

THE LYNN JOURNAL

Thursday, December 17, 2020

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The 7 Eleven store, 50 Western Ave., where a \$4 million Instant Ticket and a \$1 million Instant Ticket were sold in 2020.

Michael Chol Ater, photo right, displays the first check from the \$1 million prize that he won in the Massachusetts State Lottery Ultimate Millions Instant Game. Ater purchased the winning ticket at Cal's News.

Big wins in Lynn

Cal's News continues hot streak of \$1 million Lottery prizes in city

By Cary Shuman

The answer to the mystery of who won the \$1 million prize in the Ultimate Millions Instant Ticket Game that was sold at Cal's News is: Michael Chol Ater.

Ater received his first of 20 annual checks from the Mass State Lottery, opting for a yearly payout over one lump sum.

"We're very excited," said Barry Calvani of Cal's News after learning of the winner's name from the Lynn Journal. "I know Michael well and I'm very happy for him. I want to see him step out from behind the curtain. Everybody has been asking me, 'Who was it? Who was it?'"

Calvani said the Lynn Journal was the store's "good luck charm," having published a

recent, front-page story in the newspaper that Cal's News hadn't sold a \$1 million ticket since the Instant Ticket Games began in 1974.

"Had I known that all it would have taken was an interview with the Lynn Journal, I would have done it many years ago," jested Calvani.

The winning ticket at Cal's was the seventh prize of \$1 million or more in the city this year (see accompanying chart). One store, the 7 Eleven, 50 Western Ave., sold a \$4 million Instant ticket and a \$1 million Instant ticket this year.

"I love to see the Lottery players win, that's what drives sales," said Calvani. "In my own store, I have people who are regulars and some who haven't been in

In recognition

Lynn YMCA announces new name in honor of the Demakes Family and their lifetime of philanthropy

Special to the Lynn Journal

YMCA of Metro North is pleased to announce its new Lynn YMCA on Neptune Boulevard is scheduled to open in Spring 2021 and will receive a new name for the 70,000 sq. ft. downtown facility. In recognition of the Demakes Family's legacy of giving back and lifetime of philanthro-

py, the YMCA of Metro North will name the new facility the Demakes Family YMCA.

The Demakes Family spearheaded the capital campaign for the new building raising more than \$12 million in capital donations from dozens of contributors. The YMCA secured new

Please see YMCA Page 5



The new Lynn YMCA on Neptune Boulevard will be named in honor of the Demakes Family in recognition of their legacy of giving back to the community and lifetime of philanthropy.

Wishing you & your families a safe and healthy Christmas

The office will be closed Thursday Dec. 24 and Friday, Dec. 25 & Thursday, Dec. 31, and Friday, Jan. 1.

Advertising deadlines for the week of Christmas will be Fri., Dec. 18.

For New Years week: Weds. Dec. 23

To submit ads: deb@reverejournal.com

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Please see LOTTERY Page 4

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EDITORIAL

THE VIRUS IS IN OUR HOMES

We now are fully amidst the holiday season. Hanukkah is here and the Christmas and New Year's holiday week is fast-approaching.

Public health officials at all levels of government have been warning us for months that we must change our usual manner for celebrating the holidays if we are to have any chance of stopping the deadly spread of the coronavirus.

Unfortunately however, far too many of us have been ignoring these warnings. Families and friends continue to gather for holiday celebrations as if they are completely oblivious to the existence of a pandemic.

But consider these somber and alarming statistics recently released by the state: The overwhelming numbers of active coronavirus clusters across Massachusetts between the period of Nov. 1-November 28 (coinciding with the Thanksgiving holiday time frame) were traced to households, which accounted for 9393 of the state's 9883 clusters and 23,756 of the 26,451 confirmed cases.

In other words, the coronavirus is being spread by family and household members to each other.

This transmission of the virus among household members is nothing new, but its prevalence is striking -- about 90 percent of new coronavirus cases are now occurring within our homes.

The arrival of vaccines is wonderful news, but until each of us has a "jab" (that's what the British call getting a shot) in our arms, none of us are safe and all of us have to assume that everyone we come into contact with is a carrier.

We realize that staying apart from our family members and friends during the holidays is tough medicine -- but it's the only prescription that will work to suppress the spread of the virus.



