

EVERETT HIGH SCHOOL 59-47 OVER REVERE



NO TRESPASSING: Jaysaun Coggins (22) presents a barrier to Revere’s Dom Boudreau during Everett’s 59-47 win at Revere Wednesday, January 19. See Page 6 for more photos.

City Council inquires into Justice of the Peace fees charged by Clerk’s office

By Stephen Quigley

At the January 24 meeting of the City Council, two items generated controversy.

The first was an order by Councilor Stephanie Martins asking that the matter of “cash collected as a fee for officiating during work hours at City Hall as part of the official duties of the City Clerk’s office be reviewed to determine whether such funds pertain to the city budget.” A request for this information was sent to the City Clerk at the last council meeting on January 10. However, the requested information had not been provided for the council’s meeting on January 24.

Martins estimated that the Justice of the Peace fees for weddings performed by personnel in the clerk’s office could be as high as \$30,000 per year.

Councilor Wayne Matewsky noted that he is a Justice of the Peace and has performed more than 300 marriages for family and friends over the past 28 years, but only two were requested from the City Clerk’s office. He suggested that there should be a list of 10 or so Justices of the Peace in the city clerk’s office for the public to choose from. Matewsky said, “I find it insulting that there is no list of how many weddings are being done at City Hall.”

Councilor Anthony DiPierro said, “This is the second request for how many weddings. We talk about everyone’s compensation and this should be included in the compensation figure.”

City Clerk Sergio Cornelio noted that there are between 350 to 400 marriage intentions filled out in the clerk’s office, but he estimates about 40 marriage intentions are never picked up. He said that the filing of a marriage intention costs \$40 and this money goes back to the city budget. However, a Justice of the Peace fee is private.

Cornelio also noted that the fee that he collects is “outside the realm of pay.”

Councilor Stephanie Smith said, “We have

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Excellence in the Everett Public Schools

Special to the Independent

Highlights from Around the District

The Everett Public Schools (EPS) recently completed the exhaustive and intense Tiered Focus Monitoring Review administered by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. And in a tremendous and thorough exhibit of competence and dedication, the EPS was determined to be in compliance with all 39 standards and three indicators.

“I do not want to say this is unprecedented, but I can say that it is very rare and incredibly impressive,” said Superintendent of Schools Priya Tahiliani. “I am beyond happy for every person who works and contributes to our special education program. This is the definition of a team honor.”

While the review process was overseen by Special Education Director William Donohue, it depended on important contributions from educators in every school in the EPS.

“Our educators, paraprofessionals, and support staff were fantastic at every step on the journey,” Mr. Donohue said. “They were responsive and thoughtful, and this report is a credit to their work. It is an honor to collaborate with the EPS Special Education Team every day.”

The Tiered Focused Monitoring Review (TFM) took place in 2020 and 2021. Regularly monitored standards are divided into two groups of Universal Standards. Districts and schools are

monitored on an alternate set of Universal Standards every three years by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).

Group A Universal Standards address:

- Student identification
- IEP development
- Programming and support services
- Equal opportunity

Group B Universal Standards address:

- Licensure and professional development

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School Committee takes up a number of issues

By Stephen Quigley

McLaughlin)

7. That all upper management positions, from Assistant Principals and higher, provide a copy of their active certification for the job they are performing in time for the School Committee meeting scheduled for Monday, February 28, 2022; and that the Superintendent of Schools provide the School Committee with a full and detailed report of all active certifications, as well as those who are not certified, in time for the School Committee meeting scheduled for Monday, February 28, 2022 (Michael McLaughlin)

8. That the Superintendent of Schools does not approve any contract extension for any non-union/non-contractual employee without first seeking prior approval from the School Committee (Michael McLaughlin)

9. Request to utilize uncommitted funds for the purpose of conducting an external operational audit of the Everett Public Schools. The objective of this operational audit is to review the efficiency of all departments and operations within the EPS and to present a final report on

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The controversial items on the agenda, which was posted on January 13 by the Everett City Clerk four days prior to the filing by Tahiliani of her action with the MCAD on January 17, were submitted by newly-elected members of the School Committee and had some returning members asking whether the items went beyond the purview of the School Committee’s oversight.

Those agenda items, and their sponsors, were as follows:

5. Place an immediate hiring freeze on all Everett Public School (EPS) positions that are not classroom related for a period of 90 days (Michael McLaughlin)

6. Place an immediate freeze on salary increases for all non-union/non-contractual positions for a period of 90 days (Michael

Everett boxers advance in Golden Gloves Tournament

By Cary Shuman

Three fighters out of the Everett-based Broadway Boxing Club, including a former Everett High football standout, are competing in the 2022 Lowell Golden Gloves amateur boxing tournament held at Lowell Auditorium.

Gilbert Kabamba, who earned two Super Bowl rings as a lineman the Crimson Tide, rising amateur star Shea Willcox and Pace University student Thomas Shen have all advanced in their respective divisions.

All three fighters are coached by Dennis Willcox and Joe Ricciardi, co-directors of the Broadway Boxing Club.



Participating in workouts at the Broadway Boxing Club in preparation for the next round of the Lowell Golden Gloves tournament are, from left, Coach Joe Ricciardi, amateur fighters Tommy Shen, Gilbert Kabamba, and Shea Willcox, and Coach Dennis Willcox.

Gilbert Kabamba

Kabamba, 20, is a 6-foot-3-inch, 255-pound contender in the heavy-weight division. After winning impressively in his Golden Gloves debut, Kabamba will be fighting in the quarterfinals Thursday against Jared Gaines of Nolan Brothers Boxing Club.

Kabamba is a 2019 graduate of Everett High School where he was a standout defensive end

and right tackle on two Crimson Tide state championship teams.

“I’m ready for the fight,” said Kabamba. “I’ve been working hard. I’ve been training seriously here [Broadway Boxing Club] for four months. I have the best coaches who are helping me advance my skills.”

Dennis Willcox was an assistant football coach

when Kabamba played for the Crimson Tide. “Gilbert was a hard worker when it came to football,” said Willcox. “He was very athletic for his size, and he’s carried that over into boxing. With Joe and me, he’s got the right team teaching him the game.”

Shea Willcox

Willcox, younger brother of Brown University quarterback Jake Will-

cox, will be stepping into the squared circle against Matt Rideout of the Union Street Boxing Club in the semifinals Thursday night in Lowell. Willcox, who is 5-feet, 9 inches tall, is competing in the junior middleweight division.

Willcox won by a unanimous 5-0 decision in the first round and received

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SAFE INJECTION SITES ARE NEEDED NOW

Among the side-effects of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has been the increase in drug-overdose deaths in this country.

The death rate from opioids finally had begun to decline in 2019, but then came COVID-19 and the number of deaths from drug overdoses began to skyrocket once again.

The nation was reporting fewer than 50,000 fatal overdoses as recently as 2014, but in 2020, drug overdose deaths breached the 100,000 mark.

