



THE LYNN JOURNAL

Thursday, March 12, 2020

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ON TO WORCESTER

St. Mary's boys claim Division 3 North title

By Cary Shuman

The St. Mary's High School boys basketball looked every bit like the No. 1 seed in a thorough 63-40 victory over No. 11 Weston in the Division 3 North final Saturday at the Tsongas Center in Lowell.

Coach Dave Brown's Spartans built an early lead and staved off each attempt at a comeback by the No. 11-seeded Wildcats.

Lee Pacheco, a senior forward, was a major catalyst in the Spartans' quick start, converting baskets from close range. Pacheco is shooting an uncanny 77 percent from the field this season, according to coach Brown.

Joseph Abate-Walsh, a 6-foot-8-inch center who likes to set up shop from downtown, scored 15 points in another display of his outside shooting prowess.

"I think we were well prepared for this game," said Abate-Walsh. "We just have so many weapons that you can't really come in to a game against us and say you need to stop one person. JP (Josh Perez) and David Brown Jr. are such good facilitators and our defense really stepped up."

Josh Perez (11 points) and Sammy Battista (7 points) also took advantage of the fast-paced tempo and large court at Tsongas. David Brown Jr., son of the head coach, continued his sterling freshman campaign with another strong two-way effort.

"I think Josh Perez had an out-

standing game," said Brown. "I guarantee he had six or seven assists that led to easy baskets and that was important."

Dave Brown said he was happy that his team will be playing in the Garden.

"As you get older and every season goes by, you realize getting to the Garden is not as easy as some people think," said Brown. "These guys worked hard in the off season and they were determined to get back here. I'm really proud of these guys."

David Brown Jr. making an impact

St. Mary's head coach David Brown was asked after his team's big win over Weston Saturday what it was like to be guiding the Spartans' season with his son, David Jr., making such a big impact in his first full-time year on the varsity.

David Jr. is a freshman guard with excellent ballhandling skills. His command of the court is noteworthy and he makes the no-look pass look effortless.

"It's hard to put in to words – I'm tough on him [David Jr.] but it's something I'll cherish, it's amazing to be able to coach him playing good minutes at the varsity level," said Coach Brown.

David Jr. missed a game earlier in the season that St. Mary's lost to Lowell Catholic, "and I had

Please see ST. MARY'S Page 5



PHOTOS BY EMILY HARNEY

The Lynn English boys' team, cheerleaders and coaches celebrated their convincing state Division 1 semi-final win Tuesday night, March 10, on the parquet floor in the TD Garden. Now, it's on to the championship game this Saturday, March 14, in Worcester. In Tuesday's game, English's Jack Rodriguez was a leader on the offensive end for the Bulldogs, dropping in 20 points in the effort. Meanwhile, dominant center Mukeba Jean-Baptiste slams one home in the second half for part of his 20 points on the night.

English boys basketball advances to state final

By Cary Shuman

Playing on the biggest stage in Massachusetts high school basketball, the Lynn English boys basketball team was more than equal to the spotlight.

Coach Antonio Anderson's Bulldogs are returning to the state finals after an impressive 74-58 victory over Mansfield in the Division 1 semifinal Tuesday night at

the TD Garden.

The well-behaved and enthusiastic English rooting section, with Principal Thomas Strangie and AD Dick Newton at courtside were treated to an exhibition of interior strength and backcourt excellence by the Bulldogs.

The dunks by the English's towers of power – Jean-Baptiste Mukeba (20 points) and Ademide Badmus (8 points, 12 rebounds)

– were spectacular. But the sheer brilliance of English's backcourt of Jack Rodriguez (20 points) and Jarnel Guzman (19 points) was awe-inspiring.

With the Mansfield defense collapsing on the English big men, Rodriguez and Guzman consistently found a path to the basket. When the shots didn't fall,

Please see ENGLISH Page 6



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EDITORIAL

OUR UNDERPREPARED HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

The coronavirus pandemic that is sweeping across the world has highlighted how ill-prepared the U.S. healthcare system has become for dealing with a national health emergency of this potential magnitude.

The U.S. has lagged far behind other nations in terms of testing our citizens to determine whether they have contracted Covid-19. Not only did our government not have anywhere near the number of test kits available to meet the demand for testing, but those that we did have were defective.

As a result, we have lost precious time in identifying how many of our citizens have the disease and the extent of the outbreak in specific parts of the country.

Cutbacks in the budgets of the federal agencies responsible for ensuring our nation's health have reduced the ability of the federal government to respond to such threats speedily and competently.

However, there is a much-deeper problem that has been looming for years.

The closing of community hospitals throughout the nation in the past few decades has created a crisis that already has placed our healthcare system at the breaking point -- a situation that will only get worse as the Baby Boomers begin to reach their late 70s and 80s.

Anybody who has been to a hospital emergency room recently knows all too well that our healthcare system is woefully inadequate even in the best of times.

The 46,500 beds in intensive care in the United States are occupied virtually 24/7/365 by mostly elderly persons with a wide range of health issues. Covid-19, if uncontrolled, might lead to up to 1.9 million ICU admissions, according to projections presented to the American Hospital Association -- a situation for which we have nowhere near the capacity or capability.

Even without a pandemic or similar national health emergency, our health care system is a disaster waiting to happen in the years ahead.

