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# THE LYNN JOURNAL

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Thursday, December 27, 2018

## 2018 LYNN JOURNAL MAN OF THE YEAR

### Mayor Thomas McGee

By Cary Shuman

Tom McGee moved the city of Lynn forward as a state representative and state senator, earning the respect of his colleagues on Beacon Hill and the admiration of his constituents in this city and district where the McGee family has an unmatched record of public service.

His father, the late Thomas W. McGee, was elected Speaker of the Mass. House in 1975 and would serve in that immensely powerful position in state government until 1985.

"I remember how proud we were of him, the excitement of him having reached the pinnacle in terms of serving in the House of Representatives," said Mc-

Gee, who was 19 when his father was elected to lead the esteemed body. "It was a great time when he served as Speaker. Both my parents were really an inspiration to me to be in public service."

The next year at the age of 20, Tom McGee was elected to the Democratic State Committee. He would become the Chairman of the State Democratic Party years later.

In 2017, Tom McGee made a decision to run for Mayor of Lynn, challenging a popular, two-term incumbent, Judith Flanagan Kennedy.

True to his long-established work ethic, Tom McGee put together a team of spirited volunteers, many of whom had supported him through the years. The campaign was brilliantly engineered and managed. It accentuated the positive and laid out his plans to make Lynn an even greater place to live and work. Tom McGee claimed a decisive victory on Election Night, becoming mayor of the largest city on the North Shore.

For his years of distinguished public service, for uniting a city



Mayor Tom McGee is pictured in his office at Lynn City Hall.

and moving it forward, for continuing his family's legacy and maintaining the priority of making a difference and helping people on a daily basis, and for setting Lynn on a path that is brimming with optimism and poised for greatness – Mayor Tom McGee is the Lynn Journal's 2018 Man of the Year.

#### Taking office as Lynn's chief executive

Being mayor of a city is not an easy job. There are major, life-affecting decisions to be made,

Please see McGEE Page 2



### SANTA PARADE

Four-wheelers were a big part of the annual Santa parade in Lynn on Christmas Eve. See Page 4 for more photos.

## Income tax rate to drop to 5.05 percent with the new year

Staff Report

The Massachusetts Department of Revenue confirmed last week that the required revenue metrics have been met to ensure the state's Part B income tax rate will drop on Jan. 1, 2019 from the current 5.10 percent to 5.05 percent.

"A strong economy and careful management of the Commonwealth's finances have created the conditions for Massachusetts taxpayers to get a much-deserved break," said Gov. Charlie Baker. "We are pleased that next year we will see taxpayers be able to keep more of their hard-

earned money."

A state law enacted in 2002 provides the statutory mechanism to lower the Part B individual income tax rate, based on certain revenue milestones. The

legislation replaced a tax rate reduction schedule that had passed by ballot initiative in November 2000.

Please see TAX RATE Page 5

**Our offices will be closed on Tuesday, January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 on account of the New Years Holiday**

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## EDITORIAL

HAVE A HAPPY, SAFE --  
AND MINDFUL -- NEW YEAR

The arrival of a new year marks a time for reflection, as to both the year that has passed and the year that lies ahead. In the words of the poet Alfred Lord Tennyson:

Ring out the old, ring in the new,  
Ring, happy bells, across the snow;  
The year is going, let him go;  
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

But to put it another way, we might ask ourselves, "Where have we been -- and where are we going?" The latter question asks us to foresee the future, which by definition is an impossible task. Though we may make our best guess to predict what may lie ahead -- and to plan accordingly -- none of us has a crystal ball. The vicissitudes of life more often than not throw us curve balls that lay to waste even the best-laid of our plans for the year to come.

However, the former question is equally as tricky. Answering it requires both introspection and understanding, two qualities that are in short supply in our hurried world. We have barely enough time to do all the things we need to do every day, let alone try to figure out the, "Why?" of what we have done.

"Mindfulness" became the watchword of 2108. We are advised to step out of our busy lives for a few minutes each day to allow ourselves to practice "mindfulness" in the quest to bring ourselves inner peace and calm.

