

THE LYNN JOURNAL

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Lynn English High School MC-ROTC Honor Guard at Navigators Home Opener.

North Shore Navigators' hold home opener

Special to the Journal

Players were excited during pre-game warmups as they prepared to play the Worcester Bravehearts. Home opener pitcher Todd Tringale of Saugus took the mound; earlier in his career Todd transitioned into a pitcher from being a catcher. He said, "Being a catcher gave me the insight of becoming a pitcher".

Director of Media Relations Joshua Kummins said, "This is

the only league in New England playing baseball. This is great. The Navigators organization is elated to have some local players on the roster playing for the team".

Although fans were not allowed to attend the game because of governmental restrictions in Massachusetts, players and coaches were eager to get the season underway. If fans could attend, the place would be hopping with excitement.

Singer Todd Angilly was very thrilled to be at Fraser Field to sing the National Anthem for the Navigators on opening day. As he said, "Fraser Field is a special place; it is a magnificent facility with a lot of history behind it. I am proud to be here. I am taking it all in."

A moment of silence was announced to remember Bill Terlecky former Navigator Execu-

Please see NAVS Page 6

Lynn Democratic City Committee to host virtual gathering in place of annual cookout

The continued response to COVID-19 has compelled the Lynn Democratic City Committee to cancel its annual, in-person cookout held at the Lynn Museum. Instead, the LDCC will host a virtual gathering via the Zoom platform.

"United We Win: The LDCC Cook-IN", a virtual event where attendees will hear from Dem-

ocratic candidates running in September's primary, our local Democratic officials, and entertainment from Democratic friends in our community will be held on Monday, July 20th from 7-9PM.

"Though current circumstances prevent us from being together in person this year, we hope that this virtual event will be the

kickoff to a strong, coordinated effort that will lead to the election of Vice President Joe Biden as the 46th President of the United States this November, as well as victories in the US Senate, US House, and our state legislature." said Lynn Democratic City Committee chair Agnes Ricko.

Please see GATHERING Page 4

We're No 1 - Again!

Lynn English boys basketball team earns state championship trophy for second year in a row

By Cary Shuman

It's official.

The Lynn English High boys basketball

team is the 2020 state champion, bringing the trophy home to Goodridge Street for the second year in a row.

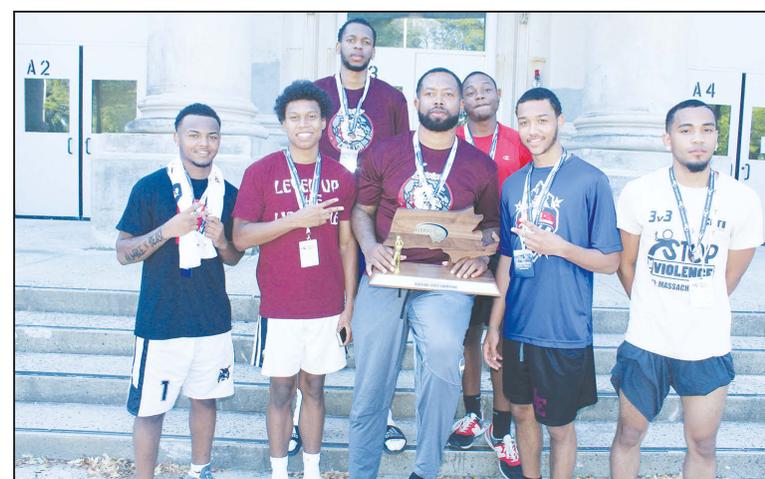
Head Coach Antonio Anderson and his team accepted the trophy from MIAA Associate Executive Director Richard Pearson in an outdoor ceremony at the school, a short walk from the Paul Cavanagh Memorial Fieldhouse where another banner will be raised this winter.

Antonio Anderson had made it clear in March – when the MIAA canceled the state championship game at the DCU Center due to the COVID-19 pandemic - that

he didn't particularly like "co" state championship-status. But the MIAA addressed that issue, engraving "State Champions" on the trophy. When the Lynn English Hall of Fame Committee inducts this contingent in a decade from now, they will be known for being a part of an unprecedented accomplishment: back-to-back state championships and back-to-back No. 1 rankings in Massachusetts.

"This is the hardware that you won," Pearson, a former high school principal, told the players and coaches. "I work with 380 schools in Massachusetts and about 230,000 athletes. Every time we get to state finals and

Please see BASKETBALL Page 3



Lynn English head basketball coach Antonio Anderson and the seniors, front row, Janel Guzman, Jack Rodrigiguez, Coach Antonio Anderson, Mason Jean-Baptiste, and Gabe Paulino. Back row are JB Mukeba and Jefferson Obarisagbon.

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EDITORIAL

THE STOCK MARKET DOES NOT REPRESENT THE U.S. ECONOMY

We don't pretend to be experts either in the stock market or the economy in general.

However, as Bob Dylan put it, "You don't need a weatherman to know which way the wind blows," and similarly, the average American doesn't need a Ph.D. in economics to understand that the recent record height of the stock market indices -- the S&P 500, the Dow Jones 30 Industrials, and the Nasdaq -- does not reflect the health of the U.S. economy.

Increasing economic inequality -- what has become known as the disconnect between Wall St. and Main St. -- has been the broad trend of American life for the past 40 years.

Ever since Ronald Reagan (aided and abetted by the Democrats, by the way) deregulated the banking and other industries, gutted the labor unions, reduced tax rates for the rich, and abrogated the anti-trust laws, America's immense wealth has become concentrated in the hands of the very few to an extent never before seen in the modern world.

Consider that the top 1% of American households now control more than half of the equity in U.S. public and private companies, according to data from the Federal Reserve. In relative terms, the top 1% now has more wealth than the entire middle class and as much wealth as 90% of all Americans.

The ratio of the salary of a CEO vs. the salary of the typical worker of a publicly-traded company in 1965 was about 20-1. That ratio today is about 350-1.

This is only part of the story, however. The real reason for the increase in the disparity between the top 1% and everyone else is that middle-class jobs in America have disappeared at an alarming rate to the benefit of the top 1%.

According to a Brookings Institution report, the two most highly-valued companies in the country in 1962 -- AT&T and General Motors -- employed nearly 1.2 million people combined.

Last year, the two largest companies in the S&P 500 -- Microsoft and Apple -- employed just 280,000 persons. Apple puts together almost all of its products in China, using third-party manufacturing companies that operate the modern-day equivalent of sweatshops.

Further, consider that the wealthiest top 10 percent of Americans own about 84 percent of U.S. stocks, with the top 1 percent owning 40 percent.

So put those two trends together -- fewer middle class jobs and stock ownership of American companies concentrated in the hands of a few -- and the result simply is this: Income that formerly went to the American middle-class has shifted to countries with low-wage workers, with the wealthy netting the difference.

There also is another factor at play. The health of the U.S. stock market not only does not represent the U.S. economy, it also does not even represent the stock market itself.

The five largest listed companies -- Microsoft, Apple, Amazon, Alphabet (Google), and Facebook -- have continued to climb this year. Through the end of April, these companies were up roughly 10 percent, while the 495 other companies in the S&P were down 13 percent. These highly valued firms -- Microsoft, Amazon and Apple are each worth more than \$1 trillion -- now account for about one-fifth of the market value of the entire index, the highest level in 30 years.

