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Everett Independent

Published by the Independent Newspaper Co.

Wednesday, April 8, 2026

MYSTIC VALLEY ELDER SERVICES LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST



Shown (above) are several members of the Mystic Valley delegation of the State Legislature during the Mystic Valley Elder Services Legislative Breakfast held last week.

Shown (left to right) are Rep. Joe McGonagle with Mayor Robert Van Campen, Senator Sal DiDomenico and Malden Representative Steven Ultrino.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Significant Help McGonagle secures \$300,000 for Everett as Massachusetts House passes fair share supplemental budget

Special to the Independent

Rep. Joe McGonagle, along with his colleagues in the Massachusetts House of Representatives, passed a \$1.8 billion supplemental budget that invests \$885 million in public transportation and \$417 million in public education, and funds several Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) deficiencies. The bill passed also includes the tax conformity legislation filed by Governor Healey that delays the state's alignment with the corporate tax changes passed by Congress in the OB3 Act last year. McGonagle procured \$300,000 for the redesign and reconstruction initiatives in Everett Square.

"I'm grateful for the oppor-

tunity to bring back money to Everett to invest in downtown, our infrastructure and our community," said McGonagle. "We are in times of political and economic uncertainty, but I have great trust in the leadership in Massachusetts to keep us thriving. This money will be used to revitalize Everett Square for generations to come. I'm grateful for my partnership with Mayor Van Campen and his vision for our city. Together, we will keep Everett growing strong. I am also grateful to Speaker Mariano and Chair Michlewitz for their commitment to the Commonwealth."

"I am excited that Rep. McGonagle was able to secure

See BUDGET Page 13

How do you envision Everett Public Schools in 3 years?

Special to the Independent

Superintendent William Hart invites you to be an active participant on our Strategic Planning Stakeholder Team as we work to shape tomorrow's EPS.

Everett Public Schools is launching a collaborative, strategic planning process to identify priorities for the district's future. This groundwork for a district-wide strategic planning process is aligned with the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Planning for Success framework. The goal is to produce a clear and practical

three-year strategic plan that will guide district improvement efforts during this period.

This is an opportunity to develop strategic priorities and initiatives, review district data, and determine best practices and strategies that we will implement over time. It will also give Everett stakeholders a voice and means to explore key priorities through a structured approach that reflects the strengths and aspirations of the Everett community.

Participants will attend three (3) working sessions at Everett High School. Attendance at all three sessions is required. Din-

ner will be provided.

Session Dates:

1. Thursday, April 30, 2026:
4 - 7pm
2. Thursday, June 4, 2026:
4 - 7pm
3. Monday, June 22, 2026:
4 - 6pm

If you are interested in participating in the strategic planning process with EPS, please visit our website to sign up at www.everettpublicschools.org

Specific inquiries may be directed to Rosemary Hughes, Director of Strategic Initiatives, Everett Public Schools: rmhughes@everett.k12.ma.us

National Grid to host customer assistance event on April 9

Special to the Independent

National Grid will host a series of statewide Customer Assistance events during April 2026, with advocates visiting every region within the utility's Massachusetts footprint. As the weather warms up, customers can still get help managing their energy bills, including support with costs from the winter months and planning ahead for future usage.

The Everett event is on April 9, 3-7 p.m. at Everett City Hall at 484 Broadway Room 25.

"As spring arrives, National Grid's customer advocates

continue to engage with customers across Massachusetts, helping them take advantage of available resources," said Bill Malee, Chief Customer Officer, National Grid. "We also appreciate the community organizations that work with us to reach customers and share information about available assistance."

In addition, National Grid reminds customers that applications for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), commonly referred to as Fuel Assistance,

See NATIONAL GRID Page 3

For the latest news in Everett and for the full print edition, visit
everettindependent.com

Everett

Independent

President: Stephen Quigley

Editor in Chief: Cary Shuman

“...TO BOLDLY GO WHERE NO MAN HAS GONE BEFORE...”

For those of us who were among the 600 million people who watched Neil Armstrong descend the ladder from the Apollo 11 lunar module Eagle and set foot on the moon's Sea of Tranquility on the evening (in the Eastern Time Zone) of July 20, 1969, and utter the immortal words, “That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind,” this past week's mission of the Artemis II astronauts, who have traveled further from Earth (252,228 miles) than any other human as they circled the moon, has been exhilarating.

Armstrong was soon followed on the moon by his crewmate, Buzz Aldrin, and together they strolled across the lunar surface for more than two hours. They planted an American flag, spoke with President Richard M. Nixon, deployed scientific instruments, and collected lunar rocks before returning to the Apollo 11, where crewmate Michael Collins was awaiting their return in a lunar orbit.

Just a few months before Apollo 11's flight, in December of 1968 the Apollo 8 crew of Frank Borman, Jim Lovell, and William Anders were the first humans to see and photograph the far side of the moon and an earthrise. That trio, who famously read from the Book of Genesis on Christmas Eve, were named Time Magazine's Men of the Year upon their return.

Armstrong's moonwalk fulfilled a pledge made by President John F. Kennedy in 1961 during the height of the Cold War with the Soviet Union when he declared that the U.S. would put a man on the moon before the end of the decade.

NASA sent five more missions to the moon through 1972, and by that time, lunar walks were taken for granted by the American public. “Been there, done that,” was the general view of most Americans.

Nixon slashed NASA's budget shortly after the first lunar landing, which not only cut short future moon flights (nine more had been scheduled), but also prevented NASA from expanding its space program.

In addition to the triumphs of that era, we also vividly remember the subsequent tragedies of the space shuttles Challenger in January, 1986, and Columbia in February, 2003 -- those were events where we recall exactly where we were when we heard the news -- that claimed the lives of 14 astronauts. Both serve as a reminder that, despite our technological prowess, space travel is a dangerous venture.

In addition to circling the moon, the present mission of the Artemis II essentially is serving as a flying laboratory. The crew is conducting health experiments to study how deep-space radiation affects human tissue. They also are testing the spacecraft's life-support systems in an environment far more hostile than low-earth orbit.

Astronauts presently are scheduled to set foot again on the moon in 2028 on the Artemis IV mission, to be followed by the Artemis V later that year, when the astronauts will try to establish a base station on the moon.

Fans of the original Star Trek from the 1960s will recall the words in our headline that were uttered by Captain James T. Kirk in his iconic opening monologue at the start of each show. For those of us who were around for the first moon landing, we are thrilled that once again we are fulfilling Capt. Kirk's call for mankind to reach for the stars.

Independent Forum

LETTER to the Editor

SAY NO TO IMMUNITY FOR BIG OIL AND GAS

To the Editor,

Every time a climate disaster hits we see the same story. Families lose homes, roads are washed out, and taxpayers foot the bill, all while oil and gas companies rake in profits. Fossil fuel corporations knew about the climate crisis for decades and continue to mislead the public. They're getting richer off our tax dollars. Now, oil and gas lobbyists are urging Congress to give them total legal immunity from laws or

lawsuits to hold them accountable for their role in the climate crisis.

It doesn't have to be this way. Instead of taxpayers shouldering the cost, the companies that profited from all this destruction would help fund the rebuilding of roads, homes, schools, and critical infrastructure. We must demand Congress protect our right to hold powerful corporations accountable and say NO to immunity for Big Oil and Gas.

As a high school student, I want to have a future that isn't

overtaken by climate change. For young people like me, climate change is not some far off issue that we hope someone else will deal with. It is a very real aspect of our lives that we need to address. Between warming temperatures and more dangerous storms, if we don't act now, we risk the livability of our climate in the future. We need the legislature to make sure that it's the people who make the mess that clean it up.