SEND US YOUR NEWS

The Lynn Journal encourages residents to submit engagement, wedding and birth announcements, news releases, business and education briefs, sports stories and photos for publication. Items should be forwarded to our offices at 385 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151. Items can also be faxed to 781-485-1403. We also encourage readers to e-mail news releases and photos to Cary@lynnjournal.com

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HAPPY SAINT PATRICK'S DAY... MARCH 17

GUEST OP-ED

Have a hippity-hoppity holiday

By Melissa Martin, Ph.D.

This year, Easter falls on Sunday, April 12. So, make your menu, sew your outfit, and decorate your dwelling while there's still time.

Easter has become a commercial event catered toward children with baskets full of chocolate rabbits, dyed eggs, jelly beans, and other sweet treats. Easter is the second best-selling candy holiday in America after Halloween. Keep that a secret from your kid's dentist.

How interesting that a dog is in the running to be the next Cadbury bunny—that will be one funny bunny. And I voted for the two-legged dog from New Richmond, Ohio, to be the 2020 candy canine. Bark for the bunny! Lt. Dan is named after the "Forrest Gump" character who lost his legs overseas in combat. What animal lover can resist a disabled dog wearing long ears and a fluffy tail. Cadbury issued a casting call for all pets to enter the contest to become the next Cadbury Bunny. Lt. Dan the dog is competing against a mini-horse, llama, pig, hamster, duck and two cats. The winner of the contest will star in Cadbury's new TV commercial and receive \$5,000. The Cadbury Bunny Tryouts Contest is sponsored by The Hershey Company in Hershey, Pa. Vote at www.bunnytryouts.cadburyusa.com.

How interesting that a giant bunny carries a huge basket and hops down the bunny trail to deliver colored eggs

to children. Aren't the hens steamed? It's hard work laying eggs, only to give the credit to a happy hare. Plastic look-alike eggs have replaced boiled eggs in the annual Easter egg hunts. The chickens don't have to work as long during the season, but please give the poor cluckers a raise and retirement benefits. But no billionaire bunnies allowed according to Bernie.

The White House Easter Egg Roll is an annual tradition. Since 1878, when Rutherford B. Hayes was in office, American presidents have hosted the party on the lawn according to the White House Historical Association website. The liberals probably want to roll Trump down Capitol Hill—then he will have a bad 'hare' day. Sorry, I couldn't resist a hair joke. Womp womp.

The following corny jokes were found at www.southernliving.com. Q: Therapist: What's been up lately? A: Chocolate bunny: I don't know, I just feel so hollow inside. Q: How can you tell which rabbits are oldest in a group? A: Just look for the gray hares. Q: Where does the Easter Bunny go when he needs a new tail? A: To a re-tail store.

What's for Easter Dinner?

"In early Jewish history, lambs were sacrificed as offerings to God and served regularly as part of the Passover feast. Then, when Jesus died during Passover, he represented the ultimate sacrifice for sin, the "lamb of God," and the animal evolved into a potent symbol for Christians, especially at Easter.

Many Orthodox Christians still follow the Jewish Orthodox customs of not eating any pork, so lamb takes center stage at their Easter meal. Others, however, wouldn't imagine Easter without ham. Symbolizing "good luck" for many cultures around the world, it made a fitting meal at all sorts of feasts and celebrations, according to the Encyclopedia of Religion. Some historians believe Easter's spring timing also factored into the choice: Farmers typically slaughtered pigs in the fall and then took several months to smoke the pork, making a ham ready just in time for Easter dinner." www.goodhousekeeping.com.

The Real Deal of Easter

"The Bible makes no mention of a long-eared, short-tailed creature who delivers decorated eggs to well-behaved children on Easter Sunday; nevertheless, the Easter bunny has become a prominent symbol of Christianity's most important holiday," according to an article at www.history.com.

Easter is a deeply religious holiday for many, packed with significance in the resurrection story of Christ. Good Friday marks Jesus's crucifixion and Easter Sunday celebrates his resurrection. The crucifixion of Jesus is recorded in the New Testament books, known as the Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

Blessings to all my peeps at Easter!

Melissa Martin, Ph.D., is an author, columnist, educator, and therapist. She lives in Ohio.

Home sales fell in 2019, but prices reached record levels

By Thomas Grillo

Single-family home sales in Lynn fell slightly last year. But there was no relief from rising prices as buyers paid a premium for a piece of the American Dream.

For the third consecutive year, home sales fell modestly last year to 651, down from 656 in 2018, a nearly 1 percent drop, according to The Warren Group, the Pea-

body-based real estate market tracker and publisher of Banker & Tradesman.

When compared to 2017, sales are off by 4 percent. But as sales continued to slip, the median price for a single-family home has reached record levels.

"I'd say prices are up by as much as 20 percent in the last four years," said Colleen Toner, broker-owner of Toner Real Estate

LLC. "The lack of inventory continues to drive prices up."

At press time, there were just two dozen single-family homes listed on the MLS Property Information Network, the state's largest listing company based in Shrewsbury. During the peak, there were more than 200 homes for sale, agents recalled.

The lowest price is an eight-room, two-bath home on Woodlawn Street for \$274,900. At the high end is a new 2,607-square-foot Colonial on Judge Road that features three bedrooms, 2.5 baths, and a two-car garage for \$819,900.

