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Everett Independent Newspaper Co.

Tuesday, December 24, 2024

EVERETT RAISES OVER \$30,000 TO SUPPORT SPECIAL OLYMPICS



Participants dressed up in costumes and took the polar plunge outside of the Everett Recreation Center.

The Everett Police Department, in collaboration with the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics and the City of Everett, hosted the third annual Polar Plunge event on Sunday, Dec. 15, at the Everett Recreation Center, and raised \$30,100 to help support Special Olympics Massachusetts.

The Polar Plunge is a fund-raising initiative put forth by the Special Olympics Massachusetts where participants brave the cold and take the plunge into a frigid pool to support more than 14,000 athletes of all abilities in sports training and competitions that the organization offers yearround.



Everett Police Lieutenant Larry Jedrey and Chief Paul Strong jumping into the frigid water. See Page 6 for more photos.

Healey, Driscoll, GM Eng celebrate removal of slow zones on 'T' for the first time in 20 Years

Special to the Independent

Gov. Maura Healey, Lieutenant Governor Kim

Due to the New Years Day

Holiday Wednesday January 1st.

Monday 12/30, Tuesday 12/31, NO DELAY Wednesday 1/1 will be oicked up on Thursday 1/2 Thursday 1/2 will be picked up on Friday 1/3 Friday 1/3 will be picked

up on Saturday 1/4

Capitol Waste Services, Inc

Driscoll and MBTA General Manager Phillip Eng joined MBTA workers and riders at North Station in celebrating the completion of the T's Track Improvement Program and the removal of slow zones for the first time in 20 years. Since 2023, the MBTA removed more than 220 speed restrictions and replaced 250,000 feet of rail

across the system, saving riders 2.4 million minutes every weekday and generating nearly \$1 million in economic benefit every "This is an awesome

milestone. We knew when we first took office that it was essential that we im-

prove safety and reliability on the T. So, we got General Manager Eng and his WE ARE CLOSED CHRISTMAS & NEW YEARS DAY HOLIDAY PEADIIN

PUBDATE: 12/31/24...... DEAD: FRI 12/27/24

team into place, and they developed and executed on their strategy with our strong support. And as a result, riders are getting more time back in their days and our entire economy is seeing the benefits," said Governor Maura Healey. "I want to extend my deep gratitude to the T workers who made all of this work possible, as well as to the T riders who endured years of unreliable service and shutdowns. We thank you for your patience during this time and for your continued commitment to public transportation in Massachusetts. We know there is still work to be done. We're going to continue

See SLOW ZONE Page 3

Van Campen wraps up successful year as **City Council president**

By Cary Shuman

Robert Van Campen was nearing the official completion of his oneyear term as president of the Everett City Council at the last meeting of the year Monday night at City

After a nine-year hiatus from city government, Van Campen returned to the Council as Ward 5 councilor in January, and his colleagues showed their respect for his experience and knowledge by electing him as the leader of the 11-member board.

"The irony here is that when I got elected in 2023, I genuinely did not want to be president at the time," said Van Campen. "I simply wanted to be like every other freshman and just sort of get my feet back on the ground. But as things happen, I get elected president and my goal the whole time was to bring the kind of transparent, more accessible, good, honest debate on the City Council back to the community. As I look back on the year, at least people can say we were able to do that."

Van Campen believes the City Council has become a close, hard-working group during his tenure as president.

"I think we have a very good working group of city councilors," said Van Campen. "The people of Everett should take a lot of pride in the fact that their city council is working collaboratively. The old days where everyone had a personal agenda, I haven't seen that in the year that I was president. I take pride in that people



Robert Van Campen

seem to be, by and large. rowing in the same direction."

Van Campen's political stock rose as council president, and it became so prodigious that he had to tone down the speculation that he was considering a run for another office in the days leading up to his Dec. 4 holiday party. The event drew a large crowd of supporters from across the city "on a cold Wednesday night," as he told the gathering. Also in a display of unity and appreciation, nearly every one of his colleagues on the Council attended the holiday reception.

Many accomplishments in 2024

Among the accomplishment list-toppers for Van Campen was his work in advancing the proposal to create a seventh-and-eighth grade academy at the old Everett High School building and bringing the issue of over-crowdedness in the

"I think we've made the plans better by the discussions we've had and the questions we've asked on the topic of school overcrowding," said Van

schools into the spotlight.

See VAN CAMPEN Page 3

Council on Aging delivers over 100 pairs of socks to Veterans Home at Chelsea

Special to the Independent

The City of Everett's Council on Aging (COA) recently delivered over 100 pairs of socks that were donated by Everett community members to benefit the Massachusetts Veterans Home at Chel-

This annual initiative hosted by the COA calls upon Everett's charitable nature to donate new and unopened packages of socks for veterans. In partnership with the Massachusetts Veterans Home at Chelsea, those who served

See AGING Page 3



Members of the Council on Aging and staff at the Massachusetts Veterans Home at Chelsea.

Everett Independent

President: Stephen Quigley Editor in Chief: Cary Shuman

MERRY CHRISTMAS

This is the most wonderful time of the year, to paraphrase the popular song, with holiday music playing in the malls and on our car radios, resurrecting our earliest childhood memories of Christmases-past.

We choose just the right tree, decorate it carefully with our family-heirloom ornaments, and when we first turn on the lights, it brings a smile to the faces of even the most-jaded among us. Despite our hectic rushing to and fro', everybody, it

seems, is in a good mood. We endure the traffic and the long lines in stores because we know that what we are doing will bring joy and happiness to others. For those of us with young children, we get to see

Christmas through their eyes, giving us a second chance to experience the wonder and joy that we felt when we were their age. Although all of us celebrate the holiday season in

our own way, the common thread is one of peace, joy, and happiness, regardless of religious or secular beliefs. Whether it be Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, or a Seinfeldian Festivus, the spirit of the season imbues us with a sense of togetherness that transcends whatever negativity may exist both in our own lives and in the world around us.

We wish all of our readers a Merry Christmas and a happy holiday season.

