



T-BIRDS HEAD HOME ALL EVEN

The Providence Bruins slid past the Springfield Thunderbirds 2-1 in Game 2 of their Calder Cup Playoff series on Sunday. Game 3 is set for Tuesday at the MassMutual Center, Page A7

TODAY'S MUST-READS

AGAWAM

Crosswalks up for debate

The owner of Pajer Superette, located at the five-way intersection of Suffield Street (Route 75) with Cooper and Rowley streets, is concerned that modern crosswalks could remove up to four parking spaces in front of his store. Alfred Pajer says he could lose \$1,200 a day if curbs and bollards are installed at the corner of Cooper and Rowley. But Agawam town officials say only two parking spots are at risk, out of 14 spaces available in the front of the store.

Full story on Page A3

SPRINGFIELD

'Common Sense' hits the road

A former U.S. ambassador turned real estate investor is traveling the state to promote housing affordability and government transparency. Last week, Alan Leventhal made his first stop in Springfield to discuss the ongoing housing crisis with local leaders and housing advocates as part of his new organization, Common Sense for the Commonwealth.

Full story on Page A3

AGAWAM

Scoreboard leans into history

Scoreboard Bar & Grille is under new ownership, and co-owner Tom Murphy said longtime patrons will be thrilled with the new interior and comfortable neighborhood bar feel. Murphy also had a sign made that will keep the score of the annual Thanksgiving football game between Agawam and West Springfield high schools.

Full story on Page B1

WEATHER

Breezy and warmer today. Clear tonight.

High: 71°; Low: 48°

EXPANDED WEATHER, B4

3,000
Cars per Year
+
#1 Auto Body Shop



INDEX

Business	B1	Opinion	A4
Classified	B3	Puzzles	B8
Comics	B6	Sports	A7
Dear Abby	B8	Television	B4
Obituaries	A5	Weather	B4



LONGMEADOW

'Dark money' group weighs in

Mass Priorities campaigns against local fiber project

By NAMU SAMPATH
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An out-of-town group has been knocking on doors, sending postcards and leaving flyers around Longmeadow urging residents to vote against a municipal broadband project.

It carries an innocent-sounding name — Mass Priorities — but the group is connected to a Minnesota organization opposed to government-owned broadband projects.

The fiber optics proposal has already sparked local debate. Last month, the town's Finance Committee said it did not have enough information to

recommend the article on this project for a warrant. The committee voted 6-1 against the article.

The Select Board is moving forward with it anyway to a May 12 vote at the annual Town Meeting. Residents will determine if they are willing to spend \$8.6 million in a bond to build out a local fiber infrastructure with Fiberspring, a gig-speed internet service provider that operates in South Hadley. The overall project will total about \$27 million, but later phases will be paid for with user fees.

The article needs a two-thirds majority to pass.

The town is also served by a private broadband internet company, Comcast, the largest such provider in the U.S.

Jerold Duquette, professor of political science at Central Connecticut State University, said Mass Priorities is a "dark money" group. "They're

essentially hired guns for conservative corporate interests," Duquette said.

The term dark money refers to spending designed to influence the outcome of elections without having to reveal its source. Typically, money flows through nonprofit organizations like Mass Priorities and its backer. The practice, made possible by the 2010 Supreme Court's Citizens United ruling, enables corporations and wealthy people to seek to influence elections without being identified.

There is no way to track how Mass Priorities gets its money or who its donors are. That's what makes it a dark money group, Duquette said. These kinds of efforts are legal, but in his view unethical.

SEE FIBER, PAGE A2



EAST LONGMEADOW

Graduation day

The Springfield Rescue Mission hosted a graduation ceremony for men completing its New Life Program on Friday at the First Baptist Church in East Longmeadow. The graduation highlighted powerful stories of recovery, transformation and restored lives. Pictured above on the stage singing, at right, are Bryanna Kasper and Alicia Mattson Boze. At left, graduates from left are Mark G., Daniel K., Charles M., Christian R., and Kenneth W. More photos at masslive.com (DAVE ROBACK PHOTOS)

REGION

Teens: Mental health more than phones, social media

By HEATHER MORRISON
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Amid growing concern over phone use among Massachusetts teenagers, students say adults need to look beyond devices and confront the broader forces affecting their mental health.

Everybody blames it on phones, multiple Western Massachusetts high school students told MassLive. But students say it's not always the phone — and that much of the bullying or mean behavior is happening off-screen precisely because there's no paper trail.

"People in my experience have done less harm on the phones and done more harm outside of the phones because then it turns into a he-said-she-said situation, and there's no proof of anything," said Nava Berezin.

Berezin is one of 17 students working



The Hampden District Attorney Youth Advisory Board includes more than 70 students from various schools. (LAUREN LEBEL PHOTO)

NATION

Trump facing reality

War in Iran viewed as costly, unpopular

By ZOLAN KANNO-YOUNGS
The New York Times

WEST PALM BEACH, FLA. — Two months into the war in Iran, President Donald Trump is confronting the complicated reality of a conflict that has proved costly, deeply unpopular and lacks a clear endgame.

Energy markets are in turmoil. The Pentagon has given its first public estimate of the war's cost: \$25 billion so far. Key Republicans in Congress are growing impatient. And Trump is lashing out at foreign allies, like Germany, who have shown no interest in joining the fight.

Speaking to a crowd of supporters Friday, Trump insisted he had no regrets.

"I did something that was, I don't know, foolish, brave, but it was smart," Trump said at The Villages, a retirement community in a solidly Republican area. "I would do it again."

Still, Trump's predictions of a relatively short-term conflict with minimal economic consequences appear to be crumbling around him.

Trump has repeatedly defended the war, which he launched alongside Israel on Feb. 28, and said it is imperative that Iran never has a nuclear weapon. The United States and Israel have taken out military targets and killed senior Iranian leaders — including the Supreme leader — but the government there remains intact and able to inflict pain on the United States.

As the conflict continues, Trump has encouraged Americans to keep things "in perspective," citing the long wars in Vietnam and Iraq to suggest that U.S. involvement in Iran is "not very long at all."

Just three weeks ago, Trump said Iran had agreed to all of his demands and he suggested a breakthrough was near. Iran would work with the United States to remove its enriched uranium, energy prices would drop and a growing global crisis with potential severe political

SEE WAR, PAGE A6