





# Everett

## Independent

President: Stephen Quigley

Editor in Chief: Cary Shuman

### AN UNFATHOMABLE NUMBER

When COVID-19 first came into our national consciousness more than a year ago, it was just a blip on the news. The prospect that a viral bug originating halfway around the world would alter every aspect of our lives seemed inconceivable.

And even if the virus did come here, America was not some third-world country. We had confidence that the world’s best medical care system and scientific minds would work together to prevent something as seemingly trivial as a mere virus from overwhelming our nation.

But one year -- and 500,000 American lives -- later, that which was unimaginable has become a nightmarish reality.

To be sure, the unprecedented incompetence and outright malevolence of the previous administration contributed substantially to amplify and worsen the problems brought on by the pandemic.

But even in a best-case scenario, the virus would have upended every aspect of our lives. Although the politicization of the virus contributed to our nation’s suffering, the pandemic still would have caused death and economic turmoil to an unprecedented extent.

The official count of 500,000 COVID deaths was surpassed this week. Let’s hope that as we move forward and as the daily numbers of deaths and hospitalizations continue to decline, we have learned that despite our high-tech lifestyle, we are no match for Mother Nature.

The pandemic has exposed many problems in our country, including the inadequacy of our health care system, especially for minority groups, and the danger of politicizing scientific information.

Hopefully, we have recognized our multitude of mistakes and we will make the necessary investments in our health care and pandemic detection systems to ensure that we will be ready for the next pandemic.

As the philosopher succinctly put it, those who do not learn from the past are condemned to repeat it.

### SPRING IS IN THE AIR

This winter has not been a particularly difficult one for us in the Northeast, although February has been colder and stormier than January.

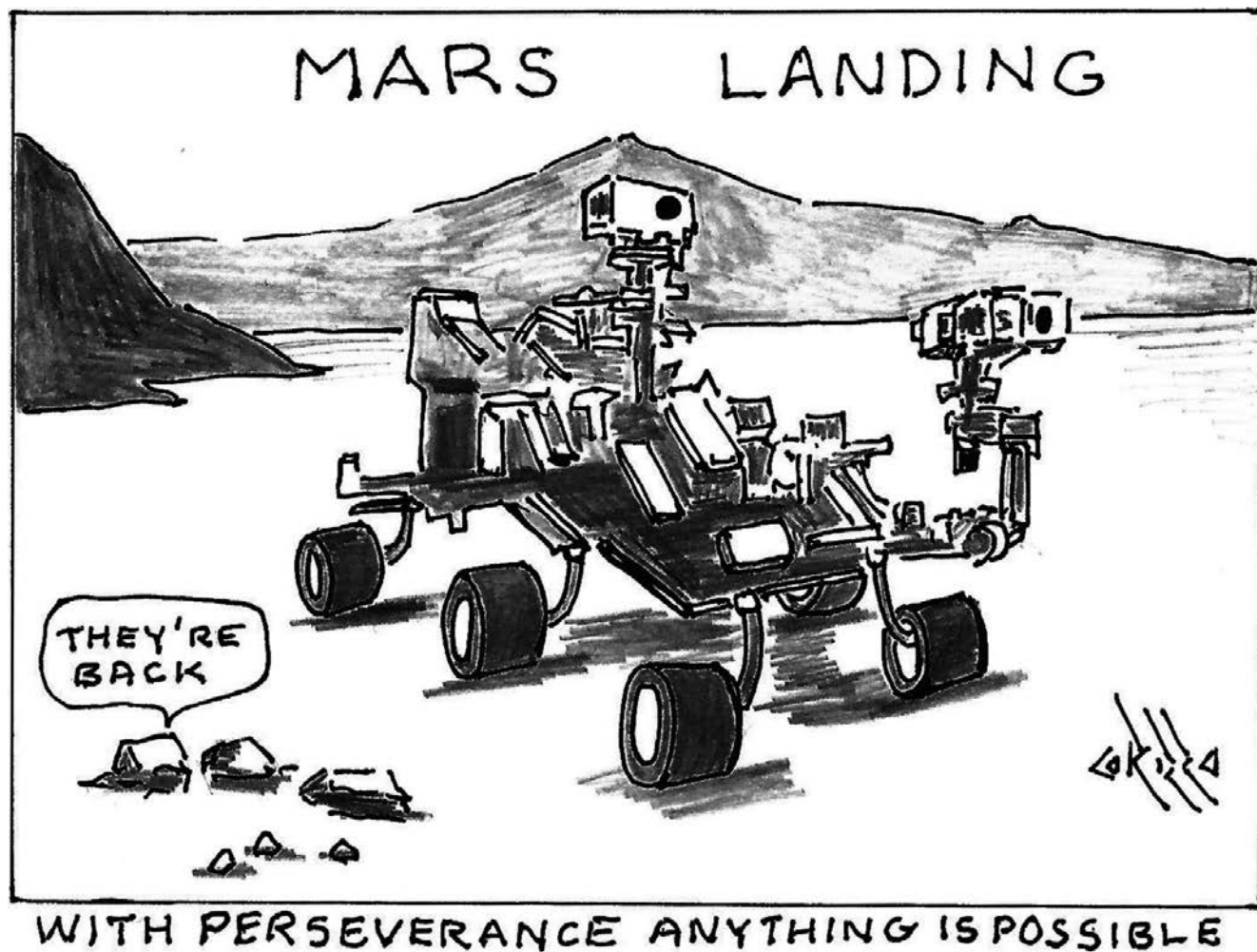
But with temperatures reaching the 50s by the middle of this week, there is the feeling that spring is just around the corner.

We realize that “spring” is a relative term for those of us living on the Massachusetts coast, but undeniably the onset of warmer weather will provide more opportunities to get outside and enjoy the fresh air and sunshine after months of being cooped-up amidst our pandemic quarantines.

Spring traditionally symbolizes rebirth and rejuvenation. That thought is especially meaningful in the spring of 2021.

Hopefully, the coming of spring and the availability of mass vaccinations will enable all of us to emerge from our cocoons and allow us to return safely to our pre-pandemic lives.

# Independent Forum



WITH PERSEVERANCE ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE

### GUEST OP-ED

### Making your funeral arrangements

Dr. Glenn Mollette

A good friend died recently. At the age of 80 and all his life insurance had expired and his savings was spent. His family, financially, were living from week to week. His failing health along with Covid-19 put him in an Intensive Care Unit for days apart from his family where he died. His hospitalization brought more bills and financial hardship for those left behind. Needless to say, there wasn’t any money to pay for a casket, embalming, plot of ground and a grave marker.

His young adult son put together their dire scenario and sent it out to everyone his family knew. Within a week 103 friends had given \$20,300 to momentarily rescue this family from their perilous situation. It was enough money to buy a casket, embalming, a plot of ground and a small grave memorial marker.

Do you have 103 friends who would give \$20 to \$2000 each to pay for your burial expenses? I know I do not. Such an outpouring was a testimony to his life and the lives of so many he had touched. This story is a

sad reminder that we must take prudent steps toward covering our burial/funeral costs.

I don’t want my wife or children to have to figure it out after I’m dead. Often, we don’t get a choice. We die way before we have time to make our final arrangements. This happens a lot. This is why we need to do it now or as soon as we can.

Another dear friend recently died very young. Her family was strapped for cash and went the route of cremation. Cremation is costing between \$2500 to \$7500 depending on where you live. Not cheap. My Navy son said, “Dad, just cremate me and scatter my remains over the north Atlantic.” I pray he lives to be a hundred and his grandchildren have to do that.

Some of you know my wife died back in 2002. Her funeral cost me about \$10,000 and her grave plot was \$600. I was cash strapped at the age of 47. I had nothing but medical bills and a house payment. I wasn’t prepared for a funeral, mentally or financially. The only thing that saved me was a year before she was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, a

good friend sold us small life insurance policies. He also talked us into paying extra for a disability wavier on the policy. The disability wavier was the only way I was able to maintain that life insurance policy which we used 13 years after he sold it to us. It was the only way I could have paid for that funeral, unless I could have borrowed more money on my house. This was doubtful because I already had a second mortgage on the house from trying to pay other medical bills. I would have been hurting and probably would have had to go the cheapest route available for her funeral. It was simply the grace of God and a wise insurance agent who saved us in that respect.

My mother and father in law both died recently and their funeral expenses alone were over \$14,000 each. Fortunately, they had saved enough money to cover these costs. You can spend less and you can spend more of course. The question is do you want your family to have to figure it out? Sit down with a trusted funeral director and begin making preparations now.

Decide which route you

want to go. Decide how much you want to spend. You can plan everything. Pick out everything. Most likely pay for everything. Just make sure you are dealing with a very trusted funeral director. Write out everything you want done including music, speakers and anything specific you want them to say. It’s up to you of course. Make several copies of your wishes and what you have done. It’s amazing how people lose stuff.

When we are dead, we won’t care. We won’t know, but we care now. I know most of us care about those we leave behind. This is one way we can help them to know how and what we want done and relieve their burden by making the arrangements ourselves.

