



REAL NEWS IN SCHOOLS

NIE NEWSPAPERS IN EDUCATION

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Campaign focuses on trusted adults

By **Ethan Forman**

» Staff Writer

The importance of kids having a trusted adult in their lives as a protective factor like bubble wrap is the aim of a new campaign spearheaded by the Regional Youth Prevention Network managed by the Gloucester Health Department.

The regional youth prevention effort recently launched its “Adults We Trust” campaign, which includes a video featuring local students from Cape Ann and the North Shore talking about what they look for in a trusted adult.

The Regional Youth Prevention Network is a collaboration of seven communities — Gloucester, Rockport, Manchester-by-the-Sea, Essex, Beverly, Danvers and Ipswich — focusing on preventing teen substance use and keeping kids and families healthy and safe.

Information on the Adults We Trust campaign, which can be found at the website regionallyouthpreventionnetwork.org, points out that young people who have at least one teacher or adult in their school they can turn to on topics important to them are nearly 60% less likely to experience poor mental health outcomes compared with those who don’t have a trusted adult in their lives.

The campaign is multi-pronged, according to Regional Prevention Director Chelsea Goldstein-Walsh, a social worker for the Gloucester Health Department.

First, the website features a video of middle- and high-school students talking about what makes somebody a trusted adult.

“What I look for in a trusted adult is somebody who is kind and understanding,” Hannah Queen, a junior at Ipswich High School,

says in the video. “And somebody who meets you where you’re at and who pushes you in the right direction and kind of helps you along the way.”

Also featured is Erika Taylor-Grossi, 14, an eighth-grader at O’Maley Innovation Middle School who also serves as secretary of the Gloucester Youth Leadership Council, the youth arm of the Regional Youth Prevention Network that works to make a positive impact in the community.

Taylor-Grossi said in an interview she has a trusted adult in her life.

“I think a trusted adult is important in your life because you should always have somebody who you are able to turn to, say, like, something really bad happened at school and you have nobody else to talk to, but then you go home and say it’s your mother, your sister, your grandmother; it could even be somebody in the school, who you just ... you trust them so much that you are able to open up to them about problems that you could have, anywhere,” she said.

Another phase of the campaign revolves around young people nominating their trusted adults for recognition.

Another effort, Goldstein-Walsh said, includes trainings for adults who may serve as a trusted adult but who may not feel confident in their skills if a kid should come to them with concerns.

Plans are to offer a series of youth mental health first-aid trainings in May during Mental Health Awareness Month that will be free to members of the community, she said.

“We use the term ‘trusted adult’ because oftentimes that’s what kids in schools are taught,”



DAVID SOKOL/Staff photo
Eighth-grade O’Maley Innovation Middle School student Erika Taylor-Grossi talks about what it means to have an adult you trust during a discussion inside the O’Maley Innovation Middle School about a new campaign called “Adults We Trust” presented by the Regional Youth Prevention Network.

Goldstein-Walsh said. “For many kids that can be a parent; it can be a teacher, a coach.

A trusted adult is any adult,

including those who may not fit the stereotypical mold of a trusted adult, such as a school bus driver, a cashier, the lunch lady,

or a custodian, who has a positive influence on a young person’s life. School resource officers often fill the role of a trusted adult, Goldstein-Walsh said.

“So what we know and what research shows is that having at least one trusted adult both in the home and out of the home can have a significantly beneficial effect for youth,” Goldstein-Walsh said. “It can act as a protective factor that mitigates the risk of things like a substance use challenge or a mental health challenge.”

While there are factors that can increase the risk for young people when it comes to certain challenges, protective factors like having a trusted adult should be thought of like bubble wrap, she said.

“The more layers of bubble wrap that you have around you, the less likely you are to break apart,” she said.

Having a trusted adult both inside and outside of the home adds a layer of support. It could be someone at the local YMCA, within a faith-based community, or even a neighbor, she said.

The Regional Youth Prevention Network includes Danvers-CARES, Be Healthy Beverly, Ipswich Aware, Gloucester Youth Leadership Council, and the Eastern Essex Regional Public Health Coalition for Rockport, Essex, Hamilton and Wenham.

Rebecca Jackson is the director of community programs for the Greater Beverly YMCA and the facilitator of the Be Healthy Beverly Coalition who said the organization is excited about the trusted adult campaign.

For young people, having a trusted adult is important because

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REAL NEWS IN SCHOOLS

How the program works

Your school can have access to local, trusted journalism from The Salem News and Gloucester Daily Times on a daily basis. We report on news throughout the North Shore and Cape Ann, covering all things local — from schools, to sports, to government, people profiles, business, entertainment and more. You get the facts — the real news — from experienced

reporters, photographers and editors you can count on at no cost to your school.