The coronavirus pandemic is exacerbating the trend of the past 40 years: The rich are getting richer, while everybody else is getting poorer and deeper into debt.

Without government policies -- higher tax rates on the wealthy, vigorous antitrust enforcement, and support of labor unions -- that will bring back into alignment the economic forces that created the great American middle-class of the 1950s and 60s, America is destined to become an oligarchy, otherwise known as a banana republic, with grave consequences for our democracy.

A phrase attributed to Louis Brandeis succinctly put it this way, "We must make our choice. We may have democracy, or we may have wealth concentrated in the hands of a few, but we can't have both."



THE BEST THING NEXT TO A YOUNG READER IS A GOOD LISTENER

GUEST OP-ED

Life is a puzzle

By Dr. Glenn Mollette

Don't give in that you cannot do any better. You can do better if you put your mind to doing better. If you give up then you don't have a chance. The only people who do better and go forward are those who try. Everyone has the freedom to try.

Think about what you would like for your life to look like. Get a clear picture in your mind. What would it take to achieve that life? Somethings are difficult to achieve but most situations can be made better.

What will it take to make your life a little better? Could changing your daily eating just a little make a significant difference in how you feel? Could it make a difference in how your clothes fit? Are you willing to try?

Most people need a little more money. How will you obtain it? Chances are it won't just appear. Utilize what you know and your skills to work for you. Everyone has gifts and abilities that can be useful if channeled properly. Of-

ten it may be what you know or what you can do that will work for you to develop more income. Keep in mind that this may take some time. What you are thinking about today could take weeks or months to see results. Therefore, start now.

We often give up. We try and work hard and seldom see much results and then stop. Often, we get close to being where we want to be and then quit. We lose 20 pounds but put it right back on. We give up a habit but go back to it. We start a project and then quit. So often, a great idea is like a puzzle with so many pieces that have to fall into place. Once you find all the pieces the puzzle is a beautiful picture that you put together with patience and trying and trying again to fit the right pieces where they belong.

Our lives are like puzzles. We must have a picture in our minds of what we would like to look like if we are going to put that kind of life together. We try different pieces and often they don't fit. Too often we try to make the pieces fit where they don't be-

long and that never works for a picture. So, you have to keep trying. I've seen people with puzzles out on a table for weeks trying to figure out which piece goes where. This is where most of our lives are much of the time. Trying to find the right piece of the puzzle.

Making the picture of our lives the way we want it to be is often changing. What we may want today has probably changed from what we wanted even ten years ago. The dynamics are still the same though. Whatever you are working on still requires patience, effort, faith and most importantly a clear picture in your mind of what you are trying to put together.

Glenn Mollette is the publisher of Newburgh Press, Liberty Torch and various other publishing imprints; a national columnist -- American Issues and Common Sense opinions, analysis, stories and features appear each week in over 500 newspapers, websites and blogs across the United States.

Basketball / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

I'm able to give a trophy to the students, I can honestly tell you what it represents to me and what I do every day: It's that moment in time when you're on the court and you're representing all the high school athletes in Massachusetts.

"You are showing your passion, your love for what you do, and when you are on that basketball court and playing your game, you are really representing every high school kid in Massachusetts, and that's the greatest thing I think we can do," said Pearson. "Congratulations on a job well, well done."

Lynn English High School Vice Principal Gary Molea and Director of Athletics Dick Newton attended the ceremony and proudly stood with the team in the official trophy presentation photo.

"I think this is unbelievable," said Molea. "I've been around a long time and I saw the Classical teams and they were great players and take nothing away from our guys. To win back-to-back state titles at the Division 1 level is a big accomplishment. But more than that, as being a vice principal in this school, these kids are great kids, character kids, leaders in the school, a terrific group of kids. My eyes watered every time I see these seniors leaving. The last two years have been unbelievable and now we're going for the three-peat."

Newton, a superb high school

pitcher who went on to play college baseball at St. Leo University, set the foundation for the LEHS basketball program's resurgence by recommending Antonio Anderson for the position and then providing all the resources and support he needed to be successful. Building the No. 1 program in Massachusetts takes a collaborative effort among the student-athletes, coaches, faculty, and school administrators.

"They're a great group of kids and we're going to miss the seniors," said Newton. "When you win it all two years in a row, that's something that probably doesn't happen again in decades. We're proud of them. They're great students. They're great kids. Antonio has developed a fantastic program and he's done a great job and we're hoping that Antonio stays as long as he wants to. He has a great [assistant coaching] staff."

Anderson, a former University of Memphis star who went on to play for the Oklahoma City Thunder, said, "It's great for the MIAA to come down and give us the trophy. The kids are happy. Ultimately we didn't get to play the state title game and we would have earned that trophy anyways - I'm just saying that because of my belief in my team. It's very rewarding to receive that trophy and to see our kids get this opportunity. It's definitely a special moment."

Anderson thanked former



The Division 1 state championship Lynn English boys basketball team.

Lynn English Principal Thomas Strangie, who with Mr. Newton supported his program and was at all the playoff games and at courtside in the Garden for the state semifinal victory over Man-

sfield. "I wish Mr. Strangie nothing but the best," said Anderson. "Since I came here three years ago, he's been nothing but supportive. He came to our games. And every time I saw him at the

school, he was always supportive of my players. It's tough seeing him go, but I wish him nothing but the best."

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PRESIDENT: Stephen Quigley

EDITOR IN CHIEF: Cary Shuman cary@lynnjournal.

PHONE 781-485-0588 // FAX 781-485-1403

EMAIL: EDITOR@LYNNJOURNAL.COM

WEB SITE: WWW.LYNNJOURNAL.COM

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DOR reminds taxpayers of income tax filing deadline on Wednesday, July 15, 2020

The Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR) this week reminded Massachusetts taxpayers that the deadline to file both federal and state income tax returns is Wednesday, July 15, 2020. Due to the impact of COVID-19, the tax filing deadlines were extended 90 days from the original April 15, 2020 deadline.

Taxpayers should keep in mind that a range of free electronic options are available for eligible taxpayers, including free fillable forms.

“The Department encourages all Massachusetts taxpayers to utilize the DOR website and review options for filing their state income taxes,” said DOR Commissioner Geoffrey E. Snyder. “To date, more than 90 percent of Massachusetts taxpayers who have filed their 2019 income taxes have done so electronically.

Given social distancing requirements and remote working conditions, electronic filing remains a safe and secure option for refund processing.”

•Assistance for Massachusetts Taxpayers

Volunteers certified by the Internal Revenue Service will provide free tax help for lower-income taxpayers, as well as senior citizens, with both federal and state tax returns. The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program is for taxpayers with an annual income of \$56,000 or less, those with disabilities, as well as taxpayers with limited or no English language proficiency. The Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) program provides free tax help to taxpayers who are 60 and older. TCE sites are often operated in partnership with AARP Tax-Aide. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic,

only some in-person services are available. Taxpayers who qualify for tax-free preparation program should check directly with local-VITA and TCE sites.