The chief cause of the surge in deaths is the increase in availability of the synthetic opioid fentanyl, which is being laced into all sorts of drugs -- from marijuana to cocaine to heroin -- by the drug cartels. According to some news reports, nearly half of drugs tested by the DEA contain a potentially fatal dose of fentanyl.

Fentanyl is up to 50 times more powerful than heroin, but is far cheaper to manufacture for drug dealers, who use it as a substitute for heroin powder or press it into black-market oxycodone pills. Fentanyl is now also finding its way into cocaine and party drugs like ecstasy and is even sprayed on marijuana.

It has been reported that fentanyl now has killed far more Americans than all U.S. conflicts since World War II combined. In the past decade, it has claimed more than a half million lives, a toll that is growing daily.

In view of the combination of the lethality and availability of fentanyl, now more than ever our nation needs to address the tragedy of drug overdose deaths with a realistic solution.

Those who think that we can stop the supply of fentanyl are living in a fantasy-world of the 1970s-era movie The French Connection. Fentanyl is so powerful that just a few automobile trunk-loads are enough to kill every American citizen.

If old-school heroin were to be compared to conventional weaponry, then fentanyl is a nuclear bomb.

The Massachusetts legislature has before it a number of bills that would allow for clean injection sites, similar to what New York City and the nation of Portugal (where drug overdose rates have been a fraction of the rest of the world for 20 years) are doing.

We urge our state legislators to enact this important legislation forthwith. Every day of delay means more lives lost needlessly to the scourge of drugs.

OMICRON CAN LEAD TO LONG COVID

Public health officials have defined so-called long COVID as the physical, neurological, and cognitive symptoms that can persist indefinitely after infection.

Over the past two years, we’ve all seen the countless news stories about the devastating effects of long COVID upon those who are unfortunate enough to suffer from it.

Although the Omicron variant is causing less severe disease in those who are fully-vaccinated, the number of those infected who suffer from the loss of taste and smell, physical fatigue, and brain fog still is quite significant.

During this period of a surge in COVID because of Omicron’s high transmissibility, it only makes sense for all of us to continue to take the usual precautions -- wearing a protective face mask (such as an N-95), maintaining social distancing, and avoiding large crowds -- until the Omicron surge begins to wane.

Sure, we can play Russian roulette with our health.

But with the number of Omicron cases already declining (though still high) in Massachusetts, we figure that if we’ve made this far through the worst of the pandemic, sticking it out for another two months or so by making careful choices only makes sense.

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Independent Forum

GUEST OP-ED

The 3Gpocalypse is coming — Is your car ready?

By Kane DiMasso-Scott

Just this week I heard about something that I’m surprised has not received more media coverage on the national level, as it’s extremely important to us as consumers. Beginning in February and continuing through the end of the year, 3G networks are being shut down by the major players in the cellular network industry, AT&T, Verizon, and T-Mobile. This poses no problem to our use of cell phones, however, our automobiles are about to get a whole lot “dumber.”

Nearly every major brand in the auto industry has, from 2010 to as late as 2021, used these 3G networks in certain models for many of their included and on-board features in their cars. With the shutdown of 3G networks, features like GPS navigation, automatic crash detection, SOS emergency features, remote locking and unlocking, and the ability to connect with your phones (wirelessly), among others, will no longer be functional. Some companies

have already announced their plans to address the issue, while others still have not said much.

Certain brands will be offering free over-the-air updates for your vehicle to ensure that the features continue to work such as Subaru, Honda, and GM, while others look to require a hardware upgrade at a dealership to re-enable your features or disable warning messages that may arise from the lack of connectivity.

The shutdown of 3G networks is not something that comes as a surprise, as it was always an inevitability following 4G and now 5G rollouts. However, what’s embarrassing and downright frustrating is the fact that some automakers continued to produce vehicles using this same outdated network, fully aware of the ramifications down the line. I commend the aforementioned companies that are pushing out updates for their consumers, but others who have yet to announce what their plans are is maddening.

More often the not

we, as the consumer, will spend tens of thousands of dollars on a vehicle, expecting the features included when we purchased the vehicle to always be available. Now, with the shutdown of 3G networks, it seems like a fair number of vehicles will lose those features permanently, or will require additional purchases to re-enable or modernize these vehicles for 4G.

So not only will some consumers lose access to features they thought they’d have throughout their vehicle’s lifetime, but others may also have to pay additional fees to get those features back. This shouldn’t be our responsibility. It’s on the automakers and dealers to make it right. They continued to produce vehicles on an outdated network knowing it would be obsolete, but now, the piper needs to be paid and some of them believe that responsibility falls on you.

You can visit [https://www.cnbc.com/2022/01/16/3g-networks-shutting-down-in-2022-could-affect-your-](https://www.cnbc.com/2022/01/16/3g-networks-shutting-down-in-2022-could-affect-your-cars-gps.html)

[cars-gps.html](https://www.cnbc.com/2022/01/16/3g-networks-shutting-down-in-2022-could-affect-your-cars-gps.html) or scan the QR code below with your smartphone to see the current list of publicly known affected models. AT&T will shut down their 3G network next month which certain Honda, Nissan and Volvo models rely on for their features. If this is your first-time hearing about it as well, I suggest you call your dealer, figure out what, if anything, could be done if you have an affected model, and hope for the best.

Good luck.



Kane DiMasso-Scott is an art director for the Independent Newspaper Group. The views expressed in this Op-Ed do not necessarily represent the views of the Independent Newspaper Group.

Issues / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the findings, recommendations, and projected costs or cost savings associated with the recommendations to the Everett School Committee. (Jeanne Cristiano and Michael McLaughlin)

11. To amend the Rules of the Everett School Committee to wit: Chapter 1- Organization, Section 3. Subcommittees by deleting the existing-standing Subcommittees and inserting in its place Finance Committee, Contract and Negotiations Committee, Student Opportunity Committee, Personnel & Property Committee, Equity, Inclusion and Diversity Committee, CTE-Vocational Education Committee, Rules, Policy and Procedure Committee, Cafeteria Committee, Committee of the Whole, Budget Committee. {Chair Jeanne Cristiano)

12. To amend the Rules of the Everett School Committee to wit: Chapter 1- Organization, Section 3. Subcommittees by striking out in the second paragraph the following language “except for the Subcommittee on Contract Negotiations and Finance.” This term shall be for a period of two years. (Chair Jeanne Cristiano)

13. To amend School Committee Rules Chapter

7, Section 7, Organization, by deleting the last sentence, “The School Committee shall annually, by ballot, elect the Superintendent of Schools as Secretary. (City Charter, CH. 355, Acts of 7892, Section 46),” and replace it with, “The School Committee shall annually, by ballot, elect a secretary,” in order to give the Superintendent of Schools the ability to focus on managing the school system in accordance with MGL Chapter 77. (Michael McLaughlin)

14. To amend School Committee Rules Chapter III Rules of Order Section 1 Order of Proceedings by requiring the Superintendent to provide monthly updates to the School Committee. (Michael McLaughlin)

After much discussion on all of the items, and an especially-lengthy discussion on Item 5 (the proposed hiring freeze), Item 5 was referred to the Finance Subcommittee for further review, with an amendment not to affect positions already posted on the TelEd website. Item 6 was approved and item 7 was moved to be discussed in an executive session on Feb. 28. Items 8 and 14 were referred back to the sponsor.

