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EDUCATION

New charter schools eye north of Boston

By Steven Ryan
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Parents may soon have another option for their children's education, as a group looks to expand an Everett-based math- and science-focused charter

school to communities further north of the city, with Saugus and Woburn being eyed as potential locations.

The Pioneer Charter School of Science, which already has a campus in Everett, is proposing new

campuses in Woburn, Saugus and Billerica, according to a prospectus filed with the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. The new schools will follow the same model as in Everett, which

has a student body of about 360 from grades 7 through 12, with a curriculum focusing on math and science.

"Something we've been seeing is now-existing charter school operators interested in opening

networks of schools," said J.C. Considine, spokesman for the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

"I think it's encouraging," he said.

SEE SCHOOLS, A9

RECREATION



Bryan Hamlin and Walter Kittredge prepare to walk a trail on Saturday, July 29 at Gate 21 off of Fallon Road.

WICKED LOCAL PHOTO BY NICOLE GOODHUE BOYD

Dispute over Middlesex Fells trails intensifies

By Nicholas Iovino
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Nestled between five communities north of Boston, a rocky landscape of trees, crags and lakes stretches across four square miles. The picturesque plot of land appears an unlikely scene for a battle, but for the last 25 years, two groups have quarreled over access to trails at one of the state's largest

urban parks.

In 1987, the New England Mountain Biking Association (NEMBA) formed in response to what many bikers viewed as "efforts to restrict equitable access" to trails. What followed was a quarter-century-long battle between NEMBA and one of the park's most well established user groups, the Friends of the Middlesex Fells.

Online

Check out more Fells photos at wickedlocalmedford.com!

In January 2012, the state Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) unveiled a long-anticipated Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Fells, paving the way to open new miles of trails to mountain bikers.

The decision was celebrated as a victory by NEMBA,

which fought tooth and nail to make more single-track trails legal for bikers. For members of the Friends of the Fells, it was a devastating blow — one they feel will ultimately place the safety of hikers in jeopardy and

SEE FELS, A10

CAMPAIGN TRAIL

City gears up for 2012 election

By Nicholas Iovino
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With only one month to go before the state primary election, Medford officials are urging residents to register early.

Residents planning to vote in the Sept. 6 state primary race must register by Friday, Aug. 17. To vote in the general election on Nov. 6, residents must register by Oct. 17.

Medford voters will pick up one of three ballots on Sept. 6 for the Republican, Democratic or Green-Rainbow party. Residents not enrolled in a party can choose which ballot they prefer to vote on.

A few elected officials are running unopposed this year. No Republicans are challenging state Sen. Patricia Jehlen, Rep. Paul J. Donato, Middlesex County Sheriff Peter J. Koutoujian or Courts Clerk Michael A. Sullivan.

However, state Reps. Sean Garballey and Carl Sciortino will face Republican challengers this fall. Joseph J. Monju, of Arlington, is challenging Garballey for his seat while Sciortino will face Medford resident David M. Rajczewski.

SEE POLITICS, A9

HISTORY

Books recall rich West Medford history

By Nicholas Iovino
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The collection of homes dotting the roads south of High Street in West Medford might look to the unsuspecting eye like any other neighborhood. But for those who know the stories behind people who made the community what it is today, West Medford is much more.

To help preserve that rich history, the West Medford Community Center published two new books this year that will benefit the center.

"A Legacy Remembered:

The African American Community of West Medford" was the culmination of a four-year research project through Tufts University's Tisch Scholars Program.

At the same time, resident Will Tenney helped preserve the West Medford Afro-American Remembrance Project exhibit for future generations in the book, "Race, Place and Memory."

For the remembrance project, a group of volunteers working with Tufts and Brandeis universities

SEE HISTORY, A8



West Medford resident and book designer Will Tenney presents the 'Race, Place and Memory' book to Assistant Library Director Barbara Kerr. WICKED LOCAL PHOTO BY NICHOLAS IOVINO

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