•Earned Income Tax Credit Increased this Year

The Massachusetts Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) has increased from 23% to 30% of the federal credit. The credit is available to certain taxpayers who meet the requirements of the federal EITC. In order to claim the Massachusetts EITC, you must be a resident of the Commonwealth for at least part of the taxable year and file a tax return.

Massachusetts taxpayers can find more information, including forms, instructions, and helpful tips on DOR’s website. To avoid penalties, returns for Massachusetts taxpayers must be filed electronically or postmarked by midnight July 15.

State doubles rent relief and foreclosure prevention resources in Partnership with Metro Housing and Regional Network

Staff Report

Metro Housing|Boston and other regional housing organizations have partnered with the Department of Housing and Community Development to almost double the assistance available to families impacted by the COVID-19 health crisis by providing assistance that will help households who fall behind in their rent or mortgage payments that may lead to eviction or foreclosure.

The need for rental assistance for residents in Greater Boston is illustrated by the fact that Metro Housing distributed more than \$1 million dollars in RAFT assistance during the month of June alone, more than any other month in the history of the program.

The Emergency Rental and Mortgage Assistance (ERMA) program builds upon the popular and effective Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT) program that Metro Housing administers in 29 greater Boston communities. Funded by the Department of

Housing and Community Development, ERMA is a homelessness prevention program for families experiencing housing crises and expands eligibility to households with income of 80 percent of the area median, which for a family of three is \$86,650.

ERMA allows eligible households to apply for up to \$4,000 in assistance that can be used flexibly to meet the expenses often associated with housing instability, eviction, foreclosure, and homelessness. The program has allocated \$20 million statewide for rental relief through June 2021, which when added to the funding available for RAFT in the last fiscal year doubles available resources.

“The impact of this relief for property owners cannot be understated,” said Chris Norris, Executive Director of Metro Housing. “Not only do these property owners provide housing for thousands of renters in our region, but their own housing stability is at risk. It is in everyone’s interest that renters and owners alike get this help.”

A recent survey of 1,500 peo-

ple by MassINC Polling Group, found that 29 percent of renters missed all or part of a housing payment in April, May, or June. The report says that if the current health and economic crisis continues for another six months, that only 40 percent of people expect to be able to keep up with their housing payments. While 12 percent of property owners reported that they had missed all or part of a mortgage payment through June, 61 percent of home-owning poll respondents stated that they were likely to keep up with payments through six months.

“There have been so many families faced with a loss of income during this health crisis,” said Felisha Marshall, Director of Housing Supports at Metro Housing. “The demand for rental and mortgage assistance has surged over the past three months. This increase in funding and expansion of eligibility will help meet a great community need in metropolitan Boston and across the state.”

For information on ERMA, visit <https://bit.ly/Rentrelief>.

Gathering/ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Senator Ed Markey and Congressman Joe Kennedy, both running for the US Senate, have confirmed that they’ll be participating, as will Congressman Seth Moulton, Jamie Zahlaway Belsito, and Angus McQuilken running in the Sixth Congressional District, and Governor’s Councilor Terry Kennedy and Helina Fontes running in the Sixth Governor’s Council District.

Senator Brendan Crighton, Representatives Lori Ehrlich, Dan Cahill, and Peter Capano, Register of Deeds John O’Brien, Essex County Sheriff Kevin Coppinger, and Register of Probate Pamela Casey O’Brien have also confirmed that they will be joining the July 20th event.

The program will also include a keynote address from Boston City Councilor Lydia Edwards focused on how Democrats respond to and combat racial and social injustice. Councilor Edwards is a member of the Democratic State Committee from the First Suffolk and Middlesex Dis-

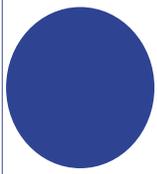
trict and was first elected to the Boston City Council representing East Boston and Charlestown in 2017.

The committee is very pleased that LDCC Outreach Co-Chair Julio Bare, Carolyn Cole, Sunil Gulab, Ana Masacote, and Ebony White will be sharing music, dance, and poetry promoting justice throughout the event.

All interested Democrats and friends are invited to join, and if so inclined, are asked to consider a donation to My Brother’s Table as we have done in past years. Contributions can be made online or via US Mail. If mailed, please make the check payable to “My Brother’s Table” and send to Gerry McCaul, LDCC Treasurer, 723 Boston St, Lynn, MA 01905. If online, please note “LDCC” in the additional comments box.

You can RSVP to Agnes Ricko by calling 781- 599-9347 or by visiting the “United We Win: Lynn Democratic City Committee Cook-IN” Facebook page.

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State announces group insurance commission deferring \$190 Million in FY21

Staff Report

Governor Charles Baker announced that the Group Insurance Commission (GIC) would defer \$190 million in premium payments during the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) from local cities and towns, regional school districts, and other entities that became members of the GIC through the Municipal Partnership Act.

This measure will provide important cash-flow relief to GIC municipal members across Massachusetts without compromising the GIC's ability to pay all member claims without any impact on total FY21 revenue.

"By deferring these monthly GIC premium payments, we are

providing relief to local municipalities that are facing budget challenges and cash-flow constraints due to COVID-19," said Baker. "We are pleased to implement this payment deferral and will continue working to support municipal budgets and government services that are important to the people of Massachusetts."

All FY21 revenues will be billed and collected later during the fiscal year. The total cash-flow relief anticipated as a result of the FY21 first quarter deferral is approximately \$63 million per month or approximately \$190 million total.

This announcement builds upon additional measures put in place by the Administration to provide cash flow relief and

budgetary support to municipalities. This includes making up to \$502 million from the Coronavirus Relief Fund available to cities and towns for COVID-19 response efforts, as well as making up to \$200 million from the Coronavirus Relief Fund available for costs related to reopening public schools, \$194 million

in federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund grants, and \$25 million in matching funds for remote learning technology grants.

The Group Insurance Commission is a quasi-independent state agency governed by a 17-member Commission. It provides and administers health

insurance and other benefits to 460,000 members including the Commonwealth's employees and retirees, and their dependents and survivors, as well as participating municipalities, Housing and Redevelopment Authorities' personnel, retired municipal employees, and teachers in certain governmental units.

Kennedy raises over \$1.9 million in two months for election

STAFF REPORT

During the second fundraising quarter of 2020, Kennedy for Massachusetts announced more than \$1.9 million raised - over \$1 million of that in June alone - despite temporarily suspending campaign fundraising operations due to COVID-19. Joe Kennedy heads into the final quarter before the U.S. Senate primary race with \$4.7 million cash on hand.

Due to COVID-19, Kennedy temporarily suspended all political operations, including fundraising, in mid-March. He did not resume digital fundraising or virtual fundraising events until the last days of April. During the campaign suspension, Kennedy used his email list to raise over \$100,000 for organizations and workers on the frontlines of COVID response. Additionally, Kennedy raised over \$15,000 in grassroots donations for Black-led racial justice organizations in the wake of George Floyd's murder.

