



Kauffman is Warriors' all-time scoring leader

SPORTS, 1B

YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR GARDNER, ASHBURNHAM, HUBBARDSTON, PHILLIPSTON, TEMPLETON, WESTMINSTER, WINCHENDON



THE GARDNER NEWS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2026 | THEGARDNERNEWS.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

'Overwhelming response'



The Petersham Curling Club is running a Winter Olympic special: new members pay only \$100 to join for the rest of the curling season; it ends in April. EMILIA CARDONA/THE GARDNER NEWS

Olympic coverage brings new attention to curling club

Emilia Cardona
The Gardner News
USA TODAY NETWORK

With a Massachusetts native winning the silver medal in Mixed Doubles Curling last week, the sport of curling has received attention in the 2026 Winter Olympics, a spike that Petersham Curling Club knows will help grow membership.

Ennis said the club had a small membership, mostly older curlers, but the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver, Canada, brought new attention to the sport of curling in the United States. He said before 2010, the club didn't have over 100 members; it has now, and every year there is a Winter Olympics, the club does see a spike in new members.

"In 2010, some younger members who were pushing to grow because they said

we either grow the club or it dies," he said. "Now this year, of course, we've already gained 20 to 25 new members, and we're still in the middle of our 'Learn to Curl' events. Because of the overwhelming response, we're considering adding dates, but it's hard because our volunteers are starting to burn out."

See **CURLING**, Page 3A

PHILLIPSTON ZIP CODE

Officials request USPS boundary review

Stephen Landry
The Gardner News
USA TODAY NETWORK

Adam Lamontagne, the Phillipston's chief administrative officer, said the town recently submitted a ZIP code boundary review request to the federal government.

"It's actually pending with the U.S. Post Office," Lamontagne said. "Having our own ZIP code would be a huge thing for our residents here."

The desire for a ZIP code is not a new one for the town, which has a population of 1,724, according to the 2020

See **ZIP CODE**, Page 2A

Could state legalize self-driving vehicles?

Margie Cullen
USA TODAY NETWORK

Waymo, a self-driving car company, wants to come to Boston – and some state legislators are pushing for autonomous vehicles to operate all over Massachusetts.

Feb. 5, Waymo announced that it is planning to return to Boston after a stint in 2025 to "continue effectively adapting to Boston's cobblestones, narrow alleyways, roundabouts and turnpikes."

But the company said that it needs the state to legalize fully autonomous vehicles before Bostonians will be able to use their cars fully human-free.

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, more than half of states have enacted some kind of legislation related to autonomous vehicles. Massachusetts is not one of them.

In Massachusetts, companies that

See **VEHICLES**, Page 2A



LOVE What You HEAR

Don't miss out on our Better Hearing Event!
February 16th – February 28th

Hear the difference. Feel the connection.

Miracle-Ear® provides a range of discreet, advanced hearing aids designed to bring joy to your everyday moments.

Start your journey to better hearing at your local Miracle-Ear® Center today.

CALL TODAY!
617-272-2559

2/\$995

FULLY DIGITAL HEARING AIDS

Offer valid on entry level, MESELECT™ battery model only, at participating Miracle-Ear® locations. MESELECT™ comes with a 1-year limited warranty. Limit one coupon per patient at promotional price during event dates only. Not valid with other offers or discounts. See store for details. Expires 2/28/2026

CODE: DI629563

Subscriber-only eNewspaper

The eNewspaper is an electronic copy of your print newspaper. Enjoy every page by going to thegardnernews.com/enewspaper or scan this code on your mobile device. You will also find late news and sports in the bonus sections. Check it out today!



Volume 223 | No. 38
To subscribe 978-630-1200
©2026 \$1.25

