



After injuries, Patriots sign Dudley native Alec Lindstrom

SPORTS, 1D

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Barre slammed on its DPW policies

Ex-chief accused of working state jobs on town time

Brad Petrishen
Worcester Telegram & Gazette
USA TODAY NETWORK

BARRE — The state inspector general is calling on Barre to eliminate the commission that oversees its Department of

Public Works, alleging an investigation showed its former superintendent, Jason Pimental, worked for two state agencies while he was supposed to be at his town job. Pimental, who helmed the department from 2010 until his resignation in

2024, “worked hundreds of hours for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Fire Services and the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority during periods that he was scheduled to work for the town, without taking corresponding leave time,” Inspector General Jeffrey S. Shapiro wrote in a news release July 30.

Shapiro, in a letter he sent to Barre officials July 29, said the episode showed that taxpayers were failed both by Pimental, who “violated” his duty to them, and by town officials, who failed to properly oversee the department. While his letter detailed serious

See BARRE, Page 4A



Trash is collected on Hunthurst Circle in Worcester on July 31. PHOTOS BY ALLAN JUNG/TELEGRAM & GAZETTE

Deep dive into trash

Study finds high amount of food scraps, with Worcester schools in the lead

Henry Schwan
Worcester Telegram & Gazette
USA TODAY NETWORK

WORCESTER — Like any city, Worcester generates a lot of trash. But have you ever wondered what your neighbors are throwing away in those yellow trash bags placed along the curb for pickup? It could give you some insights into their private lives — what they like and don’t like. For the first time in Worcester’s history, the city hired a consultant at a cost of \$117,500 to comb through some of the garbage to get to the bottom of what’s in those bags. What the preliminary results found was a high amount of food scraps and other organics, like compostable cups, plus diapers, a category called “other” that could potentially be just about anything, and some items that should have been put in the recycle bin. The final report is expected to drop in September.

No spying here

No, the city isn’t spying on your refuse habits. It wants to know the contents in those bags, so it can develop a plan to cut the amount of stuff that residents are throwing out. The goal is to keep trash, especially organics, out of land-



A city trash truck parks on Boyden Street in Worcester.

fills and incinerators that send pollutants into the air, said John Odell, the city’s chief sustainability officer. Another reason is cost-cutting, he said. Less trash means the city pays less in tipping fees to have the garbage hauled away to incinerators. A team from consultant Diversion Designers, which is based in Colorado, worked with local haulers to pick through some of the city’s garbage to get a representative sample. The work was

done over several weeks in April. A total of 111 samples were collected, with more than 22,000 pounds of waste sorted by hand into 50 categories. Four location categories where trash is generated were analyzed: Residential properties of one to six units that includes single-family homes, duplexes, three-deckers and buildings with up to six condos or apartments;

See TRASH, Page 7A

Decision by Harris leaves door open to ‘28 bid for WH

Francesca Chambers
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — Former Vice President Kamala Harris won’t be running for California governor in 2026, but she is not ruling out another bid for the White House. The two-time Democratic presidential candidate, who abruptly took over as her party’s nominee in the 2024 general election, said in a surprise announcement on July 30 that she would not compete in next year’s gubernatorial race. Harris, who currently lives in Southern California with her husband, Doug Emhoff, did not say whether she has decided to run for president in 2028. “For now, my leadership – and public service – will not be in elected office,” she said. “I look forward to getting back out and listening to the American people, helping elect Democrats across the nation who will fight

See HARRIS, Page 5A

QCC program opening doors for disabled

Jesse Collings
Worcester Telegram & Gazette
USA TODAY NETWORK

WORCESTER — When Matthew Cronin was a young child, he was diagnosed with auditory processing disorder, a learning disability that makes it difficult for him to hear and process information quickly, particularly in a loud setting. At the time, not much was done about his diagnosis. “This was in the 1980s, and to my mother, I was just going to be treated like any other kid,” Cronin said. “Whenever I’d mess up, it was just assumed that boys will be boys.” As he got older though, Cronin, who grew up and still lives in Shrewsbury, began noticing that his learning disability was manifesting itself in his everyday life outside the classroom. “I was an OK student, very average, and after I graduated Shrewsbury High in 1997, I bounced around differ-

See PROGRAM, Page 6A

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