HAPPY HANUKKAH

The eight-day observance of Hanukkah, also known as the Festival of Lights, starts this Wednesday evening, December 25, and will culminate on Thursday, January

Hanukkah is observed for eight nights and days by lighting the candles of the Menorah, one on each day of the eight-day celebration. (The Menorah itself consists of nine candles, one of which typically stands above the rest and is used to light the other eight.)

Hanukkah commemorates the victory of the Maccabees in 166 BCE when the Maccabees liberated the Jewish people from the Greek-based rulers who essentially had outlawed the Jewish religion.

When the triumphant Maccabees captured the city of Jerusalem, they quickly entered the Holy Temple, tossing out the images of the Greek gods that had been installed there by the occupying rulers. When the Maccabees went to light the Menorah candles in the Temple, they thought they only had one day's worth of oil. However, the candles remained lit for eight days -- hence the miracle of the Festival of Lights.

Hanukkah usually is a joyous occasion for Jews world-wide, marked by gatherings of friends and families and the playing of traditional games such as the dreidel and eating traditional -- and delicious! -- foods such as latkes. Needless to say, in the aftermath of the events of October 7, 2024, as well as the subsequent increase in anti-semitic incidents, Hanukkah this year will have special meaning for Jews the world over.

We wish to take this opportunity to wish our friends and readers of the Jewish community a happy, healthy, and joyful Hanukkah season and we join them in solidarity against anti-semitism in all its forms.

ENJOY THE HOLIDAYS SAFELY

The upcoming holiday week means that most of us will be partaking in traditional gatherings with our families, friends, and co-workers to share the joy of the holiday season.

Unfortunately, this also means that many among us will be overindulging in holiday "spirits."

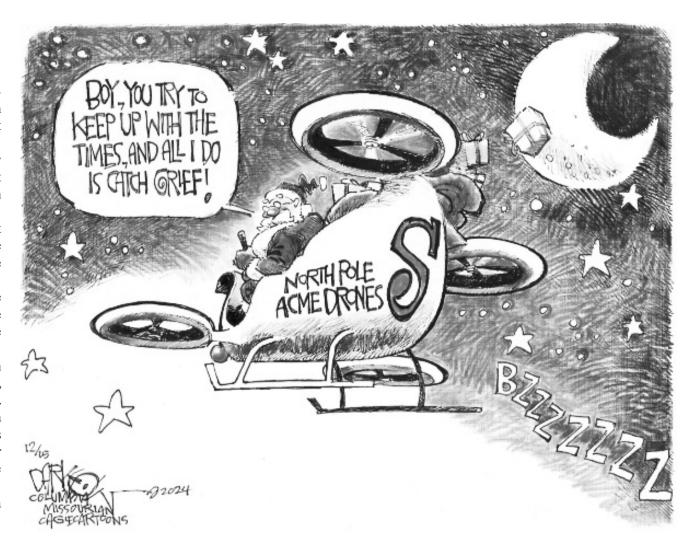
It is the responsibility of each of us to ensure that

where alcohol is present, it is used responsibly, not only by ourselves, but by those around us at our holiday gatherings. None of us wants to wake up the next morning with the regret, "If only I had taken their car keys."

We wish all of our readers a happy, and safe, holiday

The Everett Independent reserves the right to edit letters for space, accuracy and clarity. We regret that we cannot publish unsigned letters. Please include your street and telephone number with your submission. The Everett Independent publishes columns, viewpoints and letters to the editor as a forum for readers to express their opinions and to encourage debate. Please note that the opinions expressed are not necessarily those of The Everett Independent. Text or attachments emailed to editor@everettindependent.com are preferred.

Independent Forum



Upcoming Events at Everett Public Libraries

*** The Everett Public Libraries will be closing early at 5pm on Tuesday, December 31st, and will be closed all day on Wednesday, January 1st for New Year's Day. ***

Announcing the 25 in '25 Reading Challenge! We were so pleased with the turnout for our 24 in '24 Challenge that we decided to up the ante. The Everett Public Libraries now challenge you to read 25 books in 2025! Crack open an old favorite, try a new genre, or listen to an audio book - if you're reading, it counts! Prizes provided by the Friends of the Everett Public Libraries will be awarded to those who complete the challenge. Visit everett.beanstack.com to get started.

Parlin Adult and Teens

Resume Writing, Parlin

Information Desk. Do you need help sprucing up an old resume or creating a new one? Sign up for a thirty minute session at the Parlin. By appointment only. To register, please call or send email to Kathleen, 617-394-2300 or

slipp@noblenet.org Computer Basics 101, Parlin Information Desk. Not familiar with the computer? Learn the basics: how to start up and shut down a computer, perform mouse and keyboard functions, use applications, learn Microsoft Word, navigate the Internet, set up an email account, and more! By appointment only. To register, please call or send email to Kathleen, 617-394-2300 or

Parlin Childrens

Parlin Lego Club. Children's Room. Monday, December 30th from

3-5pm. Come to the Children's Room after school on Mondays for some free-building lego fun. Open to all ages. Children under 6 years old must be accompanied by an adult. No registration required.

Countdown to NOON YEAR Join us in the Parlin Children's Library on Tuesday December 31st at 11:30 AM for a Countdown to NOON Year Party! Children and their caregivers are invited to a special, child friendly New Years Eve celebration! Countdown to NOON Year!. Ring in 2025 with music and refreshments, party hats and noise blowers, a 60 second countdown and a sparkling grape juice toast. Happy Noon Year! This event is intended for children and families.

Shute Adult and Teens

Resume Writing, Shute Adult Department. Book a one-on-one resume assistance appointment at the Shute Library and let a librarian help you craft a resume tailored to your strengths and aspirations. Sign up for a thirty minute session at both the Shute Library. By appointment only. Please email shuteinfo@noblenet.org or call

617-394-2308. Computer Basics 101, Shute Adult Department. Tech Newbie? No Problem! Learn to power up, click around, type like a pro, explore the digital world, and even send your first email. Book your Friday appointment with technology today! By appointment only. Please email shuteinfo@noblenet.org or call 617-394-2308.

