

THE LYNN JOURNAL

Thursday, July 2, 2020



Shown above, MIAA Associate Executive Director Richard Pearson presented the Division 3 state championship trophy to St. Mary's High School basketball captains Gaby Torres, Jannise Avellino, and Olivia Matela during a ceremony in the Tony Conigliaro Gymnasium.

Shown right, St. Mary's High School girls basketball captains Olivia Matela, Gaby Torres, and Jannise Avellino hold the team's Division 3 North Sectional Championship Trophy after winning the title at the Tsongas Center in Lowell.



McGee asks Bd. of Health to declare racism a public health emergency, crisis

Staff report

Mayor Thomas M. McGee announced today initial steps to strengthen efforts to eliminate systemic racism within the City of Lynn through policy creation, systemic change, and increased community conversations.

"Systemic racism adversely affects the Black Community and Communities of Color every day," said Mayor Thomas M. McGee. "Absolutely no one should live in fear of the act of simply living because of the color of their skin. We must listen and learn from those who have endured far too much, and take concrete action to update and reform our policies. I look forward to continuing the dialogue with members of our community to rid our City of hatred and inequity that has permeated throughout our society for too long. That starts by acknowledging that racism is a public health emergency and acting accordingly."

Mayor McGee, along with Lynn Public Health Director Michele Desmarais, have submitted to the Board of Health a "Joint Order Declaring Racism an Emergency and a Public Health Crisis in the City of Lynn." The Order is on the agenda for the

Board of Health's next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, June 30th.

"The City of Lynn is committed to reviewing our policies and working to enact the necessary changes to address the public health disparities and the barriers to healthcare that the Black Community and Communities of Color experience," said Director Desmarais.

Additionally, Mayor McGee has signed on to the "Mayor's Pledge" issued by the Obama Foundation's My Brother's Keeper Alliance. The pledge asks mayors from across the country to commit to the following actions: "review our police use of force policies; engage our communities by including a diverse range of input, experiences, and stories in our review; Report the findings of our review to the community and seek feedback; Reform our community's police use of force policies."

"While these are steps that will move our City in the right direction, there is still a long way to go. Addressing structural racism requires a long term focus and continued efforts from my office and through all levels of city government. I look forward to engaging with my fellow Lynners in this critical work." McGee said.

St. Mary's girls basketball receives MIAA state championship trophy

Special to the Journal

After a 104-day wait, the St. Mary's High School girls basketball team received its MIAA Div. 3 state championship trophy Friday in a brief ceremony at the Tony Conigliaro Gymnasium.

MIAA Associate Executive Director Richard Pearson delivered the hardware, which the Spartans earned by winning the North sectional championship and defeating Rockland in the state semifinals at TD Garden. The Spartans were set to face

Hoosac Valley in the state final, but the game was canceled due to the global pandemic.

St. Mary's beat Hoosac Valley in the regular season, 62-32, at Hoosac.

Please see ST. MARY'S Page 3

For the latest news in Lynn that you need to know, check lynnjournal.com

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EDITORIAL

ENJOY A SAFE FOURTH OF JULY

It goes without saying that this will be a Fourth of July unlike any other in the history of our nation.

Americans traditionally have celebrated the Fourth both with large community gatherings and with smaller get-togethers.

The Fourth of July rekindles fond memories from our childhood of the times when we spent the holiday with our families and friends for gatherings at barbecues, at the beach, and at municipal fireworks displays in the evenings.

However, the coronavirus has changed everything. The recent attempts by states to reopen their economies, even in those states that were the most cautious and with seemingly well-designed plans, have resulted in skyrocketing rates of infection that have placed millions of Americans at risk of contracting this dreaded disease.

A story on a cable news channel earlier this week highlighted a California family in which 18 family members contracted COVID-19, with some requiring lengthy hospitalization and one, the family patriarch, dying.

There was no single gathering at which the infection could have been spread. The family thought that they had been taking the proper precautions during their interactions.

However, the disease only needed a small window of opportunity to be transmitted among three generations of this family, with tragic results.

In addition to the coronavirus, the Fourth of July in 2020 comes amidst unprecedented unrest and turmoil throughout our nation. The tragic events and subsequent protests and demonstrations have demonstrated that our nation utterly has failed to live up to the lofty ideals upon which we were founded:

“... that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

When Thomas Jefferson wrote those words, he literally meant “men” only, and white men in particular. His lofty language was the ultimate in political hypocrisy: It did not apply to millions of enslaved persons nor to women, who were considered not much more than their husband’s property.

It is indisputable that those twin legacies have cast a shadow over the promise of America that continues today, 244 years later.

Another “traditional” aspect of the Fourth of July is that it encourages far too many among us to engage in behavior that is risky not only to ourselves, but to our loved ones and others around us.

Fireworks are illegal for everybody, and in no event should be allowed in the hands of children. It is a sad -- but inevitable -- fact that countless Americans will be maimed for life because of accidents involving fireworks this weekend.

Alcohol abuse is rampant in our country and the Fourth unfortunately provides an opportunity -- which is to say, another excuse -- for those who have alcohol abuse issues to indulge way more than they should, especially when operating a boat or automobile.

It is the responsibility of each of us to ensure that the Fourth is enjoyed safely not only by ourselves, but by those whom we care about. If someone has had too much to drink, take their keys. None of us wants to say to ourselves the next day, “If only I had not let them drive....”

In addition to those usual safety precautions, we also must ensure that however we celebrate the Fourth this year, we must do so wearing masks and observing physical distancing -- none of us wants to be the cause of another person’s death because we were the vector who brought the coronavirus to a family member or loved one.

Admittedly, this is not a happy time in America. But we must make the best of it.

We wish all of our readers a happy -- and safe -- Fourth of July

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



GUEST OP-ED

Communities that Work Together, Win Together

By Quint Studer

Freedom, independence, self-sufficiency: these are great and glorious concepts. We celebrate them this time of year, whether we process it that way or not, because they’re so deeply engrained in our image of America. We see ourselves as a nation of rugged individualists: seizing the bull by the horns, charting our own course, walking alone into the forest with an axe slung over our shoulder.

Yes, it’s a romantic notion. But it’s not an accurate one. America is a nation of small, tight-knit communities and always has been. The more we cooperate, share, defer to others, and work together, the more successful we are. Today, as citizens, businesses, and civic leaders seek to come back from a public health and economic crisis, that spirit of community is more important than ever. It holds the key to our survival.

I’ve spent much of my career traveling from one American community to another. Some are bustling larger cities. Others are quiet small towns. What they all have in common is the burning desire to revitalize themselves: to become more vibrant, prosperous, livable, and loveable than they are right now. And as I’ve worked with these diverse groups of Americans, I’ve seen

a theme emerge: Those communities that work together, win together.