However, all members stressed that their goals were to provide a superior education to all public school students and honor their fiscal obligation to the taxpayers of Everett.

It was with the latter goal in mind that Cristiano said she put forth Item 9 calling for an operational audit. Speaking on this item, Cristiano noted that since this is a new school committee, “Always ask for an audit when we start. The objective is to improve education for all students with the goal to see and understand where we are.” This item was referred to the Finance Subcommittee.

Items 11, 12 and 13 were referred to the Rules, Policy and Procedure Subcommittee to be discussed further.

COVID UPDATE

The first half of January was a trying month for Everett students and staff in their ongoing battle with COVID-19. There has been a huge spike in teachers, staff, and students who have reported positive test results. There were 473 positive test results through the first half of the month, as compared to 146 for the entire month of December and just 58 for the entire month of November.

According to Supt. Tahiliani, the State Department of Elementary and Secondary Education spokespersons said that Everett was on par with the rest of the state during the first half of January. Tahiliani also reported that there will be take-home test kits for the February and April breaks and that more than 58,000 masks have been distributed. The mask mandate has been extended until February 28.

CLEANING COMPANY HIRED

Tahiliani reported that three bids had been received for the additional daily cleanup for Everett High School. The low bidder was MP Services, who previously had cleaned the schools prior to the pandemic and who will start on February 1. The hiring of the cleaning company will cost \$27,000 per month, but will free up custodial staff from the high school to allow other schools to receive additional cleaning.

The poor conditions at the high school were a major cause of concern during the late fall as students, staff, and parents had complained about the lack of cleanliness in the school’s classrooms, bathrooms, and hallways.

Tahiliani files MCAD complaint against city

By Stephen Quigley

According to published news reports, Everett Superintendent of Schools Priya Tahiliani has filed a complaint with the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD) alleging racial and gender discrimination.

Tahiliani unanimously was appointed as superintendent in December 2019 with a contract that runs through 2024.

At the December meeting of the School Committee, several members tried to have Tahiliani’s contract extended to June, 2025.

The basis for the ex-

tension was that members claimed that Tahiliani has been hampered in carrying out her anticipated objectives and policies due to having to deal with the widespread impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has required the implementation of temporary measures, most notably remote learning for students.

However, several of the newly-elected members of the School Committee spoke out against any changes to the contract by the “lame duck” school board. The matter was postponed for the new school committee to address.

At the School Commit-

tee meeting on January 18 during the public comment period, several people in attendance praised the job that Tahiliani has done.

A current student at Everett High School told committee members how important it is to have a superintendent of color, noting that the issue is not necessarily about skin color, but perspective.

Another student said that Tahiliani is “an amazing woman and that it is amazing to see women of color in power.”

The Independent has been unable to acquire a copy of the MCAD complaint, as it is the policy of

the MCAD not to comment on pending cases.

In addition, calls to Tahiliani’s attorney, Benjamin Flam, to obtain a copy of the complaint have not been successful as of press time.

However, according to the news reports, Tahiliani wrote in her complaint, “The institutional racism championed by Everett’s Mayor, Carlo DeMaria, and his cronies on the now reformed School Committee is palpable.”

City officials have not made any comment regarding the complaint, citing privacy issues for all of the parties involved.

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Celebrate Catholic Schools Week 2022

January 30 -February 5 #CSW22

This year's theme is “Catholic Schools: Faith. Excellence. Service.” Catholic schools have a specific purpose to form students to be good citizens of the world, love God and neighbor and enrich society with the leaven of the gospel and by example of faith. As communities of faith, Catholic schools instill in students their destiny to become saints. Academic excellence is the hallmark of Catholic education intentionally directed to the growth of the whole person – mind, body and spirit. Finally, service is fundamental to Catholic education and the core of Catholic discipleship. Service is intended to help form people who are not only witnesses to Catholic social teaching, but also active participants through social learning.

What is Catholic Schools Week?

Special to the Journal

Catholic Schools Week is a national celebration of Catholic education and an opportunity to recognize the importance, the value, and the contributions of Catholic education to the Church and the world. Catholic Schools Week is sponsored by the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA).

An annual tradition that began in 1974, Catholic schools across the nation commemorate Catholic Schools Week with celebrations, Masses, open houses, and activities for students, families, parishioners, and community members. Catholic Schools Week events showcase and celebrate the rich traditions and the incredible value of Catholic education on both a local and national level.

Each year, Catholic Schools Week is celebrated during the last week of January. This year, Catholic Schools Week will be celebrated from January

30th through February 5th.

Catholic Schools and the Students They Serve

According to NCEA, there are more than 6,000 Catholic schools nationwide. These schools—serving elementary, middle, and secondary school students—are located across all regions, giving many families the opportunity for accessible Catholic education.

The Benefits of Catholic Schools

- The integration of faith with academic subjects, culture, and everyday life
- The emphasis of living out the faith as missionary disciples
- Catholic virtues and values and Catholic Social Teaching, which contribute to productive citizenship and responsible leadership
- An environment that encourages and nurtures prayer and is safe, welcoming, and supportive

for children

- A favorable student to teacher ratio
- High graduation and college attendance rates
- Teacher commitment

For further reading and in addition to these benefits, explore NCEA’s A Dozen Reasons to Choose Catholic Schools Info Graphic.

Celebrating Catholic Schools Week

Throughout Catholic Schools Week, schools, parishes, and dioceses schedule activities and events to provide opportunities for celebration and engagement with students and families related to the annual theme. Parishioners and community members are also often invited to participate in some events. Events invite participants to reflect on the value and importance that Catholic education to the school and community, the Church, and the world.

Many Catholic schools also host an open house

to start or during Catholic Schools Week. An open house is an opportunity to celebrate the mission of the Catholic school, welcome visitors and newcomers, and perhaps showcase original student artwork inspired by the 2022 theme. Families, visitors, and special guests can see firsthand the benefits of students learning, playing, praying and living out their faith and school.

Each year, Catholic Schools Week has a theme. The theme for this year’s Catholic Schools Week is Catholic Schools: Faith. Excellence. Service.

Each day of Catholic Schools Week focuses on

a particular celebration. Within the overarching theme for the week are the following daily themes:

- Sunday: Celebrating your parish
- Monday: Celebrating your community
- Tuesday: Celebrating your students
- Wednesday: Celebrating the nation
- Thursday: Celebrating vocations
- Friday: Celebrating faculty, staff, and volunteers
- Saturday: Celebrating families

Celebrating Your Parish on Sunday

On the opening day of Catholic Schools Week, many parishes devote a

Mass to Catholic education. These celebrations show the connection between Catholic schools and parishes, on both a local and national level, and reflect the support and guidance parishes provide.