Sincerely,

Katherine Plosky

UPCOMING EVENTS AT EVERETT PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Check out seeds from the library! The Seed Library is back at the Everett Public Libraries, just in time for spring. You can check out up to 5 seed packets per family from either the Shute or Parlin Libraries. Only available while supplies last!

The Everett Public Libraries' Annual Poetry Contest is back, and now open to all ages. This year we are encouraging a poetic theme: 250 Years of Independence! Open to all Everett residents with an Everett Public Libraries card. Submit an original poem by the April 17th deadline and you could win a prize, courtesy of the Kiwanis Club of Everett. The Winners' Recital and Awards Ceremony on April 28th will be a celebration for the books!

Parlin Adult and Teens

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

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

Memories Flow Beneath It: From Valley to Quabbin Parlin Meeting Room. Wednesday, April 15th at 7:00 pm. Roger Hagopian, in collaboration with author and historian, J.R.Greene, presents a documentary film that traces the displacement of people and their lost way of life.

Silent Book Club Everett

Parlin Fresco Room. Saturday, April 18th, from 12-2pm. Join our unique book club where we enjoy quiet reading at the Parlin Memorial Library. Settle into our cozy couches with a book and enjoy an hour or two of uninterrupted reading alongside fellow book lovers.

See LIBRARY Page 3

Everett

Independent

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Everett man sentenced to 18 months in prison for selling firearms

Special to the Independent

An Everett man was sentenced in federal court in Boston for selling more than half a dozen firearms, including AR-15 style rifles.

Joao Victor Da Silva Soares, 22, was sentenced by U.S. District Court Judge Myong J. Joun to time served (18 months in prison), to be followed by two years of supervised release. In December 2025, Da Silva Soares pleaded guilty to one count of dealing firearms without a license and one count of conspiracy to engage in the business of dealing in firearms without a license. Da Silva Soares was arrested in September 2024 in a related state case. Da Silva Soares was charged in federal court by criminal complaint in January 2025 and subsequently indicted by a federal grand jury in July 2025.

Between August and September 2024, Da Silva Soares supplied firearms for sale in Eastern Massachusetts. Specifically, on Aug. 26, 2024, Da

Silva Soares delivered two AR-15 style rifles and sold them for \$6,000 in a parking lot in Malden. On Sept. 11, 2024, Da Silva Soares participated in another sale involving a total of five firearms (consisting of rifles, pistols and a shotgun) outside a residence in Milford.

United States Attorney Leah B. Foley; Thomas Greco, Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives, Boston Field Division; Michael J. Krol, Special Agent in Charge of Homeland Security Investigations in New England; and David T. Wesling, Acting Field Office Director, Boston, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Enforcement and Removal Operations made the announcement today. Valuable assistance was provided by the Massachusetts State Police and the Malden and Milford Police Departments. Assistant U.S. Attorney John Reynolds of the Organized Crime & Gang Unit prosecuted the case.

National Grid // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

will close on April 30, 2026. Customers can find eligibility criteria and the program application on the Massachusetts Home Energy Assistance Program website or they can connect with a local Fuel Assistance Agency for help with the process.

The statewide events are part of the utility's commitment to helping customers manage bill impacts. National Grid's Customer Service Specialists experts will be on hand to manage seasonal energy bills and explore cost-saving programs to meet each customer's needs, highlighting programs such as:

- National Grid's Payment Assistance Bundle;
- Budget Billing;
- The Energy Discount Rate (for qualifying customers);
- Home energy assessments; and

Information on other energy efficiency opportunities for homes or businesses.

Customers can also sign up to watch one of the Bill Assistance Webinars, which are available online:

Bill Assistance Webinar - in English (recorded February 9, 2026);

Bill Assistance Webinar - in Spanish (recorded February 6, 2026).

These events are free and are a core part of National Grid's broader commitment to affordability and reliability. Customers can find information about upcoming sessions on our Customer Assistance webpage or learn more about managing winter energy bills at ngrid.com/hereforyou. They can also request assistance by calling 1-800-233-5325.

Library // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Parlin Childrens

Poetry Fun: Stop by the children's rooms at the Parlin and Shute branches this month to add a line to our magnetic poetry board. Don't forget to add a poem to the Poet-Tree before you go!

Lego Club. Parlin Children's Room. Monday, April 13th from 3-5pm. Come to the Children's Room after school on Mondays for some free-building lego fun. Open to all ages. Children under 6 years old must be accompanied by an adult. No registration required.

Storytime and Singalong with Karen, Parlin Children's Room. Wednesday, April 15th at 11am. Join us for a fun-filled morning of singing and storytelling with Karen! Suggested ages 0-6.

Drama Class. Parlin Children's Room. Wednesday, April 15th at 3pm. Do you have a drama queen or king at home? Drama Class in the Parlin Children's Department is the perfect opportunity for your child to put those acting skills to use with our drama coach! Suggested ages 6-14.

Shute Adult and Teens

Found Poetry Collages, Shute Meeting Room. Tuesday, April 14th at 3 PM. Join us for a poetry collage event that celebrates Poetry Month by transforming recycled magazine words into a brand-new poem. By cutting, arranging, and re-imagining printed text, it's a reminder that your voice can be discovered anywhere even hidden in everyday magazines! For ages 14 and up. Registra-

tion is required.

Ready Player One Games, Shute Meeting Room, April 15th at 2:30 PM. Level up your Wednesdays with our ultimate gaming hangout! Grab your friends and dive into fun Nintendo Switch and PlayStation games whether you're racing, battling, or teaming up for co-op fun, there's something for everyone.

Artisan's Circle, Shute Meeting Room. Thursday, April 16th at 5:30 PM. Join Artisan's Circle, a creative open studio with a relaxed, welcoming space for artists and crafters of all levels to work, connect, and get inspired!

Shute Children's

Blackout Poetry Stop by Shute Memorial Library Children's Department, throughout the month of April. Put your imagination to the test with Blackout Poetry! Can you

find a poem in someone else's words? Recommended for ages 6+. Children under 8 may need extra guidance

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

Master Builders: Lego Free-play: Shute Children's Room. Thursdays from 3-5PM. Free-play session with Legos and other building blocks. Bring a buddy, or make a new one, as you explore your imagination brick by brick! We provide the space and the materials to let your vision take shape. What will you create? *Registration is not required. Children under the age of 6 must be accompanied by an adult.



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CITY OF EVERETT HOSTS ANNUAL SENIOR HEALTH FAIR

PHOTO COURTESY THE CITY OF EVERETT

The City of Everett recently welcomed residents to its annual Senior Health Fair on Tuesday, March 31 at the Connolly Center, bringing together more than two dozen organizations focused on supporting older adults.

The event gave attendees a chance to connect directly with providers offering everything from health screenings and assisted living resources to financial and support services. More than 25 vendors were on hand throughout the day, answering questions and helping residents better understand what's available to them

Mayor Robert Van Campen thanked the Council on Aging team for organizing the event and continuing to prioritize programming for Everett's older adult community.

"We're grateful to the Council on Aging for the work they do year-round to create opportunities like this," said Mayor Van Campen. "And thank you to all of the organizations that showed up to share valuable information and connect with our residents."

In addition to resource tables, the fair included a range of free health services, including blood pressure checks, glucose and cholesterol screenings, bone density testing, and massage demonstrations.

Elder Services Director Dale Palma said the event reflects a broader commitment to making sure seniors have access to the support they need.

"This event is a great example of what can happen when agencies, staff, and community partners come together," Palma said. "We're thankful for everyone who helped make it possible and look forward to continuing it in the years ahead."