When citizens and leaders come together, put their self-interest on the back burner and work as a team, things get done. When they don’t, nothing gets done.

The more you think about the myth of the self-reliant early American, the less likely it seems. Our ancestors must have huddled together in small groups and worked to protect each other from a harsh and unforgiving environment. They must have joined forces, shared what they had, and leaned on each other when times were tough.

And on the larger stage, our nation’s founders had to work together in a similar fashion to bring America into being. They were working toward independence as a new nation, but they had to rely on interdependence to get there. And as leaders of communities of all shapes and sizes and demographics and political persuasions, we can all learn a lot from them.

Here are four big “history lessons” we should all heed as we seek to reopen, recover, rebuild, and continue making our way on journey toward vibrancy:

Set aside your self-interest and create something that works for everyone. Lots of different professions, industries, and interests

were present at the birth of America. Cabinet makers weren’t fixated only on the wood industry, nor silver smiths on the silver trade. Everyone was fired up to contribute to something bigger than themselves. They bought into the overarching mission, and weren’t bogged down by endless debate over the short-term costs of their plan.

In other words, don’t be overly concerned with your own well-being. Setting aside your own short-term best interests may accomplish far more for everyone in the long run. Because a rising tide lifts all boats, this includes you.

Don’t let ideological differences stop you from achieving something tangible. Despite bitter disputes and differences of opinion, a group of people with little in common other than their shared determination that change was needed were able to get mobilized and get something done. While there was much to be decided about the way things would function in the new nation, they all recognized that there wouldn’t even BE a new nation if they didn’t set aside their disagreements and move the ball down the court.

It’s important to know what matters. Don’t let petty disputes about how things should get done

See OP-ED Page 3

Op-Ed / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

sabotage the greater task at hand. Don't be constantly trying to steal the spotlight from each other. It's okay to let someone else be "the one in charge." No one complained that John Hancock's signature was bigger than theirs, or that so-and-so got to sign the Declaration before they did. (Okay, it's possible, but we can see by the document that resides in the National Archives that it got done anyway!) The founders kept their focus on the ambitious mission/vision of standing up to one of the most powerful authorities in the world: the King of England.

When we try to make it about ourselves, we can get off track and let our self-absorption derail the project or initiative. Keep the greater goal in mind and stay focused on that.

Don't wait on the government to "fix it." Instead, join together and take bold action at the local level. The changes desired by American colonists weren't coming from Great Britain. And so, in the summer of 1776 delegates from each of the Thirteen Colonies took it upon themselves to challenge British authorities and make change happen—their way.

Citizen-powered change is the most powerful change. If

it's to be, it's up to you and me, not government agencies. (Local governments tend not to have the budget to drive fundamental change, and due to election cycles, officials come and go. Many won't be around to see long term projects through.)

Yes, early communities needed each other and that drove a lot of their interactions. We went through a period of time where we started to believe we didn't need each other and that clearly isn't true. We now realize that working together is the only way we can make our cities and towns thrive.

No one is saying America's founders were perfect. They were far from it, as we are. But one thing they got right was the knowledge that they needed to work together for a common cause. Teamwork is a powerful force. We couldn't have built a nation without it, and we can't build a better community without it either.

Quint Studer is the author of Building a Vibrant Community: How Citizen-Powered Change Is Reshaping America and founder of Pensacola's Studer Community Institute. For more information, visit www.vibrant-communityblueprint.com and www.studeri.org.

Refer a friend and get NSCC tuition and fee discounts for both of you

Special to the Journal

Thinking about going to college this fall? North Shore Community College wants both you and your friends to enroll and will offer discounts to those who do so together.

The new Share the Wealth/Refer-A-Friend incentive for new students will apply to students enrolling with a friend in 12 credits – typically 4 courses – or more. Both will earn a \$500 discount on tuition and fees!

If students apply and enroll with two friends, they can earn a

\$750 discount and each of their friends can earn \$500. The maximum discount any one student can receive is \$750. Certain conditions apply.

Students must apply to NSCC for Fall 2020 between June 22 and July 31, and enroll in 12 credits or more. Discounts will post to student accounts after July 1, 2020.

"We know this is a very unusual year for college-going students. We thought this program would offer incoming students the opportunity to study close to home, avoid dorm living for a

while in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, and save money while getting general requirements out of the way," said NSCC President Patricia A. Gentile. "This is our effort to help more students achieve their dream of attending college without incurring unnecessary student debt."

For more information on the Share the Wealth | Refer-A-Friend incentive for new students, go to <https://tinyurl.com/y74wo9h3> or contact Kim Odusami, Executive Director of Admissions at kodusami@northshore.edu.

St. Mary's /

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The state championship was the third in 10 seasons for the Spartans, who won the title in 2011 and 2014 under Coach Jeff Newhall.

"Everyone was disappointed when we didn't get to play the final game, but we understand that couldn't happen under the circumstances," said Newhall, who is also the athletic director. "This was a good opportunity for us to get together and for the girls to get their recognition. We appreciate Richard and the MIAA making the effort to deliver these trophies to the schools."

St. Mary's went 25-2 and set a school record for wins in a season and most consecutive wins, with 18. The Spartans defeated Austin Prep, Bishop Fenwick and Amesbury to capture the North title before rallying to defeat Rockland. The Spartans won their four MIAA tournament games by an average of 23 points.

The state championship continued a streak for the athletic program at St. Mary's, which has won at least one state championship the last 13 years.



Shown above: Associate Head of School David Angeramo presents a state champion medal to St. Mary's basketball player Van Nguyen of Lynn. Shown below: St. Mary's Associate Head of School David Angeramo presents a state championship medal to All-Scholastic Maiya Bergdorf who has committed to play Division 1 college basketball at Sacred Heart University in Connecticut.



THE LYNN JOURNAL

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Even during times of crisis, Roca continues to prove that change is possible

Nobody wants to be defined by their challenges but Covid-19 has highlighted a crisis among a population that, in the best of times, was struggling to thrive. Roca believes in the most vulnerable young adults in the Commonwealth. They are a human service organization, with 5 sites across Massachusetts (Boston, Chelsea, Lynn, Holyoke and Springfield) and a site in Baltimore, MD. Roca engages with young adults, police and systems in the center of urban violence to address trauma, find hope and drive change.

The young people that Roca works with live with fear that never turns off. They are at the center of urban violence and poverty, they are court and gang involved, have not finished high school, have no job history and don't know where they are sleeping tonight. Amongst this group is over 200 of the highest-risk, highly-traumatized, systems-involved young mothers in Massachusetts. They are not willing to accept home visitors, not ready to go to education or training programs, and in need of intensive outreach and case management over several years. This group of young mothers falls between the cracks of most current state and

federal funding.

The Covid-19 crisis has drawn these women from the shadows and has truly highlighted the disparities of an already unequal system. While teen pregnancy rates are declining across Massachusetts, they are increasing within this group, exacerbated by increasing domestic violence. When times are tough, more people are in need, which exacerbates these disparities.

