during a joint technical rescue training event Thursday at Fenway Park. More than 100 firefighters from five technical rescue divisions across the state participated.

More on the event, B4.



DAVID L. RYAN/GLOBE STAFF

One shot in Newton at pro-Israel rally

Demonstrators clashed with a passerby who had confronted them, authorities said. One of the demonstrators, the alleged shooter, was arrested. **B2.**

After ballots were counted by hand, state Representative Marjorie Decker eked out a win to keep her long-held seat representing the 25th Middlesex district in Cambridge. **B1.**

Dry run

Friday: Sunny, beautiful. High 81-86. Low 62-67.

Saturday: Ditto.

High tide: 7:28 a.m., 7:39 p.m.

Sunrise: 6:22 Sunset: 6:57

Weather and Comics, G6-7. Obituaries, C11.

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