*Glenn Mollette is the publisher of Newburgh Press, Liberty Torch and various other publishing imprints; a national columnist – American Issues and Common Sense opinions, analysis, stories and features appear each week in over 500 newspapers, websites and blogs across the United States.*

### LETTERS to the Editor

#### FOR THOSE WHO STAFF THE VACCINE CLINIC

Dear Editor:

On Saturday I had the pleasure of attending the vaccine clinic held right here in Everett at the former Pope John High School. I had the opportunity to see firsthand the amazing professionalism and dedication that both the DeMaria and Cataldo Ambulance staff provided to each of the 386 residents that came through the door. I would like to personally thank Mayor DeMaria, Deanna Devaney, Public Health Nurse Sabrina Firicano, Chad Luongo, Erin Deveney and all of the staff who have worked tirelessly to see this become extreme-

ly successful. It has been a true game-changer for our community and I hope that Governor Charlie Baker will see the direct impact it has had on our residents and allow us to be a model community of success in the fight against COVID-19 to continue to administer the vaccine in our community so that our one-on-one relationships encourage our residents to feel comfortable in taking this vaccine. We need and will continue pushing on the Baker Administration to help us get our teachers and front-line workers also vaccinated quickly. We have listened to the Governor for a year now, I hope he will return the same respect and now offer support to local leaders who know our communi-

ties best.

**Michael McLaughlin**  
Ward 6 Councilor

**STATEMENT OF AARP MASSACHUSETTS**

Dear Editor,

On behalf of our 775,000 members and all older Massachusetts residents, we thank Governor Baker for opening the next phase of COVID-19 vaccinations to people aged 65 and over and those with certain health conditions.

We are also pleased to see that the local Boards of Health will be able to vaccinate homebound seniors, and that efforts are focused around outreach to vulnerable, hard to reach populations, including homebound seniors, individuals who partici-

pate in ‘meals on wheels’ and others who are eligible but not able to travel to a vaccine site.

AARP Massachusetts has been urging policymakers to prioritize the vaccination of older Americans because of the risk they face from COVID-19. Since the start of the pandemic, nearly 95% of the deaths from COVID-19 have been among people 50 and older. The science has clearly shown that the older people are, the higher risk they face if they contract COVID-19.

We support the prioritization of older Americans in the vaccine allocation process.

**Mike Festa**  
AARP Massachusetts State Director

# Everett

## Independent

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## Everett in ‘Yellow’ Zone for the first time since COVID-19 outbreak

The numbers of COVID-19 cases went downward significantly over the past week, and particularly in the past few days – a move that helped move Everett from the state’s ‘red’ category and into the state’s ‘yellow’ category for the first time since the pandemic began. “For the first week Everett has moved from Red to Yellow,” said Mayor Carlo DeMaria. “I am hopeful that we can continue to see the decrease in the amount of daily cases and continue to see the percent positivity decrease as well.

Thank you for doing your part, it’s working. Keep wearing your mask, wash your hands, and socially distance.” Cases for the week were down to 104, with 159 cases registering in the previous week and far fewer over the last several weeks than in the January surge. It has been a slow and steady decline lately, which is what led to the re-designation of the community to “yellow” by the state. Some of the metrics from the past week include:

- Average Daily Incidence Rate per 100,000

(Last 14 Days)- 41.3

- Total COVID Tests (Last 14 Days)- 6,723
- Percent Positivity (Last 14 Days) 4.95%

The most recent numbers are as follows:

- Tuesday, Feb. 23 – 6
- Monday, Feb. 22 – 9
- Sunday, Feb. 21 – 17
- Saturday, Feb. 20 – 7
- Friday, Feb. 19 – 19
- Thursday, Feb. 18 – 24
- Wednesday, Feb. 17 – 9
- Tuesday, Feb. 16 – 13

On Monday, Jan. 4, Everett moved its testing full-time indoors at the Samuel Gentile Recreation Center on Elm Street. Testing is

done Monday to Thursday, 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., and then 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. On Friday and Saturdays, testing is done noon to 6 p.m. Additionally, there is a new testing resource for Everett residents only via the Mass General COVID-19 testing van. The van is located every Thursday at the Norwood Street Parking Lot in Everett Square. The hours are from 8 a.m. to noon and proof of Everett residency is required. Updates on the van are posted on the Kraft Community Health website.

## FUELING OUR SUCCESS



A big Thank You to the professionals at ExxonMobil’s Everett Terminal for awarding the Everett Public Schools a generous donation as part of its expansive Good Neighbor Grant program. Pictured here are Supt. Priya Tahliliani and Terminal Supervisor Dean Gockel, who made the check presentation at the terminal on Beacham Street. Thanks also to ExxonMobil Facility Coordinator Mary Martell for all of her help.

## Free training for CNC being offered to residents by organizations

Mayor Carlo DeMaria is pleased to announce that Minuteman Technical Institute, Commonwealth Corporation, and MassHire Boards are collaborating with regional partners to provide a free 300-hour training program in Computer Numeric Control (CNC) Machine Operation for unemployed or under-employed adults. Training programs are scheduled to begin on March 1.

“The CNC Operator training program seems like a fantastic opportunity,” said Mayor DeMaria. “Not everyone is meant to be on a scholastic path, and I think it is great that Minuteman Technical Institute is offering a program that can train someone to have a technical career. I look forward to learning about the other programs that Minuteman has to offer.”

The training program is scheduled to run for 15 weeks through June 17 and targets adults who are facing employment challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Minuteman will be providing students training to learn how to operate and manage the CNC machine as well as establish working conditions. Classes will be held every Monday-Thursday evening. Minuteman has partnered with companies who have said they need trained skilled workers in their facilities. Some

companies include, Nova Biomedical in Waltham, Rolls-Royce in Walpole, and Tecomet in Woburn. Everett residents are encouraged to apply. For more information about the CNC Operator program or to learn how to apply, please contact Minuteman Technical Institute’s Executive Director, Nancy Houle, at 781-861-7151.

## Rep. McGonagle announces fire safety grant awards

Rep. Joseph McGonagle is pleased to announce the 2021 fire safety grants awarded to the City of Everett. The Everett Fire Department received \$6,380 for the S.A.F.E Grant (Student Awareness of Fire Education) and \$2,880 for the Senior SAFE Grant. “I am very pleased with our 2021 grant money for fire safety and education

for the people of Everett,” said McGonagle. “In a community like ours, where many structures are older and close together, fire safety is crucial knowledge that can be life-saving. I’m grateful the State continues to support these programs that serve the Commonwealth so well. Also, a special thank you to Chief Carli

and his team at the Everett Fire Department for protecting our City and all the work they personally do in educating our residents on fire safety.” S.A.F.E was created 26 years ago and has seen annual child fire deaths reduced by 78% since its creation. Thanks to this program and the support of local fire departments,

there was not a single fire related death of a child in 2020. Senior SAFE was created more recently and educates seniors on fire prevention, home safety and what do to in case of a fire. Seniors are the most vulnerable population to fire related deaths and the program has shown great strides in preventing these tragedies.

## Fire on Lewis St. causes damage; woman saved from second floor

By Seth Daniel

Firefighters from Engine 4 made a quick stop of a scary fire at 40 Lewis St. on Monday night, and in the process were able to save a woman pleading for help from a smoky, second-story window.

Credited with the save were Acting Lt. Dockery, Firefighter Rutledge and Firefighter Gardner. The woman was not injured and no firefighters were injured in the blaze either. Carli said as the woman

was being saved, the rest of the crews focused on putting out the fire in the basement, and keeping it from spreading beyond the first floor. He said it was a good stop and they were successful. Crews did have to shut

down the Parkway for a short period of time to access a fire hydrant there. The home was only two houses up from the Parkway and on the north side of Lewis Street.

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### - LEGAL NOTICE - CITY OF EVERETT

**BOARD OF APPEALS**  
484 Broadway, Everett, Massachusetts 02149  
(617) 381-7445

To Whom It May Concern:

This notice is to inform you that a public hearing will be held on Monday, March 15, 2021 at 7:00 PM in regards to an application for zoning relief. In response to Governor Baker’s declaration of a public health emergency and the related Emergency Executive Order dated March 12, 2020, the Zoning Board of Appeals shall be meeting remotely until further notice. The audioconferencing application Zoom will be used for this purpose. An online link and telephone access number will be provided on all meeting agendas and also on the Board’s website. This application will permit the public to access and participate in future Board meetings and hearings. Instructions for joining meetings in this manner will be provided on the City and City Clerk’s website. In addition, Everett Community TV (ECTV) may provide coverage of these meetings. We extend our thanks for your understanding and participation in this manner, which is intended to keep members of the Board and the public safe.

Whereas a petition has been presented by:

Property Address: 54 Tileston Street  
Map/Parcel: G0-01-000157

Person Requesting: Ms. Claudinei Alves  
Mr. Edvalada M. Goncalves  
54 Tileston Street  
Everett, MA 02149

To the said Board of Appeals, the applicant seeks to convert the existing Three (3) family residence built prior to 1899 into a Six (6) family residence.

**Reason for Denial:**  
The proposed use as a 6 family is not an allowed use. The Plot plan that was submitted does not indicate any proposed parking spaces were 12 spaces are required.

**Zoning Ordinance:**  
Section 4 of the City of Everett Zoning Ordinance a) Uses allows for a maximum of 3 units provided it was built prior to August 1926.

Section 4 Dwelling Districts paragraph 17 which states, the following:  
Conversion of Dwelling. No new dwelling unit created by the conversion of an existing dwelling shall be permitted unless the requirements of minimum lot area and off street parking are satisfied for all dwelling units in existence and proposed in the dwelling after the conversion or enlargement. (Ord. 02-046 of Oct. 22, 2003)

Topic: ZBA Meeting (public call in) 03/15  
Time: Mar 15, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://ci-everett-ma.zoom.us/j/94660216649?pwd=WmpFVXB-VYkk1dUlqWFcybzVQckhWUT09>

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Mary Gerace – Chairman

Roberta Suppa - Clerk  
Board of Appeals



BLACK HISTORY IN EVERETT

Arthur E. Jordan: First African American City Councilor

EDITOR’S NOTE: The following is part of a month-long series about noteworthy black Americans in Everett, taken from vignettes written by former City Clerk Michael Matarazzo in his book



Though it has been mistaken for many years that another man was the first black councilor, in fact the first black man to serve on the Everett Council was Arthur E. Jordan in 1901. Jordan fought valiantly in the Spanish American War and worked in the leather industry.