"These strong fundraising

numbers reflect the energy for Joe and the momentum behind our efforts to bring Massachusetts stronger leadership to the United States Senate," said Campaign Manager Nick Clemons. "When Joe decided to pause all fundraising in the wake of COVID-19 and to help raise money for the hardest hit families, communities, and frontline workers, we fully expected to take a financial hit this quarter. The extraordinary outpouring of support since we resumed fundraising in May indicates the growing excitement around Joe and this campaign. We are proud of the effort this quarter, humbled by the support, and ready for the next two months."

Kennedy was grateful for the support of many high-profile colleagues and supporters who helped raise money on his behalf, including: Rep. John Lewis, Rep. Katie Porter, Rep. Adam Schiff, Rep. David Cicilline, Rep. Annie Kuster, Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, Senator Kyrsten Sinema, Beto O'Rourke, Jim Obergefell, and Jason Collins.

General Electric workers diagnosed with cancer secure cash benefits from multiple private trusts

Plant workers employed before 1981 diagnosed with various cancers are entitled to special benefits. Lung cancer, esophageal cancer, laryngeal cancer, pharyngeal cancer, stomach cancer, colon cancer, rectal cancer, and mesothelioma are frequently caused by asbestos exposure. Asbestos-laced products were used for decades at General Electric. Neither employees nor management were aware of the asbestos risk.

Asbestos is a mineral that in its natural state is harmless. It becomes harmful when it is pulled apart or ground up into

flexible fibers. Then, when inhaled or swallowed, microscopic asbestos fibers may be permanently affixed to body tissue. Over many years, these fibers may cause genetic changes that can lead to cancer. According to the National Cancer Institute, "It can take from 10 to 40 years or more for asbestos-related cancers to appear."

To compensate cancer victims and the families of deceased cancer victims, Federal Bankruptcy Courts have required asbestos manufacturers to set aside hundreds of millions of dollars in private trusts. Through these

trusts, cancer victims can receive money damages by the filing of timely, detailed, and accurate claims.

Norris Injury Lawyers has announced a specific initiative to assist General Electric employees in recovering money set aside for them in these asbestos trusts. Cancer victims or the families of deceased victims who worked at the plant before 1981 may call 800-478-9578 for a free evaluation of their claim. Additional information is available at getnorris.com/asb.

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Unemployment claims rise for public administration, education

Staff Report

From June 21 to June 27, Massachusetts had 29,072 individuals file an initial claim for regular Unemployment Insurance (UI), a small decrease of 469 over the previous week, the third consecutive week of decline, but there were big movements for municipal workers and those in education as budget cuts played out statewide.

However, as the school systems closed for the summer, over-the-week increases in filings were seen in public administration and education. With layoffs and budget cuts in most school districts and in most municipal governments, claims

increased tremendously in both sectors.

Public Administration claims were up 47 percent statewide, while Education was up almost seven percent statewide.

Increases in initial claims filed were, also, posted in other sectors with the highest in manufacturing, at 22 percent.

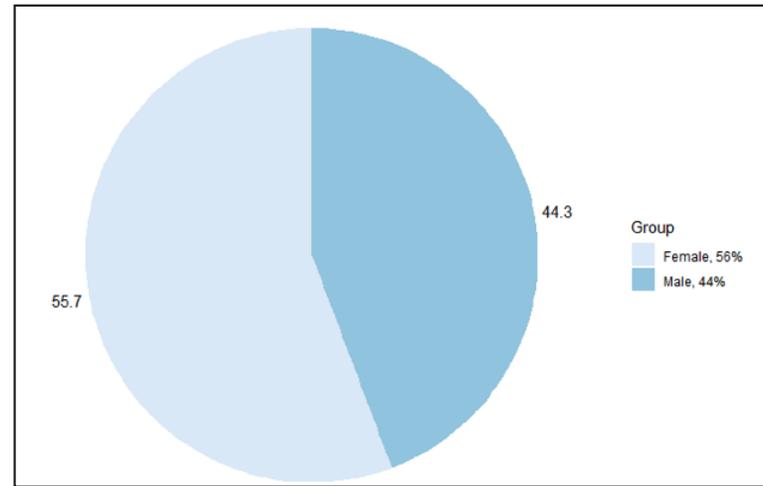
From March 15 to June 27, a total of 1,057,496 have filed for regular UI. For the second week in a row, continued UI claims at 548,441 were down 9,828 or 1.8 percent over the previous week.

The Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) initial claims filed for the week ending June 27, at 14,154, were just slightly more than the previous

week. Since April 20, some 638,245 claimants have filed an initial claim for the PUA.

The Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC), which provided up to 13 weeks of extended benefits was implemented on May 21. For the week ending June 20, some 4,503 PEUC initial claims were filed bringing the total of PEUC filings to 59,144 since implementation.

Since March, the customer service staff at the Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA) has grown from around 50 employees to nearly 2,000. The remote customer service operation is now making over 35,000 individual contacts per



The chart is relative to standard UI only.

day and DUA continues to host Spanish, and Portuguese - and unemployment town halls - which have been held in English, have been attended by more than 350,000 constituents.

NAVS/ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

What is so important about this league is that it has many young players on team rosters. These players are the future of the sport and many could possibly be heading toward a profes-

sional career. They are putting in the time to refine their craft. The Navigators now have a solid product on the field for fans to enjoy and to watch some terrific baseball.



Five players who played Little League Baseball together - Jake McElroy (Holy Cross), Cedric Gillette (Merrimack College), Andy Selima of the Worcester Bravehearts, Logan Bravo (Harvard University), & Evan Christophulos



Greater Lynn and several former Northeastern Conference players and a St. Mary's Spartan player - (Front): Jack Wallace (Winthrop), Nick Reiser (Nahant), & Todd Tringale (Saugus); (Back): Luke Marshall (Swampscott), Gavin Sullivan (Swampscott), Beau Dana (Marblehead), Ryan Turenne (Lynn/St. Mary's), & Dylan January (Swampscott)

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City of Lynn announced as Healthy Babies Grant Initiative winner

Healthy Babies Bright Futures (HBBF) and the Mayors Innovation Project announced the winners of their joint grant program and have named Lynn as a \$10,000 winner. The program aims to empower city leaders to improve children's health and reduce health disparities in communities, in particular by supporting efforts that decrease neurotoxic exposures.

Cities submitted proposals to leverage this grant with local funding to support systematic change, responding specifically to needs heightened by the COVID-19 pandemic. From a strong pool of cities ranging from 7,000 to 1.7 million in population, 10 winners were selected to receive not only grants, but also technical assistance and an opportunity to present at a future Mayors Innovation Project meeting.

"Our city is committed to addressing health and food insecurities among our most vulnerable residents," said Mayor Thomas M. McGee "This program focuses on the well-being of our children as we work to provide more equitable access to healthy food choic-



Lynn Mayor Thomas McGee is joined by Lynn Food and Fitness Alliance Director Norris Guscott and Lynn Director of Health Michelle Desmarais at the ceremony announcing that Lynn was the winner of a \$10,000 Healthy Babies Initiative Grant.

es for children and families in the City of Lynn."

"Response to COVID-19 required significant behavioral changes and adaptations and many will continue to have an influence in the future," said Kyra Naumoff Shields, HBBF's Bright Cities Program Director.

"It helps us see that — particularly in a time of crisis — people can change their behavior for a positive community impact. Lynn's planned work will dramat-

ically improve the health of the babies in their city."