In a previous era, prayer served essentially the same purpose. Reciting the Rosary or a few Our Fathers, or going to a church to say a novena, was the preferred form of practicing mindfulness (though that was not the term for it in those days).

But with belief in god and attendance at church in steep decline in America in 2018, meditation and mindfulness have become the secular version of religious practice, a drug-free prescription to bring relief from the anxiety-inducing life we face every day we wake up.

However, one thing we can advise all of our readers is that celebrating the New Year -- especially over what for many of us will be an extra-long weekend -- requires all of us to make sure that we do so safely and that we are vigilant regarding the safety of others.

Although most of us these days take precautions to ensure that we do not operate a motor vehicle while under the influence on New Year's night -- whether by means of having a designated driver, or using Uber, or staying overnight in a hotel -- there still are too many among us who will get behind the wheel of a car after having had too much to drink.

The most important thing we can do at an individual level is to prevent our friends and loved ones from becoming another tragic story by taking their keys or offering them a ride home if they appear incapable of driving soberly and safely.

We wish all of our readers a happy, healthy, safe -- and mindful -- New Year.

## McGee // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

development projects to plan and implement, and day-to-day issues, that mean everything to the person seeking assistance. Take potholes, for example, and the point is made that residents expect excellence in every phase of city operations.

On his second day as mayor, a major snowstorm struck the city. There was a major fire in a Broad Street apartment building a few days later.

"With the real financial challenges confronting the city as well, I came to realize the importance of the job and how there are so many different things you face every day," said McGee. "And you're making some really tough decisions that people may not agree with, but you have to do what you believe is right, which I've always tried to do during my career."

**Many accomplishments and key appointments**

There have been numerous accomplishments in his first year of office and some high-level appointments to positions of leadership. The city is collaborating with the Collins Center at UMass/Boston to put together a five-year capital improvement plan. Lynn is working with the Metropolitan Area Planning Council to create a fully developed city planning department.

The city hired a full-time chief financial officer, Michael Bertino. Stephen Archer was named chief of the Lynn Fire Department. Dr. Patrick Tutwiler was named superintendent of Lynn public schools.

McGee said he meets weekly with his economic development team and monthly with the Lynn state delegation (State Sen. Brendan Crighton, Reps. Dan Cahill, and Rep.-Elect Peter Capano).

"There is \$225 million in investments that will be happening over the next couple of years," McGee said proudly. "We have the new Lynn YMCA project, the KIPP Academy in the old Blood Building, the Munroe Street project is moving forward and the Beacon Chevrolet site is going to be breaking ground next year.

"So all of those projects have been exciting opportunities, and we're working to continue that," said McGee. "By seeing those successful projects happen, it really has allowed a lot of people to focus on Lynn and what we have here is a great opportunity."

Brew on the Grid, Revolution Pie and Pint, and One Mighty Mill are the latest businesses to open in the city. The Beyond Walls Mural Festival, part of a successful venture that has invigorated the downtown arts and cultural district, will return in August. The city has been awarded a \$350,000 grant for the Complete Streets program, which will en-



Mayor Tom McGee, with his staff at the Mayor's Office, from left, Deputy Chief of Staff Robin Ennis, Chief of Staff Meaghen Hamill, and Communications and Outreach Coordinator Elizabeth Gervacio.

hance car, pedestrian, and bicycle access in the city. A \$59 million federal grant for infrastructure projects on Western Avenue to Center Street, and Essex Street to Eastern Avenue to the Fayette Fire Station, and the Euclid Avenue/Jenness Street area has been approved.

The city is working with a consultant and MIT graduate urban planning students to update a waterfront master plan.

"They actually rebranded the area around the Saugus River as the 'Western Waterfront,' which I thought was an interesting dynamic, some outside-the-box thinking," said McGee.

The city has signed a contract to make all city streetlights LED lighting. The installation of the new lights will begin in January, resulting in more than \$400,000 in savings for the city.

Enhancements to the foyer at Lynn City Hall were unveiled on Veterans Day.