News Briefs

CITY OFFICES CLOSED JAN. 1 AS EVERETT **OBSERVES NEW** YEAR'S DAY

City offices will be closed to the public on Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2025 as Everett observes the New Year's Day holiday. City offices will re-open on Thursday, Jan. 2, 2025 with regular hours for residents.

Observed on the first day in January each year, New Year's Day marks the beginning of a new calendar year and is a federal holiday in the United States. It is often celebrated by reflecting on past years, while setting resolutions and goals for the

new year to come.

Wednesday's observance will delay trash and recycling pickup by one day for the rest of the week. Please place your trash and recycling bins neatly on the sidewalk on the day after your regularly scheduled pickup for this week only. The following is the adjusted holiday schedule:

- Pickups regularly scheduled for Wednesday will be on Thursday, Jan.
- Pickups regularly scheduled for Thursday

SEND US YOUR NEWS

The Everett Independent encourages residents to submit

birth and engagement announcements, news releases,

business briefs, honor rolls, social news, sports stories,

and photographs for publication. Items should be forward-

ed to our offices at 385 Broadway, Citizens Bank Building,

Revere, MA 02151. The Independent also encourages

readers to e-mail news releases to

editor@everettindependent.com.

The Everett Independent assumes no financial responsibili-

ty for typographical errors in advertisements, but will reprint

that part of the advertisement in which the error occurs.

Advertisers will please notify the management immediately

of any errors that may occur.

will be on Friday, Jan. 3.

- Pickups regularly scheduled for Friday will be on Saturday, Jan. 4.
- Please note that trash and recycling pickup prior to the holiday will not be

affected this week.

If you have any questions, please call the Constituent Services Department by dialing 311 or 617-394-2270.

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Hearing scheduled for Everett man nabbed with Glock fitted with machine-gun device

Special to the Independent

An Everett man has been ordered held without bail pending a danger-ousness hearing Monday after he was arraigned yesterday for possessing a 9mm Glock fitted with a switch device to make it a fully-automatic weapon, Suffolk District Attorney Kevin Hayden announced.

Elijah Carvalho, 22, was arraigned in Dorchester BMC Thursday on charges of possessing a machine gun, possessing a loaded machine gun, possessing a large-capacity magazine, receiving an untraceable firearm, possessing a firearm and ammunition without a li-

cense, and possession of a Class A substance. Judge Steven Kim ordered Carvalho held without bail pending a dangerousness hearing on Monday. On Wednesday after-

noon members of the Boston Youth Violence Strike Force became aware of an incident that had occurred earlier that day in the Central Division of Boston Municipal Court involving rival gang members. Officers later learned that one of the people allegedly involved in the incident was in the Coleus Park area of Dorchester and possibly seeking to retaliate against rival gang members. Officers received a description of the person as wearing a black balaclava and a distinctive gray Nike "tech" sweatshirt with a black zipper and black Nike logo.

Aware that Coleus Park is flanked by two middle schools, and with dismissal time approaching, officers immediately converged on the area and spotted a man matching the exact description. The man, later identified as Carvalho, was walking along Lawrence Avenue, close to the Martin Luther King Jr. elementary school and Coleus Park.

Officers conducted a pat frisk of Carvalho and immediately felt an

"L" shaped object in his waistband. Upon officers discovering the object, Carvalho bent at the waist to prevent a further frisk. Officers eventually placed Carvalho in handcuffs and recovered 9mm Glock 19 fitted with a machine gun conversion device. The gun had one round in the chamber and 15 rounds in the high-capacity magazine. The firearm's serial numbers were obliterated. Officers also found six

small round white pills consistent with pressed fentanyl, often passed off as Oxycodone in street drug markets.

"These converted weapons are alarming both for their firepower and for their uncontrollability, meaning there's a distressing scenario of anyone close to the aim area being struck and injured, or worse. These officers acted quickly and with appropriate concern for the potential danger present here," Hayden said.

All charged individuals are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

Suffolk County District Attorney Kevin Hayden's office serves the communities of Boston, Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop, Mass. The office handles over 20,000 cases a year. More than 160 attorneys in the office practice in nine district and municipal courts, Suffolk Superior Court, the Massachusetts Appeals Court, the Supreme Judicial Court and the Boston Juvenile Courts. The office employs some 300 people and offers a wide range of services and programs to serve anyone who comes in contact with the criminal justice system. This office is committed to educating the public about the services we provide our commitment to crime prevention, and our dedication to keeping the residents of Suffolk County

Slow Zone // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to invest in the T, and Phil and the team are going to continue working every day to deliver the worldclass service that Massachusetts deserves."

"Each of these 2.4 million minutes saved is time back to the people of Massachusetts to spend more time with their families, pick the kids up from school, make a doctors' appointment that they've been putting off for too long, or make a stop in a local small business," said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. "We're so proud of the work that Phil and his team have accomplished with the support of T riders, and we're committed to ensuring they continue to have the resources they need to deliver even more of this progress."

"The completion of the Track Improvement Pro-

gram is an outstanding accomplishment toward furthering the Healey-Driscoll Administration's commitment to providing safe, reliable, equitable, and accessible public transportation for all riders," said Transportation Secretary Monica "General Tibbits-Nutt. Manager Eng, our project delivery teams, and the crews on the front lines all deserve tremendous credit for their part in this momentous work. We have appreciated the strategic management by MBTA officials for these projects and have been grateful to riders for their patience while this critical work was underway."

"This has been a true team effort, and I want to thank everyone—from planning and construction to those maintaining our system and communicat-

ing with the public. All MBTA employees played a vital role in moving us one step closer to a state of good repair," said MBTA General Manager Phillip Eng. "Thank you to our workforce for their diligence, and to our riders for their patience throughout the process. I also want to acknowledge Governor Healey and Lieutenant Governor Driscoll for their leadership and support of our workforce. Our goal is to continue the positive momentum by focusing on accessibility and signal upgrades in 2025, as well as staying on top of preventative maintenance to ensure the T delivers safe, reliable and frequent service to best serve the public today as we build for

The Track Improvement Program has been a bold and ambitious initiative to eliminate speed restrictions across the subway system and bring the MBTA's tracks closer towards a State of Good Repair. With the completion

future generations."

of the Green Line work on December 20, the MBTA subway system has undergone key track upgrades, including the replacement of over 15,400 feet of full depth track reconstruction,

the replacement of approximately 38,000 ties, the installation of nearly 251,500 feet of new rail, and the performance of nearly 325,000 feet of tamping.