The Council on Aging offers a wide range of programs and services for older adults, including health and fitness activities, educational resources, transportation, meals, and social opportunities.

For more information, residents can visit the Connolly Center at 90 Chelsea Street or call 617-394-2323.



Mayor Robert Van Campen and Marlene Westerman.



Mayor Robert J. Van Campen with Public Safety Personnel and First Responders.



Tai Chi was very popular at the fair!



State Rep. Joe McGonagle stopped by to visit.



Elder Services Director, Dale Palma was the Emcee.



So many great organization took part, Eliot Resource Center is represented here.

CITY OF EVERETT HOSTS ANNUAL SENIOR HEALTH FAIR

PHOTO COURTESY THE CITY OF EVERETT



Everyone was greeted by friendly faces and smiles from vendors.



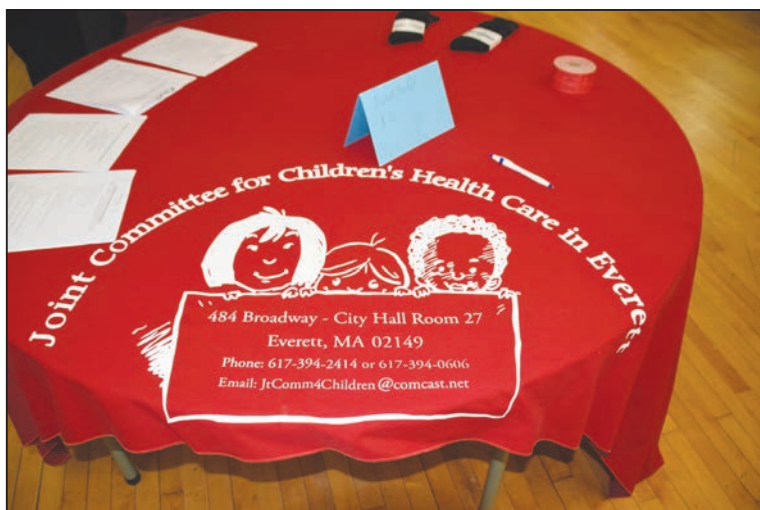
CHA was well represented, shown here with Mayor Robert Van Campen.



Everett Haitian Community Center was also well represented, pictured here with Mayor Robert Van Campen and Special Assistant to the Mayor, Chris Connolly.



Fantastic turnout out of our older residents, seen here with the Mayor.



Joint Committee on Children's Health Care Everett.

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Massachusetts to launch EBT chip cards to prevent SNAP theft, protect tax dollars

Massachusetts is moving forward with the adoption of chip and tap-enabled Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards, which will enhance security measures to better prevent theft across the system, including for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Massachusetts would become the third state in the country to implement this important tool to prevent theft and ensure taxpayer dollars are protected.

The Healey-Driscoll Administration has started notifying Massachusetts retailers to prepare for this upcoming change by updating their Point-of-Sale (POS) system to accept the new chip and/or tap EBT cards. The Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) will begin piloting chip and tap-enabled EBT cards later this year.

“Massachusetts is taking action to protect families and the programs they rely on to afford groceries and other essential goods,” said Governor Maura Healey. “These new chip-enabled EBT cards will strengthen protections against theft and make sure this support is going to the people who need it. We’re one of the first states in the nation to adopt this new technology because protecting taxpayer dollars is a top priority for us, and we thank retailers and clients in advance for working with us to implement this.”

SNAP is a federal program that is entirely funded with

federal dollars. SNAP fraud is extremely rare – less than one percent of the SNAP caseload has been found to have committed fraud.

Chip and tap-enabled EBT cards were not authorized by federal government for use until 2024, and guidance for states to implement these more secure EBT cards was not released until August 2025. In 2025, Governor Healey introduced and the Legislature passed funding to implement the transition to these more secure cards. Only two other states have launched chip and tap-enabled EBT card pilot programs to date.

EBT cards are where benefits are stored and accessed by almost one million people in Massachusetts who receive assistance from DTA. There are an estimated 5,500 SNAP retailers in Massachusetts who complete EBT transactions. DTA issues approximately \$2.6 billion in SNAP benefits annually to households meeting a variety of eligibility criteria.

Benefit theft occurs when eligible clients have their benefits stolen through criminal activity. The most common method of benefit theft is installing card skimmers on Point of Sale (POS) devices to steal the card information from the card’s magnetic stripe. Criminals then use the card information to make fraudulent purchases, leaving zero balances for clients to meet their basic needs

as intended.

Massachusetts chip and tap-enabled EBT cards will contain a Europay Mastercard Visa (EMV) microchip and other technology that is much more secure than a traditional magnetic stripe EBT card. For every transaction, the microchip generates a unique code that must be verified by the EBT system before the transaction will be authorized. Chip and tap-enabled EBT cards complete transactions by either being inserted into a POS terminal, or tapped on the POS terminal, rather than swiped using the magnetic stripe.

“DTA’s job is to provide support to eligible households in need, and blocking criminal actors who would intervene and steal those benefits is an absolute top priority. After years of advocacy and hard work to get here, Massachusetts is excited to introduce a measure that will further reduce opportunities for benefits to be stolen, helping families put food on the table and stopping theft before it occurs,” said DTA Commissioner Michael Cole. “Thanks to the Governor and Legislature’s investment, EBT cards will be better aligned with the safeguards that have long existed for commercial credit and debit cards. We’re hopeful that retailers can quickly adopt the technology needed to utilize this card technology, and we stand ready to make sure this process goes as smoothly as possible.”

“The migration to chip-enabled EBT cards adds an important layer of security to the Commonwealth’s food benefits system,” said Jon B. Hurst, President & CEO, Retailers Association of Massachusetts. “Retailers have been upgrading their Point-of-Sale (POS) systems to prepare for this change, and we appreciate the partnership with the Healey-Driscoll Administration to ensure a seamless transition.”

DTA has previously taken significant action to prevent benefit theft and safeguard client benefits, including:

- Implementing card lock/unlock technology using DTA Connect mobile application and the Cardholder Customer Service Line.

- Providing an EBT card safety flyer with every EBT card issued that contains information on how to lock/unlock your card, as well as frequently change the PIN.

- Educating clients on card safety and encouraging regular changing of their EBT card PIN to enhance security, and forcing re-pinning when there was known high-risk for stolen PINs.

- Producing educational materials on protecting your EBT card and identifying scams (informational videos, flyers, and more) in multiple languages, available on mass.gov/ProtectYourEBT

- Engaging retailers and retail associations through out-

reach and education on benefit theft schemes and patterns, and partnering with law enforcement on information sharing.

Fraud prevention is a critical responsibility for all DTA staff. DTA uses eligibility interviews and verification to ensure accurate initial determinations. DTA constantly leverages advanced data analytics and tools – regularly adding new methods – data matching, transaction monitoring, and a variety of fraud detection practices to detect and resolve potential program integrity risks. When issues are identified DTA conducts non-criminal fraud investigations, disqualifies individuals for program violations, refers cases for prosecution, calculates overpayments and establishes claims for repayment.

DTA operates a fraud hotline via phone and email inbox where anybody can submit a referral for investigation. Suspected fraudulent activity is investigated through dedicated program integrity and law enforcement partnerships. DTA also actively partners with State Auditor’s Office Bureau of Special Investigation (BSI) and the Office of the Inspector General on program integrity initiatives.

Anyone is able to report fraud to DTA online using this form, by email DTA.ReportFraud@MassMail.State.MA.US, or by phone using DTA’s Fraud Hotline at 800-372-8399.

