



WEAPONS IN SPACE

The United States has confirmed for the first time that it has deployed operational space-control weapons in Earth's orbit. A10

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TODAY'S MUST-READS

SPRINGFIELD

Big E Express to shuttle fairgoers

The Pioneer Valley Transit Authority has taken over the bus leg of a public transit link to the Big E, often popular with Connecticut train buffs.

The PVTa, which still offers free fares, is offering shuttle service circulating between Springfield's Union Station, 55 Frank B Murray St., and Gate 1 of The Big E fairgrounds on Memorial Avenue in West Springfield, according to an announcement from the Big E. **Full story, Page A6**

BURLINGTON, VT.

Vermont man receives 2 life sentences

A Burlington man, who avoided a potential death sentence for gunning down two Western Massachusetts men, was sentenced in federal court on Monday to consecutive life sentences.

New details about the killing by Theodore Bland because of a drug debt Oct. 12, 2023, were outlined during the more than one-hour sentencing. **Full story, Page A3**

HOLYOKE

Council eyes \$750K version of Ezekiel's Plan

The mayor is reviving a less expensive version of a failed public safety initiative named after a baby boy who was killed when a shooting erupted near his mother's bus in 2023.

The Holyoke City Council was expected last night to take up a first airing of Mayor Joshua Garcia's revamped request for \$750,000 to pay for Ezekiel's Plan 2.0. **Full story, Page A3**

WEATHER

Mostly sunny and nice.

High: 78°; **Low:** 58°

EXPANDED WEATHER, A10

An Easy Decision

Rick's
AUTO BODY

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SPRINGFIELD

Hackers published stolen data on students, staff

News came a day after students returned to school

By JEANETTE DEFORGE
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Hackers who broke into school computers, crashing the network and forcing classes to be canceled for a week, have now posted stolen

personal data on a website.

FBI investigators notified school administrators Tuesday afternoon that staff and student data has been made public.

Officials are still sorting through information to find out exactly what was accessed, where it was published and what they can do to remove it, said Azell Cavaan, director of communications for the department.

The bad news came a day after

students returned to school and Superintendent Sonia Dinnall said network operations were slowly being restored.

"Things are going smoothly. It went a lot smoother than expected," Dinnall said Tuesday about what some called the "second" first day of school.

Teachers are highly-skilled and had no problem reverting to textbooks, pencils and notebooks to keep students learning, Dinnall

"We know it is both student and staff data but we don't know what."

Azell Cavaan, director of communications for the Springfield School Department

said. The bigger problem was ensuring systems were in place to keep schools safe and functioning.

The cyberattack discovered two weeks ago left the schools with no phones or email and no access to the curriculum, bus routes, medical records and other key information.

SEE **DATA**, PAGE A2



Rain from Hurricane Irene floods the Deerfield River in August 2011 at the Bridge of Flowers in Shelburne Falls. (JEFF BROWN PHOTO)

AMHERST

Culvert failure can be deadly

By ALEXANDER NAZARYAN
The New York Times

Culverts aren't nearly as inspiring as bridges. Looking for the Golden Gate Culvert? Well, it doesn't exist. Neither do any romances about the culverts of Madison County, or tender folk songs about culverts over troubled water. These utilitarian tunnels or pipes that divert or direct streams and storm runoff under roadways don't enjoy much public affection.

But if a culvert doesn't do its job, it can mean catastrophe: Failed culverts leave people stranded and cut off from emergency services. And failures are looking more likely. Almost two-thirds of the nation's 6 million culverts "were built to standards insufficient for today's storms," according to Headwaters Economics, a nonprofit research organization.

That's why Jessica Boakye, an assistant professor of civil and environmental engineering at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, decided to undertake an unusually thorough case study



Springfield officials tour a \$2.5 million culvert repair project at the entrance road to Forest Park connecting with Swan Pond in 2019. (DON TREEGER / THE REPUBLICAN FILE)

of simulated culvert failures, the results of which were recently published in the journal Risk Analysis.

Boakye and her co-authors studied a section of Franklin County called the Deerfield River watershed, which has 783 culverts, 1,350

miles of road and a single hospital.

She created a geospatial model of the region, with 5,881 nodes, such as population centers, and 7,039 road segments. She then used existing county data to calculate the

SEE **CULVERT**, PAGE A2

SPRINGFIELD

1,400 new words added to dictionary

'Cuffing season', 'yacht rock' 'California sober' are among Merriam-Webster's recent entries

By JIM KINNEY
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It's almost "cuffing season," so give yourself a "glow up," or even start "looksmaxxing," while you squeeze into some "shapewear" and get ready for a "promposal."

But if things are going to stay "parasocial," it might be time to mellow out with some "yacht rock" in a "California sober" way.

Springfield's Merriam-Webster added 1,400 new words and definitions to its massive dictionary, including yacht rock — think Christopher Cross' 1979 hit track, "Sailing."

Keeping up with all the new words generated by culture and technology is a game of "whack-a-mole," also a new definition this year. California Sober really isn't sober, by the way.

And "cuffing season" is a time of the year when people who are not married or in a relationship begin looking for a short-term romantic partner to spend the colder months of the year with.

Parasocial, for example, was first used in 1956 and means relating to or involving a one-sided emotional connection with someone (especially a celebrity or fictional character) whom one does not know personally.

Words like looksmaxxing and glow up have entered the lexicon from the world of cosmetics or cosmetic surgery. A promposal is an elaborate stunt used to ask out a date to the prom.

SEE **WORDS**, PAGE A2

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