WINTER SOLSTICE... SHORTEST DAY. DEC. 21

GUEST OP-ED

Disappointment in expanded abortion

By Catholic Bishops of Massachusetts

The consistent teaching of the Catholic Church is that life begins at conception and ends with natural death. As the Roman Catholic Bishops of Massachusetts, we at all times hold firm to that teaching so as to promote the preservation of life and to create a culture of respect for life as the foundation of a just and moral society.

Today, we are deeply disappointed at the recent legislative action that, if enacted, would expand access to abortion in Massachusetts. The direct, intentional taking of a human life, regardless of the purpose or circumstances, is not morally acceptable and is particularly harmful to the common good. Most troubling is the fact that under these provisions, women will have greater access to late term abortions throughout the term of their pregnancy with no specific statutory requirement that a physician utilize lifesaving medical equipment if a child is born alive.

Despite our disappointment we are hopeful that the full legislature accepts the language proposed by the Governor to retain 18 as the age of consent, as pro-

vided by the current Massachusetts law, and not reduce the age to sixteen. Clearly, a young girl of age 16 needs the guidance and support of a caring adult when considering the possibility of a decision that will affect her for the rest of her life.

We remain committed to life and pray for the end to all

abortions. Our society is best served by the protection of every person's life, including those waiting to be born and those approaching natural death. We pledge ourselves to work to bring about a more just society that offers humane and effective alternatives for women facing a crisis or difficult pregnancy.

THANK YOU, GOV. BAKER

We'd like to take a moment to express our appreciation to Gov. Charlie Baker, who has demonstrated incredible leadership during the past nine months of a crisis that is unprecedented in our state's history.

Day-after-day, Gov. Baker has confronted a deadly pandemic and an economic collapse (not to mention a dangerous president from his own party) with a degree of intelligence, competence, and assuredness that is unmatched by any governor in the country.

Massachusetts has been very fortunate to have Charlie Baker's steady hand at the tiller of our ship-of-state during this stormy period. And (to extend the metaphor), although we know there are still some rough seas ahead, thanks to Gov. Baker's helmsmanship, we can see clearing skies on the horizon.

REMEMBER THE NEEDY

We saw a statistic the other day that was absolutely mind-numbing: 18% of all Americans, and 24% of American children, do not have enough to eat on a daily basis.

We mention this because during this Christmas season, when many of us normally would be splurging on holiday parties, vacations, and the like, those of us who are fortunate enough not to fall within the 18% must consider how we can use our unspent resources to help our fellow Americans who are dealing with a situation that is even worse than what America faced at the height of the Great Depression.

Hopefully, Congress will get its act together shortly and provide relief for those in need. But until that happens, it is up to each of us to do what we can to assist our fellow citizens through donations to organizations -- of which there are many -- that will help to ensure that every American at least has enough to eat every day.

THE LYNN JOURNAL

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Lynn's Game of the Year: St. Mary's versus Bridgewater-Raynham

By Cary Shuman

St. Mary's High School girls basketball coach Jeff Newhall always constructs a very challenging regular season schedule. By playing the elite teams, Newhall reasons that the tough inter-divisional competition will best prepare his team for the MIAA Tournament.

Last season was a perfect example of this successful formula. Newhall's Spartans played eventual Division 1 state champion Andover (and defeated the Warriors), won the Hoosac Valley Tournament, and traveled to South Carolina where they won two inter-state games.

When the postseason came, the Spartans were r-e-a-d-y and they proved their mettle by

winning the North sectionals at Tsongas and the state semifinal at the TD Garden. St. Mary's and Hoosac Valley were crowned state champions when the title game in Worcester was canceled due to the coronavirus.

During this past off-season Newhall reached out to Bridgewater-Raynham coach Cheryl Seavey to schedule a non-league game with the Division 1 South powerhouse and she agreed to the intra-state showdown. That mega-matchup will be played on Wednesday, Jan. 20 at 6 p.m. at the Tony Conigliaro Gymnasium.

Bridgewater-Raynham is the defending Division 1 South champion. The Trojans are led by 6-foot-3-inch junior Shay Bollin, who has already committed to Duke University. Senior

Kenzie Matulonis has committed to UNH, giving B-R two Division 1 players in its starting five.