Families and catechists can prepare children and students for this Mass by reflecting with them on the support they witness through the assembly of school, Church and community. Students can be reminded that Catholic school students, families, and supporters are gatherings all over the country as they beginning Catholic Schools Week at Mass in their own parishes.

a dozen reasons to choose Catholic Schools



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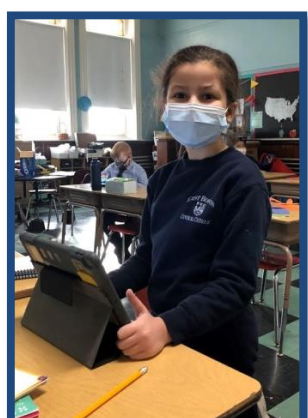
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Picture Caption: East Boston Central Catholic School is successfully conducting in person classes with the Covid Test and Stay program. So far this year, 1500 tests have been administered with only a 2.47% positivity rate. Well under the state and city averages. Student success is of the utmost importance. At EBCCS, every student matters.

Success
Starts Here.

Give back to your local
Catholic school February 1-2.



Pioneer Charter School of Science wins annual ‘Battle of the Atoms’ game

By Cary Shuman

In one of the region’s most interesting but friendly rivalries, the Pioneer Charter School of Science of Everett girls basketball team defeated the Pioneer Charter School of Science 2 of Saugus, 39-14, in the annual Battle of the Atoms game between the two schools.

Coach Eric Ferguson’s Panthers put together four strong quarters of basketball and played excellent defense against the Pirates to keep the championship trophy in Everett in the seventh annual game played Jan. 18 on their homecourt.

Senior captain Romaysae led the Panthers with 18 points. Senior Amanda Coelho scored eight points. Freshman Sara Yamani played tenacious defense.

Pioneer Charter School

of Science of Everett competes as a member of the Massachusetts Charter School Athletic Organization (MCSAO) and the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA). The Panthers are 4-1 in the MCSAO and 4-5 overall.

“If we could qualify for both the MIAA Tournament and Charter School Tournament, that would be great – that’s our goal,” said Ferguson, who is in his third season as head coach and is assisted by Anna Michaelidis, who played basketball at Dexter Southfield School.

Ferguson said the girls basketball program is receiving tremendous support from PCSS Athletic Director Phil Signoroni and the school administration.

“We have a great school administration, and I don’t think you could ask for a better athletic director,”



The Pioneer Charter School of Science of Everett defeated the Pioneer Charter School of Science 2 of Saugus in the annual Battle of the Atoms game. Front row, from left, are Cynthia Vejar, Dorinda Vilson, Doha Marbouh, and Sara Gebrezgiabher. Back row, from left, are Marwa Yeznasni, Sara Yamani, Kimberly Thimothée, Amanda Coelho, Romaysae Jellouli, Mehely Durand, Safae Lehnichi, Marwa Lehnichi, Aya Kach, Alicia Elysse, Gabriella Simeone, Liana Bennett, Coach Eric Ferguson, and Assistant Coach Anna Michaelidis.

lauded Ferguson. Ferguson previously coached at Immaculate

Conception School in Revere, leading the IC middle school girls basketball team to a state championship. Ferguson is now hoping to duplicate that accomplishment at the helm of the rising PCCS Panthers’ program.

CITY COUNCIL RECOGNITIONS



PHOTOS COURTESY EVERETT CITY COUNCIL



Above, Derek Barbosa (center) was honored with a City Citation on Monday night for his outstanding community involvement during the holidays. Councilor Stephanie Martins was proud to make the request to honor Derek.

Left, Jorge Gallego (left) is congratulated by Everett Police Chief Steven Mazzie to his appointment as a new patrolman, during the City Council meeting on Monday night.

Baker celebrates educational opportunity, proclaims “Massachusetts School Choice Week”

“It is important for parents in Massachusetts to explore and identify the best education options available to their children,” reads a proclamation just issued by Gov. Charlie Baker, recognizing this Jan. 23-29 as “Massachusetts School Choice Week.”

Gov. Baker’s proclamation highlights the

importance of Massachusetts’ diverse educational environments, dedicated teaching professionals, and commitment to continuously improving the quality of K-12 education. In issuing the proclamation, Gov. Baker joined more than a dozen other governors and more than 300 city and county leaders nationwide who have

proclaimed School Choice Week in their territories.

For Massachusetts School Choice Week, community members have planned 432 events and activities across the state, including rallies, discussions, school open houses, and more.

These activities aim to spread information about school types and learning opportunities, bringing encouragement and information as families school search. More than half of American families are considering, or have considered in the last year, choosing a new or different school.

More than 26,000 events have been independently planned for the public awareness effort nationwide, which is celebrated by all types of schools.

“Massachusetts has many excellent schools to celebrate, and families are using the opportunity this January to look for learning opportunities and support in finding the best fit for them,” said Andrew Campanella, president of National School Choice Week. “We appreciate Gov. Baker proclaiming the Week and recognizing the importance of every child having access to effective options.”

2-ALARM FIRE



PHOTOS BY MIKE LAYHE

A 2-Alarm fire broke out on 69 Norman Street in Everett on Sunday night at about 11 pm. One firefighter was injured and transported to hospital. The building was slated for Demolition. No other injuries were reported.

Council // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

hounded this enough. There is no conflict of interest according to the State Ethics Commission and Cornelio can keep the fee and do the ceremony during work hours.”

DiPierro queried, “Why not know how much cash is going through the office of City Clerk that this body has control over?”

The motion was postponed with a request for how many marriages were officiated by the City Clerk from 2019 to 2021.

Another issue that generated controversy concerned the legal standing of two School Committee members. Chairperson Jeanne Cristiano and Ward 4 School Committeeman Michael Mangan, since they are both also employees of the City of Everett. According to City Solicitor Colleen Mejia, the State Ethics Commission suggests that both should be designated as “special municipal employees.” This designation would allow them to serve on the School Committee and discharge their duties as city employees.

However, the question of whether Mangan and Cristiano also can collect a School Committee salary was still unclear.

Councilor Stephanie Smith noted that serving on the School Committee takes a lot of time and the question is whether they can be compensated as are other members on the board. The motion was referred to the City Solicitor with a written response from the State Ethics Commission by the next meeting.

The council approved a request to transfer a \$100,000 in unexpended funds to pay the costs of an elementary school project to the Webster School for roof improvements

Superintendent Priya Tahliliani noted that the roof is more than 30 years old and that the \$100,000 is seed money for an ultimate reimbursement from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA). The entire roofing project is expected to cost more than \$695,000.

While discussing the roof repair, it was noted that the original plan to build a new elementary school has been abandoned by city officials.