‘They Came from Everett.’ The histories of many black residents of Everett might surprise readers, as many of their stories have never been fully told. There are judges, former slaves who become hotel operators, football players and a former ambassador. It is hoped our readers enjoy these pieces as much as we did. Matarazzo’s book is available at book-blues.com.

In 1901, the Everett Republican Committee nominated Arthur E. Jordan for one of the three seats on the Common Council in Ward Five. At the time, the GOP nomination ensured election and Mr. Jordan was indeed elected.

At its core, that doesn’t sound like much of a story, and judging from newspaper accounts, it wasn’t. Except for a brief mention in both the Boston Globe and the Boston Post, the story did not generate much interest. The lack of publicity that the story generated led to a decades-long inaccu-


cy in Everett History. For years, it was widely believed that Robert Smith of Woodville Street was the first African-American elected to the Everett City Council in 1929. It turns out that it was Arthur E. Jordan in 1901.

Arthur E. Jordan was born on June 7, 1877 to Alfred and Amanda (Stringer) Jordan. The Jordans were originally from Virginia and came north after the Civil War and settled on Charles Street in Charlestown.

On April 25, 1898 the United States declared war on Spain following the sinking of the Battleship Maine in Havana harbor on February 15, 1898. Arthur joined the 6th Massachusetts Infantry, Company L, the only African-American company assigned to an otherwise all-white regiment.

Four days before the Company was moved from Camp Dewey in South Framingham to Camp Russell A. Alger, near Falls Church, VA, Arthur married Mary Phil-

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



This week, The Everett Police remember Officer Earl Clemons Jr. Clemons grew up in Everett and attended Everett High School. He became a member of the Everett Police Department in January 1977. He served as a member of the Operations Division, working as a patrol officer. Clemons passed away in 2001.

lips, the daughter of Samuel and Harriet (Shepard) Phillips of Chelsea.

When Company L first met up with the rest of the 6th Massachusetts in Baltimore, the other companies were at first shocked to see an all “colored” company led by “colored” officers. After the initial shock, however, Company L was subject to thunderous and continuous applause.

The 6th Massachusetts arrived at Camp Alger on the 22nd of May and on the 28th it was reviewed in parade by President William McKinley who complimented the Company.

Not everyone was convinced, however, that Company L could perform under the stress of battle. Their biggest doubter was their commanding officer, Brigadier General George A. Garretson, who tried to have the Company transferred to an all African-American regiment. When that failed, he extensively drilled the Company in blazing heat, and when they performed admirably in every test, Garretson withdrew his objection and complimented the Company through their commander Captain William J. Williams.

On July 8, Arthur and the 6th Massachusetts boarded the newly commissioned USS Yale and headed toward Cuba. Lt. William Jackson was appointed acting captain as Captain Williams was unable to accompany the men due to a serious case of typhoid fever. The Yale sat offshore as the island of Cuba was about to be surrendered to the U.S. Troops and the orders came after 17 days on board the Yale sending them to Puerto Rico. Soon after setting up camp at Guanica, Company L was one of two companies called to guard the perimeter from attack. They set up their position on a small hill that overlooked a coffee hacienda in Yauco. The attack, to become known as the Battle of Yauco, indeed came just before midnight and by daybreak a full firefight ensued. Despite being outnumbered, they forced an enemy retreat.

Brigadier General Garretson showed his faith

in Company L by placing them in charge of the town of Ganco and then assigning them to protect the American and English Consulate at Arecibo. The Company displayed great courage and restraint as they protected the consulates from a riotous crowd of 500 machete-wielding locals in a town occupied by the Spanish Army. With bayonets fixed, Company L stared down the crowd threatening the consulate until reinforcements arrived.

With the signing of an armistice on August 12 and the Treaty of Paris on December 10, the war was over and Arthur and Company L returned to Boston and received a hero’s welcome.

While Arthur made it through the war unscathed, his marriage wasn’t so fortunate. The couple, who had settled with Arthur’s widowed mother on Davis Street had welcomed a daughter to the family in 1899, but divorced in 1900.

Arthur went to work on High Street in Boston for the Pevear Leather Company as a leather sorter inspecting and classifying according to the qualitative features such as quality, color, size, thickness, softness and natural defects. He moved out of his mother’s house to an apartment on Tileston Street. It was while living on Tileston Street that Arthur was elected as one of the three common councilors from what was then Ward Five. He lived for several years before moving to Alfred Street and eventually followed his employment to Lynn.

Arthur married again in 1913 to Minnie L. Bowden (Fisher); a widow originally from Nashville, Tennessee. That same year, he was elected as an officer in the 6th Massachusetts Veterans Association. He would remain in the leather industry in Boston and Lynn and would eventually land with Monarch Leather in Chicago, Illinois. While working in Chicago, Arthur fell ill and died just three days after his 41st birthday. More certainly needs to be learned about this Everett pioneer.

HISTORIC FIGURES

Madeline “Maddy” English

By Seth Daniel

Maddy English was born on February 22, 1925 in Everett Massachusetts. Maddy was the daughter of Ambrose Tobias English, a longtime Everett city official who served as Everett’s Acting Mayor from July 1947-January 1948, and Anne English. While there were no organized interscholastic sports while she attended Everett High School, Maddy involved herself in pickup games around the Boston area, eventually joining a Massachusetts softball team in 1939, who played their home games on the concrete floor of the Boston Garden when the Bruins and Celtics teams were out of town. Her stand-out athleticism at third-base caught the eye of a professional baseball scout, who invited her to a tryout at Wrigley Field in Chicago in 1943.

With the US entangled in World War II, Philip Wrigley, owner of the Wrigley Company and the Chicago Cubs, founded the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League (AAGPBL) in 1943 to keep the public interested in baseball while many MLB teams had their star-rosters depleted due to the draft. Wrigley sent scouts around the US and Canada to find the proper talent to field teams. 280 women were chosen to tryout in Chicago; of them, 60 were chosen to play in the newly founded AAGPBL. Maddy English was one of the athletes chosen and was

assigned to the Racine Belles of Wisconsin, one of the four original teams.

Due in large part to her outstanding abilities both on the field and at the plate, Maddy and the Racine Belles won the AAGPBL’s first Championship Title in 1943. In 1946, the AAGPBL put together their first ever All-Star Team, selecting Maddy as their starting third-baseman, an honor she would enjoy again in 1948 and 1949. She is tied for the league record for stolen bases in a single game, posting seven stolen bases in 1947. Maddy played nine seasons with the Racine Belles before ending her professional baseball career in 1951.

Following her retirement from professional sports, Maddy served as the player-manager of an all-star softball team in Lynn, Massachusetts for five years. During this time, she earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in education from Boston University in 1957, receiving her Master’s Degree in 1962. Maddy commenced her 27-year career at the Parlin Junior High School in 1960, spending 10 years as a classroom and physical education teacher followed by 17 years as the school’s guidance counselor, advising students on future educational and career paths.

Maddy English has been inducted into the Boston University Ath-



A baseball card of the late Madeline ‘Maddy’ English.

letics Hall of Fame, the Women in Sports Hall of Fame, and the Sports Museum of New England. A permanent display dedicated to the AAGPBL players was introduced in 1988 in the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, NY. Maddy and the rest of her professional counterparts rose greatly in notoriety following the 1992 film, “A League of Their Own,” starring Geena Davis, Tom Hanks, Madonna, Lori Petty, and Rosie O’Donnell, which focused on the AAGPBL. As a result of the film’s success in

bringing professional women’s baseball to the spotlight in America, the National Baseball Hall of Fame hosted an event in 2003 to honor those athletes who made this a reality; in attendance was Maddy English, who gave a speech to an audience of over 200-people, recounting her career as one of the world’s first female professional baseball players.

In 2003, the Madeline English School was dedicated to this trailblazing Everett-native. Maddy passed away on August 21, 2004 in her hometown of Everett at the age of 79.

Vaccine Clinic // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the quantities of vaccine to the City that they have been.

“It has been a true game-changer for our community and I hope that Governor Baker will see the direct impact it has had on our residents and allow us to be a model community of success in the fight against COVID-19 to continue

to administer the vaccine in our community so that our one-on-one relationships encourage our residents to feel comfortable in taking this vaccine,” he said. “We need and will continue pushing on the Baker Administration to help us get our teachers and front-line workers also vaccinated quickly. We have lis-

tened to the Governor for a year now, I hope he will return the same respect and now offer support to local leaders who know our communities best.”

Everett was identified early last week as one of 20 communities to get vaccine resource priority – with an informational campaign to be launched and a \$1 million alloca-

tion to help obtain vaccine in those communities.

“We look forward to having them provide resources to us like boots on the ground to get word out about the vaccine,” said Devaney. “We have been impacted, but our numbers are good right now.”

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# Hundreds of desks given to EPS students

By Seth Daniel

Like many great efforts during COVID-19, the student desk delivery program started by Parlin School Teacher Stacy Schiavo and Firefighter Joe MacLaughlin began with a pressing need, a call between old friends,

and quick action to help someone out.

