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Everett Independent

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Wednesday, November 4, 2026



Thousands of Everett residents, including children and families dressed in their Halloween best (above and below), gathered at the Samuel Gentile Recreation Center on Saturday, October 31, for the City of Everett's annual Halloween Party. See Pages 12 and 13 for more photos.



PHOTOS COURTESY THE CITY OF EVERETT

TRASH DELAY

Due to the Veteran's Day Holiday on Weds, November 11, 2026 WEDNESDAY NO COLLECTION Monday 11/9 & Tuesday 11/10 on Schedule Trash will be delayed by one day for the rest of the week

Capitol Waste Services

Van Campen announces launch of free all-electric van service for older adults

Special to the Independent

The City of Everett is making it easier for older residents to stay active, independent and connected with the launch of a new, free all-electric transportation service to and from the Edward G. Connolly Center.

Beginning Wednesday, November 4, Everett residents ages 60 and older will have access to free transportation between their homes, designated senior housing locations and the Connolly Center. Operated through the City's Council on Aging, the service aims to remove transportation barriers that may prevent older adults from participating in programs, activities and social gatherings.

The new all-electric van accommodates up to six seated passengers and two passengers using wheelchairs, for a total

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PHOTOS COURTESY THE CITY OF EVERETT



New all-electric, wheelchair-accessible van will provide rides to and from the Connolly Center beginning November 4

Everett
Independent
President: Stephen Quigley
Editor in Chief: Cary Shuman

Independent Forum

HONOR OUR VETERANS NEXT WEDNESDAY

Next Wednesday, November 11, our nation will mark the 108th observance of Veterans Day, a day of solemnity and reverence that honors those who have served in our nation's military.

Veteran's Day initially was known as Armistice Day when it was enacted in 1919 to commemorate the first anniversary of the end of World War I, which occurred on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918.

Historians to this day cannot even pinpoint a rational reason for why the war began. World War I was typified by trench warfare in which neither side (the German-allied nations of Germany, Austria-Hungary, and the Ottoman Empire vs. the alliance among Great Britain, France, Russia, and the United States) accomplished anything.

The trench lines did not meaningfully shift for the entire four-year period of the war until the Allies broke through the German lines in October, 2018, with the famous American-led offensive in the Meuse-Argonne Forest proving the decisive push that brought the war to an end, a campaign that remains as the deadliest in U.S. military history with 26,277 American deaths and over 95,000 wounded.

Though the war essentially was a stalemate for four years, much of the European continent was ravaged, with 10 million soldiers and another 10 million civilians losing their lives.

More significantly, the "war to end all wars" only set the stage for an even bloodier world-wide conflagration 21 years later with the onset of WWII on September 1, 1939.

The effects of WWI continue to reverberate in our world today. The roots of today's conflicts in the Middle East can be traced to the shift in control of that part of the world in the aftermath of WWI from the Ottoman Empire (Turkey) to England in what became known as the British Mandate for Palestine.

Shortly after WWII, England relinquished control of Palestine and gave it to the newly-formed United Nations, which in turn carved out the State of Israel for Jewish refugees from Europe, ultimately leading to the displacement of almost one million Palestinians and others from their ancestral homes where they had lived for centuries.

In the aftermath of the Korean War in 1954, Armistice Day officially became known as Veterans Day to recognize all of our nation's veterans.

There are many ways that each of us can honor our vets, including attending parades and ceremonies in our communities, visiting veterans' memorials and cemeteries, volunteering with veterans' organizations, donating to veterans' causes, flying the U.S. flag, thanking a veteran for their service, or simply taking a moment to reflect on the sacrifices made by so many who have put their lives on the line to ensure that all of us can enjoy the freedoms that we enjoy as Americans today.

Veterans Day should remind us that our freedom isn't free -- and has required the personal sacrifice of millions of our fellow Americans.

HAPPY DIWALI

We'd like to offer a "Happy Diwali" to our friends and neighbors who will be celebrating this festive holiday this week.

Diwali, also known as the Festival of Lights, is observed (with slight differences) by Hindus, Jains, Sikhs, and some Buddhists. It is celebrated by lighting oil lamps and candles to symbolize the triumph of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance.

The holiday takes place during a five-day period which begins this Friday, November 6, with the main festival occurring this Sunday, November 8, a time that coincides with the new moon (when the moon is dark).

The essence of Diwali is spiritual renewal, a time for each of us to reflect upon our shortcomings of the past year and to vow to make ourselves a better person in the year ahead.

We think all of our readers, regardless of their beliefs, would agree that is a worthy goal for all of us.

Literary Masquerade brings mystery and halloween fun to the Parlin Memorial Library

The Everett Public Libraries welcomed community members of all ages to the third annual Literary Masquerade: Alibis in the Aisles at the Parlin Memorial Library on Saturday, October 24.

This year's event brought a mystery to the library as the

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The winners of the adult costume contest, a "cereal killer" and Mao-mao from The Apothecary Diaries.

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DIDOMENICO SPEAKS TO CITIZENS' LEGISLATIVE SEMINAR

As he has for several years in a row, Senator Sal DiDomenico spoke with residents from his district and across the state to share his story of getting into politics and his policy priorities at the Citizens' Legislative Seminar (CLS) at the State House.

