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Wednesday, December 26, 2018

Citing easier recycling, City, Council pursue plastic bag ban

By Seth Daniel

The City Council and administration are reviewing a new ordinance that would ban plastic bags from retailers in Everett — an ordinance that follows the lead of Chelsea, Boston and other surrounding communities.

The matter was introduced at the Council a few weeks ago, and put on the table for further review by the administration. The goal would be to pass an ordinance that would go into effect next year.

Boston put a ban in that went into effect Dec. 14, and Chelsea passed a ban on Dec. 17 that would go into effect a year from now.

DPW Director Greg St. Louis said one of the biggest reasons to consider the ban is to eliminate plastic bags as a contaminant in the City's recycling stream. While most plastics are recyclable, plastic bags do not recycle and cause problems with the machinery at sorting facilities.

"Our number one contaminant from the grant program we just finished was plastic bags," he said. "We hit up neighborhoods all over the city notifying them not to bag the recyclables in plastic bags. It's amazing how well-intentioned residents can be in putting all their recycling in a plastic bag, but if they do that the entire thing becomes a contaminant and

See RECYCLING Page 2

GLENWOOD TREE LIGHTING



The Glenwood Cemetery Christmas Tree was illuminated with white lights as onlookers took in the giant illuminated tree. Above, carolers sang Christmas songs during the tree lighting ceremony at Glenwood Cemetery on Monday night, Dec. 17.



The Michigan Man

EHS football star Sainristil signs his Letter of Intent

By Cary Shuman

Mike Sainristil received some good practice for performing in front of the 110,000 fans that attend Michigan football games in Ann Arbor with a standing-room-only Letter of Intent ceremony and press conference Dec. 18 at Everett High School.

It was one of the largest crowds ever for an event of this nature at the school that has produced numerous college football players. School administrators, EHS head football coach Theluxon

Pierre, teachers, teammates, classmates, friends, and Mike Sainristil's family convened at the Crimson Café as the 2018 Gatorade Football Player of the Year officially signed with the Michigan Wolverines.

Principal Erick Naumann served as master of ceremonies for the speaking program.

"This is not about football, it's more about Mikey," Naumann told the gathering. "A lot of you have seen him on the field, you know what he can do, but in school, he's

See SAINRISTIL Page 2

Supt. Foresteire retires amidst sexual harassment allegations

By Seth Daniel

After more than a half-century, suspended Supt. Fred Foresteire has suddenly retired from his post at the Everett Public Schools as he faces sexual harassment claims by at least two women.

In a two-sentence letter to School Committee Chair Bernie D'Onofrio, Foresteire informed him that he would be retiring by the end of the day on Dec. 18.

"This letter is to inform you I am retiring at the end of the day, Tuesday, December 18, 2018," he wrote. "It has been a wonderful fifty-two and one half years!"

The announcement came rather suddenly, but Foresteire has been under fire for the last two weeks, having been put on administrative leave last Monday, Dec. 17. Nearly two weeks prior to that, an allega-

See RETIRES Page 2



Supt. Fred Foresteire.

Many confused over Foresteire's appearances after put on leave

By Seth Daniel

To say some were shocked is an understatement.

Less than 24 hours after former Supt. Fred Foresteire had been put on leave by the School Committee in a tension-filled meeting on Dec. 17, there he was at the annual Everett High Christmas Concert the following day.

Many said it was as if nothing had happened the day before.

While there is nothing illegal about coming to a school event while being put on administrative leave, it is customary for the person on leave to only do so if it is, personally, a very important event.

It is also customary to inform the School Committee and get permission before attending.

That did not happen, some School Committee members said.

Several people apparently voiced their discomfort with the suspended superintendent being at a school event and sitting in the front row like he would normally do.

City officials said they informed Foresteire the next day that he was not to be at any further school events.

However, around noon on Wednesday, Foresteire came to Everett High again for a college football letter of intent signing ceremony. Everett star athlete Mike Sainristil was pledging to attend and play

football for the University of Michigan. Tons of media were in attendance, and so was Foresteire, who took pictures with the Sainristil family and, again, seemed to act as if nothing had occurred two days prior.

City officials and at least one School Committee members said it wasn't proper and they would be asking him to seek permission before attending any further school events.

However, school has closed for the winter break, and only a wrestling match has been held in Everett. There are no further school events during the break except for some sports activities.

Encore spokesman Greg John parts ways with Wynn

By Seth Daniel

Encore Boston Harbor and its local spokesman Greg John have parted ways mutually this week after John's three-year contract expired and he decided to pursue other opportunities.

"I have decided to move on from Encore Boston Harbor as my three-year contract with them came up and I had some other opportunities I had to consider," he said. "I've been lucky enough to work with some amazing companies and amazing people all over the world and none are better than the local group at Encore Boston Harbor, particularly John Tocco, Jacqui Krum, and Bob DeSalvio. They are outstanding and even more outstanding people I call friends."

John said he has also enjoyed working especially with Mayor Carlo DeMaria and his administration.

"It's been incredible to see Everett Mayor Carlo DeMaria turn into such an outstanding leader," he said. "What he's done for Everett and will continue to do with the City's transformation is amazing."

John, who lived in Charlestown for many years until recently, was the face of the organization from its start — appearing at many meetings and running the press and communications for the casino when it was in its fledgling stages. He was also on the team when they were still pursuing the gaming license.

Recently, he has been

See ENCORE Page 2



Mike Sainristil, with his proud parents, Carlot Sainristil and Raymonde Sainristil, his sister, Aisha Sainristil, and his brother, Raymond Sainristil.

By Katy Rogers

As Maureen DiPierro stood on the driveway of a Central Avenue home last Thursday morning, tears flowed freely and she struggled to put to words the wonderful memories left behind by her niece — Ersilia Matarazzo — who had been murdered in an act of domestic violence on that same driveway just one day prior, Dec. 19.

"This has been a very difficult loss, not only for our family, but for our entire community," DiPierro lamented. "We



Ersilia Cataldo Matarazzo celebrated at a Kiwanis Club holiday brunch days prior to her death.

all loved Ersilia very much.

She described Ersilia as

someone who was "always putting others first."

Those words came after the arraignment of her husband, who is charged with allegedly committing a grisly and unspeakable act in the driveway of a family member's home.

Ersilia Cataldo Matarazzo was fatally attacked with a shotgun-style weapon in the driveway of her parent's home at 90 Central Ave. in while leaving for work on Wednesday morning.

The suspect has been identified.

See MATARAZZO Page 2

Investigations Continue

Special School Committee meeting scheduled

By Seth Daniel

With the retirement of Supt. Fred Foresteire, the investigation into the sexual harassment allegations against him will not also retire, according to City and School officials.

The School Committee had retained legal counsel and designated \$50,000 to fund an independent investigation into the claims of sexual harassment by the former superintendent.

There were questions this week after the retirement an-

nouncement if that investigation would continue.

School Committeeman Frank Parker said in a statement that they have been advised to continue their investigation into the matter.

"Counsel has advised that since the School Committee approved retention of independent investigation, it must proceed," he said on Friday.

On Thursday, the School Committee posted an agenda for a special meeting on Dec. 27 that would tackle at least three personnel matters

in private, executive sessions. While the agenda said Dec. 27, it also said Wednesday, leaving the real date into question. However, it does appear that the intention is to have the meeting on Dec. 26.

All three matters appeared to be directly related to the Foresteire matter.

The first matter looked to be related to contract negotiations for non-union personnel, and that could be about negotiating a new contract with In-

See INVESTIGATION Page 2

TRASH NOTICE
Due to the New Year's Day Holiday on Tues. Jan. 1, 2019, trash will be delayed by one day. Mon. Dec. 31st pickups are on schedule.
Capitol Waste Services, Inc.

Our offices will be closed on
Tuesday,
January 1st, 2019
on account of the
New Years Holiday

Season's Greetings!



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DA Ryan announces Grand Jury indictments

The following indictments for Everett were handed down between September 26 and November 20. These charges are allegations and the defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Everett

- Acurio Boy, 40, of Revere, was charged with aggravated rape of a child (3 counts), rape of a child by force (3 counts), and indecent assault and battery on a child under the age

of 14 (2 counts). The Assistant District Attorney is Marisa Tagliareni.

- Joao Brazao, 22, of Everett, was charged with rape (3 counts) and strangulation. The Assistant District Attorney is Julie Kunkel.

- Anthony Robinson, 17, of Everett, was charged with armed robbery (3 counts), assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, assault with a dangerous weapon (2 counts),

and being a youthful offender. The Assistant District Attorney is Jacob McCrindle.

- Balwant Sandhu, 55, of Somerville, was charged with aggravated rape of a child (3 counts), rape of a child by force (3 counts), and indecent assault and battery on a child under the age of 14. The Assistant District Attorney is Marisa Tagliareni.

Investigation // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

terim Superintendent Janice Gauthier. Foresteire and his representatives were not invited to that session.

The second matter for executive session was to be about litigation, likely about upcoming cases involving the Everett Public Schools in the Foresteire matter.