Laura started in Roca's Young Mothers' Program two years ago when pregnant with her third child, referred by DCF after losing custody of her daughters (then) ages 1 and 3 as a result of domestic violence. She came to Roca with low literacy, diligently worked on her basic literacy and ESL, and finally confronted her reality. She filed a restraining order against her partner and started domestic violence and parenting classes.

After 1.5 years and 3 DCF workers, Laura finally regained custody of her two daughters, now 4 and 6. She got a housing voucher and moved into a small apartment in Everett, ready for a fresh start. Then, the pandemic hit and so did an unprecedented economic crisis.

Laura lost her job, her child-

care and was unable to pay her rent. She was threatened with eviction and was unable to get into a shelter. Laura was scared. She had Covid-19 symptoms, but was afraid to get tested out of fear of being separated from her children and potentially losing them again. On May 25, it got worse as Laura found out that she did have Covid-19. "The day started out so great" she said. "I was celebrating because after almost two years, my DCF case was closing. I have worked so hard and now, I am beside myself."

Sunindiya Bhalla, Chief of 2gen programming at Roca said: "Our young moms program is already experiencing the negative effects of this health and economic crisis. We've had to turn away referrals and are looking at graduating some of our participants earlier due to mon-

etary constraints." When asked to describe her participants, she said "Our young mothers are amazing. They are resilient, courageous and nothing is more important to them than their children. But as we become unable to support the needs of our moms and their kids, they will cost the state even more over the coming years."

Even during this health crisis, Roca's nationally recognized programming is transforming the lives of these young women by providing a safe environment for mothers to succeed and for their children to thrive. This team continues to provide socially-distant in person outreach, intensive crisis intervention and case management, and has dramatically increased virtual programming.

Despite their challenges, thirty (30) young mothers have closed

their DCF cases with Roca's help in the past year. In the past three months of the COVID-19 pandemic, young mothers have increased participation in educational and behavioral health programming. Roca has also launched a domestic violence support group and has expanded their parenting classes during a time with it is needed more than ever. "We give our moms and their kids the support they need," said Scott Scharffenberg, executive Director of Roca, MA. "We have engaged and committed partners who like our organization, are forced to tighten our belts and make tough decisions due to this economic crisis that isn't going away any time soon."

For more information on Roca, Inc., please go to their website: www.rocainc.org.

Lynn man receives keys to a brighter future

Imagine trying to live a productive life in Massachusetts without reliable transportation. It would be a struggle to say the least, but for one Lynn man the struggle is now over.

On May 26, Lynn resident Sheldon Vibbard received a life-changing car from the vehicle-donation nonprofit Good News Garage. His used 2001 Honda Civic, donated by a generous New Englander, will transport him to a brighter future. Vibbard is one of over 5,000 recipients of a vehicle from Good News Garage since the New England-based charity began providing reliable transportation to local people in need in 1996.

A lack of transportation is one of the biggest reasons why people cannot achieve upward mobility. Good News Garage's ability to help our neighbors in need is only limited by the number of vehicle donations it receives. Good News Garage works in cooperation with the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission to provide refurbished donated vehicles to people who otherwise could not afford to purchase their own vehicle. For more information or to donate, visit www.GoodNewsGarage.org.

Good News Garage is a member of Ascentria Care Alliance, one of the largest human services organizations in New England. With locations throughout the region, Ascentria is creating measurable, positive impact in communities by empowering people to reach beyond life's challenges



Sheldon Vibbard beside the car he received from Good News Garage.

and thrive. For more information, visit www.ascentria.org.

Good News Garage launched in Burlington, Vermont in 1996 as one of the nation's first car donation nonprofits providing affordable and reliable transportation options for people in need. Now expanded to Maine, Massachusetts and New Hampshire, Good News Garage has provided over 5,000 New England families with reliable vehicles. The organization's goal is to increase opportunities for its clients to move out of poverty and into financial and social stability. For

more information about Good News Garage or to donate a car, truck, or van visit GoodNewsGarage.org or call 877.GIVE.AUTO (877.448.3288).

Good News Garage is a member of Ascentria Care Alliance, one of the largest human service organizations in New England. With locations throughout the region, Ascentria is creating measurable, positive impact in communities by empowering people to reach beyond life's challenges and thrive. For more information, visit ascentria.org.

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First Come - First Served

WGBH Partners with Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care to launch Family Activity Initiative

Staff report

With schools, preschool centers, and family childcare programs across the state closed in response to COVID-19, public media outlet WGBH in Boston is partnering with the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care to launch the *Family Activity Initiative*, a series of weekly activity resources featuring a carefully curated collection of videos to watch, free online educational games and apps to play, and non-digital hands-on activities for young children.

“Public media outlets across the country are playing an integral role in supporting educators, parents and caregivers with educational resources during these challenging times,” said Jon Abbott, president and CEO of WGBH. “As parents and caregivers of young children take the lead in supporting their child’s learning, we are partnering with the state to make trusted educational resources available for every family across the Commonwealth.”

The resources in the *Family Activity Initiative* will be drawn from popular WGBH and PBS KIDS brands, such as *Arthur* (health and emotions), *Curious George*, *PEEP and the Big Wide World*, *Gracie and Friends*, and the *Ruff Ruffman Show* (STEM) for preschoolers, and *Molly of Denali* (English Language Arts), and *Plum Landing* (environmental science). The

activities will be highly accessible, require low/no cost, minimal materials or preparation, and will give families reasons to learn and explore indoors and out, offer strategies for talking through fears and anxieties, provide fun games that build math skills and much more. The resources will be offered in both English and Spanish and will be geared toward children from birth to age 8. Both WGBH and partner station WGBY, part of New England Public Media serving western Massachusetts, will help raise awareness about this initiative among families via a variety of social media platforms.

“The Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care is proud to partner with WGBH to support parents in continuing early learning during this time,” said Early Education and Care Commissioner Samantha Aigner-Treworgy. “Families with young children face a particular set of challenges right now. Our goal is to support them with easy-to-use, age-appropriate tools to ensure that our youngest citizens are still learning during this critical period of their lives.”

Major funding for the *Family Activity Initiative* is being provided by a generous grant from the PNC Foundation.

“The *Family Activity Initiative* is a shining example of how our state comes together to provide essential support to our communities, in innovative ways,” said Jon Bernstein, PNC

Bank regional president in Boston. “While children and families are home together, it is critical that families have resources and support to create a rich learning environment for their children. We are committed to ensuring all children develop a love of learning that lasts a lifetime.”