Toner said the lack of homes for sale is the result of Lynn residents choosing to stay put.

The buyers, she said, are a mix of families who are seeking more space and first timers who are hop-

ing to trade their apartment for a home.

"We're seeing buyers from Lynn who are trading up and others from closer to Boston who see Lynn as more affordable," Toner said.

Last year, the median home price in the city reached \$375,000, the highest level since records have been kept. That's up by nearly 9 percent in 2018, and up 17 percent since 2017 when the median was \$319,500.

Condominiums are less expensive and sales in Lynn increased by double digits in 2019 while prices continued to rise.

The number of condos sold reached 229 last year, up from 180 in 2018, a 27-percent increase. Median condo sales prices rose by 13 percent to \$275,000. That's up from \$242,250 in 2018.

Still, there are very few choices for potential condo buyers.

There were just 17 condos listed last week from a one-bedroom on Hamilton Avenue for \$147,400 to \$549,000 for a waterfront condo on the Lynnway with sweeping ocean and Boston skyline views that offers 2,304 square feet of space with three bedrooms and underground parking.

Toner said she doesn't expect home prices to ease in 2020. She predicted robust sales, in part due to lower mortgage interest rates.

Last week, the average 30-year fixed-rate mortgage hit a record 3.2 percent, the lowest level in its nearly 50-year history, according to the Freddie Mac Primary Mortgage Market Survey which has tracked rates since 1971.

"The low rates offsets the rise in home prices," Toner said.

Girls Inc. of Lynn annual Celebration Luncheon April 2

When the doors open at the Hilton DoubleTree in Danvers on Thursday, April 2, at 11:30 a.m., hundreds of community leaders, elected officials, businessmen and women, girls and supporters of girls will unite to celebrate Girls Inc.'s 32nd Annual Celebration Luncheon. "We are thrilled to celebrate the accomplishments of the 2020 graduating class and our Girl Heroes. I am honored to be part of an organization that celebrates girls and women as leaders in the community," says Deb Ansourlian, executive director of Girls Inc. of Lynn.



Suzanne Iovanna, president of Pride Motor Group.

"We are especially proud to present Suzanne Iovanna, president of Pride Motor Group, as our Strong, Smart and Bold Honoree for 2020 at our annual celebration. Suzanne personifies the three empowering words in our mission statement: Strong, Smart and Bold," says Ansourlian.

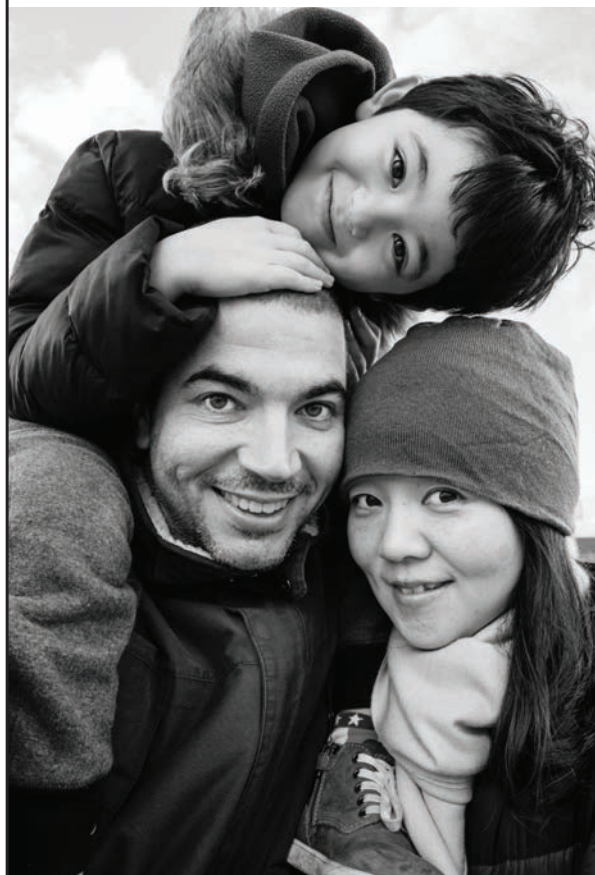
Following the loss of her husband in a tragic car accident, Iovanna assumed leadership of his company with no practical knowledge of the industry and having been a stay-at-home mom for 18 years. In the midst of her grief, she went to automotive school and determinedly took the helm of her husband's business, all while facing the myriad challenges of single parenthood. Today, Iovanna owns and operates three automotive dealerships in Lynn: Pride Kia, Chevrolet and Hyundai.

"Throughout my years as a business owner in Lynn, I have been keenly aware of the good work of Girls Inc. of Lynn and impressed with all the girls and young women I have met. I am thrilled to be chosen as the Girls, Inc. Strong, Smart and Bold Honoree for 2020. Working at the helm of a female-owned business and raising a family, I can attest to the importance of possessing the trio of skills in navigating both work and life," says Iovanna.