Healey-Driscoll Administration announces \$5 million in grants to local fire departments

Special to the Independent

The Healey-Driscoll Administration today announced that 307 Massachusetts fire departments will share \$5 million in grant funding to support the purchase of new safety equipment.

“Massachusetts firefighters answer the call in every corner of our state and our job is to make sure they have what they need to do it safely,” said Governor Maura Healey. “We’re investing in the equipment that protects them on the front lines and strengthening departments in more than 300 communities so they can continue protecting all of us.”

“We rely so heavily on fire-

fighters in our most challenging moments,” said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. “This program allows us to show our appreciation for the risks that they take to help us every day by providing them with the equipment they need to stay safe.”

Fire departments across Massachusetts were invited to apply to the Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant program, which provides reimbursement on purchases of nearly 100 different types of equipment. Eligible items include hoses and nozzles, turnout gear, ballistic protective equipment, portable and mobile radios, thermal imaging cameras, hand tools and extrication equipment, hazard-

ous gas meters, and more. In many cases, the purchase of this equipment will help departments attain compliance with Occupational Safety & Health Administration or National Fire Protection Association safety standards.

“Firefighters face immediate danger at fires, structural collapses, hazmat incidents, and countless other calls,” said Secretary of Public Safety & Security Gina Kwon. “They also face the insidious threat of occupational cancer from exposure to toxic gases and substances. The Firefighter Safety Equipment Grants support equipment to protect them from all these risks.”

“The Firefighter Safety

Equipment Grant program funds the tools, gear, and equipment that our firefighters use to protect themselves, each other, and the residents of their communities,” said State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine. “It’s a smart investment in safety for

the fire service and the Commonwealth.”

A complete list of the awards by department is attached. The 20 categories most frequently funded through this year’s grants are:

| Item | Quantity | Cold Water Immersion |
|--|----------|-------------------------------|
| Hoses, Nozzles, Fittings, and Adapters | 803 | Suits 113 |
| Gloves | 623 | SCBA Bottles 106 |
| Hoods | 482 | Hand Tools 104 |
| Coats | 447 | Ballistic Helmets 84 |
| Boots | 439 | Ballistic Vests 81 |
| Pants | 336 | Thermal Imaging Cameras 83 |
| Helmets | 322 | Portable (Handheld) Radios 53 |
| Combustible/Hazardous Gas Detectors | 314 | Rescue Saws 50 |
| SCBA Facepieces | 151 | Breaching Tools 47 |
| | | Extrication Tools 44 |
| | | Life Jackets 44 |

Roca Chelsea hosts job fair, connecting employer partners with young people

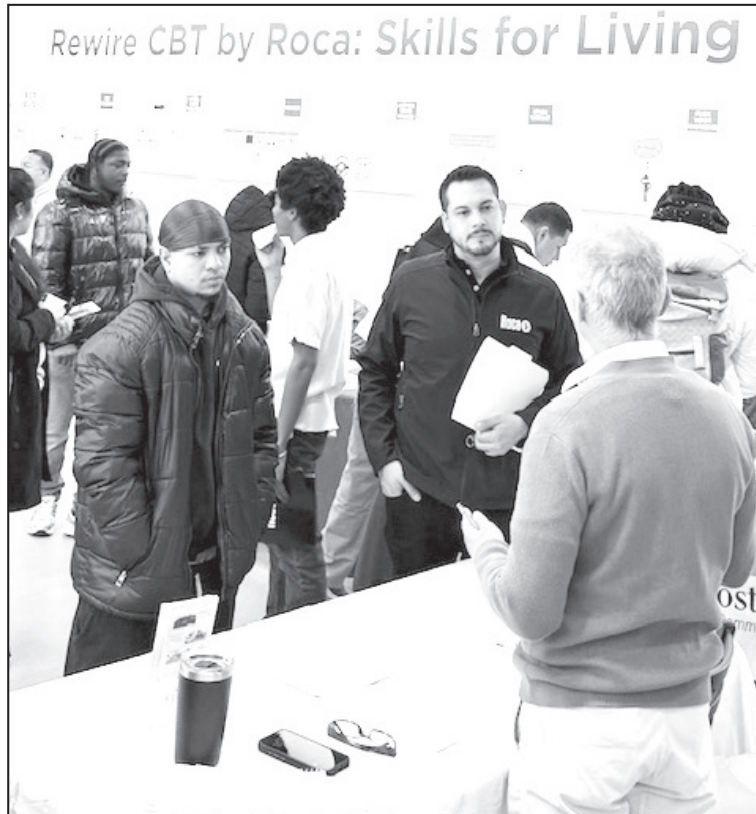
Special to the Independent

On Wednesday, March 25, Roca Chelsea hosted a Transitional Employment Program (TEP) Job Fair at its Chelsea site, bringing together motivated young people and a broad network of employer partners, staffing agencies, and workforce organizations. The event offered Roca participants a direct pathway to employment opportunities across industries including construction, transportation, environmental services, and more—sectors that have seen some of the fastest job growth in Massachusetts.

The job fair drew representatives from YouthBuild Boston, MassHire – Chelsea, Bridges for Returning Citizens, Community Family, MWRA, Labor Now, Express Labor, Wicked Staffing Solutions, EDA Staffing Agency, Advantage Labor Solutions, and Wash Cycle—a cross-sector network united by a shared commitment to expanding access to economic opportunity for young people who have faced significant barriers.

Young people who participated in the job fair have completed paid work experience through Roca's Transitional Employment Program, where they work alongside supervisors in structured crews while simultaneously building the behavioral and emotional skills needed to thrive long-term in the workplace. Central to this preparation is Roca's Rewire CBT model—an evidence-based cognitive behavioral approach that equips young people with tools to manage stress, regulate emotions, navigate conflict with coworkers or supervisors, and show up consistently even when life is hard.

"Getting a job is a milestone, but it's not the finish line. What we're really working toward is stability, and that requires a different kind of preparation. Through TEP, our young peo-



Shown are some of the resident at the Transitional Employment Program (TEP) Job Fair.

ple have already put in hundreds of hours of real work. And through Rewire CBT, they've built the skills to handle the situations that often derail people. The job fair is an essential transition point where the skills our participants have worked so hard to build can really translate to opportunity," said Cristian Morales, a Basic Needs Specialist at Roca.

For many of Roca's young people, this event introduced new possibilities. "The job fair is opening my eyes to new things and opportunities. I didn't know there was an adult day care center for example, so now I feel like I have options," said Oscar, a Roca participant. Job seekers also reflected on how their time in TEP changed their outlook entirely: "I have learned a lot from Roca and they have prepared me for a future career by teaching me great work ethics. They have taught me to stay calm through any situation, stick with it, and act on my values. I also learned

landscaping, how to use weed whackers, lawnmowers, backpack blowers, and more. Now I'm ready to work," said TJ, a Roca participant.

What makes Roca's participants stand out to employers is precisely what is hardest to teach: the ability to stay composed under pressure, to navigate difficult dynamics with a supervisor or colleague, and to keep showing up even when the circumstances of life make it tempting to walk away. Through hundreds of hours of paid work experience and consistent practice of Rewire CBT skills, Roca's young people have already demonstrated what many employers spend years hoping to find in a new hire.

Employer partners who attended reflected on why they keep coming back. "I love having employees who come from Roca because they really care about what they do. They create such strong relationships and they value their work. It's

important to have young people like that," said Kevin Barry, Program Director at The Community Family.

