



RFK JR. PICKS FIGHT WITH DUNKIN'

Gov. Maura Healey fired back "come and take it" after Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. suggested Dunkin' needs to prove its coffee ingredients are safe. Page A3

TODAY'S MUST-READS

SPRINGFIELD

Rapist to face federal illegal reentry charge

A former handyman from Great Barrington serving a six-year sentence for raping a teenager will face a federal criminal charge on his way out the state prison door.

Eugenio Isidro Victoriano, 55, appeared in U.S. District Court on Wednesday to be arraigned on one count of illegal reentry to the U.S. The charge carries a two-year maximum prison sentence, according to Assistant U.S. Attorney Neil Desroches. **Full story, Page A3**

SPRINGFIELD

WMass gets \$4.7M to aid homelessness

The federal government has awarded Springfield \$4.7 million to continue Health Services for the Homeless through this year and 2027.

Health Services for the Homeless served 2,000 people last year in Hampden, Franklin and Hampshire counties, said Helen Caulton-Harris, Springfield's Health & Human Services commissioner. **Full story, Page A3**

CHICOPEE

Hotel sued after alleged needle incident

A Pennsylvania man has filed a lawsuit against the Tru by Hilton on Memorial Drive in Chicopee, saying he was stuck by a hypodermic needle filled with red liquid while laying on a bed at the hotel.

The lawsuit by James Briggs alleges this incident occurred in February 2024. **Full story, Page B4**

WEATHER

Cloudy and colder.
High: 39°; **Low:** 33°

EXPANDED WEATHER, A10

Low on Funds?
Finance Your Deductible

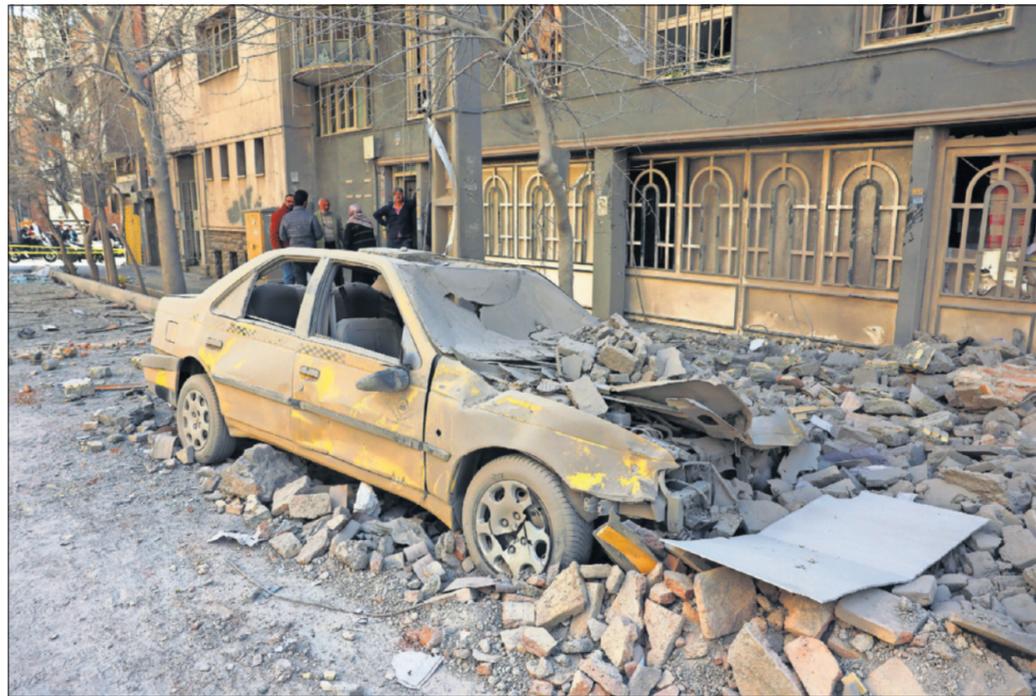

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DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

US sinks Iranian warship



Residents stand amid the debris of a building near a damaged car following airstrikes in central Tehran on Wednesday. (AFP / GETTY IMAGES / TNS)

Submarine torpedoes vessel off Sri Lanka

BY JON GAMBRELL, ELENA BECATOROS AND SAMY MAGDY
Associated Press

A U.S. submarine sank an Iranian warship in the Indian Ocean, as Washington and Israel intensified their bombardment Wednesday of Iran's security forces and other symbols of power. Iran launched more missiles and drones and warned of the destruction of military and economic infrastructure across the Middle East.