The final executive session did have Foresteire and his representative invited,

and was about discussing the charges and complaints brought against the former superintendent of schools.

That would appear to be the beginnings of the independent investigation. Another note is that the School Committee has brought on attorney Robert Galvin of Plymouth to advise them, and long-time attorney Spencer Tobin is no longer listed on

the roster of those invited to the sessions.

In addition to the School Committee independent investigation, there is also an MCAD investigation that has begun and is on a separate track from the School Committee investigation.

There are reports that another investigation is also in the works at another level of government.

Retires // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tion emerged at the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD). Former Payroll Clerk Andrea Garay, of Everett, had authored the complaint on Nov. 21, alleging several types of sexual and racial harassment against her in the two years she worked at the School Department.

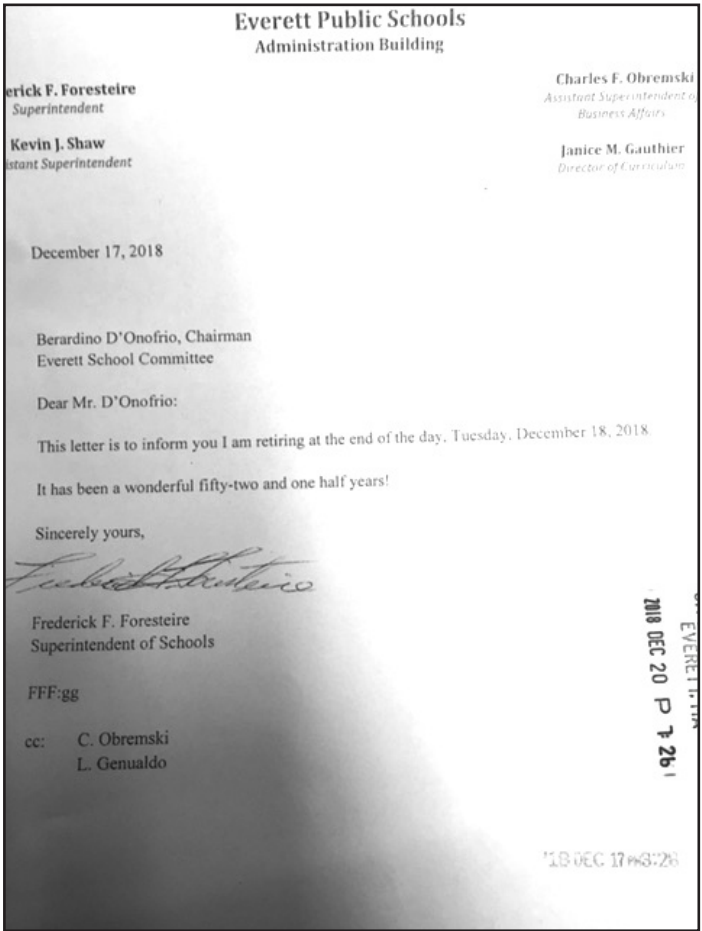
Last week, Boston Attorney Tara Swartz confirmed that a second MCAD sexual harassment claim had been filed by her client. She also represents Garay.

In a statement, Swartz said her clients were happy to hear of the retirement, as it represented forward motion.

“My clients are elated to hear of Superintendent Foresteire’s retirement,” read the statement. “They feel this is a positive first step to real change within the Everett Public School system.”

Iliana Panameno and the Everett Education Coalition (EEC) said they echoed that sentiment.

“We echo the sentiments of Attorney Tara Swartz’ clients...that ‘this is the first positive step to real change within the Everett Public School system,’” said Panameno. “We affirm their courage in coming forward and breaking their silence in a climate of fear and intense pressure. In the coming weeks, we look forward to working with the School Committee to define



The resignation/retirement letter from former Supt. Fred Foresteire, denoting his 52 and one-half years with the schools.

the scope of the independent investigation into Mr. Foresteire and the administration of the Everett Public Schools.”

Oddly enough, Foresteire’s retirement letter was dated Dec. 17, the same day he was put on leave. However, that letter seemed to hang in limbo somewhere as it wasn’t

received at City Hall until Thursday night.

The date/time stamp shows it came in at 7:26 p.m. on Dec. 20.

It was reported by sources that former Mayor David Ragucci, now an assistant city clerk, took the letter in and stamped it.

sue,” she said. “We don’t see them floating on the top or at the trash boom because they sink. We are really focusing on it and we find them at the bottom. The problem is they break down under water and turn into microplastics that contaminate the water. Those microplastics are ingested by mammals and that hurts them.”

The ban, so far, would be like most others, except that retailers would have one year to use any bulk purchased bags already in place. Many places only give retailers six months to use up their existing supply.

The ban would not extend to reusable bags, produce bags or product bags. However, it would also include laundry/dry cleaning bags, newspaper bags, and bags used to wrap meat or fish (prepackaged or not).

“They are definitely an is-

Matarazzo // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tified as her estranged husband, Emilio Matarazzo, who turned himself in at the Everett Police Department within hours after the incident. Ersilia was in the process of filing for divorce after 30 years of marriage, confiding to family members about recent physical abuse.

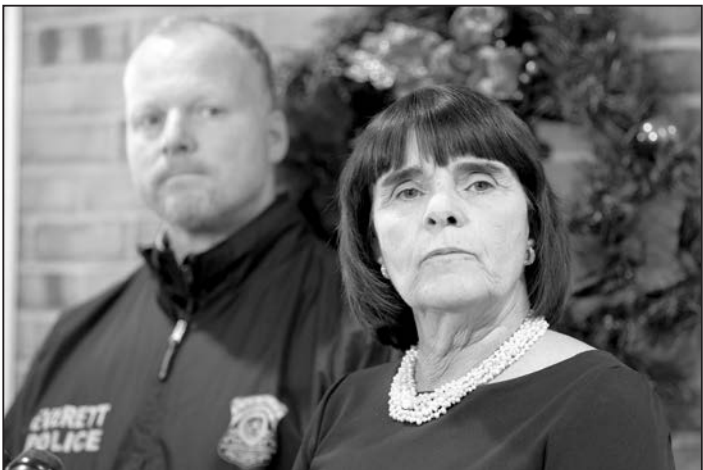
Ersilia, who celebrated her 50th birthday only days before her death, expressed concerns to friends about Emilio’s irrational behavior after he appeared at a church social event on Tuesday evening and refused to leave when she made a conscious effort to avoid him.

Emilio reportedly mailed her a \$20,000 check and gifts for her birthday in an effort to reconcile the marriage, which she refused.

The attack took place the following morning, after she expressed discomfort to friends at the church social.

Ersilia worked at St. Anthony’s Church, and had been an elected official in Everett in the past, serving on the School Committee at one time.

On the morning of Dec. 19, neighbors on Central Avenue reported hearing multiple blasts and loud screams just before 9 a.m. Ersilia’s body was found in the driver’s seat of her Honda with multiple gunshot wounds to the chest



Chief Mazzie and District Attorney Marian Ryan spoke to the media during a press conference hours after the murder.

and head.

She was pronounced dead at the scene.

In the aftermath of the murder, Everett High School was put on a precautionary lockdown.

In a press conference later that day at the Everett Police Station, Chief Mazzie assured residents the suspect turned himself in and did not pose a threat to the community.

District Attorney Marian Ryan confirmed the suspect had a license to carry a firearm.

Emilio Matarazzo was arraigned at Malden District Court on Thursday morning where he pleaded not guilty. He was ordered to be

held without bail and is due back in court on Jan. 18.

Two of their three children were present in the courtroom.

Ersilia leaves behind three adult children and a large extended family.

She was second cousin to Mayor Carlo DeMaria. In addition to being a staple at St. Anthony’s Church, she was active in the city as a member of the Kiwanis Club and volunteer at charitable events. Ersilia was on the Everett Board of Assessors and previously served on the Everett Board of Registrars and Everett School Committee.

Seth Daniel contributed to this report.

Encore // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

working on the social media and the website in the ramp up to the June 2019 opening.

John, who owned his own public relations firm for years (KHJ), said he had the opportunity to increase work with

St. Jude’s Children’s hospital, coordinating the celebrity spots that they do.

“They have been asking for years that I increase my role and I’m looking into doing that,” he said.

Sainristil // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

nothing but a gentleman. He’s a student that sets the example for everyone. He’s very respectful. He’s in church on Sundays with his parents. He’s always doing the right thing.”

Pierre, who became head coach of the Crimson Tide this season, said that after accepting the job he talked with his wife about Everett’s unmatched winning tradition and she assured the new coach by telling him, “You’re going to be fine. You got Mikey.”

“That made me feel better,” said Pierre. “Mikey was one of the first players to come up to me afterwards and say, ‘I’m happy you are our head coach.’”

Everett, who was ranked No. 1 in the state for the first eight weeks of the season, finished with a 10-1 record. Sainristil, who was a key performer for back-to-back Super Bowl champions, was named to the Globe and Herald All-Scholastic teams in addition to the Gatorade award as the best high school football player in Massachusetts.