This major achievement was made possible by 23 full-access closures across various lines throughout the year, ranging from weekend closures to several days or even weeks of work. These closures allowed for safe and efficient construction, ultimately enhancing the safety of riders and workers alike while improving reliability and reducing delays. Uninterrupted work was a key factor in the expeditious completion of the project.

As a result of these improvements, roundtrip travel time has been significantly reduced for riders: over 20 minutes on the Orange Line, nearly an hour on the Red Line, 4 minutes on the Blue Line, and almost 9 minutes on the Green Line.

The MBTA's efforts show that, on average, heavy rail riders on the Red, Orange, and Blue Lines now collectively save 2.4 million minutes per weekday due to the removal of speed restrictions. This translates to \$950,000 in daily economic benefits, representing an estimated \$300 million in annual savings for the region. This milestone highlights the positive impact of enhanced rail operations for commuters following the first multiday Ashmont service out-

age in October 2023.

The completion of the Track Improvement Program marks the culmination of a year of progress for the Healey-Driscoll Administration's goal of improving reliability and safety across the system.

Governor Healey delivered the highest level of state funding to the T for the first time in 20 years, including leveraging \$600 million from Fair Share funding to support rail and station upgrades. The T also launched a first-of-its-kind reduced fares program, as well as a new contactless payment sys-

In the future, speed restrictions may be needed from time to time if warranted by a changing track condition – this is normal and common across all passenger rail service providers. As a result of the successful Track Improvement Program that has taken place over the last year, the MBTA is now well-positioned to quickly respond to any track issues that may arise. If and when new restriction are required, they will be addressed promptly to continue to provide riders with the safe and reliable

service they deserve.

Aging // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

will be able to have an essential clothing item for the winter season thanks

to generous donations.

"I am grateful to everyone who donated in the true spirit of the holiday season," said Mayor Carlo DeMaria. "These socks will go a long way in helping those who served our country with staying warm this upcoming winter."

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and long-term care programs to eligible Massachusetts veterans. Their
mission is to provide the
highest quality personal health care services to
Massachusetts veterans
with dignity, honor, and

Van Campen // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Campen

"At the end of the day, that's kind of the biggest issue facing the city today. The hope is that in 2025, we pass an order to address overcrowding after we've had public input from residents both in the area of the old high school and the old Pope John building. I hope that because of the pushes of the City Council, we make this a much better plan for Everett and its students, who are going to be impacted positively by it."

Van Campen also wanted to highlight his efforts "to bring civility in public discourse" in Everett.

"I'm a big proponent of civility in public discourse and I think that has been lacking for a long time, not just in Everett, but everywhere," said Van Campen. "I hope being council president for one year has infused that kind of civility in the City of Everett, at least I hope so."

Councilors praise

outgoing president Ward 1 Councilor

Wayne Matewsky, who has been involved in city government for 43 years, said, "Robert Van Campen is the best and the fairest council president that I ever served with."

Councilor-at-Large

Councilor-at-Large Katy Rogers, who is winding down an impactful first year on the board,

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also offered a positive assessment of Van Campen's presidency.

"Under Council Pres-Van Campen's leadership, the Council communicated and collaborated effectively. He had the unique opportunity to bridge the gap between new councilors and those with more experience, creating an enriching learning environment for those of us who are new while maintaining productive meetings," lauded Rogers.

Looking ahead to 2025

Saying that he has enjoyed being able to "give back to the community and have the ability to express my views about how government should work," Van Campen will most likely run for re-election to the Ward 5 seat next fall.

The immediate task for

the City Council will be selecting a new president of the Council. "The organizational

meeting [to pick a new president] will be Jan. 6," said Van Campen. "Although I don't know officially who it will be yet, I do want to wish the new president of the City Council the best of luck, and I obviously will be there to help and support that person and provide any advice as a former president."

OBITUARIES

Even and "Even in" DiDatticto

November 5, 1953 - December 19, 2024

Frances M. "Frannie" DiBattista, born on November 5,1953, passed away on the morning of December 19, 2024, after a prolonged illness at Massachusetts General Hospital, surrounded by her family.

She is survived by her two sons, Carmine and his wife, Siobhan and Anthony and his wife, Nancy; her sister, Madeleine Bucchiere (late husband Joseph); her brothers: Nicholas Pesce and his wife, Gina and Joseph Pesce (late wife Diane); as well as her beloved grandson, Dominic and step-grand-daughters, Loralei and Alanna.

A lifelong resident of

Everett, she made many friends and acquaintances over the years. She worked at various food establishments throughout the city including Peppino's Restaurant, Bucci's



Pizzeria & Deli, and The Square Deli.

Frannie loved cooking, baking, bingo, TV shows, and playing board and card games with her family. She will be dearly missed by all who knew her.

A celebration of life

will be held after the new year for close friends and family. Arrangements by the Cafasso & Sons Funeral Home, Everett.