For many of the young people Roca serves, this job fair represents far more than a hiring event—it is a critical moment in a longer journey toward economic stability. Roca's workforce development programming is designed to address the real and compounding barriers that have historically kept young people locked out of the labor market: involvement in the justice system, gaps in work history, and

limited access to networks and resources for an effective job search. By connecting participants directly with employers who are prepared to offer real opportunities, Roca is working to dismantle those barriers in a comprehensive, evidence-based way.

Founded in 1988, Roca's mission is to be a relentless force in disrupting incarceration, poverty, and racism by engaging the young adults, police, and systems at the center of urban violence in relationships to address trauma, find hope, and drive change.

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Pioneer Charter School of Science boys basketball team awards banquet

CARY SHUMAN PHOTOS

The Pioneer Charter School of Science (PCSS) of Everett boys basketball team, under the leadership of head coach Michael D'Itria, held its awards banquet April 2 in the school cafeteria.

The Pioneer Panthers had their most wins (16-4 record) in school history, won a league playoff game for the first time, and qualified for the MIAA Tournament, advancing to the Round of 16 after a first-round victory.

D'Itria thanked the parents and families for their support of the team during the 2025-26 season.

"This is my third year here, and this has by far been the most participation, involvement, and attendance by family



at the games, and that makes a big difference – it's nice to see," D'Itria said in his welcoming remarks.

D'Itria also credited his coaching staff including middle school coach Rico Tayag, junior varsity coach Marcus Brunson, and assistant varsity coaches Calvin Boudreau and Anthony D'Itria (Mr. D'Itria's son, who won a state championship as a St. Mary's High School (Lynn) star and currently plays for the Salem State University men's basketball team).

The players and their families enjoyed an outstanding buffet dinner consisting of chicken broccoli ziti, chicken parmigiana, salad, and calzones, followed by desserts.



The Pioneer Charter School of Science boys junior varsity team, front row, from left, are Noah Arega, Mendel Jones, Evan Lainez, Noah Samuelson-Brown, and Christ Claude. Back row, from left, are Enrique Valdez, Matt Daniel, Gabe Dos Santos, Joel Tejada, Krish Itani, Andi Shkreta, and Coach Marcus Brunson.

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Head Coach Michael D'Itria and Coaches Marcus Brunson, Anthony D'Itria, and Calvin Boudreau.



Head Coach Mike D'Itria presented an appreciation award to team manager and official scorekeeper Sarrah Lkorch.



League All-Stars Marcus Tayag, Ben Estelien, and Zachary Georges.

CARY SHUMAN PHOTOS



The Pioneer Charter School of Science boys varsity basketball team, front left, are Noah Abrega, Marcus Tayag, Zachary Georges, Mendel Jones, and Evan Lainez. Back row, from left, are Coach Marcus Brunson, Head Coach Michael D'Itria, Ayman Sahbeddine, Matt Daniels, Ben Estelien, Kenneth Pierre, Marvin Jones, Darnell Deus, Aviel Lanzo, Coach Anthony D'Itria, and Coach Calvin Boudreau.




The Revere delegation on the Pioneer Charter School of Science basketball team, from left, Coach Calvin Boudreau, Head Coach Michael D'Itria, Gabe Dos Santos, Enrique Valdez, Noah Abrega, Evan Lainez, Coach Marcus Brunson, Coach Anthony D'Itria.



Head Coach Michael D'Itria (left) thanked the seniors for their dedication and commitment to the basketball program during their athletic careers. Seniors, from left, are Ayman Sahbeddine, Marvin Jones, Marcus Tayag, Kenneth Pierre, Aviel Lanzo, and Ben Estelien.

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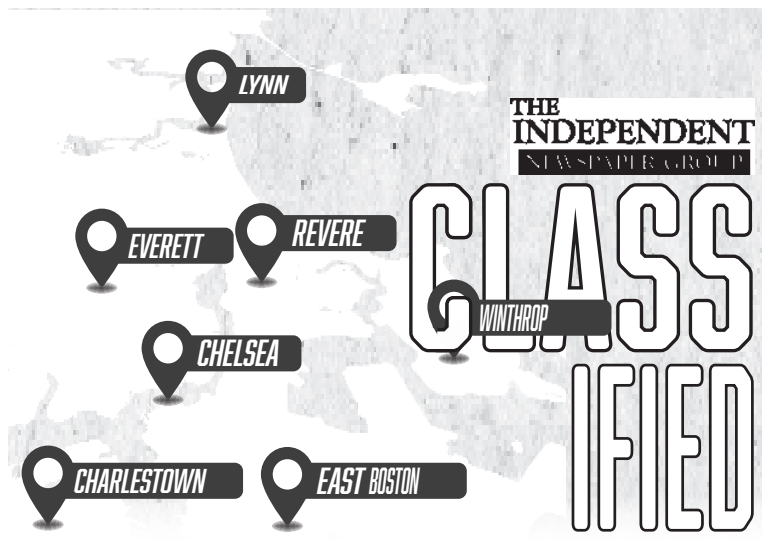
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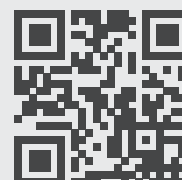
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EHS Roundup

EHS SOFTBALL OPENS SEASON WITH VICTORY; HOSTS REVERE TODAY

The Everett High softball team finally opened its season on Monday -- after two postponements last week -- and claimed an 8-4 victory over Greater Boston League (GBL) rival Malden at Glendale Park.

Mia Allen tossed all seven innings for the Lady Crimson Tide, striking out 15 opponents while allowing only four hits and walking five.

Everett grabbed a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the first and never trailed. Arianna Osorio-Bonilla, who played a key role for the Lady Crimson Tide with three RBI and two runs scored, led off with a base hit and scored the first run of the 2026 season on an RBI hit by Kayleigh Ridlon.

The Lady Crimson Tide added another run in the third when Juliette Romboli sent a shot over the head of the Malden outfielder and sped around the bases for a home run.

Everett enlarged its advantage to 5-0 by tacking on three more tallies in the fourth. After Morgan Salvi drew a walk and moved to second on a passed ball, Meghan Comerford set down a sacrifice bunt to advance Salvi to third. Mia Allen then reached base on a fielder's choice and Osorio-Bonilla delivered a double to score both Salvi and Allen.

Osorio-Bonilla concluded the rally when she advanced to third on a passed ball and then stole home when Malden attempted to get her out at third.

Everett upped the count to 7-0 with a pair of runs in the fifth. Lindsey Sylva reached on an error, stole second, and scored on a base hit by McKenzie Rivera. Bianca Moran sac bunted Rivera to second, McKenzie advanced to third on a ground out and then scored on a passed ball.

The visiting Lady Golden Tornadoes finally broke through in the sixth, scoring three runs on two hits, walks, and a passed ball, before Allen struck out the last two Malden batters to put out the fire.

Allen helped her own cause in the bottom of the inning when she led off with a single, moved to second on a passed ball, and then scored on a base hit by Osorio-Bonilla for an additional insurance run.

Malden loaded the bases in the seventh with one out, but Allen got out of the jam allowing only one run.

"This was our first full game, and we're only looking to improve with each one," said EHS head coach Stacy Poste-Schiavo. "Mia did a great job on the mound, but we need to do a better job keeping runners off base and preventing runs."

"I know this team is capable of better at-bats, and we had some players in positions they're not used to,"

Poste-Schiavo added. "It's always tough when the weather is this cold, and the rain hasn't helped us get out on the field."

The Lady Crimson Tide are scheduled to host GBL foe Revere today (Wednesday) at Glendale at 4:00. They will hit the road to GBL opponents Lynn English next Monday and Chelsea next Wednesday.