"It was a privilege to speak with residents interested in learning more about our legislative process, especially with my nominee from Everett, Alisha Leung," said Senator Sal N. DiDomenico. "I always look forward to speaking at the biannual Citizens' Legislative Seminar and I hope more people will sign up to learn about our government."

This two-day seminar invites Massachusetts residents to visit the State House, learn about state government, meet elected officials, and debate a real bill in a simulated Senate session. Civic education and citizens engaging in the policy and political process is key to a thriving democracy and country. If anyone is interested in signing up, please reach out to Senator DiDomenico's office at sal.didomenico@masenate.gov.



Senator Sal DiDomenico with his constituent who he nominated to attend the seminar



Senator Sal DiDomenico speaking to seminar participants in the State House.

DIDOMENICO SPEAKS TO LIFE SCIENCE INDUSTRY LEADERS

Senator Sal DiDomenico recently joined the Associated Industries of Massachusetts (AIM)'s Life Sciences Policy Committee to discuss his priorities supporting life sciences in his district and hear about the issues important to them.

"As Chair of the Life Sciences Caucus, it's a priority of mine to ensure our life sciences sector is thriving, and importantly, that it is creating a pipeline for a diverse workforce filled with talented individuals from all our state's many communities," said Senator DiDomenico.



DiDomenico speaking with attendeees after the meeting



Senator DiDomenico talking about priorities with the life science policy committee

Everett showcases student perspectives on immigration through art and essay exhibit

Special to the Independent

The City of Everett is proud to host an exhibit featuring student submissions from The Immigrant Learning Center's 2026 Teen Perspectives Art and Essay Contest at City Hall.

This year's contest invited high school students from Everett, Malden and Medford to explore the theme, "How My Community Benefits from Immigration," through art and storytelling. Their submissions reflect personal experiences, family histories and the many ways immigration has shaped their communities.

"The Teen Perspectives Art & Essay Contest grows every year. In 2026, we received a record 80 submissions, and collectively, they provide a window into how teenagers feel about an important issue today," said Ariana Moir, Director of the Immigrant Learning Center's Public Education Institute. "We are proud to spotlight these local high schoolers and their stories, which show the profound impact immigrants and immigration have on our communities and our lives."

The exhibit highlights the creativity and perspectives of local teens, including two first-place winners from Everett:

• First Place, Art: Carolina Rivas from Everett Alternative High School

• First Place, Essay: Shashi Pokhrel from Everett High School

"Everett is a community shaped by generations of immigrants, and their contributions are part of what makes our City so special," said Mayor Robert J. Van Campen. "From opening small businesses to serving in local government and giving back to their neighborhoods, immigrant families have helped build the Everett we know today. I'm incredibly proud of these students for sharing their stories and perspectives, and it's an honor to have their work displayed right outside my office."



PHOTOS COURTESY THE CITY OF EVERETT

"Culture in the Sky" by Samira Khobzy, Everett High School (Third Place)



"The Beauty of Immigration" by Sophia Zhang, Malden High School (Third Place)



"Celebrating Columbus Day at the Church" by Carolina Rivas, Everett Alternative High School (First Place)

The first-place essay winner, Shashi Pokhrel, from Everett High School reflected on her family's immigration journey, sharing a personal account of the sacrifices her parents made and the responsibilities she took on growing up.

"My family's immigration story is one of sacrifice and contribution. My parents came here seeking opportunity, not just for themselves but for me. They worked long hours, worried constantly, and carried the weight of responsibility on their shoulders. I helped translate documents, listened to adult conversations, and grew up faster than most kids. Despite the struggle, my family gave back by working, supporting neighbors, and raising children who want to contribute positively to society."

Another Everett High School student, Allison, who received an Honorable Mention for her essay, described how immigration enriches communities through culture, traditions and shared experiences.

"Immigration brings languages that echo through hallways in schools and public vicinities, foods that turn strangers into neighbors, holidays that teach us joy beyond our own traditions. Being raised as an immigrant means growing up knowing the world is bigger than fear, bigger than borders, bigger than labels."

The "How My Community Benefits from Immigration" exhibit is currently on display on the third floor of Everett City Hall. Residents and visitors are encouraged to stop by and explore the artwork and essays, which offer a glimpse into how local students experience and understand the impact of immigration in their communities.

The exhibit will remain on display until further notice.

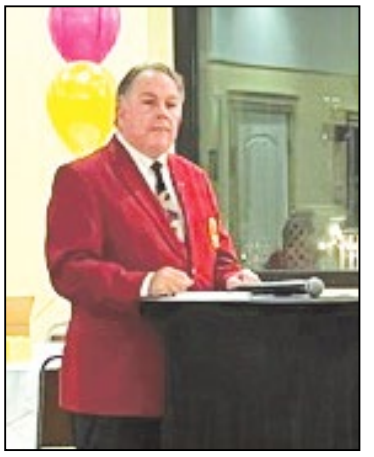
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City of Everett

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CEREMONY
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11



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10 AM AT
THE CONNOLLY CENTER
90 Chelsea Street, Everett, MA
Lunch provided after ceremony

GBL CHAMPIONS!