The City of Lynn in partnership with The Food Project and Lynn Community Health Center is aiming to bolster its Central Square Farmers' Market operations to include subsidizations of produce available to families with women who are parenting children under 10 years old and/or currently pregnant, an extension of operating hours by 25% so more families are able to attend, Implementation of a 'Farm Stand to

Doorstep' Delivery system and trial implementation of 'Food Information Hubs' (aka Food Hubs) at Farmers' Markets and selected Lynn Public Schools food distribution locations that provides information regarding: Children's nutrition, SNAP/HIP/WIC enrollment, referrals to Lynn Community Health Center, along with advice and resources for gardening in lead-contaminated soil.

"I am beyond excited about this opportunity," said Director of Public Health Michele Desmarais. "It is important for the Public Health Division to address the food insecurities faced by Lynn

residents, especially the children of Lynn."

As someone who grew up community organizing in Lynn, it is an honor to have brought this funding home- especially knowing it will have the biggest impact in Lynn's most vulnerable communities. I expect us to subsidize over 1,900 pounds of food, engage a minimum of 50 families in lead contaminated areas of Lynn with available resources/ education, and finally look at Food Information Hubs as a resident engagement tool and resource. This is a win for Lynn," said Norris Guscott, Director of The Lynn Food and Fitness Alliance One in six children in America has a developmental disability, and one in 45 have been diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Research indicates that early life exposures to neurotoxic chemicals from drinking water, food, air, soil and consumer products — can contribute to autism, IQ loss, learning or behavioral problems, attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and speech or cognitive delays.

"City leaders can dramatically

impact children's health, in particular children of color, who are most adversely impacted by these environmental harms. By addressing the social and physical determinants of health through access to healthy foods, lead abatement, and more, city leaders can play a major role in addressing children's health disparities," said Katya Spear, Co-Managing Director of the Mayors Innovation Project. "We are excited to support these projects and the opportunity to promote them as best practices for cities across the country."

The Mayors Innovation Project (mayorsinnovation.org) is a national learning network for mayors committed to shared prosperity, environmental sustainability, and efficient democratic government. Around the country, mayors are taking the lead on pressing issues. The Mayors Innovation Project supports mayors by providing cutting-edge thinking and concrete examples that mayors can implement. We provide clear, useful information on policies and programs for mayors and create high-quality peer learning experiences for local leaders.

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NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

COUNCIL APPROVES BUDGET

CHELSEA - The Chelsea City Council approved an overall City Budget of \$181.086 million, but not without a great deal of discussion and low marks for the effort and presentation by City Manager Tom Ambrosino.

The Budget was not a unanimous vote, passing 8-3. Those voting against were Councillors Damali Vidot, Enio Lopez and Yamir Rodriguez.

Those voting for the budget were Councillors Roy Avellana, Calvin Brown, Leo Robinson, Todd Taylor, Judith Garcia, Naomi Zobot, Giovanni Recupero, and Melinda Vega Maldonado.

The City Budget, by his own admission, wasn't going to win any awards – Ambrosino said earlier this month – but it was one that avoided layoffs and major cuts to critical programs by using money from the Rainy Day Fund.

By renegotiating with City unions about deferring pay raises, most union workers in City Hall and beyond were spared layoffs – something that is happening in large numbers at other municipalities.

The three parts of the budget approved included:

- Salaries: \$49,580,934
- Operations: \$131,210,157
- Capital Improvements: \$295,000

To balance the budget that was approved, the Council had to give the okay to using \$4.9 million from the Stabilization Fund – which has grown over the years as Chelsea socked away money in good times.

Now, everyone agreed, was a Rainy Day.

However, there was no love of the effort given to the City Budget this year by most every councillor, even those that voted for it.

Councillor Vidot led off the discussion by saying she would not vote for the budget, and followed through with that.

“We’re in the middle of a pandemic and yet we’re seeing proposed budget cuts to some of the most important departments, such as Health and Human Services” said Vidot. “We needed more creativity in this budget. Cutting the funding for this department in a city that has lost 152 lives is unacceptable... We had a chance here to lead and create a real need that addresses the needs of the community. I think it misses the mark sorely and I will not support it.”

Said Calvin Brown, “A lot more could have been done. I really think we had an opportunity to make some change on several issues. There were none of those things mentioned.”

Council President Avellana said he expected a more professional presentation, roles of employees defined and mission statements for every department. He said there were parts he couldn't even follow, and if he cannot follow it with decades in government service, then certainly the public couldn't either.

“Some of this didn't even have page numbers,” he said. “It was a disaster. If I were a professor, I'd give you an 'F' absolutely. That's not even something you could present online for the public to look at and digest. I don't want to hear COVID-19 – I don't. I'm not buying it. I hope next year this looks a lot better... This was unacceptable.”

He also said on the substance of the budget, he disagreed with a lot of the revenue projections, and predicted that the City Manager would be back in the fall for cuts or to try to raise taxes.

“Come October and November, we're going to look at ourselves and say, 'It's time to pay for this budget.'”

Councillor Garcia said she understood the issues, and she too was disappointed with the budget, but felt voting against it wasn't necessary.

“As much as I wish I could join in collectively to make a statement on the budget that we're not proud of and could have been better, I have a civic duty to vote on a budget,” she said.

Councillor Taylor said he wasn't impressed with the format or presentation, but he said it was quite an accomplishment to avoid layoffs in these dark times.

“Speaking as someone who has 700 employees and I had to lay all of them off and my industry has been destroyed, I'm pretty proud of this budget that we don't have to lay anyone off. That's a big deal,” he said. “To save people's jobs and keep everyone employed is important and needs to be recognized.”

Councilor Robinson said the Council needs to shoulder some of the burden for the bad budget as well.

“We have just as much responsibility to develop programs and help our community,” he said. “We as a City Council need to step up to the plate and share in these responsibilities.”

There were no cuts to the City

Budget in the form of amendments by the Council, though one was defeated.

OUTDOOR DINING HAS MIXED REVIEWS

CHELSEA - The excitement of outdoor dining in Chelsea Square's wonderful ambiance flittered out for a lot of restaurant owners at about the third table they had to drag out to the sidewalk and street – knowing they had to also drag them back in every night.

Friday night, June 26, marked an exciting night in Chelsea Square and beyond as many restaurants opened for the first time in months – allowing some indoor dining and special outdoor sidewalk/street considerations for restaurants willing to participate.

At Mi Salvador, they had six colorful tables on the brick sidewalk, as the sun shone on Chelsea Square and they opened to diners for the first in weeks June 22. Last Friday, they decided to try the City's outdoor program as well.

“It's better than nothing,” said Vladimir Chino, owner.

However, that was about the best review from owners that the program got, despite loads of hard work and effort put into the program by the City, the License Commission and Chelsea Prosper.

One of the key problems was that the dining areas had to be broken down every night at closing, around 10 p.m. They were only able to go out at 5 p.m., so a gargantuan effort had to be made for about five or six tables.

“I think it's good for what it is now,” said Whitney Huynh, general manager of Tijuana's. “It is a lot of work bringing the tables in and out every day. I appreciate the City's effort. For people who are younger, they are going to like this... People really love outdoor dining, and this is the first time we've done this. We do need more space and this does give us more space outdoors.”

