

In fiery speech, Biden takes aim at Trump

Uses State of Union to tout accomplishments and address the age issue

By Katie Rogers
NEW YORK TIMES
WASHINGTON — President Biden used his State of the Union address on Thursday to launch a series of fiery attacks against former president Donald Trump, a competitor whom he did not mention by name but labeled as a dire threat to US democracy and stability in the world.
In a televised speech to a

joint session of Congress, Biden brought the energy his allies and aides had hoped he would display to warn of what could happen should Ukraine continue to lose ground to Russia. Invoking an overseas war at the top of his address was an unusual introduction to a speech that was in many ways a political argument for his reelection. “Not since President Lincoln and the Civil War have freedom

and democracy been under assault at home as they are today,” Biden said, raising his voice to a shout. “What makes our moment rare is the freedom of democracy, under attack both at home and overseas.” Biden’s speech had to accomplish several goals at once, including taking credit for an economy that has outperformed expectations but whose effects many Americans say they can-

not feel. He touched on a range of issues, including immigration, abortion, prescription drug costs, and the war in the Gaza Strip.
He also engaged in a back-and-forth with congressional Republicans, picking up a button circulated by Republicans that called for people to say the name of Laken Riley, a Georgia nursing student who was killed
STATE OF THE UNION, Page A8



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“My predecessor — and some of you here — seek to bury the truth about Jan. 6 — I will not do that,” President Biden said.

‘If you really want to make people happy and comfortable wherever they are, you really have to relate to them through their food.’

YUSUF YASSIN, co-owner of Nubian Markets



PHOTOS BY CRAIG F. WALKER/GLOBE STAFF

Mercedes Ruiz prepared lunches at Fort Hill Bar & Grill for migrants staying at a shelter nearby in Roxbury.

SERVING MIGRANTS — AND SMALL BUSINESSES

Shelter contracts keep dollars in neighborhoods, where restaurants provide taste of home

By Daniel Kool
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT
and Samantha J. Gross
GLOBE STAFF
The clatter of spoons against pans rang over snippets of Spanish and English, as kitchen workers at Nubian Markets scooped sweet potato and plantain hash into plastic to-go containers on a recent morning, nestling the Haitian-inspired dish against pairs of mini muffins.
The boxed breakfasts — around 350 of them — would soon be delivered to dozens of migrant families sheltering at a recreation center a few blocks down the road. By sunrise, the scent of brewing coffee and pungent

spices used in Creole cooking lingered in the Roxbury cafe’s air.
“Really, this is a menu specifically tailored around the Haitian cuisine,” said Yusuf Yassin, the cafe’s co-owner and an immigrant himself. “If you really want to make people happy and comfortable wherever they are, you really have to relate to them through their food, through their culture, through their language.”
Hundreds of migrant and homeless families have been sheltering at overflow sites across Greater Boston. The shelters, including one established at the Melnea A. Cass Recreational Complex, have sparked mixed reactions from neighbors, some of
SHELTER CONTRACTS, Page A7



Rise and Shine Contract Cleaning was awarded the job for the shelter at the Cass complex.

Questions remain after restraint of student

Critics concerned it’s being done too often in general

By James Vaznis
GLOBE STAFF
Massachusetts regulations only allow public school employees to restrain students with their bodies, usually their arms, to prevent students from imminently harming themselves or others, raising significant questions about why a 3-year-old Boston student was recently strapped to a chair with nylon straps and duct tape.
The incident at the Condon K-8 School in South Boston on Valentine’s Day involving a student with disabilities highlights ongoing concerns among education advocates and parents about whether Massachusetts public school teachers and other staffers restrain students too frequently and whether they do it improperly.
During the last school year, employees in the state’s public schools and private special education programs restrained 3,822 students a total of 29,215 times, resulting in 939 injuries to students or staff. The number of injuries, which can be a sign of improper training, was the highest on record since the state began collecting the data during the 2016-17 school year.
The data, along with last month’s restraining of the 3-year-old, whose mother says is showing symptoms of autism spectrum disorder, indicates the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education needs to do a better job monitoring districts for compliance and may also need to tighten regulations on training, said Ellen Chambers, founder of SPEDWatch, a Massachusetts advocacy watchdog group.
RESTRAINTS, Page A12

Lawyer for Maine families criticizes panel on shooting

By Daniel Kool and Alexa Coultoff
GLOBE CORRESPONDENTS
AUGUSTA, Maine — A lawyer representing the survivors and families of victims of the state’s deadliest mass shooting expressed frustration at a special commission investigating the tragedy, saying panelists appeared unprepared on Thursday when former colleagues of the shooter from the Army Reserve testified about his deteriorating mental condition.
Benjamin Gideon, an attorney who is part of a team representing some 80 to 90 Lewiston survivors and victims’ families, argued that the commission’s members failed to follow up on concerning points some Army reservists made, including a remark that Robert R. Card II seemed “off his rocker.”
During the nearly eight-hour hearing, members of the Army Reserve who served with and oversaw Card — and observed his bouts of delusion and paranoia firsthand — said they believed the Army did all it could to provide mental health services in the months before Oct. 25, when he killed 18 people at a bar and bowling alley.
Moreover, Gideon also said the commission rejected his offer of questions from families of victims ahead of the hearing Thursday, the seventh the panel has held.
“I really just don’t understand. If the purpose of this is to get answers to prevent other situations like this from happening, what is the harm of receiving the questions from outside people?” Gideon said in an interview. “If they don’t like
LEWISTON, Page A7


State left parent in dark about why day care closed

Expected operator, guilty in cocaine deals, to tell woman

By Shelley Murphy and Danny McDonald
GLOBE STAFF
In mid-January, Vanessa Monteiro received a text from the woman who cared for her 2-year-old son, saying she was abruptly closing the day-care center operated out of her South End apartment because of a “personal emergency,” according to a message Monteiro shared with the Globe. When Monteiro arrived to pick up her

son, the day-care operator and her two workers were crying and too emotional to talk.
“I honestly thought maybe a family member died,” said Monteiro, a 30-year-old single mother from Dorchester.
It wasn’t until last week that Monteiro learned from a Globe report the reason for the abrupt closure on Jan. 12: Massachusetts regulators had only just learned its owner, Jenny Vicente-Desoto, had been arrested for orchestrating cocaine deals out of Marjeli Family Day Care on Harrison Avenue — in 2019.
State regulators failed to uncover
DAY CARE, Page A12


The United States is planning to ferry aid to desperate civilians in the Gaza Strip with a large-scale military operation in the Mediterranean Sea. **A4.**
A man accused of opening fire on a parked car in Worcester, killing a woman and her 11-year-old daughter, was ordered held while a search continued for a second suspect. **B1.**
An investigation into the Uvalde, Texas, mass shooting cleared local police of missteps, infuriating parents. **A2.**
Crooner Steve Lawrence, who formed a crowd-pleasing act with his wife, Eydie Gormé, for more than five decades, died at 88. He popularized the standard “I’ve Gotta Be Me.” **C11.**



Best buds

Friday: Pleasant.
High 44-49. Low 33-38.
Saturday: Cloudy, rain late.
High 41-46. Low 34-39.
Weather and Comics, G6-7. Obituaries, C11.

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