Jules makes a big defensive play as Everett holds on to defeat Lynn Classical, 20-19

By Cary Shuman

Junior strong safety Jakari Jules intercepted a two-point conversion pass in the end zone to preserve the Everett High School football team's hard-fought 20-19 victory over Lynn Classical last Friday at Manning Field.

With Lynn Classical moved back to the 18-yard line due to a penalty, the Rams had little choice but to attempt a pass, and Jules made the game-saving interception in the end zone as a result of being in perfect position.

Everett claimed the 2026 Greater Boston League Upper Division title with the win over the Rams. In addition, the Crimson Tide (7-1) now advance to the Division 1 playoffs where they will play No. 3 seed Central Catholic Friday at 6 p.m. in Lawrence.

Head coach Rob DiLoreto expected another tough GBL battle, and Classical brought its 'A' game as teams tend to do against Everett and its unmatched football tradition.

"This game came down to a two-point conversion with 50 seconds left, and Jakari Jules came up with a big interception in the end zone," said DiLoreto. "It was an old-school GBL matchup, and we feel very fortunate to get the 'W' and have an undefeated regular season in the league. We're very proud of that."

Freshman quarterback Michael Walsh, a big reason for Everett's march back to the top of the GBL ladder, answered Classical's first score with a 6-yard touchdown pass to Roshon Belony.

Tyler Freni (13 carries for 45 yards, two TDs) rushed for a four-yard touchdown to give Everett a 13-7 lead. Luca DaSilva booted his second PAT, which actually produced the margin of victory. Freni added his second touchdown on a 3-yard run as Everett increased its lead to 20-13. Classical responded with a touchdown drive, but Jules' INT and Walsh's quarterback sneak for a first down on the ensuing possession made it a triumphant bus ride home with the GBL title in Everett's possession.

DiLoreto felt a key to victory was his team's containment of the usually high-powered Classical offense.

"Jakari Jules was starting his first game at strong safety, and to come up with a play like that at the end of the game to secure the victory, I'm very impressed with his performance," said DiLoreto. "I also felt Armani Negron and Dan Lubrena both had solid games for us. Offensively, we came up with some really big catches. Armani had two key catches at tight end."

On a windy night, Walsh (9-of-13 for 146 yards and one TD) produced some key completions. Rashon Bellony (3 carries for 30 yards, one TD reception) and Phil Pimenta (2 carries for 23 yards) also made timely contributions to the running game.

DiLoreto is not celebrating what has been a highly successful regular season. He and his coaches are totally focused on a very explosive Central Catholic team.

"We're very excited to earn a spot in the playoffs this year, and we drew a very difficult, talented, and well-coached Central Catholic team," said DiLoreto. "We're working hard preparing, and we know we have an opportunity in front of us, and we have to play our very best in all three phases. And we're excited about the challenge."

'E' Club of Everett will honor Al and Ginger Perillo, 1991 EHS basketball team Nov. 17

By Cary Shuman

'E' Club of Everett President Michael LaCourt has announced that the organization will hold its Fall Dinner on Tuesday, Nov. 17 at Spinelli's in Lynnfield.

The evening will begin with a social hour at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 7 p.m.

The Club will honor legendary youth sports leaders Al Perillo and Ginger Perillo and recognize the 1991 Division 1 state finalist Everett High School boys basketball team coached by John DiBiaso.

"We're going to honor Al and Ginger and the 1991 basketball team who have made significant accomplishments and been a source of pride to so many Everett residents for a long period of time," said LaCourt.

Al and Ginger Perillo

LaCourt noted that Al and Ginger Perillo were born and raised in Everett and are graduates of Everett High School.

"They have contributed and volunteered over 50 years of their lives to Pop Warner football locally in Everett and regionally in Massachusetts and New England," said LaCourt.

Al Perillo began his involvement with the Everett Huskies Pop Warner organization in 1974. He became the Huskies' president in 1978, and the president of the Greater Boston Pop Warner League in 1981.

Al advanced to roles as the director of the Eastern Mass. Conference and New England Pop Warner, a position he held for more than 25 years. Last year Al was inducted into the National Pop Warner Hall of Fame.

Ginger Perillo began her association with the Everett Huskes in 1974 as a team mom. She became the director of the Huskes' cheerleading program in 1980 and was instrumental in forming the Greater Boston Pop Warner Cheerleading League in 1986, becoming its president. She ascended to the position of Eastern Mass. director of cheerleading, a position she held for 35 years.

"Though they no longer have a day-to-day title, Al and Ginger are still active as consultants for Pop Warner football," lauded LaCourt.

Al and Ginger celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary in July. They have three children, Richard, Paul, and Jennifer, who were participants in the Everett Huskies' program.

The 1991 EHS basketball team

The 1991 Everett High School boys basketball team, led by head coach John DiBiaso and his longtime, trusted assistant Paul Bertone, had a 20-3 record and won the Greater Boston League and Eastern Mass. titles, defeating Catholic Memorial before 10,000 fans at the Boston Garden. Everett fell to Springfield Central and future NBA first-round pick Travis Best in the state championship game.