"We want to upgrade this beautiful building -- it really is the people's building and we want to make sure that generations to come can enjoy and recognize the commitment of those World War II veterans who served our country," said McGee. "Next year will be the 70th anniversary of Lynn City Hall."

The Lynn City Hall Auditorium continues to be a very popular venue for shows. More than 80,000 people attended shows in 2018. The auditorium will be hosting movie nights for "Selma" and "Harold and Maude" in January at a cost of only \$3 per person.

**A supportive family**

Mayor McGee and his wife, Maria, have two children, Katherine, a student at Villanova, and Thomas, a student at UMass/Amherst.

"I couldn't do this job without them," said McGee. "We were six months married (in 1994) and I was running for state rep, so she has been an amazing partner and supporter, and I absolutely couldn't do it without her. I'm blessed to have two healthy and wonderful children, who are always supportive. My brothers and my sister have always been there for me as well."

He also noted the support and



Mayor Tom McGee, with Community Relations Coordinator Michael Cole.

diligence of an exceptional Mayor's Office team, including Chief of Staff Meaghen Hamill, Deputy Chief of Staff Robin Ennis, Community Relations Coordinator Michael Cole, and Communications and Outreach Coordinator Elizabeth Gervacio.

Mayor McGee said he has outstanding partners in city government in the men and women who serve on the Lynn City Council and Lynn School Committee. He looks forward to continuing that effective collaboration in 2019.

**Congratulations, Mayor McGee**

City officials weighed in with congratulatory wishes upon learning that Mayor McGee had received the Lynn Journal Man of the Year Award.

Said State Sen. Brendan Crighton, who worked on McGee's state legislative staff for 13 years: "I knew him before as a person, got to know him as a boss and as a legislator, and we've become really close friends over the years. He was the right person for this job to lead this city, and in one year he's really put us on a great path to realize our full opportunity as a city. I'm pumped to see him getting some recognition, but he'll tell you himself that there's a lot more work to do, so this is just a start."

James Cowdell, executive director of the Economic Development and Industrial Corporation of Lynn, also congratulated the mayor, calling it an outstanding choice for the award.

## THE LYNN JOURNAL

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# CHARITY EVENT HELD AT THE FOUR WINDS PUB AND GRILL CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION



The LaPierre Family – Councilor-at-Large Brian LaPierre with his wife, Kelly, and their two sons, Dylan and Owen.



Josh Goodwin with Kristen Ann enjoying the evening together and helping charity.

“Have a pleasant time by helping charity” was the theme with the Celebrity Bartenders at the Four Winds Pub and Grill on the shores of Lake Lynnepesaukee.

David Solimine, Jr. with Councilor-at-Large Brian LaPierre, State Sen. Brendan Crighton, and Mayor Thomas McGee, along with owner Patrick Deboever and Tammi Nickolas, tended bar for the evening.

David Solimine, Sr. organized this event to help local charities; Santa Claus made a special appearance during this benefit.



Santa Claus (Robert DeMore) enjoys a moment with Mayor Thomas McGee and David Solimine.



Ready to pour for charity – Owner Patrick Deboever, Tammi Nickolas, State Sen. Brendan Crighton, Councilor-at-Large Brian LaPierre, and Mayor Thomas McGee.



A cheerful group of ladies - Terrie Shultz, Jean O'Donnell, Jean Blakeley, and Irene Lee.



Ann Marie Jonah, Eileen Spencer, and Ann Marie Leonard.

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# SANTA'S ANNUAL PARADE CHRISTMAS EVE PARADE IN LYNN

Santa toured the City of Lynn Christmas Eve, before his yearly task of delivering toys to all the boys and girls everywhere. Santa had lots of friend join him along the way, the Lynn Fire and Police departments escorted him safely across town, and many of his friends lit up the way with their floats and vehicles in the parade.

It was a great way to start the Christmas holiday with family and friends along the streets of Lynn waving to Santa and friends. Kids of all ages were excited to see Santa and Mrs. Claus as they waved from a Lynn Fire Engine.



Santa and Mrs. Claus enjoyed the parade, and were back in time to get the sleigh packed with toys.



Willie Wonka was passing out sweet treats along the parade route.



