



## MARKETS SLIDE AND OIL SPIKES

The U.S. stock market and international oil prices experienced a turbulent Monday as the world continued to wrestle with the ongoing impact of the war in Iran. Page A5

### TODAY'S MUST-READS

#### SPRINGFIELD

### City moves ahead on \$131M school replacement

A new German Gerena School is expected to cost at least \$131 million and open to students in the fall of 2030, if all goes smoothly.

But the location of the school remains a mystery.

Members of the School Building Commission met Monday with the DiNisco Design, the firm hired to draft plans for the building, the owner's project manager and city officials, to discuss preliminary plans and to move construction forward. **Full Story on Page A9**

#### WINDSOR, CONN.

### Lucinda's House expands health work in WMass

Lucinda Canty says she has no time for foolishness.

Canty is a mother, certified nurse-midwife, educator and researcher who works to improve health outcomes for families of color through her organization, Lucinda's House. Her vision for maternal health in Western Massachusetts centers on respectful care, trusted providers and real choices for families. **Full Story on Page A3**

#### STATE

### Court protects Haitians, for now

Massachusetts officials welcomed a decision by an appellate court last week that allows Haitians to live and work here on temporary protected status while a case plays out in court.

For the past few weeks, a group of Haitians are challenging the Department of Homeland Security's attempts to terminate temporary protected status for Haiti. **Full Story on Page A2**

#### WEATHER

Sunny and warm.

High: 67°; Low: 44°

EXPANDED WEATHER, A7

You have the right to pick any auto body shop after an accident

**PICK RICK'S**

**Rick's**  
AUTO BODY

#### INDEX

201st year. No. 184

|            |             |            |           |
|------------|-------------|------------|-----------|
| Business   | <b>A10</b>  | Opinion    | <b>A4</b> |
| Classified | <b>B3</b>   | Puzzles    | <b>B6</b> |
| Comics     | <b>B4</b>   | Sports     | <b>B1</b> |
| Dear Abby  | <b>B6</b>   | Television | <b>A7</b> |
| Obituaries | <b>A8-9</b> | Weather    | <b>A7</b> |



#### IRAN WAR

# A show of open defiance

By **ERIKA SOLOMON**  
The New York Times

On its face, Iran's choice of a new supreme leader, Mojtaba Khamenei, sent a message of continuity to a country battered by war. It was also a show of open defiance to Iran's attackers.

The United States and Israel killed the new leader's father and predecessor, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, in the opening salvos of their attack on Iran. They had openly warned Iran against replacing him with his 56-year-old son — a hard-line cleric seen as close to Iran's top military force.

The group of 88 clerics known as the Assembly of Experts selected Mojtaba Khamenei despite those threats. That choice risks



MOJTABA KHAMENEI

prolonging the war and creating more uncertainty for the country, should he meet the same fate as his father.

Iran was already deeply divided between those who support the clerical ruling system and those who oppose it. Choosing another hard-line leader may only deepen that

divide.

The decision is "laden with peril," said Ali Vaez, a senior Iran analyst at the International Crisis Group.

SEE **DEFIANCE**, PAGE A7



A crowd waves Iranian flags during a demonstration in support of the nomination of Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei as supreme leader in Tehran, Iran, Monday. (VAHID SALEMI / ASSOCIATED PRESS)



#### SPRINGFIELD

### Holy of the holies!

Department of Public Works employees Jerry Grey, center, and Mervin Sanchez, right, work quickly to fill potholes on Page Boulevard on Monday as temperatures thaw the season's snow and ice. Keith Lemoine, left, flattens the fill with a roller. For the full story, turn to **Page A5**. (DOUGLAS HOOK / THE REPUBLICAN)

#### SPRINGFIELD

### Groups worry homeless people are not getting a fair shot at mail

Letter from USPS to Arise for Social Justice raised concerns

By **JIM KINNEY**  
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Arise for Social Justice has allowed homeless people to use its office as a mailing address for 30 years.

But recent problems regarding returned mail that isn't picked up — and threats of ceasing deliveries — has the agency and the at-risk folks it serves scrambling for solutions.

"We sure will figure out a way around it," said Liz Bewsee, a housing and economic justice advocate at Arise. "I don't really know where this is coming from."

It might boil down to a case of miscommunication, as other human service agencies in Springfield have not reported similar trouble.

Last week, Arise got a hand-delivered note saying it cannot allow the homeless to use Arise's address. The agency shared the note publicly.

"Please do not allow others to use your address



A United State Postal Service worker talks to an organizer at Arise for Social Justice, outside the main office in Springfield on Monday. (DOUGLAS HOOK / THE REPUBLICAN)

as that mail will no longer be delivered moving forward nor accepted back by the carrier," the letter, signed by Springfield Post Office station manager Josh Scott, said.

SEE **MAIL**, PAGE A2

#### SPRINGFIELD

### Man accused of posing as veteran at a Leeds VA

Defendant said to tap 30 years worth of benefits

By **STEPHANIE BARRY**  
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James D. Sommers spent decades posing as someone else in order to collect 30 years worth of veterans' benefits, according to the U.S. Attorney's office.

Appearing Monday in U.S. District Court, Sommers declined to provide a bona fide signature on court documents. On advice of his lawyer, Thomas J. O'Connor, Sommers marked it simply with an "X."

SEE **VETERAN**, PAGE A2