LaCourt said the teams in 1989, 1990, and 1991 had a cumulative record of 57-10.

John "Bubba" Sagarino and Malik Curry were the co-captains of the 1990-91 championship team, Globe All-Scholastics, and GBL All-Stars. Sagarino was selected the Boston Globe Division 1 Player of the Year. Also earning GBL All-Star recognition were Jerry Navarra, Corey Washington, and Derek Motto.

"We're expecting to have 12 former players there," related LaCourt.

Also being recognized at the 'E' Club Dinner is the 1991 EHS cheerleading team that was coached by Maureen DiBiaso.

Dennehy will be the guest speaker

Mark Dennehy, head of amateur scouting for the New Jersey Devils organization, will be the featured speaker.

"Being a former standout student-athlete and making a positive impact on other student-athletes, Mark epitomizes what the 'E' Club is all about," said LaCourt.

Dennehy was a defenseman for the Boston College ice hockey team, leading the Eagles to three NCAA Tournament berths and one appearance in the Frozen Four.

Denney played professional hockey in Europe before entering the college and professional coaching ranks. He was the head coach at Merrimack College for 13 seasons and head coach of the Binghampton Devils in the American Hockey League.

Josh DelGaizo will be the emcee for the program.

Executive Director Carl Colson, who has been instrumental in the continuing resurgence of the 'E' Club, will join other board members and dignitaries at the Head Table.

(Tickets, which are $65, can be purchased on the E Club website: www.eclubofeverett.com)

Van // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of eight. It is equipped with a wheelchair lift to assist residents who use wheelchairs or walkers, as well as those who have difficulty boarding or exiting the vehicle.

"For many of our older residents, the Connolly Center is an important part of their daily lives, but getting there isn't always easy," said Mayor Robert J. Van Campen. "Whether it's attending an exercise class, enjoying a meal or simply spending time with friends, transportation shouldn't be what keeps someone from participating. This free service will help more residents stay active, independent and connected to their community."

The launch marks the return of a dedicated van service to the Connolly Center for the first time in more than 30 years. The new all-electric vehicle also provides a more environmentally friendly transportation option.

"This service will make a meaningful difference for residents who rely on the Connolly Center," said Dale A. Palma, Director of the Council on Aging. "We're excited to help more older adults take advantage of everything the Center has to offer."

The all-electric van was purchased for $58,000, with $50,000 funded through an appropriation from the City's Capital Stabilization account, approved by the Everett City Council in 2024. The remaining $8,000 was covered through a grant from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Aging and Independence.

Drivers operating the van are required to complete extensive safety and accessibility training, including CPR/AED, wheelchair lift operation, passenger safety, defensive driving and emergency management, among other certifications.

How to Reserve a Ride

The Connolly Center will begin accepting reservations on Monday, November 2, with transportation service officially beginning Wednesday, November 4.

Everett residents ages 60 and older can reserve a free ride by calling the Connolly Center at 617-544-6008, Monday through Thursday, between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Reservations must be made at least two days before the requested pickup date.

The van will operate Monday through Thursday, following a flexible schedule based on reservations. Morning pickups will begin at approximately 8:15 a.m., with designated stops at senior housing locations throughout Everett. Residents can also arrange to be picked up directly from their homes.

Return trips from the Connolly Center will begin at approximately 2:30 p.m. Pickup and drop-off times may be adjusted based on reservations, weather conditions or special events at the Connolly Center.

When making a reservation, residents should indicate whether they require additional assistance boarding or exiting the van. A Connolly Center staff member will contact each rider to confirm their scheduled pickup time.

The new service reflects the City's ongoing commitment to improving accessibility and helping older residents remain active, independent and engaged in their community.

To place a memoriam in the Everett Independent, please call 781-485-0588

Obituaries

REMEMBERING THE LIVES THAT SHAPED OUR COMMUNITY

Margaret "Peg" Bond

Her family was her pride and joy.

Margaret "Peg" H. Bond of Everett, embraced eternal rest on Sunday, November 1, 2026, at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston after a brief illness. She was 91 years old.

A devoted lifelong resident of Everett, Peg dedicated her years to working as a receptionist at an insurance company and other places, touching many lives with her kind spirit.

Peg was the cherished daughter of the late Coleman E. Nee and Celia Cooke. She was the beloved wife of the late Thomas C. Bond and a devoted mother to her children: Thomas and his wife, Maria, Steven and his wife, Eileen, Karen Clark and her husband, Michael, Susan Jackson and her late husband. Peter, and James and his wife, Patricia. Her family was her pride and joy.

She was a treasured sister to John Nee and his wife, Kathy,



Katherine Travalini, and was predeceased by Joseph Nee, Thomas Nee, Mae Cappuccio, Celia Ronan, Nancy Supino and Sally Finn.

Peg embraced the role of a loving grandmother to her grandchildren: Christopher, Nicholas, and Blaine Clark, TJ, Connor, Andrew, Hayden, and Bryson Bond, Amanda, Daniel, and Nicole Jackson, Cameron and Mathew Bond, and Angela, Joseph, and Ana DeRosa. Her legacy continues through her great-grandchildren: Charles Clark, Gianna, and Joseph DeRosa.