Plenty of holiday lights lit the route along Boston Street.



Kids of all ages were in the holiday mood at the parade last Monday evening.



Everyone was having a great time waving and wishing their neighbors and friends a Merry Christmas.



Ashley and Kyle Hignett were in the holiday spirit.



Local sports teams were included in the parade.



Rose Wishart-Tully with Isabelle, Hanna and Jenny Tully having a great time waiting for Santa at the Annual Lynn Christmas Parade.

Black Magenta Yellow Black

## SANTA'S ANNUAL PARADE CHRISTMAS EVE PARADE IN LYNN



Lots of imagination went into the floats this year.



Santa gave a big hello to everyone that turned out to welcome him to Lynn on Christmas Eve.



If you have a trophy, this was a great place to proudly show it off.



Jennifer and Edgar Cotto joined their neighbors on Boston Street Christmas Eve.



Friends and neighbors gathered along Boston Street for the parade and to get a wave at Santa.

## Tax Rate/ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I was pleased to receive confirmation from the Department of Revenue that the revenue trigger had been met. This reflects steady revenue growth and a nice break for taxpayers," said Administration and Finance Secretary Michael J. Heffernan.

The law provides that for each tax year in which certain inflation-adjusted baseline revenue growth requirements are met, the income tax rate will be reduced by increments of 0.05 percentage points until the rate reaches 5 percent.

Part B income includes wages, salary, and many other forms of income, including self-employment income; business, professional and farm income; S corporation distributions; and

rental income from personal property. The rate associated with Part B income is also applied to several other income categories, including interest and dividends and most long-term capital gains.

There are five revenue tests that determine whether a rate reduction is required, beginning with growth in revenue over the previous fiscal year, and including a series of four additional growth measures. If any one of the incremental tests is not met, the rate reduction does not proceed. With DOR's certification of the most recent revenue measure, all five tests in 2018 have now been met.

The rate reduction was last triggered on Jan. 1, 2016, when

it dropped from 5.15% to 5.10%. Previous reductions included:

- Jan. 1, 2012 (rate reduced from 5.3% to 5.25%)
- Jan. 1, 2014 (rate reduced from 5.25% to 5.2%)
- Jan. 1, 2015 (rate reduced from 5.2% to 5.15%)

The state budget for Fiscal 2019 accounted for the income tax rate change, which is projected to reduce tax revenue by approximately \$84 million in Fiscal Year 2019 and approximately \$175 million in Fiscal Year 2020.

If revenues in 2019 are sufficient to trigger a further rate reduction, the Part B income tax rate will drop to 5% for the 2020 tax year.

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LYNN CLASSICAL AND LYNN TECH HOLD COMBINED SOCCER BANQUET

# ALL IN THE FAMILY

**T**wo opposing soccer teams competed against each other on the field and the same two-teams celebrated with an end-of-the-year banquet together. While on the field they played hard against each other, but afterwards, the players resumed their friendship off the field.