An additional highlight of the luncheon will be a speech by alumna Lani Sanethong. Sanethong is a dynamic professional with a diverse background in business consulting, administration, operations, human resources, training and technology. She is the chief technology officer and marketing manager of MultiFamilyProperties.com and the founder of Lanergy Solutions. Sanethong was a 1995 Girls Inc. National Scholar and during her time at Girls Inc. worked as a high school peer leader, childcare program counselor, middle school program instructor/counselor, office administrative assistant and workshop presenter.

The event will be emceed by Emmy Award-winning anchor on NBC 10 Boston Latoyia Edwards. Sponsors include United Way of Mass Bay and Merrimack Valley, Old Neighborhood Foods. Solimine Funeral Homes, Chris and Nick Meninno, HP Hood, Comcast, DeIulis Brothers, Pride Motor Group and Harmony Healthcare International (HHI), among others. Individual tickets are \$100 and table sponsorships are \$1,250. Sponsorships begin at \$3,000. To join Girls Inc. at the luncheon as a sponsor or attendee, please contact Donna Crotty at dcrotty@girlsinclynn.org or call 781-592-9744, ext. 243.

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2020 POETRY GROOVE AND JAZZ MUSIC

North Shore Community College (NSCC) Multi-Cultural Society presented an evening of jazz music and the open mic of spoken word from students and friends at the Lynn Museum.

North Shore Community College Director of Student Engagement, Amanda Dooling said, "This is a combination of information on Black History Month. During this time the college celebrated creative ways of spoken word, storytelling, film screening, hip-hop, and jazz."

As Amanda continued, "Tonight, we came together across the community by inviting the Lynn Public Schools Jazz Band, having members of the spoken word group, and showcasing our North Shore students this

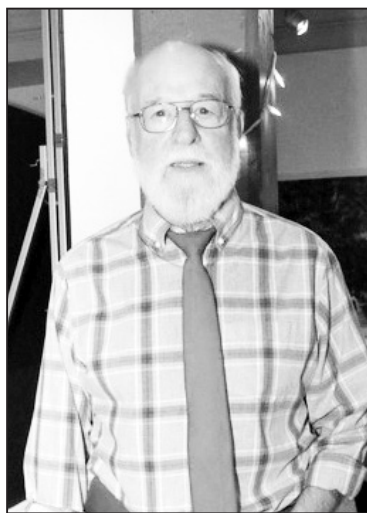
evening along with a variety of international cuisine to enjoy". Our committee is really excited in giving back, working together with others, and celebrating Black History Month."



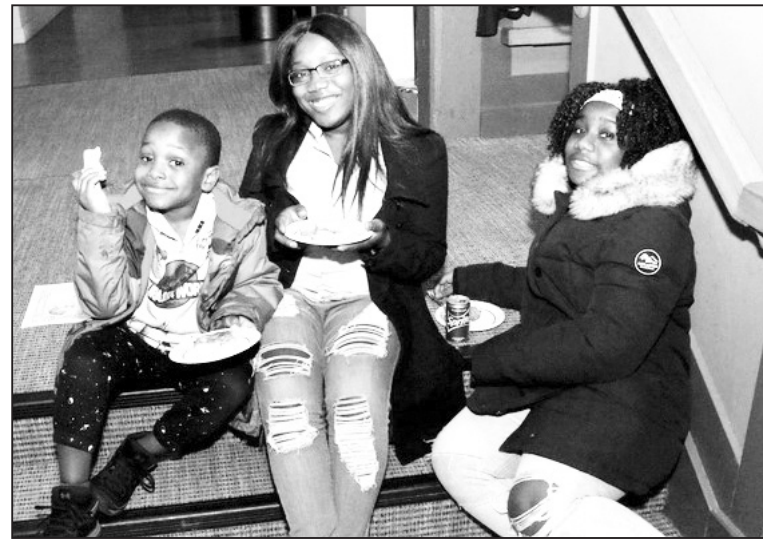
Elaine Mom with a delicious smile at the Poetry Groove 2020 Mango Cake.



Singer/Poet Rapper Joseph LeBlanc will sing, "What a Wonderful World" and "Hello Dolly."



Spoken Word participant Joe Boyd read Children's Poems.



NSCC student Jenet Jaidah with her sister, Stephanie, and nephew, Biovany, enjoying some delicious food.



The Lazy Llama Café of Lynn catered a variety of food at the Poetry Groove evening – Elijah, Maria, Carlos Almendarez and Freddy Poo.



NSCC Poetry Groove Committee – Dean of Students Bonie Williamson, Director of Student Engagement Amanda Dooling, Assistant Coordinator Jacob Rockwell, Program Coordinator Michele Cabelli, VP of Student Affairs Bill Hebert, and Asst. Dean of Students Iyanoska Liria.



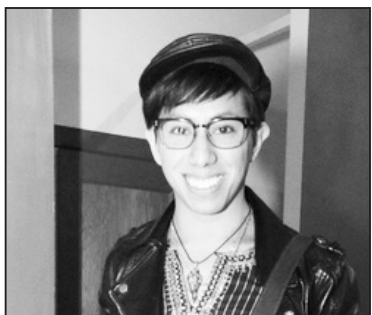
Grandparents Marsha and Dean Robinson with Tenor Sax Jazz Musician Colby Stevens.



NSCC Creative Writing Students – Leanne Woods and Isabella White.



Piano-man Elijah Alouidor plays during Poet Joshua Jean-Charles performs the "Spoken Word."



