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# Everett Independent

Published by the Independent Newspaper Co.

Wednesday, February 11, 2026



The Everett 4 x 200 relay team of (l-r) junior Sandesh Pun, senior Saymon Silva, senior captain Kervens Joseph, and senior captain Kayshaun Eveillard display their first-place medals at last Thursday's GBL Championship Meet.

## Crimson Tide boys win 3 titles at GBL Championship Meet

Staff Report

The Everett High boys indoor track and field team brought home three first-place medals at last Thursday's 2026 GBL Championship Meet that was held at the Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center in Roxbury.

Senior captain Kervens Joseph was the top scorer for the Crimson Tide. Kervens

See TRACK Page 10

## TRASH DELAY

Due to the President's Day Holiday on Monday

February 16, 2026  
Trash will be delayed  
by one day

Capitol Waste Services, Inc.

The Independent  
Newspaper Group  
Office will be Closed  
on Monday, Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>  
in observation of  
President's Day.  
We will reopen on  
Tuesday at 9:30 am.

Deadlines are  
Friday, Feb. 13  
at noon



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## Van Campen introduces senior leadership team

Special to the Independent

During the Feb. 9 City Council meeting, Mayor Robert J. Van Campen formally introduced the members of his senior leadership team, who will oversee key departments within his administration.

Mayor Van Campen announced the following appointments:

- Ellin Collins, Director of Human Resources
- Monica R. Lamboy, Chief Development Officer
- Jaclyn Munson, City Solicitor
- Omar Boukili, Chief Ad-

ministrative and Financial Officer

• Robert Knox, Jr., Executive Director of City Services

"These individuals bring a strong mix of experience, professionalism and commitment to public service," said Mayor Van Campen. "Together, this leadership team will help ensure our City departments operate efficiently, responsibly and with a continued focus on delivering high-quality services for Everett residents."

Following the announcements, Mayor Van Campen

See TEAM Page 13

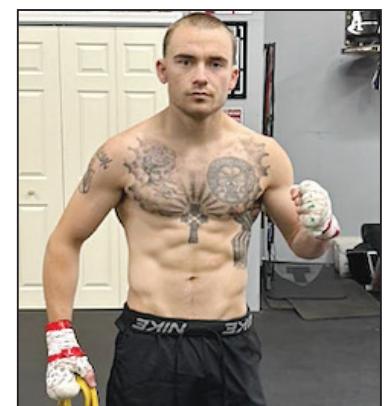
## It's Shea-Time in Medford

Willcox puts his undefeated boxing record on the line Saturday night

By Cary Shuman

Shea Willcox is a two-time Everett High School Super Bowl football champion. This Saturday night in Medford, Willcox takes the next step in his rising boxing career at a professional event, 'Glove at First Sight' at The Great American Beer Hall.

Willcox sports a perfect record of 5-0 after defeating Lucas Alejandro Mignoni in a spectacular first-round knock-out (TKO) Nov. 1 at Oceanside Events Center (formerly Won-



Professional boxer Shea Willcox (pictured above) will be fighting in the co-main event Saturday at the Great Beer Hall in Medford. Shea is the son of Dennis Willcox and Kelly Willcox.

See WILLCOX Page 5

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# Everett

Independent

**President:** Stephen Quigley

**Editor in Chief:** Cary Shuman

## OUR LEGISLATURE SHOULD NOT STAND IN THE WAY OF WAYMO

The two bills that are circulating in the state legislature that effectively would ban autonomous, self-driving vehicles in the state not only are short-sighted, but they also will serve to perpetuate the carnage on our dangerous and deadly roads.

It is ironic that the Mass. legislature is setting up roadblocks to the implementation of a technological innovation that is sweeping across the country. Waymo already is operating in six cities with plans to expand into many more.

We in Massachusetts have always taken pride in embracing scientific achievements in the fields of tech and biotech, anchored by our world-class universities. But the legislature wants to prevent autonomous vehicles from coming to Mass. -- really???

Self-driving cars are not the wave of the future -- they already are here -- and banning them would establish our state as a backwater that refuses to move forward as we approach the middle of the 21st century.

Even more significantly, self-driving vehicles are far safer than those operated by humans, and it's not even close. Our highways and roadways are trails of death and destruction that kill 40,000 Americans each and every year (that's more than 100 deaths per day, every day) and maim hundreds of thousands more, thanks to human operators who drive drunk, distracted, and negligently.

By contrast, Waymo's accident and injury rate, based on millions of miles of real-world experience, is a small fraction of the human rate. In addition, a big plus for passengers -- especially women -- is that they do not have to contend with human operators (we'll leave it at that).

As we have noted in the past, we were skeptical about Waymo until we used it extensively on a visit to San Francisco two years ago and became convinced of the safety of self-driving vehicles (which have the added benefit of being good for the environment because they are electric).

We understand that the ride-share human operators are worried about being replaced by the robots (which is ironic, because they displaced taxi operators 20 years ago).

But in our view, public safety should be the top concern of our public officials and should take precedence over everything else.

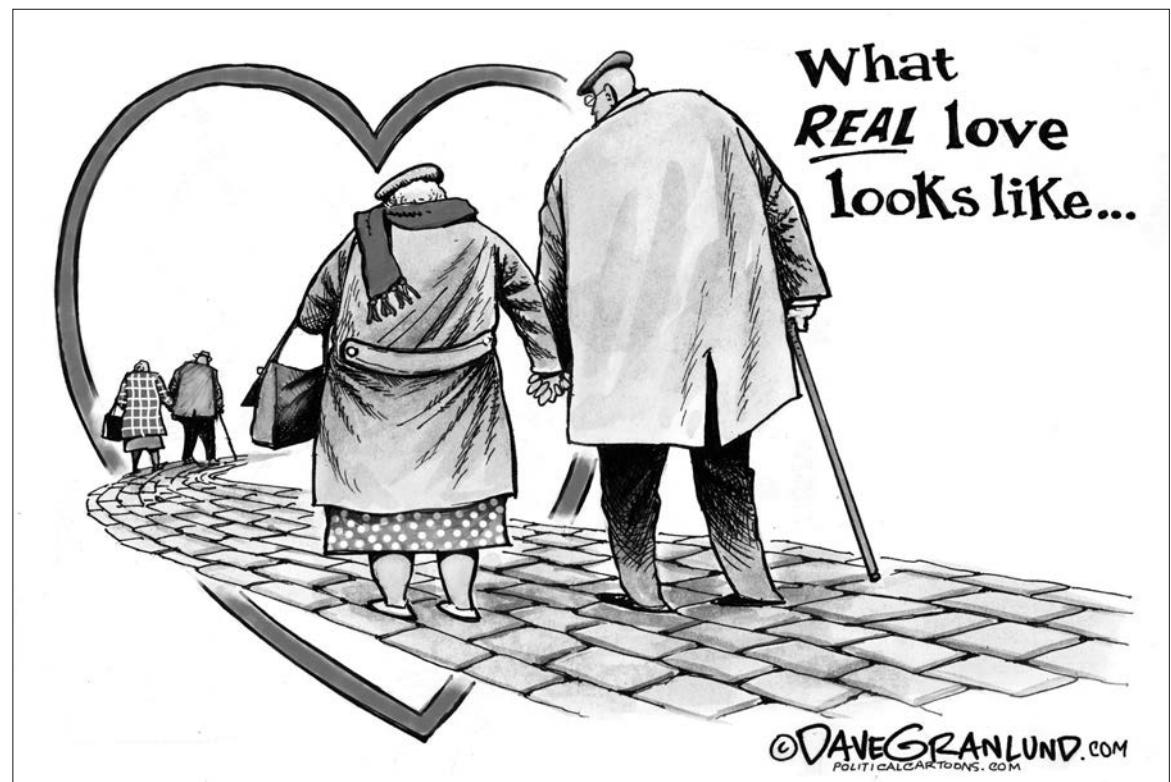
## Your opinions, please

The Everett Independent welcomes letters to the editor. Our address is 385 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151.

Letters may also be e-mailed to [editor@everettindependent.com](mailto:editor@everettindependent.com).

Letters must be signed. We reserve the right to edit for length and content.

# Independent Forum



## UPCOMING EVENTS AT EVERETT PUBLIC LIBRARIES

*The library will be closed in observance of Presidents Day on Monday February 16.*

### Parlin Adult and Teens

Gaming Club Parlin YA Room. Tuesdays and Thursdays at 3pm. Join us for board games and video games at the library! Bring your own or play what we have here. For ages 12 and up.