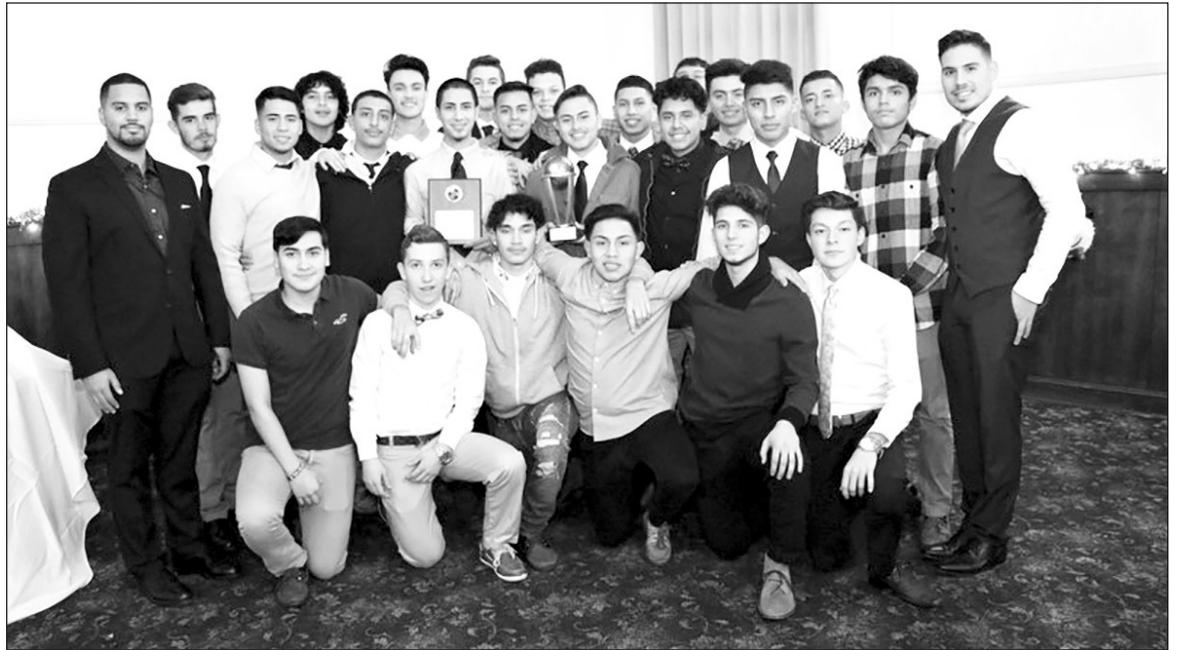
Diana Moreno, mother of Lynn Classical coach, Eric Moreno, Jr. and wife of Lynn Tech coach, Eric Moreno, Sr., organized the banquet for the players and their family members to be together. She initiated the event as she said, "The reason why I had both teams together, was because both schools recently hired new coaches, and it was very close to the start of the soccer season. There was not enough time to organize a booster or parents club. Basically, both schools had hardly any form of involvement and had challenges. I, from Metro Credit Union, helped sponsor this function. Being the mother

and wife of the two coaches in the schools, I decided to plan the entire function. This made it easier to have the two winning schools together this evening".

Awards were presented to the players from their respective coaches. Jared Nickerson of the Lynn School Committee congratulated both teams and stated how the City of Lynn was proud of each team's accomplishments.

This was a wonderful way to thank the players for their dedication to the sport and for their discipline on the field as well as off the field, especially in the classroom.

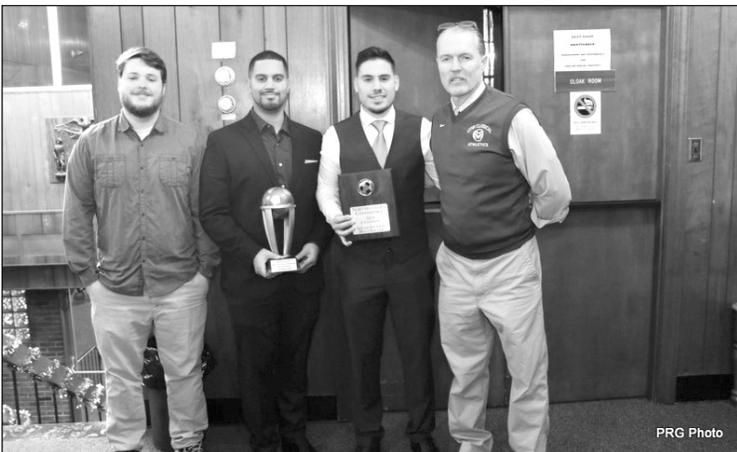
Congratulations to Lynn Classical for winning the 2018 Northeastern Conference Boys Soccer Championship, the Lynn City Championship, and earning a berth in the MIAA tournament; and to Lynn Tech for making the State Vocational League and MIAA playoff tournaments.