Each week, families will be invited to visit the WGBH Distance Learning Center where they can access that week’s activities. Families will be encouraged to complete as many activities as possible during a week’s time and then be eligible to enter a weekly random drawing for prizes that include books as well as gift cards for essential items donated by Walmart and Stop & Shop. The Distance Learning Center will also offer a collection of resources for parents and caregivers of infants and toddlers, including short-form videos, tips and strategies, and developmentally appropriate, easy-to-do activities, drawn from materials developed by WGBH and The Basics.

To reach families that do not have internet access, WGBH will work with the Coordinated Family and Community Engagement (CFCE) grantees, a network of close to 90 programs providing services to some 350 cities and towns throughout the Commonwealth. Each CFCE will distribute the *Family Activity* packets in their community in collaboration with their local community-based partners, such as food



pantries, Head Start, drop and go food distribution sites, and shelters.

“While there is no shortage of information or online resources, many families are struggling to determine what resources best meet the needs of their child. For families with limited access to the internet, this challenge can be overwhelming,” said Seeta Pai, executive director of education at WGBH. “The *Family Activity Initiative* is designed to offer high-quality, turnkey educational activities parents can feel good about and children will enjoy doing.”

Earlier this spring, WGBH announced a partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to provide students in grades 6-12 distance learning oppor-

tunities on broadcast television (WGBH’s WORLD Channel), to complement programming for young children available on the WGBH Kids 24/7 channel. This ensures students learning at home continue to have access to educational programs, regardless of their access to broadband internet. The broadcast programming is in addition to other resources from WGBH Education, including PBS LearningMedia, a free online service of thousands of compelling educational resources, aligned to state standards and contextualized for educational use in grades PreK-12, and the WGBH Distance Learning Center which makes these PBS LearningMedia resources more accessible to families, as well as educators, to support students PreK-12.

Massachusetts has an 80.86% save rate for shelter pets; ranks 36 in country for shelter pet deaths

Staff report

Best Friends Animal Society has released its 2020 pet lifesaving findings, which gives a national overview of the number of dogs and cats that enter shelters each year in the United States, and the number of dogs and cats that are leaving those shelters alive.

Of the 35,149 dogs and cats that entered Massachusetts shelters in 2019, 28,420 found positive placements, for a total state save rate of 80.86%. Only 11.27% of Massachusetts shelters are no-kill (a state is considered to be no-kill when every brick-and-mortar shelter serving and/or located within the state has a save rate of 90% or higher). Some 2,780 dogs and cats remain to be saved in the shelters

that are not yet no-kill.

“We are seeing continued momentum and progress towards the goal of ending the killing of dogs and cats in U.S. shelters by the year 2025, with the overall number of pets being killed in the U.S. continuing to go down and the number of shelters that are no-kill going up,” said Julie Castle, chief executive officer, Best Friends Animal Society.

Best Friends also released an inaugural state-by-state ranking of this data and Massachusetts is #36 in the country for shelter pet deaths.

The year-over-year data also shows that the number of dogs and cats killed annually nationally has dropped from about 733,000 to 625,000 (or about 1,700 killed per

day). Across the U.S., about 5.4 million dogs and cats entered shelters in 2019, and 4.2 million were saved making the national save rate 79.02% (2018 was 76.6%).

Castle continued, “For the past several years, Best Friends and progressive shelters nationwide have been changing the way they do business and the way they relate to their communities: simplifying adoption policies and requirements; building out community pet fostering programs; implementing trap, neuter, return (TNR) programs for community cats; passing more pet-friendly legislation to combat the retail sale of puppy mill dogs and breed discrimination; advocating for more pet-inclusive housing, and removing barriers for the public

to help pets with the use of technology. And it is making a difference.”

Over the past three years, Best Friends has spearheaded a first-of-its-kind extensive data collection process that involved coordinated outreach to every shelter in America followed by additional research, data analysis, and technology development. To create the most comprehensive data set on animal welfare ever published, Best Friends collected data directly from shelters, state and local coalitions, government websites, and even FOIA requests. The Best Friends 2020 dataset (consisting of statistics collected during 2019) of U.S. shelters has a total net intake of 5,360,060 animals representing 4,850 known shelters. Of this intake total, 92% of the data

is based on collected information from 3,608 brick and mortar shelters. The remaining 8% is estimated to cover the uncollected shelters and their respective counties.

“Best Friends has always believed that anyone can help homeless pets. You don’t need a rescue label, special credentials or permission to help save animals. Individual community members are the no-kill movement’s greatest resource. Putting this data directly into the hands of the public allows individual community members and advocates like the members of our 2025 Action Team to gain a better understanding of exactly which shelters and types of pets are most in need of help and helps to connect them to those shelters,” Castle added.

BLOOD DRIVE AT LYNN CITY HALL

Photos by Patrick Gecoya

Lynn City Hall employees stepped up during this critical time when blood donations are needed. Many city workers scheduled appointments to donate blood.

Nurse Colleen Hardy explains the importance of having blood drives as she said, "We are always in crisis; it is so important

especially for trauma patients. A major shortage occurred during the early part of the pandemic; however, so many organizations, companies, and municipalities are beginning make contributions and a turnaround is starting. I hope this trend will continue".

The Knights of Columbus once again offered its facility to assist the American Red Cross Blood Donation drive.



Nurse Sivly Cheng completes the final check on Francis Mancini.



Lynn residents Pat Karakashion and Sarah Caliento volunteered for the Lynn City Hall Blood Drive



All in the Family! – Daughter Elyse Fannon, Lt. Joseph Fannon and his wife, Terri Fannon all donated blood to the American Red Cross



Nurse Shaina Wineberg checks Lynn Classical Track Coach Stephen Martin as he completed his blood donation



Extra bandages applied to Lt. Joseph Fannon from nurses Shaina Wineberg and Colleen Hardy

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 All walk-ins welcome!



Shown above (left) Lynn Fire Department Lt. Joseph Fannon relaxes during his blood donation as Nurse Colleen Hardy begins the final check.



Shown above (right) Red Cross volunteer Julia Grimaldi hands a sticker to Lynn resident Penny Pension.



Shown to the right, Nurse Marcia Gonzalez prepares Jonny Shannon for his donation.

NORTH SHORE NAVIGATORS READY TO KICK OFF THE SEASON



Navigators at Shortstop: Infielder Logan Bravo (Harvard University), Outfielder Sal Frelick (Boston College), Catcher Dylan January (Franklin Pierce University), Infielder Jake McElroy (Holy Cross), and Infielder Jonathan Luder (Seton Hall University)



PRG Photo

Shown above: Navigators Pitching staff: (Front): Parker Brown (Suffolk University), Nate Espelin (U of Dayton), & Griffin Green (Virginia Tech); (Back): Cam Sequin (UMass/Lowell); Cedric Gillette (Merrimack College); Max Meier (Stanford University), Will Carpenter (Fisher College), & Beau Dana (Dickinson College) Shown left: At Home Plate - Media Director Joshua Kummins with PA Announcer Gus Barlow who will be attending University of Kansas after the season and was featured on Channel 5 Chronicle.