St. Mary's is the defending Division 3 state champion. Maiya Bergdorf, a 6-foot-1 inch senior, has signed a letter of intent to attend Division 1 Sacred Heart University. Bergdorf is a reigning Globe and Herald All-Scholastic.

St. Mary's two other returning starters, Nicolette D'Itria and Yirsy Queliz, form one of the best backcourts in the state. Alyssa Grossi and Van Nguyen are two outstanding reserves who stepped up big in the State Tournament.

The matchup within the matchup is, of course, Bollin, the 19th ranked player in the ESPN 100 for the Class of 2022, and Bergdorf, who is the

No. 1-ranked player in Massachusetts (MIAA) high school basketball in the Class of 2021. Caroline Ducharme (UConn) of Noble and Greenough is the top prep school player.

The St. Mary's/Bridgewater-Raynham game would surely draw a sell-out crowd at the Tony Conigliaro Gymnasium. You can bet that Lynn basketball superfans like Patrick Smith, Anthony Palmieri, James Ridley, and Marvin Avery would be at court-side and John Hoffman would be calling the play-by-play for Lynn TV-15.

But due to COVID-19 restrictions, it is unknown how many spectators will be allowed to attend the game.

"We're excited that this game is on our schedule, said Newhall. "We'd love to have our students,

parents, and fans in the gymnasium but the health and safety of our players and our school community is our top priority."

Newhall has a long-time connection to the town of Bridgewater. He is a 1999 graduate of Bridgewater State University, where he began his coaching career as an assistant in the Bears' baseball program.

Twenty years later, Newhall is still coaching and winning state championships. And the 6-foot-3-inch coach and athletic director has scheduled the game of the year for his program which could well determine who the No. 1-ranked girls basketball team in Massachusetts is for this unprecedented season.

Lynn featured in 'Jeopardy!' question

By Cary Shuman

The City of Lynn was mentioned in a "Jeopardy!" question during last Thursday's edition of the popular game show.

Under the category, "Very Puritanical," host Alex Trebek said, "Trot trot to Boston, trot trot to Lynn, those were two cities in this colony founded in 1630 by Puritans.

The correct response was:

What is Massachusetts Bay Colony?

Lynn "Jeopardy!" fans have been watching the final shows under the masterful guidance of Alex Trebek. Recognized as one of the greatest game show hosts in television history, Mr. Trebek died on Nov. 8 at the age of 80 after a battle against cancer. He was the host of Jeopardy! for 36 years. Mr. Trebek's last show will air on Christmas Day.

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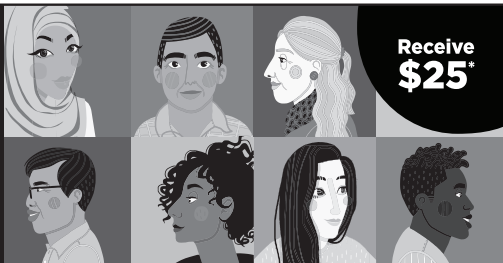
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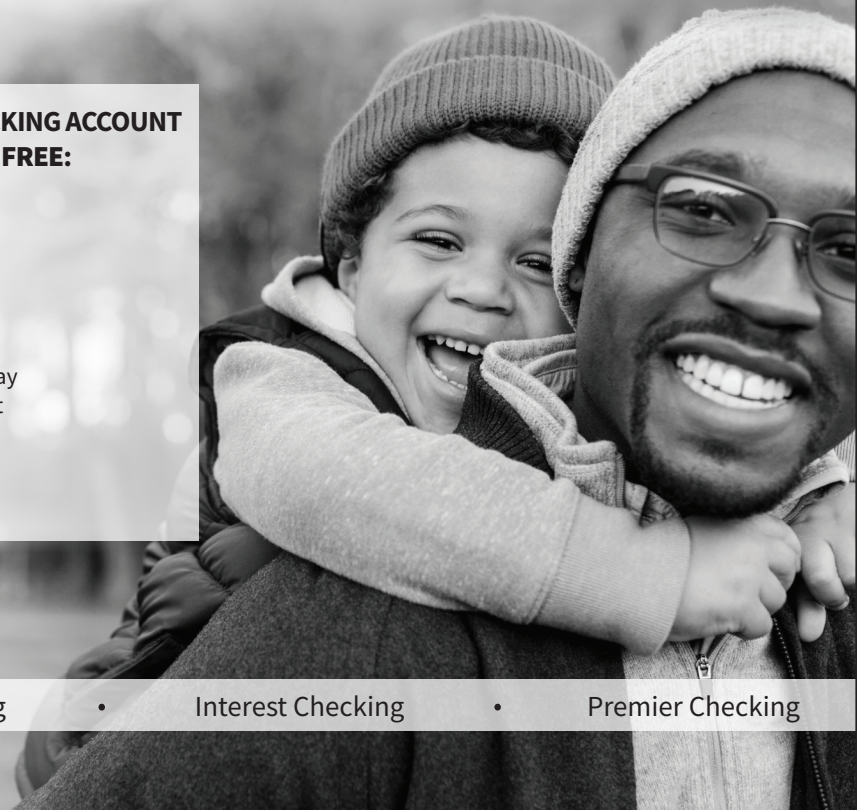
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Lottery/ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the store for awhile. And now the search is on for \$1 million winner No. 2 at Cal's. Lottery players are superstitious by nature and now there's a large percentage of people who think Cal's is now a quote, unquote, "lucky store."