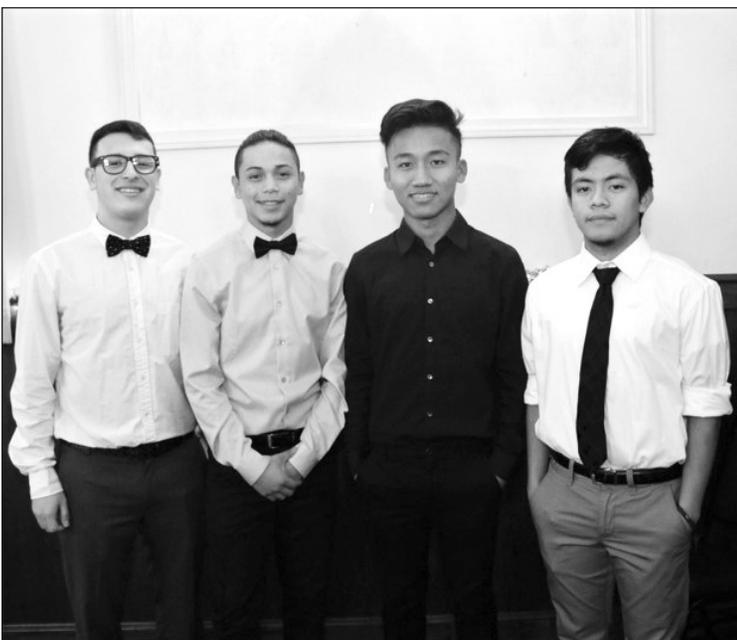
Lynn Classical — Northeastern Championship and City Champions.



Lynn Tech Varsity Team – (Front) Cristian Herrera, Captain Danny Zacarias, Jose Gomez, Captain Maynor Geo Ramirez, and Juan Albornoz; (Back) Coach Eric Moreno, Sr., David Barrios, Anndy Carpio, Frismant Macario, Bilder Arreaga, Henry Martinez, Captain Thomas khai, and Assistant Coach Pedro Blas.



Lynn Classical Coaches – JV Coach Jack Erikson, Assistant Coach Christian Alpuche, Coach Eric Moreno, Jr. and AD William Devin.



Lynn Tech Seniors - Juan Albornoz, MVP Maynor Geo Ramirez, Thomas Khai, and Daniel Zacarias.



Lynn Classical Seniors – (Front): Captain Josue Pena , Ever DeLeon, Alex Marin Cardenas, Joshya Bake, and Kevin Rodriguez; (Back): Gabriel Novoa, Captain Daniel Cortes, Matthew Julio, Ayman Al-Abbasi, Alex Juarez, MVP/Captain Kevin Molina, Captain Ivan Melara, Jeffrey Robles, and Alex Amaya.

Black

⊥

# LYNN ENGLISH IN ACTION AGAINST WINTHROP

Photos and Story by Bob Marra  
robertmarraphotography.com

Winthrop and Lynn English gave their fans an early Christmas present last Thursday as they battled to a 33-33 tie at the end of regulation. After overtime, though, it was the Vikings with smiles and the feisty Bulldogs with coal in their stocking as Winthrop came out on top, 40-37, in a wildly entertaining girls basketball game at Winthrop High School.

Drama? How about Winthrop shutting out Lynn English in the first quarter, building a 9-0 lead powered by a pair of three-pointers by Lily Pulsifer? That nine-point difference prevailed as the Vikings held a 20-11 lead at the half, but the Bulldogs came out roaring in the third quarter.

To be more accurate, Lynn English Mashayla Johnson came out roaring as she netted four three-point shots and added a pair of free throws to account for all 14 Lynn English points as the Bulldogs narrowed the score to 26-25, Winthrop, after three quarters.

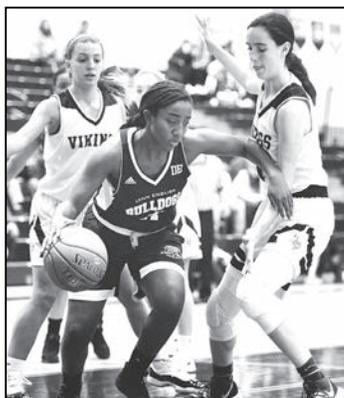
A back-and-forth fourth quarter came down to more dramatics. With Winthrop up 33-31 and the clock ticking down, Lynn English's Maylin Echevaria was fouled. She stepped to the foul line with 3.9 seconds on the clock, and calmly swished her first shot. Winthrop called time out, Echevaria kibitzed with her teammates, then returned to the foul line. Her second shot appeared long, but the ball hit the support, bounced straight up about five feet, and then obliged gravity, falling right through the hoop on its way down to tie the game. Winthrop's Maura Dorr's buzzer-beater from three-point land bounced off the rim and it was on to overtime.