Here are the basics of the program:

What is it? The Salem News and Gloucester Daily Times partner with local businesses to provide free digital access to our newspapers to anyone within a school in our coverage area at no cost to the school. This access

encourages students to value the vital news coverage being produced by The Salem News and Gloucester Daily Times. They will build awareness and gain critical thinking skills in the process.

Who can participate? This program will benefit teachers, students, and others in the school community.

Where does it take place? You can access our newspaper online. Teachers can

incorporate the program into their curriculums, even having reporters, photographers and editors visit your class.

When can we start benefiting? As soon as we have your commitment to participate in Real News in Schools we will go to work to find a local business who wants to sponsor you. Once we have one, we will work with your IT Department to get the program

up and running.

Why is this valuable?

There's a lot of fake news out there on social media and elsewhere. The Salem News, founded in 1880 as The Salem Evening News, and the Gloucester Daily Times, founded in 1888, both award-winning publications, have long track records of fair and accurate reporting that cuts through the misinformation.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
SALEMNEWS.COM/REALNEWS
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DAVID SOKOL/Staff photo

Gloucester Health Department Regional Prevention Director Chelsea Goldstein-Walsh talks about a new campaign called "Adults We Trust" presented by the Regional Youth Prevention Network.

» Campaign

Continued from Page S1

it allows them to have open conversations around mental health and healthy relationships. She defines a trusted adult as someone who matters to a young person.

"Having somebody you can trust is so beneficial all around," she said. A lot of what they work on, she said, are providing "protective factors" when it comes to issues young people might face.

"Giving them protective factors for anything they come across is really beneficial," she said.

Taylor-Grossi said it was important for her to be a part of the campaign as part of her work with the Gloucester Youth Leadership Council.

"I think this campaign is an amazing idea, actually, because when we do stuff

like this it kind of shows kids that, like, there's always going to be somewhere you can go and there's always something you can join," she said.

Part of the trusted adult campaign involves nominating a trusted adult, to help celebrate positive role models in the community. These caring adults will be recognized by the Regional Youth Prevention Network, and there's a nomination form on campaign's website.

Funding sources for the campaign include the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration; the state Bureau of Substance Addiction Services, a division of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health; and the Peter and Elizabeth C. Tower Foundation.

Ethan Forman may be contacted at 978-675-2714, or at eforman@northhofboston.com.

Harbormaster boat a hit at Marina Day at Gloucester High

By Ethan Forman

» Staff Writer

CVTE Marina Day at Gloucester High School gave students the chance to climb on board the harbormaster's patrol boat and explore opportunities related to Cape Ann's marine industry, all while remaining on dry land.

Harbormaster Chris Lucido said his department trailed the boat to the high school for Marina Day to introduce students during their homeroom period March 13 to some of the local marinas, highlighting the possibility of summer or after-school jobs or even career employment after they get out of high school.

"We wanted the kids to be aware there are summer jobs out there," Lucido said. The intent was also to introduce students to the possibility of a career on the water.

The harbormaster's office backed the patrol boat up to the garage bay of Automotive Technology shop where students got an up-close look at the city's new patrol boat.

"They were climbing all over it and the kids had a ball," Lucido said.

"Local marinas, boatyards, harbormasters and MassHire all came to GHS this morning to educate students about summer jobs, internships, co-ops, and careers in marine industries," wrote the Gloucester Education Foundation on its Facebook page. "They got to explore the boat, too."

The foundation also posted that senior Kaden Lewis is working with Manchester-by-the-Sea Harbormaster Bion Pike for his Auto Tech co-op placement with dreams about joining



GLOUCESTER HARBORMASTER/Courtesy photos

Students got to climb aboard the Gloucester Harbormaster's patrol boat during CVTE Marina Day held at Gloucester High's Automotive Technology shop.



From left, Waterways Board member Karen Tibbetts, Assistant Harbormaster Dave Mocerri and Gloucester Harbormaster Chris Lucido attend CVTE Marina Day held in Gloucester High School's auto shop.

the state Environmental Police.

Among those marinas on hand were Cape Ann Marina, Brown's Yacht Yard, Safe Harbor Marinas, Crocker's Boat Yard

and Gloucester Marina, according to a flyer. The Manchester-by-the-Sea harbormaster was also on hand.

The event was organized by Brenda Waslick, the high

school's career and technical education coordinator, Lucido said.