Mass Lottery Assistant Executive Director and Communications Director Christian Teja said each store that sells a \$1 million

ticket gets a one percent bonus, meaning that Cal's News will receive a \$10,000 bonus.

"It's always exciting when a store sells a million-dollar ticket, especially when it's their first," said Teja. "And even more exciting when they've been in business for such a long, long time like Cal's."

Teja said a new set of Instant Ticket Games will be launched in January. There are currently five ongoing Holiday Instant Ticket Games.

"Holiday tickets always make great gifts," said Teja, noting that all recipients must be 18 years of age or older.

Teja noted that the Lottery's Lucky For Life twice-weekly (Monday and Thursday) game will become a daily game beginning in July.



Elizabeth Almonte is pictured in front of the lottery ticket display at the 7 Eleven store, 50 Western Ave.

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Lynn City Hall was closed Dec. 15 and 16

Due to several positive COVID-19 cases recently reported among City of Lynn employees, Lynn City Hall was closed on Tuesday, December 15 and 16, out of an abundance of caution for full scale cleaning and sanitation. All appointments scheduled with City Hall staff for was cancelled. Please contact the respective department to re-schedule any appointments.

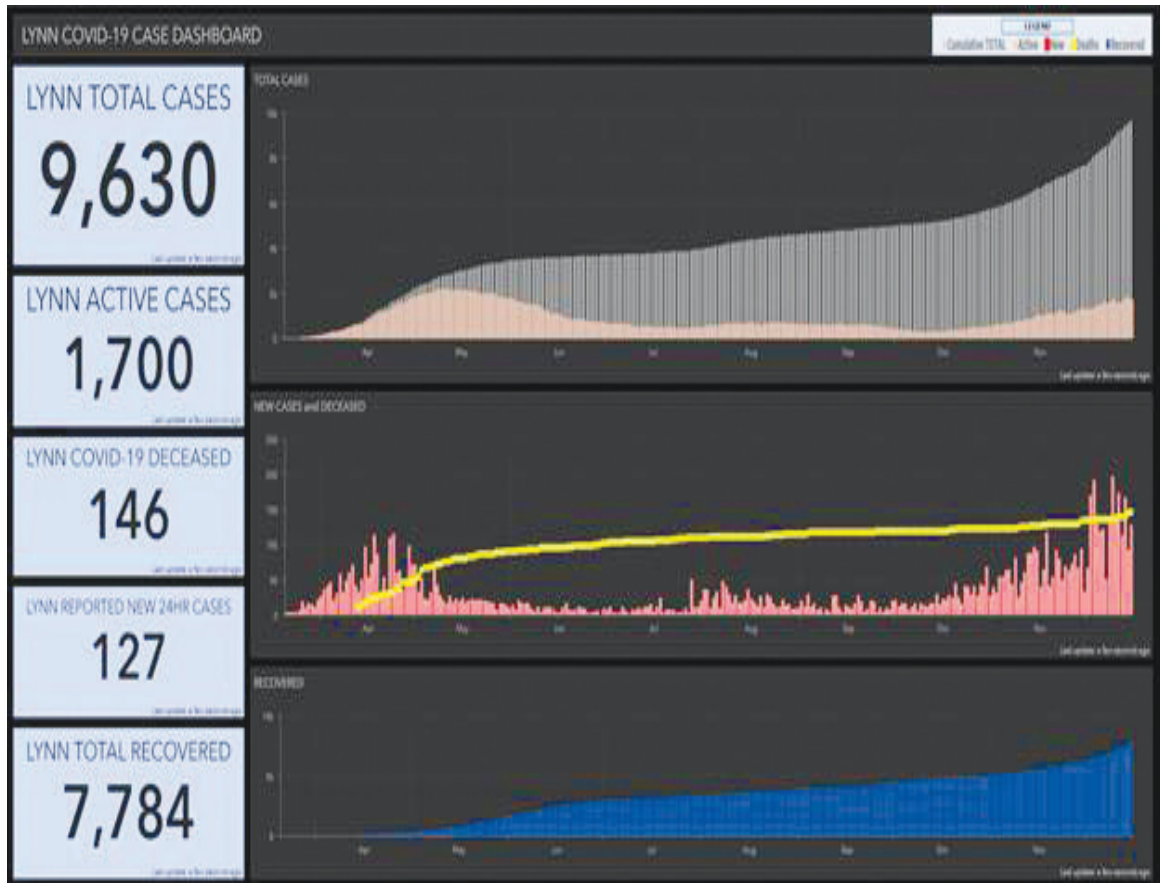
City Hall staff continued to work remotely during that time so that city operations could continue.

We will provide any updates

as soon as they are available. Stop the Spread Initiative Testing have been extended until December 31st