A 5-foot-10-inch, 170-pound receiver and defensive back, Sainristil was gracious and humble in his remarks.

“I want to start off by thanking my teammates,” said Sainristil. “I want to thank [Pop Warner] Coach Dennis Willcox because he always made us as players feel like children of his own. I want to thank Coach [John] DiBlaso. He was very special to all of

us as a coach. I thank him because he allowed me to step in as a freshman. I promised myself that I would never let him down about that decision he made. I want to thank Coach Carlos Ruiz for coaching us. He took care of us in the classroom and on the field. He was a very special guy to us.”

He also thanked the Savage family, Everett High administrators and faculty, and Athletic Director Tammy Turner.

He said the team should be thankful to Theluxon Pierre and his coaching staff. “They always had our backs and took college trips with us,” said Sainristil. “The endless amount of time they put in and they invested in us as a team. They brought us a long way.”

“To the underclassmen, thank you for trusting me as one of the leaders of this team,” he said.

Sainristil acknowledged the extraordinary efforts of Frederick Foresteire, who helped establish Everett High as the most successful football program in New England and always had the best interests of the players in his heart.

“Mr. Foresteire, thank you for taking care of the football team,” Sainristil. “There’s not one time that you never offered your help toward us as players or the city we represent. You gave the pre-game and halftime speeches and those really meant a lot to us. That really helped us a lot on the field.”

He thanked “the City of Everett for all the support you’ve



Everett High quarterback Duke Doherty congratulates his teammate, Mike Sainristil, on signing his Letter of Intent to attend the University of Michigan.

given me.”

Sainristil concluded, “Last but not least, I want to thank my family, my cousins, my brother (Raymond) and my sister (Aisha) – thank you guys for always supporting me, I don’t think there’s one game you have ever missed. Raymond, thank you being my older brother and setting the example for me. Mom and Dad, thank you guys for moving to this country. Without you, this opportunity would never have been possible. We’re not done yet. We have a lot more to accomplish as a family. From here on out, it’s positive. That’s being said, Go [Michigan] Blue.”



Everett High basketball coach Stanley Chamblain, one of Mike Sainristil’s mentors during his EHS career, Carlot Sainristil, Raymonde Sainristil, Mike Sainristil, and his former Everett teammate, Jason Maitre, who is now playing football at Boston College.

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PHOTOS BY KATY ROGERS

Sen. Sal DiDomenico was joined by members of the School Committee, including Alan Panarese, Frank Parker, Asst. Supt. Charlie Obremski, and Marcony Almeida-Barros.

SEN. SAL DIDOMENICO HOLDS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

As an annual tradition, Sen. Sal DiDomenico held his Christmas party at Oliveira’s in Everett on Wednesday evening, Dec. 19. Friends, family, and supporters joined him for an evening of socializing.



Chelsea Councillor Leo Robinson and Sen. Sal DiDomenico wished one another a happy holiday season.



Vincent Ragucci, Sen. Sal DiDomenico, and Vinnie Ragucci celebrated the holiday season.



Assistant Superintendent Charlie Obremski, Sen. Sal DiDomenico, and Interim Supt. Janice Gauthier mingled at the Christmas party.



Rob McCarthy, Arthur Berardino, Sen. Sal DiDomenico, and Councilor at Large Rich Dell Isola.



Councilor Mike McLaughlin, Sen. Sal DiDomenico, Tricia DiDomenico, Councilor Fred Capone, and Councilor at Large Rich Dell Isola.

City of Everett’s holiday assistance program supports over 500 families

Mayor Carlo DeMaria would like to extend the City’s appreciation to local Everett businesses and residents for their generous donations in 2018 to the City’s Human Services Assistance Programs, which benefit Everett families in crisis.

The City’s Holiday Program has remained strong – and the Mayor tributes that to the City’s amazing business community and compassionate residents.

“I would like to thank all of the businesses and residents who donated to our fundraising efforts this year,” states Mayor DeMaria, “Whether you helped out with the holiday meals program, donated a gift card or a toy at Christmas, or sent a check to our Human Services Office in support of programs, your compassion and your generosity are much appreciated.”

- MassBadge
- Exelon Generation
- Senator Sal DiDomenico & The DiDomenico Foundation
- Encore Boston Harbor
- The Schiavo Club
- Zion Church Ministries

- Kiwanis
- Paul’s Towing
- Malden Transportation
- Everett Emblem Club
- Schnitzer Steel Industries
- The WHISH Committee from Cambridge Health Alliance (Everett Hospital)
- Eagle Bank
- Graybar Electric
- Saugus- Everett Elks
- Craft Brewers Guild
- Everett Credit Union

Due to the generous support from the community, the Office of Human Services was able to provide Christmas gifts, holiday meals and emergency services once again this year to support well over 500 local families, children, and seniors. Some examples of the services provided included holiday meals and Christmas gifts for children.

Donations came in a variety of ways, including checks and gift cards. Human Services also received support to provide Thanksgiving baskets and holiday meals for hundreds of families. DeMaria stated, “Each year the holidays remind us of those who are less fortunate and who may feel that they have little

to celebrate during the holiday season. Since we received so many generous donations, we were able to make life a little better for some of Everett’s families.”

The City also accepted over a thousand donations to its Holiday Toy Drive for Everett children. Due to the generous support from residents and city employees, the Mayor’s Office was able to provide toys to support hundreds of local families and children in need.

Requests for assistance grew again this year, while the number of agencies offering assistance were reduced. The generous support from local businesses and residents allowed Everett to continue to provide the assistance that was needed.

Mayor DeMaria stated, “I would also like to thank all our City employees who helped make this program a success, especially those in my office and those at the Connolly Center. They genuinely show the true spirit of the holiday season with their dedication and commitment to help those in need.”

EVERETT LNG FACILITY EMPLOYEES DONATE A SHIPLOAD OF TOYS TO THE CITY



The Exelon Generation, Everett LNG Facility employees showed their holiday spirit this year with toys for the City of Everett’s Holiday Toy Drive. The collective contribution from employees and the company totaled almost \$2,000 in gifts for Everett youth. Power Communications Manager Carol Churchill presented the toys to Mayor Carlo DeMaria, who said, “I can always count on the generosity of the Everett LNG Facility and its employees to help ensure that our toy drive is a success. My sincere thanks and best wishes to all for a happy holiday season.”

Baker-Polito administration announces grants to reduce diesel emissions

The Baker-Polito Administration announced \$184,000 in grants for diesel emission reduction technology projects, including one for Everett’s Wilson Farms.

The grants, awarded under the MassCleanDiesel: Clean Markets Program, will fund 20 new electric transportation refrigeration units (eTRUs) that will cut harmful diesel emissions and result in cleaner air for employees and residents working and living near wholesale markets, distribution centers and warehouses in eight communities across the Commonwealth.

“Massachusetts continues to be a leader in the advancement of emission reduction technologies that protect the air quality in communities across the Commonwealth,” said Governor Charlie Baker. “The funding awarded under the Clean Markets Program will allow for the deployment of technology to businesses in targeted pollution-impacted areas in an effort to reduce pollutants and preserve environmental integrity.”

The grants issued by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) will support the installation of 20 new eTRUs at several locations, including the Boston Meat Market, Wilson Farm in Everett, Intershell International in Gloucester and the Produce Connection

in Wakefield. Installed on the outside of stationary storage trailers to cool the perishable contents inside, the eTRUs replace diesel-fueled TRUs, which grant recipients are required to scrap. The electric units completely eliminate diesel emissions from those refrigerated trailers at participating sites.

The installation of the 20 eTRUs is projected to reduce annual emissions of nitrogen oxide by nearly seven tons, particulate matter by almost three tons, hydrocarbons by nearly one ton, carbon monoxide by seven tons, and carbon dioxide by more than 812 tons. Since 2006, more than 2,100 diesel school buses, 23 municipal construction engines, 203 waste collection vehicles, 11 hybrid diesel trucks, 23 private long-haul

trucks, and 262 state-owned highway vehicles have been retrofitted with or received pollution-control technologies funded through the MassCleanDiesel grant programs.

The four companies receiving eTRUs are:

- C-J&J Leasing Corp. (sites in Boston, Hyde Park, Lynn, Agawam and Hyannis) – \$119,542.80 for 13 eTRUs;
- Wilson Farm, Incorporated (Everett) – \$9,195.60 for one eTRU;
- Intershell International, Incorporated (Gloucester) – \$9,195.60 for one eTRU; and
- The Produce Connection (Wakefield) – \$45,978 for five eTRUs.

The eTRUs are to be installed by Thermo King NE of Saugus and Power Products Systems, LLC of Wakefield.

Happy Holidays & Happy 2019!