Danny from Catracho's on Broadway said he was extremely disappointed, and he said others near him were as well.

They didn't like the wooden pallet barriers that were assigned and used – which were built on the fly by volunteers. He said they were dangerous and weren't very aesthetic. He also said they were told they couldn't put creative lighting – nothing with electricity – or heating lamps outside. And, he said he and an-

other establishment had a plan to really decorate their spaces with plants and flowers. However, it wasn't going to work if they had to take them inside every day.

“I don't want to throw dirt on the City, but they could have done this a lot better,” he said. “I'm going to give this a try, but it's not the lifeline I was hoping for. My customers are going to look at this, and then go and look what they're doing in other cities – like East Boston – and they're going to go to East Boston. I love the idea and I love their effort. I just don't like how they did it. There are too many rules, too many things we can't do, and other places have been doing this for weeks now. We're actually behind.”

Both Danny and Huynh said if the City is going to do outdoor dining, it has to be permanent.

Downtown Coordinator Mimi Graney said the trouble was there was some hesitation from the City Council and the Traffic Commission to commit to permanent assemblies until restaurants committed to the program. Meanwhile, restaurants didn't want to commit until the City committed to something more.

She said the program is in its infancy, and she hopes early issues can spur City boards to make more changes – leading to greater closures and more permanency such as has been done on Moody Street in Waltham, which is closed to all traffic except morning deliveries.

The Traffic and Parking Commission and City Council approved only just the evenings for the parklets,” she said. “When we were going before them the businesses were not sure they were interested and we were hearing only concerns about ‘losing’ parking spaces. The city had only ever allowed parklets for just a few hours on one day so this was going to be a big ask for them to approve reserving so many spaces all at once. I've fielded those complaints. My hope was by showing there was interest by both businesses and customers we could go back to the Commission to expand the program. The barriers from the roadway are significant but on the other side there are complaints that anything less would be less safe.”

She did clarify that lights and heaters are allowed under the program, but businesses just need to detail how it would be set up and be safe from fire hazards.

EBNHC FARMERS' MARKET UNDERWAY

EAST BOSTON - As East Boston slowly creeps to the “new normal”, in the neighborhood some restaurants have been able to reopen with limited capacity or outdoor seating, retail stores that have closed are reopening and residents feel a little safer being out in public.

One sign that the worst of the pandemic is over for now and summer has arrived is the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EBNHC) Let's Get Movin Farmers Market in Central Square.

This year's Farmers Market will last through October 1. The market will be open each Wednesday until 6 p.m.

However, EBNHC and the Let's Get Movin' staff are making several changes to this year's market in order to protect the health and safety of the public and farmers that will be on hand to sell their goods.

EBNHC's Program Coordinator for Community Initiatives Nancy Slamet said the Health Center has printed new fliers for the weekly market highlighting changes that put an emphasis on health in safety.

For example the market will host special shopping hours for seniors. The designated shopping hours for those 60 plus or others at high risk for COVID-19 will be each Wednesday from 3 to 3:30 p.m.

“Your health is our top priority. The East Boston Farmers Market will continue to provide access to affordable, local and farm-fresh food during the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Slamet. “The 2020 season will be different in many ways to protect shoppers, farmers, and staff. We thank you in advance for your cooperation and look forward to seeing you there.”

The Farmers Market has launched a new online ordering and delivery service to this year's market.

Shoppers who do not feel comfortable with spending time shopping at the market can simply pay for their produce using the WhatsGood app. Beginning on July 8 online shoppers will pick up orders at the Farmers Market and customers can simply pick up their orders between 3:30 and 6:30 p.m. at the market's pre-order pick-up Tent on Border Street across from Mar-

Region // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

shalls in Liberty Plaza.

In August, home delivery will also be an option for those who do not feel comfortable venturing down to the market.

While COVID-19 infections continue on the downswing in Eastie and Boston Slamet said the organizers are asking residents to please stay home if they are sick and wear a mask and maintain social distance from others when you pick-up.

Slamet said when coming to the Farmers Market do not come if you are sick or have been exposed to COVID-19. Masks or face coverings must be worn at all times. Only bring children if you have no other option but children must stay beside you. No pets are allowed at this year's market.

There will also be designated entrances and exits to the Central Square Farmers Market

The Farmers Market now has two specific entrances. The entrance for the main market will be at the corner of Saratoga Street and Border Street. The entrance for Farmer Dave's stand will be at the intersection of Meridian Street and Central Square. Only a limited number of shoppers will be allowed at any time inside the market and you may have to wait to enter the market.

Before shopping the EBNUC would like customers to sanitize or wash your hands at one of our hand-washing stations when you enter the market. Shoppers must follow the one-way traffic flow of the market with no backtracking. Shoppers can go through the shopper's loop in the main market area again if they want to make another round.

Shoppers must also remain six feet away from other shoppers and vendors are not allowed to touch reusable bags.

There will also be no eating allowed inside the market.

In order to avoid personal contact the Farmers Market staff is urging shoppers to refrain from using cash whenever they can and instead pay with debit, credit cards, and apps if possible. Other acceptable forms of payment include WIC coupons, Senior coupons, SNAP/food stamps/EBT, and P-EBT.

SNAP/EBT customers receive a 100 percent incentive (a dollar-for-dollar match up to \$40-\$80, depending on household size) for each SNAP dollar spent on targeted fruits and vegetables purchased at the Farmers Market.

WIC supports farmers as well as good nutrition through

the Farmers Market Nutrition Program. WIC Farmers Market coupons may be used at the East Boston Farmers Market on fresh, uncut fruits and vegetables.

Also eligible seniors can contact the senior agency that serves their town to find out when and where Senior Farmers Market Coupons will be distributed. Senior Farmers Market coupons may be used on fresh, uncut fruits and vegetables and honey.

The 2020 list of local farmers and vendors for this year's market can be seen on our website by visiting: <http://eastietimes.com/?p=15561>

ZUMIX TO HOLD VIRTUAL WALK

EAST BOSTON - For nearly 20 years, Zumix has participated in Boston's annual Walk for Music fundraiser, which brings music organizations from all over the city together to help raise money for local arts programs.

However, the COVID-19 pandemic has put the breaks on large outdoor events in the city for the remainder of the summer.

As a nonprofit that has continually adapted throughout the pandemic, Zumix has decided to hold the annual Walk for Music virtually.

"For almost 20 years, we have come together to celebrate the Zumix community through the Walk for Music," said Zumix Co-founder and Director Madeleine Steczynski. "Over the years we have faced a number of challenges, but nothing has stopped us from walking together. This year, COVID-19 presents a unique challenge because we cannot walk together in person. However, that will not stop us from holding the Walk for Music as a virtual walk-a-thon."

The virtual Walk for Music will take place on Sunday, July 12, and has already raised \$29,310 towards Zumix's \$50,000 goal.

Donations for the Walk for Music can be made to <https://www.firstgiving.com/event/zumix/Walk-for-Music-2020>. For more information on how to participate contact Zumix's Director of Development Kimberly Dawson at kdawson@zumix.org.

