



MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2025

MASS LIVE

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## 810 DRONES, DECOYS BLITZ KYIV

Russia attacked Ukraine's capital using drones and missiles on Sunday — the largest aerial assault since the war began. Two people were killed and 20 others wounded. Page A6

### TODAY'S MUST-READS

#### BAY STATE BRIEFING

#### Boston voters head to polls

In just about 24 hours, and if they haven't already done so, a subset of voters across the state's largest city will cast their votes in Boston's preliminary election.

This will bring down the curtain on the first phase of the mayoral race between Democrats Michelle Wu, the incumbent, and her main challenger, Josh Kraft, in a campaign that has seemingly been about everything — and nothing — at the same time.

Full Story on Page A3

#### STATE

#### ICE launches Mass. crackdown

The Trump administration has started an Immigration and Customs Enforcement operation in Massachusetts, saying it was targeting "the worst of the worst criminal illegal aliens living in the state."

In a statement Saturday about the operation, called Patriot 2.0, the Department of Homeland Security struck a harsh note: "If you come to our country illegally and break our laws, we will hunt you down, arrest you, deport you, and you will never return."

Full Story on Page A6

#### REGION

#### Storm impacts local community

Holyoke and Chicopee continue to clean up following a Saturday storm that crushed several cars, knocked out power to roughly 1,100 homes and businesses and closed multiple streets.

The storm only lasted about 30 minutes but brought high winds to the city downing large trees and wires and damaging utility poles.

Full Story on Page A6

#### WEATHER

Warm, plenty of sunshine  
High: 73°; Low: 46°

EXPANDED WEATHER, B4



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#### CHICOPEE

## New commander takes helm



Colonel Chris Holland salutes his troops during the Assumption of Command Ceremony at Westover Air Reserve Base in Chicopee, Sunday, where he was officially named commander of the 439th Airlift Wing. (DON TREEGER FOR THE REPUBLICAN)



Air Force members salute during the ceremony at Westover Air Reserve Base in Chicopee on Sunday. (DON TREEGER FOR THE REPUBLICAN)

Col. Christopher C. Holland officially took over for Brig. Gen. Gregory Buchanan

BY JEANETTE DEFORGE

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An Air Force Reserve pilot who has more than 25 years of military experience and has flown combat missions in Iraq and Afghanistan officially took command of Westover Air Reserve Base Sunday.

Col. Christopher C. Holland, who most recently served as the commander of the 514th Air Mobility Wing located at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst in New Jersey, took over as head of the Chicopee Base in a relaxed and short ceremony in the base hanger.

Brig Gen. Gregory Buchanan left his post as the commander of Westover's 439th Airlift Wing in June to become the director of Air Force Reserve plans, programs and requirements at the Pentagon, so Maj. Gen. Paul Fast, Fourth Air Force commander, presided over the event.

SEE **COMMANDER**, PAGE A2

#### NEWS ANALYSIS

## Trump tramples Congress' power, with little challenge from GOP

BY JULIAN E. BARNES AND CATIE EDMONDSON

The New York Times

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon barred the senior Democrat on the Senate Intelligence Committee from making an oversight visit to a military spy agency.

Armed forces off the coast of Venezuela began a military campaign against alleged members of a drug cartel without any authorization from Congress, and without notifying key members.

The White House informed Congress it planned to use a rare maneuver to skirt a vote and cancel nearly \$5 billion in foreign aid funding that lawmakers had already approved, the latest escalation of its campaign to undercut the legislative branch's spending powers.

And just a month after senators had confirmed her, Robert F. Kennedy Jr., the health secretary, ousted the director of the Centers for Disease Control. He also put forward changes that would effectively restrict access to COVID-19 vaccines, after pledging to senators during his own confirmation hearings that he would not make it more difficult.

The Trump administration continues to erode the power of Congress, trampling on its constitutional prerogatives in ways large and small. Through it all, Republicans in charge have mostly shrugged — and in some cases, outright

**"That is the big story here — not that a president is trying to push the bounds of their authority, because our system was designed with that in mind. The true story is that Republicans in Congress have capitulated and are not pushing back to assert authority."**

Rep. Jason Crow, D-Colorado

applauded — as their powers, once jealously guarded, diminish in ways that will be difficult to reverse.

In recent weeks, GOP leaders have looked on passively as the president has fired a litany of agency leaders whom senators worked for weeks to confirm, from the CDC to the IRS to the Federal Reserve.

And they have shown little appetite for challenging the administration, even as a few have expressed occasional displeasure about the consequences of their decisions earlier this year to swallow their reservations about some of his nominees and confirm them.

SEE **POWER**, PAGE A2



Western New England University (JULIET SCHULMAN-HALL / MASSLIVE.COM / FILE)

#### SPRINGFIELD

## School's 'Spirit' has answers

Western New England University uses chatbot to guide its 2,500 undergraduates

BY STAASI HEROPOULOS

Special to The Republican

As the first in his family to attend college, Springfield's Jyaire Oates was worried about what was in store for him.

"As a first-generation college student, I was lost," he told The Republican.

A chatbot named Spirit came to the rescue. The artificial intelligence system used by Western New England University detected that something could be wrong,

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