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Once beyond turmoil, they see economic gain

Cutting government spending and rules could boost bottom lines, some contend

By Shirley Leung
GLOBE STAFF

During the four years Joe Biden was in the White House, business was brisk for Bill Johnson's auto repair and towing companies in South Hadley, but his bottom line told a

different story.

"There's one thing I learned," Johnson said. "Being busy does not mean business is good."

Soaring energy costs, higher inflation, and increased regulation squeezed profits at Johnson's enter-

prise so much so that he put off buying any major equipment for years — until Donald Trump won November's election. Betting that business would improve under Trump, as it had during his first term, Johnson ordered two new tow trucks, for \$170,000 apiece.

And now, even with the stock market rattled by Trump's tariff policies and recession fears rising,

Johnson remains bullish.

"There might be a rocky road a little bit as the economy resets," said Johnson. "It's kind of like when a company files for a reorganization after bankruptcy. ... It's tough times going through that reorganization, but they come out of it a lot stronger."

Trump's sledgehammer approach
BUSINESS ECONOMY, Page A7

Pro-Israel groups list students to target

Take credit for ICE arrests, vow to keep up surveillance

By Stephanie Ebbert
and Deirdre Fernandes
GLOBE STAFF

Pro-Israel groups that have used social media and surveillance to create blacklists of campus activists are basking in credit for providing the Trump administration a roadmap for identifying international students to detain and deport.

Before federal agents seized students and scholars from universities,

► **A look at which students have been targeted by immigration agents. B1.**

including Columbia, Georgetown, and Tufts, these organizations compiled lists of thousands of students and professors, many of whom are US citizens, others who are foreign nationals, whom they claim have participated in antisemitic speech or behavior. Those claims can range from allegedly punching a Jewish classmate and participating in protests and encampments that turned violent, to writing and supporting editorials calling for divestment from Israel.

Critics say these groups fuel online intimidation and curb free speech.

After Tufts graduate student Rümeyza Öztürk was apprehended Tuesday evening, the 100-year-old
STUDENT LISTS, Page A7



CRAIG F. WALKER/GLOBE STAFF

Firearms instructor Nolan Howard demonstrated how to hold a shotgun for Jermaine McNeill during a class in Mattapan.

A new, growing market for guns

As sense of security falls for Black Americans, firearms ownership rises

By Hiawatha Bray
GLOBE STAFF

The revolver in Nolan Howard's right hand is unloaded, but he still points it studiously downward and keeps his index finger well clear of the trigger. His careful handling of the weapon is a subtle lesson to his students as he offers them a closer look.

There are five students today. They're ea-

ger and a little nervous; some have never handled a gun before. And like Howard, they're African American.

They've paid \$150 each to come to a tattered function hall in Mattapan and try their hand at racking the slides of semiautomatic pistols and jacking dummy shells into a pump-action shotgun. In the process, they'll learn enough about firearms to eventually

qualify for a Massachusetts gun license.

Howard owns 617 Defense, a company that offers firearms training throughout Greater Boston. He's also president of the Massachusetts chapter of the National African American Gun Association, an organization that boasts 45,000 members nationwide, nearly half of them women. And he's

GUNS, Page A10

Cabinet chiefs follow Trump into the spotlight

With props and uniforms, secretaries raise profiles

By Tal Kopan
GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON — A short time after cheering President Trump's agenda-setting address to Congress this month, several members of his Cabinet were reunited at a Washington-area airport for a different show of force.

There, Trump's attorney general, FBI director, CIA director, and director of national intelligence donned branded jackets from their agencies and patriotic-themed caps to greet an incoming plane. On board was the suspect alleged to have orchestrated the 2021 deadly bombing at Abbey Gate during the chaotic US withdrawal from Afghanistan. The pictures of the group and their promi-

CABINET CHIEFS, Page A6

Union movement fizzling on one campus

Clark's rebuke of bid resounds beyond university

By Diti Kohli
GLOBE STAFF

Last fall, when word of an undergraduate union effort snaked through Clark University, student workers felt as if they were riding a wave.

Thousands of resident assistants, graduate employees, and university researchers on campuses across Massachusetts had organized recently in a pandemic-era burst of labor activity. In the two years leading up to May

2024, student workers won every single union election they held nationwide, including at Boston University, Mount Holyoke College, and MIT.

Organizers at Clark expected pushback from administrators, who contend that undergraduates are on campus primarily for education, not employment. But the sharpness of the school's response rattled labor advocates who now fear it could indicate a shift in attitude toward student organizing at a time when universities face mounting financial pressure, and unions enjoy a less friendly climate in Washington.

Clark declined to recognize
CLARK UNIVERSITY, Page A10



JESSICA RINALDI/GLOBE STAFF

FAMILY AND FEASTS — Women embraced their grandmother following morning prayers for the Eid al-Fitr celebration at the Reggie Lewis Center in Boston. The event marks the end of the fasting month of Ramadan. **B1.**

A weekend of dynamic — and often poignant — moments of skating ends in Boston with the US team in top form heading into next year's Olympics. **C1.**

Richard Chamberlain has died. The actor was renowned for his TV roles on "Dr. Kildare" and "The Thorn Birds." **C9.**

Drip roaring

Monday: Showers, windy. High 61-66, low 43-48.

Tuesday: Cooler, some sun. High 49-54, low 28-33.

Sunrise: 6:28. Sunset: 7:09.

Weather and comics, **D4-5.**

Obituaries, **C9.**

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