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Masconomet wins state title, Danvers takes 4th

Finishing second in the state didn't sit well with the Masconomet Regional gymnastics team. So they made absolutely sure it won't happen this time around.

The Chieftains captured their fourth in six years MIAA crown this winter at Algonquin Regional, posting a score of 149.05 to top the eight-team championship field.

Seeded second heading into the finals behind defending state champion Central Catholic, Masconomet took the lead after one rotation, opened it up to more than a full point after two, and raced to the title from there. In doing so, they bested second place Newton North (147.05) and third place finisher Mansfield (146.4).

The Danvers/Lynnfield co-op team, whose only setback during the dual meet season came to their Northeastern Conference rivals from Masconomet, placed fourth overall with a fine showing of 146.325.

En route to the state crown, Masconomet had the top teams scores on both bars and floor exercises while claiming second on the balance beam (37.550) and vault.

Beam is where the Chieftains really shone, with Sarah Aldrich (9.675), Ava Nolan (9.575) and Fallon Eberhardt (9.450) all posting excellent scores to allow their team to take a comfortable lead mid-way through the meet.

On the ensuing floor routine, Kate Mugge, Nolan and Aldrich all scored 9.350 or better, and Janey Young's 9.650 score helped bring another brass ring home to the Tri-Town area.

Aldrich took third in the All-Around competition with a 37.825 while Mugge was fifth with a 37.100.

Other members of the Chieftains' gymnastics titlists included Merideth Brandt,



COURTESY PHOTO

Danvers gymnastics captain Maddie Westcott goes through her routine on the uneven bars during the state championship meet.

Luchia Bevilacqua, Carly O'Heir, Natalia Cafarelli, and Veronica Bloxam.

For Danvers/Lynnfield, Kaylee Westcott had another spectacular showing by finishing second in the All-Around with a score of 38.400. Among her individual highlights were a 9.7 on vault, 9.65 on floor and 9.55 on floor exercises.

Senior captain Camryn Donovan also shone under the bright lights for the Falcons, placing fourth in the All-Around with a 37.250.

As a team, Danvers scored 36.750 on vault and 36.525 on beam.

"Kaylee had another great meet and has been consistent for us all year," said Danvers head coach Jen Habeeb. "We know we can always count on her to bring in big scores. "Camryn had her best meet of the season (Saturday) and also brought in some big scores for us. She's been steady for us throughout the whole season.

"Overall we're extremely happy and proud of the whole team and how they did. (Captain) Maddie Westcott and Camryn Donovan are the two seniors who will be missed next season."

Peabody wins third straight high school drama fest

By Caroline Enos

» Staff Writer

Peabody Veterans Memorial High School won a first-place spot at the state's Drama Fest Finals for the third year in a row last month.

The school's Stage One drama club received a top performance award for its production of "Clyde's" at the Massachusetts Educational Theater Guild state finals at John Hancock Hall in Boston, as did Stoughton High School's production of "Anon(ymous)" and Milton High School's rendition of "Too Many Daughters: A Jane Austen Parody."

This follows wins from Peabody for "Yerma" in 2023 and "The Whale" in 2024.

"Winning this prestigious competition three years in a row is an incredible feat and a testament to the dedication, talent and hard work of the students, faculty and directors involved," said Stephanie Manning, the theater teacher and director at PVMHS.

"This remarkable accomplishment highlights not only the strength of the drama program, but also the passion for the arts within our community."

Fifty-five students made up the production's cast members, production team and crew.

"Clyde's" was written by Lynn Nottage and showcases the spirit of redemption among its formerly incarcerated characters, all of whom are on a quest to create the perfect sandwich while working at a truck stop sandwich shop under a stony employer.

"This production process taught our students about strength, forgiveness and beginning again, even when



FINN BRICKLEMYER/Photos

Senior Tijan Camara as Montrellous and sophomore Myles Fitzgerald as Jason in the Peabody Veterans Memorial High School production of "Clyde's."



Senior Tijan Camara as Montrellous, junior Emy Sousa Santos as Leticia and junior Matheus Henrique Muniz as Raphael.

the circumstances seem impossible," Manning said. "Most importantly, they shared with audiences that everyone deserves a second chance. It was a powerful message that we were proud to share."

Peabody students took home individual awards on top of their team win at the state finals.

Senior Myles Fitzgerald won an Excellence in

Acting award for his role of Jason, while Junior Kaelyn Veltry won for Technical Excellence in Movement Coordination.

Juniors Temperance Reed and Tabitha Muise, sophomores Victoria Weinberg and Yaniell DeJesus, and freshman Angelari Macharia won for Technical Excellence in Culinary Props Design and Management.