Please visit http://www.ci.lynn.ma.us/covid19/resources.shtml#p7GPc1_2 for more information on how you can get a free COVID-19 test in the City of Lynn until December 31st.

We will continue to provide regular updates on COVID-19 through the City website (www.lynnma.gov), social media, and the Smart 911 emergency notification system (sign up at www.smart911.com).



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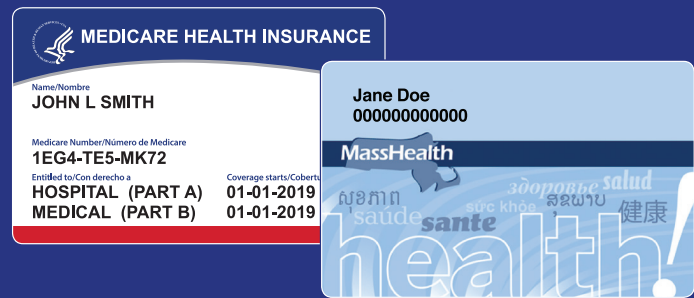
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Boston Ballet presents "BB@yourhome: The Gift" through Dec. 27

Boston Ballet presents "BB@yourhome: The Gift," a one-hour long program featuring new works choreographed by Boston Ballet Company dancers Paul Craig, Chyrstyn Fentroy, John Lam, Haley Schwan, My'Kal Stromile, Gabriel Lorena (Boston Ballet II) and Arianna Hughlett (post graduate), set to Duke Ellington's "Nutcracker Suite." The classical grand pas de deux in Act II from Mikko Nissinen's "The Nutcracker," performed by Principal Dancers Viktorina Kapitonova and Tigran Mkrtchyan, to Pyotr Tchaikovsky's music, enhances the program. "The Gift" will premiere at on Thursday, Dec. 17, and will be available until Dec. 27. Subscribers will receive a streaming link prior to the premiere.

"This program is nothing like our traditional 'Nutcracker,' and unlike anything we have ever performed. Duke Ellington's score adds a delightfully jazzy touch to the classical music we know and love," said Artistic Director Mikko Nissinen. "Paired with choreography from seven of our dancers, it will be a unique and fun way to celebrate the holiday season."