Yarn Club Parlin Fireplace Room. Tuesday, February 17th at 7pm. Come chit chat and stitch! Bring your crocheting, knitting, or any other yarn craft and sit and socialize with other members of the crafting community. Recommended for ages 14-109!

Share Your Culture Night Parlin Meeting Room, Tuesday, February 17th at 6:30pm. Sign up to enjoy a catered meal and the company of other patrons. Be prepared to share about your personal culture with others, as the theme of the night will invite you to engage with your own history and those of others at your table. For ages 18+. Registration is required.

Getting to Know Your iPhone, Parlin Meeting Room, Thursday, February 18th at 10am. During this hands-on workshop, we'll explore some of the common features of iPhones. You'll learn ways to

interact with the touch screen, how to access important controls, and how to search for specific settings. We'll also cover some tips and best practices for securing and maintaining your device.

### Parlin Childrens

Back by popular demand - February Break Movie Mati-

nees! Daily movie showings at 2 PM this Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Check our online calendar for more information.

Storytime and Singalong with Karen, Parlin Children's Room. Wednesdays at 11am. Join us for a fun-filled morning

See LIBRARY Page 3

# Everett

Independent

*Published by the Independent Newspaper Group*

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# MassDOT announces \$1 million in funding for local transportation planning

Special to the Independent

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT), through its Office of Transportation Planning (OTP), is announcing the inaugural round of technical assistance for communities through the new Local Early and Actionable Planning (LEAP) Program. The LEAP Program, launched earlier this year, is designed to help municipalities—particularly rural and underserved communities—initiate transportation projects by providing early-stage planning and design support. Chelsea and Everett both received grants.

"The LEAP Program is a critical investment in the future of our communities," said Governor Maura Healey. "When municipalities get the assistance they need early on, they can plan for more efficient and effective projects that improve our roads and bridges, reduce congestion and improve quality of life. We are committed to supporting these communities as they work to restore, repair and enhance key

transportation projects while advancing local priorities across the state."

"Effective planning is the foundation of strong communities, and the LEAP program gives municipalities the tools they need to do that work well," said Lieutenant Governor Kimberley Driscoll. "This program helps municipal workers build capacity, engage their communities and move from vision to implementation with confidence. By supporting these planning efforts, we help cities and towns make smarter decisions, reduce future costs and deliver better outcomes for residents."

"The Healey-Driscoll Administration is leading the way to ensure that the state is doing all we can to support our municipal partners. With wise investments being made, MassDOT will provide communities across Massachusetts with technical assistance to facilitate critical infrastructure projects," said Interim MassDOT Secretary and MBTA General Manager Phil Eng. "MassDOT stands ready to work together with

our municipal partners as they make safety and accessibility upgrades to their infrastructure improving quality for all we serve."

Through LEAP, participating municipalities receive direct planning and engineering assistance from MassDOT and its consultant partners. Typical activities include:

- Everett: Traffic Calming Prioritization Plan
- Conceptual design and alternatives analyses
- Safety and traffic analyses
- Cost estimation and mapping support
- Early-stage design and engineering for smaller-scale projects
- Federal grant application development

The inaugural cohort of LEAP participants includes:

- Belchertown: State Street Corridor Study
- Becket: High Street Improvement Project
- Northfield: Parker Avenue Sidewalk Project
- West Bridgewater: Realign the Lincoln Street South/Elm Street and West Street/Crescent Street
- Dunstable: Complete Streets Intersection Design - Main Street and Oak Street
- Essex: Causeway Alternatives Analysis
- Harvard: Harvard Shared Use Path/Roadway Study
- Haverhill: Boston Road & Oxford Avenue Complete Street Redesign Project
- Hubbardston: New Templeton Road Design, Analysis, and Cost Estimation
- Marion: Feasibility Study for a Shared Use Path
- Pepperell: Townwide Speed Study
- Spencer: Ash Street Sidewalk Design
- Westminster: Intersection Improvements at Oakmont &

North Common

• Westport: Traffic Calming at Head of Westport and Sanford Road Shared Use Path

The program is funded through \$1 million included in Governor Healey's FY 2026 Capital Investment Plan and administered as part of MassDOT's capital budget.

Municipal leaders interested in future rounds of LEAP assistance can find information about eligibility, application timelines, and upcoming outreach events on the MassDOT Municipal Planning and Support website: <https://www.mass.gov/massdot-municipal-planning-and-support>. For any additional questions, they can write to [MuniSupport@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:MuniSupport@dot.state.ma.us).

Requests from municipalities that were not selected to advance this round will be kept on file for consideration in state fiscal year 2027 beginning in July 2026. These communities are also encouraged to contact MassDOT's Municipal Planning and Support Team to express continued interest in assistance through the program.

## Library // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

of singing and storytelling with Karen! Suggested ages 0-6.

Spanish Storytime/Hora de cuentos en español Parlin Children's Room. Tuesday, February 17th at 11am/Martes, 17 de febrero a las 11:00am. We are excited to announce a new Storytime program coming to the Parlin Library. Please join us on February 17th at 11am for our Spanish Storytime. We hope to have more in the future!/Nos emociona anunciar un nuevo programa de Hora de Cuentos en la biblioteca de Parlin. Los invitamos a acompañarnos el 17 de febrero a las 11:00 a.m. para nuestra sesión de Hora de Cuentos en español. Esperamos ofrecer más en el futuro!

Drama Class. Parlin Children's Room. Wednesdays at 3pm. Do you have a drama queen or king at home? Drama Class in the Parlin Children's Department is the perfect opportunity for your child to put those acting skills to use with our drama coach! Suggested ages 6-14.

Beginning Birding, Parlin Meeting Room, Friday February 20th at @ 2 pm. Come in

and learn about the local birds in your own backyard! Learn which birds are common in Massachusetts and learn some of their calls. We'll even build a simple bird feeder to take home and help your neighborhood birds fill their bellies this winter!

Shute Adult and Teens

Ready Player One Games, Shute Meeting Room, February 18th at 2:30 PM. Level up your Wednesdays with our ultimate gaming hangout! Grab your friends and dive into fun Nintendo Switch and PlayStation games whether you're racing, battling, or teaming up for coop fun, there's something for everyone. No registration required. Recommended for ages 11 and up. This program will run every Wednesday from 2:30 to 4:30 PM unless otherwise noted on our online calendar.

Artisan's Circle, Shute Meeting Room. Thursday, February 19th at 5:30 PM. Join Artisan's Circle, a creative open studio with a relaxed, welcoming space for artists and crafters of all levels to work, connect, and get inspired! Bring your own craft

and supplies (BYOC) and enjoy creating alongside a community of makers. Open to ages 18 and up, no registration required. We meet every other Thursday from 5:30 to 7:00 PM. Check our online calendar for updates!

Shute Children's

Storytime at the Shute Shute Children's Room. Mondays at 10 AM and Tuesdays at 12 PM. What's better than a good story? Sharing it with friends! Join Miss Val at the Shute Library for Fairytale Fun!

Bored?Games! Shute Library Meeting Room. Tuesday, Thursday and Friday during February Break, 2-5 PM. Don't spend your February break being bored - play board games instead! Bring your friends and family to the Shute Library and engage in some friendly competition. Choose from our variety of board games - Jenga, Checkers, Mouse Trap, Battleship, and so many more - and settle in for some classic fun! Prefer to play solo? Try solving a puzzle! Join us, and bust boredom with this community program.

Master Builders: Lego Freeplay: Shute Children's Room.

Thursdays from 3-5PM. Free-play session with Legos and other building blocks. Bring a buddy, or make a new one, as you explore your imagination

## Everett Arts & Culture Events

**In 2025 The Everett Cultural Council granted over \$30,000 to over 30 projects for the Everett Community.**

**From public art and performances to cultural festivals and educational programs, our goal is to bring meaningful, enriching experiences to the people of Everett.**

**The Everett Cultural Council is seeking passionate, civic-minded individuals who want to help shape the cultural life of our city. Serving on the council is an opportunity to support local artists and organizations, help determine funding for community projects, and be a part of making Everett a more vibrant, inclusive place to live.**

**If you're interested in joining the Everett Cultural Council or learning more, please email us at:**

**EverettCulturalCouncil@ci.everett.ma.us**

## McGonagle, House pass bill to require apprenticeships in public construction

Special to the Independent

Last week, Rep. Joe McGonagle, along with his colleagues in the Massachusetts House of Representatives passed legislation that seeks to increase the state's trades' workforce by requiring the hiring of apprentices for all contracts awarded for public works projects over \$10 million. Effective a year after signed into law, this bill would require projects to hire apprentices to work 5 percent of the total amount of hours worked, which would scale up to 10 percent in three years and 15 percent in four years.