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBER WARD 5

Marcony Almeida Barros

Everett

Independent

President: Stephen Quigley

Editor in Chief: Cary Shuman

HAVE A HAPPY, SAFE -- AND MINDFUL -- NEW YEAR

The arrival of a new year marks a time for reflection, as to both the year that has passed and the year that lies ahead. In the words of the poet Alfred Lord Tennyson:

Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

But to put it another way, we might ask ourselves, “Where have we been -- and where are we going?” The latter question asks us to foresee the future, which by definition is an impossible task. Though we may make our best guess to predict what may lie ahead -- and to plan accordingly -- none of us has a crystal ball. The vicissitudes of life more often than not throw us curve balls that lay to waste even the best-laid of our plans for the year to come.

However, the former question is equally as tricky. Answering it requires both introspection and understanding, two qualities that are in short supply in our hurried world. We have barely enough time to do all the things we need to do every day, let alone try to figure out the, “Why?” of what we have done.

“Mindfulness” became the watchword of 2108. We are advised to step out of our busy lives for a few minutes each day to allow ourselves to practice “mindfulness” in the quest to bring ourselves inner peace and calm.

In a previous era, prayer served essentially the same purpose. Reciting the Rosary or a few Our Fathers, or going to a church to say a novena, was the preferred form of practicing mindfulness (though that was not the term for it in those days).

But with belief in god and attendance at church in steep decline in America in 2018, meditation and mindfulness have become the secular version of religious practice, a drug-free prescription to bring relief from the anxiety-inducing life we face every day we wake up.

However, one thing we can advise all of our readers is that celebrating the New Year -- especially over what for many of us will be an extra-long weekend -- requires all of us to make sure that we do so safely and that we are vigilant regarding the safety of others.

Although most of us these days take precautions to ensure that we do not operate a motor vehicle while under the influence on New Year’s night -- whether by means of having a designated driver, or using Uber, or staying overnight in a hotel -- there still are too many among us who will get behind the wheel of a car after having had too much to drink.

The most important thing we can do at an individual level is to prevent our friends and loved ones from becoming another tragic story by taking their keys or offering them a ride home if they appear incapable of driving soberly and safely.

We wish all of our readers a happy, healthy, safe -- and mindful -- New Year.

LETTER to the Editor

E CLUB Meeting set

Dear Editor:

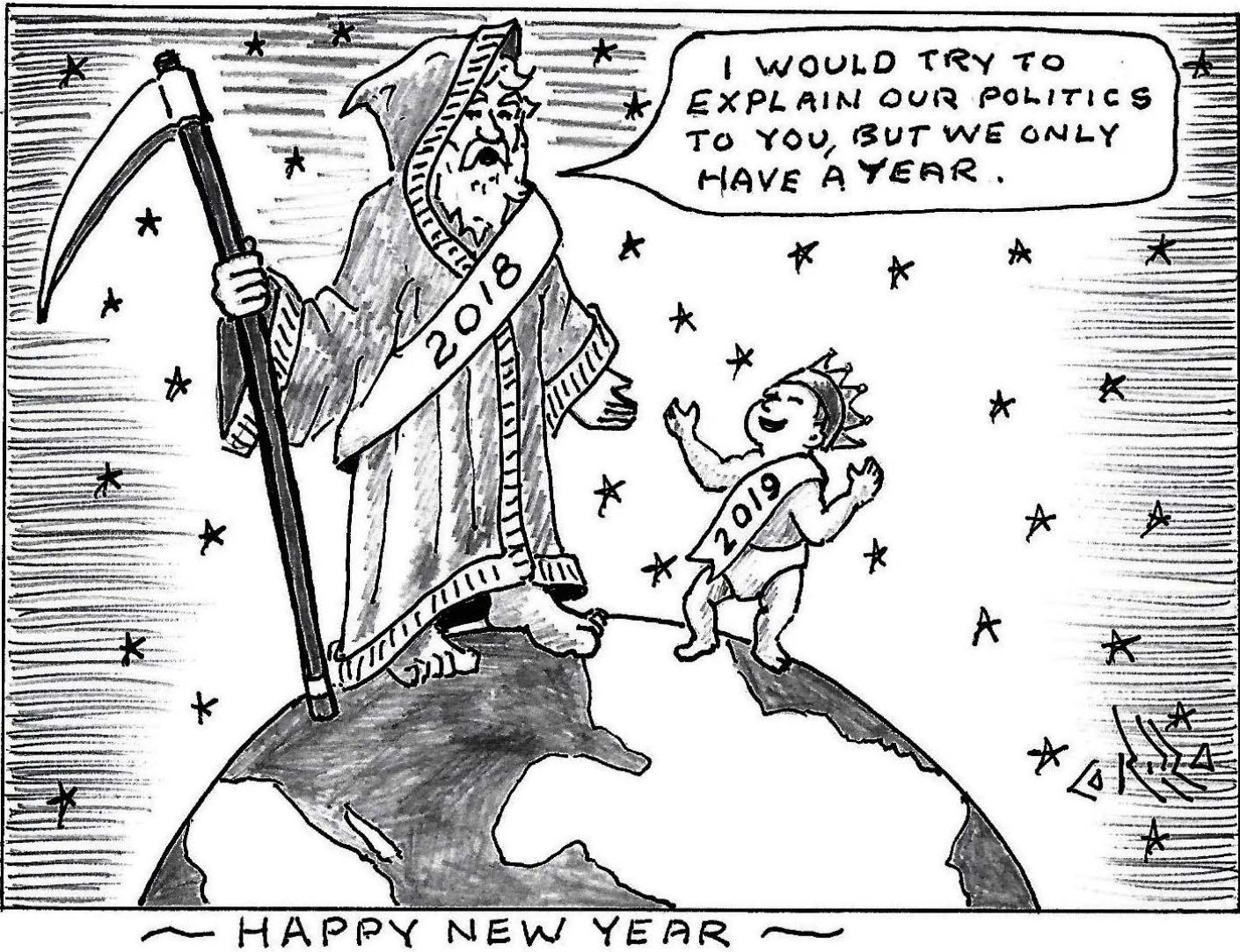
The E CLUB of Everett is pleased to announce that, in accordance with the terms of our charter, we will have our annual meeting on January 8, 2019, to be held at the City of Everett DPW yards on Norman Street, Everett at 6 p.m.

You are cordially invited to

attend this meeting and speak to the board for a two minute time limit for each participant. If the City of Everett has cancelled school this day the Club will reschedule the Annual meeting later.

Respectfully submitted,
John Ragucci,
E Club of Everett, Secretary.

Independent Forum



DiDomenico and Senate pass legislation extending unemployment insurance for locked-out National Grid workers

Sen. Sal DiDomenico and his colleagues in the Massachusetts Senate last week passed legislation to extend unemployment benefits for locked out National Grid workers for up to 26 additional weeks, or until National Grid workers are no longer locked out, whichever comes first. The benefits would be part of the existing unemployment insurance (UI) system.

“This lockout by National Grid of their union employees has been unjust from the very start, but it is truly egregious how long this has continued to last,” said Sen. DiDomenico. “These National Grid employees have been without salaries and health insurance for over six months now, and this bill passed by the Senate is meant

to offset the enormous burden that has been placed on the workers and their families. I am proud to stand with the locked out gas workers as they continue to fight for their benefits, health insurance, and our public safety.”

“We have considered a range of options, and believe the bill we put forward is practical, feasible, and able to be implemented quickly, ensuring that these families incur no break in unemployment benefits,” said Senate President Karen E. Spilka (D-Ashland). “It is our hope that this action will provide some relief and peace of mind for those workers who want nothing more than to get back to work. We strongly encourage both parties to continue

their negotiations and resolve this issue, without this issue as a pawn at the negotiating table.”

“The legislation adopted by the Senate today is a carefully chosen, limited and reasonable option to prevent economic hardship for 1,250 National Grid workers and their families,” said Senate Minority Leader Bruce Tarr (R-Gloucester). “While it is an important measure to take, it is no substitute for a lasting and sustainable contract, that is fair to all parties including the ratepayers, that can only result from continuing good-faith negotiations between the parties. It is imperative that they redouble and intensify their efforts to produce that result.”

This legislation is designed to address the concerns of the approximately 1,250 workers scheduled to stop receiving UI benefits on January 14, 2019 because of the ongoing National Grid lockout. Under this legislation, benefits would be paid out through the existing unemployment insurance system, and will impact the experience rating of the employer engaged in the lockout, resulting in higher UI costs for that employer going forward.

A copy of the Senate bill, S.2692, can be found at <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/190/S2692>. It now goes to the House for consideration.

PROBLEMATTIK OF FRESHBAKED HOSTS FOOD DRIVE FUNDRAISER

Problemattik of Freshbaked, a well-known local artist, hosted a food drive fundraiser at Sammy’s Patio in Revere on Friday night, Dec. 21. All funds raised from the event went to Children’s Hospital of Boston and to The Soup Project in Somerville.

Original music was performed throughout the evening with a lineup of local artists. Problemattik (Matthew Kisthart of Everett) credits the start of his hip hop career to a food drive in Malden and wanted to give back through his music. He has been a rising star in the local hip-hop scene, most recently performing alongside Sugar Ray at Everett’s Village Fest.



Problemattik performed alongside Arichussetts at Sammy’s Patio.



PHOTOS BY KATY ROGERS

Gerard Project performed alongside Problemattik.



