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‘The news says inflation is going down, but nobody sees it.’

BENILDA DALOMBA, *who receives help from the Elisha Project*



JOHN TLUMACKI/GLOBE STAFF

Volunteers carried groceries to those waiting in their cars at the Elisha Project in Pawtucket, R.I., recently.

For pastor, long lines for food tell a story missed by many

R.I. group says poverty figures don’t reflect the reality of rising costs

By Edward Fitzpatrick
GLOBE STAFF

PAWTUCKET, R.I. — Benilda Dalomba, 66, staked out the first spot in line shortly after 6 a.m., parking her Mazda with a crucifix hanging from the rearview mirror outside the warehouse where food and supplies would soon be distributed.

Behind her, a line of cars formed, weaving a solid mile past symbols of Pawtucket’s history and future, including the Old Slater Mill, cradle of the American Industrial Revolution, and the new grandstand for the Tidewater Landing soccer stadium. By day’s end, nearly 650 lined up to receive care packages filled with pounds of chicken,

fresh vegetables, and basics such as dish detergent and diapers.

“Things are so expensive now — rent, food,” Dalomba, a retired machine operator from Pawtucket, said on a recent Saturday as she waited. She said she wasn’t surprised by the long line. “The news says inflation is going down, but nobody sees it.”

The Elisha Project, a Pawtucket nonprofit, organizes the drive-through distribution twice a month. The growing turnout provides a window into a need not reflected in monthly unemployment rates or this year’s presidential campaign speeches, said the group’s cofounder and CEO, the Rev.

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The aid packages included produce as well as hygiene items.

The Supreme Court agreed to decide whether Mexico may sue gun manufacturers in the United States for aiding in the trafficking of weapons used by drug cartels. **A2.**

Israel carried out another series of punishing air-strikes, hitting suburban Beirut and cutting off the main crossing between Lebanon and Syria. **A4.**

The Healey administration has tapped Kirk Taylor, a longtime Boston-area biotech executive, to run the quasi-public Massachusetts Life Sciences Center. **D1.**



Pick of the crop

Saturday: Becoming sunny. High: 70-75. Low: 51-56.

Sunday: Clouds and sun. High: 60-65. Low: 53-58.

High tide: 1:22 a.m. 1:31 p.m.

Sunrise: 6:46 Sunset: 6:18

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Delayed mail prompts backlash

By Niki Griswold
GLOBE STAFF

For the past year, Patricia Brooks has kept an emergency supply of her daily blood pressure medication, one of several the 69-year-old Dorchester resident gets by mail.

The backup supply is necessary because her mail delivery has been so delayed and inconsistent that she cannot count on her mailed prescriptions to arrive on time. On disability for the past eight years, Brooks has also been hit with late fees on her phone and credit card bills, which she pays by check through the mail.

“It’s a pain in the butt. ... [I feel] terrible, upset, nervous, especially about my medication,” Brooks said. “I get nervous when it’s not here.”

Brooks is one of a dozen Boston residents who told the Globe that they and their neighbors have experienced unreliable service by the United States Postal Service for months. For some, it’s merely an inconvenience. But for others, particularly seniors, it’s had a significant impact on daily life, resulting in weeks-long delays receiving

MAIL, Page A6

Voters skeptical of child care promises

Parents — and employers — say they need more than words from politicians

By Tal Kopan
GLOBE STAFF

PETOSKEY, Mich. — As Corrina Bergeon awaits the expected arrival of her baby in January, she has a daily routine: contacting day cares to beg for a spot.

Bergeon, 30, a petite brunette with heart-shaped, rimless glasses who works for a local insurance company, has been calling, texting, emailing, and even showing up unannounced at day cares to get on any waitlists accepting names. It’s not neurosis — this leafy tourist hub nestled along northern Lake Michigan is a child care desert, with an estimated three children under age 3

for every one care slot. Infant openings are the hardest to find.

“I’m so anxious, it’s just a base state of existence,” Bergeon said, laughing darkly. “I’m supposed to be, like, painting a nursery and building a crib, and not persistently or annoyingly emailing every day care in a 40-mile radius every day.”

The affordability and accessibility of child care is a key economic issue in this fall’s election, including in this battleground state, where families are scrambling for care and employers are struggling to maintain and recruit a workforce without it. The situation on the ground in

CHILD CARE, Page A7



NORTH CENTRAL MICHIGAN COLLEGE

Anne Thornton is the director of the North Central Michigan College Early Learning Center, an on-campus child care center.

Economy holding up with job gains

Adds to evidence the Fed has achieved elusive soft landing amid inflation

By Jeanna Smialek and Ben Casselman
NEW YORK TIMES

For months, the economy has been like a jigsaw with one mismatched piece: Consumer spending has been holding up, and overall growth has been solid, but the job market has looked treacherously wobbly.

As of Friday, the last piece of that puzzle is finally clicking into place.

Fresh employment data for September showed that hiring picked up strongly, the unemployment rate dipped, and wage growth came in strong last month — adding to a string of recent data pointing to economic resilience.

And the incoming evidence points to a clear conclusion: The economy is robust.

Data revisions released last week showed that growth has been stronger and incomes have been more solid than previously understood. Retail sales data are holding up. And now it looks as if employers are meeting resilient consumer demand by continuing to expand their workforces.

In fact, the report reinforced that by many measures, the job market is as healthy as it has ever been.

The fresh data is good news for the Federal Reserve, for the White House, and for Kamala Harris’s campaign as the vice president and Democratic nominee tries to make an economic case to voters before the presidential election in November.

It supports the idea that the economy is either **ECONOMY, Page A6**



DAVID L. RYAN/GLOBE STAFF

Governor Maura Healey congratulated Geoffrey D. Noble after swearing him in Friday to lead the State Police. **B1.**

State Police training model scrutinized

Does force seek to create ‘shepherds or warriors?’

By Dan Glaun and Sean Cotter
GLOBE STAFF

In the 1980s, the deaths of two recruits at Massachusetts State Police-run training academies led to criminal investigations, leadership shake-ups, and reforms, amid concerns that the academies cultivated a bullying and hazing-like environment.

Now, following the death last month of 25-year-old recruit Enrique Delgado-Garcia under questionable circumstances, Governor Maura Healey has tasked incoming State Police leader Geoffrey Noble with conducting another review of the agency’s training. And experts, advocates, and elected officials say that probe and another one into Delgado-Garcia’s death should go beyond the tragedy alone and look deep at the academy culture, questioning whether its paramilitary stress-based training model is at the root of the agency’s litany of problems, ranging from corruption scandals to allegations of abuse by troopers.

At issue is whether the training used by the State Police produces troopers skilled in deescalating conflicts, a vision of the reform-era police department, or whether it is an outdated curriculum that shapes recruits into aggressive, even confrontational officers by the time they engage with the public they are supposed to serve.

Delgado-Garcia lapsed into a coma and died a day later on Sept. 13 after he suffered injuries during self-defense training in a boxing ring, and

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