NSCC Student Government President David Smith read his original poem – "Lost at Sea".



The Lynn Public Schools Jazz Band.

St. Mary's/ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

seniors coming up to me, saying, 'we missed David tonight,' so they realize how important he is as a basketball player to this team. He's been around the game since he could walk and he's one of the smartest players knowing situations and sets. It's something that I'll cherish forever."

Said David Brown Jr., "It feels great to be a part of this and share it with my father. Most of the time whenever he's been at the Tsongas or the Garden, I've been on the bench or just watching the game. But now that I'm on the team and playing for him, it feels great."



The St. Mary's High School boys basketball players and coaches proudly display their Division 3 North championship banner after Saturday's victory over Weston High School.



Sammy Batista has his sights on the basket as he begins his drive down the lane.



Freshman guard David Brown Jr. prepares to start an offensive play for the Spartans.



St. Mary's boys basketball head coach David Brown Sr. and his son, David Jr., with the Division 3 North sectional championship trophy after the Spartans' win over Weston at the Tsongas Center.



St. Mary's senior Joey Abate-Walsh takes a free throw in Saturday's Division 3 North final at the Tsongas Center

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"[A] stirring portrait of war, duty, sacrifice and the love of a good dog." - *Los Angeles Times*

Showtime is Wednesday, **March 25th**, at **6:30pm**, at the **Showcase Cinemas de Lux - Revere**.

A live panel discussion will follow with one of the film's subjects, veteran Sylvia Bowersox, with local experts.

*Note: Guests and family members are welcome, however, the film deals with mature subject matter/language and may not be suitable for younger audiences.

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English // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Badmus and Mukeba were often there to convert their offensive rebounds.

Meanwhile, Mason Jean-Baptiste played his usual two-way game with authority while Louis Rivera (5 points) responded with an exceptional effort off the bench. Rivera hit a key three-pointer in the second quarter to help English build a 38-26 lead at the half.

Rodriguez brought the offensive pressure on the Hornets in the second half, scoring 12 points and delivering five assists. Aaron Vizcaino had two free throws in the game.

Anderson, who knows what multiple, double-figure scoring performances mean in big games from his own days at Tech and Memphis, liked what he saw from his offense.

“That’s what they have been doing all season – on any given night, our guys can step up and make plays, so it’s hard to key on one guy,” said Anderson. “They trust one another and at the end of the day, you have a group of guys who believe in one another and know that anyone can make a shot or get to the basket.”

Anderson said once the players took a step back from being in awe of the Garden, good things began to happen.

“Once things settled down a bit, we were able to slow Mansfield down a bit and get out on transition, we were able to do that most of the game and that gave us a little bit of a cushion and we were able to put things away,” said Anderson.

Anderson said the team is having fun and it’s an honor to be representing the school and the city.

“It’s awesome to still be play-

ing basketball,” said Anderson. “Anytime you can one of the few schools left that are practicing and playing, it’s a good feeling. These guys are hungry and they want to win [a state title] again and we have a chance to do it on Saturday.”

Guzman, Rodriguez were a formidable duo

They’re close friends off the court and a dynamic duo on the court.

Jack Rodriguez, whose miraculous performance in overtime in Lynn English’s 73-63 victory over Lowell in the Division 1 North final is the stuff of legend, and Jarnell Guzman, who’s become one of the best guards in the state under the watchful eye of Coach Antonio Anderson, combined for 39 points and 10 assists in the win over Mansfield Tuesday night at the Garden.

Guzman said the team is playing unselfish basketball and has its

sights on a state championship.

“We came this far, this is our goal to get here, and now we just have to finish, play hard, take on defense, and if we do that – Saturday will be good,” said Guzman.

Guzman praised his backcourt partner, Rodriguez.

“I love playing basketball with Jack,” said Guzman. “Some teams may go to the box and one on me, but I can just kick it out to my teammates and everybody on the team can score. Working with Jack in the backcourt is amazing. He knows what I’m good at and I know what he’s good at and it just makes the job easier. And Mason [Jean-Baptiste] is a big part of our backcourt rotation and we trust him a lot.”

Rodriguez talked about playing in the Garden for the second year in a row.

“We’ve been here before, last year, of course, we were in awe because it’s the Garden and it’s where all our NBA idols step on

the court, but we know we came here with a goal and a purpose and I’m excited to advance to the next round,” said Rodriguez.

Asked about teaming up with Janell Guzman, Rodriguez replied, “He’s one of my best friends

off the court, so it’s kind of easy to click with him on the court. It feels like we’ve been playing [for English] forever, but it’s only been two years. I’m looking forward to Saturday, I can’t wait.”



Jack Rodriguez blew by Mansfield defenders all night on Tuesday.

PHOTOS BY EMILY HARNEY



Mukeba Jean-Baptiste was a force in the middle on defense and offense.



The team celebrates their second playoff win at the TD Garden in two years.



Ademide Badmus works down low.



Mukeba Jean-Baptiste contemplates a shot from the baseline.



Jarnell Guzman kept the Mansfield defense guessing all night.



The Lynn English team locks arms for the "National Anthem" at the TD Garden.



Mason Jean-Baptiste drives to the basket.



Ademide Badmus tips in a shot in the lane.



Jack Rodriguez goes up for an uncontested layup.