Problemattik introduced performer Mr.PSA at Sammy’s Patio.



Everett’s ‘Cheese’ rapped at Sammy’s Patio for a good cause on Friday night.

Everett

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GLENWOOD CEMETERY TREE LIGHTING

PHOTOS BY KATY ROGERS

The City of Everett hosted a tree lighting ceremony at Glenwood Cemetery on Monday evening, Dec. 17. A small crowd gathered in the peaceful atmosphere to remember loved ones and enjoy the tree lighting.



Bobby Barrett shared Christmas memories with the crowd.



Councilor Mike McLaughlin and Patti Frati enjoyed the peaceful tree lighting ceremony.



The Shaw family visited Glenwood Cemetery for the tree lighting.



Mayor Carlo DeMaria welcomed the community to the Glenwood Cemetery Tree Lighting.



Michele Capone held a candle during the tree lighting ceremony in Glenwood Cemetery.



A crowd gathered at Glenwood Cemetery.



Rev. Coots offered his blessings and recited "My First Christmas in Heaven."

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• The Beacon Hill Times • Regional Review • Jamaica Plain Gazette • Mission Hill Gazette

AROUND THE CITY

ACE TICKETS

Bruins battle the Flames, Jan. 3, 2019, at TD Garden, and the Wild on Jan. 8; Celtics vs. the Nets, Jan. 7, and the Pacers Jan.9, also at TD Garden; and new musical, “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory,” sweetens the Boston Opera House, Jan.8-20. [acetticket.com](#).

DONKEY SHOW NEW YEAR'S EVE

The long-running hit show presents a special late-night New Year's Eve celebration Sunday, Dec. 31, with doors opening at 9 p.m., performance at 10 p.m., toast at midnight and party 'til 2 a.m., 2 Arrow St., Cambridge. \$55, dance floor, \$95 VIP table seat. [americanrepertorytheater.org](#), 617-547-8300.

SALUTE TO VIENNA

Boston Symphony Hall, 136 Mass. Ave., Boston, ushers in the new year for all ages, with dancing and singing, reminiscent of Vienna's Golden Age, Jan.4, 2019, at 8 p.m. Featured performers are the Strauss Symphony of America, soprano Michaela Oeste, tenor Brian Cheney, the Kiev-Aniko Ballet of Ukraine, and International Champion Ballroom Dancers. Tickets start at \$39. VIP tickets also. 8880266-1200.

LET'S HANG ON

Greater Boston Stage ushers in the new year with a full-stage production-live band tribute to Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons, Dec. 31, 7 and10 p.m., 395 Main St., Stoneham. The evening is festive, with party hats, noise-makers, and a complimentary glass of champagne. Tickets from \$70; \$75, premium, members, \$5 discount. 781-279-2200, [greaterbostonstage.org](#).

A DOLL'S HOUSE PART II

Huntington Theatre Company and Berkeley Repertory Theatre present Lucas Hnath's hit Broadway comedy, making its Boston debut, Jan. 4-Feb. 3, 2019: select Tuesdays-Thursdays, 7:30 p.m.; Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m.;Sundays, 2 p.m. at Avenue of the Arts, 264 Huntington Ave., Boston.Days, times vary. Special events also. Tickets start at \$25, senior, subscriber, patrons 35 years old-younger, military, student discounts. 617-266-0800.

ONE-MINUTE PLAY FESTIVAL

The annual festival is held Jan. 5-7, 2019, 8 p.m., at Boston Playwrights' Theatre, 949 Comm. Ave., Boston: Saturday, 8 p.m., with 60 established and emerging Boston-area playwrights and directors. \$20. [BostonPlaywrights.org](#).

DWIGHT AND NICOLE

Soul duo Dwight Pitcher and Nicole Nelson, with three-piece soul-rock-blues band ring in the new year Dec. 31, as doors open at 9 and the show opens at 9:30 p.m. for this 21+ year-olds' celebration at the Regattabar, One Bennet St., Cambridge. Singer-songwriter Ali McGuirk opens the show, and midnight champagne toast tops it off. \$95. [Regattabar.com](#), 617-395-7759.

ERIC DARIUS

The smooth, contemporary jazz star ushers in the new year at Scullers Jazz Club, 400 Soldiers Field Road, Boston. Ultimate package, \$569 per coupe, including a four-course dinner,breakfast on New Year's Day, both at Boathouse 400; preferred seating for the 11 p.m. show, champagne toast, party favors, stayer in standard king bed suite, over-



The celebrated comedian-political satirist-commentator, Jimmy Tingle, performs his stands-act: “Why Would A Comedian Run for Office?,” Saturday, Dec. 29, 8 p.m., at The Cabot, 286 Cabot St., Beverly. [TheCabot.org](#), [info@thecabot.org](#), 978-927-3100, [thecabot.org/event/jimmy-tingle](#).

MLT NEW YEARS EVE

Marblehead Little Theatre creates life and laughter with its New Year's Eve professional stand-up comedy show, Dec. 31, featuring popular Boston comedian Dave Rattigan, former North Shore journalist andXM-SiriusSatellite Radio performer, appearing with headliners Joe Espinola and Heather Peabody, at 7 and 9 p.m.Beer, wine included. \$25. [MLTLive.org](#), [ScampsComedy.com](#).

CORTEO

Renowned Cirque du Soleil production”Corteo,” performs at DCU Center, Worcester, Jan.3-6, 2019:Thursday, 7:30 p.m.; Friday, Saturday, 3:30,7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, 1,5 p.m.as part of its North American arena tour. The performance includes 51 globally acclaimed acrobats, musicians, singers and actors.Advance tickets online for Cirque Club members, which is free.To join, visit [cirqueclub.com](#).

SMALL MOUTH SOUNDS

SpeakEasy Stage Company of Boston presents the Boston premiere of Bess Wohl's acclaimed off-Broadway comedy, featuring a cast of Boston's finest actors. Jan. 4-Feb. 2, 2019: Wednesday, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.; Friday, 8 p.m.; Saturday, 4,8 p.m.; Sunday, 3 p.m., also Jan. 31, 2 p.m., at Boston Center for the Arts, Calderwood Pavilion,Roberts Studio Theatre, 527 Tremont St., South End, Boston. Tickets start at \$25; seniors,students, persons age 25-younger discounts. [SpeakEasy.com](#), 617-933-8600.

TWO MILE HOLLOW

Apollinaire Theatre Company presents Leah Nanako Winkler's hilarious play, through Jan. 20, 2019:Friday, Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, Jan. 13,20, at 3 p.m., at Chelsea Theatre Works, 189 Winnisimmet St., Chelsea. Reception with the cast follows. \$30;seniors, \$25; students, \$15. 617-887-2336,[apollinairetheatre.com](#).

THE MIGHTY MIGHTY BOSSTONES

The group performs with its Hometown Throwdown 21 kine-up: The Aggrolites, Stray Bullets, Bedouin Soundclash, R.W.W. (Reggae Workers of the World), Vic Ruggiero and Jesse Wagner, and Color Killer, Dec. 28-30, at House of Blues, Landsdowne St., Boston. The group also performs a Sunday afternoon matinee, with doors opening at 4 p.m.

URBAN NUTCRACKER

Anthony Williams' fun, holiday two-act, two-hour program for all ages, featuring dancers from the newly-founded City Ballet of Boston, appears through Dec. 30, at Boch Center Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont St., Boston:Dec. 26-28, at 7 p.m.;Dec. 29, at 1 and 5:30 p.m.; and Dec.30 at 1 p.m.Tickets, \$28-\$118. [bochcenter.org](#), 617-532-1116, [groups@bochcenter.org](#).

BADFISH

The trio performs a tribute to Sublime, Dec. 26, 8 p.m., for audience members 18+ years old, at the Sinclair, Boston.\$20-\$25.

THE LITTLEST ANGEL

Anna Smulowitz presents the Christmas classic musical, with music by Bill Plante Jr. and Michael Yelle, Dec. 27-30, at Firehouse Center for the Arts Market Square, Newburyport. [firehouse.org](#), 978-462-7336.

SAILOR MOON SHOJU SPECTACULAR

Music, burlesque, dance and drag abound in Firehouse Center for the Arts' event, and be sure to dress in costume for the contest, Dec. 29,8 p.m., Market Square, Newburyport. Tickets from \$15.

KOWLOON KOMEDY, NEW YEAR'S EVE

Performing the Kowloon Restaurant and Comedy Club are Paul D'Angelo, Dec. 28,29, 8:30 p.m., \$20; Liquid Courage in the Volcano Room, Dec. 28. 9 p.m.-midnight. Ring in the New Year with R-rated hypnotist Frank Santos Jr. and Pandemonium Band, in the Luau Room, 6:30 p.m.-1 a.m. Santos performs 8-9:30 p.m.,Pandemonium, 9:30 p.m.-1 a.m. Includes dinner buffet,6:30-8 p.m., reserved seats, champagne toast,

party favors. Doors open 6:30 pm. Buffet, 6:30-8 p.m. \$59.95. Route 1N, Saugus. 781-233-0077.