Duke Ellington's 'Nutcracker Suite' is a jazz interpretation of Tchaikovsky's score of 'The Nutcracker.' Arranged in 1960 by Ellington and his frequent collaborator Billy Strayhorn, their rendition features nine movements. Ellington (1899-1974) is considered the greatest jazz composer and bandleader of his time. He led his band for more than 50 years, composed thousands of scores, and created one of the most distinctive ensemble sounds in Western music. Boston's own jazz aficionado Eric Jackson, from GBH, will introduce Ellington and the toe tapping score.

"I consider Ellington to be simply one of the most important and iconic American musical voices," said Boston Ballet Music Director Mischa Santora. "I think it's fantastic we're adding this really fun, sophisticated, and intriguing twist to our holiday season with his music, and I can't wait to see the choreography the dancers come up with."

Choreographer and Principal Dancer Paul Craig said, "Hearing

Ellington and Strayhorn's reworking of familiar melodies made reimagining 'Nutcracker' choreography so much fun. It has been amazing getting to choreograph on and with my pod of dancers. After being quarantined for almost six months, it really is a gift to all of us."

Choreographer and Soloist Chyrstyn Fentroy said, "Creating a section for The Gift has been a unique holiday-themed choreographic adventure. As a choreographer for this project, the familiarity of the score gives you a sense of comfort, but the subtle differences between this version and the original Tchaikovsky score allowed me to challenge myself to think outside of the 'Nutcracker' box and create something completely different and new."

Choreographer and Principal Dancer John Lam said, "It has been inspiring not only to create a new visual interpretation of this piece, but to explore the magnificent counterpoints and interplay among the voices in Ellington's virtuosic band."

Choreographer and Second Soloist Haley Schwan said, "Duke Ellington's music encapsulates the spirit of the holiday season that we so enjoy bringing to the people of Boston each year. This process has really been about

bringing some magic to the end of 2020. I hope that our joy of being back in the studio jumps through the screen to our audience at home."

Choreographer and Artist of the Company My'Kal Stromile said, "This project has been an exciting challenge! I wanted to create choreography that is relatable, joyful and fun, while honoring the history of the original Tchaikovsky score. Duke Ellington illustrated his interpretation of The 'Nutcracker' in 1960, 68 years after the original, making the music feel very modern and quite jazzy."

Choreographer and Boston Ballet II member Gabriel Lorena says, "Ellington's music gives me power to feel like I own the whole stage. I wanted to create a work that would make the dancers feel the same way, with a piece that would bring power, personality, musicality, and artistry from their heart to your screen."

Choreographer and post-graduate student Arianna Hughlett said, "As a young choreographer, I am especially grateful for Boston Ballet's trust in me to create a piece. I'm very proud to be part of an organization that has so swiftly adapted to the times in order to keep creating art. 'The Gift' has brought me a sense of optimism for the future that I hope reaches

audiences watching from home." "The Gift" is the second of six BB@yourhome programming. Single tickets for "The Gift" are on sale until Dec. 27 for \$40 or it can be viewed as part of a BB@yourhome subscription. Boston Ballet's virtual season features new creations, signature works, and classical ballet favor-

ites captured live in-studio. Dancers have been back in the studios since September, rehearsing under a new health and safety plan, which was developed in partnership with a team of medical professionals and infectious disease specialists.

For more information on BB@yourhome, visit bostonballet.org.



This holiday season do what's best for you and your loved ones

Being away from family and friends during the holidays can be hard.

Hard choices to be apart this year may mean that you can spend many more years with your loved ones.

When you talk with your friends and family about plans, it's ok if you decide to stay home and remain apart from others.

Doing what's best for you includes eating healthy foods and getting enough sleep.

Do what is best for your health and the health of your loved ones. This year spend time with those in your own household.

Make time to take care of your body and stay active to lessen fatigue, anxiety, and sadness.

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Pet safety tips for the holidays

We all know that cats and dogs love to chew (and unfortunately swallow) a surprising array of household items. In fact, one of the most common claims we receive at Trupanion is for Foreign Body Ingestion.

The holidays, along with all of its festive decorations, provides additional chewing opportunities – and potential emergency visits to the veterinarian – for our furry friends. So as we all start to deck the halls this holiday season, Trupanion, a leader in medical insurance for cats & dogs, offers up these 5 holiday items (along with related mishaps from Holidays past) to keep pets away from this holiday season.