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please call

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for ALL Everett residents

For more info, email:

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Julian DiGregorio



Parker Michael Caseu



Ava



Anastasia & Juliette



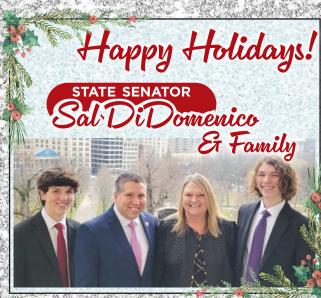
Charlotte & Oliver



Julian Bradley Butt



Olivia and Eliana







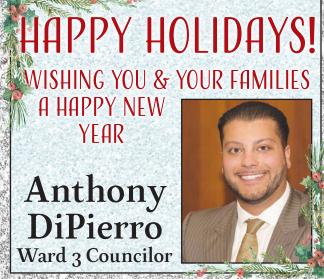


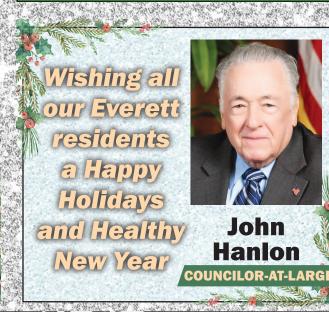


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Merry Christmas Wishing you a season of togetherness, celebration, and gratitude

EVERETT HIGH BOYS BASKETBALL WIN 59-55 OVER REVERE

The Greater Boston League boys basketball season got off to a rocking start as rivals Revere and Everett battled to the final seconds, with Everett leaving the Revere High fieldhouse Thursday night with a 59-55



MR. OFFENSE: Cristian Vasquez poured in 24 points as he led Everett to a 59-55 win over Revere.



BASKET HUNTING: Jayden Sanchez looks for a route around Revere's Ethan Day.



MIDCOURT COLLISION: Everett's Tyson Chhun and Revere's Avi Lung collide at midcourt.



LONG REACH: Tyson Chhun reaches for a loose ball in front of Revere's Joshua Mercado.



TRAFFIC JAM: Jevaun Berberena looks for some room through the Revere defense.

EHS Roundup

EHS BOYS BASKETBALL CRUISES PAST

SOMERVILLE The Everett High boys basketball team improved to 2-1 on the season with a runaway, 71-43 victory over Greater Boston League (GBL) rival Somerville this past Friday evening at the EHS

gym. Crimson Tide The scored off the opening tap on a bucket by sophomore guard Jayden Alsaindor

and never looked back. Another fast-break bucket by Henrique Pinto and a trey by Somerville made it 4-3 in the opening 90 seconds, but that would be as close as the visiting Highlanders would get the rest of the way.

Crimson Tide senior center Geordielle Luna Morales (who finished with a game-high 21 points) then went on a personal 6-0 run with three hoops in less than a minute to boost Everett into a 10-3 advantage at 5:48.

With coach Boyce's crew playing an aggressive, trapping-style of defense, the Tide continued to create numerous turnovers that led to transition buckets to leave matters firmly in Everett's control, 21-6, after one period. The Tide stretched their bulge in the second period, taking a 41-22 lead into the half, and never were challenged the rest of the way en route to the victory.

PATR/07/

See ROUNDUP Page 8



available during a special promotion period and to new money only. Minimum balance to open the CD and earn the APY is \$10,000. For Eagle Bank transfers, a minimum deposit of \$10,000 of new money is required. A penalty will be imposed for withdrawals before maturity. Rates may vary and are subject to change without notice. CDs will automatically renew at a 12-month term at the regular 12-month CD rate being offered by the Bank at the time of renewal. Other terms and rates available

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EVERETT RAISES OVER \$30,000 TO SUPPORT SPECIAL OLYMPICS

The Everett Police Department, in collaboration with the Law Enforcement Forch Run for Special Olympics and the City of Everett, hosted the third annual Polar Plunge event on Sunday, Dec. 15, at the Everett Recreation Center, and raised \$30,100 to help support Special Olympics Massachusetts.

The Polar Plunge is a fund-raising initiative put forth by the Special Olymoics Massachusetts where

participants brave the cold and take the plunge into a frigid pool to support more than 14,000 athletes of all abilities in sports training and competitions that the organization offers yearround.

The event was a collaborative effort between the Everett Police Department, Law Enforcement Torch Run, and the City of Everett. Event organizer and Everett Police Lieutenant Lawrence Jedrey, while speaking to attendees, announced that participants raised \$30,100 - a new record amount for this event – to benefit Special Olympics Massachusetts and the work that

"This support for the Special Olympics is important because it helps individuals who serve as an inspiration to all of us that no matter the obstacles we face, we all are capable of living healthier lives, creating a sense of inclusion in our community, and achieving our goals," said Mayor Carlo DeMaria. "Today's event is yet another way in which the members of the **Everett Police Department** affirm their commitment to our community by finding ways to give back. I'd like to thank everyone for all their efforts to support this great cause."

This year's plungers included Everett residents, Everett police and fire personnel, members of local organizations, along with recruits from the Lynnfield police academy and neighboring police departments.



Former City Councilor Al Lattanzi alongside Antonio Alarcon.



The Everett Police Department won the award for highest amount donated by an organization.



Everett Fire Chief Joseph Hickey alongside members of the fire department showed support for the Polar Plunge event.



School Committee Vice Chairperson Samantha Hurley alongside her husband, Everett firefighter Will Hurley, and their daughter.





City Councilor Anthony DiPierro jumping into the freezing-cold water.



Everett firefighter Will Hurley taking the polar plunge.





Team Buddy's Buds.



Thursday, December 26 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM 484 Broadway, Everett In Front of Everett City Hall

To learn more, please visit cityofeverett.com/events/menorah-lighting-2024



EVERETT'S FIRST RESPONDERS TEAM UP TO TAKE 39 KIDS HOLIDAY SHOPPING AT TARGET

The Everett Police Department (EPD), in collaboration with the Everett Fire Department (EFD), Cataldo Ambulance Service, and Target, held the annual "Shop with Heroes" event at Target in Everett.

The event, which was made possible by the

use of a grant secured from Target by the Eliot Family Resource Center (EFRC) in collaboration with EPD, began at EPD headquarters where kids and volunteers were given an escort with lights and sirens to Target to enjoy some pizza, popcorn, and other foods provided by

vere before browsing the aisles. The 39 youth shoppers were paired up with their volunteers to begin the search for the perfect gifts to take home. "The holidays are a

Juan of LaCantina in Re-

special time of year and the Everett Police Department is proud to team up

with the staff at Target who have always done a phenomenal job organizing and generously hosting this third annual event to share the joy of the season with some of our youngsters," said Police Chief Paul Strong. "We are grateful for the strong partnership with Target

and all of the organizations and volunteers that joined together with us to help provide this opportunity to connect with our youth and create a lasting memory they can hopefully cherish forever."