MUSIC AT CLUB PASSIM

Melissa Ferrick appears Dec. 26,27, at 7 p.m., \$25/\$30. 47 Palmer St.,Cambridge.

JIMMY TINGLE

The celebrated comedian-political satirist-commentator performs his stands-act: “Why Would A Comedian Run for Office?,” Saturday, Dec. 29, 8 p.m., at The Cabot, 286 Cabot St., Beverly. [TheCabot.org](#), [info@thecabot.org](#), 978-927-3100, [thecabot.org/event/jimmy-tingle](#).

CINDERELLA

The touring company of Rodgers and Hammerstein's “Cinderella,” with new book by Douglas Carter Beane, appears through Dec. 30, at Emerson Colonial Theatre, Boston. Tickets start at \$39.50. [EmersonColonialTheatre.com](#).

MUSIC AT THE CABOT

Jimmy Tingle does standup, Dec. 29; and Peter Wolf and the Midnight Travelers celebrate New Year's Eve, Dec. 31, all at 8 p.m., with opening band Ward Hayden and the Outliers, (formerly Guns, Girls and Glory) at The Cabot, 286 Cabot St., Beverly. 978-927-3100, the-

[cabot.org](#).

BARBERSHOP CHRONICLES

American Repertory Theater (A.R.T.) presents this stirring new play, through Jan. 5, 2018, as part of its US premiere tour, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge. Tickets start at \$25, subscriber, member, groups, student, senior, Blue star families EBT cardholders and other discounts.. [americanrepertorytheater.org](#), 617-547-8300.

THE MIRACULOUS JOURNEY OF EDWARD TULANE

Arlekin Players present the premiere of an original adaptation of award-winning author Kate DiCamillo's book, performed simultaneously in English and Russian, through March 3, 368 Hillside Ave., Needham, Fridays, 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays,Sundays, 26 p.m. \$35/\$50. 617-942-0022.

ARTIST DONNA SAVASTIO

The artist' latest mysterious exhibit, “In the Woods,” will be displayed through Dec.30, at the Institution for Savings Art Gallery, Firehouse Center for the Arts, Market Square, Newburyport. 978-462-7336, [firehouse.org](#).

CHURCH News

Immaculate Conception Parish

News and Notes

Our Parish Staff: Father Jerry Osterman, Pastor; Father Donatus Ezenneka, Pastoral Vicar Richard Randazzo, Pastoral Associate Philomene Pean, Pastoral Associate, Haitian Community Weekly Mass Schedule at Immaculate Conception is as follows: Saturday (Sunday Vigil) 4:00 p.m., Sunday 7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m. (Family Mass), 11:00 a.m., and 5:30 p.m. 12:15 p.m. Spanish Community 4:00 p.m. Haitian Community

Masses are being held in the Chapel.

Eucharistic Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is held every Thursday from 7:45 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the Chapel. Each Thursdays' adoration will conclude the Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament at 6:30 p.m. All are invited to spend a few moments with Our Blessed Lord

Church Breakfast – Our next monthly Church Breakfast is scheduled for every

second Sunday in the lower Church Hall. Cost is \$4.00 per person. Pancakes, scrambles eggs, sausage, toast, juice, coffee and tea is served. All you can eat. Please join us after Mass.

New Ministry - At the back of the Church in the Vestibule area on Sundays following Masses, there is a team of volunteers who will answer your questions regarding our Church Ministries, etc. Please feel free to stop by and ask questions, schedule a Mass, register as a new Parishioner, etc.

Bring a Book-Buy a Book - We have a new Fundraiser Program in the back of the Church. It's called Bring a Book-Buy a Book. All books are a dollar and any money collected will go towards our Stain Glass Fund. Brink a Book and Buy a Book and make a donation. Our selections are great and varied. Please stop by the table and see what we have. Thank you

Immaculate Conception Parish

489 Broadway
Everett, Mass 02149
Phone 617-389-5660

Glendale Christian Lighthouse Church

News and Notes

Adult Sunday School at 9:30 AM. Teaching from the book of Ephesians.

Sunday 10:30 AM Worship service.

Wednesday hour of Power, worship, prayer and Bible Study. We are studying the Parables, come join us.

Come join us in prayer every Friday at 6 am.

“The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.”

Psalm 23:1

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• Domingo 9:30 am Escuela Dominical de Adultos. (en ingles)

Servicio de Alabanza y Adoracion a las 10 am (en ingles)

• Miercoles Hora de Poser, Oracion, alabanza y Estudio de la Palabra de Dios a las 7 pm Estamos estudiando las Parabolas. (en ingles)

• Ven unete a nosotros para orar todos los viernes a las 6

Glendale United Methodist Church

News and Notes

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

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

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

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

NA Meetings – Mon. Bring Your Own Book 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.; Thurs. I Can't But We

am

• Sabado a las 6 pm Servicio de Alabanza y Adoración. (Servico en español)

• Domingo Servicio de alabanza y adoracion a las 4pm (Servicio en español)

Mayores informes de los servicios en español (617) 306-3518

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Grace Episcopal Church

News and Notes

Grace Anglican Episcopal Church is open & welcoming to all.

There are 3 services on Sundays: 10am English, 1pm South Sudanese (Dinka) and 3pm Haitian Creole. We have Sunday school during each service in the Children's Room. Coffee Hour starts after the 10am service in the Parish Hall (entrance on 11 Liberty St.)

Come all and let us walk to-

gether in this season of hope, renewal and new beginnings.

We are located at 67 Norwood Street, Everett, MA
Phone 617-387-7526 or 508-243-8487

Grace Anglican
Episcopal Church
67 Norwood Street,
Everett, MA
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Getting Out

BARBER SHOP CHRONICLES- Where Real Men Gather, Gab, and Get Groomed

By Sheila Barth

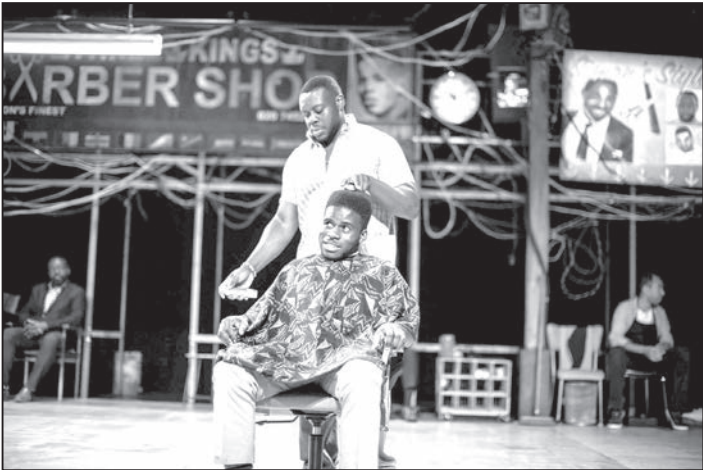
We all do it. While getting our hair cut or styled at the barber shop or salon, we engage in small talk with our hairdresser/barber. We even discuss lofty topics, solving the world's problems.

Sometimes, we lean over a bit, to eavesdrop on what the person in the chair nearby is revealing.

Strangely enough, we openly talk about family and friends' secrets, our feelings, likes and dislikes, political and personal problems to a stranger. You never know what truths, boasting, or bravado may erupt, but you know the dynamic exists globally.

That's the premise upon which Nigerian-born, British transplant author Inua Ellams, bases his play, "Barber Shop Chronicles".

There's more to his premise, too. Ellams explores the fact that African men, regardless of what country they're in or hail from, gather at the local barber shop to talk men's talk - real men's talk. It's a place they can come together without fear of being arrested, he says.



Ekow Quartey and Kenneth Omole in Barber Shop Chronicles.

Whether they're in London, Johannesburg, South Africa, Ghana, Harare, Kampala, Lagos, Nigeria, Uganda, or Accra, their conversation is spirited. Seated in barber's chairs, as the barber ceremoniously drapes a cape over his customers, his scissors or clippers poised artistically like a surgeon, men discuss the world and masculine issues. They profess their sexual prowess, family issues, fatherhood and how times have changed. Some immigrants and migrants decry post-Af-

rican diaspora, the accursed aftermath of British colonization and its ruinous effect on their culture and language. Languages are emerging together, erupting or dying in cultural erosion because of globalization and post-colonization.

They also discuss gays' treatment in Uganda, Mandela's and other political leaders' roles in shaping or destroying their countries.

Between these lively scenes, Jack Knowles' subtle spotlights illuminate large

banners hanging aloft, indicating where the next highlighted barbershop scene occurs. An illuminated circular mobile, bearing a blue-outlined Africa, slowly swirls above, while the 12 men chant a cappella, dancing tribally, at times in a circle, their arms interlocked.

Kudos, Music Director Michael Henry and Movement Director Aline David.