"As someone who spent the majority of their career in the construction industry, I know the great importance of the trades and making these jobs accessible," said McGonagle. "I am thrilled my colleagues in the House also recognize this investment and made this legislation a priority this session. Skilled workers are the backbone of our workforce and we must keep up with demand by



Rep. McGonagle visiting with the Joint Committee for Children's Healthcare Everett (JCCH) to discuss their priorities in serving the youth of Everett this year.

training a new generation of workers. Thank you to Speaker Mariano and Chairs Decker and McMurtry for their hard work on this bill. This is a piece of legislation I am especially proud of."

"Investing in the trades' workforce will bolster work-

force development, ensuring that the Commonwealth is able to meet the growing demands for new infrastructure projects. Apprenticeships can also lead to the creation of more union jobs and help to replace highly skilled workers who are aging out of the workforce,"

said House Speaker Ronald J. Mariano (D-Quincy). "I want to thank Chair McMurtry and Chair Decker for their work on this legislation, as well as all my colleagues in the House for recognizing its importance."

Public agencies must require, as a condition of awarding a construction contract over \$10 million for any public works, that all construction managers, general contractors and subcontractors maintain or participate in an apprentice program, approved by the Division of Apprentice Standards (DAS), for each apprenticeshipable occupation represented in their workforce. Construction managers, general contractors and subcontractors must register all apprentices with DAS and comply with applicable apprentice-to-journeyperson ratios established by a trades licensing board or the Division.

The bill provides for an exemption upon a written determination by the public agency that, after good-faith solicitation, no qualified and respon-

sible bidder maintaining or participating in an apprentice program is reasonably available for a specific trade or scope of work. Any construction manager, general contractor and subcontractor who fails to maintain or participate in an apprentice program and is not exempt cannot be deemed a responsible and eligible bidder.

The bill also requires prevailing wage payments by employers to include apprenticeship programs approved by DAS within Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development and operated in compliance with DAS. The bill establishes a Special Commission on Apprenticeships to study and make recommendations on the development, accessibility, quality, funding and utilization of apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs across all industry sectors.

The bill passed the House of Representatives 154-1 and now goes to the Senate for consideration.

## Garcia, Sousa bill to designate domestic workers' rights day passes house unanimously

Special to the Independent

The Massachusetts House of Representatives unanimously passed legislation co-filed by Representative Judith Garcia (D-Chelsea) and Representative Priscila Sousa (D-Framingham) to formally designate June 16th as Domestic Workers' Rights Day across the Commonwealth.

The bill, H.3417, recognizes the essential contributions of domestic workers—including nannies, house cleaners, caregivers, home health aides, cooks,

gardeners, personal drivers, and other household workers—whose labor sustains households, families, and communities, yet has historically gone unrecognized and undervalued.

"This unanimous vote marks an important step in how Massachusetts recognizes domestic work," said Rep. Garcia. "Domestic Workers' Rights Day ensures this labor and the advocacy behind it are formally acknowledged year after year."

The legislation builds on Massachusetts' leadership in



Rep. Garcia at the legislative briefing she co-hosted with Rep. Sousa last June, celebrating domestic workers and uplifting the importance of this bill.

worker protections following the landmark 2014 Massachusetts Domestic Workers' Bill of Rights. Designating June 16th creates a permanent opportunity for reflection, education, and celebration of domestic workers' lived experiences, organizing efforts, and contributions to the Commonwealth.

Rep. Garcia and Rep. Sousa have worked closely with advocacy organizations and domestic workers across the state, including hosting a legislative briefing at the State House where workers shared personal testimony

about their experiences and the importance of recognition and respect.

"Domestic workers are part of the backbone of our communities. In cities like Chelsea and Everett, many residents take real pride in their work because it allows them to provide for their families, fuel our local economy,

and create opportunities for the next generation, including putting their kids through college," said Rep. Garcia. "This bill is about recognizing the dignity of work and ensuring the people who keep our households and

communities running are seen, respected, and protected. I also want to thank Leader Mike Moran of Boston who filed this legislation years ago and entrusted us to carry it forward to this historic moment."

With unanimous support from the House, the bill now moves forward in the legislative process, marking a concrete step toward formally recognizing the work of domestic workers across Massachusetts, including many who live and work in Chelsea, Everett, and surrounding communities.

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## Willcox // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

derland Ballroom) in Revere. Willcox, 23, will be squaring off against Angel Urena of Mexico, a 25-year-old boxer with seven knockouts among his 11 professional victories. Willcox has been campaigning in the lightweight division (135 pounds).

Contacted this week by telephone at his new training location at the Broadway Boxing Club in Saugus (formerly in the old Everett High School building where the roof is undergoing repairs), Shea reported, "My training has been going very well. I finished sparring sessions, and now we're just sharpening up for the fight. I feel great. It's probably the best I've felt yet going into a fight. I know I have a tough opponent, but we'll be ready for whomever is in front of us."

Shea's professional training and managerial team consists of his father, Dennis Willcox, and Joe Ricciardi.

"I can't thank my father enough for everything he does, and my coach, Joe, who is awesome," said Shea. "They get their boxers ready, they keep us on the right track for everything, inside and outside the ring. And I want to give a shoutout to the third man in my corner and my other trainer, Michael Firicano."

Shea Willcox played Pop Warner football in Everett and became a running back

and safety for head coach John DiBiaso's Crimson Tide. Shea helped Everett win two Super Bowls, playing on the same team with his brother, All-Scholastic quarterback Jake Willcox, who went on to excel at Milton Academy and Brown University.

Shea remains close friends with his former teammate, Anthony Norcia, one of Everett's all-time great wide receivers who later starred at Merrimack College.

"We're friends to this day," related Shea. "Anthony is doing very well. He has a great job now. He has a daughter and she is my goddaughter."

DiBiaso remembers Shea Willcox during the Super Bowl years.

"Shea was a tough football player. He played running back for us," recalled DiBiaso. "He comes from a great family, with great parents, a great brother. I'm not surprised at all that Shea is having a successful boxing career."

Dennis Willcox is looking for a big year ahead for his son, but the team is not overlooking Saturday's fight.

"We're all excited about this fight," said Dennis Willcox. "Our goal is to fight 3-4 times in 2026 and step up as we go. We're hoping that Everett will come out and support Shea [Saturday in Medford]."

The promoters for the box-

ing show are Nolan Brothers Boxing Promotions. The Nolan brothers, identical twins Matt and Mark, are lifelong Watertown residents born in Watertown. They are Middle School

teachers by day, and gym owners and boxing coaches by night. The brothers are at the forefront of reviving Boston's boxing scene from every corner of the sport. Also fighting

on the card is Medford native "Iron" Greg Bono.

Tickets for the boxing show can be purchased on Eventbrite.com or at the door.

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH SERVICE

## SUNDAY, FEB. 15TH

### 3:00PM

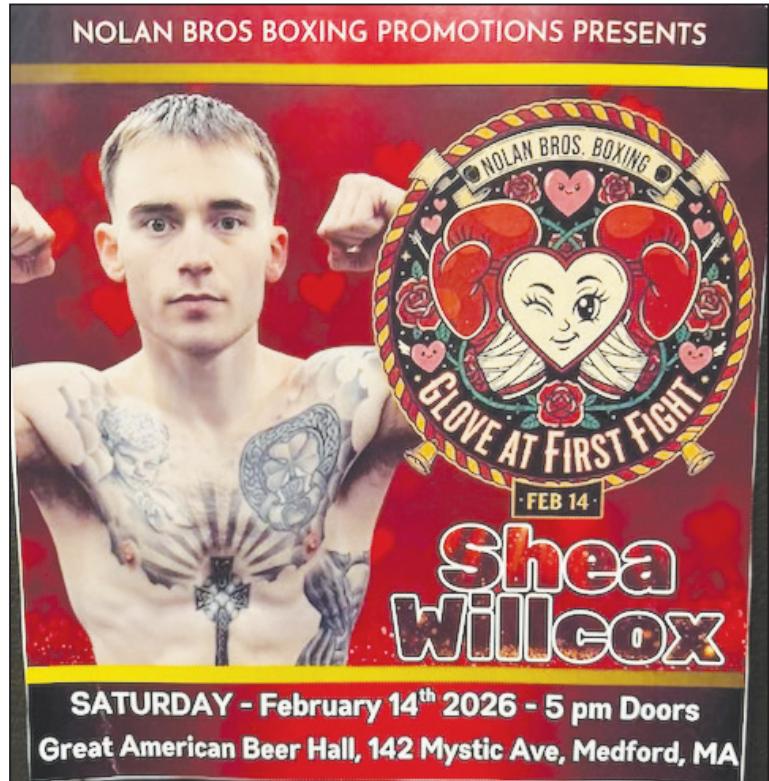
**GUEST PREACHER:**  
**REV. JEFFERY BROWN**  
**ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF**  
**TWELFTH BAPTIST CHURCH**  
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Promotional poster for Shea Willcox's upcoming match.