That’s just what happened last October when Schiavo had been noticing that a lot of her students didn’t have a great place to work and attend remote classes. Meanwhile, MacLaughlin was cleaning out his parents’ home in

Everett and came across an old desk in the attic. He cleaned it up and painted it and wondered what to do with it.

So, he called Schiavo. In this case: Two plus two equaled more than four. In fact it equaled a successful venture that has now provided hundreds of desks to kids in the Everett Public Schools (EPS) of all ages and grade levels.

“I had that desk and it was in good shape and I didn’t want to throw it in a dumpster because I knew with remote school there were probably some kids that could use it in Everett,” said MacLaughlin. “I knew Stacy and reached out and asked her if any kids could use a desk.”

Said Schiavo, “I reached out to parents on our Dojo platform and had six parents immediately say they could use a desk. I gave it to the first one and then we were also able to get donations to take care of the rest of them.”

Then the donations came pouring in – desks from all over their network of people in Everett and alumni of EPS that heard and donated. They even got a 400 pound Mahogany desk from a retired judge in Marblehead. That morphed into not just donations of desks, but also new desks from Amazon bolstered by a fundraising effort that had a goal of \$3,000 but has already hit \$5,000.

“Word spread by mouth at first and people wanted to give us used desks, and then they wanted to give us money because they didn’t have any desks,” said Schiavo. “So, we took the donated money and bought Amazon desks. We got it delivered and we do the assembly... It really snowballed.”

MacLaughlin said they decided to assemble the desks and deliver them ready to go to students because they know everyone is so busy, they might now

have the time or know-how to assemble a desk. The last thing they wanted was to deliver a box with a desk inside that never got put together.

Between the donated desks, and the more standard Amazon desks they now deliver to students, the volunteer effort has deployed more than 140 desks to Everett students across the city, and much more is to come. With the help of School Committeeman Marcony Almeida Barros, many school leaders and elected officials across the city – the effort is really “snowballing,” they said.

Last Sunday, MacLaughlin was able to use donated gift cards to rent a U-Haul and deliver 20 desks to students all over the city in one of their larger efforts to date. His living room was so inundated with Amazon desk assembly lines that they had to move down to the cellar for more space.

But that’s just the logistics of it all, and the heart of the matter and the need is where the pencil hits the paper on this story.

“One thing I noticed when I was teaching my students is they have other siblings often that are also remote learning,” she said. “They often didn’t have a place to work and didn’t want to turn on their video or unmute because their siblings were right beside them with the volume up...A lot of times you don’t know what’s going on. A lot of kids won’t come off mute because they’re all in the same space and another sibling is beside them with the computer and my student doesn’t want that heard. With these desks, they can have their own area and that helps the situation. It has been heartwarming to see them take ownership of their new space, and clearly they all need it.”

MacLaughlin said he’s seen some tough situations



A student from Ms. Otfinoski’s classroom enjoys his new desk.

during his delivery rounds and feels for the kids trying to learn in spaces that just aren’t optimal or are cramped.

“Most of the places I’ve delivered desks there is a clear need,” he said. “I delivered to an apartment and the student had us take it to their room and there were four mattresses on the floor and we wedged the desk between two mattresses and that’s where this student was learning and having school. It’s really tough. A lot of the parents think they have to bring it back. When we tell them their student can keep it forever, they get so emotional. So many people just want others to know their situation and to be able to talk about it with someone.”

Schiavo grew up in Everett, as did MacLaughlin, and both have worked for the City in their respective careers for several decades. In fact, both attended the Parlin School as kids, and both have been teachers at the Parlin as well – with MacLaughlin working as a teacher there a few years before landing on the Everett Fire Department. Both understand and know the Everett of yesteryear and the Everett of today – and it’s remarkably the same, they said, when there is a need

to be addressed.

“It’s so much how we grew up in Everett,” said MacLaughlin. “Everett was always a blue-collar city. No one ever was in need and everyone always came together. If someone needed something, the whole neighborhood pitched in. That’s what you’re seeing happen here...Once you see someone’s reaction and feel the gratitude and enthusiasm, you just want to do it again.”

Said Schiavo, “It gives everyone such a great feeling when you’re helping people and helping students. Some have asked my what’s my angle and what I’m looking for with this. There is no angle. It’s about helping people. It’s such a great feeling that you want to keep going and we’ll keep going. We haven’t even started to touch our donations and we have so many other kids that would like to have a desk to work on.”

Any student in Everett Public Schools that needs a desk should reach out to their teacher, who will relay the message to Schiavo and MacLaughlin. From there, the logistics will be worked out with the teacher.

To donate to the effort, log on to <https://givebutler.com/IJvhB8>.



A Madeline English student shows off her new desk and work space.



Parlin School teacher Stacy Schiavo and Firefighter Joe MacLaughlin started out with just one desk to one student, but their effort now has reached nearly 150 students in Everett Public Schools. They said they’ll keep going until the need is fully met and every student has a good place to work from home.



This student from Mrs. Blake’s classroom customized her desk with flowers and her favorite books.

## Encore gross revenues grow for third straight month

By Seth Daniel

Gross Gaming Revenues (GGR) at Encore Boston Harbor grew for the third straight month in January at \$33.31 million and showed increasing revenues at both slots and table games.

In fact, despite closures and COVID-19 restrictions, the slot numbers weren’t that far off from pre-pandemic days – a startling fact that has been the case on several monthly reports throughout the past year.

The slot revenues in January came in at \$19.6 million, which was up from \$16.09 million in December and \$15.4 million in November. In pre-pandemic days, such as in December 2019, slot revenues were \$22.6 million – just \$3 million more in that month than in January of 2021. Even

last September 2020, in the midst of the pandemic, slot numbers were at \$23.4 million which was above the average monthly revenues for Encore before COVID-19 hit.

Table games have been closed for the most part since COVID hit, with no poker offerings at all since last March. That has caused the revenues to be far off the normal course at \$13.68 million in January. That was consistent with revenues in December as well, and a little higher than November’s \$11.8 million.

Before COVID, table games were grossing close to \$30 million a month at Encore.

The January 2021 state gaming taxes stood at \$8.3 million and the total coin-in dollars were \$235.19 million – the highest since October.

## Positions / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

are in the final stages of making a hiring choice.

The City has advertised that position several times over the past year, but has yet to get the pool of applicants it wants to move forward.

“It’s troubling what we’re hearing and a city as vibrant and flourishing as ours would have that problem,” said Capone.

With a Municipal Election on the horizon, many on the Council were troubled that there is not an Elections Commissioner yet. The job has fallen to City Clerk Sergio Cornelio, who ran the last Presidential Election in 2020, but does need a Commissioner in place.

Councilor Michael McLaughlin said having such a person in place for the upcoming election is going to be a top priority – especially with so many changes to voting methods.

“Things can and do happen quickly if there isn’t someone watching what is going on,” he said. “I’ve experienced some disheartening things in the past and don’t want to see those same things in this election.”

That was echoed by Councilor Gerly Adrien, and Councilor Jimmy Tri Le.

“This needs to happen sooner rather than later to hire outside personnel to

take charge of these positions,” Le said.

Capone was also interested in the Library Director, which he has been talking about for some time. The former Library Director resigned abruptly in 2019, and City Solicitor Matt Lattanzi has been serving in that role since then. Deveney said he can serve for up to three years in the position, and they did look for a director but didn’t find one they wanted. Apparently they got qualified candidates, but most wanted to do the job remotely at the time and the City didn’t want to go that direction.

Deveney said they are currently using existing resources to run the library, which is at very limited capacity due to COVID-19 realities.

Capone said he would rather see the hiring of a Library Director rather than a restructuring and a temporary post for Lattanzi.

“You need a librarian running a library system and a director of libraries putting a long-term plan together,” he said. “While I appreciate what is being done now, you need a full-time Library Director in there.”

•FACE PAGES AND THE LIKE

For some on the City Council, Facebook, e-mails and Zoom are

just one big electronic mess and a lot of members would rather avoid including them as part of their meeting structure. However, the Council voted 6-3 to return broadcasting their meetings on Facebook live as well as the typical cable TV and online portals. Those voting against were Councilors John Hanlon, Wayne Matewsky and Jimmy Tri Le.

Councilor Stephanie Martins brought the matter to the Council on Monday night at the meeting and indicated she would like to bring the Facebook broadcast back to help expand accessibility to the public.

The Council took the broadcast off of Facebook live last year, even though others like the School Committee kept it on. Councilor Rosa DiFlorio said she took it off because members were complaining to her about negative and distasteful remarks that were being made in the ‘Comments’ section during the meetings. Some of those comments were directed at councilors, and she said a number of the members wanted it shut down, so she did.

However, she said she’s a “strong woman” and she’s in favor of the Facebook broadcast, and can take the negativity. She did say having it on

Facebook drew criticism from “outside people” as far away as New York, New Jersey and Baltimore, and she would only like to hear such criticism from Everett residents.

Martins and Councilor Anthony DiPierro implored the Council members to call on their supporters and family members to be kind and courteous if the Facebook broadcast returns, along with the comments, which by law can be erased en masse at the end of the meeting. It has been alleged that the negative comments last year were coming from supporters and family members of elected officials.

Councilor Hanlon, who has emerged during the pandemic as one thoroughly opposed to anything technological or electronic, said having the Facebook, or Facebook pages, would be a huge mistake.

