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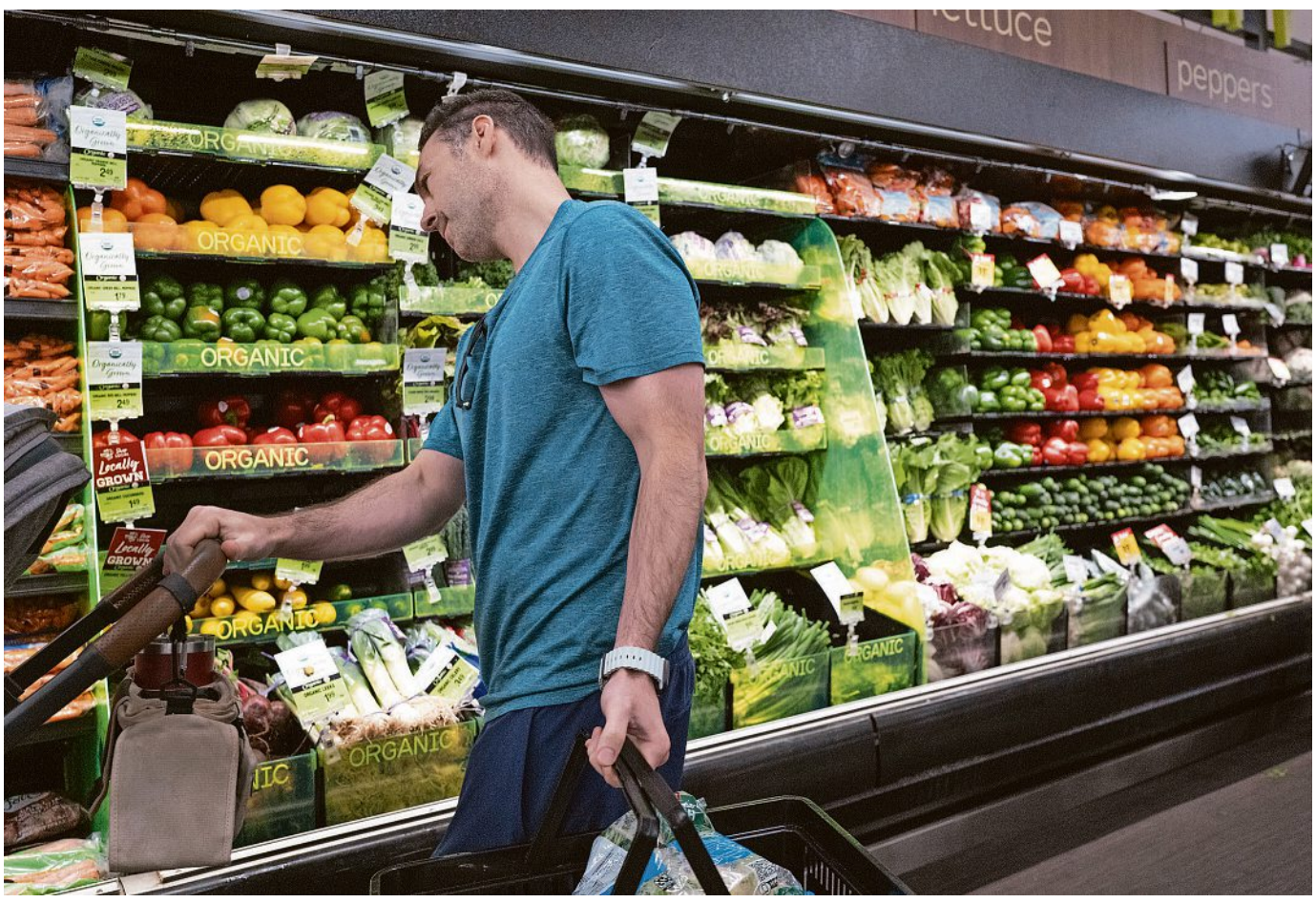
Inflation rises for third straight month



The Labor Department's "food at home" index ticked down 0.1% in September, though grocery costs were up 1.8% over the year. SCOTT OLSON/GETTY IMAGES FILE

Labor Dept. findings last before midterm elections

Rachel Barber
USA TODAY

For the third straight month, workers' paychecks did not keep pace with rising prices, the Labor Department's final inflation report ahead of the midterm elections revealed.

U.S. consumer prices rose 0.6% from the month before in September, per the Oct. 14 report, above forecasters' expectations. Over the year, prices for all items were up 3.7%, surpassing August's 3.4% pace.