Please visit [everettindependent.com](http://everettindependent.com)

# Everett youth group creates podcast about the dangers of vape marketing

Special to the Independent

TEASA (Teens in Everett Against Substance Abuse), a youth group for Everett teens, has developed a creative project after receiving a Creative Spark Grant from The 84 Organization, resulting in a podcast episode that analyzes vaping advertisements and discusses marketing strategies targeting young people.

In connection, the group created a workshop titled, "Behind the Advertisement," which teaches participants how tobacco and nicotine companies use various marketing tactics to subtly target youth. Attendees analyze real advertisements and short podcast clips to break

down how these ads are designed to appear harmless and appealing.

The 2025 Youth Risk Behavior Survey showed that one in five (18 percent) students from grade 6-12 surveyed have tried a vape in their lifetime and six percent in the past month. TEASA youth sought to highlight the importance of students being aware of the marketing tactics companies have used beyond flavoring.

TEASA youth leaders organized and hosted their first listening session and workshop on January 22, with more than 36 participants in attendance. TEASA youth leaders Anna Pereira and Hailey Castaneda, 11th grade students at Everett

High School, presented and facilitated the workshop and kept the audience engaged. "I learned a lot about the way these companies target youth and also had fun which made me interested in joining this group," said one participant. The workshop was well-received, and many attendees were able to understand the tactics and point to the ways youth are being targeted by companies.

The event was also a launch for their podcast series called TEASA Talks where many more episodes will be released. The most recent episode can be found at <https://sites.google.com/challiance.org/teasatalks/home> and on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/b27qp3F0Gfs>

Founded in 2005, TEASA is a program for teens who live and go to school in Everett, focusing on substance use prevention, mental health awareness, and leadership development. Its values are Youth, Community, Leadership, and Advocacy. TEASA is supported and led by the Department of Community Health at Cambridge Health Alliance.

Cambridge Health Alliance is an academic community health system committed to providing high-quality care in Boston's metro-north communities. It includes two acute care hospital campuses, an inpatient child and adolescent psychiatry specialty campus, a network

of primary care and specialty practices, and robust community programs through its regional Department of Community Health and the Cambridge Public Health Department. CHA has expertise in primary care, specialty care and mental health/substance use services, as well as caring for diverse and complex populations. Its patients have seamless access to advanced care through a system affiliation with Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. CHA is a Harvard Medical School Teaching Hospital and is also affiliated with the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Harvard School of Dental Medicine, and Tufts University School of Medicine.

## 2026 Candidate nomination papers now available

The process of qualifying for the 2026 ballot has officially begun, the Secretary of the Commonwealth's Elections Division announced today. Candidates seeking to run in the September 1st State Primaries or the November 3rd State Election may now obtain nomination papers.

Nomination papers, the petitions candidates use to request that their name be added to the ballot, are available at the Sec-

retary of the Commonwealth's offices today. Papers will also be made available in select city and town election offices later in the week.

Offices on Massachusetts ballots this year include U.S. Senator, U.S. Representative, Governor and Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of the Commonwealth, State Treasurer, State Auditor, Governor's Councillor, State Senator, State Rep-

resentative, District Attorney, and Register of Probate. Certain areas of the state may have additional county offices on the ballot.

Candidates for district and county offices have until April 28th to gather signatures from registered voters and submit them to local registrars for certification. They will then have until May 26th to file their papers with the State Elections Division.

Candidates for federal and

statewide offices running in the Democratic and Republican Primaries must submit their nomination papers to local registrars no later than May 5th, and then file the certified papers with the Elections Division by June 2nd.

Non-party candidates for federal and statewide offices will have until July 28th to turn in their nomination papers at local registrars' offices, and until August 25th to file them with the Elections Division.

The State Elections Division is located on the 17th Floor at One Ashburton Place, in Boston. The Secretary of the Commonwealth's Western Office is located at 436 Dwight Street, Springfield, while the Southeastern Office may be found at 218 South Main Street, Fall River.

Candidates may find additional information on how to run for office on the Elections Division's website

In all things we go strictly by The Book.

### GLENDALE CHRISTIAN LIGHTHOUSE CHURCH

Our people will welcome you warmly and make you feel at home.



We are happy to announce that Jasmine Grace (the founder of Beauty from Ashes Ministry (formerly Jasmine Grace Outreach) will be our guest as well as others from their ministry on Sunday, February 22 at 10:30

Their webpage states that they exist "to help women break free from drug addiction, sexual exploitation, and the hopelessness that follows."

We are also receiving essential hygiene items. If you would like to make a donation stop by the church any Sunday until February 22.

"Worship the Lord in Spirit and Truth."

Rev. Larry Russi, Sr. Pastor

701 Broadway - Everett (617) 387-7458

## Reservations for the 2026 camping season at DCR Parks are now open to the public

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) announced that reservations for the 2026 state park camping season will open to the public on Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at 9 a.m. Camping season at DCR's 25 campgrounds will begin in April and continue through October.

"Camping at a DCR park is a cherished tradition for families and friends from all over – many of whom return to the same campground year after year, and in some cases for decades," said DCR Commissioner Nicole LaChapelle. "Spending time together outdoors strengthens relationships, creates lasting memories, and helps foster the vital connection between people and

nature, along with a shared responsibility to care for these special places."

Campers should note the following prior to booking a reservation:

- Reservations are available up to four months in advance of arrival.
- Same-day reservations are available until 2 p.m. daily through ReserveAmerica
- Campers should fill out all required fields of the reservation application at the time of booking to ensure a smooth arrival.
- Visitors without a reservation are not allowed in campsites; however, day-use areas are available for gathering and outdoor activities.
- All pets must have physical proof of valid rabies vaccination.

tion. Entry may be denied at check-in if paper verification cannot be provided.

### Campground-Specific Updates

• Fans of camping at Mount Greylock State Reservation and the Boston Harbor Islands are encouraged to monitor DCR's website and social media accounts for updates on the camping schedule.

• Savoy Mountain State Forest's campground will close July 31, 2026, to accommodate the construction of a new bathhouse.

• This season, Washburn Island will be available for camping on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday

See PARKS Page 11

# Aquarium ready to welcome guests during February school vacation week with special programming, outdoor games, and winter treats

Special to the Independent

The New England Aquarium is getting ready for the upcoming February school vacation week when it will offer special programming, winter treats, and outdoor games in addition to daily animal presentations and films.

The Aquarium is extending its hours from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily from February 16 to 20 when Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Maine public school students have vacation weeks. Guests will see a refreshed look and feel throughout the Aquarium, following the installation of new exhibit and wayfinding signage. Tickets can be purchased online in advance at neaq.org. New England residents receive \$5 off standard Aquarium admission or admission and movie combinations.

Highlights for the week include:

## Special themed programming

- With the winter games underway, guests will have opportunities to learn about aquarium "athletes." Special programming includes a themed scavenger hunt, roving biofacts highlighting athletic animals, and activities in the Aquarium's interactive educational space, the Exploration Station.

- Guests can also enjoy daily presentations with the penguins, sea lions, and harbor seals, along with the residents of the Giant Ocean Tank. Join an educator along the exhibit path for an up-close experience with one of the Aquarium's animal ambassadors. Full schedule available [here](#).

## Winter treats, igloos, and games on the plaza

- From Feb. 14 through Feb. 22 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., the Aquarium's food truck-style outpost, Central Snack Bar, will be selling hot chocolate with toppings including whipped cream, marshmallows, and caramel. The snack bar will also offer hot apple cider, coffee, and a menu of snacks for purchase.

- Guests will have the opportunity to enjoy their snack bar items inside igloos set up on the Aquarium's front plaza from Feb. 16 through Feb. 22. There will also be lawn games offering fun for all ages.

## New film premiering in Simons Theatre

- The Aquarium's Simons Theatre will begin screening *Penguins: A Love Story*, a new documentary recounting remarkable stories of penguin courtship, connection, and resiliency from South Africa



PHOTO COURTESY VANESSA KAHN/NEW ENGLAND AQUARIUM

A New England Aquarium trainer feeds Atlantic harbor seal "Trumpet" during an enrichment session.

to Australia. The film debuts on the Simons Theatre's giant screen Friday, Feb. 13.