Council President Wayne Matewsky agreed with him, noting that the City is only required to broadcast the meetings on cable television by law, and everything else is just a courtesy. “I’m absolutely not in favor of this,” said Hanlon. “I think it will extend our meetings three times longer...I get 165 e-mails a day and I don’t need Facebook pages to make it worse.”



## NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

### 60 CANDIDATES APPLY FOR DIVERSITY DIRECTOR JOB

CHELSEA - More than 60 candidates applied for the new Diversity Director position within the City of Chelsea – a new department that will have high-level status and will be charged with making City government more inclusive and welcoming.

It’s a department proposed by City Manager Tom Ambrosino and Councilor Leo Robinson last summer in the wake of the murder of George Floyd, and in response to a list of demands from young people in Chelsea. Earlier this year, the City put together a Hiring Committee chaired by City Attorney Cheryl Fisher Watson. That Committee is currently interviewing candidates, and reportedly has some great options.

Fisher Watson said they had approximately 60 applicants and the Committee has reviewed all 60 applicants. They were ranked and from those rankings, six or seven were interviewed.

The goal will be to forward three applicants to the City Manager for the final hiring decisions.

Councilor Damali Vidot, who is on the Committee, said she was excited about the pool of applicants.

“We have some amazing candidates and we’ve narrowed it down now to a couple of folks,” she announced at the Feb. 8 Council meeting.

A decision is expected in March.

#### •MORE MARIJUANA LICENSES

Council President Roy Avellaneda has proposed to increase the number of marijuana licenses from four to six in the City. While there was trepidation at first for the new industry, Chelsea has embraced it and already has one recreational marijuana store operating since November. Others are expected and Avellaneda said he hopes they can explore capping the number at six and not four.

“In light of some of the delays because of marijuana expansion, I feel this warranted consideration,” said Avellaneda.

However, Councilor Calvin Brown warned caution on the matter, and said an increase in licenses for marijuana outlets was not what voters approved some years ago on the ballot.

“When the voters went to the ballot in 2016, it passed in Chelsea,” he said. “There were certain expectations of what that meant. Now, to do this is something we need to pay attention to because it goes beyond the intent of the law when we voted on it...We need to slow down on this.”

Councilor Damali Vidot disagreed and said the marijuana question passed easily in Chelsea, perhaps as much as 10 percent, and she said there is an appetite for local people to try to get into the industry. To do so, they need more licenses.

“For Black and brown and immigrant communities this is a chance to build equity and affluence,” she said. “This is

an opportunity to level the playing field. I don’t think we’re necessarily moving too fast.”

Councilor Todd Taylor said one thing to consider is those that invested in the City and already opened, thinking that there would only be four competitors. With more competitors, he said, that makes their license potentially less valuable.

“The concern I have is adding additional licenses and whether it might affect people who have already invested in a license and a business that’s open,” he said.

The matter will be brought up again at a future meeting.

#### •TAX ON ROAD SALT

Council President Roy Avellaneda also proposed at the Feb. 8 meeting a tax on road salt coming out of the Eastern Salt complex on Marginal Street.

He proposed a Home Rule Petition that would allow Chelsea to charge something like 1 percent or less on the sale or transfer of a quantity of road salt. It would be levied on any company with salt storage in Chelsea.

It was moved to a Subcommittee on Conference.

#### •STOP WASTING FOOD

Councilor Giovanni Recupero was quite bothered during the meeting Feb. 8 about many people he sees taking food from the local food pantry relief efforts, and then throwing most of it away.

He encouraged those that don’t need the relief food not to take it if they only plan to waste it. He said the problem is much larger than many would expect, particularly in his district.

“Please, if you get food, don’t throw it away,” he said. “I’ve been seeing food boxes that people get thrown in garbage cans. I’m in favor of giving out food to those that need it. I’m not in favor of wasting it. Give it to someone that needs it.”

#### •IN THE CHAMBER?

Councilor Leo Robinson said he was only trying to ask a simple question of those that have been helped by the City’s Business Relief Fund, but apparently it’s a question others don’t support.

At the Feb. 8 meeting, Robinson asked that the City gather responses about Chamber of Commerce membership amongst those that have taken assistance from the City’s business fund. He said he simply wanted to know if they were members, or if they had joined since getting the City help.

Both Councilor Damali Vidot and Council President Roy Avellaneda objected, and said the Council and City had no authority to promote the Chamber of Commerce.

“I don’t see anything wrong with them asking if it’s only for informational purposes,” said Councilor Todd Taylor.

“I think it’s a very simple question to ask,” said Robinson.

The matter was voted down 7-3.

### REP. RYAN LANDS CHAIRMANSHIP

CHELSEA - State Rep. Dan Ryan was appointed to his first chairmanship position late last week by

House Speaker Ron Mariano, with the veteran representative taking the lead on the House Election Laws Committee.

Ryan has served for his first several terms on important committees, such as transportation, but gaining a role as a chairman indicates somewhat of a promotion within the legislative body.

Ryan said this week he knew it was going to be a very busy Committee, with a lot of hearings and testimony to be heard given the changes to the voting and Elections systems during COVID-19. The future of those changes, and any new alterations, will likely be hashed out in his new Committee in the coming months.

“I want to thank Speaker Mariano and his leadership team for putting their trust in me to take on this important role,” he said. “The COVID pandemic has certainly tested our resolve as a country and Commonwealth. This past year has laid bare the fragility of many sectors of society. However, out of necessity, we have also pulled together to test some ideas that have been around for a while. Early voting, no-excuse absentee voting and other forms of ballot access initiatives were very popular. It will be a lot of work right out of the gate to refine these processes for this year’s elections – as well as for the long term. We need to ensure that elections are safe and fair with as much access to the ballot box as reasonably possible.”

Due to the anticipated agenda of the Committee, Ryan was not assigned to any other Committees as a member in the coming session.

### REP. MADARO APPOINTED BOARD CHAIR

East Boston - House Speaker Ronald Mariano appointed Rep. Adrian Madaro as Chair of the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery.

This is Rep. Madaro’s first chairmanship since being elected to the House in 2015. Madaro previously vice-chaired the Joint Committee on Transportation.

The Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery considers all matters concerning behavioral health, mental illness and substance use disorder, including prevention and early intervention, treatment and recovery services as well as homelessness.

The committee oversees the state’s Department of Mental Health and the Bureau of Substance Addiction Services.

“I’m very excited for the opportunity to work on issues that change people’s lives, that save lives, that really makes an impact on our communities in East Boston and the Commonwealth,” said Madaro. “If you think about it there’s no family that I know or can think of that hasn’t been touched on either mental health issues and or substance use issues so this is an incredible opportunity to really do some good.”

Madaro was instrumental in the past to secure state funding for the development and admin-

istration of a program to prevent and treat addiction to opioid and related substances through the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center. The program closed services gap and ensured treatment councilors were able to cover the critical hours of night and weekend shifts with the hopes that this coverage could be the difference needed in preventing overdoses and encouraging treatment for addicts. He also secured state funding to focus efforts on mental health through the Health Center and how it pertains to substance abuse disorders.

“Most recently we worked on that issue for Telehealth to make sure those types of services are covered under Telehealth during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic,” said Madaro. “As a former board member of the Health Center and later as a state representative we’ve worked very hard trying to bolster those types of services for our community. That’s another reason why I’m really excited to have been named chair of the committee because it allows us to amplify and enhance the work that began right here in our own backyard statewide.”

With the recent opening of a recovery support center in Eastie, Madaro said there needs to be more focus on long-term support services.

“That is something I’ve heard a lot of folks in the recovery community talk about,” said Madaro. “The one thing about substance abuse and recovery is that it’s almost never ending. This is an issue that touches young people, whether it’s mental health or substance use, old people, veterans, there’s public safety implications, there’s public health implications and then it goes into the judiciary system when you think about drug court or mental health court. So the breadth of policy that we can work on is really incredible and it just presents such an amazing opportunity to make a positive impact in our community and, more broadly, throughout the state.”

Out of the gate Madaro said he plans to meet with key stakeholders in the mental health and recovery communities.

“We’re starting to line those meetings up now,” he said. “Not only with statewide players but also the players and stakeholders right in our own backyard. That would certainly include places like the East Boston Community Soup Kitchen volunteers, which are frontline service providers for people dealing with these challenges. It would also include North Suffolk Mental Health, the Health Center and anyone else who does that type of social service where people are dealing with those types of challenges. I really want to roll up my sleeves and help--whether it’s the issues that my Senate Co-Chair is facing down the Cape or whether it’s the issues we’re dealing with here in East Boston. I really wanted the opportunity to dive into substantive policy that impacts people’s lives and that’s exactly what I’m going to get to

do on this committee. I’m just thrilled and grateful to Speaker Mariano for the appointment and excited to work with my colleagues on the committee to do some impactful work here in the state.”

### DOLORES LAMATTINA, LONGTIME CITY EMPLOYEE, DEAD AT 85

East Boston - Dolores LaMattina, a longtime former city employee of the Paris Street Gym and Pool known for her warmth and dry sense of humor, has died.

Mrs. LaMattina who, as a single mother, raised four successful boys including former City Councilor Sal LaMattina, died on Wednesday, February 10 surrounded by her family. She was 85 years old.

Mrs. LaMattina was born and raised in East Boston and attended East Boston. Mrs. LaMattina spent her entire life living at Drake Place just off Chelsea Street around the block from the Paris Street Gym and Pool. There Mrs. LaMattina raised her four boys--Sal, Robert, David, and John.