Potos by Patrick Gecoya

Play Ball in the heart of the City of Lynn!

No other game is in town but the North Shore Navigators. This should be an exciting season according to CEO Don January as he said, "We have a lot of talent on this team. The players are excited to be here, especially since the Cape Cod league is not playing this season. Many of the players who were going to play on the cape are now with the

Navigators. This is a bonus for the organization".

The North Shore Navigators open up the season on July 2 away against the Nashua Silver Knights and return for the home opener on July 7 against Worcester Bravehearts.

Plan a summer evening to watch this 2020 team in action at Fraser Field, which turns 80 this season. Visit the team at www.nsnavs.com, Facebook, and follow your favorite player on Twitter. Get excited for Navigators' Baseball!



NS Navigators coaching staff at Third Base – Assistant Coach Dan Hirsch, Manager Bob Macaluso, Pitching Coach PJ Brown with President & General Manager Derek January



At the Batting Cage – Outfielder Jack Whorf (UMass/Amherst), Outfielder Ryan Cervone (Northeastern University), and Outfielder Ben Malgeri (Northeastern University)



Navigator Chief Executive Officer Don January who played in the Cleveland Indians and Red Sox organizations and former College Football and Baseball Official

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NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

DACA RECIPIENTS STILL ON EDGE DESPITE FAVORABLE RULING

CHELSEA - There might have been a celebration after the Supreme Court decision that rejected President Donald Trump's bid to end the DACA program after more than 10 years, but any such celebration in Chelsea was muted and wary of the future.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled last week that the DACA program – which allows those brought illegally to the country as children to be held harmless in regards to immigration deportation and work rules. It has been in place for more than 10 years, brought in under great fanfare by President Barack Obama – allowing hundreds of Chelsea young people at the time to go to school, work legally and pursue their dreams.

Now that those young people are grown up, the threat to end DACA made many very nervous, and the decision blocking the effort to end it makes many even more nervous.

“The one thing about the decision is it give the administration a roadmap to maybe try again to revoke authorization,” said Daisy

Gonzalez, Immigration and Citizenship Coordinator at the Chelsea Collaborative. “Even though it's a victory, we still understand that decision gives the Trump Administration another chance and this roadmap to try again. We believe if he's re-elected, he will try again and they will have a better understanding how to do it properly. We're striving for those with DACA to have permanent residency and eventually citizenship. It's a long way to go.”

The decision by the high Court did not reject the proposal outright, but as Gonzalez said, rejected it on a technical problem. The decision identified the problem, and many believe that another effort will be made to file it correctly.

Ahead of the decision, Gonzalez said many residents with DACA were apprehensive to refile for renewal – worrying they would lose their application fees and maybe they would be identified for deportation if their status was revoked.

Most of the DACA recipients in Chelsea are now older, though when the program was issued, there were many in high school and college. Unfortunately, Gonzalez said a lot of them were not able to finish college due to fi-

nances. Being able to work legally, many were counted on to get jobs to support the family and not focus on school.

“A lot of them started out trying to pursue their college education, but due to the economic impacts now and responsibilities they acquired, the simply did not complete the college education they hoped for,” she said. “They are now very concerned about their children...They are also concerned about the new public charge laws too. They have a lot of concerns, and this decision was just a temporary relief.”

DISCUSSING THE COLUMBUS STATUE

CHELSEA - More than 500 years later, Christopher Columbus's checkered past is finally catching up with him – at least in Chelsea and many other communities where he has been honored with statues and celebrations of his voyages.

Several members of the Chelsea City Council put forth an order at the June 15 Council meeting to immediately take down the Christopher Columbus statue in Chelsea Square and replace it with a thoughtfully designed memorial to the indigenous peoples who inhabited Chelsea prior to white settlement.

Council President Roy Avellaneda and colleagues Melinda Vega Maldonado, Naomi Zabot, Judith Garcia, Damali Vidot, Enio Lopez and Yamir Rodriguez introduced an order calling for the immediate removal of Columbus. They asked that the Chelsea Historical Commission and the Chelsea Arts and Culture Commission place on their agendas a motion to collaborate a discuss “a memorial for the original indigenous inhabitants of Chelsea to remember their place in Chelsea's history.”

Council President Avellaneda moved to pass the order, but was held up by Councillor Giovanni Recupero, who said he would like a conference to discuss the matter. He said he isn't in favor of removing the statue or replacing it. It has stood in its place since Dec. 12, 1938. It proclaims on its base that Columbus was the ‘Discoverer of America.’

Councilor Calvin Brown said he felt that the Council needed to slow down the effort, and he advocated for Recupero's conference to discuss it.

“It's been there 70 years so I wonder if we have any obligation to find out any history about it and who put it up,” he said. “I don't know the history of it. I think

we're moving too fast...I see no problem in the order, but I do see you still have some obligation to the public to have a discussion. We have conferences about almost anything if it's controversial and I think this is controversial.”

Councillor Damali Vidot said if the Council is going to fight structural racism, this is the move to make.

“We're talking out of both sides of our mouths if we're talking about fighting structural racism and then we don't want to do this to fight it,” she said. “But I'm in favor of dialog all the time.”

Said Zabot, “Dialog is always important, but it is also important to stand up always for what we believe in.”

Councillor Todd Taylor said it is important to talk with the community about this, hear all points of view and then make a decision. He said the place to make the decision is not quickly during a remote Council meeting.

“This is a decision that needs to be made by the community in a discussion,” he said. “If the community wants it taken down, take it down. Being a trained historian and understanding how history is taught in American universities, there should be a dialog before we take this action. It's only fair we talk about these things before we do them.”

The consensus of the Council was to move it to a Subcommittee on Conference, which has yet to be scheduled. There, the Council and members of the community can look carefully at the issue.

The statue has gone barely noticed for probably the last 20 years or more since the Knights of Columbus folded in Chelsea. There is no Columbus Day celebration in Chelsea for years, and the statue is obscured to a great degree from the street by large trees.

Some didn't even know the statue existed until the recent debate.

According to the base of the statue, its sponsors were Armando Diaz Society, the Chelsea Council #83 Knights of Columbus, Sons of Italy Chelsea Lodges #1460, Chelsea Ladies Lodge #1772, Chelsea Girls Junior #80, Victorian Junior #81, the S. Arcangelo Trimonte Society, the S. Stefano Medio Society, Societa Regina Degli Angioli, and the Ward 5 Precinct 2 Club.

CITY RAISES PRIDE FLAG FOR FIRST TIME

EVERETT - School Commit-

teeman Marcony Almeida Barros has taken to the podium at City and School events – and even state events for the Attorney General's Office – many times, but none were as intensely personal as when he stepped to the microphone last week as the City's first openly gay elected official to see the Pride flag raised for the first time in City history.