- The theater will also be showing the films *Shark Kingdom* and *Call of the Dolphins*.

- Tickets and show times are available at all Aquarium ticketing locations by calling 617-973-5206 or by visiting [neaq.org](#).

## WINTERACTIVE sculpture

- The New England Aquar-

ium is part of Boston's public art experience WINTERACTIVE, hosting an interactive sculpture on its front plaza. "Whale Tales," a 96-inch-tall art installation of a North Atlantic right whale's tail, lights up and provides whale vocalizations as visitors wind a crank. WINTERACTIVE runs through March 29, welcoming visitors 24/7 to view public art at 18 locations across the city's downtown business district.

The New England Aquarium is a nonprofit research and conservation organization that has protected and cared for our ocean and marine animals for more than 55 years. We provide science-based solutions and help shape policies that create measurable change to address threats to the ocean faces. We inspire action through discovery and help create engaged, resilient communities.

## Healey-Driscoll Administration announces \$6.8 million in fire department grants

Special to the Independent

The Healey-Driscoll Administration announced that applications are being accepted for two competitive grant programs that will deliver nearly \$7 million to fund safety equipment for Massachusetts firefighters and life safety education for children and older adults.

"These grant programs go directly to the safety of our firefighters and the most vulnerable residents of the communities they protect," said Governor Maura Healey. "From turnout gear and rescue tools to age-appropriate education for young students and senior citizens, we're helping to keep Massachusetts one of the most fire-safe states in the nation."

"The Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant program funds gear that will help firefighters protect themselves, each other, and their communities," said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. "And the SAFE and Senior SAFE program supports life-saving prevention and education tools tailored to the people most at risk in a fire. We encourage all our cities and towns to apply for these grants."

"Each year, the Firefighter Safety Equipment Grants, SAFE grants, and Senior SAFE grants deliver millions of dollars to Massachusetts communities to prevent fires and protect people," said State Fire Marshal Davine. "We are deeply grateful to Governor Healey, Lieutenant Governor Driscoll,

and the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security for making these vital resources available to the Massachusetts fire service."

The FY26 Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant program makes up to \$5 million available to Massachusetts fire departments to reimburse them for eligible gear purchases. The flexibility of the grant program allows departments to make purchasing decisions based on their unique needs and resources, but it emphasizes compliance with OSHA and NFPA standards.

The FY26 Student Awareness of Fire Education (SAFE) and Senior SAFE grants offer \$1.8 million to fund fire and life safety education for school-age children and people aged 65

and older. This latter group is at greatest risk of death or serious injury in a fire at home.

Both grant programs are offered by the Executive Office of Public Safety & Security

through the Department of Fire Services. To learn more about these and other resources for the fire service, visit the DFS website.

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## Excellence that began in Everett: Paul Sagarino named Deputy City Manager of Finance of Chelsea

By Cary Shuman

Paul Sagarino, a member of one of Everett's most outstanding and prominent families, has been named the new Deputy City Manager of Finance for the City of Chelsea.

Chelsea City Manager Fidel Maltez appointed Sagarino to the key leadership position in January. He succeeds Michael

Mason Jr., who now serves as Director of Finance and Operations for Randolph Public Schools.

### Proud name, prolific achievements

The name "Sagarino" is well known and highly respected throughout Everett for its scholastic and athletic achievements, and the family's con-

tinuing, generous support of the city in multiple endeavors. Paul Sagarino is the son of Paul Sagarino Sr. and Joanne Sagarino of Everett. He is the older brother of John "Bubba" Sagarino, the greatest junior high basketball player in Our Lady of Grace School history and arguably one of Everett High's best backcourtmen of all time, followed by a superb career at

Bentley University. John was a leader of Coach John DiBiaso's 1990-91 team that played in the Division 1 state championship game, falling to an undefeated (25-0) Springfield Central team in the final.

"He's only a year younger than I am, so he got all the athletic talent," said Paul Jr. proudly. "My brother had a very nice career."

An excellent student, Paul attended local schools and graduated from Everett High School in 1989.

"I loved growing up in Everett," said Paul. "I played basketball and tennis in high school. I was a reserve when my brother was a starter as a freshman. I dealt with a lot of adversity being the older brother while my younger brother is starting, and I'm on the bench."

During his educational experience at Everett High School, Paul said he was inspired by Mr. John Dolan, the late sociology teacher, coach, and administrator.

Interestingly Mr. Dolan's son, John Dolan Jr., was also a terrific basketball player at Our Lady of Grace and Pope John XXIII High School.

"Mr. Dolan was one of the most influential teachers of all time that I had at Everett High," said Paul. "He was just a great all-around teacher, mentor, and friend. He played basketball at the University of Maine and his claim to fame was that he covered Dr. J (future NBA Hall of Famer Julius Erving) when Dr. J. was at UMass. He told us that story a thousand times. I'm still friends with Mr. Dolan's nephew, Robbie, who was the mayor of Melrose."

### UMass and Northeastern graduate and a Certified Public Accountant

Following his four years at Everett High School, Paul Sagarino Jr. went on to attend the University of Massachusetts/Amherst where he received his undergraduate degree in Accounting. Paul also holds a master's degree in Public Administration from Northeastern University and is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA), a prestigious title that is quite beneficial in the finance industry and one that set the foundation to Paul's flourishing career in state and municipal government.



Paul Sagarino, Deputy City Manager of Finance.

### A position of leadership in an All-America City

As Chelsea's Deputy City Manager of Finance, Sagarino will draw on his more than 20 years of municipal finance expertise to provide executive-level leadership coordinating the City's complex financial operations, including budget development, long-range forecasting, grant administration, and policy formulation across multiple departments.

"We are very fortunate to welcome Paul Sagarino to Chelsea as the City's new Deputy City Manager of Finance," said City Manager Fidel Maltez, who led Chelsea to a national All-America City Award in 2025. "He was an ideal candidate for the position and brings a skill set shaped by many years as a municipal leader and public accountant. I look forward to working with him as we develop the upcoming budget and strive to maintain Chelsea's nearly 30 years of financial excellence."

"I am excited for the opportunity to contribute to the growth and success of the City of Chelsea," said Sagarino. "I look forward to working with City Manager Maltez and the City Council to build upon the City's strong financial foundation and continue the City's practice of excellent financial management. Chelsea has so many great things going on and I am happy to be a part of it."

Sagarino will be responsible for assisting City Manager Fidel Maltez in the preparation of the City's annual operating and capital budgets, financial forecasting, collective bargaining, risk management, and developing and recommending city financial policies.

Prior to accepting the role



**City of Everett**

**BLACK  
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MONTH  
2026**

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**FEB 19, 5 PM**

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**ALL MONTH**

Zion Church Ministries Black History Month Service

City of Everett Plaque Unveiling for Mr. Matthew W. Bullock

City of Everett Black History Month Trivia on Social Media

## Track // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Senior captain Lucas Nunez has hold of the baton as he crosses the finish line in the 4 x 800 relay at last week's GBL Championship Meet.

won the 55m dash with a sprint of 6.65, took second in the long jump, and ran a leg of the victorious 4 x 200 relay team to tally 20.5 points for the Everett column on the scoresheet.

Senior captain Kayshaun Eveillard turned in the top individual performance, winning the 300 meter dash with his clocking of 35.20, which not only was a healthy 1.4 seconds faster than the second-place finisher, but also qualified Kayshaun for the National Meet in March.

The Tide's third GBL crown of the night came from the boys' 4 x 200 relay team of junior Sandesh Pun, Joseph, senior Saymon Silva, and Eveillard, who won their race with a clocking of 1:35.03, which was 5.34 seconds faster than the 2nd place Somerville relay team.

Additional point-scorers for the Everett boys were:

-- Gaetano Foster scored six points with his 3rd place performance in the shot-put;

-- Lucas Nunez also scored six points with a 3rd place performance in the 1000;

-- Ian Herrera added two points to the Tide's total with a 5th place in the 55m hurdles;

-- The Tide's 4 x 400 relay quartet of Bentley Pyram, Ian Herrera, Pratosh Darai, and Jonathan Hernandez scored four points with their 4th-place finish; and



Everett star trackman Kayshaun Eveillard flexes some muscles atop the first-place podium after winning the 300m dash at last week's GBL Championship Meet.