With the elementary schools at capacity and school enrollment only increasing, the idea of applying to the MSBA for a new high school now is on the city’s radar. The present high school would be used by students in the lower grades to relieve the overcrowding in the elementary schools.

Encore Casino discovered that it will get no special treatment from the City Council. A petition requesting the renewal of an innholder’s license for Encore Boston was postponed as the application was incomplete because not all of the required financial paperwork was in the packet.

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EVERETT HIGH SCHOOL HOOPS 59-47 OVER REVERE

PHOTOS BY BOB MARRA

A feisty Revere team hung tough for most of the night but the Everett Crimson Tide showed its prowess late in the fourth quarter and pulled away to a 59-47 win at Revere High School on Wednesday, January 19.



SKY BALL: Everett's David Sanchez stretches over Revere's Hamza Ghoul (3) as they fight for a rebound.



STEP FOR STEP: Everett's John Monexant keeps a close guard on Revere's Alejandro Hincapié.



MAKE WAY: David Sanchez (15) creates separation and dribbles past Revere's Jack D'Ambrosio (14).



SIDELINE HUSTLE: Everett's Steven Cordero (4) makes his way up the sideline while pursued by Revere's James Clauto.



HERE'S LOOKING AT YOU, KID: Everett's John Monexant (10) stares down his defender, Revere's Dom Boudreau (22).

EHS Roundup

EVERETT BOYS BASKETBALL STANDS ATOP GBL AT 7-0

The Everett High boys basketball team stands alone atop the Greater Boston League standings with a 7-0 league record (8-2 overall) at the midpoint of the 2022 season.

Coach Stanley Chamblain and his crew are just two wins away from clinching a spot in the post-season state tournament and currently are ranked 13th in the Boston Globe's top 20 list.

Statistically, junior Roger Vasquez, senior John Monexant, junior Steven Cordero, and sophomore Jaysaun Coggins are leading the Crimson Tide in the scoring this year.

"However, the staple of this year's team has been our defense," said Chamblain.

Everett's intense pressure defense is headlined by David De Souza and John Monexant.

"On a nightly basis, they have been called upon to guard the opponent's best players and they have done so very effectively," noted Chamblain. "The on-ball pressure by David and John, along with James Monexant (John's twin brother), has forced turnovers by the other team by either creating on-ball steals or by teammates Cordero and Coggins playing the passing lanes for easy steals, which is leading to easy transition points."

Other players who have made significant contributions on both sides of the ball are senior Nureni

(Cam) Mohammed and junior Kevin Ruiz.

The Crimson Tide's two non-league losses were to Cambridge on opening night and to Brookline in the BABC Winter Classic.

Chamblain and his crew were slated to meet GBL foe Malden last night (Tuesday) and then will make the short trip across the Parkway to play at Chelsea tomorrow (Thursday).

The Tide will return home next Tuesday to host Lynn Classical. The opening tip is set for 7:00.

EHS BOYS TRACK RUNS PAST ENGLISH

The Everett High boys indoor track and field team handily won its meet with Greater Boston League rival Lynn English last week with a 60-12 victory over the Bulldogs.

The Crimson Tide won eight of the nine individual events: junior Shinay Aristhene in the hurdles with a time of 8.5 seconds; senior Richard Malloy, a double-winner in the 55 meter dash in 5.53 and the high jump with a leap of 5'-8"; junior Omar Marshall in the 300 dash in 42.4; junior Matth Telson in the 600 in 1:54.6; senior Dennis Blanco in the 1000 in 3:32.9; junior Samuel Desir-Mafouana in the mile in 6:01; and senior Wensley Mompremier in the two-mile run in 12:13.7.

Earning three points for Everett with second-place performances were: senior Brandon Ho in the 55 dash in 6.07; junior Owen Beauvil in the 300 in 44.9; senior Hablemari-

am Yirdaw in the 1000 in 3:33.3; and freshman David Huezo-Erazo in the two-mile in 15:39.8.

Adding single points with third-place finishes were senior Lilian Pochot in the 55 dash in 6.10 and junior Reklöve Lageroy in the 300 in 45.9.

Coach Jehu Cimea and his squad are scheduled to meet GBL foes Somerville today (Wednesday) and Chelsea next Wednesday.

EHS GIRLS TRACK EDGED BY ENGLISH


The Everett High girls indoor track and field team came up on the short end of a 43-37 decision to Greater Boston League opponent Lynn English last week.

Senior Lakisha Kirmon was the top performer for coach Jehu Cimea's Lady Crimson Tide squad, scoring 10 points with first-place performances in the hurdles in a time of 8.8 seconds and in the high jump with a leap of 4'-4".

Freshman Yelsa Garcia also took first place in her individual event, the 300 dash, with a clocking of 50.4.

Yelsa also was a member of the winning EHS 4 x 400 relay quartet with teammates Datchene Ellyse, Selma Moutaouakil, and Natalya Anaya with a time of 5:12, which was eight seconds faster than their Lady Bulldog counterparts.

Adding three points to the EHS side of the score sheet with second-place efforts were: junior Ida



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News Briefs

Spend, Gift and Support City of Everett Local Businesses

Everett Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce the new Everett Chamber E-Gift Card, a community-based digital gift card that makes it fun and easy to keep local spending local. Purchase an Everett Chamber E-Gift Card to use at any of the participating shops in the neighborhood. With this card, you can write a personal message and send it to family, friends and colleagues via email, text, or physical copy. Recipients can choose to spend it at one of many (and growing) participating merchants in the City of Everett Community—or mix it up and spend flexibly at multiple locations. All-digital and always available on your phone, the Everett Chamber E-Gift Card is great for birthdays, holidays, teacher appreciation, coach gifts, or just to show your appreciation to a friend. Now you can give back to the community while you celebrate Mother’s Day, Father’s Day and graduations coming up soon.

Participating in this program means supporting the heart of what makes our community unique. The purchase of an Everett Chamber E-Gift Card creates a pool of cash that local businesses in Everett can rely on. Studies have shown that local independent retailers recirculate 47% of their revenue back into the community, while only 14% of national chains’ revenue stays in the community. More dramatically, restaurants recirculate 73% of their revenue back into the community, versus only 30% for national chains.

By supporting local businesses, more money continues circulating through the local community—this is achieved through a combination of profits paid to local business owners, wages paid to local workers, goods and services procured locally for internal use or resale, and charitable giving within the community. If you’re looking for a way to do some good or want to know how you can help the community you love, send an Everett Chamber E-Gift Card E-Card today! For more information or to participate as a merchant in the program, please contact the Everett Chamber of Commerce – info@everettmachamber.com.

New City of Everett Website

The City of Everett’s new website launched on November 1, 2021. In redeveloping the website,

Mayor Carlo DeMaria’s goal was to provide a more helpful and user-friendly experience for our community. Our new website offers a more streamlined experience for Everett residents and those interested in finding out more about our community. The front page boasts all of the most pertinent information which includes, but is not limited to, applications for jobs and licenses, paying bills, and contact information. With the ever-changing needs and events within our community, the website is constantly updated to keep our residents informed about things such as Covid-19 testing, snowstorm parking, and other public events.

