

Retailers’ mistakes hasten Black Friday fade

Profits take a hit with too many deals and too much stuff

By Thomas Lee

GLOBE STAFF

Retailers used to look forward to Black Friday and the start of the holiday shopping season, which once accounted for most of their sales and profits for the year.

Not so much anymore. Analysts say inflation-weary consumers are likely to cut back on spending this season. And though retailers can’t control the economy, many of them have overreacted to trends and conditions in ways that may ultimately cost them sales and profits. It’s already looking pretty grim. Total retail sales from September to October fell 0.1 percent, the first month-over-month decline since

March. “This feels like an ominous sign,” said Ted Rossman, senior analyst for Bankrate.com. Retailers may have only themselves to blame for what could be a mediocre to lousy holiday season. Here are three ways they messed up this year: **Discount fatigue** Believe it or not, there is such a thing. Long ago, consumers could

expect deals on Black Friday, and then the last few days leading up to Christmas. But retailers now bombard consumers with “Black Friday” deals as early as September. To make matters worse, Amazon launched its second Prime Day of the year in early October, forcing other retailers to push out holiday promotions earlier than they had expected. Nonstop promotions defeat the **SHOPPING, Page A12**

Hopes, fears as cease-fire closes in

Families on both sides worry something will prevent release of hostages

By Aaron Boxerman, Hiba Yazbek, and Jason Horowitz

NEW YORK TIMES

JERUSALEM — After tortuous, weeks-long negotiations, Israel and Hamas reached an agreement Thursday for a brief cease-fire that will begin Friday morning and allow for the release of at least 50 women and children held hostage in the Gaza Strip. In return, Israel agreed to a pause in hostilities of at least four days and the release of 150 Palestinian women and minors imprisoned in Israeli jails. The cease-fire, announced by the Qatar Foreign Ministry, marks the most significant diplomatic breakthrough since Hamas’s Oct. 7 attacks on Israel, which killed 1,200 people, according to Israeli authorities, and prompted a devastating Israeli invasion of Gaza. It is scheduled to take effect at 7 a.m. local time. The first 13 hostages will be released to Mossad, Israel’s foreign intelligence agency, apparently in good health, at 4 p.m., according to Qatar, which helped broker the deal. Lists of freed hostages and prisoners will be released day to day, with the goal of a further agreement to extend the pause in hostilities and release more hostages. “The first glimmer of light at the end of the **CEASE-FIRE, Page A7**

Public money being used for private security at Mass. Cass

Health commission says it’s about safety; police balk

By Sean Cotter

GLOBE STAFF

They have been fixtures over the last two years in the thick of the open drug market known as Mass. and Cass: armed, uniformed guards and their marked vehicles patrolling for signs of violence or property damage. They are not police officers, though, and they don’t make arrests. None of them have fired their weapon while on patrol in Mass. and Cass. They are members of a private security force that the Boston Public Health Commission has contracted to help secure the area — at a cost of more than \$2.3 million this calendar year alone. The health commission confirmed to the Globe that it first hired the company, Ware Security of Norwood, in November 2021 to provide what a spokesperson called “additional exterior security” around a homeless shelter and engagement center the organization operated on Atkinson Street, by the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue and Melnea Cass Boulevard. **MASS. AND CASS, Page A9**

A city united in grief starts to heal

On a day of togetherness, those in Lewiston who have lost find comfort in community’s support

By Deanna Pan

GLOBE STAFF

LEWISTON, MAINE The Hannaford supermarket was out of chocolate cream pie — a hit every year at his extended family’s Thanksgiving dinner — so Keith Tremblay resolved to make his own with store-bought crust and instant pudding mix, a recipe borrowed from his ma. Tremblay has spent nearly all 30 years of his life here. He knows Lewiston and its sister city, Auburn, have a rough reputation: To outsiders, a down-on-its-luck former mill town; to Tremblay, Lewiston is comfortable. Lewiston is a family. Lewiston will always be home. A survivor of the mass shooting here in October, Tremblay was reminded of that on the day before Thanksgiving as he and his 7-year-old daughter, Adaline, scoured Hannaford’s bakery for the pie. Tremblay was wearing the “Lewiston Strong” sweatshirt he and his teammates had made for a softball tournament to raise money for the victims and their families. “We were stopped . . . how many? Three times people said that they liked my sweater,” Tremblay said, a little wistful. “Four,” Adaline interjected, draping her small arms around him as they sat, side by side, on the sofa in Tremblay’s second-floor apartment. “It’s the smallest things. You can be anywhere and you’d meet a complete stranger and have a total conversation with them like you’ve known them for years,” he went on. “But it’s just always like that. That’s what makes it nice for me here.” In the wake of the violent rampage at Schemengees Bar & Grill and Just-in-Time Recreation bowling alley on Oct. 25 that left 18 dead and more than a dozen injured, hope and gratitude have bloomed out of Lewiston’s deep well of grief. All of the victims have been buried. All but one of the injured have been released from the hospital. The national media has moved on. And those affected by the tragedy are **MAINE, Page A8**



ERIN CLARK/GLOBE STAFF

Keith Tremblay, a survivor, sat with daughter Adaline. The mass shooting “really showed me how big of a family I have, whether they’re blood related or not,” he said.



ERIN CLARK/GLOBE STAFF

Volunteers with Maine Community Integration handed out free Somali food during a Thanksgiving event at Kennedy Park in Lewiston.



ERIN CLARK/GLOBE STAFF

Gracie Pete hugged her uncle Stan Harmon while her grandmother Jan Biron looked on. Biron’s partner, Leroy Walker Sr., lost his son in the mass shooting.

In the yard, seeing the trees for the forest

By planting a variety for the environment, homeowner thinks big

By Spencer Buell


GLOBE STAFF

CAMBRIDGE — For now, it doesn’t look like much. On this patch of lawn the size of a studio apartment, a cluster of bare twigs pokes up from an oval of freshly turned soil, with just some delicate orange leaves — or red berries — clinging to them. About three dozen species of trees, plants, and bushes have been planted here, all bunched so closely that they’re nearly on top of each other. None stands more than waist high, and many are so young and delicate, one wrong step could snap them in **FOREST, Page A8**



SUZANNE KREITER/GLOBE STAFF

Tori Antonino, an ecological landscaper, worked on some of the plantings going into the yard of Susan Filene of Cambridge. Filene is planting a “Miyawaki forest,” a technique devised by Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki that aims to mimic natural growth.



It’s all relatives

Friday: Not bad, windy. High 47-52. Low 25-30.

Saturday: A bit cooler. High 37-42. Low 27-32.

High tide: 8:14 a.m., 8:45 p.m.

Sunrise: 6:45 Sunset: 4:16


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On the National Day of Mourning, people gathered in Plymouth to memorialize Indigenous people who were killed. **B1.**

House Speaker Mike Johnson’s decision to release extensive Jan. 6 footage has fueled a renewed GOP effort to rewrite the history of the attack. **A2.**

A nonalcoholic bottle shop in the South End aims to be a gathering spot for people who don’t want the buzz. **B5.**

Thanksgiving is the biggest day of the year for high school football players. Read about the games in Sports, **C6-10.**

“The Band’s Visit,” at the Huntington Theatre, is a remarkable musical that knows all about human sadness, writes critic Don Aucoin. **G1.**