Her life was a testament to love, family, and unwavering dedication—a legacy beautifully reflected in the hearts of those who knew her.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Peg's visiting hours in the Cafasso & Sons Funeral Home, 65 Clark St. (Corner of Main St.) Everett on Friday, November 6 from 4 to 7 p.m. Her funeral will be from the funeral home on Saturday, November 7, 2026 at 11 a.m. with a Funeral Mass to follow in the Immaculate Conception Church, 487 Broadway, Everett at 12 noon. Burial will be at the Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett.

Parking with attendants on duty.

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EVERETT HIGH COMPETES IN GREATER BOSTON LEAGUE CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS



Ana Maciel (20)



BOB MARRA PHOTOS

Eve-Lyn Joseph (19)

The Crimson Tide had a strong contingent of runners at the Greater Boston League cross country championships as seven boys and seven girls were among the fields in the 3.1 mile course through MacDonald Park in Medford.



Christopher Cruz Portillo topped the Everett field and finished 9th overall in 18:45.



Shashi Pokhrel (21)



Pratyush Darai (12)



Michael Lemus (14)

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EVERETT HIGH COMPETES IN GREATER BOSTON LEAGUE CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

BOB MARRA PHOTOS



Nathalia Dos Santos (18)



Tran Nguyen (15)



Lina Shirar (22) was Everett's top finisher, 14th overall, in 24:49.



Princika Humagain (25)



Kaleb Defreitas (16)



Alesha Theius (23)



Brasesh Maharjan (17)

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EHS Roundup

EHS GIRLS FINISH THIRD AT GBL MEET

The Everett High girls cross country team concluded its most successful season in the program's history with a third-place finish at last Wednesday's Greater Boston League Meet at Torbert Macdonald Park in Medford.

"The girls' team's third place finish is the best performance they have ever had at the GBL Championship Meet," said EHS head coach Brendan Hahesy. "Every girl ran a personal record (PR) on Medford's home course."

Leading the way for the Lady Crimson Tide was sophomore Lina Sherra, who finished in 14th place with a time of 24:49. Junior Shashi Pokhrel finished 19th in 25:42, followed by sophomore teammate Ana Maciel (21st in 26:08), sophomore Eve-Lynn Joseph (22nd in 26:10), and junior Nathalia Dos Santos (27th, 26:46).

Sophomores Princika Humagain and Aliesha Thelus also competed in the varsity race for the Lady Tide. The Everett girls will compete in the upcoming State Meet in two weeks.

Medford won the meet with 26 points, followed by Somerville with 33 points and Everett with 93 points. Teams from Malden, Lynn English, Revere, Chelsea, and Lynn Classical also competed in the meet.

EHS GIRLS SOCCER FINISHES AT 10-4-4, AWAITS TOURNEY FOE

The Everett High girls soccer team wrapped up a successful regular season with a pair of victories last week in the consolation round of the inaugural Greater Boston League (GBL) Cup competition.

The Lady Crimson Tide, who finished in fifth place in the GBL, defeated Lynn English 4-0 last Tuesday.

The goal scorers for Everett were Sofia Arana-Quintanilla, Mahiya Begum, Johanna Flores, and Connie Paz Hernandez.



The Everett High girls field starts the Greater Boston League cross country championships race.



The Everett High boys field starts the Greater Boston League cross country championships race.

Arana-Quintanilla received a pass from Flores and buried the ball into the back of the net to make it 1-0. Begum picked up a loose ball off a deflection from a corner kick and ran through the ball with pace for her goal.

Flores got a nice give-and-go pass from Arana-Quintanilla and placed the ball in the back of the net. Paz Hernandez received the ball from Tiffany Aguilar on a great build-up play that went from one side of the pitch to the other, resulting in a hard chip shot over the goalie's head.

Two days later the Tide took on Revere, the sixth-place team in the GBL, and fought for a 2-1 victory that was decided on penalty kicks (3-2).

Everett's lone goal came from Tiffany Augiular. Tiffany received the ball off a deflection shot from Kayla Andrade at the top of the 18-yard box and slotted it past the Revere goalkeeper. Sofia Arana-Quintanilla and Odilas Sandova made their penalty kicks, setting the stage for Liv Simon to score the decisive PK.

"It was a chippy but hard-fought game," said EHS head coach Dom Persuitte. "We are still struggling with injuries and illness, but the team managed to pull it together for the last foreseeable home game. Everyone worked well together and was doing their best. Shout-outs to Mahiya Begum, Connie Paz Hernandez, Rosa Romero, Odilas Sandoval, and Liv Simon. Goalie Julianna Rivera did very well for her first-ever PK matchup."

Persuitte and his crew, who finished with a sterling 10-4-4 record, now are awaiting word of their seeding and first-round opponent in the upcoming MIAA Division 1 State Tournament. That announcement is scheduled for tomorrow

See ROUNDUP Page 11

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Roundup // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

(Thursday), with the Tide most likely playing that match on either Friday or Saturday on the home field of their opponent.

