



'CONVERSION THERAPY' BAN REJECTED

The Supreme Court ruled against a law banning "conversion therapy" for LGBTQ+ kids in Colorado, one of about two dozen states that ban the discredited practice. Page A8

TODAY'S MUST-READS

NORTHAMPTON

ValleyBike Share opens 4 new WMass sites

ValleyBike Share, the region's short-term pedal-assist electric bicycle rental network, celebrated Wednesday a \$1.5 million state grant for continued upgrades and renovations by opening a new station at the 60-unit Prospect Place homes on Bridge Street.

The grant also is paying for more new stations placed near affordable housing and Pioneer Valley Transit Authority bus lines. **Full story, Page A3**

SPRINGFIELD

Use of street drug 'tranq' grows in state

Their telltale postures take on different names in law enforcement circles: the "leaners," "zombie walkers" and the "fentanyl fold."

Users of heroin, fentanyl and xylazine, or "tranq dope," walk in a notably slumped-over fashion, police say.

A special commission on xylazine issued a final report Tuesday. **Full story, Page A5**

SPRINGFIELD

Empowerment Zone schools rejoin district

Half of the schools that are overseen by a state, local and business partnership will officially return to the oversight of the School Department, after meeting student achievement goals and months of negotiations to create new plans for each school.

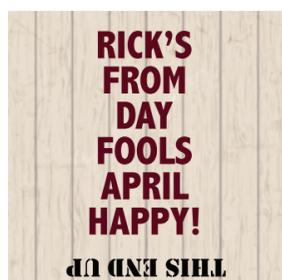
The School Committee vote 6-0 Monday to return the eight schools to the School Department's control. **Full story, Page A3**

WEATHER

Mostly cloudy, mild.

High: 70°; **Low:** 40°

EXPANDED WEATHER, A10



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DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Trump lashes out at allies

BY JON GAMBRELL, MIKE CORDER AND DARLENE SUPERVILLE
Associated Press

President Donald Trump lashed out Tuesday at allies who have been unwilling to do more to support the U.S. war effort against Iran, telling them to "go get your own oil" and declaring that securing the Strait of Hormuz is "not for us."

The president estimated that the American military will be done attacking in two to three weeks and said the U.S. "will not have anything to do with" what happens in the strait that has been closed by the Islamic Republic. Instead, he told reporters that the responsibility for



President Donald Trump on social media

"You'll have to start learning how to fight for yourself, the U.S.A. won't be there to help you anymore, just like you weren't there for us. Iran has been, essentially, decimated. The hard part is done. Go get your own oil!"

keeping the vital waterway open will rest with countries that rely on it.

There's "no reason for us to do this," Trump said after signing an executive order that seeks to restrict mail-in voting. "That's not for us.

That'll be for France. That'll be for whoever's using the strait."

In other developments, the closure of the strait sent average U.S. gas prices past \$4 a gallon, and U.S. strikes hit the central city of Isfahan,

INSIDE

U.S. gas prices jumped past an average of \$4 a gallon for the first time since 2022. Page A10

sending a massive fireball into the sky. Tehran attacked a fully loaded Kuwaiti oil tanker in the Persian Gulf.

The attacks showed the intensity of the war more than a month after the U.S. and Israel launched it. The conflict has left more than 3,000 dead and caused major disruptions to the world's supply of oil and

SEE **IRAN**, PAGE A2



AMHERST

Afghan Music Project

The tabla (a pair of hand drums from the Indian subcontinent) and the rabab (the national musical instrument of Afghanistan) are played during the Afghan Music Project on Friday at the Drake Performance Center in Amherst.

(ED COHEN PHOTO)

NORTHAMPTON

Mass. reports sharp surge in abortions

Overturn of Roe v. Wade, use by out-of-state patients drove increase

BY NAMU SAMPATH
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A sexual and reproductive health clinic in Northampton saw a steep increase in abortions from 2023 to 2024, higher than any other health care facility in Western Massachusetts, data from the state Department of Public Health shows.

Tapestry Health Northampton provided 38 abortions in 2023, a

number that more than tripled in 2024, rising to 130.

A Tapestry Health spokesperson could not be immediately reached for comment Tuesday about why its Northampton location saw such a drastic increase.

The region's increase mirrors statewide numbers. Across Massachusetts, the number of abortions nearly doubled, jumping from 24,355 in 2023 to 49,450 in 2024.

Pro-choice groups say the 2022 Supreme Court decision to overturn Roe v. Wade, the landmark case that for decades protected women's right to abortions, drove the increase.

The decision led to abortion bans and restrictions in several states. State data shows the vast majority of people who received abortions in Massachusetts in 2024 were from out-of-state.

Telehealth, which started during the pandemic, grew in popularity, the data shows, including as a means for people to seek abortions.

Taylor St. Germain, interim executive director of Reproductive Equity Now, a statewide campaign to improve access to reproductive health, told The Republican that the state's Shield Law has aided how patients access care.

SEE **ABORTION**, PAGE A2

SPRINGFIELD

Excessive force lawsuit advances

BY STEPHANIE BARRY
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An excessive force lawsuit filed against members of the city's Police Department will advance, but as a stripped-down version of the plaintiff's accusations.

The sister of the late Sterling L. Chest Jr. in 2024 filed a claim against four officers involved in the arrest of her brother four years earlier.

A jury trial is set for Nov. 2. Chest was experiencing a mental break, was quoting the Bible and running out into traffic on March 30, 2020, according to witnesses. Four officers used physical tactics, including a stun gun, to muscle the large man into a police cruiser when he began resisting, the lawsuit says.

Chest died days later at Bay-state Medical Center when his heart failed, according to court records. He was 45. The family originally filed a wrongful death claim in U.S. District Court, but Judge Mark G. Mastroianni dismissed that claim because police and other public officials are buffered from those under state law.

The original defendants were Officers Joseph Beliveau, Lindsay Tagliapietra, Luis Delgado and Kristopher Carr.

On March 24, the judge stripped additional claims from the lawsuit in response to the city's motion to dismiss the case entirely. But Mastroianni preserved other claims, including excessive force allegations.

"... The court denies summary judgment as to the portions of the excessive force

SEE **LAWSUIT**, PAGE A2

Heritage Greens Kitchen & Bar at Wyckoff Country Club

WYCKOFF
COUNTRY CLUB

Wednesday: Italian Night • Thursday: Ladies Night • Friday: Prime Rib Night

Come experience the beginning of something special!

Welcome to Heritage Greens Kitchen & Bar, the newly imagined restaurant at Wyckoff Country Club, offering a fresh and elevated dining experience in a beautiful setting led by Chef Andrew Brow.

View our menu and make a reservation!