On the front page you will see a calendar that allows the user to see all city meetings along with the necessary information to accompany them, including agendas. The search feature, located on the top right of the home page, allows you to search exactly what you are looking for and will even provide you with related suggestions. In an effort to be user-friendly, the new website has a mobile version which includes branding that we have all come to know and love.

City Receives Bond Bids

Mayor Carlo DeMaria is pleased to announce that the City of Everett received competitive bids from bond underwriters on Thursday, January 13, for a \$13,450,000 20-year tax-exempt bond issue and a \$10,455,000 20-year taxable bond issue. Raymond James & Associates, Inc. was the winning bidder on both the Tax-Exempt and Taxable Bonds with an average interest rate of 1.637% on the Tax-Exempt Bonds and an average interest rate of 2.568% on the Taxable Bonds. The City received a total of 7 bids on the Tax-Exempt Bonds and 6 bids on the Taxable Bonds. Bond proceeds will be used to finance various municipal projects.

Prior to the sales, S&P Global Ratings, a municipal credit rating agency, affirmed the City’s ‘AA+’ long-term debt rating and assigned the ‘AA+’ rating to each series of the Bonds. S&P cited the City’s strong economy, strong financial management with good financial policies and practices, record of robust financial performance and fund balance levels over the last three years, and strong debt-and-contingent-liability position as positive credit factors. Bids for the Bonds were accepted at the offices of the City’s Financial Advisor, Hilltop Securities Inc., at 54 Ca-

nal Street in Boston, Massachusetts.

Supreme Judicial Court Further Pauses Jury Trials

The Supreme Judicial Court (SJC) issued an order extending the current pause on all jury trials in Massachusetts state courthouses for an additional two weeks, until February 14, 2022. All courts otherwise remain open for in-person business, with a continued emphasis on conducting matters remotely whenever possible.

“While we are encouraged by the trend in COVID-19 cases in the Commonwealth, the additional two week pause on jury trials is necessary to protect the health and safety of all who enter and work in our courthouses,” said Supreme Judicial Court Chief Justice Kimberly Budd. “Assuming the number of COVID-19 cases continues to decline as expected, we do not anticipate any further pause beyond February 14. As throughout the pandemic, however, all plans and expectations regarding the resumption of jury trials may be adjusted at any time in the ongoing effort to balance the safety of court users and personnel with the fundamental constitutional right to a trial by jury.”

Today’s order partially amends the existing order regarding court operations during the pandemic, which was issued by the SJC on July 1, 2021, and supersedes a prior amendment issued on December 31, 2021.

Mystic Valley Elder Services Seeks Donations of New Blankets

With winter upon us and plenty of cold weather still ahead, Mystic Valley Elder Services is seeking donations of new blankets, all sizes, for its Emergency Closet. The Emergency Closet provides its care managers who work with low-income older adults and people with disabilities a place to access not only new blankets but new towels, new sheets, toiletries, and large print puzzle books for their consumers who need them. Having these items in the agency immediately available can make a huge difference in someone’s life and they depend solely on donations.

If you are interested in donating blankets to the Emergency Closet, please contact the Mystic Valley Elder Services Development office at 781-324-7705 or development@mves.org.

sa Hurley in the shot-put with a toss of 23’-6”.

The EHS girls will meet GBL foe Somerville today (Wednesday) and take on Chelsea next Wednesday.

From the Mayor’s Office

Meet the team: Cathy Draine

Cathy Draine is an employee of the Department of Diversity and Inclusion and has worked for the City of Everett for 3 weeks.

What do you do in the City?

I serve the city as the Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. My work is to support the Mayor’s continued efforts to make everyone feel seen, heard and have a sense of belonging in the City.

What is your favorite part about working for the City?

So far, my favorite part



of working for the City, is meeting people and hearing their stories. There are wonderful people here and I am excited about the work we preparing to do.

What is the biggest lesson you’ve learned from your role?

“There is nothing en-

lightening about shrinking so other people don’t feel insecure around you ... As we let our own light shine we unconsciously give people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fears, our presence automatically liberates others.” ~Marianne Williamson

What do you like to do when you are not working?

When I am not working I enjoy hanging with my daughter Ailey. I also enjoy karaoke and binge watching Netflix movies/shows!!!!

Market Basket in top three U.S. grocery retailers, Dunnhumby Retailer Preference Index finds

A nation-wide consumer survey confirms what legions of loyal customers already know. Major chains can learn a thing or two from New England’s regional favorite, Market Basket which boasts 86 stores, including Revere and Chelsea, with three more under construction throughout Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine, and Rhode Island.

According to the fifth annual Retailer Preference Index (RPI), Massachusetts-based Market Basket ranked third, following Amazon, which earned the top spot for the second consecutive year—and H.E.B, a supermarket chain headquartered in San Antonio, Texas, with more than 340 stores across the U.S.

The online survey of 10,000 U.S. households was undertaken by dunnhumby, a British customer data science company.

Dunnhumby asked respondents to rate grocers on a number of key factors including service, pricing, quality, digital options, operations, convenience, speed, and rewards programs.

Widely recognized for outstanding customer service, competitive pricing, an extensive variety of high-quality products, and an unparalleled commitment to its employees, Market Basket ranked above Trader Joe’s, Wegman’s Target, Walmart, Costco, and other top retail brands in the survey that examined competitors within the U.S. grocery retail sector.

“We were gratified to learn that our valued customers placed us in the top three supermarkets in the country,” said David McLean, Operations Manager at Market Basket. “They highlighted continued excellence on price and op-

erations, which is rewarding as our team seeks to fulfill our commitment to our “More for Your Dollar” shopping philosophy. The acknowledgement is truly a testament to how hard our Associates have worked and continue to work to serve our valued customers.”

Market Basket’s slogan is “More for Your Dollar” and is recognized by Consumer Reports as the top supermarket operator in the Northeast. The grocer is known for its excellent service, quality, value, variety, and store cleanliness. As reported in Consumers’ Checkbook, a family that spends \$200 a week on groceries can save \$1800 annually at Market Basket when compared to other supermarkets. Market Basket currently operates 86 stores in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine, and Rhode Island.

Local Students Earn Academic Honors

Fall 2021 Dean’s List

Curry College congratulates roughly 1,000 students who were named to the Fall 2021 Dean’s List.

Megan Downer of Everett was named to the Fall 2021 Dean’s List at Curry College.

Alyssa Jackson of Everett was named to the Fall 2021 Dean’s List at Curry College.

Marita Sanabria of Everett was named to the

Fall 2021 Dean’s List at Curry College.