EHS BOYS VOLLEYBALL SPLITS TWO CONTESTS

The Everett High boys volleyball team posted its first victory of the season with a 3-0 triumph over Pioneer Charter School last Tuesday in the EHS gym.

The contest started well for the Crimson Tide. Kills by outside hitters Matheus Teixeira Fernandes and Akush Gurung helped build a 7-1 lead, and five serves from senior captain Victor Rosa pushed the Everett margin to 14-4. Freshman Miguel Rodovanski added three aces and a kill, and senior Isaque Agostinho served the final point to close out the 25-17 win.

Teixeira Fernandes had three aces and five kills in the second set, and senior Gustavo Franca had seven serves in a row in another 25-17 victory.

In the third set, Gurung notched his fifth and sixth kills of the day, Rosa had an ace and a kill, and Rodovanski delivered three kills. Junior middle

Samir Dervisevic had two kills and a block, and senior captain Christian Ramirez served three of his five aces in the match, including match point, in the 25-14 win.

"We got contributions from everyone and valuable experience for our newcomers," said EHS head coach Michael Fineran.

Things did not go as well for the Tide two days later in a 3-0 loss to Lawrence. "We did not know what to expect from them, but we knew that the Merrimack Valley teams are usually strong and athletic, and they fit that description," said Fineran.

Everett matched up well early on, with three serves and a kill from junior Adam Bousbaa tying the set early at 5-5, and kills from Teixeira Fernandes and Agostinho keeping the Tide close, 14-11.

However, some errors on serve-receive allowed the Lancers to enlarge their advantage to 20-12 en route to taking the set, 25-14. Everett battled back throughout the second set, with kills from Rodovanski and Bousbaa, and two kills and a block from Agostinho. Ramirez aced two in a row to cut the deficit to 13-11, but the Tide missed three of their next eight serves, eventually dropping the set, 25-19.

In the third set, kills from senior Travis Phay and junior Antheid Khanal and a block from junior middle Donart Maksutaj provided some highlights for Everett, but Lawrence never let up and pulled away to take the set and the match 25-13.

"We are still trying to find our identity this early in the season, and we are trying different combinations of players on the court," said Fineran. "We were able to minimize our mistakes in the Pioneer win, but against Lawrence's relentless attack, we were overwhelmed and mistakes snowballed."

"It's early in the season, but these weeks go by fast," Fineran continued. "We knew we'd

have growing pains early on. We hope that playing tough competition early will help us as we take on teams in the GBL. We have to stick together, stay aggressive, and limit our mistakes."

Fineran and his crew were scheduled to open their Greater Boston League (GBL) schedule this past Monday with a match at Lynn Classical. They will host GBL foe Lynn English today (Wednesday) and trek to GBL opponents Somerville on Monday and Revere next Wednesday.

EHS BASEBALL HOSTS WHITTIER SATURDAY

The Everett High baseball team will be looking for its first victory of the season when the Crimson Tide travel to Greater Boston League rival Revere this afternoon (Wednesday).

Coach Malik Love's squad, which has come up short in its first three contests this season, will host non-league opponent Whittier Tech Saturday morning at 11:00 at Glendale Park.

The Tide will entertain GBL foes Lynn English next Monday and Chelsea next Wednesday.

BUSY OPENING WEEK LOOMS FOR GIRLS LACROSSE

The Everett High girls lacrosse team was scheduled to swing into action yesterday (Tuesday) with a match at Somerville, kicking off a busy opening week of the season for coach Nicola Jones's squad.

The Lady Crimson Tide will host Malden tomorrow (Thursday), Cambridge next Monday, and Revere next Tuesday at 7-Acre Park.

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FRESH AND LOCAL

Dip into a culture

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

A recent post by Donnie from the “Eats History” YouTube channel featured a hummus recipe. This was the oldest written hummus recipe he could find. However, he clarified that people in the Levant have been making and eating hummus since the Bronze Age. He wrote, “The recipe is called Himmas Kassa. At 773 years old, it just scored a 9.4 out of 10 in my kitchen.”

He says the historic recipe calls for “Chickpeas pounded into a thick paste. Tahini. Fresh lemon juice. Garlic. Salt. The core recipe has not changed in 773 years.” Ingredients make a huge difference when you try to replicate traditional dips from other cultures. If you opt for prepared hummus, always check the ingredients and choose the one that comes closest to this recipe.

Ingredients and the ways dips and spreads are served can make a big difference. While the base hummus recipe from circa 1250 is what we might make today, it included an interesting garnish worth a try. After the hummus is plated, it is drizzled with olive oil, sprinkled with chopped parsley and pistachios, and scattered with crushed rose buds and cinnamon across the surface. And like so many hummus presentations today, a few whole chickpeas are served on top.

Mediterranean and North Africa

Dips and spreads are abundant in Mediterranean and North African foodways. Think Italy, and you can smell pesto and warm, garlicky bagna càuda. From Spain, enjoy the rounded flavor of romesco sauce.

From the Greek mezze table, we find Taramosalata with fish roe, baba ganoush from eggplant, fava dip, skordalia with potato and garlic, whipped feta, and of course, tzatziki. In tzatziki, we found that the big difference between our home-

made version and the packaged product is the quality of the yogurt. We use yogurt made only from milk and live cultures, whereas commercial products often contain many additives.

Latin Flavors

One of our favorite Latin flavor enhancers is Peruvian aji amarillo. We use this not just for dipping and saucing but as a seasoning for soups, stews, and fish chowders. Chimichurri sauce from Argentina is better known. Perhaps the best-known dips these days are still guacamole and salsa from Mexico.

Asian Sauces and Dips

Penny adored her Filipino uncle, Al, and regrets that he never introduced her to banana ketchup. While we think of ketchup as one flavor, other cultures have their own take on the term. He did teach her the importance of using a wide variety of vinegars as sauces or dips to add zest to food.

Korean cuisine relies on many sauces, ranging from gochujang to Ssamjang. A meal in Thailand is not complete without side dishes called nam jim, or dipping sauces. Prik nam som, nước chấm, and peanut sauce are three to try.

Indian cuisine is known for chutneys, raitas, and pickled condiments. Chinese is known for the flavors of their many regional cuisines, from oyster sauce to hoisin and chili oils.

Dips of all types are great warm-weather meal makers. You can dip into a cuisine by ordering ethnic takeout, collecting or making a number of dips and dipables from one culture, or making your own version of a popular dip for a potluck. We suggest the 13th-century hummus! We also suggest you follow “Eats History” on Facebook, YouTube, or Instagram.

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Guacamole and salsa from Mexico are but one of the many dips from specific cultures.

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Budget // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

these funds to support an important community project," said Van Campen. "Revitalizing Everett Square has been a community priority for many years and is something I want to tackle early in my term. I am hopeful we can get this project moving quickly in order to achieve real progress. I am appreciative of Representative McGonagle's efforts here and I look forward to working with him to make Everett the best place in which to live, work and raise a family."

"From significant investments in public transportation and public education, to support for DTA caseworkers and expenses related to the World Cup, to fiscally prudent tax conformity measures – this legislation is representative of the responsible approach that the House will continue to take as we navigate a period of significant economic uncertainty," said House Speaker Ronald J. Mariano (D-Quincy). "I want to thank Chairman Michlewitz for his hard work, as well as all my colleagues in the House for recognizing the importance of the investments and reforms that this legislation makes."

"The use of these one-time surplus funds provides us with a unique opportunity to better strength the Commonwealth in numerous ways. By further improving our educational and transportation sectors we will build off the work we have done in the last several budget cycles with a judicious use of the Fair Share funds. The tax changes contained in this bill will help support the state's economic competitiveness, while giving us time to absorb the expected loss in revenue," said Representative Aaron Michlewitz, Chair of the House Committee on Ways & Means (D-Boston). "I want to thank Speaker Mariano and all our House colleagues for their input and support on this critical funding legislation."

