



A Hollywood homecoming for Millbury's Angelo Gray

LOCAL, 3A

TELEGRAM & GAZETTE

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Peterson Oil lawsuit settles for \$14M

Customers say high biodiesel blends caused damage

Brad Petrishen
Worcester Telegram & Gazette
USA TODAY NETWORK

WORCESTER – A judge on Thursday, Nov. 13, granted preliminary approval of a \$14 million settlement in a long-run-

ning class-action lawsuit against Peterson Oil regarding its biodiesel fuel mix.

If granted final approval following a hearing in January, thousands of customers who purchased oil from the longtime Worcester fuel company as far back as 2012 and as recently as this

month would be eligible to file claims by a Feb. 11, 2026, deadline.

The settlement is the second Peterson Oil or its insurers have reached regarding allegations the company put too much biodiesel in its fuel, causing equipment to break down and increasing the amount of fuel needed to deliver the same amount of heat.

The company's insurers, over its objection, reached a \$5.6 million settlement last year regarding customers who alleged property damage from its oil between 2016 and 2019.

The second and final settlement is open to customers who received oil from

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The Stoddard Exhibition Hall will house larger traveling exhibits that the museum was previously unable to fit.

Mammoth proportions

New exhibition hall makes room for bigger exhibits

Rachel Gow
Worcester Telegram & Gazette
USA TODAY NETWORK

WORCESTER – The EcoTarium has some new elbow room. The museum, which has been a staple of science education in the city for 200 years, has completed a 6,400-square-foot expansion.

The Stoddard Exhibition Hall, built to the right side of the museum's entrance on Harrington Way, will house larger traveling exhibits that the museum was previously unable to fit. Due to an increase in the size of traveling exhibits over the past several years, more space means the EcoTarium can attract newer collections, museum leadership explained.

"The hall will really allow us to be impressive for Central Massachusetts," said Katie Chappell, the deputy director of museum operations. "Normally if you want to see these types of exhibits

you have to go to New York or Boston but now you'll be able to see them right here in Worcester."

The Stoddard Exhibition Hall, named for the prominent Worcester family, is to have its first exhibit in March: The Secret World of Elephants. The exhibition, developed by the American Museum of Natural History in New York, features a life-size replica of a woolly mammoth and will stay at the EcoTarium for six months, Chappell said.

"I really believe this exhibit will appeal to so many people," Chappell said. "I mean, who doesn't love elephants?"

To help raise funds for the new exhibit and to celebrate the hall's completion, the museum was due to hold the Legacy of Stars gala Saturday night, Nov. 15.

Due to transport and assembly costs, in addition to rental fees, traveling exhibitions can be surprisingly expensive, Chappell said.

"We can't survive off of museum admissions alone so these events are really important for us."

Chappell said the exhibition hall will allow the museum to continue its mission of educating children and adults alike about science.



The EcoTarium has opened the Stoddard Exhibition Hall. PHOTOS BY ALLAN JUNG/TELEGRAM & GAZETTE

"The best way to get people learning is to get them to come here and to actually touch and feel," Chappell said.

"Learning through play and learning through fun is how we actually retain this information, and now with this new hall more people can do that."

EPSTEIN FILES

Released emails fuel partisan bickering

Dems, GOP have mixed takes on Trump's role

Bart Jansen
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – Democrats and Republicans are disputing the significance of newly released emails from accused sex trafficker Jeffrey Epstein.

Democrats highlighted several emails that reference President Donald Trump. But the White House and Republican lawmakers deny that the messages prove any close connection between the two men.

Two of the key Epstein emails say Trump "spent hours at my house" and "of course he knew about the girls."

They are part of 23,000 pages of

See **EPSTEIN FILES**, Page 5A

Report: 24% of area nursing homes subpar

Henry Schwan
Worcester Telegram & Gazette
USA TODAY NETWORK

When a loved one needs a nursing home, families want a place that gives professional and attentive care.

It can be for a relatively short stay after surgery or possibly longer, depending on the severity of the illness. No matter the need, finding a quality nursing home in Worcester County that gives patients and their families peace of mind can be a challenge, according to the 2025 Best Nursing

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