Curry College, founded in Boston in 1879, is a private, co-educational, liberal arts-based institution located on 131 acres in Milton, Massachusetts. The College extends its educational programs to a continuing education branch campus in Plymouth. The College offers 19 undergraduate majors in specialized and liberal arts programs, as well as graduate degrees in

accounting, business, education, criminal justice, and nursing to a combined enrollment of nearly 2,500 students. The student body consists of 1,700 traditional students and nearly 800 continuing education and graduate students. The College offers a wide array of co-curricular activities ranging from 16 NCAA Division III athletic teams to an outstanding theatre and fine arts program. Visit us on the web at www.curry.edu.

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The Everett Independent assumes no financial responsibility for typographical errors in advertisements, but will reprint that part of the advertisement in which the error occurs. Advertisers will please notify the management immediately of any errors that may occur.

OBITUARIES

Robert Follo

His infectious smile and kindness touched those around him

It is with great sadness that the family of Robert R. Follo announces his passing on Saturday January 15, just one day after his 75th birthday.

Bob grew up in Everett. He raised his family in Arlington and later moved to Woburn.



He was an adoring husband to Lucille E. (Calvino) Follo and wonderful father to Robert S. Follo, who he drove to many Math Computer Team events and took great pride in his incredible intelligence, Michael C. Follo [husband of Sarah] who followed in his footsteps and became his life long best friend, Lisa M. Symonds, his “Baby Girl” and “Princess” who could bring him to tears by singing a single note, and he had a special bond with son-in-law, Todd who helped show him a good time at the race track until his final days, and his dogs, Beau and Lexi. He cherished his grandchildren: Giovanna M. Follo, Gino A. Follo and smiled from ear to ear when first grandchild Dylan F. Symonds entered the room because they had an extraordinary connection. Bob was a beloved uncle to many nieces and nephews, brother to Mary [Joseph] Campanella (Follo), Paul [Lori and predeceased wife, Theresa] Follo, and brother-in-law to dear friend, Charles [Robin] Calvino. He will also be remembered by numerous other family members and friends.

He was predeceased by his dear parents Samuel Follo and Alda Follo (DiLorenzo), sister in law Linda Herlihy, and many aunts and uncles. His beloved dog, Chickenella, will surely be waiting for him at the Pearly Gates.

Bob was warm hearted and his infectious smile and kindness touched those around him. He loved spending time with family and friends. He was an Army Veteran, a

Barbara Parisi

February 18, 1930 ~ January 13, 2022

Barbara A. (Ryan) Parisi, 91, of Everett died on January 13.

The beloved wife of the late Nicholas J. Parisi, she was the loving mother of Mark and his wife, Joyce, David and his wife, Maria, Christopher and his wife, Patrice and Thomas and his wife, Debra Parisi; adored grandmother of Adam, Andrew, Jennifer, David, Matthew, Daniel and Nicholas; great-grandmother of Bella, Annie, Colton and Connor; daughter of the late Sarah (Hamilton) and Herbert F. Ryan. Barbara is also survived by many nieces, nephews and good



friends.

Funeral arrangements were entrusted to the Salvatore Rocco & Sons Funeral Home, 331 Main Street, Everett. Interment was in Glenwood Cemetery, Everett.

Norma Rose Coviello

Retired Jewelry Store Owner

Noma Rose (Andreottola) Coviello entered into eternal rest unexpectedly on January 20 in the Massachusetts General Hospital. She was 82 years old.

Born in Boston, Norma was a resident of Everett for many years. She owned and operated a jewelry store prior to her retirement.

She was the dear daughter of the late Michael and Florence (DiPietro) Andreottola; beloved wife of the late Thomas Coviello and former wife of Frank Coviello; dear and devoted mother of Thomas A. Coviello and his wife, Michelle of Middleton, dear sister of Liana Andreottola of Revere and loving grandmother of Thomas and Joseph Coviello. Norma is also survived by her niece, Lynne



Petrosino and nephews, Dennis and Derek Petrosino.

As requested, services are private. Contributions in Noma’s memory to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN, 38105 would be sincerely appreciated.

Arrangements by the Cafasso & Sons Funeral Home, Everett 617.387.3120.

Kenneth S. Greene

September 4, 1927 ~ January 22, 2022

Ken Greene, 94, a lifetime Everett resident, passed away on January 22.

Ken graduated from Vesper George School of Art and worked his entire career as Art Director for Jordan Marsh companies after proudly serving his country in the US Navy during World War II.

The loving husband of the late Peggy (Marchese) Greene, he was the loving father of Liz White and John Sacramone of Peabody, Tim and his wife Donna (Sacramone) of Tewksbury and Debbie Liskov and her husband, Don of Milford. He is also survived by his grandchildren: TJ Greene and his wife, Niki of Londonderry, NH and Ally Greene and Hayley Feingold, also of Londonderry, NH and Emma and Charlotte Liskov and his great



grandson, Timothy (Trey) Greene III.

His Funeral will be from Salvatore Rocco & Sons Funeral Home, 331 Main Street, Everett on Thursday, January 27 at 9 a.m. followed by a Funeral Mass in Our Lady of Grace Parish, 194 Nichols St, Everett, at 10 a.m. Relatives and friends are kindly invited to attend. Visiting hours will be held at the funeral home today, Wednesday, from 4 to 7 p.m. Complimentary valet parking Wednesday at Main Street entrance. Interment in Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett.

Meals on Wheels program essential during winter months

The winter months are notoriously harder on older adults, especially during this pandemic, which is why Mystic Valley Elder Services (MVES) stresses the importance of virtual and phone assessments, proper heating, physical checkups by your doctor, social interactions, even if we cannot do it face-to-face, transportation assistance and nutritious meals.

“Eating good, whole, nutritious foods in the winter months can go a long way in helping older adults regulate their body temperature and stay warm. For those who may not want to or lack the ability to cook, the Meals on Wheels program provides regular nutritious food,” says Mystic Valley Elder Services Registered Dietician Candace Quigley.

MVES’ Meals on Wheels program is dedicated to providing seniors with the necessary nutritional support to protect them against food insecurity, and to help them continue to live independent and fulfilling lives. MVES has provided home-delivered meals for more than 45 years.

“Meals on Wheels is for vulnerable older adults who require nutritional support to safely continue living in the community,” says Angie Fitzgerald, Director of Nutrition at Mystic Valley Elder Services. “Despite the challenges COVID-19 has brought, we have continued to serve home-delivered meals to consumers, and the num-

ber of those needing meals delivered has increased.”

Since the pandemic started nearly two years ago, the program is serving closer to 60,000 meals per month vs. 50,000 prior to the pandemic to home bound, frail older adults, many with significant health conditions or mental impairments, and not a serving day or meal has been missed.

The home-delivered meals service includes the following options as needed: chilled-to-be-heated noontime meals, cold-pack breakfast and supper, clinical diet meals, kosher meals, and frozen week-end meals. In some cases, we can provide cultural or ethnically preferred meals in certain communities.

“MVES’ Meals on Wheels program ensures that a friendly face of the driver and healthy meal arrives during the cold months and all year round to those who need this essential service to remain healthy, well fed, and safe in their homes,” explains Fitzgerald.