Sal would become City Councilor while David and Robert opened up a successful karate studio in New Hampshire. John would go on to have a successful career in Boston’s restaurant industry and worked at high end restaurants like Morton’s and Strega.

“She made sure we kept in line,” said Sal LaMattina. “At an early age she got us involved in the Social Centers, the Salesians Boys & Girls Club and Paris Street. We grew up poor. I’m so amazed that she raised four boys in a little house with four on Drake Place. She gave us all a really happy childhood. We never knew we were poor because she was always so generous. I find comfort that my brothers and I had a beautiful mother who loved us so much. She taught us love and respect not only to our family but with others.”

Mrs. LaMattina worked at Macy’s for many years before making a career change in 1990.

From 1990 to her retirement in 2013 at the age of 77 Mrs. LaMattina worked the front desk at the Paris Street Gym and later at the Paris Street Pool’s front desk.

When her son, Sal, was elected to the City Council Mrs. LaMattina became the de facto Mayor of East Boston and the Paris Street Pool her City Hall.

“Everyone would come to her,” said Sal LaMattina. “They go down to the pool and see my mom if they needed help, if they needed a job, if they needed some other assistance and she’d call me with a list of names of people I needed to help.”

Sal LaMattina said his mother was always very generous and always wanted to help people.

Her granddaughter, Liana LaMattina, a former Chief of Staff for Rep. Adrian Madaro and current Assistant District Attorney prosecutor said her grandmother always had the biggest heart she’s

ever known.

“Every Sunday she would cook Sunday Dinner, make a gravy and it was pretty much an open house,” said Liana LaMattina. “Anyone could come in and get some food... friends, neighbors...that’s just the type of person she was. She was always so caring and compassionate. I remember at the (Paris Street) Gym there was this stray dog that was always outside and every day when she went to work she would bring him leftover food, kitchen scraps, bones, hotdogs..anything she had. She was a beautiful person.”

### LITERACY DAY GALA PLANNED FOR MARCH 18

LYNN - No one could have predicted the heights that the Lynn Celebrate Literacy Day Gala would reach in the past 10 years, not even Saritin Rizzuto, one of the founders of the event.

A vice president at Metro Credit Union, Rizzuto said that to have more than 300 guests attend the gala each year is an extraordinary show of support from the Lynn community for the committee’s efforts to promote literacy and education.

The gala event is usually held on the roof deck of the All Care Visiting Nurse Association building during the summer. The view of Lynn and Nahant is spectacular from the well-known building located across the street from North Shore Community College.

The committee intends to celebrate its decade of accomplishments at a kickoff event held virtually on March 18 at 6 p.m. The actual gala itself will be held in September.

Mayor Thomas McGee, who has been a strong supporter of the event since his days as Lynn’s state senator, will deliver the opening remarks. The keynote speaker will be Jamie Zahlway Belsito, former congressional candidate.

The 2020 recipients of the Excellence in Literacy Leadership Awards, Lynn school teacher Magalie Torres-Rowe, executive director and founder of Latina Center MARIA, and Sheila O’Neil, president of the Lynn Teachers Union, will reveal at the kickoff event which local non-profit organizations will be receiving the \$500 scholarships that the committee donates in their honor.

“Each year we recognize individuals and organizations that have gone above and beyond to educate the public about literacy in the Lynn community,” said Rizzuto.

Rizzuto said she is proud of the volunteers who serve on the Celebrate Literacy Day committee including her Metro Credit Union colleague Diana Moreno, whose family has also been a leader in the advancement of the sport of soccer in Lynn.

“They have been dedicated individuals that have really taken time out of their busy schedule to commit to celebrating Literacy Day,” credited Rizzuto. “This committee so instrumental in making the event a success.”



# Baker announces plan to eliminate remote learning for elementary schools by April

By Lauren Bennett

Governor Charlie Baker on Tuesday announced that the state has a goal of getting elementary school students back into the classroom full-time by April.

“I think we all know that when COVID hit last year, just about this time, teachers, staff, and students experienced an incredible disruption to their daily routines in school,” Baker said, “and ever since, have been adapting and adjusting to the challenges that came with the pandemic.”

Baker said that districts across the state have made adjustments to help their students adapt to the challenges put forth by the pandemic, “but I think we all agree there’s no substitute for in-person learning, especially for kids in elementary school,” he said.

“Our administration has been clear for months that the best place for kids is in the classroom,” Baker said.

He said that Jeff Riley, the Commissioner of the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, began a process on Tuesday with the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education“ to get more kids back into the classroom full time by phasing out remote-only learning in April” and al-

low students, beginning with elementary school students, to attend classes in person Monday through Friday.

Baker said that the process would begin with students in elementary school, and that the state “hope[s] to be moving ahead soon,” he said. “We know the pandemic’s been difficult on everyone, but it’s been really tough on kids and their parents as they struggle to be out of the classroom and detached from their teachers and their peers.”

Approximately 80 percent of the state’s school districts are currently providing some sort of in-person learning, whether it be a hybrid model or fully in person, Baker said.

“Districts with in-person learning, regardless of how high COVID transmission is in their community, have seen few, if any, examples of in-school transmission,” Baker said. He said that with “proper mitigation strategies” and compliance with protocols, “schools across the Commonwealth have been able to safely welcome kids back to the classroom for many months now.”

However, about 20 percent of the state’s school districts are still fully remote, which translates to about 400,000 kids, Baker said, “most of whom haven’t been in a class-

room since March [of last year].”

Baker said that students’ “social, mental, and emotional well-being has been significantly impacted” by being out of the classroom.

“The science is pretty clear on this one: there are now dozens of reports from all over the world that it’s safe to be in school, and doctors and public health experts, including Dr. Fauci, all agree that getting kids back in school needs to be a top priority,” Baker said.

He said that the state has “committed funding, resources, and supports to schools and districts to return to classrooms.”

Commissioner Riley said he would “take a phased-in approach to returning students to the classroom, working closely with state health officials and medical experts.”

He said he would work first to return elementary school students to in-person learning, “with the plan likely extending to middle school grades later in the school year and possibly high schools as well.”

Parents who do not wish to send their children for in person learning will not be required to do so, and they can remain learning remotely through the end of the school year, Ri-

ley said, adding that “there will be a waiver process for districts who may need to take a more incremental approach,” Riley said, adding that fully remote schools could first transition to a hybrid model.

## Schools/ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Mayor Carlo DeMaria, facing one of his toughest votes since coming on as a voting member in January, said it’s hard to know who to believe, but he felt the damage to children outweighed the need for a vaccine – particularly after guidance by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) last week suggesting vaccines weren’t necessary prior to returning to school.

“It’s a serious situation,” he said. “It’s a hard decision. I support going forward with a hybrid vote and the sooner the better. I know some teachers will be upset with me but I hope they’re not... It was easy to decide to shut down schools, but to get them back open is so difficult.”

The plan was outlined at the Feb. 16 meeting in an extensive presentation from Supt. Priya Tahiliani where she outlined three options for going to a hybrid model – noting that any parent or student who wishes to remain remote the rest of the year will be able to do that.

Tahiliani discussed at length the recent guidance given by the CDC that informs districts that vaccination isn’t a necessary precursor for teachers and student returning to school – noting that the science points to schools not being a spreading environment if mitigation measures like testing and air quality checks are in place.

Second, she said some recent standardized tests given to students show that there is some regression in terms of academic progress caused by remote learning.

“We are starting to see the first tangible results of the limits of remote learning on academics,” she said.

Those test results on the iReady tests showed that the numbers of students one grade level or two grade levels behind was growing from last year’s results on the same test. Almost 30 percent of students are regressing on math, and some 25 percent on reading scores.

That has also been combined with about 60 percent of parents who are willing to send their kids back to a hybrid model

Baker said that “with COVID cases and hospitalizations continuing to decline and vaccines well underway, it’s time to set our sites on eliminating remote learning by April and starting with elemen-

of education this month. That was particularly true in communities of color within the city, as well as those whose first language is not English.

The third option presented gave no dates and would only commence a return after both vaccination were administered to teachers. Under that plan, it’s likely students would be going back in late April or May, and upper grades probably wouldn’t return at all due to the time element.

The second option would be to wait until teachers get their first dose of the vaccine and then begin the tiered return, which would be sometime in April.

The first plan, which was approved, called for teachers to return to buildings on March 8, begin preparations for students at that time, and then start to welcome students on March 15 in a tiered approach that would bring more students in each week. The plan would start with special education students on March 15 and roll out elementary grades thereafter from youngest to oldest. The middle schools and high schools are not yet within the rollout plan, and would be assessed after the first two phases.

Tahiliani said she endorsed Plan 1, which is aggressive and quick, but something she said needs to be done to serve the students and families in EPS.

“The patience and understanding of our families has been beyond generous and this includes families that have long been ready for in-person learning,” she said. “I do unquestionably believe the time is right to put our hybrid plan to work for students that want it...I do believe Plan 1 adheres to our unyielding attempts to do what is best for our students and families.”

School Committee-woman Dana Murray gave a heart-felt speech on the matter, saying it is time for Everett to trust Everett.

“I think there’s been too much division and too much not assuming best intentions for all parties involved and we have to get away from that,” she said. “We have to be one

tary schools.” He said the state will continue to ramp up vaccine distribution as much as possible and open more mass vaccination sites statewide.

again. We have to be Everett’s best.”

Districts around Everett are a mixed bag on their return.

Chelsea has indicated it will remain remote as a district this entire year, while Revere voted on Monday night to move into a hybrid education model also on the same timeline as Everett. Meanwhile, Boston Public Schools will begin returning K-3<sup>rd</sup> grade students this Monday, March 1, and they have already had many special education students in buildings.