Each year, the EPD hosts initiatives such as the fill-a-cruiser toy drive

event and 25 days of gift giveaways to children throughout the month of December to spread holiday cheer as part of the department's commitment to make meaningful and lasting connections with the community.





Everett police officers joined alongside one of the youth shoppers.



A volunteer from the Everett Fire Department and youth shopper having fun shopping.



Everett Police Chief Paul Strong and his youth shopping partner picking out the perfect toy.



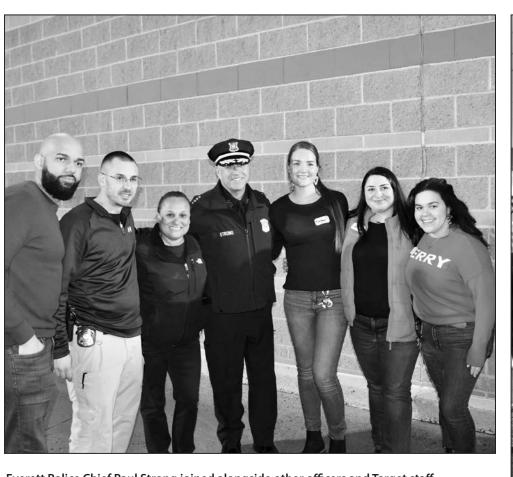
City staff from the Inspectional Services and Wire Departments helped volunteer at the event.



A member of the Cataldo Ambulance Service shopping with her youth partner.



A Target staff member serving the last cookie to a youth participant.



Everett Police Chief Paul Strong joined alongside other officers and Target staff.



Everett police officers and kids joined together for a fun evening of shopping at Target.



Members of the Everett Fire Department.

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Roundup // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

"We approached this game with a clear focus on our defensive sets," said Boyce. "Our goal was to get into those sets faster and control the pace of the game. The players executed our plan diligently, evident as we made in-game adjustments.

"We emphasized the importance of individual contributions within the team dynamic," Boyce continued. "Geordiell Luna Morales had a standout performance and a breakout game and his scoring ability helped us build momentum.

"But it wasn't just about player. Christian

uted with nine points, adding to a well-rounded effort from the entire team," Boyce added. "Additionally, Adam Aitmessaoud made a significant impact off the bench, contributing six rebounds, four assists, and three steals. Adam was our second-leading rebounder and really stepped up when we needed him. His energy and hustle on both ends of the court were vital to our suc-

Vasquez had 10 points and

Jayden Alsaindor contrib-

"This was a great team win that allowed us to get back on track," said Boyce. "We're moving in

the right direction, and if we continue to work hard and stay focused, I believe we have a lot to look forward to for the rest of the season. With this victory under our belt, we aim to carry the momentum into our upcoming games, building on the strides made in this game.'

The victory was a nice bounce-back win for the Tide after last Tuesday's 69-52 loss to GBL rival Lynn English on Disco Night in which disco hits from the 1970s reverberated in the EHS gym throughout the evening.

The contest was a hardfought battle through most of the first half. The Tide held a 12-11 lead with 1:14 left in the first period, but the Bulldogs closed out the quarter with two hoops for a 15-12 advantage. The teams traded buckets through the first part of the second period and with 3:45 to go in the half, the Tide trailed by three, 25-22, after a hoop by Luna Morales. However, the final few

minutes of the first half proved crucial, as English closed out the half with a 14-3 run to take a 39-35 lead into the locker room. Although Everett played English evenly the rest of the way, they never were able to take a bite out of the Bulldogs' double-digit "This was a competitive

matchup against Lynn English," said Boyce. "Our team faced a challenging loss that, while disappointing, provided valuable lessons. This was a good loss for us, highlighting areas where we need to be more disciplined and consistent with our fundamentals.

Senior captain Tyson Chunn and Luna Morales led the Crimson Tide in the scoring department, both reaching double-figures with 13 points. "Their efforts were commendable, but we recognized that we could have done a much better job in key areas such as defense and sharing the ball," noted Boyce.

"As we move forward, our focus will be on reinforcing the principles of the game and our team concepts," Boyce added. "We have a group who is still working to gel, and with continued effort, we are confident that we will improve. This experience will serve as a stepping stone for our growth, and we look forward to applying what we've learned in our next games as we keep pushing forward." Boyce and his crew are

set to take part in the King Philip Regional H.S. Holiday Tournament on Friday and Saturday. They will meet Lincoln-Sudbury in the preliminary round at 7:00 on Friday and then face either King Phiip or Medfield on Saturday. The Tide will resume play against their GBL foes in the New Year next Thursday (January 2) at Lynn Classical.

PERFORMANCES FOR EHS BOYS TRACK TEAM Although the Everett

IMPRESSIVE

High boys indoor track and field team dropped its season opening meets to Greater Boston League (GBL) rivals Medford (59-31) and Revere (53-47) in a tri-meet last Thursday at the Reggie Lewis Center in Boston, a number of coach Jehu Cimea's Crimson Tide turned in impressive performances. Junior Kayshaun Ev-

eillard took first place vs. both Medford and Revere in both the 55 meter dash with a sprint of 6.83 seconds and the 300 dash in a time of 37.31. Even more impressively, Kayshaun had the-fastest time of the day in the 300 dash among all GBL competitors (all eight of the GBL schools were holding their meets at the Reggie that day) and was second in the 55 dash. Other first-place finish-

ers for Everett vs. Medford were Kawan Medeiros, who won the long jump with a leap of 17'-1", and Fabrice Michaud, who led a Tide sweep in the shotput with a winning toss of 39'-11". Fabrice's toss was the third-best toss among the GBL schools. Also scoring points vs.

the Mustangs were: Yuriel Ortiz with a third in the 55 dash; Carlos Pagan Landeo with a third in the 1000; Lucas Nunez with a third in the mile; Gaetano Foster with a second in the shot-put (he was fourth among all of the GBL throwers); Trevon Carrington with a third in the shot; Luvens Hector with a second in the 55m hurdles; and David Huevo-Erazo with a third in

As for the Revere por-

tion of the meet, in addi-

the two-mile.