Senior Tijan Camara received the METG Trustees Award for Excellence in Acting for the role of Montrellous, which is given to the outstanding actor of the weekend.

St. John's Prep also made it to the finals. Beverly High School and Swampscott High School competed in the semifinals.

Contact Caroline Enos at CEnos@northofboston.com.

Manchester Essex celebrates International Week

By Stephen Hagan

» Staff Writer

MANCHESTER-BY-THE-SEA — Students at Manchester Essex Regional High School recently celebrated languages throughout the world as part of the observance of International Week.

The school's observance was inspired by Massachusetts' World Languages Week, which began 68 years ago to celebrate and honor the study of world languages. The celebration presented the opportunity to develop respect for diversity, explore cultural differences and draw connections between cultures.

Principal Julie Sgroi said the observance was instructive.

"Our World Language Department Chair, Michelle Magana, consistently curates an International Week schedule that is both educational and inspiring, offering a diverse and global perspective," Sgroi said. "This year was no exception, with well-executed



MERSD/Courtesy photo

Manchester Essex Regional High School senior Jenelle Ford presents on her family trip to the Philippines during the school's observance of International Week.

presentations that engaged students and prompted insightful questions."

During the March 12-14 observance, Manchester Essex Regional High School classes were joined by parents, teachers,

"This year was no exception, with well-executed presentations that engaged students and prompted insightful questions."

— Julie Sgroi, principal of Manchester Essex Regional High School

community members and fellow students who presented their personal experiences abroad.

Students learned about Japan, Turkey, France, Grenada, Germany, Costa Rica, Israel, the Philippines, Portugal and Spain.

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Parent David Nicasro presents on his travels throughout the world as a U.S. Marine.

BOYS BASKETBALL ALL-STARS

Beverly's Klass, Masconomet's Morales receive NEC awards

By Matt Williams

» Asst. Sports Editor

There were no shortage of quality candidates for the Northeastern Conference's boys basketball Player of the Year Award this winter.

As he tends to do over defenders with his 3-point jump shot, though, Beverly's **Jacob Klass** rose above the rest.

A 6-foot-1 junior guard, Klass averaged 23.5 points per game in the regular season and led the NEC with 66 3-pointers (not including the state tournament). A gifted scorer who also creates and distributes (3.5 assists per game), he had the most 30-point games in the region with six and surpassed 25 points in a game on nine occasions. The high-water mark was 35 against Gloucester.

First-year Masconomet



DAVID SOKOL/Staff photo

Beverly's Jacob Klass thrived in front of big crowds all season while earning Northeastern Conference Player of the Year honors.

head coach **Jaycob Morales** was voted NEC Coach of the Year after leading the Chiefs to a perfect 13-0 mark in league play, their first ever NEC title and first league title of any kind since 1997. Junior guard **Jimmy Farrell**, who helped Masconomet

reach the Division 2 Final Four and finish the season 22-2, was named to the All-Conference team. Senior captain **Devin O'Brien**, one of the region's top 3-point shooters with 50 trifectas, earned a spot on the All-NEC team as well.



JAIME CAMPOS

Devin O'Brien (13) of Masconomet Regional earned a spot on the NEC's boys basketball All-Conference team.

Salem's **Elian Rodriguez**, a sophomore captain who averaged 21.5 points per game with 55 steals and 4.4 assists per game, was named to the All-Conference team. Junior teammate **Nate Lane** (13.4 ppg, 5.9 rebounds, 65 steals) was also an All-NEC first-teamer.

Swampscott's **Connor Chiarello**, the league's leading scorer in terms of regular season average at 24.3 points per game, earned an All-Conference nod after reaching 1,000 career points during his junior season.

Another first-teamer was Marblehead's **Sam Thompson**,

who averaged 12.0 points per game and 9.0 rebounds as one of the league's best big men.

Gloucester High received the NEC Sportsmanship Award. The other NEC all-stars, listed by school, were:

BEVERLY: Will Ryan, Isaac Saas.

DANVERS: Kyle Sillars.

GLOUCESTER: Charlie Amero, Nick Deleon.

MARBLEHEAD: Finn Baron, Matt Sherf.

MASCONOMET: Thomas Denton, Jamason Vella, Cal Weidman.

PEABODY: Thad Broughton, Jariel Tolentino.

SALEM: Josh Giaff Hodge, Canei McLeod, Quinn Rocco Ryan.

SAUGUS: Huey Josama, Ryan Shea.

SWAMPSCOTT: Teddy O'Neill, Gabe Tripp.

WINTHROP: Noah Bayersdorfer.

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