The bill delays conforming to the federal corporate tax changes that were passed by Congress in the OB3 Act last year, which will represent approximately a \$400 million revenue loss for the Commonwealth when fully implemented. Under the bill, the Research and Experimental expense deduction will be delayed one year, the deductions for the

Modification of Business Interest, Depreciable Asset Expensing, Qualified Production Properties will be delayed two years, and the Modification of Qualified Opportunity Zone Investments program will also be delayed two years. However, should the ballot question to lower the state income tax from 5 percent to 4 percent pass in November, which would result in a \$5 billion revenue loss when fully implemented, the Commonwealth would permanently decouple from these tax credits, preventing them from going into effect.

The \$1.8 billion bill is funded in part by \$1.3 billion from excess Fair Share surtax funds to invest in public transportation and education. Highlights include:

- \$885 million towards transportation:
- \$740 million towards the MBTA
- \$525 million for the Deficiency Reserve
- \$125 million for the Workforce & Safety Reserve
- \$60 million for physical infrastructure with a focus on the core subway system
- \$20 million for low-income reduced fares
- \$10 million for water transportation infrastructure
- Other transportation items include:
- \$50 million for snow and ice costs
- \$25 million for Regional Transit Authorities (RTAs) workforce development
- \$30 million to fund the Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) Credit
- \$30 million for MassDOT Service Investments
- \$417 million towards education:
- \$150 million towards Special Education Circuit Breaker costs
- \$150 million to fund Early Education Child Care costs
- \$38.7 million for the EEC income eligibility waitlist
- Includes \$8 million for child care for providers and \$7.5 million for the loan forgiveness program for providers
- \$20 million for Green SchoolWorks program to help schools with clean energy upgrades
- \$18.3 million for Financial Aid Supplements
- \$20 million endowment Match for UMass and other

state colleges and universities

- \$5.1 million for Tomorrow's Teachers Loan Forgiveness program
- \$5 million for ESOL Services Waitlist

The bill also allocates \$507 million from the General Fund:

- \$300 million for the Group Insurance Commission (GIC)
- \$54.4 million for sheriffs, representing half of the deficiency
- Requires reporting on the expenses of proposed usage of the funds
- \$41.6 million for DTA caseworkers
- \$10 million for FIFA Boston for World Cup related expenses

The bill also includes the following outside sections:

- Food Donation Tax Credit: Establishes a food donation tax credit for farm businesses based on the amount of food donated to a nonprofit food distribution organization. The credit is capped at \$5,000 annually per individual.
- Sustainable Aviation Fuel Credit: Allows taxpayers to take a credit against the tax imposed on fuels used for aircraft propulsion and, subject to



Rep. Joe McGonagle (center), Mayor Van Campen (left) and special assistant to the Mayor Chris Connolly.

limitation, requires the amount of credit per gallon of sustainable fuel to increase by \$0.015 for each additional 1 percent reduction in life-cycle greenhouse gas emissions above 50 percent. The credit is capped at \$10 million total for all cumulative tax credits over a fiscal

year.

- Ratifies eight Collective Bargaining Agreements (CBAs)

The bill passed the House of Representatives 150-3 and now goes to the Senate for consideration.

Navy commissions submarine USS Massachusetts (SSN 798)

By Petty Officer 2nd Class Kaitlin Young
Submarine Readiness Squadron (SRS) 32

The Navy commissioned the Virginia-class fast-attack submarine USS Massachusetts (SSN 798) in a traditional ceremony held March 28 at Boston Harbor.

The ceremony culminated a years-long process to bring Massachusetts into service. It is the fifth U.S. Navy vessel named after the commonwealth of Massachusetts, following the most recent, USS Massachusetts (BB 59), a South Dakota-class fast battleship that participated in nearly every major Pacific campaign from 1943 to 1945 and earned 11 battle stars for its World War II service.

Cmdr. Michael Siedsma, Massachusetts' commanding officer, spoke proudly of his crew's efforts. "To the crew, the plankowners, the Iron Patriots of the USS Massachusetts, we did it," Siedsma declared.



PHOTO BY PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS LUCAS HASTINGS

The USS Constitution sails past the Virginia-class nuclear-powered fast-attack submarine USS Massachusetts (SSN 798) during Massachusetts' commissioning in Boston, on March 28th, 2026.

"Your hard work and unshakable dedication is evident. I am amazed and humbled by what we have accomplished."

Sheryl Sandberg, the ship's sponsor and co-founder of Sandberg Bernthal Venture Partners, gave the traditional order to "man our ship and

bring her to life." The crew responded, "Aye aye, ma'am," before ceremonially running aboard the submarine.

Sandberg also reflected on the Navy's enduring legacy,

Eastern fiddler rays make their debut at the New England Aquarium

Special to the Independent

The New England Aquarium has introduced two eastern fiddler rays to its Trust Family Foundation Shark and Ray Touch Tank, marking the first time this species has been part of Aquarium exhibits. The two females are named “Viola” and “Tasman.”

Commonly known as “banjo rays” for their distinctive shape, eastern fiddler rays are native to the coastal waters of Australia, where they inhabit seagrass meadows, shallow sandy areas, and reefs. Their skin feels more like a shark’s than a stingray’s, though they are not sharks and are a close relative of guitarfish.

Viola and Tasman’s names reflect the species’ musical monikers and geographic roots. Viola is named for the string instrument, a nod to the fiddler ray name. Tasman is named after the Tasman Sea, situated on the southeastern coast of Australia, where the species is found. Guests who look closely may notice the two can be told apart by their markings, a fun

challenge at the touch tank.

“Our new fiddler rays are a dynamic addition to the touch tank and have warmed up quickly to their surroundings,” said Sarah Tempesta, Manager of Interactive Exhibits at the New England Aquarium. “They are avid eaters of shrimp, clam, squid, silversides and capelin. Guests have had wonderful opportunities to interact with them already, and we can’t wait for more guests to meet them.”

Eastern fiddler rays can grow up to four feet long. Unlike stingrays, they do not have a stinging spine on their tail, called a barb. Females are also ovoviviparous, meaning that they give birth to live young from eggs that develop and hatch inside the mother. While the species is not endangered, fiddler rays face threats in the wild from being caught accidentally, or as bycatch, in commercial and recreational fishing.

Viola and Tasman join a diverse community of animals in the Shark and Ray Touch Tank, where Aquarium guests can



PHOTO BY VANESSA KAHN/NEW ENGLAND AQUARIUM

Fiddler ray “Tasman” in the New England Aquarium’s touch tank.

observe and interact with them daily.

The New England Aquarium is a nonprofit research and conservation organization that has protected and cared for our

ocean and marine animals for more than 55 years. We provide science-based solutions and help shape policies that create measurable change to address threats the ocean faces. We in-

spire action through discovery and help create engaged, resilient communities.

LEGAL NOTICE -

submit notices to legals@everettindependent.com

LEGAL NOTICE



PUBLIC HEARING FOR PETITION FROM MASSACHUSETTS ELECTRIC COMPANY D/B/A NATIONAL GRID OF NORTH ANDOVER, MASSACHUSETTS

To all parties interested in the public hearing.