-- The Everett 4 x 800 relay foursome of Cristopher Portillo Criuz, Carlos Pagan Landeo, Jereny Whitlow, and Lucas Nunez added two points to the Everett cause with a 5th place finish;

The Crimson Tide boys tallied 58 points on the night to land in 4th place in the team standings.

"It was a great meet for the team with a lot of personal records," said EHS head coach Jehu Cimea. "The team was so focused and left everything on the track, and it showed in the results. I couldn't be prouder of them."

On the girls side, Graziela Foster was the top performing Lady Crimson Tide team member, scoring six points with a third-place finish in the shot-put with a throw of 29'-7.50".

Adrianna Figueroa added two points with a 5th place effort in the 55m hurdles

The 4 x 200 relay quartet of Isabella Mitrano, Marissa Cadet, Zoe Massiah, and Shinead Riley scored four points with a fourth-place finish.

The 4 x 400 foursome of Sofia Chavez Velasquez, Deysi Bianco Suchite, Amina Mekic, and Adrianna Figueroa came across the line in fifth place to add two points to the Everett total. The Lady Crimson Tide finished in sixth place in the eight-team competition.



A joyous Kervens Joseph displays some tremendous vertical leap as he "elbow-bumps" teammate Saymon Silva after their first-place victory in the 4 x 200 relay at the GBL Championship Meet last Thursday.



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# Everett celebrates Black History Month

With community events and interactive trivia

Special to the Independent

To honor Black History Month, the City of Everett will host a series of free and interactive community events throughout February. These events invite residents to celebrate the contributions, achievements and resilience of Everett's Black community while learning about the stories and legacies of notable Black residents who have helped shape the city.

Residents are encouraged to participate in the following events:

• Feb. 15: Beginning at 3 p.m. at 757 Broadway, Zion Church

Ministries, in partnership with the City of Everett, invites the community to attend a special Black History Month Service in recognition and celebration of Black history, culture and faith. This service will feature guest preacher Rev. Jeffery Brown, Associate Pastor of Twelfth Baptist Church in Boston. The service will be hosted by Zion Church Ministries, led by Senior Pastor Bishop Robert G. Brown. All are welcome to attend this community gathering as we come together in reflection, unity and celebration during Black History Month. For more information, call

Zion Church Ministries at 617-389-8357.

• Feb. 19: Beginning at 5 p.m. on Spring Street, Join the City of Everett's Historical Commission and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Department for a Black History Month plaque dedication honoring Matthew Bullock, a trailblazing figure in Everett's history. Bullock was the first African-American coach of a predominantly white high school football team. After enrolling at Everett High School in 1896, he quickly distinguished himself as a standout student and athlete. Following a challenging season in 1898, Bullock was selected to lead the football team as player-coach in 1899, rebuild-

ing team unity and guiding Everett High School to its third state championship. Bullock's legacy extended far beyond athletics. He later attended Dartmouth College, served as Athletic Director at Morehouse College and Alabama A&M, worked as an Assistant Massachusetts Attorney General and received an honorary degree from Harvard Law School. The plaque dedication will take place on Spring Street. Refreshments will immediately follow at the Edward G. Connolly Center (90 Chelsea Street). All are welcome to attend and help honor this remarkable pioneer whose impact continues to resonate in Everett and beyond.

• All month: The City of

Everett is hosting Black History Month Trivia. From Monday through Thursday, a new quiz will be posted each day on the City of Everett's Facebook and Instagram pages. For residents who don't use social media, printed weekly quizzes will be available at the ECTV & Communications Office on the 3rd floor of City Hall. The top three participants with the most correct answers will be featured on the City's social media channels and in local newspapers. Winners will be announced at the end of the month.

For the full list of programming happening throughout the month of February, visit the City of Everett's online calendar at [cityofeverett.com](http://cityofeverett.com).

## EHS Roundup

### EHS BOYS EDGE NORTH ON SENIOR NIGHT

The Everett High boys basketball team celebrated Senior Night in appropriate fashion with a 47-40 victory over North High of Worcester Monday evening.

Everett led from the outset and held leads at all of the quarter-markers, 16-12, 26-21, and 36-31. However, the Tide never could quite put the visiting Polar Bears away, and a seven-point run by North late in the fourth quarter brought the game back to level, 40-40, with 2:33 to play.

It was at that point that senior captain Cristian Vasquez decided to take matters into his own hands at both ends of the floor. Cristian made a nice cut underneath on an inbounds play and finished it off with a

strong move to the bucket to give Everett a 42-40 lead with 1:44 to go.

Vasquez then made steals on North's next two possessions and, with less than a minute to go, coolly sank five-of-six clutch free throws down the stretch when he was intentionally fouled -- thereby accounting for all seven of Everett's points in the final 1:44 -- to seal the victory.

Vasquez led Everett in the scoring column with 19 points and junior Jayden Alsaindor reached double figures with 18 points.

"Our boys put together a gritty performance to secure a 47-40 win over a tough Worcester North squad," said EHS head coach Gerard Boyce. "Coming off a difficult stretch, I was proud of the way our guys locked in defensively to hold Worcester to 40 points.

"We saw continued leadership on the floor, building on the strong offensive performances we've had recently from guys like Cristian Vasquez and Jayden Alsaindor. It was a total team effort to get back into the win column," Boyce continued.

"This win brings our season record to 10-7 and it's the kind of momentum we need as we head into the final push of the schedule," added Boyce.

Last Tuesday, the Tide dropped a 54-45 decision to Greater Boston League (GBL) rival Somerville.

"This game was a wake-up call for us," said Boyce. "Give credit to Somerville; they came out hungry and played with a level of intensity we didn't match early on."

"To be honest, I think we were guilty of looking past them and didn't have our focus where it needed to be," continued Boyce, whose Crimson Tide had defeated the Highlanders in their first meeting, 59-50, and were tied for third place with Somerville in the GBL entering the game. "In this league, if you aren't mentally locked in from the jump, you're going to pay for it. We let our guard down, and it showed in our execution."

"We'll use this as a lesson that we can't take any opponent for granted if we want to get to where we're trying to go. It's on to the next game," Boyce

added.

The Crimson Tide, who stand at 10-7 overall and 7-4 in the GBL, need one more victory to assure themselves of the .500 record needed to punch their ticket for a Journey to the Tourney.

They were scheduled to play at GBL foe Medford yesterday (Tuesday) and will host GBL rival Revere tomorrow (Thursday) evening at 7:00.

They will travel to non-league opponents Newton South next Tuesday and to Beverly next Wednesday before wrapping up their regular season next Thursday at Lynn Classical.

### EHS GIRLS FIGHT HARD VS. SOMERVILLE

The Everett High girls basketball team came up on the short end of a 60-41 decision to first-place Somerville, which is undefeated in the Greater Boston League, last week.

Kat Landaverde Vazquez led Everett in the scoring column with 11 points and pulled down seven. Casey Martinez hit for nine points and made four steals.

Although her team fell short on the scoreboard, EHS head coach Riley Dunn was pleased with her team's effort on the court.

"Despite the score, we overcame adversity and stayed

relentless until the final horn buzzed," said Dunn. "We had teammates step up. Ashley Heath got her first start of her varsity career and played with incredible hustle on defense and composure on offense.

"We played great team basketball for two quarters," Dunn continued. "We just needed to build our legs to play a complete game. There was a lot of great stuff within those four quarters, so we will build from there. We continue to get better."

"I am so proud and fortunate to coach this group," added Dunn. "I know that tomorrow's practice they will be ready to adjust what we need to, take coaching, and prepare to get a bounce-back win. Having athletes who are coachable and mentally-tough through the challenges is a gift."

Dunn and her crew, whose contest this past Saturday afternoon with North High School of Worcester was postponed, were scheduled to meet Medford last night (Tuesday) that will be highlighted by Senior Night festivities.

The Lady Crimson Tide then will hit the road to Revere tomorrow (Thursday) evening, to Lynn Classical Friday evening, and to Haverhill on Sunday before returning home to host Gloucester next Tuesday, Lynn Classical next Wednesday, and North next Thursday. All of those home games will tip-off at 1:00 PM.

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## Parks //

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

nights. The campground at Washburn Island is accessible by private boat only. Please note that there is no on-site parking at the Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve or at the Town of Falmouth parking lot at White's Landing. Campers are responsible for finding suitable parking arrangements.

Since last season, DCR has made several improvements to its campsites including the new yurts at both Clarksburg State Park and Nickerson State Park.

A list of DCR campsites can be found at DCR's camping webpage. Campsites vary in offered accommodations, including showers, flush toilets, and R.V. water and power hookups.