“For me as the first openly gay man elected in the City's history, it is a special moment today,” he said. “It's been a long journey since the Stonewall riots on June 28, 1969...Since that fight, the fight for equal rights brought marriage equality rights to Massachusetts in 2004. That is the year I met my husband in City Hall – right behind us. I arrived from Brazil to Everett and met my Everett born husband in Everett City Hall...It is a special moment not only for me as a gay man, but for the City also.”

On Monday, the City of Everett held their 1st Annual Pride Flag raising ceremony in honor of Pride Month. Led by Mayor Carlo DeMaria, the ceremony featured a short speaking program, and then the raising of the flag on the ceremonial pole outside the Church Street entrance.

“The City of Everett has come a long way – I am proud to stand with you today as we turn a corner as a community,” said the mayor, noting that the first time the flag was raised was 41 years ago in San Francisco. “Everett is a melting pot of race, ethnicity, gender, and sexual orientation. In Everett everyone is accepted, welcomed, and at home.”

The flag will be flown on the Church Street entrance of Everett City Hall throughout the month of June.

City officials, Mayor DeMaria, Senator Sal DiDomenico, Representative Joe McGonagle and Almeida Barros all spoke in front of a crowd of approximately 50 people.

Sen. Sal DiDomenico talked about his fight to pass the Transgender Bill in the State House only a few short years ago, and the pushback he got from within the Legislature and within parts of the community.

“It seems like an easy decision today, but at the time it was not,” he said. “I spoke on the floor in favor and said it's time to change the word fear to the word fair. That's exactly what we do.”

Mayor DeMaria spoke about the recent Supreme Court deci-

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Region // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

sion that affirmed that an employee cannot be fired or removed simply because of his or her sexual orientation. That ruling came only two weeks ago, but it elicited a lot of discussion in Monday's comments.

"The fight is not over," said the mayor. "Now more than ever, we must come together in unity with members of our community. We all must advocate for equality for everyone. LGBTQ rights are human rights," Mayor DeMaria said.

Almeida Barros said his message for the day was to the LGBTQ youth – who are found to be more at risk of suicide than their peers.

"My message today is for our LGBTQ youth," he said. "Be proud of who you are. Do not let someone tell you that you aren't important. You are."

OUTDOOR DINING SPACES POPULAR

EVERETT - As restaurants throughout the City have the green light from the state to begin using indoor spaces to serve, the popularity and creativity for outdoor dining spaces has picked up to an even greater degree.

It seems counterintuitive, but City officials and some establishments in Everett indicated they have had tremendous response from patrons to their outdoor dining options, and there is also some speculation that not all patrons will be comfortable inside eating – though they might take a stab at summer dining outside.

There is also the case of regulations, which severely impact the numbers of tables inside that a restaurant can use – slashing indoor capacity by 50 percent in some cases. To make up for that, restaurant owners and the City of Everett have turned to being creative in order to "recover tables" lost inside at the outdoor space.

"We're up to close to 15 establishments that are already doing it or looking to do outdoor dining and we expect that number to grow," said Tony Sousa, planning director. "We do expect there will be more restaurants and eateries participating. Now that indoor dining is allowed, we believe there will be more. It's another option for businesses to have outdoor dining. Many of the guidelines for COVID-19 inside limit space and tables, so having outside also is helpful. For the diner's perspective, having the

outdoor option is very important for safety and comfort."

To that end, the City has begun partnering with restaurants and eateries and cafes to build extra space on sidewalks, in City parking lots, on parking spaces and on sidewalks. It has been a whirlwind of work whereby the City's Facilities Department has used experience from building a parklet dining area last summer to create even more on a much faster pace – including in the municipal parking lot for La Hacienda, and outside of Bakes and Cakes on Norwood Street.

They also expect to be working with Taco El Paso, the 8/10, Oliveira's, Stewarts Pub, and Square Deli. Pretty much any business that asks for help will get a consideration. Already, on private property, Ferry Street Grill, Texas Roadhouse, TGI Fridays, Bone Up Brewery, Village Bar & Grill, and Night Shift Brewery have entered into the outdoor realm with great success.

At Village and Bone Up, on the parking lot there is a beer garden on one side, which is separated from a larger tent for food service from Village.

Bone Up owners Jared and Liz Kiraly said they opened outdoor on Weds., June 17, and it was a quick success.

"It has started off fantastic," she said. "It was definitely great to be open. To go sales treated us well, but that is not what our brewery is built for. The last four months have been life-changing. Everything is going well so far. We've been on a wait list and we're doing first come first served."

The beer garden aspect is something she said they have really liked and hope that it can stay all summer – maybe even next summer. While they will re-open the inside, they said they are having a good response from customers.

"A lot of people are really happy to be outside again and be able to do something fun. There have been a lot of really bored people sitting at home."

At Village – another early outdoor dining location – the tent next to Bone Up has been extremely popular and attracting several diners for lunch and dinner.

And the City believes outdoor dining – even if right now it's by necessity – is here to stay in Everett.

"The mayor sees the opportunity here and doesn't want it to pass without doing this," said Tom Philbin, a spokesman for the mayor. "I think he understands it's time to seize the moment and it's here to stay."

Said Sousa, "Outdoor dining is here to stay. It's an opportunity, a real placemaking and activation that isn't going away."

To that end, the name of the game is moving fast on behalf of the restaurants.

After a hiccup with the License Commission a few weeks ago in approving the first batch of outdoor dining establishments, the Commission and the mayor agreed to turn over approval process as an administrative process. That means anyone applying who has their plan in order and insurance/liability in place will be approved by Sousa or the Planning Department, and they are moving quickly.

"When it's a simple extension or expansion of an existing license, we agreed to allow that all to be made at an administrative level," he said. "The only exception is if there is a special permit required or if there are any complaints, the License Commission would retain that. Instead of having the License Commission meet one time a week, we'll do it administratively. Already it's helped to streamline it and move faster and turn these around in 24 hours – even on the weekends."

RONALD JANNINO DEAD AT 75

REVERE - The Revere community is mourning the loss of one of its longest-serving and most dedicating public officials.

Ronald Jannino, who served

as Revere's representative on the Northeastern Metropolitan Regional Vocational School Committee for 35 years, died on June 20. He was 75 years old.

Mr. Jannino was not only widely admired in Revere but throughout the entire Northeast school district that includes 12 communities. He was re-elected to the committee with tremendous votes in the elections that are held district wide.

A graduate of Everett Vocational School, Class of 1963, Mr. Jannino was a strong advocate for the many Revere students attending Northeast Regional. He was always accessible to parents of eighth grade students who were considering applying to the Wakefield vocational high school, explaining the many specialized programs in trades and the many potential employment opportunities that await Northeast graduates.