1) Tinsel
Tinsel and ribbon can cause a tangled mess in the intestines if swallowed by a pet – ideally it should not be used in households with cats. A British Shorthair cat from Oregon ingested tinsel which resulted in a trip to the veterinary – the Trupanion policy paid out \$807

2) Ornaments
Make sure to hang any small or fragile ornaments high enough on your tree to avoid the wagging tail of your dog or a paw swipe from your cat. Although keep in mind, that for many cats there is no safe height. A lovable pooch in Washington state made an emergency visit to the vet

when they ate a Christmas ornament – the Trupanion policy paid out \$4,495

3) Holiday lights
Pets are drawn to holiday lights, just like we are. The only difference is they may be tempted to chew on them. Be sure to also keep the electrical cords taped down or out of reach. A Brittany spaniel from Indiana succumbed to the temptation to chew and ingested some Christmas lights. After a trip to the veterinarian the Trupanion policy paid out \$1,566.

4) Turkey bones
Bones from turkey and other traditional main courses around the holidays can have danger-

ous effects when in the mouths of dogs and cats. Cooked bones especially can splinter and break, causing serious internal injury. An enthusiastic dog in Alberta found himself at the veterinarian after he ingested some turkey bones a few days after Christmas – the Trupanion policy paid out \$3,800.

5) Holiday plants and trees
Many holiday plants can cause gastrointestinal upset if ingested by your dog or cat. These include holly, mistletoe and amaryllis. A Shih Tzu from California ingested poinsettias, which are toxic to dogs. After a trip to the veterinarian the Shih Tzu was back in tip top shape – the Trupanion policy

paid out \$59. Lilies are also extremely toxic for cats, even contact with the pollen or water in the vase may be enough to cause kidney failure.

“If you have a Christmas tree, make sure it is secure – it doesn’t take much for a cat or excited dog to knock it over, said Dr. Sarah Nold, Staff Veterinarian at Trupanion. “You should also take care to restrict your pet’s access to the tree’s water or ingestion of the tree’s needles, because both may cause vomiting and diarrhea, and can contribute to a tipped tree.”

COVID-19 has changed everything.

Let us get your holiday message out to our thousands of readers of **The Revere Journal, The Winthrop Sun Transcript, The East Boston Times Free Press, Chelsea Record, Everett Independent, and Lynn Journal** in our December editions:

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Americans are ready to be vaccinated

New survey data show only 15 percent of Americans believe a return to normal life is possible without a vaccine, a broad and bipartisan acceptance that policy makers should capitalize on.

The public opinion survey conducted by ScienceCounts, a non-profit whose mission is to promote public awareness and support for science, was conducted the week leading up to Thanksgiving attempting to understand the public's feelings on the COVID-19 pandemic and willingness to vaccinate.

While an assumed narrative exists that an individual's views on the seriousness of COVID-19, and necessity of a vaccine are bitterly partisan issues, the ScienceCounts survey indicates that conservatives, liberals, moderates, and notably black-nonhispanics alike view the pandemic

as serious and will take the vaccine even if social distancing and other disease transmission preventatives are necessary for a time after vaccination.

Some key takeaways from the survey include:

- 84 percent of survey respondents believe that a vaccine is the path to returning to normal with only 7 percent liberals / 16 percent moderates / 20 percent conservatives disagreeing.

- 53 percent of survey respondents are likely to get vaccinated once a vaccine is available, one in five are undecided at this time with Black American's making up the plurality of undecideds.

- Willingness to get vaccinated is unaffected by the possibility that mask wearing, and social distancing could remain necessary for the foreseeable future.

"We must recognize, contrary

to political punditry, the majority of Americans are ready to do what is necessary to get COVID-19 under control," said ScienceCounts Executive Director Chris Volpe. "While clear differences exist when you look at a person's political philosophy, our data tell us that the clear majority of American understand the pandemic is serious and understand taking the vaccine is the best chance we have at returning to normalcy.

"Public health and public policy leaders should recognize this and develop a COVID vaccination response plan that is ready for the silent majority of Americans - including Black Americans - to be vaccinated," he continued. "Our unique data tell us that American's are ready, willing and able to be vaccinated at levels not fully appreciated."