CHRIS CRUZ PORTILLO FINISHES IN 9TH PLACE AT THE GBL MEET

Everett High cross-country senior captain Christopher Cruz Portillo finished in ninth place at last Wednesday's Greater Boston League Meet to earn GBL All Star status. Chris covered the 5K course at Torbert Macdonald Park with a clocking of 18:45.

Sophomore teammate Kaleb DeFreitas was the next Tide runner in 16h place in 19:20, followed by senior Dominico Delle Rose (26th 19:53), freshman Nguyen Tien (38th, 21:44), and junior Pratyush Darai (39th, 22:18).

Also competing for the Tide were senior Michael Lemus and sophomore Brasesh Maharjan.

The Tide finished fifth in the team standings with 128 points. The Medford team ran away with the race, taking five of the top eight spots to score 24 points. Somerville was second with 79 points, Chelsea was third with 81 points, and Revere was fourth with 101 points. Malden, Lynn Classical, and Lynn English were in places 6-8.

"Every boy ran a PR on Medford's home course," said EHS head coach Brendan Hahesy, who noted that both the boys and girls teams will compete at the State Meet in two weeks.

EHS VOLLEYBALL HONORS SENIORS

The Everett High girls volleyball team honored its five seniors last Monday before their match with Revere. The team's five members of Class of 2027, QiongQiong Chen, Kiana Flores, co-captains Melissa Meireles and MariaJose Cardenas, and captain Cassandra Tayag, were recognized for their contributions to the Lady Crimson Tide volleyball program.

Tayag was a three-year varsity player, and Chen, Flores, Meireles, and Cardenas were with the program all four years. Tayag appeared in 57 matches, and served more than 350 times with a success rate of in-play serves of 88%.

Meireles led the team this season with more than 200 attempts and 180 made. Cardenas hit 90% of her serves this year in, and she added 65 kills over two seasons.

Junior Abigail Falkowski ranked third on the team with 137 made serves in 164 attempts, and third on the team in kills with 42, behind Cardenas and fellow junior Elora Philippe who tallied 60 in 16 contests. Junior Cecilia Da Silveira led the team in serve percentage with 96%.

The Tide fell to Revere, 3-0, despite strong serving from Chen (7/7, two aces), Falkowski (8/8, two aces), and Cardenas (12/13, two aces).

In the season finale Thursday against Medford, Everett came up short, 3-1, but the team got a glimpse of its potential in the final two sets. Philippe had seven of her game-high nine kills in that span, while junior libero Giyanna Desamours was 7-for-8 serving with an ace.

Freshman Maria Cunha had a block and a kill. Sophomore Tabita Do Santos was 8-for-9 serving with an ace and a kill to pace the Tide to a win in the third set, 25-22.

Everett battled in the fourth set, but Medford -- which needed the win to stay in the hunt for the state tourney -- pulled away at the end.

"It was an encouraging end to a disappointing 4-16 season," said EHS head coach Michael Fineran. "We have 10 players with varsity experience, including sophomore Lelilah Ros-Morales, who tallied 68 aces in 171 serves on junior varsity, in addition to 45 serves for varsity. She will be a force for the next two years.

"We kept 14 freshmen in the program this year, and all of them will compete for playing time next year," Fineran added. "We need to pass more consistently and develop more of a presence in the front row if we hope to hang with the teams at the top of the GBL."

EHS BOYS SOCCER WRAPS-UP SEASON

The Everett High boys soccer team concluded its 2026 season with three contests last week.

The Crimson Tide competed for the inaugural Greater Boston League (GBL) Cup thanks to their fourth-place finish in the GBL standings. The Tide took on first-place Revere, which was undefeated in the GBL and is ranked 12th in the MIAA's Division 2 power ratings with a 14-1-1 record, in the semifinal contest and came up on the short end of a 5-1 decision.

"We had a good first half with some decent possession and had some chances that could have gone our way, but unfortunately we couldn't find the back of the net and made some very simple mistakes and were down 2-0 at half," said EHS head coach Rodney Landaverde. "Starting the second half, we had a better start than the first and generated two chances to tie up the game but Revere was first to score and go up 3-0."

The Tide closed the gap to 3-1 on a goal from Pedro Silva off a great cross from Jorge Ayala, but Revere scored the next two markers for the 5-1 finale.

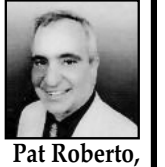
Two days later Everett took on Somerville (which lost to Chelsea in a shoot-out in their semifinal) in the consolation contest and fell by a score of 2-1. "This was our third meeting with Somerville this season and the boys were looking forward to getting a win to seal off our GBL matchups," said Landaverde. "Very early on we had some great moments that showed how talented the squad could be, but the execution on our finishes was not there. Somerville got two early goals that were some simple mistakes defensively where they caught us on our heels and we could not make up for it."

The Tide closed out their season the following day against non-league opponent Peabody (a former GBL rival) and battled to a 1-1 draw. Saymon Coelho scored the Everett goal off an assist from Jonathan Hernandez.