**YOU CAN'T HAVE IT:** Mashayla Johnson fends off the defensive effort of Winthrop's Carolyn Kinsella.

Lynn English went up 35-33 on an Echevaria shot, but Dorr answered with a three-pointer, giving Winthrop a 36-35 lead that they never surrendered. Caroline Earl secured the win with a pair of free throws that sealed the Vikings' 40-37 win.

Dorr and Johnson led all scorers with 19 points each, with Dorr scoring five in overtime. Winthrop's Lily Pulsifer added 11 points and Echevaria had 8 for Lynn English.



**SURROUNDED:** Lynn English Ravyn Rapley (with ball) tries to escape Winthrop's Lily Pulsifer and Maura Dorr (11).



**ARMS RACE:** Lynn English's Jessica Ruiz (23), Winthrop's Emma Turner (5) and Caroline Earl (14) reach for a rebound.

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# LYNN TECH SKILLS USA PROGRAM READ ALL ABOUT IT



Enjoying the Literary Fair program: Mario Edwards of LVTI Class 1992, Jackelin Coronado, Tahari Colleymore, Johandie Manasse, Ashely Coronado, and Johanne Billy.



Face-Painting for Roberto Sanchez by Skill USA member, Mia Quintana.



Painting bookcases for the Early Childhood classrooms – Rosie Chheang, Jairo Lopez, School Committee members Lorraine Gately and Jared Nickerson, Emily Ann Iodice, and Kelsey McNeil.



LVTI Principal Carissa Karakaedos with her son Caleb and Vice Principal Emily Spinucci with her grandson, Anthony Spinucci.



Balloons for the children – Volunteer Victor Bellamah with Skills USA member, Cameron McCuish of Grade 9.

Books for children were offered by the Lynn Tech Skills USA program. The chapter fundraised over \$10,000 to purchase 20,000 reading books to promote literacy. Skills USA is a national program involved with trade and technical instructors assisting students to become well-rounded and prepared for the business and industrial workforce.

Principal Carissa Karakaedos understands how important this program is to the school as she stated, “Lynn Tech is about community; it is not only about trades, but giving back to the community whether it is through our employment

or community events like this one. The Skills USA has a long standing vocational tradition as students come together and learn what Lynn Vocational Technical Institute is all about and to the City of Lynn. Today, at this Literacy Fair with all these folks, staff members, and most important, our students come together to learn about the importance of reading. This is what Lynn Tech does best as a school by giving back to the community. I want to extend my gratitude to the Skills USA Advisors, Jason McCuish and Claire Price, for their dedication to this program and how much it means to the students and to the

school”.

Lynn Tech Skills USA President David Barrios explains the benefits of this program as he said, “Here at Lynn Tech we focus on community service. With this literacy fair we have many children with smiles coming down to select books for their reading enjoyment. This is a very important event for us to make an impact on others in the community”.

The Lynn Tech Skills USA program teaches the students the importance of developing leadership, citizenship, and character skills into adulthood.



Lynn Vocational Technical Institute Skills USA members gathered around the vocational career display board for literacy.



LVTI Skills USA Literacy Fair team – (Row 1) LVTI Teacher Marta Akim with her grandson, Levi; (Row 2) Ben Tarterini, Haidar Bdaiwi, Sabastian LeOrtize, and Luis Pineiro; (Row 3): Cameron McCuish, Amari Grastron, LVTI Teacher Helen Ridley, Skills USA Advisor Claire Price, David Barrios, Erick Hernandez, Skills USA Advisor Jason McCuish, Edward Cuevas, Victor Bellamah, LVTI Teacher Lisa Bellemah, and LVTI Teacher Noubé Rateau.

Cyan  
Magenta  
Yellow  
Black