



Worcester blacksmith built an early rickshaw prototype

LOCAL, 3A

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Misam Jasim, left, and her husband, Aisar Maran, outside their Worcester home. PHOTOS BY RICK CINCLAIR/TELEGRAM & GAZETTE

Note to readers

We will not be printing a paper on Monday, May 25, but will be providing it to you via the eNewspaper. You can always find the latest news on our website, mobile app, newsletters and social media. Subscribers can access the eNewspaper by going to our website and clicking on eNewspaper in the black navigation bar.

Family honors Marine lost for decades

Nephew works on book as friend arranges scholarship

Kelly Powers

Delaware News Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

WILMINGTON, DE – He whips past the tall grass.

Heat is swelling around him, just like the pain in his leg. His glasses must have been lost. At some point, he watches himself stop and lie down. In the blurred greenery, he thinks about his family, how far away he is from home, how he may not get back.

Then, Trent Wicks woke up.

“I was actually in my uncle’s body. And when I woke up, I was sweating and everything, like it really happened,” he recalled, with his research and clippings nearby. “To me, that was a sign that he was telling me, ‘Keep on doing what you’re doing.’”

Capt. Larry Potts, Wicks’ uncle, is one of the remaining missing-in-action service members from the Vietnam War. Limited details from Potts’ last mission, on his 25th birthday – he was one cog in a broader rescue operation for a lieutenant colonel shot down behind enemy lines – have fueled at least two books and a 1988 blockbuster, “Bat*21.”

Some 54 years later, Potts’ remains have never been recovered. But even while the Marine’s family has lacked closure, answers or a filled casket, loved ones like Wicks are still fighting to preserve his memory.

One fellow Marine is working on his own book with help from family. This spring, Potts’ childhood best friend, with help from their Omega Psi Phi fraternity brothers, finally raised the capital needed to establish an endowed scholarship fund in Potts’ name at Delaware State University. He is the only known casualty from the Vietnam War who attended the historically Black

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From dream to nightmare

Couple’s home flooded with sewage after city flushes drain

Toni Caushi

Worcester Telegram & Gazette
USA TODAY NETWORK

WORCESTER – It all started with gurgles and a foul smell coming from the basement toilet on a weekend in late November.

While city workers flushed the main street drain near their home on Greenwood Street for a repair, Aisar Maran and his wife, Misam Jasim, say sewage then shot out of the toilet, flooding their basement of their home.

That work caused damages of up to \$32,000, the couple have said, but despite their attempts to get the city to pay, the city continues to deny any wrongdoing and refuses to pay for the damages.

“We are very disappointed with the city,” Maran and Jasim said almost in unison recently. “We never thought they would act like this. Not like this.”

The couple first reached out to a plumbing company on a friend’s recommendation after the toilet water started bubbling in the afternoon of Friday, Nov. 21, but after they saw that there was no clog on plumbing near their property, they were forced to reach out to the city two days later.



Aisar Maran describes the sewage that entered his Worcester home through a basement bathroom.

Finding a blockage, the city’s sewer operations crews flushed the line, but while doing so, Maran noticed water rising up to the level of a manhole near where they were working.

Thinking back to the toilet in his basement that had gurgled and smelled foul for two days, he rushed back into the home.

“I go back in the home and I see the

water bubble everywhere,” Maran said.

With his hand hovering about 3 to 4 inches over the basement floor, Maran recounted on May 15 – now months since the flood – how high sewage water rose as it swarmed out of the toilet, all while the city truck outside flushed the waterline.

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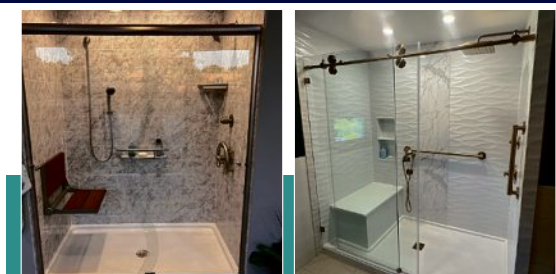
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