"We can't walk together, but we can still sing, laugh, learn, create and band together," said Steczynski. "Our young people are the hope for a better future and we are bolstering the next generation to thrive."

The Walk for Music is one of

Zumix's largest fundraisers each year. The money raised through this event makes it possible for Zumix to provide high-quality private lessons and group programs to over 1,000 young people each year.

"Since the pandemic hit, we haven't skipped a beat as all of our programs are continuing remotely," said Steczynski.

Zumix was created to empower youth to use music to make strong, positive change in their lives, their communities, and the world. Since its founding in 1991, the program has grown to serve more than 400 young people every year in programs in instrumental instruction, songwriting and performance, community radio, and creative technology. They serve an additional 400 young people per year through in-school partnerships with East Boston High School and the Umana Middle School Academy. The powerful impact of the program is illustrated by the fact that in the past 4 years, percent of its graduates enrolled in college.

CORBELLI FAMILY REUNITED ON FATHER'S DAY

EVERETT - The Corbelli family was prepared for anything, with doctors informing them of virtually every possible outcome as the days went on that their husband – their father – continued to be unconscious in a coma due to infection from COVID-19.

They weren't allowed to see him except on Facetime, and even then, he was unconscious and didn't look like the man they knew.

They hoped for the best possible outcome, but knew that the worst could happen.

Ten days in a coma went on to 15 days, and then 20 days, and finally 30 days.

But after that excruciating time, Joao Corbelli, began to stir, and then he awoke from his coma – weak, but recovering. After two long weeks at a rehabilitation hospital in Braintree, Corbelli was able to return home on the day before Father's Day – making it an utterly emotional and timely return to the family's Everett home.

"My dad did come home the day before Father's Day on June 20 and we were so grateful to have him back," said his daughter, Lorena Corbelli, a senior at Everett High that helped lead the #StayHomeEverett movement in

April. "When we went to pick him up it was so amazing. There were times the doctors had told us – just prepared us for what could happen...It's amazing he was able to come home and celebrate Father's Day."

It has been a situation where the home – which had been full of uncertainty – has now once again been restored, and a hole in the family had been filled.

"He was in a coma 30 days and in the hospital," said Lorena. "He was gone a long time. We didn't know anyone that had COVID-19 and had stayed in the hospital so long. My dad did everything around the house. He would fix things here and help me work on my car. When he was gone our boiler broke and my car had trouble. It's always been my dad, myself, my mom and my sister. When he was gone, the house felt empty. When he walked back in, the house didn't feel empty anymore. It felt full again and our family felt whole."

Earlier this spring, Joao – who works at the Westin in Boston in the Maintenance Department – began not feeling well. He drove himself to the hospital, and that is literally the last time he remembers anything before waking up from the coma.

"He told us the last thing he remembers was going to the hospital," she said. "We showed him pictures of his face and body and he didn't even recognize himself."

Joao started his time in care at Cambridge Hospital and then was transferred to Best Israel where he was on a machine giving him care 24/7 for his kidneys – which were being damaged by COVID. After 30 days there, he did wake up about four weeks ago.

It was a moment that Lorena said would be a changing moment for her life.

"At first he slowly opened his eyes," she said. "We could only see him on Facetime, but I could tell he missed us so much by looking at his eyes. It was life-changing for me because when he was in the hospital he got pressure sores. I realized it wasn't going to be a great idea for me to see him that way. Once I saw he started opening his eyes, I wanted to see him again. We were so relieved he was okay. It was so emotional when he woke up."

While their father was gone, Lorena said the family did their best to take on new responsibilities to try to fill in the gaps left

by Joao not being there. Lorena took on cooking duties while her sister, Lorraine, and her mother, Marileda, went back to work and tried to help pay the bills. Her sister even tried to fix the boiler when it broke, which was brand new territory. Interestingly, none of the rest of the family got COVID-19 or showed any symptoms, and they are not sure how their father came down with it. They don't know of anyone close to them that also got it. However he got it, it got him good and took an otherwise healthy and strong man to the brink.

Lorena said everyone should realize that the virus is not a joke, and that anyone can get it. She said she participated in the #StayHomeEverett campaign as a way to draw attention to that fact, and to let people know she was trying to keep her home safe and healthy for when her dad came home.

No one knew if that would happen, but Lorena said they had hope, and now her father is recovering nicely – and it's been great to have him home, even if he's not quite ready to fix the boiler or her car.

"We know it will take a while, but he's getting stronger every day," she said. "We try to give him what he wants. When he came home, he was tired of hospital food and wanted a huge bowl of pasta – which we gave him...He used a walker the first week at home and the other day he decided he didn't need it and walked on his own. It's those things that fill us with happiness."

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House passes bill to address racial inequities in maternal health

Rep. RoseLee Vincent joined Speaker Robert DeLeo and their colleagues in the House to pass a bill aimed at eliminating racial inequities in maternal health.

An Act to reduce racial inequities in maternal health will create a special legislative commission to make recommendations that reduce or remove the kind of racial inequities that result in women of color dying of pregnancy-related causes at more than double the rate of white women. The commission will gather information and raise awareness of this systemic societal problem, in addition to reporting on barriers to equitable maternal care and best practices for remedying inequities.

“The House understands that an important part of addressing racism is battling systemic and institutional barriers to equity, such as racial disparities in health care. We want to make sure all women are treated equitably by our healthcare system,” said House Speaker Robert A. DeLeo (D-Winthrop). “I thank Chair Aaron Michlewitz, Chair Kay Khan, Acting Chair Dan Cullinane, Rep. Liz Miranda and

my colleagues in the House for their work on this bill that confronts racial inequities in maternal health and will save lives.

“I thank Speaker DeLeo and Chairwoman Khan for their leadership in bringing this important legislation to the floor of the House,” said Rep. RoseLee Vincent (D-Revere). “As we address and tackle the issue of systemic racism in our Commonwealth, I am proud to have voted in support of this needed bill that will help address racial disparities in healthcare for mothers in Massachusetts.”

“This important piece of legislation will allow us to continue to address the fight to end racial disparities in maternal health,” said Michlewitz, Chair of the House Committee on Ways & Means (D-Boston). “I look forward to continuing to work on these vital issues with my colleagues so that every family can benefit from the world class healthcare system the Commonwealth has.”

“Tragically, racism perpetuated over generations has caused life-threatening inequities in maternal health for Black and Brown mothers. I was honored

to file this bill with Miranda, as I believe it is incumbent on us as leaders in state government to do everything we can to keep all Massachusetts mothers healthy and thriving,” said Khan, House Chair of the Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities (D-Newton). “I am grateful to Speaker DeLeo for recognizing the urgency in acting on H.4818, as well as my House colleagues who voted unanimously for the passage of this vital maternal equity bill.”

“I am proud that the House, under Speaker DeLeo’s leadership, once again led with urgency in prioritizing and passing H.4818, a bill which establishes a commission to address racial disparities in maternal health here in the Commonwealth,” said Cullinane, Acting House Chair of the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing (D-Dorchester). “We see issues like this play out every day in districts like mine which is one of the most diverse districts in the Commonwealth. The fact is that in 2020 it is unconscionable that you are twice as likely to die giving birth if you are a black

mother than if you are a white mother. Today’s vote is another positive step in the movement to address racism by tackling the systematic and institutional barriers to equity in Massachusetts. The passage of H.4818 shows that issues of justice and equity remain front and center in the House of Representatives.”

