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Everett residents want answers on school chief probe

District refuses to air findings on ouster of first woman of color in post

By John Hilliard
GLOBE STAFF

EVERETT — More than a year after the first woman of color to serve as this diverse city's school superintendent was placed on paid leave, community members are demanding to know the outcome of an investigation into allegations that she created a toxic work environment.

The school district's refusal to make its findings public has stirred up a swell of allegations and mistrust of City Hall, which already faces a federal lawsuit alleging former superintendent Priya Tahiliani and her ex-deputy faced sexist and racist harassment from Mayor Carlo DeMaria and other officials.

In recent months — with Tahiliani now leading Brock-

ton schools, a new Everett superintendent in place, and the lawsuit winding its way through court — some in the community have demanded Everett officials release the investigation's findings.

Lawyers representing Tahiliani, her former deputy superintendent, Kim Tsai, and two people who read the document but asked not to be named for fear of retribution said the investigator found little to no evidence to support the allegations against Tahiliani.

School officials declined to release the report to the Globe in response to a public records request, citing ongoing litigation. DeMaria and School Committee members did not respond to requests for comment. DeMaria has previously

EVERETT, Page A5

Trump stuns allies and foes by choosing Gaetz for AG

Confirmation uncertain for polarizing figure who faced a sex-trafficking investigation

By Glenn Thrush and Devlin Barrett
NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — President-elect Donald Trump on Wednesday named Representative Matt Gaetz of Florida as his nominee for attorney general, a provocative move to install a compliant ally at the helm of the Justice Department as he seeks retribution against those who prosecuted him.

The pick reflected Trump's determination to choose as the nation's top law enforcement official a fierce defender who would not resist his directives or question his claims, as Bill Barr, his last confirmed attorney

general, did in the aftermath of the 2020 election.

If Gaetz is confirmed by the Senate — no sure thing given the widespread bipartisan animosity toward him — his ascension to a powerful Cabinet post would represent a remarkable turn about that mirrors Trump's own whipsaw political comeback.

Gaetz, 42, was the focus of a three-year federal sex-trafficking investigation that ended in 2023 when the Justice Department under President Biden declined to bring charges. He was the subject of a House Ethics Committee inquiry into his conduct until

TRUMP, Page A7

Latest nominees

The president-elect continues to stock his Cabinet with loyalists, rather than relying on longtime officials with years of experience



REP. MATT GAETZ
Attorney general



SEN. MARCO RUBIO
Secretary of state



TULSI GABBARD
Director of national intelligence



JOHN TLUMACKI/GLOBE STAFF

Brockton could fine homeless people hundreds of dollars for unauthorized camping, but it is unlikely to do so.

More cities crack down on homeless camps

Opponents say real issues not being addressed

By John Hilliard
GLOBE STAFF

Bans on homeless people erecting camps in their communities are growing in Massachusetts, as two of the state's most populous cities adopted laws this week intended to protect residents and businesses from what officials have termed health and public safety nuisances.

The city councils in Brockton and Lowell each adopted prohibitions on unauthorized camping on public property Tuesday night, joining Boston, Fall River and Salem. Worcester earlier this year declined to relax its existing ban on camp-

ing in public parks to provide a temporary respite for homeless people.

With the latest votes, half of the state's 10 largest cities now have some form of prohibition on such encampments.

In one of the state's most restrictive measures, Brockton could fine homeless people hundreds of dollars for violating the ordinance. But local officials cautioned they were unlikely to do so. Instead, as in other communities, officials said the threat of sanctions such as warnings or arrest authorized by the ordinances are intended to persuade homeless people to accept a bed in a nearby shelter when one is available.

Opponents argue the measures risk criminalizing homelessness and do nothing to address

HOMELESS, Page A5



EVAN VUCCI/ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Biden and President-elect Donald Trump put politics aside for a few minutes to talk about the transition.

Back in D.C., with all that comes with him

By Jim Puzzanghera, Sam Brodey, and Tal Kopan
GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON — President-elect Donald Trump walked onto the stage at a meeting of House Republicans Wednesday to a standing ovation, heartily shaking hands with party leaders and smiling broadly as his campaign anthem, Lee Greenwood's "God Bless the USA," blared from the speakers in a Capitol Hill hotel ballroom.

"Well, thank you very much. This is a very nice gathering. Isn't it nice to win?" he said, adjusting the microphone as some House Republicans added whoops to their applause. "It's always nice to win."

Trump gave his blessing to Speaker Mike Johnson to continue to lead the House Republican conference, which retained its majority as the final races were decided, then went to the White House to meet with President Biden — a tradi-

tional hallmark of a peaceful transition of power but one Trump himself skipped when the roles were reversed four years ago.

"[P]olitics is tough. And it's, many cases, not a very nice world, but it is a nice world today," Trump said.

"Nice" was the operative word for Republicans as Trump swooped into a Washington remade by his election victory last week. As his plane touched down at Maryland's Joint Base Andrews for the first time since he jetted away from it in disgrace on Jan. 20, 2021, Trump encountered a drastically new political universe in Washington. Republicans celebrated a sweeping return to power — and Democrats grappled with their loss of it — on Congress's first full day back at work after the election.

How drastic would become clearer later in the day.

WASHINGTON, Page A7

As attitudes change, menopause is all the talk

Women realizing they're not alone as they cope with the effects

By Kay Lazar
GLOBE STAFF

Michele Cohen suddenly felt an intense surge of heat envelop her body last year while sitting poolside at one of her daughter's swimming meets. The 41-year-old Taunton mother was caught off guard and later confided in a friend who said she, too, had recently experienced something similar.

Cohen and her friend were having hot flashes, among the most common and bothersome symptoms of perimenopause, the years leading up to the momentous stage of life when a woman permanently stops having a period.

As recently as a few months



JESSICA RINALDI/GLOBE STAFF

Michele Cohen is grateful that women are becoming increasingly open about menopause issues. "My mom never talked about this kind of stuff," she said.

ago, Cohen had no idea how many other women, including in her own office, were as flummoxed by their symptoms as she was. But in August, her employer, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, launched an online support group specifically for employees experiencing perimenopause and menopause. Now more than 130 women across the company regularly trade online tips, such as the best brand of cooling sheets to help with night sweats and how to keep your partner from freezing at night when you need to crank up the air conditioning and a fan.

"For me, the biggest thing is knowing I am not alone," said Cohen. "My mom never talked about

MENOPAUSE, Page A4

Chef Barbara Lynch is now being sued by the City of Boston for nearly \$1.7 million in unpaid personal property taxes. **D1.**

Baystate Health, which runs Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, is eliminating 134 jobs as it seeks to address financial woes. **D1.**

Former state representative Gloria L. Fox died at 82. She was the longest-serving woman in the State House at the time she announced she wouldn't seek a 17th term in 2016. **B1.**

Roy Haynes, a virtuoso of jazz percussion, died at 99. He left Roxbury at age 20 and went on to accompany the legendary likes of Charlie Parker, Lester Young, and Billie Holiday. **C10.**



Not-so-cold comfort

Thursday: Still cool, breezy. High 45-50. Low 31-36.

Friday: A little warmer. High 54-59. Low 40-45.

High tide: 9:10 a.m., 9:44 p.m.

Sunrise: 6:34 Sunset: 4:23

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