Yurts can be reserved at Myles Standish State Forest, Nickerson State Park, October Mountain State Forest, Clarksburg State Park, Otter River State Forest, Shawme Cromwell State Forest, Wells State Park and Willard Brook State Forest. Cabins can be rented at Mohawk Trail State Forest and Savoy Mountain State Forest. For more information on camping in cabins and yurts visit DCR's cabin and yurt camping webpage.

Additionally, approximately 20 of DCR's campgrounds have accessible campsites that all provide accessible parking, accessible restrooms, and a flat, firm and stable surface for camping. For more information on accessible campsites visit DCR's accessible camping webpage.

Last year, DCR accepted nearly 65,000 camping reservations at parks across the state. For more information and questions about the 2026 camping season, visit the agency's website or email [dcr.campinginfo@mass.gov](mailto:campinginfo@mass.gov).

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) oversees nearly half a million acres of land, making up one of the largest and most diverse state park sys

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## OBITUARIES

### Anthony R. Medeiros Jr.

Retiree of the US Postal Service and as Facilities Manager of the Everett Housing Authority

Anthony R. Medeiros, Jr. of Everett, entered into eternal rest on Saturday, February 7, 2026 at home, surrounded by his loving family. He was 88 years old.

Born in Cambridge, Tony lived in Everett for most of his life. He was retired from the United States Postal Service, the Town of Arlington as Facilities Manager and from the Everett Housing Authority as Facilities Manager. Tony proudly served in the United States Air Force during the Korean Conflict and was honorably discharged.

Tony was the dear son of the late Anthony R. and Elizabeth (Ferreira) Medeiros; the beloved husband of the late AnnMarie (Umano) Medeiros for over 59 years prior to her passing in 2021; the dear and devoted father of Lisa Malone of Medford, Kristine Lee and her husband, Peter of Vermont, Anthony S. Medeiros and his wife, Simone of Lynn and Marie E. Medeiros of Everett; brother of the late Barbara Louise Medeiros; the uncle of Mark Medeiros; the loving grandfather of John Lee, Danielle Carroll, Jake Malone, Nicholas Medeiros, Victoria Medeiros and the late Ashley



Lee and loving great-grandfather of Isabella Reed, Destiny Reed, Bailey Reed, Benjamin Lee, Ashley Lee and Colton Carroll.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Tony's visitation in the Cafasso & Sons Funeral Home, 65 Clark St. (Corner of Main St.) Everett, Thursday, February 12 from 8 to 9:30 a.m. followed by his Funeral Mass in the Immaculate Conception Church, 487 Broadway, Everett at 10 a.m. Burial will be private. In lieu of flowers, contributions in Anthony's memory to the Immaculate Conception Church, 489 Broadway, Everett, MA 02149, would be sincerely appreciated.

Parking with attendants on duty.

### Sagarino //

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

in Chelsea, Sagarino served as Finance Director and Town Accountant for the Town of Bedford. He previously served as

Burlington's Town Administrator and held finance positions with the Town for 14 years. He serves on the Massachusetts Municipal Association's Fiscal Affairs Committee and holds a Certificate in Costing Labor Contracts from the University of Connecticut School of Public Policy.

Sagarino said his reception in Chelsea (a GBL rival of Everett in sports) has been warm and uplifting.

"Everyone has been extremely gracious," said Paul. Everybody I talk to has some sort of connection to Everett, so it feels like home here. I'm really excited."

(Information from the City of Chelsea's official announcement was used in compiling this story).

### Anthony "Tony" Pisapia

Former owner of Everett variety store

Anthony "Tony" Pisapia of Andover, formerly of Everett, passed away, peacefully, surrounded by his loving family on Monday, February 2, 2026. He was 80 years of age.

Born in Cava De' Tirreni, Italy, Anthony lived in Everett for many years before settling in Andover. Anthony served proudly in the U. S. Army and was honorably discharged. He owned and operated a variety store in Everett for many years and later worked at Cambridge Isotope Laboratories in Andover, retiring after dedicating over 27 years of service to the company.

Anthony was the dear son of the late Anna (Navarro) and Vincenzo Pisapia; the beloved husband of Joanne G. (Nawrocki) Pisapia; the dear and devoted father of Anthony V. Pisapia and his wife, Heather of Reading and Marcus R. Pisapia and his fiance', Diana Spiris of Milton; the cherished grandfather to four grandchildren-Hailey Cerasoli, Ava Pisapia, Anthony Pisapia and Sophie Spiris; the dear brother of Rose Marenghi of North Andover, Anna Pisapia of Lynnfield.



and the late Joseph Pisapia, Ferdinand "Fred" Pisapia and his surviving wife, Gail Pisapia. Tony is also survived by his former wife, Patricia (Parsons) Pisapia of Everett, many nieces, cousins and friends.

Relatives and friends attended Anthony's visiting hours in the Cafasso & Sons Funeral Home, 65 Clark St. (Corner of Main St.) Everett on Friday, February 6.. His funeral service was held in the funeral home on Saturday, February 7 followed by Interment with U. S. Army Military Honors at Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett.

## OBITUARIES

All obituaries and death notices will be at a cost of \$195.00 per paper. Includes photo. No word limit.

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# DiDomenico co-hosts State House policy dialogue on poverty

Special to the Independent

Senator Sal N. DiDomenico co-hosted a policy dialogue with Representative Marjorie C. Decker (D-Cambridge) at the Massachusetts State House this past week, convening policy experts, state officials, and nonprofit leaders to discuss the Massachusetts Poverty Commission Report. DiDomenico and Decker Co-Chaired the Massachusetts Poverty Commission which released findings concerning the state of poverty in the Commonwealth and recommendations outlining how the state can address poverty over the next ten years.

Panelists representing state agencies and nonprofit organizations shared insights into the barriers individuals and families face living in poverty, and how difficult it can be to move out of poverty. The speakers highlighted current efforts across our state to address economic insecurity and discussed how the Commission's recommendations can shape new policies and programs moving forward to support people trying to make ends meet.

"As the federal government abandons its role to provide a safety net for our poorest residents, I was inspired by this policy dialogue centered around our clear-eyed report



Senator Sal DiDomenico delivering opening remarks alongside Rep. Marjorie C. Decker,

and how we can make transformative change on the state level," said Senator DiDomenico. "I am proud of this Poverty Commission report because it dissects the state of poverty in our state and takes a long-term view on what Massachusetts can do across all sectors and government bodies to methodically address the fundamental causes of poverty. Amid rising costs, widening inequality, and federal cuts to social services, it is absolutely essential that we follow through on the report's recommendations to ensure all our neighbors can access nutritious foods, live in a safe home, earn a stable income, get the medical care they need, and



Senator Sal DiDomenico alongside most of the policy dialogue panelists (from left to right): Georgia Katsoulomitis, Executive Director of Massachusetts Law Reform Institute (MLRI); Liz Sweet, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA); Senator DiDomenico; Eric Shupin, Deputy Chief of Staff at Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities; Erin McAleer, President and CEO of Project Bread; Dr. Craig Andrade, Associate Dean of Practice & Professor of Community Health Sciences, Boston University School of Public Health; Rep. Decker; Joe Diamond, Executive Director of Massachusetts Association for Community Action (MASSCAP); Lindsay Kenney, Legislative Director, Massachusetts AFL-CIO; and Michael Cole, Acting Commission at Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance, EOHHS.

build wealth for themselves and their families."

"This Commission is an important tool that affirms that poverty is not a state of permanence, but a condition that we can meaningfully alleviate through evidence-based budget and policy choices," said Rep. Decker. "In tough fiscal times it may be counterintuitive, but we need to invest more now in or-

der to avoid even greater costs in the long term."

The Special Legislative Commission to Study Poverty was established by statute in the Fiscal Year 2022 budget and carried out its comprehensive study between April 2024 and June 2025. The 34-member Commission, chaired by Senator DiDomenico and Representative Decker, was tasked

with studying poverty in the Commonwealth and developing recommendations to significantly reduce poverty over the next 10 years. The Poverty Commission's final report, issued in August 2025, provides a comprehensive assessment of poverty in Massachusetts and outlines forward-looking policy recommendations.

# Aquarium's café goes plastic-free as part of sustainability commitment phasing out plastic items a decade in the making for Harbor View Café

Special to the Independent

The New England Aquarium, in collaboration with its hospitality partner, Sodexo Live!, is celebrating the removal of all single-use plastics from its on-site dining and concessions, a milestone that has been a decade in the making.