Deftly directed by Bijan Sheibani, several of the dynamic dozen actors - Maynard Eziashi, Alhaji Fofana, Solomon Israel, Mohammed Mansaray, Patrice Naiambana, Anthony Ofoegbu, Kenneth Omole, Ekow Quartey, Jo Servi, David Webber, Tuwaine Barrett, and Elliott Edusah - portray more than one character. They engage in candid conversation that's humorous at times or tinged with anger, but they all ardently watch, listen to, and cheer soccer games on TV and radio.

There's strife, too, when a younger man lunges at an older man apologizing for past wrongdoing. Despite his trying to placate the younger man with a coveted poster, the angry young man rejects it,

BOX OFFICE

One-act, 110-minute play, written by Inua Ellams, co-produced by The Fuel, National Theatre, and West Yorkshire Playhouse, appearing at American Repertory Theater (A.R.T.) through Jan. 5, 2019, on its US premiere tour; Loeb Drama Center, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge: Dec. 26-29, 31, Jan. 2-5, at 7:30 p.m.; Dec. 27, 29-31, Jan. 5, 2 p.m. Tickets start at \$25, subscriber, member, groups, student, senior, Blue Star families EBT cardholders and other discounts. americanrepertorytheater.org, 617-547-8300.

shouting, "Get out! Get out!" Everybody loves to tell stories, too, especially a man who's out of work, claiming he's happily married, but has a white mistress and a beautiful black mistress. Sheepishly, he admits he prefers white women in his bed.

While younger men's philosophy rivals their elders', in one shop they agree about the evil of apartheid and need to reclaim their land for themselves.

They deplore treatment of immigrants in England and the disparity in incarceration of Black men, especially in British prisons.

And one universal truth is oft-repeated. A father chides his son for speaking back to

him. "In my day, young people never talked to their elders like that. They treated them with respect! The world is different today...."

In a contrasting scene, a father and son, hugging, proclaim their love and admiration for each other.

Surprisingly at the post-show talkback, the teen-age/young adult audience asked few questions.

Later, actor Tuwaine Barrett, originally from Jamaica, said to me, regardless of what country the scene depicts, people are the same. Fathers and sons love each other. Families are most important. That fact is Ellams' point - precisely.

'1776'

By Sheila Barth

Sometimes, innovation in a theatrical production works great. Think award-winning productions like Lin Manuel Miranda's wildly famous, cross-gender, mixed race historic musical, "Hamilton". Miranda's fusion of musical genres is exciting and memorable, too.

However, at New Repertory Theatre's production of Tony Award-winning musical

"1776," (ended Dec. 23), the same innovative casting lost something in translation.

In a statement to the media, accomplished Boston-area director-choreographer, Kelli Edwards, said, "The most unique thing about this production of '1776' is the non-traditional casting. "We have women playing men, men playing women and many people of color in key roles. It was of great importance that the cast be fully representative of today's America."

Forget the non-traditional casting for a moment. Despite some theatrical stand-outs, New Repertory's almost three-hour production of "1776" lost the battle. The first act was too long, dragged down by repetition and forgettable songs.

The play encompasses June 4 to July 4, 1776. George Washington and other patriots led troops of "ragtag farmers" into deadly skirmishes and battles. In his missives to the auspicious group, Washing-

ton reported troop losses, lack of supplies and men.

In a touching scene, a young courier (Steven Martin) pleaded, "Momma, Look Sharp," as he lay dying on a battlefield.

Co-directed by Broadway veteran Austin Pendleton, the 24-member cast boasted renowned Boston area, award-winning actors, including popular, versatile, outstanding Benjamin Evett, who brilliantly portrayed John Adams; superlative actress Bobbie Steinbach as wise-cracking, tongue-in-cheek Benjamin Franklin; Aimee Doherty as Pennsylvania naysayer John Dickinson; Shannon Lee Jones as South Carolina's Edward Rutledge; Liliane Klein portraying Delaware representative Thomas McKean; Luis Negrón as Charles Thomson; and others.

Steinbach is great as Franklin. Also, Dan Prior's portrayal of young, lovely Martha Jefferson, admiringly singing "He Plays the Violin," added levity.

African-American actor KP Powell portraying Thomas Jefferson drew snickers from theatergoers with his impassioned speech opposing slavery. History revealed

Jefferson was a major slave owner who dallied with his female slaves and produced mixed-race children.

Dickinson, a British loyalist, opposed the founding fathers' divided vote to draw up a statement of independence. He claimed he didn't "want to offend" anybody.

"It's a revolution, damn it!" Adams spouted. We're going to have to offend somebody!"

In opening number, "For God's Sake, John, Please Sit Down!," Evett portraying John Adams sputtered and shouted to his fellow Continental Congressional cohorts, while the assemblage tried to shout him down. He's obnoxious and nobody likes him, they sang.

Adams knew that, but remained relentless. "You piddle, and twiddle," he sang forcefully. The assemblage representing the colonies had sat for days, accomplishing nothing, wasting time by bickering among themselves, while the threat of England's landing 23,000 more troops and German mercenaries loomed over them. They were acutely aware they were vastly outnumbered. Was it worth the risk?

Cristina Todesco's tapes-

try-like triptych background and dominant, huge, centrally-located floor-to-ceiling Union Jack flag gave credence to the Continental Congress' meetings, their chairs arranged in a semi-circle. Despite Adams' impassioned shouts against England's barrage of new taxes imposed on the colonists, Dickinson and a few others steadfastly remained England sympathizers,

Adams also opposed slavery. He wanted Jefferson's proposed preamble statement, "All men are created free and equal" to mean what it said.

In a powerful argument between South Carolina's Rutledge (Shannon Lee Jones) and Adams, Rutledge attacked Adams for his hypocrisy in her solo, "Molasses to Rum".

Away from the steamy Philadelphia room, Adam revealed his softer side in duets with his pragmatic, patient wife, Abigail (Carolyn Saxton), in songs, "Till Then," and "Yours, Yours, Yours".

Despite its flaws, New Rep's "1776" is poignant today, especially with closing song, "Is Anybody There?" Does anybody care? Is anybody listening?

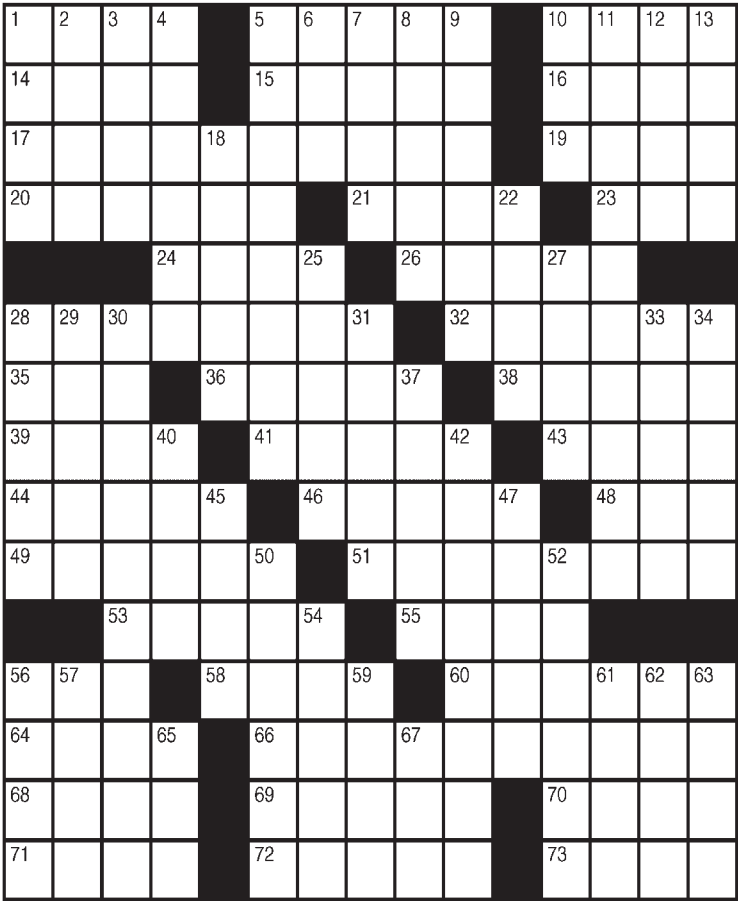
Crossword Puzzle

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- Cloth line
- Choose by vote
- Gone
- Complexion woe
- MTV newsmen
- Grave
- Overly fussy person
- "Havana" star
- Not so tough
- Long period of time
- Palmas
- Yard-sale warning
- Full of furrows
- Sports participants
- Plucked sounds
- Region on the SW coast of India
- Abandon
- Tremulous sound
- Deck worker
- Stowaway, e.g.
- Jai
- Invited
- Conflagrations
- Fraction letters
- Flummox
- Worker
- Parts of gallons
- Blind part
- Oklahoma town
- homo (Behold the man!)
- Positive poles
- Fruit's coat
- Pompous
- Norse god
- "Sesame Street" character
- Temporary funds
- Cameo stone
- Slammin' Sammy
- Italian art patron