In comparison, average hourly earnings for employees on private, nonfarm payrolls increased 3% over the year in September.

A 9.1% rise in gas prices led the month-over-month increase in prices, accounting for over half of the monthly all-items increase, the Labor Department said. Gas prices are up 34.2% over the year.

As workers struggle with the cost of living, consumer confidence is sitting at a 12-year low and 52% of Americans surveyed by WalletHub said they believe inflation is going to "ruin" Christmas.

"Core" consumer price inflation, the department's way to measure price changes while excluding more volatile food and energy costs, rose 0.3% in September as recreation, used vehicles, education, airline fares, medical care and apparel got more expensive.

Core CPI was up 2.6% over the year in September after a 2.4% increase in August. The measure is being closely watched for signs that price pressures are easing – or evidence that supply shocks, like limited oil supply due to global conflicts, are beginning to raise the price of other goods and services.

"There is increasing evidence that the energy price shock caused by the war in the Middle East is starting to produce price increases in other core goods and services," Christopher S. Rupkey, chief economist of

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Police: Don't call 911 for a stolen package

Andrea Marvez
Las Cruces Sun-News
USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW MEXICO

Discovering that a phone, package, or other property has been stolen can leave residents wondering what to do next and whether they should call 911.

In Las Cruces, 911 should be reserved for emergencies that require an immediate response from police, firefighters or an ambulance, Las Cruces Police Department Public Information Officer Dan Trujillo said.

Residents should call 911 when an incident is life-threatening or potentially life-threatening, including situations involving a weapon, threats against someone or a critical medical emergency.

He said that for thefts and other crimes that are not emergencies, residents can instead call Central Dispatch at 575-526-0795. That includes burglaries, stolen property, lost property and other criminal activity that does not require an immediate emergency response.

Residents should also report stolen property as soon as possible rather than waiting several days or deciding the item is not valuable enough to report.

Waiting can make it more difficult for police to collect evidence that could help identify a suspect. Fingerprints or DNA evidence can become contaminated, while surveillance footage from a home, business or doorbell camera could eventually be erased.

"One of the mistakes people often make is not reporting the stolen items immediately, or within a reasonable time period," Trujillo said.

Residents can also take steps before a theft happens that could make recovering property easier.

People should record the serial numbers of valuable items, take photographs, keep detailed descriptions and save receipts in a safe place.

If an item is later stolen, that information can be provided to police. While

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New cannabis shop approved near Las Cruces homes

Leighanne Munoz
Las Cruces Sun-News
USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW MEXICO

Green Buddha sought a special permit to open a medical and recreational dispensary at 1114 E. Lohman Ave. near residential neighborhoods.

The cannabis dispensary plans to provide a fully compliant with the law cannabis store available to medical patients and adult-use customers in accordance to state and local laws.

"The dispensary will operate with strict security protocols, including surveillance cameras, alarm systems, secure product storage, and controlled access procedures. Access to the dispensary will be restricted to adults who meet all legal age and identification requirements, and age verification will be conducted at the entrance in compliance with applicable laws and regulations. Proposed hours of operation will be from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily," according to Green Buddha's Letter of Intent to the City of Las Cruces.

Green Buddha sought a special permit to open a medical and recreational dispensary at 1114 E. Lohman Ave. near residential neighborhoods.
NICOLE NERI/MINNESOTA REFORMER

Owners of the company that there will not be any on-site cultivation, manufacturing or consumption. Green Buddha will occupy the already existing 2,400 square foot commercial space. This includes the already standing building and parking lot.

The Planning and Zoning Committee voted yes to the special permit on Tuesday, Sept. 22 at its meeting.

The special permit is to allow the cannabis business to operate within the zone that includes two residential neighborhoods in the area around Si Señor Express, according to Director of the Community Development Department Chris Faivre.

"All residential neighborhoods, even the ones that have the ability to do commercial, cannabis businesses need a special use permit to operate. It is more of a procedural thing," Faivre said.

The special permit was granted by the Planning and Zoning Committee. To find out more about the Planning & Zoning Committee meetings visit the YouTube page.

Leighanne Muñoz is the business and development reporter for the Las Cruces Sun-News and is a fellow with the New Mexico Local News Fellowships and Internships Program, which places emerging journalists in newsrooms across New Mexico. Learn more at www.newmexicolocalnewsfellowships.org . Email her at lmunoz@gannett.com .

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