Michaud also bested all of the Revere shot-putters and Hector grabbed first place in the 55 hurdles. A number of Tide grabbed second-places vs. Revere to add three points to the Everett scoresheet: Adrien Reyes in the 600

dash; Lucas Nunez in the

tion to Eveillard's wins

in the 55 and 300 dashes.

mile; Gaetano Foster in the shot-put; and Davis Huezo-Erazo in the two-Adding third-place points against the Patriots were: Tyre Lule in the 600; Carlos Pagan Landeo in the 1000; Jereny Whitlow in the mile; Kawan

Medeiros in the long jump; and Bryan Lewis in the two-mile. On the girls' side, point-scorers for the Lady Crimson Tide in the meet with Revere were: Yelsa Garcia with a second-place in the 55 meter dash with a sprint of 8.26; Isabella Pimenta with a third-place finish in the 55 dash in a clocking of 8.40; Shashi Pokrei with a third

in the mile with a run of

7:26.52; Graziella Foster

with a second-place shot-

put throw of 26'-00"; Fa-

hema Coudo with a third

in the shot with her toss of

25'-5.5"; and Devon Go-

mez-Walrond with a third

in the 55 hurdles with a

time of 11.21. In the contest with Medford, Foster took first-place in the shotput and Gomez-Walrond topped the Lady Mustangs with a first in the 55 hurdles. Additional Everett point-scorers were: Garcia with a third in the 55 dash; Zyelle Cannon-Mathis with a third in the 300 dash (51.36); Akanksha Neupane with a second in the 1000 (4:07.08); Pokrei with a third in the mile; and Coudo with a sec-

The next GBL meet for both the boys and girls is set for January 9 vs, Lynn English at the Reggie Lewis Center, which is the venue for all of the GBL's meets this season. **EMILA MARIA**

ond-place in the shot.

BABCOCK SCORES 28 FOR EHS GIRLS Despite a 28-point ef-

fort from senior captain Emilia María Babcock, the Everett High girls basketball team came out on the short end of a 42-36 decision to Greater Boston League rival Lynn Classical this past Thursday. Emilia was an all-

around force for the Lady Crimson Tide. In addition to her 28 points, the talented and hard-working senior made seven steals and grabbed seven rebounds on the night. Junior Nicole Damace-

no also turned in a defensive strong effort, pulling down eight boards and playing tough defense all game long. "It was a hard-fought battle and a tough defen-

sive effort from our girls," said EHS head coach Riley Dunn. "We're going to keep building." Dunn and her crew are scheduled to play two

contests over the vacation break, both against nonleague opponents. They were set to travel to Lawrence this past Monday afternoon (December 23) and then will trek to Acton-Boxborough this Saturday.

The Lady Tide will resume their GBL schedule on Thursday, January 2, at Chelsea.

Everett Independent Drop-Off Locations Pick up your weekly copy every Wednesday

The Rehabilitation

Fine Market 201 Elm St. Elm Street Market......178 Elm St. Elm Street Bakery.....173 Elm St. Melo's Bakery171 Elm St. Stewart's Restaurant......140 Elm St. Everett Police......45 Elm St.

Walgreens.....317 Ferry St.

Everett Public Schools......121 Vine St.

Katherine's Market134 Ferry St. Fine Market.....180 Ferry St. ERA Realty.....291 Ferry St.

Eagle Bank.....299 Ferry St. Dunkin'......301 Ferry St.

Glendale Liquor......315 Ferry St.

Apt. Building.....381 Ferry St.

Parkway Heights Tower.....201 Chelsea St.

7-Eleven......188 Chelsea St.

Everett Pizza......176 Chelsea St.

Edward Connolly Center.....90 Chelsea St.

Super J.C. Market......66 Chelsea St.

Park Plaza Condos......30 Chelsea St.

Express Market......318 Broadway

Eagle Bank.....350 Broadway

High End Smoke Shop378 Broadway

Parlin Memorial Library410 Broadway

Walgreens.....417 Broadway

Everett Bank......419 Broadway The Square Deli.....421 Broadway

Smoke Shop423 Broadway Everett Square Market445 Broadway

Chrisillas Deli......447 Broadway

Food Mart.....400 Main St.

True Value......403 Main St. Nana's Pizza416 Main St.

Santander Bank......459 Broadway Everett Chamber467 Broadway Everett City Hall......489 Broadway Monica Meat Market.....506 Broadway Pastelaria Restaurant......508 Broadway 7-Eleven......511 Broadway Dunkin'.....514 Broadway McKinnon's Market......620 Broadway MP Credit Union650 Broadway Century 21...... 680 Broadway Burrito's Pizza.....696 Broadway K. Chivo Market......704 Broadway

Sultan Market......718 Broadway

Everett House of Pizza.....722 Broadway Eastern Bank.....738 Broadway

Shute Memorial Library.....781 Broadway Vitoria Bakery798 Broadway

Little Mania Restaurant876 Broadway Broadway Market880 Broadway

Jalapeño's Restaurant882 Broadway

Rte. 99 Smoke Shop893 Broadway

Everett Villa66 Main St. Everett Variety80 Main St.

Neighborhood Market115 Main St.

Continental Bakery119 Main St. Mass Bay Credit Union.....183 Main St.

Regina's Liquor203 Main St.

Apt. Building.....120 Wyllis Ave.

CHURCH News

Glendale Christian Lighthouse Church

News and Notes

Worship service. Weds. hour of Power, worship, prayer and Bible

Sunday

10:30

Study, via Zoom. "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters," Colossians 3:23

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617-387-7458 Rev. Larry Russi, Sr. **Pastor** pastorlarry@

thelighthousechurch701.net

Immaculate Conception Parish

News and Notes

Our Parish Staff: Rev. Joseph Chacha Marwa, S.M.A. Administrator, Rev. Gustavo Buccilli S.M.A Parochial Vicar, Barbara Canon Secretary, Parish Secretary.