David DiBarri, superintendent of the Northeast School District, expressed his condolences to the Jannino family on behalf of the school. He praised Mr. Jannino's outstanding service on the Committee.

"We are deeply saddened by the sudden passing of longtime School Committee Member Ronald Jannino," said DiBarri. "A Revere resident and retired wood-working teacher from another district, he joined us in 1986 and was re-elected to the board for nearly 34 years – a true testament to the calling he felt to promote the best interests of students and educators alike. We are so thankful for his service to our district and the thoughtfulness and care with which he undertook his role on the board and our hearts are with his family during this difficult time."

City Council observes a moment of silence

The City Council observed a moment of silence for Mr. Jannino at its meeting. Ward 5 Councillor John Powers said he and Ronald Jannino were close friends for 40 years.

"Ron was our city's representative on the Northeast School Committee and he did a very effective job helping young people from Revere who wanted to pursue their education at the school," said Powers. "I can't think of anybody who was as effective as he was in that position. He was a good, honest, sincere person. I wish his family my deepest sympathy."

City Council President Patrick Keefe served on the Revere Pop Warner Board with Mr. Jannino's daughter, Melissa Elam, who was the organization's cheerleading director, and son-in-law, Craig Elam, who Keefe's predecessor as RPW president.

"I'm very friendly with his son-in-law and daughter and his grandchildren," said Keefe. "Ron and I are brother Knights at the Knights of Columbus."

Ron was a great man and he served the community with dedication for a very long period of time on the Regional School Committee."

Councillor-at-Large Jessica Giannino said, "I am saddened by the lost of Ron Jannino. He was a dedicated representative of the city of Revere."

Noting the closeness in spelling and pronunciation of their respective names, Councillor Giannino said she was often asked if the two well-known officials were related. "Although we were not related, we both shared the bond of serving the City of Revere," said Giannino.

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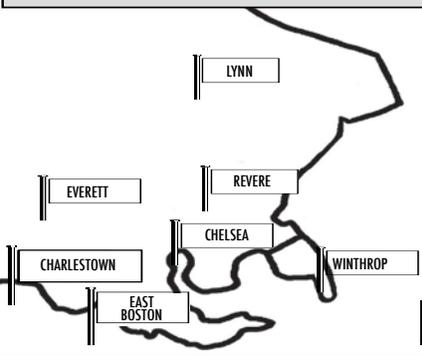
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LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

WALKER NAMED TO DEAN'S LIST AT COASTAL CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

More than 2,300 undergraduate students at Coastal Carolina University were named to the Dean's List for the Spring 2020 semester, including Susan Walker, a Public Health major from Lynn.

Coastal Carolina University is a dynamic, public comprehensive liberal arts institution located in Conway, just minutes from the resort area of Myrtle Beach, S.C.

Coastal Carolina University offers baccalaureate degrees in 85 major fields of study. Among CCU's 30 graduate-level programs are 26 master's degrees, two educational specialist degrees, and the doctorates in education and marine science: coastal and marine systems science.

The most popular undergraduate majors are marine science, management, exercise and sport science, communication and psychology. CCU boasts a growing array of internship, research and international opportunities for students, as well as numerous online programs through Coastal Online.

UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE'S DEAN'S LIST FOR THE SPRING 2020 SEMESTER

The following students have been named to the Dean's List at the University of New Hampshire for the spring 2020 semester.

Nelson Idahosa of Lynn for earning High Honors. Idahosa is majoring in Political Science.

Terrence Bowers of Lynn for earning Highest Honors. Bowers is majoring in Sport Studies.

Matthew Woodward of Lynn for earning Highest Honors. Woodward is majoring in Psychology.

Megan Dolan of Lynn for earning Highest Honors. Dolan is majoring in Nutr: Nutrition & Wellness.

Emily Ramroop of Lynn for earning High Honors. Ramroop is majoring in Undeclared.

Ashley McCoy of Lynn for earning Highest Honors. McCoy is majoring in Environ Conservation & Sustain.

Mia Serino of Lynn for earning High Honors. Serino is majoring in English/Journalism.

Students named to the Dean's List at the University of New Hampshire are students who have earned recognition through their superior scholastic performance during a semester enrolled in a full-time course load (12 or more graded credits). Highest honors are awarded to students

who earn a semester grade point average of 3.85 or better out of a possible 4.0. Students with a 3.65 to 3.84 average are awarded high honors and students whose grade point average is 3.5 through 3.64 are awarded honors.

HEATHER CUMMINGS RECEIVES DEGREE

Late this spring, Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) celebrated the Class of 2020 with a socially distanced commencement season in place of its traditional 152nd Commencement exercises. Heather Cummings of Lynn, was awarded a master of science degree in aerospace engineering.

Since the Class of 2020 was unable to receive diplomas in person this year, they instead received personal commencement packages, mailed to their home, that that included their diplomas, commencement regalia, and other items to celebrate their successes, as well as a congratulatory video message from President Laurie Leshin. In total, WPI awarded 1,043 bachelor's degrees, 674 master's degrees, and 54 doctoral degrees.

WPI, a global leader in project-based learning, is a distinctive, top-tier technological university founded in 1865 on the principle that students learn most effectively by applying the theory learned in the classroom to the practice of solving real-world problems. Recognized by the National Academy of Engineering with the 2016 Bernard M. Gordon Prize for Innovation in Engineering and Technology Education, WPI's pioneering project-based curriculum engages undergraduates in solving important scientific, technological, and societal problems throughout their education and at more than 50 project centers around the world. WPI offers more than 50 bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degree programs across 14 academic departments in science, engineering, technology, business, the social sciences, and the humanities and arts. Its faculty and students pursue groundbreaking research to meet ongoing challenges in health and biotechnology; robotics and the internet of things; advanced materials and manufacturing; cyber, data, and security systems; learning science; and more. www.wpi.edu.

LOCAL STUDENTS EARN AWARDS FROM MALDEN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Malden Catholic High School announced the winners of numerous distinguished achievements athletic and extracurricular activity awards for the members of the Class of 2020.