When providing the meals to the individual, drivers also offer regular check-ins—at a safe distance—to make sure the older adult is doing well during the cold weather. This can be done by a warm smile and welcoming wave.

If you are interested in knowing more about our Meals on Wheels program, please visit us at mv.es.org or call at 781-324-7705.

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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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OBITUARIES

All obituaries and death notices will be at a cost of \$150.00 per paper. Includes photo.No word Limit. Please send to obits@reverejournal.com or call 781-485-0588

For a Founding Father, he doesn't know much about helping a kid get a student loan.

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CHURCH News

Mystic Side Congregational Church

News and Notes

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

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

Mystic Side
Congregational Church
422 Main Street
Everett, MA

Zion Church - Everett

News and Notes

Senior Pastor Bishop Robert G. Brown will be hosting Virtual Masses to bring the people together, spiritually while they can't physically. Their virtual sanctuaries can be accessed via their face-

book page, "Zion Church Ministries." For more information, they can be reached online at zionchurchministries.com or via email at office@zionchurchministries.com

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.

Glendale Christian Lighthouse Church

News and Notes

Sunday 10:30 a.m. Worship service. Wednesday hour of Power, worship, prayer and Bible Study, via Zoom. "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters," Colossians 3:23 "In Pursuit of Spiritual Excellence" Righteousness, Godli-

ness, Faith, Love, Truth
GLENDALE
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CHURCH
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MASSACHUSETTS
02149
617-387-7458
Rev. Larry Russi, Sr.
Pastor
pastorlarry@
thelighthousechurch701.net

Church at the Well Everett

News and Notes

Church at the Well Everett is a new church for Everett that will begin meeting in 2021. Check us out on Facebook at www.facebook.com/churchforeverett to view weekly devotions and updates, visit us at www.for-

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

Grace Anglican Episcopal Church

News and Notes

Grace Anglican Episcopal Church is open & welcoming to all. There are 2 services on Sundays: 10am English, 1pm South Sudanese Dinka Come all and let us walk together in this sea-

son of hope, renewal and new beginnings.
Grace Anglican
Episcopal Church
67 Norwood Street,
Everett, MA
Church Phone
617-387-7526 or
617-389-5765

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EVERETT POLICE NEWS

The Everett Police Department is looking to identity this suspect in a series of catalytic converter thefts. Observed at Ashton St. and Ferry St. on January 15, in the early morning hours, removing a catalytic converter from a Ford Truck. The suspect is driving a white Ford Mustang with softtop black roof.

The Metro Boston area is continuing to see these catalytic converter thefts



take place. If you have any information on subjects involved in these crimes please call your local police department.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF EVERETT POLICE DEPARTMENT





CATALYTIC CONVERTER THEFTS

Tips on Preventing Thefts

- ✓ Park in well lit areas.
- ✓ Park inside a garage.
- ✓ Park close to building entrances or near a busy road.
- ✓ Add video surveillance to the area where you regularly park your car.
- ✓ Adjust the security system of your car to activate from vibrations, such as those produced by a saw.
- ✓ Install a catalytic converter specific security device or engrave the car's VIN number into the catalytic converter.

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ABCD fuel assistance can help you stay warm

Bitter January cold is hitting Massachusetts and ABCD (Action for Boston Community Development) wants to remind residents that households at or below the federal poverty level can now receive as much as \$1,650 in fuel assistance, while those with slightly higher incomes receive increased benefits on a sliding scale.

Due to the huge spike in energy costs and the ongoing economic crisis battering our most vulnerable households, benefits from the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) have been increased. Last year the highest fuel assistance benefit was \$1,210.

“We are thankful for this increase and look forward to the allocation soon of the significant funds committed by President Biden to get everyone safely through the winter and reduce the number of utility shut-offs in April,” said ABCD President/CEO John J. Drew.

APPLY NOW!

Drew calls on residents in need to APPLY FOR ASSISTANCE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. Boston-area residents can apply by calling ABCD Fuel Assistance at 617-357-6012. Those living in the Mystic Valley region can call 781-322-6284. Help with applications is also available at all ABCD neighborhood centers. A new online system for first-time fuel assistance applicants can be accessed at toapply.org/MassLIHEAP. Go to bostonabcd.org.

org/heat for detailed information, including a listing of neighborhood centers with contact information.

The 2022 federal poverty level for a family of four is \$26,500 in earnings annually or \$12,880 for a single person. To keep struggling families and elders from falling through the cracks, help with fuel costs is also available to those slightly above poverty level. For example, a family of four earning \$78,751 or a single person with an income of \$40,951 may currently qualify for \$989 in fuel assistance.

Sky-rocketing costs

Home heating oil in Massachusetts is currently at \$3.43 a gallon and up, almost twice the cost last year. It costs about \$800 to fill a tank, and that can run out in a matter of weeks in bitter New England weather. Vulnerable elders and others who cannot afford to keep their thermostats at a comfortable level put themselves at risk of getting sick – or worse.

The rise in home heating costs is sparked by a 30 percent increase in the cost of natural gas. Based on national data, the average residential natural gas bill will increase from \$572 to \$859 this year while heating oil costs per household can rise from \$1,272 to \$1,900. Costs are higher in the Boston-New England region.

Last year a total of 21,501 applications were received for the 2020-2021 heating season, 2,000 more than the

previous year. To date this season, ABCD has received more than 16,000 applications. Based on an early surge of applicants, fuel assistance programs are predicting a significant increase in the number of households seeking aid.

Qualifying for fuel assistance opens the door to a comprehensive range of no-cost energy services to keep families warm, safe and healthy including repair and replacement of heating systems, energy-efficient appliances, utility discounts, weatherization, programs to improve energy conservation, and much more.

ABCD also offers more than 70 programs to meet basic needs and to equip individuals with the knowledge and resources to pursue their goals and achieve financial stability. For information about and referrals to all ABCD programs and services, contact abcdconnect@bostonabcd.org or 617.348.6329.

Donations gratefully accepted

ABCD is grateful for any private donations to the ABCD WINTER FUND which will be used to help those in fuel assistance emergencies after using up their allocation. Your generous gift can save a household from hypothermia, stop a family from turning to dangerous heating substitutes, prevent sickness, and dramatically improve the quality of life. If you'd like to donate to the ABCD WINTER FUND, please call 617-348-6559, email give@bostonabcd.org or visit bostonabcd.org/donate.

About ABCD:

A nonprofit human services community action organization, ABCD provides low-income residents in the Boston and Mystic Valley areas with the tools, support and resources they need to transition from poverty to stability and from stability to success. Each year, we've served more than 100,000 individuals, elders and families through a broad range of innovative initiatives as well as long-established, proven programs and services. For more than 50 years, ABCD has been deeply rooted in every neighborhood and community served, empowering individuals and families and supporting them in their quest to live with dignity and achieve their highest potential. For more, please visit bostonabcd.org.

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