The tempo of the strikes on Iran was so intense that state television announced the mourning ceremony for Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who was killed at the start of the conflict, would be postponed. Millions attended the funeral of his predecessor, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, in 1989.

The U.S. and Israel launched the war Saturday, targeting Iran's leadership, missile arsenal and nuclear program while suggesting that toppling the government is

SEE **WARSHIP**, PAGE A2

WMass residents seek to exit Middle East

BY DANIEL JACKSON
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Two residents from Western Massachusetts whose travel plans in the Middle East were disrupted by the Iran war have reached out to U.S. Rep. Richard E. Neal's office seeking help getting home.

"They're for the most part out of harm's way," said Jack Chamberland, spokesperson for Neal, D-Springfield. He added that Neal's office has "been in regular touch with them."

They are some of the thousands of Americans who have struggled

"They're for the most part out of harm's way."

Jack Chamberland, spokesperson for U.S. Rep. Richard E. Neal, on efforts to bring home two Western Massachusetts residents home from the Middle East

to return to the states in the days following the outbreak of hostilities in the early morning hours of Feb. 28 that has closed the region's airspace and led to thousands of canceled flights.

They include a person from the Berkshires who was traveling with

friends, according to Chamberland. They had a commercial flight scheduled for Wednesday, but after an Iranian drone exploded in a parking lot outside the American consulate in Dubai, Chamberland said the flight was canceled.

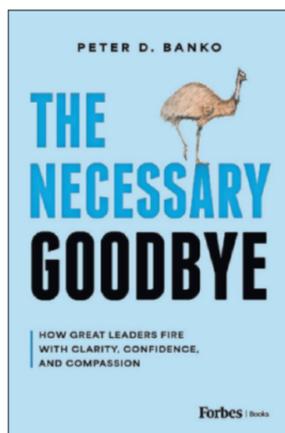
Dubai is home to one of the busiest airports in the world, with 95.2 million passengers passing through its concourses last year, according to the Associated Press.

Information on the second traveler was not immediately available. One traveler, communicating through friends, declined to speak about their experience.

SEE **TRAVEL**, PAGE A2

SPRINGFIELD

Baystate Health chief's book on firing set to hit stores



Baystate Health CEO Peter D. Banko is the author of the forthcoming book "The Necessary Goodbye."

BY JIM KINNEY
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Promising a "practical and candid guide for new and aspiring leaders," Baystate Health CEO Peter D. Banko has written a book on the best approaches to firing people.

"The Necessary Goodbye: How Great Leaders Fire with Clarity, Confidence, and Compassion" comes out in June, according to its listing on Amazon.com. A preview copy for review is not yet available, according to the book's publisher, Forbes Books, an imprint of Advantage Books distributed by Simon & Schuster.

The book comes out while Baystate, the region's largest employer with 13,000 employees, continues shedding jobs.

Banko arrived at Baystate in the summer of 2024 as president and chief executive officer, succeeding Dr.

Mark Keroack, who retired after 10 years.

Banko has said that President Donald Trump's signature domestic policy bill, which became law last July, could cost Baystate \$146 million a year in added expense and lost revenue.

That's after dealing with a \$225 million budget gap in missing revenues and rising expenses left by the COVID-19 pandemic that required a restructuring plan.

Baystate cut 117 jobs in January and February after outsourcing some biomedical engineering positions and closing its central warehouse in Holyoke.

In November 2025, Baystate offered buyouts to employees not involved in direct patient care roles across the nonprofit and its subsidiaries, including Health New England.

Baystate Health laid off 43 people in April 2025. Baystate then eliminated 98 corporate positions in February 2025.

The previous November, Baystate Health cut 134 leadership jobs. A Baystate Health spokesperson said Banko began work on the book before joining the institution.

"It is unrelated to any strategic and organizational decisions at Baystate Health," the spokesperson said in a written response to questions from The Republican. "Because this book has not yet been released, we are not in a position to comment on its content. Questions about the book should be directed to the publisher."

The publisher did not respond to questions posed by The Republican a week ago, including queries about the book's intended audience, how

SEE **BOOK**, PAGE A2

INSIDE

- Fallen soldiers remembered for their service
 - GOP votes down legislation to halt Iran war
 - Mount Holyoke professor: Iranian regime has proven resilient
- Stories on Page **A9**

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