"We rotated a lot of the younger players and had some quality showing from Merlin Christailin, Mateus Callahan Bueno, Ziad El Bribri, Calleb De Souza, and Samuel Rengifo," said Landaverde. "Jonathan Hernandez did an excellent job in the midfield, winning battles, distributing to teammates, and dictating our pace of play. I am looking forward to seeing all of our returning players work hard in the offseason, as we look for a fresh start next year."

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CITY OF EVERETT WELCOMES THOUSANDS TO ANNUAL HALLOWEEN PARTY AT REC CENTER

PHOTOS COURTESY THE CITY OF EVERETT

Thousands of Everett residents, including children and families dressed in their Halloween best, gathered at the Samuel Gentile Recreation Center on Saturday, October 31, for the City of Everett's annual Halloween Party.

Hosted by the City's Department of Youth Development and Enrichment (YDE), the celebration brought the community together for an afternoon filled with candy, caramel apples, games, live performances, balloon twisting and plenty of Halloween excitement.

From the moment families arrived, the Halloween spirit was in full swing. Children were greeted with sweet treats before exploring a variety of activities and entertainment throughout the Rec Center.

"Events like this are what make our community so special," said Roberto Velasquez, Acting Director of Youth Development and Enrichment. "Seeing so many kids and families come together to celebrate Halloween and enjoy everything we put together is incredibly rewarding. I'm so proud of our amazing YDE staff and volunteers for all the hard work they put into making this event such a success."

Live performers kept the crowd entertained with Halloween-themed music, while balloon artists delighted children with creative balloon sculptures.

Of course, no Halloween celebration would be complete without costumes! The Rec Center was filled with superheroes, spooky characters and creative outfits of all kinds. From fan favorites like Spider-Man to Halloween icons like Michael Myers, children and families showed off their Halloween spirit. Even Mayor Robert J. Van Campen joined in on the fun, trading in his usual attire for a top hat and purple coat as Willy Wonka!

"Halloween is one of those holidays that brings out the kid in all of us," said Mayor Van Campen. "Seeing thousands of residents come together, especially so many children dressed up and having the time of their lives, is what makes events like this so special. I'm grateful to our Youth Development and Enrichment team and everyone who helped create such a fun and memorable afternoon for Everett families."

The celebration was the City's second Halloween event of the week, following the Halloween Senior Social held Thursday at the Connolly Center.

The City of Everett extends its thanks to the Department of Youth Development and Enrichment, staff, volunteers and everyone who helped make this year's Halloween Party a success.



Mayor Van Campen and Lisa Van Campen take a selfie with an Everett community member.



Lisa Van Campen, Mayor Van Campen and two Everett community members.



Live performers sing to the crowd at the Everett Rec Center.



Mayor Van Campen and Lisa Van Campen pose for a group photo with YDE staff and volunteers.



CITY OF EVERETT WELCOMES THOUSANDS TO ANNUAL HALLOWEEN PARTY AT REC CENTER

PHOTOS COURTESY THE CITY OF EVERETT



A Halloween themed performer with two children onstage.



Mayor Van Campen, Lisa Van Campen and the Steam 4 Everett Robotics Club pose for a group photo.



Eric Mazzeo, Assistant Director of Youth Substance Use Prevention, Mayor Van Campen, an Everett community member, Lisa Van Campen, and City Councilor Holly Garcia.



A YDE volunteer passing out stickers to a child.



YDE staff and volunteers passing out candy to kids.

FKO raises over $100,000 at annual 'Helping Families' Gala honoring co-founder Deborah Kneeland Keegan

Special to the Independent

For Kids Only Afterschool (FKO) exceeded its fundraising goal by raising more than $100,000 at its annual Helping Families Gala on Friday, October 23, at the Hyatt Regency Boston Harbor, while also celebrating and honoring co-founder Deborah "Debbie" Kneeland Keegan for more than 40 years of leadership and service.

Proceeds from the event will benefit FKO's Helping Families scholarship fund, which provides financial assistance to families who might otherwise be unable to afford high-quality before school, afterschool, summer, and school vacation programs for their children. With more than 80% of children enrolled in FKO programs receiving some form of financial assistance and nearly 500 children across our communities awaiting financial support, the need for accessible, affordable out-of-school time programming remains significant.

The evening brought together community members, supporters, legislators, and partners to celebrate Keegan's extraordinary contributions to children, families and the out-of-school time field.

"My mother built FKO on the belief that every child deserves opportunity, regardless of their family's circumstances," said Briana Flannery, FKO Executive Director. "Forty-two years later, that belief continues to guide our work. The generosity shown at this year's gala will help us open doors for more children and families across our communities."

Keegan co-founded FKO with her sister, Connie Grayson, in 1984 after recognizing the need for safe, nurturing spaces where children could learn and grow during out-of-school hours. What began as a small program serving just five children in the basement of an American Legion has grown into a thriving nonprofit organization serving more than 1,800 children annually across 18 school- and community-based locations in Chelsea, Everett, Peabody, Revere, and Winthrop.



Deborah Keegan (left) and FKO District Director Denise Smith.



Deborah Keegan, MA Dept. of Early Education and Care Commissioner Amy Kershaw and Briana Flannery.

