



THURSDAY, JANUARY 1, 2026

MASS LIVE

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## TIME TO RING IN THE NEW YEAR

Enjoy a unique movie night with a film that was shot or set locally in Mass., Page D2  
ALSO: MGM Springfield's full lineup at ROAR! Comedy Club kicks off this weekend, Page D6

### TODAY'S MUST-READS

#### SPRINGFIELD

### Mykonos closes after 45 years

Mykonos Greek Restaurant closed Wednesday, New Year's eve, after 45 years at various locations around Springfield, including a beloved kiosk in the old Eastfield Mall from 1982 until the mall closed in 2023.

After the mall shut down for demolition and redevelopment, Mykonos owners Christos and Kristen Hatzis reopened two years ago — two years to the day — in the TD Bank office building at 1441 Main St.

Full Story on Page B4

#### SPRINGFIELD

### Event to open maternal health dialogue

Springfield's Department of Health and Human Services will host a Birth Justice Community Forum Jan. 8 to address inequities in pregnancy, childbirth and postpartum care.

Organizers said the forum will focus on sharing real-life experiences and finding fair, community-based solutions for unequal access to care.

Full Story on Page A3

#### HOLYOKE

### Mayor defends affordability amid tax hike

Mayor Joshua Garcia says the city remains affordable, even as property taxes are set to rise by an average of \$352.

"Holyoke remains one of the most accessible and affordable places to live and work in the region for people across the economic spectrum, from low-income folks to higher-income earners," Garcia said.

Full Story on Page A3

#### WEATHER

Windy with snow flurries.  
High: 29°; Low: 9°

EXPANDED WEATHER, A8

Here' a Great Old Number:  
**543-DENT**

**Rick's**  
AUTO BODY

#### INDEX

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#### WESTFIELD

## No movement on yearslong Westfield data center project

Local officials spent years arranging for significant tax breaks

By JONATHAN GERHARDSON  
The Shoestring

When in May 2021 a group of developers approached the city of Westfield with a big plan for a

big data center, an early release of OpenAI's GPT3 — a precursor to what became ChatGPT — was still six months away from opening to software developers for testing.

Now five years later, AI companies' demand for computing power and electricity has exploded. An August report from consulting firm McKinsey found that "to deliver the required data center infrastructure,

the United States alone will need to more than triple its annual power capacity over the next five years."

Amid that AI-infrastructure boom, Servistar Realities' proposal to build a "state-of-the-art hyper-scale data center campus" in Westfield seems practically clairvoyant. Last November, The Boston Globe mused about which tech giant would set up shop at the new facility: "Will it be Ama-

zon, Alphabet, or maybe Microsoft?"

To call it the largest data center in Massachusetts would have been an understatement. At the estimated loads, it would draw 10 times more power than the existing largest data center in the state — a 30-megawatt facility in the heart of Boston's financial district owned by the Markley Group.

SEE DATA, PAGE A4



#### CHICOPEE

### Early morning liftoff

U.S. airmen prepare a combat vehicle to be sling loaded onto a U.S. Marine Corps CH-53E Super Stallion at Westover Air Reserve Base in December. (AIR FORCE TECH. SGT. DEVIN M. RUMBAUGH / U.S. AIR FORCE)

#### ELECTIONS

## From aisles to the ballot box

Mass. grocery prices explain what's at stake in '26 midterms

By JOHN L. MICEK  
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There's comparison shopping, and then there's comparison shopping.

In 2024, U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., and other Bay State lawmakers called on regional grocery titan Stop & Shop to lower its prices.

The campaign came after a group of volunteers from the Hyde Square Task Force found that the chain charged shoppers at its Jamaica Plain store 18% more than it did at its outlet in Dedham, the lawmakers said.

The difference? Location, location, location.



U.S. SEN. ELIZABETH WARREN

The Jamaica Plain store mainly serves working-class and minority shoppers. The Dedham store serves shoppers in a wealthy Boston suburb that touches Interstates 93 and 95.

In August, Quincy-based Stop & Shop announced that it was lowering prices on thousands of items in its 88 eastern Massachusetts stores as part of a broader initiative it started last year.

SEE MIDTERMS, PAGE A2

#### CHICOPEE

## Police chief to retire after serving for 3 decades with CPD

By JEANETTE DEFORGE  
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Police Chief Patrick Major is retiring at the start of the new year, after serving more than three decades with the department, including three years as its leader.

Major announced his last day is on Jan. 5. Deputy Chief Eric Watson will serve in his place until a new chief is appointed, Mayor John L. Vieau said Wednesday.

"Chief Major has become more than an employee; he has been a friend," Vieau said.

SEE CHIEF, PAGE A2



A PAY

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