Louis Rivera on the wing.



Jarnel Guzman.



Lynn English fans showed up in large numbers despite the Coronavirus warnings.

North Shore Music Theatre hosts "Golden Ticket" on-stage dinner party to benefit Express Yourself

North Shore Music Theatre Hosts "Golden Ticket" On-Stage Dinner Party to Benefit Express Yourself

On March 5, the award winning youth arts program Express Yourself celebrated its 25-year partnership with the Boch Center and the Department of Mental Health. Honorary

Dinner Chairman Bill Hanney, Owner/Producer of the North Shore Music Theatre, created this exciting, one-of-a-kind event to celebrate Express Yourself partners, donors and special guests.

Arriving "Golden Ticket" guests strolled the Red Carpet Walk to the Dressing Room Cocktail Party with a festive backstage atmosphere. Later, guests were ushered down the aisle making grand entrances to the theatrical Onstage Dinner Party. The night culminated with Special Guest Performances by singer Amanda Mena (America's Got Talent), National Poet Regie Gibson, and the Ricardo Monzon Orchestra.

In attendance were Express Yourself Co-Directors, Stan Strickland and Paula Conrad,

North Shore Music Theatre's Bill Hanney and Karen Nascebene, and honorees Josiah A. Spaulding and Joan Mikula.

Beverly based Express Yourself immerses at risk young people in the arts where they find a powerful tool for self-expression, uncover inner strength, and deepen connection with others. Each year-long session culminates in a spectacular springtime performance at the Boch Center-Wang Theatre. This year's production, entitled "Imagine Nation" will be held on May 21.



"America's Got Talent" singer (and Lynn resident) Amanda Mena performs for appreciative dinner guests at last Thursday's (March 5th) "Golden Ticket" benefit dinner at the North Shore Music Theatre. The evening, hosted by NSMT's owner and producer Bill Hanney, celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Beverly-based youth arts program "Express Yourself".

St. Patrick's Day

St. Patrick's Day is here, you see.
We'll pick some shamrocks,
one, two, three.
We'll count the leaves and look them over,
And maybe find a four-leafed clover.
I'll sew green buttons on my vest,
Green for St. Patrick is the best.
I'll wear a green hat, very high,
And dance a jig--at least I'll try!

Name: _____ Date: _____

St. Patrick's Day

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Line 4: _____

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St. Mary's girls basketball advances with win over Amesbury

By Cary Shuman

The St. Mary's High girls basketball team defeated a 20-win Amesbury High contingent, 59-45, in the Division 3 North final Saturday at Tsongas Center in Lowell.

Though St. Mary's had beaten Amesbury handily in their first meeting in the Spartan Classic, coach Jeff Newhall and his staff expected a tough test and the No. 2-seeded Cape Ann League powerhouse made things interesting in the rematch of last year's North final.

In the end, the trio of senior Olivia Matela (14 points), junior Maiya Bergdorf (12 points) and senior Gabby Torres (11 points) led the Spartans to a solid victory and a matchup with Rockland in the state semifinal Wednesday at the TD Garden.

Junior Alyssa Grossi made a huge contribution off the bench with six points and some terrific defense.

Starting guards Yirsy Queliz

and Nicolette D'Itria performed well against Amesbury's defensive pressure. Jannise Avelino also played a key role off the bench.

Newhall said adjustments were made during the game against a relentless Amesbury defense.

"Amesbury deserves a lot of credit, we played them two weeks ago and it was not that competitive of a game – they're a good high school basketball game that won 20 games," said Newhall. "You're playing for a chance to go to the Garden, so you know you're going to get everyone's best shot."

St. Mary's ability to create baskets off of inbounds and set plays was a difference-maker in the game. Newhall and his staff

are known for their creative installations on offense, producing unimpeded drives and high percentage scoring opportunities.

While it wasn't the Spartans' best performance of the season, Newhall knew the goal on this day had been accomplished: another ticket to the TD Garden.

"At this point, there are no pictures on the scoreboard – one team moves on and one goes home, and we're going on and we're happy about that," said Newhall.

GROSSI COMES OFF THE BENCH TO SPARK ST. MARY'S

When St. Mary's coach Jeff Newhall called on Alyssa Grossi in the Division 3 North final,

Grossi was ready.

The talented junior from Wakefield had some key baskets and one noteworthy sequence in which she made a clutch two-pointer and stole a pass at the other end of the court.

Grossi turned in one of the finest performances of her career and the Spartans used that boost to pull away from a stubborn Amesbury team in the second half.

"We just really came together at the half and pushed through like we've doing all season," said Grossi. "We made the extra pass."

Grossi saw that players were in foul trouble and knew her minutes will likely be extended.

"I knew it was my time to step up and I was ready to help the

team and obviously win, because that's all we wanted to do," said Grossi.

The Spartans' super-dependable reserve guard and forward, Grossi said her teammates executed their plays well to set her up for baskets.

"We run those plays in practices and I was just in the right spot at the right time," said Grossi humbly.

She said that coach Newhall and the staff has prepared the team well for the postseason.