## SCHOOL COMMITTEE, ETA BEINGS WORK ON HYBRID RETURN NEGOTIATIONS

A School Committee sub-committee on negotiations began working in executive session with the Everett Teacher’s Association (ETA) this week to try to hammer out a detailed return plan that Supt. Priya Tahiliani can present to the Committee soon.

School Committeewoman Samantha Lambert is leading that Committee, and will be working with ETA leadership, including President Kim Auger. There are many different variables, including new announcements from the state this week, among other things.

The Committee will work to craft a plan that will move towards implementing the plan authorized on Feb. 16 for a March return to hybrid learning for families that choose such a plan. That would be finalized in a signed MOU that the Committee would vote on in the coming weeks.

Auger said there is so much up in the air right now, and that they still favor educators getting both vaccines before coming back to school.

“The Association is still working towards all educators having two vaccines and the city being under a 5 percent positivity rate,” she said. “We appreciate we are still having these conversations and a combined effort for a safe, tiered re-entry plan.”

## Senior meals // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Monday night, Adrienne inquired about the program and Moreschi said they reached out to several other restaurants besides Square Deli and Rita’s. That included La Perla, DiBlasi’s, Eight/Ten, Buc-ci’s, Oliveira’s and Main Street House of Pizza.

He said he reached out to them based on what he felt was their capacity to scale up to provide so many meals. It was bid last summer, with the only interest from Rita’s and Square Deli.

Adrienne said she felt every common victualer licensee in the City should have been informed and given an opportunity to

bid, rather than reaching out to a select group.

She pointed out that there were no Latino restaurants in the mix, the only Haitian restaurant had been closed for multiple years and there were no Asian restaurants on the list either. She said that is part of making sure equity is achieved in City business.

“We should be asking every single business,” she said.

“As diverse as Everett is, we need to look at things through an equity lens on all things. I will bring this up every time. Sadly, we’re missing that equity lens,” she continued.

Beyond the equity part of the discussion, Councilor Michael McLaughlin said he would like to keep the food program going beyond the pandemic. He said it has been a treasured amenity and a welcome face for a lot of seniors.

Councilor Rosa DiFlorio agreed with that as well.

“Many of these seniors enjoy getting these deliveries every day and have come to look forward to the people dropping off their meal – and talk with them,” he said. “It’s a big part of their day. I really hope this program can continue beyond the pandemic. It’s very valuable.”

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# OBITUARIES

## Stanley Colson

A charitable, big-hearted, munificent father, grandfather and great-grandfather

 Stanley V. Colson, 97, of Everett passed away at home surrounded by his loving family on February 16.

The beloved husband for 63 years of the late Elsbeth B. (Horath) Colson, he was the loving father of Ralph Colson and his wife, Linda Bellofatto of Nahant, Carl Colson and his wife, Judy Colson of Everett, and the late Bernard Colson; cherished grandfather of Matthew Colson, Allison Pires and her husband, Mike Pires, Daryl Ann Colson, and Elsbeth Ann Colson and the cherished great-grandfather of Harper Pires. He is also survived by his special pals, Blackie, Grey and Buddy.

Stanley Colson was a charitable, big-hearted, munificent father, grandfather, and great-grandfather who passed away peacefully in his childhood home in Everett. He had a love for people that matched no other and spread through all areas of his life.

Raised in East Boston, he moved to Everett with his family in 1929 and graduated from Everett High School in 1941.

As a young child, a neighborhood boy, Martin Phillips, invited Stan to go model flying with him and his father—this sparked a lifelong passion for designing and building model airplanes. As his love for aviation grew, he competed in the Jordan Marsh-Boston Traveler Junior Aviation League (JAL) contest with his best friend Harry Keshishian, during high school in the late 1930's—he claimed fifth place over the Flying Scale Model and came in first with overall scale points.

After high school, a church member hired Stan to work in his sheet metal shop, Tienen-Tongnen. There they made duct work for the Navy, spinning for MIT, and made aluminum discs for RADAR in submarines. He did a lot of aluminum welding, which was also new at the time.

In 1942, members of JAL were invited to use their expertise in designing model airplanes to aid in the Navy's model plane building program at Langley Memorial Aeronautical Laboratory in Virginia. He would use the skills and knowledge he had learned so far, to aid in research done by MIT airplane designing model wings that helped to increase the speed and aerodynamics of these models in



a wind tunnel, among other activities.

On November 19, 1942, he enlisted in the U.S. Army at Fort Devens in MA and would send his paycheck back to Ruth, his mother, to help make mortgage payments. His tour with the 903 rd Air Engineer Squadron included Scotland, England, France, Belgium, Germany, Holland.

He met his life-long wife in Germany at a park outside of a local Lutheran church after one of his fellow soldiers had passed. They would write letters delivered by another fellow soldier. In later years, Stan would propose to Elsbeth through a letter and he sent her engagement ring over in a bag of flour!

Prior to their engagement, he went to the New England Aircraft School from '46-'48 and completed classes to become a Master Mechanic. Stanley and Elsbeth married in 1948 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Everett, which started their life long journey together in the Church. He taught Sunday School, was an altar guild, served on church council and was a greeter at First Lutheran Church of Malden. On May 17, 1994, Stan and his wife were awarded Lay Persons of the Year.

Once discharged from the Army, he worked at General Steele in Everett making grocery carts and could make up to 24 per hour, more than many of his colleagues!

After being discharged from the Army, he found himself being arrested for trespassing at Hanscom Field Air Base, where he went looking for someone to help straighten out some misfiled discharge paperwork. He would be offered a job on the Hanscom Airforce Base from a fellow soldier who knew him during the war.

In 1951, he was called to serve in the Korean War, this time to the Ninth Airforce as part of the Army Airforce—he moved his wife and eldest son to New Mexico and again worked on models. He returned to Hanscom Airforce base after the Korean War and worked

there until the base closed in 1973.

In 1978, he would come to work at a sheet metal shop at the Lincoln Lab in Bedford creating J-Stars and weather balloons. Here he would remain until 1985, when he retired to painting houses in his early sixties.

Stan snuck into his first Everett High football game as a teenager, Everett beat an undefeated Malden team with a 6-0 upset. He attended Patriots and Everett High School football games with his family—even when temperatures were in the single digits—where he watched many youth kids grow up over the years. He attended his last EHS game in 2020, unfortunately the basketball teams had lost. Whether it was basketball, football, baseball or hockey he loved cheering for the Boston teams in the play-offs or even when they were not at their high points; he was a true Boston sports fan.

He flew as president and co-founder of the New England Wakefield (NEWG) outdoor model club, founded in 1953. He spent much of his retirement caring for his grandchildren. He enjoyed attending their sporting events and becoming a grandfather figure to many of their friends.

After he retired, he concentrated on his model flying, which gave time to bond early in retirement with his family. He attended three AMA National Championships meets—he placed five times, including one first place. He was a member of SAM 7 (Society of Antique Modeler) in Connecticut; during his retirement years he was the club free flight high point champion nineteen times. He went to one Sam National Championship and placed fifth.

Relatives and friends are kindly invited to attend visiting hours at the JF Ward Funeral Home, 772 Broadway, Everett, on Friday, February 26 from 3:30 to 8 p.m. A funeral will be held from the funeral home on Saturday, February 27 at 10 a.m. with a funeral service commencing at 11 a.m. Services will conclude with military honors and interment in Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Stanley's memory may be made to the AMA Programs Fund at [www.modelaircraft.org/donate](http://www.modelaircraft.org/donate) or mail to: 5161 E Memorial Drive, Muncie, IN 47302. In accordance with the CDC, MA Dept. of Public Health, and local restrictions, masks must be worn at all times inside the funeral home with social distancing practices. For online guestbook, please visit: [www.jfward-funeralhome.com](http://www.jfward-funeralhome.com).

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## Collette Grant

Of Revere

Collette (Costello) Grant of Revere died unexpectedly on February 12 at the age of 75.

Born in Chelsea on October 15, 1945 to the late Joseph and Yvette (Giguere), she was the devoted mother of Eric M. Grant and his husband, David Finkelstein of Brooklyn, NY, and Heather Ford of Revere; cherished grandmother of Lynsdale Ford Jr., Sydney, Casey and Zachary Ford; dear sister of Michael Costello and his wife, Jane of New Hampshire, Cathy



Costello of Malden and the late Raymond Costello and his surviving wife, Pastor Catherine Costello of North Carolina. She is

also survived by countless friends.

Due to the current restrictions with Covid-19, all services were privately held by the immediate family. Interment at Puritan Lawn Memorial Park in Peabody. A Celebration of Collette's Life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to Rossetti Cowan Senior Center, 25 Winthrop Avenue, Revere, MA 02151. For guest book please visit [www.buonfiglio.com](http://www.buonfiglio.com).

## RETIREMENTS AT THE EVERETT POLICE DEPT.



Officer Michelle Basteri retired last week after 32 years of service. Basteri worked in Patrol Operations, CIU, and Administration Support over her career while working alongside her husband, the late Capt. Rick Basteri and her two sons, Nick and Joe.



Lt. Rich Gamby retired last week after 32 years of service with Everett Police. Currently, Gamby was serving as one of the Night Shift Commanders and previously had done stints as both a line level investigator as well as supervisor in the CIU.



Officer Tom Parsons departed last week after 32 years of service with the Everett Police. Parsons was a long-time member of Patrol Operations assigned to the overnight shift. He was a former team member of the SOU.