“Maternal Justice is Racial Justice. Research on maternal health has focused on bandaging the effects and focusing on individual women’s actions, rather than on addressing the larger, systemic problem: racism, poverty, lack of access to care and the social determinants of health. Here in Massachusetts, Black women die at over twice the rate of white women. In a state with some of the best health care in the country, this issue should not be ignored. This legislation is timely, important and necessary,” said Rep. Liz Miranda (D-Boston). “Too many Black women are dying in the United States, and this crisis isn’t far away from us. It’s right in our backyard. Representing the most diverse district in the Commonwealth, I know that far too many

in our communities have an intimate connection to this issue.”

The 25-member commission will investigate and report on:

- Best-practices by other states or grass-roots organizations to reduce or eliminate racial inequities in maternal health or severe maternal morbidity, including, among other approaches, culturally competent and affordable doula services;

- Accessibility and affordability of birthing centers, maternal medical homes, and doula care and the diversity and cultural competency of maternal health care providers;

- Barriers to accessing prenatal and postpartum care;

- How historical and current structural, institutional and individual forms of racism affect maternal mortality as well as potential solutions, such as bias training in hospital facilities and birthing centers;

- Available data relating to maternal mortality and morbidity.

An Act to reduce racial inequities in maternal health now moves to the Senate.

Ferry service to Spectacle Island is now in operation

Staff Report

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, National Park Service, Boston Harbor Now, and Boston Harbor Cruises announced that a public ferry service to Spectacle Island, one of the 34 islands and peninsulas in Boston Harbor Islands National and State Park, began for the season.

Public ferry service to other islands remains closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Spectacle Island boasts some of the most magnificent vistas of the Boston skyline and is only a 20-minute ferry ride away from downtown Boston. With ferry services beginning for the summer season from Long Wharf, the island will be open and accessible to visitors. Safety measures including enhanced cleaning protocols on island and onboard the public ferry vessels have been instituted. Reduced ferry capacity, revised boarding procedures, touchless ticketing and instruc-

tional signage supporting physical distancing – will be in place in compliance with Governor Baker’s reopening plan. Facial coverings will be required while onboard the ferry and visitors are strongly encouraged to continue to wear their facial coverings while exploring the Island.

Although the visitor center will remain closed, restrooms, hiking trails, the swimming beach, moorings, and the marina will be available for public use. Physical distancing and COVID-19 guidelines will remain in place while on the island and onboard the ferries.

“With physical distancing extending throughout the summer, public outdoor spaces like Spectacle Island are critical to the mental and physical health of our communities, and to keeping people feeling connected to each other and to nature,” said Kathy Abbott, President and CEO of Boston Harbor Now. “We look forward to a fantastic summer for visitors of all ages to safely expe-

rience and enjoy Boston Harbor and its islands.”

Michael Creasey, General Superintendent for National Parks of Boston, agreed, “As we navigate the impacts of COVID-19 on our daily lives, I am mindful of what a gift it is to live so close to the water’s edge where we have access to such an incredible system of island and peninsular parks. Whether exploring peninsular parks on the south shore like Worlds End and Webb Memorial State Park, or taking the ferry from Long Wharf to Spectacle Island for 360 degree views of Boston Harbor, it’s outdoor, open air places like these and the experiences they offer that enliven our communities and contribute to our vitality and resilience.”

Ferry service to Spectacle Island is provided by Boston Harbor Cruises. For more information on ferry schedules, pricing, and amenities, visit <https://www.bostonharborislands.org/> or <https://www.bostonharborcruises.com/harbor-islands>.

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Three Lynn nonprofits receive Better Beach grants

By John Lynds

During a virtual awards ceremony on ZOOM last week, three Lynn nonprofits received grant money totaling \$11,000 to support free summer beach events as part of Save the Harbor/Save the Bay and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) annual Better Beaches grant program.

In the past grant money allowed organizations like the Friends of Lynn and Nahant Beach, Girls Inc. and Friends of Heritage State Park to hold larger events that drew many to the country's first public beach during the summer months.

However, the COVID-19 pandemic has put the brakes on larg-

er gatherings as people continue to practice social distancing.

Save the Harbor/Save the Bay's Executive Director Chris Mancini said this year's grants will support efforts to keep the region's public beaches safe and open this summer.

Friends of Lynn and Nahant Beach received \$7,500, while Girls Inc. received \$2,500 and Friends of Heritage State Park received \$1,000 in grant money.

The funds will go towards supporting free, re-imagined, beach events and programs when the Covid-19 pandemic has passed and public programming can safely resume.

"As the nation continues to wrestle with the challenges of both the Covid-19 pandemic and

the consequences of systemic racism, safe and accessible blue and green spaces like the region's public beaches from Nahant to Nantasket are more important than ever" said Mancini. "In these uncertain times, you can be sure that Save the Harbor/Save the Bay will continue to support our partners in the region's waterfront neighborhoods and beachfront communities, as we work together to keep these spectacular urban natural resources safe, open and welcoming to all."

According to Save the Harbor/Save the Bay's Director of Strategy & Communications Bruce Berman, in the coming weeks his group will host a "virtual charette" to begin to "re-Imagine beach programs" in light of

the public health crises we are all facing together.

Each year Save the Harbor/Save the Bay's Better Beaches grant program funds a host of activities along Lynn's shoreline during the summer months.

In total, more than \$200,000 was awarded in Better Beaches Program grants. These grants will allow 39 organizations in nine communities to fund free events on the region's public beaches from Nahant to Nantasket in 2020.

DCR Commissioner Jim Montgomery took part in the ZOOM ceremony and applauded the power of the Better Beaches Program partnership with DCR, which has invested more than \$1 million dollars in free beach pro-

grams since it began in 2007.

"The Baker/Polito Administration has made it a priority to support great partnerships like this, that encourage people to get and enjoy the outdoors in a safe and responsible way" said Montgomery. "With Covid-19, our beaches and parks are even more important for people's mental and physical health. It is a great partnership. I look forward to seeing you all on your beach, hopefully very soon."

Funds to support the Better Beaches Program come from DCR, JetBlue and the proceeds of the Harpoon Shamrock Splash fundraiser.

State announces updated travel guidelines

Staff Report

The Baker-Polito Administration last week announced new COVID-19 public health guidelines on travel and transportation.

Effective Wednesday, July 1, all travelers arriving to Massachusetts, including residents returning home, are to self-quarantine for 14-days. This guidance does not apply to travelers from Rhode Island, Connecticut, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, New York or New Jersey. Additionally, workers designated by the federal government as essential critical infrastructure workers are also exempt from this directive.

Travelers who are displaying symptoms of COVID-19 are instructed to not travel to Massachusetts.

All visitors and residents of Massachusetts are also reminded that the use of masks or face coverings in public places where individuals cannot socially distance from others remains required.

These new guidelines replace previously announced Massachusetts travel guidance. For national travel information, please visit www.travel.state.gov.



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