The Aquarium began the process of eliminating single-use plastics from the Harbor View Café in 2017 to be more environmentally responsible and emphasize the commitment of the institution to protect the blue planet. Utensils, serving ware, beverage bottles, and many food products in the café have been plastic-free for some time, replaced with recyclable or compostable versions. This past year, how-



The Harbor View Café.

ever, marked an important step in the Aquarium's sustainability journey as it worked closely with the Sodexo Live! team to remove 33 percent of its café

menu items that had plastic or non-compostable packaging. This included yogurt cups and boxes of cereal; bags of pretzels, popcorn, and chips; and

individually packaged cookies and desserts.

"Plastics are the most common form of marine debris, and as an ocean conservation organization, it is important that we lead by example—phasing out plastics and reducing waste that goes to landfill," said Suzanne Liola Matus, Vice President of Marketing, Sales, and Visitor Experience at the New England Aquarium.

Among the other changes to the café, individual plastic condiment packages have been replaced with portion-controlled dispensers. Candy and snack packaging can be composted commercially or at home. The dining services team also uses biodegradable cups and compostable to-go containers.

"We're excited to celebrate

this milestone at the café and are proud to support the New England Aquarium's mission by transforming operations in ways that reduce waste, protect ocean health, and prove that sustainability and a great guest experience can go hand in hand," said Juli Shultz, Sodexo Live! General Manager. "This wasn't something that happened overnight, and we're looking forward to seeing the positive impact it will have in the years to come."

As an ocean conservation organization, the New England Aquarium has been steadily working toward removing plastic from its operations over the years. In 2017, it eliminated plastic straws and single-use

See PLASTIC-FREE Page 14

## Team // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

also introduced staff working in the Mayor's Office, including:

- Christopher Connolly, Special Assistant
- Kristin Leonard, Executive Office Manager
- Julianna Yutkins, Assistant to the Mayor

The appointments were

presented to the Everett City Council for consideration and have been referred to the Committee on Legislative Affairs and Elections. The committee will review the appointments before returning them to the full City Council for confirmation.



PHOTOS COURTESY THE CITY OF EVERETT

Mayor Robert J. Van Campen's senior leadership team: (from left) Robert Knox, Jr., Executive Director of City Services; Monica R. Lamboy, Chief Development Officer; Jaclyn Munson, City Solicitor; Mayor Robert Van Campen; Omar Boukili, Chief Administrative and Financial Officer; Ellin Collins, Director of Human Resources; Christopher Connolly, Special Assistant.

Mayor's Office staff: (from left) Julianna Yutkins, Assistant to the Mayor; Mayor Robert Van Campen; Kristin Leonard, Executive Office Manager; Christopher Connolly, Special Assistant.

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## Plastic-free //

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

plastic take-away bags, followed by replacing all plastic beverage bottles with aluminum in 2018. The Aquarium then took the significant step in 2024, in partnership with retail partner Event Network, to replace all plastic products in its gift shop with those that are plastic-free, biodegradable, or constructed from recycled plastic materials.

The New England Aquarium is committed to leading by example by implementing green and sustainable practices across all areas of its operations. This includes using sustainable energy sources, reducing waste, and growing its own live food in-house when possible.

The New England Aquari-

um is a nonprofit research and conservation organization that has protected and cared for our ocean and marine animals for more than 55 years. We provide science-based solutions and help shape policies that create measurable change to address threats the ocean faces. We inspire action through discovery and help create engaged, resilient communities.

Sodexo Live! manages prestigious convention, cultural, and sporting venues and major events all over the world. With 40,000 employees and 500 sites, Sodexo Live! offers clients a range of bespoke catering, sales, and event management services, helping to transform the con-

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submit notices to [legals@everettindependent.com](mailto:legals@everettindependent.com)

### LEGAL NOTICE

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Protection (MassDEP). To obtain more information on this disposal site, please contact Kevin L. McAndrews, LSP for IES, Inc. at 617-623-8880. The Tier Classification Submittal and the Disposal Site file can be viewed at MassDEP website using Release Tracking Number (RTN) 3-51403 at <https://eea-online.eea.state.ma.us/portal/>

2/11/2026  
EV

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The Rehabilitation & Nursing Center	289 Elm St.	Santander Bank	459 Broadway
Fine Market	201 Elm St.	Everett Chamber	467 Broadway
Elm Street Market	178 Elm St.	Everett City Hall	489 Broadway
Elm Street Bakery	173 Elm St.	Monica Meat Market	506 Broadway
Melo's Bakery	171 Elm St.	Pastelaria Restaurant	508 Broadway
Stewart's Restaurant	140 Elm St.	7-Eleven	511 Broadway
Everett Police	45 Elm St.	Dunkin'	514 Broadway
Katherine's Market	134 Ferry St.	McKinnon's Market	620 Broadway
Fine Market	180 Ferry St.	MP Credit Union	650 Broadway
ERA Realty	291 Ferry St.	Century 21	680 Broadway
Eagle Bank	299 Ferry St.	Burrito's Pizza	696 Broadway
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Walgreens	317 Ferry St.	Everett House of Pizza	722 Broadway
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Everett Pizza	176 Chelsea St.	Jalapeño's Restaurant	882 Broadway
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Park Plaza Condos	30 Chelsea St.	Everett Villa	66 Main St.
Express Market	318 Broadway	Everett Variety	80 Main St.
Eagle Bank	350 Broadway	Neighborhood Market	115 Main St.
High End Smoke Shop	378 Broadway	Continental Bakery	119 Main St.
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Walgreens	417 Broadway	Regina's Liquor	203 Main St.
Everett Bank	419 Broadway	7-Eleven	280 Main St.
The Square Deli	421 Broadway	Food Mart	400 Main St.
Smoke Shop	423 Broadway	True Value	403 Main St.
Everett Square Market	445 Broadway	Nana's Pizza	416 Main St.
Chrisillas Deli	447 Broadway	Apt. Building	120 Wyllis Ave.

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## HELP WANTED

### ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

Please see the city of Everett website for the full job posting, [cityofeverett.com](http://cityofeverett.com)

Posting Date: 2/5/2026

Closing Date: 2/26/2026

Department: City Clerk

Vacancies: 1

Grade: N/A

Salary: \$88,000-\$98,000 annually

Hours: 35 hours per week, schedule varies based on needs of department.  
Position Type: Exempt

#### About the City of Everett:

A desirable place to live, work, and visit, the City of Everett prides itself on its progress while remaining dedicated to future possibilities. Home to over 50,000 residents, Everett is known for its rich culture, diverse population, and welcoming atmosphere. A once industrial City, Everett is now recognized as a melting pot for residents and newcomers alike.

#### Position Summary:

The Assistant City Clerk is a charter-appointed position that plays a critical role in supporting the lawful and efficient operation of City government. Serving under the general supervision of the City Clerk, and in accordance with the City Charter, City Ordinances, and applicable Massachusetts General Laws, the Assistant City Clerk supports the City Council, Mayor, boards and commissions, and the public through the accurate maintenance of official records, administration of elections and licensing functions, and facilitation of City Council operations.

#### Appointment and Term:

The Assistant City Clerk shall be appointed by the City Council in accordance with the City Charter for a term of five (5) years and shall continue to serve until a successor is appointed and qualified, or until reappointed, consistent with Charter holdover provisions.

All job applications must be submitted by email to [Sergio.Cornelio@ci.everett.ma.us](mailto:Sergio.Cornelio@ci.everett.ma.us)

or in person to the Office of the City Clerk located at 484 Broadway Room 10, Everett City Hall.

For a disability-related reasonable accommodation or alternative application method, call Human Resources at 617-389-2280

The City of Everett is an Equal Opportunity / Affirmative Action Employer. Females, minorities, veterans, and persons with disabilities are strongly encouraged to apply.



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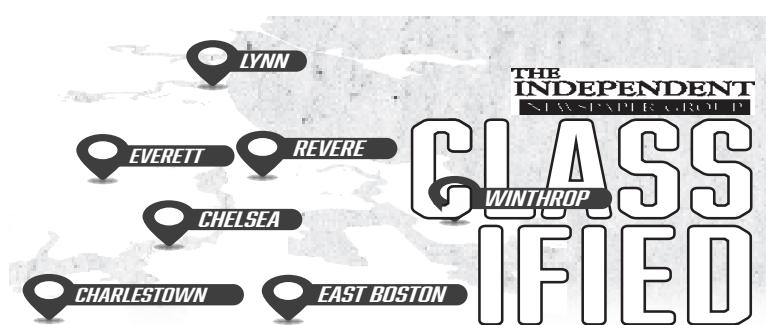
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