Weekly Mass Schedule ate the Immaculate Conception Parish is as fol-

- 1: Monday-Saturday at 7:00a.m. in the Chapel.
- 2: Saturday at 4:00p.m. (Sunday Vigil) and at Vietnamese 7:30p.m. Mass Upper Church.
- 3: Sunday at 7:00a.m. and 10:00a.m. English Masses. At 12:00p.m. Spanish Mass and 4:00p.m. Haitian Creole
- 4: Confessions are on Saturdays from 3:00-3:45

at the Confession Boots in the Chapel, and at 11:15 a.m. 12:00p.m. in Span-

5: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at the Chapel on Thursday from 7:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

Bring a Book buy a Book a new Fundraiser Program at the back of the Church. All books are a dollar. Any money collected goes to our Stain Glass Fund. You are most invited to make a donation for this course. Most welcome to worship with us on Sunday and weekdays. Thank You.

Immaculate Conception

489, Broadway, **Everett MA 02149 Phone** Call 6173895660

Mystic Side Congregational Church

News and Notes

Mystic Side Congregational Church is located in Everett, on Malden-Everett border, at 422 Main Street. We offer a warm, inviting atmosphere, and all are welcome. Our Sunday Church service starts at 10:30 a.m. and Communion is offered on the first Sunday of each month. A very pleasant coffee hour

and socializing follow our services. Parking is available in our lot next to the church on Wyllis Ave. (one way off Main Street). We look forward to welcoming you this Sunday.

Mystic Side Congregational Church 422 Main Street Everett, MA

Please visit everettindependent.com

Church at the Well Everett

News and Notes

Church at the Well Everett is a new church for Everett. Check us out on Facebook at www.facebook.com/churchforeverett to view weekly devotions and updates, visit us at www.foreverett.church

to sign up for our newsletter and see how we can help you, or connect with the Everett Community Aid Network at www.everettcan.com to request any additional help.

Glendale United Methodist Church News and Notes

Glendale United Methodist Church is open to all and we welcome people of all faiths, race, nationalities, and sexual preference. No one is ever turned away. If you are looking for a new home church, we would like you to check us out and let us know what we can do to make church a better fit in your life.

Bible Study: Consider joining us for Bible study on Sunday. We meet in the Church Parlor off the Chapel from 9:30 to 10:00

Sponsor the bulletin! For a \$5 donation, you can dedicate the Sunday bulletin to recognize family, friends, or special occasions. There is a sign-up sheet in the Pastor's study. Feel free to choose your particular week and leave a copy of your dedication in the mail in that is on the Pastor's door. Please contact the Pastor if you have any questions.

Boy Scout Troop 814: Meet in Cooper Hall on Tues. evenings from 6-9 p.m. Cub Pack 11 meets on Saturday mornings. NA Meetings - Mon.

Bring Your Own Book 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.; Thurs. I Can't But We Can, 8:00 7:30 -9:30 p.m. AA Meeting – Saturday

evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 Pastor's Office Hours: Saturdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Other times by appoint-

Bread of Life Donations This outreach is being done to honor the United Methodist Women's Group, who for so many

years were our outreach source. Please bring any food item(s) to church and place in the box located on the altar. We are on the Internet

http://www.glendaleumc-everett.org Glendale United **Methodist Church Pastor David Jackson** 392 Ferry Street (across from Glendale Towers) Please enter the church by the driveway on **Walnut Street** 617-387-2916 PastorDavidJackson58@gmail.com **Pastor's Office Hours:** Saturdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Other times by

Zion Church - Everett

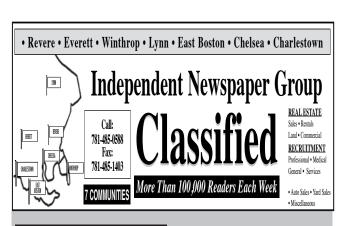
News and Notes

Bishop Robert G. Brown and Zion Church Ministries invites you to join us every Sunday at our 10:00 a.m. Worship Service for a time of worship, praise and preaching, at 757 Broadway, Everett, MA. You can

also join Zion Church Ministries via livestream on Facebook and You Tube.

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For more information, they can be reached online zionchurchministries. com or via email at office@ zionchurchministries.com.



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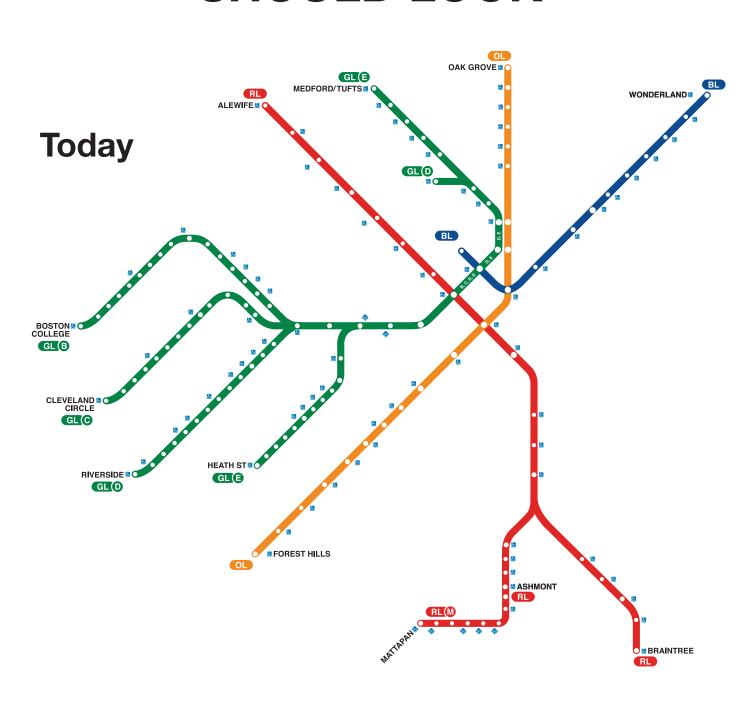
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This milestone is thanks to months of tireless effort by our teams and the patience and support of our riders.

While there's still more to come in 2025, this marks a significant leap toward a better MBTA experience for everyone.

So many reasons to **Get on Board.**