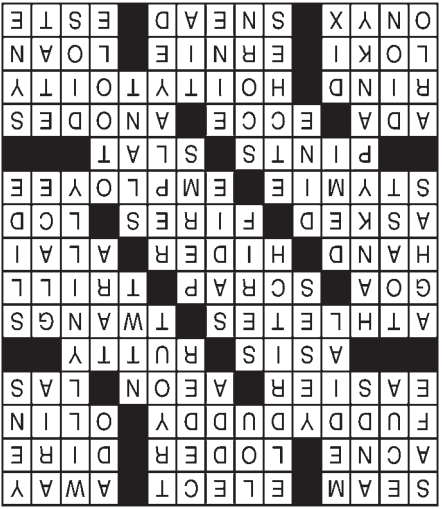
DOWN

- Out of danger
- Amer. nation
- "No ifs, or..."
- Average
- Eerie
- Bud's buddy
- Icelandic poem
- Yielder
- Experimental performance



- Bustle
- Haphazardly
- Operatic song
- Urges
- Okays
- Contents abbreviation
- Base of a letter
- Scarlett's place
- Turkish VIPs
- L'chaim, e.g.
- Monkey business
- Hawkins Day
- Candied
- End of a steal
- Salon dos
- Moore of "Ghost"
- Broadcast again
- Take lunch
- Bias
- Engraves
- Star of "My Favorite Year"
- Disdain
- Woody Guthrie's boy

- Singer Celine
- "kleine Nachtmusik"
- Guadalajara God
- Coup d'
- "Auld Lang"
- New Jersey fort
- Mexico city aunt



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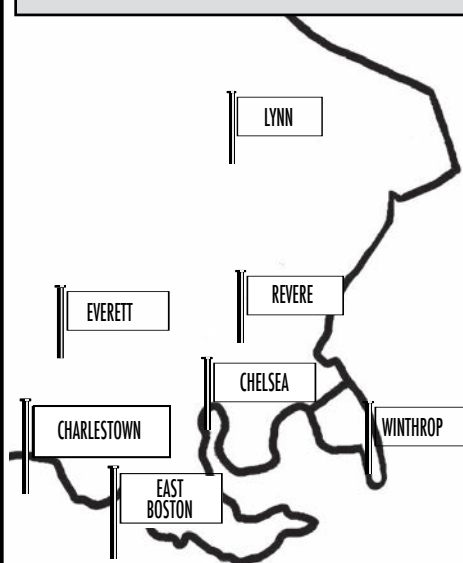
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EHS boys track edges Gloucester

The Everett High boys indoor track & field team defeated Gloucester in as exciting a meet as it gets with a 48-38 triumph over the Fishermen last Tuesday at the Somerville field house.

The Crimson Tide held a 43-38 lead coming into the final event, the 4 x 400 relay, with the winning team earning all five points. An Everett victory would give the Tide the meet outright; a Gloucester victory would bring the Fishermen a 43-43 deadlock.

To that point, Everett had been led by Mac Shillingford, who had scored

eight points with a victory in the 300 dash in 37.0 and a second place in the high jump with a leap of 5'-6"

The Crimson Tide swept the 600 dash, led by Jason Louis (1:30.6) and teammates Ryan Vu (1:31.5) and Michel King (1:33.2).

Everett also won four other of the individual events: Speedster Clarence Jules in the dash in 5.8; Mario Portillo in the 1000 in 3:11.7; Javier Chavez with a shot put toss of 37'-1"; and Mario Rivera in the two-mile run in 11:32.

Roberto Recinos scored three points for his second place finish in the 1000 in 3:37.8, Fabrice Jacques did likewise in the 50 hurdles in 8.6, and ditto for Elijah Auguste in the

dash in 5.9.

Adding key third-place points in a meet where every point counted were: Arthur Rose in the mile in 5:36.8; Eduardo Chaparro in the 300 in 38.2; Justin King in the hurdles in 8.7; and Ahmad Alananzeh in the shot put with a throw of 26'-10".

That set the stage for the 4 x 400 with the outcome of the meet on the line. But the Crimson Tide quartet left little doubt about the final result, handily winning the race by nine seconds with a clocking of 4:00.7 to Gloucester's 4:09.7.

Seide wins dash for EHS girls

Lucia Seide was the lone victor for the EHS girls track team in last week's meet with Gloucester that was held at Somerville last Tuesday.

Seide won the 50 dash, with teammate Rebecca Covelle taking third place.

However, there were other fine performances for the Lady Crimson Tide. Victoria Chaparro grabbed second place in the 300 dash in 42.8 and Nuvia Salazar took second spot in the mile in 7:20.

Adding single points to the Everett side of the scoresheet with their third place finishes were: Montana Sinclair in the high jump with a leap of 4'-2"; Alyssa Hurley in the shot put with a toss of 20'-4"; Lyanne Murphy in the 50 hurdles in 9.2; Shayla Vaughan in the 1000 in 1:57.8; and Rothsaida Sylvaince in the two-mile run in 16:09.

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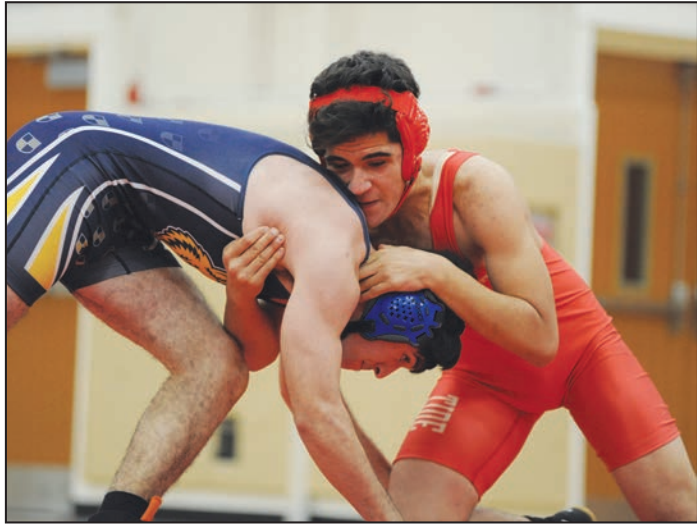
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EVERETT HIGH WRESTLING TEAM IN ACTION AGAINST EXCEL HIGH

PHOTOS BY EMILY HARNEY

The Everett High Wrestling team faced off against the Excel High team at the Parlin Junior High School gym on Friday, Dec. 21, during the winter break.



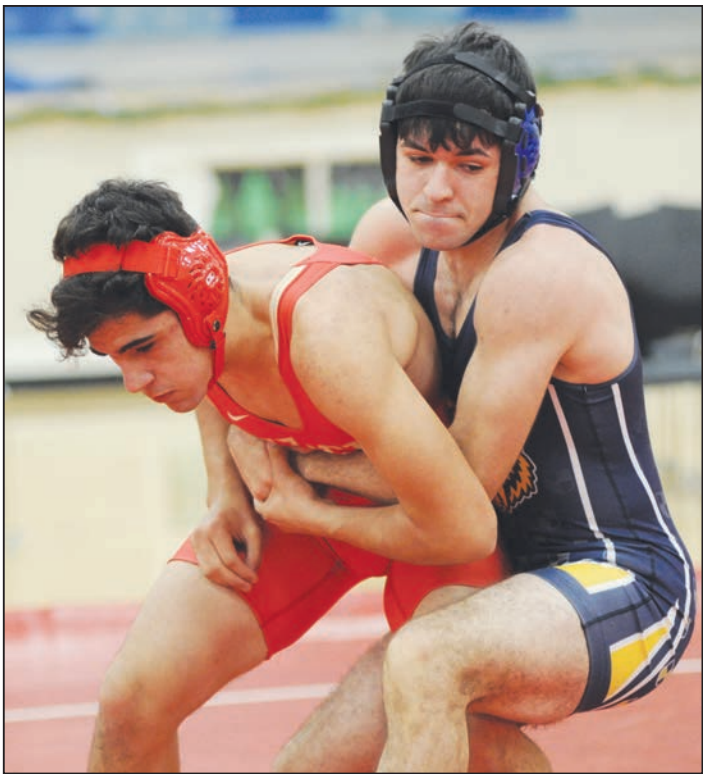
Everett High School wrestling team member Christian Machado works his opposition from Excel Academy to the ground Friday night during their match up. Machado won by submission.



Danny Dadi looks to take his opposition to the ground during his match up Friday night. Dadi lost his match by submission.



Kyle Rodriguez looks to outwork his opposition on the ground during his match up Friday night. Rodriguez won by decision over a very game opponent from Excel Academy.



Everett High School wrestling team member Christian Machado works to get away from his opponent's hold.



Kyle Rodriguez gets ready to take on his opposition during his match up Friday night. Rodriguez won by decision over a very game opponent from Excel Academy.

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Jonathan Velez takes his opponent to the ground during his match. Velez won by submission over a very good opponent from Excel Academy.

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Everett High School wrestling team member, Jonathan Velez, is fired up after his submission win.

The Everett High School wrestling coach, Nicholas Urban, gives advice to his team during their match against Excel Academy this past Friday.

Jonathan Velez takes his opponent to the ground.