The following Lynn residents achieved honors in a variety of categories:

Brendan Brown – The Christie Serino Extraordinary Achievement Award

Sean McDonough – Spanish National Honor Society, SFX Scholar, Eagle Scout and The Outstanding Team Spirit Award

Riley Roberson – Quiz Bowl Special Recognition Coordinator Award

Gavin Sadler – National Honor Society Vice President, Joseph McCormick Leadership Award, STEM Club Outstanding Achievement Award and Spanish National Honor Society

Luke Silvestri – Chess Team's Unsung Hero Award

Jack Wolniewicz – Eagle Scout

Robert Wolniewicz – Eagle Scout

Since 1932, Malden Catholic High School has shaped emerging leaders in our community, claiming a Nobel Laureate, a Senator, two ambassadors and countless community and business heads among its alumni. Annually, graduates attend some of the nation's most renowned universities including Harvard, Georgetown, Brown, Cornell, Tufts, Georgia Tech, Boston College and Amherst College. Foundational to student success is Malden Catholic's codivisional model which offers the best of both worlds, single-gender academics during the day and integrated social and extracurricular opportunities after school. Malden Catholic is known in the community for its rigorous academics, SFX Scholars Program and award-winning STEM program (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) with electives such as Robotics and Engineering Design. Malden Catholic curriculum is designed to improve individual growth mindset, leadership principles, success outcomes along with integrating the Xaverian values of trust, humility, compassion, simplicity and zeal. <https://www.maldencatholic.org/>

NEWS IN BRIEF

ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE SAFETY CAMPAIGN

The Animal Rescue League of Boston's (ARL) annual safety campaign, Too Hot for Spot, reminds pet owners about the dangers pets face when temperatures begin to rise. Even when it's below 80 degrees, the threat for heat stroke still exists.

5 Tips to Keep Your Pet Safe

1. Prevention is best. Whenever possible, leave your pet at home in a cool humidity and temperature-regulated room.

2. If your pet must be outdoors, find a shady spot with ample air flow to prevent overheating.

3. Hydration is key, so keep a bowl of cold water accessible at all times.

4. Limit exercise to the morning or evening hours when temperatures are coolest.

5. Never leave your pet alone in a parked car—even with the air conditioner on or the windows cracked.

If you suspect that your pet is suffering from heat stroke, seek immediate medical attention from a veterinarian!

Spot an animal in imminent danger or distress? Call 911 or contact your local Animal Control Office, Fire Department, or Police Department.

MARKEY CAMPAIGN SHOWS ITS GRASSROOTS REACH

The Ed Markey for U.S. Senate campaign demonstrated its grassroots power and statewide reach over the past weekend as it hosted an evening of virtual house parties with over 300 supporters and volunteers, joining from 35 different Zoom locations organized by supporters, for supporters, including in Dorchester, Somerville, Cambridge, Tufts University, Harvard University, and Northeastern University.

Senator Markey spoke to the virtual grassroots group as Suffolk County District Attorney Rachel Rollins, State Representative Nika Elugardo, and State Representative Tricia Farley Bouvier—all of whom have endorsed the Senator—also made appearances throughout the event. The house party also featured live music from Wheatus lead singer, and progressive activist, Brendan Brown.

"This is another example of our grassroots organizing success," said Campaign Manager John Walsh. "Our campaign is based on relational organizing -- friend-to-friend and neighbor-to-neighbor engagement.

During this challenging time, we continue to organize in new and innovative ways, and our house parties are part of the enthusiasm and dedication of our supporters. And while we can't yet have house parties in the traditional sense, we can still come together."

The Markey Campaign's grassroots organizing has adapted to the public health crisis through social media, livestreams on the work Senator Markey is undertaking to combat the coronavirus pandemic, benefit concert, and digital outreach.

After winning 70 percent of the support at local city and town caucuses earlier this year—a significant grassroots achievement—the Markey campaign then turned in over 27,000 nomination signatures to the Secretary of State's Office.

The campaign's digital team has also designed a breakthrough grassroots tool allowing anyone interested in becoming involved with the Markey Campaign to create and distribute their own supporter page at: support.edmarkey.com. After launching the tool earlier this spring, hundreds of supporter pages identifying thousands of supporters have been created.

Pops to air virtual 4th of July special; no live fireworks

By Lauren Bennett

This year, instead of gathering around the Hatch Shell, you'll have to gather around your television for the Boston Pops virtual Fourth of July spectacular. There will be no live performance or fireworks on the Esplanade this year because of COVID-19.

The three hour special, which is set to broadcast on Bloomberg Television and Radio, as well as simulcast on WHDH-TV from 8-11pm on July 4, is called "A Boston Pops Salute to Our Heroes" and will honor those who have fought on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic and those who have lost their lives. Boston Pops conductor Keith Lockhart has expressed his sadness that the Pops won't be able to perform live, but they are looking forward to presenting this special to viewers near and far.

"All of us at the Boston Pops are pleased to have this opportunity to present A Boston Pops Salute to Our Heroes, a special broadcast that will pay tribute to the many frontline workers who continue to do so much to keep our communities safe and running during the COVID-19 pandemic," Boston Pops conductor Keith Lockhart said in a statement.

"One of the positive things we have learned during the last few months is that even in the middle of a health crisis so many Americans are strong, resilient, helpful, and hopeful. It has been

absolutely inspiring to see our frontline workers show such extraordinary dedication to the well-being of others, with their amazing acts of sacrifice, generosity, support, and kindness, as well as the incredible skill and know-how they bring to every situation. We also think it is essential to address one of the most crucial/fundamental themes of our times—the truth that we must do better as a people to confront racism and achieve a just and equal society for everyone throughout our country. These messages of honor, unity, diversity, equality, and fellowship will resound throughout the 2020 Boston Pops Fireworks Spectacular broadcast by way of inspiring retrospective performances by our most popular artists of the last few years, side by side with brand new content developed over the last two months." As previously reported by the Boston Sun, the special will highlight memorable moments from previous Boston Pops Fireworks Spectaculars, such as performances by Melissa Etheridge, Andy Grammer, Queen Latifah, and others, along with an appearance by the first youth poet laureate of the United States, Amanda Gorman, according to a release from the Boston Symphony Orchestra (BSO).

The program will also feature new content, including a performance by singer Renese King and Keith Lockhart on the piano, as well as a video performance by the Boston Pops of



The Boston Pops, led by Keith Lockhart, at a previous July 4th Fireworks Spectacular on the Charles River Esplanade. Due to COVID-19, this year's celebration will be purely broadcast on TV and radio.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL BLANCHARD

their recent "viral hit" Summon the Heroes, which will feature an introduction by the song's composer, John Williams. Other new content includes a virtual performance by the Boston Pops Viola Section of "Over the Rainbow," a performance of Leroy Anderson's Bugler's Holiday by the BSO Trumpet Section, and a video message from General James C. McConville, Chief of

Staff of the U.S. Army. "Look for surprises throughout the evening; special messages from musical and community figures, and a tribute to our nation's first responders that we're going to put together," Lockhart said in a recent announcement.

Also included in the special are Boston Pops traditions such as the patriotic sing-along, a performance of John Philip Sousa's

The Stars and Stripes Forever, a performance of Tchaikovsky's "1812" Overture, the US Army Field Band and Soldiers Chorus, and a fireworks display from past years to round out the program. Brian Stokes Mitchell will open the program with "America the Beautiful." The show will be hosted by Keith Lockhart and Kim Carrigan, Joe Shortsleeve, and Janet Wu of Bloomberg



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 STATE REPRESENTATIVE
 10TH ESSEX DISTRICT - LYNN

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