



The Republican.

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MASS LIVE

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PATS MARCH INTO DIVISIONALS

Mike Vrabel, Drake Maye and the New England Patriots held the Los Angeles Chargers to just 3 points Sunday night as they claimed their first playoff win since the 2018 season. Page A7

TODAY'S MUST-READS

CHICOOPEE

Air base conducts explosives drills

The Westover Air Reserve Base conducted explosives training Sunday morning, as residents in neighboring towns reported loud booms.

The explosive ordnance disposal training was scheduled to last from 8 to 11 a.m., according to Staff Sgt. Alex Lowe of the Westover air base.

[Full Story on Page A2](#)

SPRINGFIELD

Study: Food hall financially doable

A food hall in Springfield could be financially viable, attract tourists and boost local entrepreneurship, according to a new study commissioned by the city.

The idea was first proposed by a City Council special committee formed to discuss how to expand economic development and tourism in Springfield. Last year, the city hired consulting firm Market Ventures Inc. to study the proposal to see if and how it would be financially viable.

[Full Story on Page A6](#)

SPRINGFIELD

Council sends finance plan for further review

The City Council has advanced plans to create a finance and administration department, voting to send proposed changes to a subcommittee for further review.

The move follows guidance from the state Division of Local Services aimed at strengthening the city's internal cash controls, defining clear lines of accountability, and making sure staff have the appropriate education and skill level for their roles.

[Full Story on Page B1](#)

WEATHER

Mostly sunny. Increased cloud coverage tonight. High: 39°; Low: 25°

[EXPANDED WEATHER, B4](#)



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DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Protest deaths surge in Iran

Leaders will target US, Israel if America intervenes

BY JON GAMBRELL

Associated Press

A crackdown on nationwide protests in Iran has killed at least 538 people and even more are feared dead, activists said Sunday, while Tehran warned that the U.S. military and Israel would be "legitimate targets" if America uses force to protect demonstrators.

Another over 10,600 people have been detained over the two weeks of protests, said the U.S.-based Human Rights Activists News Agency, which has been accurate in previous rounds of unrest in Iran in recent years. It relies on supporters in Iran crosschecking information. It said of those killed, 490 were protesters and 48 were members of security forces.

With the internet down in Iran and phone lines cut off, gauging the demonstrations from abroad has grown more difficult. The Associated Press has been unable to independently assess the toll.

The Iranian government has not offered overall

casualty figures for the demonstrations.

Those abroad fear the information blackout is emboldening hard-liners within Iran's security services to launch a bloody crackdown. Protesters flooded the streets in the country's capital and its second-largest city again Sunday morning.

Support from Trump

U.S. President Donald Trump has offered support for the protesters, saying on social media that "Iran is looking at FREEDOM, perhaps like never before. The USA stands ready to help!!!"

[SEE IRAN, PAGE A6](#)

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Above is a behind-the-scenes shot of the film "CLIKA" being produced. "Clika," a new feature film, is co-written and co-produced by Sean McBride, a Wilbraham native. The film — a "rags to riches" story — is heading to theaters nationwide Jan. 23. (TOP: PHOTO COURTESY SEAN MCBRIDE; RIGHT: RANCHO HUMILDE)

WMass native's film, 'CLIKA,' heading to theaters nationwide

BY ASHLEY POTTER

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Migrant workers do what no one else wants to do in this country. Now, it's my turn to live the American dream."

So begins the trailer of a new feature film, "Clika," heading to theaters nationwide Jan. 23. The film is a "rags to riches" story, according

to co-writer and co-producer Sean McBride, a Wilbraham native. Small town musician Chito, a Mexican American migrant who works in fields picking fruit, has a chance to make it big when a video clip of him performing one of his songs goes viral.

"We wanted to show an artist go from the streets to just making it, you know, having that moment of 'We're gonna lose our house' to 'You just bought your mom her dream house,'" McBride said in a recent interview with The Republican.

[SEE HOLLYWOOD, PAGE A2](#)



A Hampshire College sign hangs in a connecting bridge to the Harold F. Johnson Library in Amherst. (SEBASTIAN RESTREPO / MASSLIVE.COM, FILE)

AMHERST

Another 'rough patch' at Hampshire

BY JULIET SCHULMAN-HALL

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The future of a Western Massachusetts college weighs heavily on its campus community.

The road to financial stability at Hampshire College in Amherst has been rocky after it nearly closed in 2019 and then missed its enrollment goal by half in 2025.

As the college deals with the enrollment gap from the previous academic year, Hampshire's community has had mixed reactions.

Many emphasized the college's uniqueness, but are wary of its future. Others have a more optimistic outlook.

Hampshire's distinctive features, like narrative evaluations, make it a place its community

loves. But they can also deter many college-aged students, said Donna Cohn, associate professor of applied design.

"I work with some people, students, (where) Hampshire is just about the only place that they could succeed in college. And I don't think that those students have been identified enough. So that's always been a challenge," Cohn said.

Hampshire appeals to people who want autonomy over their learning, she said. Meanwhile, its renowned film program and open-access maker space have made the school a creative hub for artists.

"Hampshire is able to do these things that other colleges are afraid to try," Cohn said.

[SEE ROUGH, PAGE A2](#)