



WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2025

MASS LIVE

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SCREEN IDOL, DIRECTOR DIES

Robert Redford, the big-screen charmer turned Oscar-winning director whose hit movies often helped America make sense of itself, died Tuesday at his home in Utah. Page A9

TODAY'S MUST-READS

STATE Commitment to DEI affirmed

Amid “attacks” from the Trump administration on diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives, Massachusetts officials on Monday said their plan is to “double down.”

The Joint Committee on Racial Equity, Civil Rights, and Inclusion held an informational hearing on DEI programs Monday “to provide accurate information about Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) policies and programs to legislators and the public, and to assess the impact of anti-DEI federal actions.” **Full story, Page A10**

CHICOPEE Sanghvi, Peret to face off for city collector post

Two candidates will vie to become Chicopee’s next city collector.

Rajesh “Raj” Sanghvi, long-time businessman, led Tuesday’s preliminary election with 795 votes, or 37.5%. In second was Sandra Ann Peret, nurse and longtime School Committee member, with 771 votes, or 36.3%, according to official results from the City Clerk’s Office.

Full story, Page A3

HOLYOKE Matchups set for November

After Tuesday’s preliminary election, incumbent Jenny Rivera will face challenger Victor Machado DeJesus for a Ward 1 City Council seat, and Jens Michaelsen will square off against Aida Luz Oquendo Oquendo for a School Committee post in Ward 5 in the Nov. 4 election, early results show.

Full story, Page A3

WEATHER

Pleasant with sunshine.
High: 72°; **Low:** 58°

EXPANDED WEATHER, A10

Low on Funds?

Finance Your Deductible

Rick's
AUTO BODY

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REGION

Why your local pharmacy might be next to disappear

Massachusetts has lost nearly 300 since 2010

BY TRÉA LAVERY
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When the Walgreens on New Athol Road in Orange shut its doors in January, patients at the Community Health Center of Franklin County suddenly faced a 45-minute

drive just to fill prescriptions — turning a routine errand into a major hurdle.

The chain transferred its patients’ prescriptions to the closest remaining location, in Turners Falls, about 20 minutes west of Orange, Stephen Segatore, chief clinical officer of the health center, said.

But the influx of patients overwhelmed Walgreens, and a deluge of health center patients called asking to transfer their prescriptions to the CVS in Gardner — half an hour or more in the opposite direction.

“They were waiting for days to get their medicine,” Segatore said. “People would just be trying to pharmacy-shop, to see who was open and who had the medicine they needed. And so as a clinic, we would spend a lot of time helping to leverage that, to help them get their medicine.”

Fortunately, the health center was already in the process of opening its own on-site pharmacy, right across the street from the shuttered Walmart. Many patients, and even some of the former Walgreens pharmacy staff, transferred over to

the new pharmacy, but for a month or two, there were few close options around.

Since the beginning of 2010, 282 pharmacies in Massachusetts have closed, according to data from the state Department of Public Health.

The Orange Walgreens is just one of 27 pharmacies in the state that closed so far this year, as major chain stores shut down hundreds of locations across the country and small, independent drugstores struggle financially.

SEE **PHARMACY**, PAGE A9



WWE superstar and actor John Cena whips fans into a frenzy at WWE “Monday Night Raw” at MassMutual Center in Springfield on Monday. (STEVEN E. NANTON PHOTO)

SPRINGFIELD

Cena pumps up WMass fans

Action, WWE star electrifies ‘Monday Night Raw’

BY NICK O’MALLEY
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John Cena might hail from West Newbury, but the WWE superstar and actor made sure to tell the crowd in Springfield on Monday that the foundation for his career was built in Western Massachusetts.

With “Monday Night Raw” at the MassMutual Center, Cena opened up the broadcast portion

of the show with a segment setting up his upcoming match against Brock Lesnar.

“Am I afraid of Brock Lesnar?” Cena asked. “Yes, I am!”

“Will I back down? Would I give up?” he asked.

“Hell, no!” was his reply, which sent his fans into a frenzy.

But before that, he made a point to remind the younger fans of his ties to the city.

“Some of these young fans may not know this, but I spent a whole lot of years playing football up the street over at Springfield College,” Cena said as part of his in-ring promo.

“Springfield College prepared me for life in the WWE,” Cena said.

For most fans, the number most attached to John Cena is 17 — for

SEE **WWE**, PAGE A5

PLAINVILLE, CONN.

Aerial survey hunts for vexing mineral

From 1,000 feet up, USGS plane looks for pyrrhotite underground

BY JIM KINNEY
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Pyrrhotite, the naturally occurring mineral that ruins concrete and threatens billions in property values, is underfoot in New England.

But the way to pinpoint deposits of the reactive mineral — and keep from mining it for use as a building material — is flying overhead.

Since June, and continuing until there is too much snow on the ground, a specially equipped plane hired by the United States Geological Survey has been flying low — 400 feet over unpopulated areas, up to 1,000 feet over towns — and slow, painstakingly measuring variations in the Earth’s magnetic field and the natural, low-level radiation created by different rock.

If gravel with pyrrhotite is used in concrete, it reacts with water and air. The subsequent swelling eventually destroys the building, cracking foundations and leading to collapse.

Pilots on the project go back and forth — “mowing the lawn,” they call it — in 300-foot strips across Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont and a tiny corner of Rhode Island.

It’s part of a national effort called the USGS Earth Mapping Resources Initiative. Anjana Shah, USGS coordinator for the Connecticut River Valley Survey, said Earth MRI searches for different things in different parts of the country. In South Carolina it is for earthquake-prone faults. In West Virginia, it’s for lucrative rare-earth minerals.

In Connecticut and Massachusetts, it’s the presence of pyrrhotite that intrigues.

SEE **SURVEY**, PAGE A2