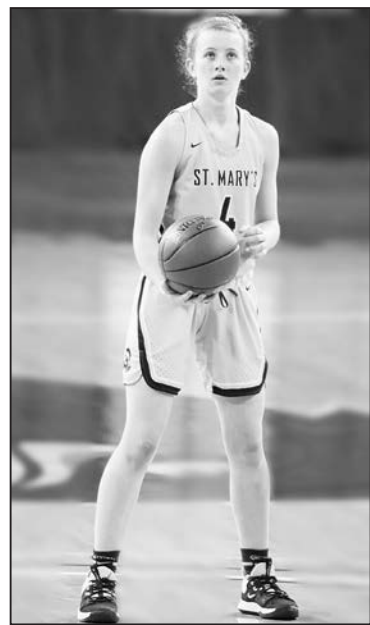
"He's a great coach who really pushes you and he's really there for you, especially in games like this – he wants to win as much as you do, so it's really great. I'm so happy we're going back to the Garden."



St. Mary's junior Alyssa Grossi is closely guarded by Amesbury's Olivia DeLong. Grossi made a major contribution in the Spartans' win over Amesbury.



The St. Mary's High school girls basketball players and coaches display their Division 3 North sectional championship banner after defeating Amesbury at the Tsongas Center in Lowell. St. Mary's defeated Rockland, 53-37, Wednesday at the TD Garden to advance to the Division 3 state final Saturday in Worcester.



Senior Olivia Matela, who had a team-high 14 points, prepares for a free throw in the Division 3 North final.



Senior Gabby Torres has control of the basketball and looks to pass the ball in Saturday's North sectional championship game.



Senior Jannise Avelino plays the tough defense that St. Mary's opponents have come to expect in the State Tournament.

LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

RESIDENTS NAMED TO DEAN'S LIST AT BOSTON UNIVERSITY

Four Lynn residents have recently been named to the Dean's List at Boston University for the Fall semester.

Students recognized for this honor include: Christina M. Hal-lisey, Kaylee M. Maher, Belen I. Novoa Reyes and Brandon T. Von.

Each school and college at Boston University has their own criterion for the Dean's List, but students generally must attain a 3.5 grade point average (on

a 4.0 scale), or be in the top 30 percent of their class, as well as a full course load as a full-time student.

Founded in 1839, Boston University is an internationally recognized institution of higher education and research. Consisting of 16 schools and colleges, BU offers students more than 250 programs of study in science and engineering, social science and humanities, health science, the arts, and other professional disciplines, along with a number of multi-disciplinary centers and institutes integral to the University's research and teaching

mission. With more than 33,000 students, BU is the fourth-largest private university in the country and a member of the American Association of Universities (AAU), a nonprofit association of 62 of North America's leading research-intensive institutions.

TWO STUDENTS GRADUATE BU

Boston University awarded academic degrees to 2,286 students in January 2020.

Receiving degrees were Mustafa Ekim, Master of Education in Curriculum and Teaching; Sta-

cey L. Duran, Master of Divinity in Theological Studies, Summa Cum Laude; Brent Watkins, Master of Business Administration in Business Administration and Management.

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and humanities, health science, the arts, and other professional disciplines, along with a number of multi-disciplinary centers and institutes integral to the University's research and teaching mission. With more than 33,000 students, BU is the fourth-largest private university in the country and a member of the American Association of Universities (AAU), a nonprofit association of 62 of North America's leading research-intensive institutions.

Lynn designated as Green Community, now eligible for grants

The Baker-Polito Administration announced 31 Massachusetts cities and towns including Lynn have been designated as Green Communities, committing to clean energy goals to reduce energy consumption and lower emissions, and are now eligible for grants totaling \$5 million. Lynn's grant would be \$495,030. With the designation, 271 of the Commonwealth's municipalities have earned a Green Communities designation. Since the program began, the Department of Energy Resources' (DOER) Green Communities program has awarded over \$123 million in grant funding to the Commonwealth's cities and towns through designation and competitive grant rounds.

"The Green Communities program is instrumental in helping municipalities take action at the local level to protect the environment and reduce greenhouse gas emissions," said Governor Charlie Baker. "The addition of 31 newly designated communities continues the progress being made by the many municipalities and local officials across the Commonwealth who are on the front lines of Massachusetts' clean energy efforts."

"Our administration is committed to aggressively reducing greenhouse gas emissions and this announcement is another step in moving the Commonwealth forward towards a cleaner and more resilient energy future," said Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito. "More than three quarters of the diverse cities and towns of the Commonwealth have now earned the Green Communities designation, which has led to substantial energy reductions and fostered tremendous clean energy growth across the state."

The 271 Green Communities range from the Berkshires to Cape

Cod and are home to 84 percent of Massachusetts' population in municipalities as large as Boston and as small as Aquinnah. All Green Communities commit to reducing municipal energy consumption by 20 percent each, and this new group of 31 cities and towns have committed to reduce their energy consumption amounting to savings of 54,519 MMBtus in five years, energy use equivalent to heating and powering nearly 2,071 homes, and reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions of 20,250 tons, equivalent to taking 4,263 cars off the road. Proposed projects include weatherization in schools and municipal buildings, electric vehicles for town and school fleets, and renewable thermal technologies such as air source heat pumps.

"The Green Communities program continues to demonstrate its exceptional effectiveness in lowering emissions and creating a healthier environment in towns and cities across the Commonwealth," said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Kathleen Theoharides. "It's programs like this that have positioned Massachusetts as a national leader in energy efficiency and clean energy policies."

