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MONDAY, JANUARY 19, 2026

MASS LIVE

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EU THREATENS TRADE 'BAZOOKA'

Following President Donald Trump's Greenland ultimatum announced on Saturday night, European leaders wonder how far they'll need to go to keep the U.S. at bay. Page A6

TODAY'S MUST-READS

WESTFIELD

Westfield native rediscovers her love for home

Nina Prenosil recently fell back in love with her hometown.

The recent University of Massachusetts Amherst graduate created @DiscoverWestfield on Instagram out of boredom over the summer.

The account, which is dedicated to exploring and rediscovering businesses and events in Westfield, has amassed over 1,000 followers and Prenosil earns revenue for some of her posts.

Full Story on Page B1

HOLYOKE

Councilor calls for poet laureate post to boost arts

A Holyoke city councilor thinks the city should name a poet laureate, pitching the role as a low-cost way to strengthen literacy, arts engagement and the city's creative economy.

City Councilor Anne Thalheimer filed an order for Tuesday's City Council agenda requesting that Holyoke begin developing a poet laureate position.

Full Story on Page A5

WESTFIELD

City settles golf suit for \$1.275M

The City Council voted to settle a civil lawsuit for \$1.275 million filed against the city by Shaker Farms Country Club in 2024, alleging the city failed to manage a stormwater drainage system that repeatedly flooded the golf course.

The lawsuit was filed in the U.S. District Court on Dec. 17, 2024, by attorney Donald P. Nagle on behalf of Shaker Farms Inc.

Full Story on Page A2

WEATHER

Cloudy with some sun.

High: 33°; Low: 10°

EXPANDED WEATHER, B4



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SPRINGFIELD

Schools superintendent will tap past education initiative to boost goals

BY JEANETTE DEFORGE
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One year ago, Springfield Superintendent Sonia Dinnall spoke of how she would guide the district to improve achievement for all students — from preschooler to post graduate. This year, Dinnall says she'll back that up with a project from the recent past.

In her second state of the schools



SONIA DINNALL

address, Dinnall said she will work with administrators, teachers, parents and students to incorporate the "Portrait of a Graduate" initiatives, which school stakeholders spent six years developing, into efforts to

meet her goals.

In the past year, Dinnall has focused on four district priorities she announced in January 2025: Boosting early literacy; revamping middle schools to add rigor, joy and more relevant and hands-on learning; focusing early and often on career and college readiness; and ensuring graduates have the skills and support to achieve their future goals.

"We would never disregard the work, the dedication, the wisdom and expertise that went into crafting the Portrait of the Graduate," she said. "We are going to strive to distill those two things together; the four new district priorities as well as the Portrait of a Graduate to come up with our new strategic improvement plan."

SEE EDUCATION, PAGE A2



SPRINGFIELD

Honoring the snowy trail

At top, Tracy Allen, of Autumn Mist Farm in Feeding Hills, with the oxen Casey and Buck at the 250th anniversary event commemorates Henry Knox's Noble Train of Artillery in Springfield on Saturday. Right, 3-year-old Nora Bazanchuk checked out the oxen during the event. (LEON NGUYEN PHOTOS)



NORTHAMPTON

City considers nicotine sale ban based on birth year

BY BEN LEBLANC
Special to The Republican

The Northampton Board of Health is moving toward a policy that would ban the sale of nicotine products to all future residents within city limits, reviving age-old questions around the role of government in regulating the marketplace.

The policy is a "birth-year-based" bylaw that would gradually phase nicotine out of the Northampton marketplace by banning its sale to all adults born on or after a specified date, said Merridith O'Leary, the city's health commissioner. Retailers would still be able to sell nicotine products to those with an earlier birthdate.

Heather Warner, a Northampton resident, told members of the health board Thursday that the vape industry keeps churning out new products that contain synthetic nicotine, which is designed for rapid entry into the bloodstream. Following a decade-long de-

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cline in vaping among teens, O'Leary said use of flavored nicotine pouches swelled 250% nationally from 2023 to 2025.

"I think about addiction and marketing," Warner said. "It's not accidental, it's not a right. This is an industry that is sort of shamelessly going after young people because that

SEE NICOTINE, PAGE A2

BAY STATE BRIEFING

MLK Day needs more than just remembrance

Boston's 'memory keeper' encourages vital action

BY JOHN L. MICEK
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It's Martin Luther King Day in Massachusetts and across the nation. And in churches, museums, libraries and other venues across the country, Americans will pause to remember the famed civil rights leader, born on Jan. 15, 1929, in Atlanta, Georgia.

Dr. Imani Paris Jeffries, the president and CEO of Embrace Boston, is one of the people who has been leading that discussion since birthday observances for King — who was felled by an assassin's bullet in 1968 — kicked off last week.

SEE MLK, PAGE A3