After more than four decades as Executive Director, Keegan transitioned from the role in January 2026 and now serves as Strategic Advisor, continuing to support FKO's mission and advocacy efforts. Her influence extends beyond the organization through decades of work advancing access, inclusion, workforce development, and recognition of out-of-school time programming as an essential part of children's development and family well-being.

Reflecting on her career, Keegan has credited FKO's dedicated staff, families, community partners, and supporters with helping bring the organization's founding vision to life: creating places where every child feels seen, valued, and empowered to discover their potential.

Guests enjoyed an evening of dinner, drinks, raffles, a silent auction, and a live auction, along with a special performance by FKO children from the Lafayette School in Everett and interactive play stations that offered a glimpse into the creativity, curiosity, and experiences at the heart of FKO's programs.

FKO extends its sincere thanks to the gala sponsors, donors, attendees, volunteers and community partners whose generosity made the event possible. Special recognition and gratitude go to United Way of Massachusetts Bay, Salem Five, and Massport for their generous support and continued investment in FKO's mission.

To learn more about For Kids Only Afterschool and its programs, visit www.fkoafterschool.org. To support FKO's mission and Helping Families scholarships, visit givebutter.com/FKO-Gala.

For Kids Only Afterschool is a nonprofit organization providing licensed before school, afterschool, summer, and school vacation programming for more than 1,800 children each year in Chelsea, Everett, Peabody, Revere, and Winthrop. FKO creates safe and supportive environments where children build relationships, strengthen social-emotional skills, and discover new interests while supporting the needs of working families.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Tricia DiDomenico, Deborah Keegan and Senator Sal DiDomenico.



Lafayette School Principal Janet Taylor with Lafayette student dance performers.



Briana Flannery, Danielle Durham, Margaret Adams, Deborah Keegan, Superintendent William Hart, Janet Taylor, Millie Cardello, Michael McLucas, and Chris Barrett.

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Library // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Book Bandit ran amok, leaving behind clues for attendees to uncover and a case to solve!

Young detectives joined Nancy Drew for a spooky story time adventure, while teens and adults enjoyed festivities upstairs and searched for clues throughout the library maze. Guests also got into the Halloween spirit with face painting and tarot readings.

The evening concluded with costume parades for all ages, where grand prize and runner-up winners of the costume contest received gift certificates generously donated by local business Il Pastificio, Inc.

"This is the second year that Il Pastificio has generously sponsored our event, and we are so grateful!" said Victoria, Head of Circulation for the Everett Public Libraries. "The staff at the library love coming together to host this kind of community event each year, and it is made all the better by having community organizations partner with us."

The Everett Public Libraries extend their thanks to everyone who attended and helped make this year's Literary Masquerade a success. A special thank you goes to Il Pastificio, Inc. for its continued support of this annual community celebration.

The libraries look forward to welcoming everyone back for another night of mystery and Halloween fun next year!

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First Judge of this Court.
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Register of Probate
11/4/26
EV

McGonagle attends Holyoke Soldier's Home ribbon cutting ceremony

Special to the Independent

Rep. Joe McGonagle was pleased to join many of his colleagues and other leaders of the Commonwealth for the grand opening of the Holyoke Soldier's Home at their ribbon cutting ceremony. Governor Maura Healey, Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll, Senator Ed Markey, Congressman Richard Neal and Executive Office of Veteran's Services Eric Goralnick were among officials there to celebrate the feat. The new state-of-the-art facility features 234 long-term care beds, a specialized memory care unit and a 40-person adult day health program designed to support both residents and veterans living in the surrounding community. After tragically losing many residents during the COVID-19 pandemic, the new building represents a $482 million investment in veterans care infrastructure in Massachusetts.



Governor Healey speaks at the event.



Senator Ed Markey commented on the grand opening.



Executive Office of Veteran's Services Eric Goralnick talks about the new facility.

"I was thrilled to attend today and see in person the incredible work that has been done here to care for our heroes," said McGonagle. "As Chairman of the Veteran's Committee, I know how important it is to invest in facilities like these for our veterans. We witnessed terrible tragedy when so many were lost during the COVID-19 pandemic and while we cannot bring them back, we can honor their memory by taking care of their brothers and sisters. I applaud Governor Healey, Secretary Goralnick and the rest of their team for pushing this project as a priority and ensuring care for our veterans. I'd also like to thank my colleagues in the Legislature who helped support this important endeavor and the Massachusetts federal delegation who secured necessary funding."

While the facility is not slated to be fully completed until 2028, residents will soon be moving in. Additionally, the grounds will feature a memorial garden to those residents who passed during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Rep. Joe McGonagle (right) is shown outside the new Holyoke Soldier's Home with Marc Silvestri of the Chelsea Soldier's Home, Rep. Mike Finn, Rep. Shirley Arriaga and Rep. Carlos Gonzalez.


Rep. Joe McGonagle (third from left) is shown with an event guest, Rep. John Barrett, a local veteran, Tom Lyons of the Chelsea Soldier's Home, Rep. Carlos Gonzalez and Marc Silvestri of the Chelsea Soldier's Home.

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