Be it hereby ordered: Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a NATIONAL GRID requests permission to locate poles, wires, and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, along and across the following public way: The following are the streets and highways referred to: WR# 31279960 - Elm St- National Grid to install underground facilities on

Elm Street beginning at a point approximately 35 feet Southeast of the centerline of the intersection of Elm Street and Woodlawn Avenue and continuing approximately 30 feet in a Easterly direction. National Grid to install approximately 30' of 2-4" conduit from existing pole #454-0 to private property to provide a permanent overhead to underground service at 313 Elm Street, Everett, MA Hearing to be held with the Everett City Council, on Monday, 27th of April, 2026 at 7:00PM at the Everett City Council Chambers, 3rd Floor, Everett City Hall.

4/8/26, 4/15/26
EV

LEGAL NOTICE
LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Notice is hereby given by McGarvey Towing of 24R Bennett Hwy, Rt 1 N, Saugus, MA, pursuant to the provisions of Mass G.L. c. 255, Section 39A, that they will sell the following abandoned vehicles on or after April 30, 2026 beginning at 10:00 am by private or public sale to satisfy their garage keeper's lien for towing, storage, and notices of sale. Vehicles are being stored at McGarvey Towing:
1. 2006 Ford F-150 VIN 1FTRE-14W16HB16489
2. 2007 Volkswagen Jetta VIN 3VWEG71K67M054837
Signed
Stephen McGarvey
Owner, McGarvey Towing
4/8/26, 4/15/26, 4/22/26
EV

Submarine // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

asking, “In three months, our nation will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. But as many of you here know, the Navy already celebrated this milestone last October. What does that tell us? It tells us: We don’t have a Navy because we have a country; we have a country because we had a Navy!”

Following the hoisting of the colors and commissioning pennant, Adm. William Houston, director of Naval Reactors, highlighted the crew’s hard work and the unit’s role in national defense, saying, “Massachusetts is playing an incredible role in our security,” Houston said. “Your crew represents the best that our Navy and our nation has. You train relentlessly to bring this warship to life and earned the trust placed on you.”

Other speakers at the cere-

mony included David Denton, general counsel of the Navy, who delivered the principal address; Massachusetts Gov. Maura Healey; U.S. Rep. Seth Moulton; and Kari Wilkinson, president of Newport News Shipbuilding.

Massachusetts (SSN 798) is the seventh Block IV Virginia-class submarine, built under a teaming agreement between General Dynamics Electric Boat and HII-Newport News Shipbuilding. The submarine was christened at the Newport News Shipbuilding yard in Newport News, Va., May 6, 2023, and is the 12th Virginia-class submarine delivered by the shipyard.

As it joins the fleet, Massachusetts (SSN 798) brings significant warfighting capability, underscoring the nation’s asymmetrical advantage at sea. Virginia-class fast attack submarines have enhanced stealth,

sophisticated surveillance capabilities and special warfare enhancements that enable them to meet the Navy’s multi-mission requirements.

Each Virginia-class submarine is 7,800 tons and 377 feet in length and has a beam of 34 feet. It is designed with a reactor plant that will not require refueling during the planned life of the ship, reducing life-cycle costs while increasing underway time.

The commissioning of the USS Massachusetts underscores the Navy’s commitment to building America’s Golden Fleet. For 250 years, American naval power has projected strength globally. That mission continues – and intensifies. We operate forward 24/7, 365 days a year. This operational tempo demands continuous capability delivery, and the Golden Fleet is our answer.

**DON'T FORGET TO CHECK WITH THE COURTS
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CELEBRITY CHEF VICTORIA FABBO IS FEATURED AT DAME DELICIOUS AT OAKLEY COUNTRY CLUB

More than 300 guests attended Les Dames d'Escoffier Boston's Dame Delicious – An Evening of Culinary Adventures – which was a celebration of women in food and hospitality, March 27 at the Oakley Country

Club in Watertown. Boston-based businesses, including the Boston School of French Cooking and The Daily Catch restaurant, had tables at the event. Celebrity chef Victoria Fab-

bo, of Everett, who is a registered dietitian, held a food demonstration of her amazing cooking skills at the event. Fabbo is the host of the "Fabulous Foods With Victoria Fabbo" on the YouTube channel.

Mary Ann Esposito, host of PBS Ciao Italia and author of "Ciao Italia – Plant Harvest Cook!" and Cecile Ganne, author of "Scent of a Truffle," autographed copies of their books at the event.

The event proved to be an unforgettable celebration of food, wine, and inspiration.

CARY SHUMAN PHOTOS



Celebrity chef Victoria Fabbo (center), pictured with her parents, Victor Fabbo and Karen Fabbo, at Dame Delicious – An Evening of Culinary Adventures – at Oakley Country Club in Watertown.



Jamie Walsh, general manager of The Mighty Squirrel Brewing Company in Boston's Fenway neighborhood.



Evelyn Schichner and Lily Milman of the Boston School of French Cooking, located in the South End, are pictured at the event.



Karen Coleman, board member of the Mass. Restaurant Association, and Cecile Ganne, author of "Scent of a Truffle."



Representing The Daily Catch restaurant on Hanover Street in the North End are owner Maria Freddura and chef Jesse McNally.



Representing The Epicurean Club of Boston, executive chefs James Boyd, Denise Graffeo, Steve Lawrence, and Rico DiFronzo.

EVERETT SENIOR BASKETBALL AT THE HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER



CARY SHUMAN PHOTO

Everett seniors, including former national senior championship team standout Bob Sansone, are pictured before their 3-on-3 basketball games at the Everett Health and Wellness Center. Front row (from left) are Ron Francescone, Marcus Roberts, Rick Cipriani, and Bill Jones. Back row (from left) are Norm Stemberidge, Michael Henderson, Bob Sansone, Ronald Richardson, Johnnie Moruzzi, and Stephen Boudreau, former Saugus High basketball coach.

Massachusetts residents can still apply for home heating assistance by April 30

Special to the Independent

As the home heating season comes to a close, Massachusetts residents have until April 30 to apply for support from the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP). HEAP provides financial support to eligible households to pay a portion of their winter heating bills. Residents can learn more and submit an application at mass.gov/heat.

“Many Massachusetts families are still feeling the strain of this winter’s heating costs,” said Juana Matias, Secretary of Housing and Livable Communities. “With the April 30 deadline approaching, now is the time to see if you qualify for home heating benefits. HEAP can provide meaningful relief, and we encourage residents to apply now or help spread the word to someone who may need support.”

Following a colder-than-average winter that increased heating usage across the state,

many households continue to face elevated energy costs, compounded by rising energy prices. Residents may apply through April 30 for assistance to receive assistance for heating expenses during the winter months.

HEAP is a free, statewide program that provides grants paid directly to heating providers to help eligible households cover winter heating costs. The assistance does not need to be repaid. The program is available to both renters and homeowners and covers all heating sources, including oil, natural gas, electricity, propane, kerosene, wood, and coal.

Eligibility is based on several factors including household size and income, and households do not need to be on public assistance or have overdue bills to qualify. Residents whose heat is included in their rent may also be eligible.

Residents can apply online or connect with their local HEAP agency at mass.gov/heat.

LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

ST. JOHN'S PREP ANNOUNCES ACADEMIC HONORS FOR SECOND QUARTER 2025-2026

St. John's Prep recently announced the names of students who earned academic honors for the second quarter of the 2025-2026 school year, which ended on January 16, 2026. Students who qualified for the Head of School's List earned grades of A- or above in all

courses; students who qualified for the Principal's List earned grades of B+ or above in all courses; and students who qualified for the Honor Roll earned grades of B or above in all courses.

The following students were named to the academic honors list for the second quarter 2025-2026.

Everett, MA
Principal's List
Nicholas Vogel '26
Honor Roll
Jesus Calcano '28

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