Officer Andy Goyetche wrapped up 34 years of service with Everett PD on Thursday, Feb. 17. Goyetche was a long-time member of Patrol Operations and previously served in the SOU as well as a recent assignment as a member of the Gaming Enforcement Unit.



Sgt. Regina Mazzie Collyer retired after 32 years of service with Everett Police. Sgt. Collyer worked stints in Patrol Operations, was a long time investigator in the CIU and recently was assigned in a support role working special projects. She was the first female officer to attain the supervisory ranks in the history of Everett Police three years ago and is the latest member to depart from the Mazzie Family. She is the sister of Chief Steve Mazzie, and the wife of Revere Capt. Dennis Collyer. The Mazzie family members have been working in the Everett Police since 1926.

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# Sports

## Former EHS football star Carlins Platel commits to the Univ. of South Carolina

By Cary Shuman

Carlins Platel played on some of the greatest defensive units in the history of the Everett High football team – and that’s saying a lot for a program that won 13 state titles during the John DiBiasio Era.

Platel excelled at cornerback for the Crimson Tide alongside current collegiate players Jason Maitre (BC), Lewis Cine (Georgia) Mike Sainristil (Michigan), and Duane Binns (Central Conn. State).

Platel has now earned his own opportunity to compete at college football’s highest level. Following an outstanding career at Division 2 Assumption College where the 6-foot-1-inch, 200-pound defensive back was All-Northeast-10 Rookie and ultimately All-Northeast-10 Conference, Platel has committed to attend the University of South Carolina. That’s big-time football with a capital ‘B’ – the Southeastern Conference with capitals ‘SEC.’ The SEC is widely recognized as the best college football conference in the nation. South Carolina is the marquee sports attraction in the state and Palmetto State fans love the Gamecocks.

“It feels great to have a scholarship and have an opportunity to attend an outstanding university like South Carolina,” said Platel, who will graduate from Assumption in May with a degree in Health Science. “I just kept working hard at it and good



Carlins Platel

things happened.”

Carlins, who is of Haitian descent, is the son of Gerda Camille. He has four older brothers and a younger brother and sister.

### Developing his talents in Pop Warner

As with many Everett High football players – from Gennaro Leo to Matt and Frank Nuzzo to Jonathan DiBiasio – the road to success for Carlins Platel began in the city’s superb Pop Warner football organization, today known as the Crimson Tide.

Carlins learned the rules and techniques of football and lessons about sportsmanship from dedicated coaches, and that the combination of teamwork and togetherness can produce many victories.

“I played from ‘E’ team all the way up to ‘B’ team,” recalled Platel. “Pop Warner football in Everett went very well and it was a lot of fun.”

### A Super Bowl ring as a senior

Carlins Platel moved

up from Pop Warner to the Everett High freshman team and then became a reserve player on the Everett varsity as a sophomore. He suffered a fractured collarbone in the first scrimmage of his junior year but returned for the MIAA state playoffs in November.

Platel made a huge impact in the first playoff game when he intercepted a pass in the final minute to preserve No. 8 seed Everett’s 12-7 upset of No. 1 seed St. John’s Prep. After defeating Peabody, 18-14 in the second round when Jordan McAfee connected with Theo Zidor for the winning TD with 14 seconds left, Everett fell to Central Catholic in the North Sectional finals.

But Platel would return to garner his Super Bowl championship ring in his senior season. The rising defensive star had a division-leading six interceptions during the season as Everett went on to defeat Xaverian in the Division 1 Super Bowl, 21-7, before 6,000 fans at Manning Field in Lynn.

### All-Conference back at Assumption College

Carlins chose Assumption in Worcester for his college destination and became a three-year starter in the Greyhounds’ defensive backfield.

He started 13 games as a freshman and was named to the All-Northeast-10 Rookie Team as Assumption surged into the top-10 in the nation and advanced to the NCAA Division 2 quarterfinals. He had two



Former Everett High football star Carlins Platel has committed to the University of South Carolina

more outstanding seasons, finishing his career with seven interceptions and 96 tackles and bursting onto the national scene as a potential NFL draft prospect.

But Platel never had the chance to take the field for his fourth and final collegiate season as the COVID-19 pandemic forced the cancellation of the 2020 campaign.

### Football offers from major programs

Platel entered the transfer portal in October and received a lot of attention from Division 1 college football programs. Coastal Carolina (where Everett’s Isaiah Likely is the starting tight end) was the first to make an offer to Platel.

He also received offers from South Alabama and Mississippi State (a member of the SEC). And then in one memorable day,

both South Carolina and Old Dominion offered scholarships.

“South Carolina presented me with a great opportunity to be a part of its program,” said Platel. “I just liked the coaching staff and what they’re doing there.”

He is aware of the majesty of the SEC. “You get the best of the best competition wise and I’m really looking forward to playing our schedule this fall,” said Platel. The Gamecocks play their home games at Williams-Brice Stadium that draws capacity crowds of 80,000 fans. South Carolina hosts Eastern Illinois (Tony Romo’s former school) in the opener followed by a non-conference game against East Carolina and the SEC opener at Georgia.

“The whole experience

is exciting,” said Platel. “Not only are we going to have great fans at the games, but everybody back home can definitely tune in and watch.”

Looking back at his football career at Everett High, Platel holds wonderful memories, notably of his coach, John DiBiasio.

“Coach DiBiasio was one of the best coaches I ever had,” said Platel. “I think for not only myself, but for everybody who played football for him – he got everybody ready to go to college, play football, and get their degree. He’s just a very, very good coach. He knows what he’s doing and I wish him the best always.”

## DiBiasio named assistant football coach at Vanderbilt University

By Cary Shuman

Former Everett High School football star Jonathan DiBiasio, one of the most prolific quarterbacks in Massachusetts state history, has a new college football address.

DiBiasio has been named an assistant football coach at Vanderbilt University in Nashville. He will be an offensive analyst on new head coach Clark Lea’s staff in addition to serving as Vanderbilt’s recruiting coordinator for New England.

DiBiasio was a graduate assistant at Boston College for the past three seasons.

“Jonathan is very excited about this opportunity – he’s thrilled,” said his father, legendary high

school football coach John DiBiasio. “I’m very excited for him. He’s doing what he wants to do. This was his dream to be a college coach. He worked very hard at BC and this shows that hard work pays off.”

Vanderbilt is known as one of the premier academic institutions in the world and many refer to the prestigious university as “the Harvard of the South.” The Commodores compete in the Southeastern Conference, which features such perennial powers as Alabama, Georgia, and Florida.

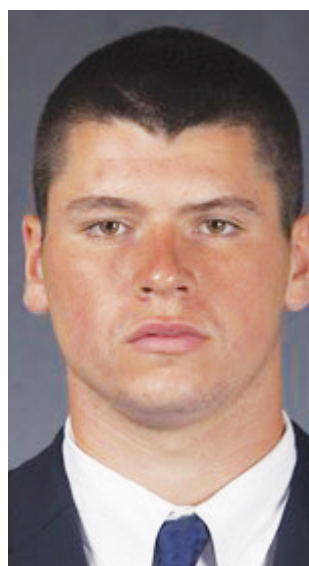
“It’s a great opportunity for Jonathan – he loves the coaches he’s working with at Vanderbilt,” said John DiBiasio. “The head coach [Clark Lea] was the defen-

sive coordinator at Notre Dame. The offensive coordinator [David Raih] was the wide receivers coach for the Arizona Cardinals and he’s a great guy, too. He’s working with a lot of great guys.”

### An all-time great in Pop Warner, EHS football

Jonathan DiBiasio enjoyed a phenomenal football career in Everett, beginning at the Pop Warner level where he was the quarterback for two teams that played in the National Championships at Disney World in Orlando.

His accomplishments at Everett High, where he played football for his father, John, were record-breaking. The



Jonathan DiBiasio

two-time, All-Scholastic left-handed QB threw 103 touchdown passes in his career. Interestingly, one of Jonathan’s teammates in Pop Warner football and early in his career at Everett High was Nerlens Noel, who now plays for the NBA’s New York Knickerbockers.

A highly respected team leader known for his competitiveness, Jonathan DiBiasio helped lead the Crimson Tide to a 25-0 record and back-to-back Super Bowl titles in his junior and senior years. He was named the Gatorade Massachusetts Football Player following his senior year.

DiBiasio spent a post-graduate year of prep school at Phillips Exeter. He stayed in the state of New Hampshire where was a member of the Dartmouth College football team before continu-

ing his football career at Tufts University. He holds an undergraduate degree with honors from Tufts in Italian and spent one year of study in Italy. He also has a graduate degree with honors in Athletic Administration from Boston College.

### Relocating to Nashville

As he begins his new coaching position at Vanderbilt, Jonathan DiBiasio has moved into an apartment in the Nashville area. His mother, Everett High teacher and cheerleading coach Maureen DiBiasio, traveled from Boston to Nashville to assist in the furniture selection and moving-in efforts. Nashville is the state capital of

Tennessee and home to the Country Music Hall of Fame.

Jonathan’s older sister, Kristina, an Emerson College graduate and former captain of the Everett High cheerleading team, offered her congratulatory wishes on his new position.

Jonathan said he is looking forward to the official start of practices and the 2021 season. The Commodores open their season on Sept. 4 against East Tennessee State University. The final game on the regular season schedule is against their in-state rival, the Tennessee Volunteers.

Everett residents will be able to follow Vanderbilt’s season daily on the SEC Network.

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