"Today's designation announcement is a clear representation of the hard work and commitment of the many local officials from municipalities across the Commonwealth who have worked tirelessly to create a cleaner, more affordable and resilient energy future for the state," said Department of Energy Resources Commissioner Patrick Woodcock. "By taking advantage of the resources provided through our Green Communities program, these municipalities will reduce energy costs and lower greenhouse gas emissions thus contributing to our shared clean energy future."

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PLEASE RECYCLE

Two Lynn men plead guilty to drug and firearm possession

Carlos Lopez, aka "C-Lo," 31, pleaded guilty to one count of possession with intent to distribute heroin and marijuana, one count of being a felon in possession of firearms and ammunition and one count of possession of firearms in furtherance of drug trafficking crimes. Dionis Lopez, aka "Kuku," 29, pleaded guilty to one count of possession with intent to distribute fentanyl, cocaine and marijuana, one count of possession of a firearm with an obliterated serial number and one count of possession of firearms in furtherance of drug trafficking crimes. U.S. Senior District Court Judge Douglas P. Woodlock scheduled sentencing for July 13, 2020. The defendants were arrested and charged in September 2018.

On Nov. 14, 2017, Carlos Lopez possessed and intended to distribute heroin and marijuana while in possession of a Bersa, Model Thunder 380, .380 caliber pistol and a Beretta, Model Px4, 9mm pistol with various rounds of 9mm ammunition. Due to a previous conviction for a crime punishable by more than one year in prison, Carlos Lopez was prohibited from possessing a firearm or ammunition. Dionis Lopez possessed and intended to distribute fentanyl, cocaine and marijuana while in possession of a Glock, Model 27, .40 caliber pistol with an obliterated serial number and a Glock, Model 19, 9 mm pistol.

The charge of possession with intent to distribute heroin and marijuana provides for a sentence of up to 20 years in prison, at least three years and up to life of supervised release and a fine of \$1 million. The charge of being a felon in possession of firearms and ammunition provides for a sentence of up to 10 years in prison, three years of supervised release and a fine of \$250,000. The charge

of possession of firearms in furtherance of drug trafficking crimes provides for a mandatory sentence of five years in prison to be served consecutive to any other term imposed and up to three years of supervised release. The charge of possession of a firearm with an obliterated serial number provides for a sentence of up to five years in prison, three years of supervised release and a fine of \$250,000. Sentences are imposed by a federal district court judge based on the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors.

United States Attorney Andrew

E. Lelling; Joseph R. Bonavolonta, Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Boston Field Division; Kelly Brady, Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives, Boston Field Division; Colonel Christopher Mason, Superintendent of the Massachusetts State Police; and Lynn Police Chief Michael Mageary made the announcement today. Assistant U.S. Attorney Timothy Moran, Deputy Chief of Lelling's Organized Crime and Gang Unit is prosecuting the case.

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FLAG RAISED IN HONOR OF 176TH DOMINICAN REPUBLIC INDEPENDENCE DAY

Many Dominican Republic residents came out to celebrate the 176th Dominican Independence Day. This was a very joyous event with speeches, singing of songs, and the raising of the Dominican Republic flag to fly high over City Hall Square.

North Shore Latino Business Director and chairperson of this ceremony, Francis Martinez said, "This event is so important at this moment, since the Dominican Republic is going through a very difficult time. The primary elections were cancelled when people were voting, and they felt their liberties were violated. This caused a very huge problem for the Dominican community in Lynn." As she continued, "The amount of people attending today definitely shows how the Dominican people who are out of the country feel so hopeless. But again, they are showing their support for their home-land and they are thankful for the liberties being allowed in the United States."

Mayor Thomas McGee extended his welcome from the city and said, "This is an annual event and we will continue it. Today, we are celebrating the Dominican Republic independence and you are also celebrating your culture, traditions, and the many contributions made by the members of the Dominican community in the City of Lynn. We all came together celebrating and I thank you for being outstanding members of the community. I look forward to raising the flag and wish you all a happy Independence Day."



Dominican Republic Independence Committee of Lynn – Fermin Puelo, Yoleny Ynoa, Jose Encarnacion, Juan Gonzalez, Frances Martinez, Adonis Rodriguez, and Manuel Espinosa.



City Officials at flag raising ceremony – Ward 6 Councilor Fred Hogan, State Rep. Peter Capano, Ward 2 Councilor Rick Starbard, Dominican participant Eduardo Tejada, Mayor Thomas McGee, Latino Business Association President Francis Martinez, and Councilor-at-Large Brian Field.



Mayor Thomas McGee raised the Dominican Republic flag to fly over City Hall Square.



Participating in the flag-raising event - Angela Perez, Sandra Lopez, Salem Councilor Domingo Dominguez, Jose Laria, and Carlos Martinez.



Participating in Dominican Republic flag-raising day – Radhames Peguero, Carlos Martinez, Amando Beetre, and Daniel Peguero.



Dominican Republic flag raising supporters.



Joining Dominican Republic flag day ceremony: Lennin Pena, Ward 6 Councilor Fred Hogan, Former Lynn School Committee Member Maria Carrasco, and State Rep. Peter Capano.

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