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NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

STABILIZATION FUND APPROVED

CHELSEA - Help is on the way for homeowners that find themselves with increasing tax bills, as the City Council voted 10-0 to transfer \$750,000 to the Homeowner Stabilization Program to help some owner-occupants with tax increases.

The Homeowner Stabilization Fund had been in existence and had a \$250,000 balance this fall, but after the tax rate was set and it was discovered many people were going to get hit with tax increases – particularly two-family and three-family homeowners – it was proposed to be expanded. The program combined will have \$1 million in funding and will be available to those making under \$119,000 as a household.

Councillors were in agreement on the program, but Councillor Giovanni Recupero wanted clarification and wanted to send it to committee.

“I want homeowners to get it, but I want to know how they’ll be disbursed,” he said. “Will it be one sum of money for everyone under \$119,000? If it’s one

amount for everyone, I’m for it. But if it’s not, then we need to talk about it.”

His motion for committee was defeated 1-9.

Council President Roy Avellana explained that the Council had gone over the program in detail for more than an hour before the last meeting with Planner Alex Train.

The matter was moved to a vote and approved 10-0.

City Manager Tom Ambrosino said he believed the program would roll out for taxpayers in January following the issuance of the first tax bills.

•CARES ACT

The City Council approved its second CARES Act payment on Monday night of \$4.029 million – money that comes from the federal government for COVID-19 related expenses.

Ambrosino said the amount was \$3 million above the previous allotment provided by Gov. Charlie Baker. The money will be used to fund all of the COVID relief since July 1. That includes the Chelsea Legal Clinic, Rental Assistance Round 2, Chelsea

Eats and the Food Pantry program.

•CENSUS WAS A DUD IN CHELSEA

It was reported on Monday night that early indications appear that Chelsea, at least officially, will have a smaller population in the 2020 number than it did in the 2010 number – a number that was entirely too low back then.

It was bad news for all facets of government in the City, from simply having a good count of residents to losing out on millions in federal funding.

“Unfortunately, due mostly to the COVID-19 pandemic, our outreach efforts were constrained,” said Ambrosino. “As a result, our self-response rate was lower than hoped for and worse than in 2010.”

The self-response rate is made up of those that sent in their Census forms or filled it out online earlier this year. It doesn’t include those that were counted last summer and fall in door-to-door efforts.

State data for the Census 2020 is expected in early 2021, and data for cities like Chelsea is ex-

pected to come in the spring.

SANTA PARADE ON DEC. 19

CHELSEA - Santa’s always been mobile, but COVID-19 this year has him moving quite efficiently.

The City, Chamber of Commerce and a number of partners are coming together to have Santa Claus hosted in a parade through Chelsea on Dec. 19 from 3-5 p.m. Residents can look out their windows, from their porches/balconies or on Facebook.

Chelsea Police, Chelsea Fire, Cataldo Ambulance and several classic cars will accompany Santa through the streets.

The three routes are as follows (maps are available on the City of Chelsea’s website):

•#1 – Chestnut to Medford to Beacon to Mulberry to Chestnut to Everett Avenue to Essex Street and back on Congress Avenue.

•#2 – Park Street to Central Ave/Willow to Marlborough to Highland Street to Broadway/Stockton to Clark Avenue to Orange Street to Carter Street to Washington Avenue to Jefferson Avenue.

•#3 – Jefferson Avenue to Exeter Street to Wesley Street to Washington Avenue/Prospect to Springvale to Washington Avenue to Sagamore Avenue to Bloomingdale Street to Washington Avenue.

COVID RATE IS WAY UP

EAST BOSTON - As experts predicted, the post-Thanksgiving COVID-19 surge is here and numbers are once again through the roof in East Boston.

After a 35 percent decrease in the local COVID positive test rate during Thanksgiving week, those testing positive for COVID last week increased a startling 78 percent.

According to the latest data released by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) last Friday, 25,677 Eastie residents were tested for COVID and 21.9 percent were found to be positive for the virus, a 78 percent increase from the 12.3 percent reported two Fridays ago. Eastie again has the highest positive test rate in all of Boston.

Overall since the pandemic began 14.5 percent of Eastie residents here have been found to be positive.

The citywide positive test rate also increased dramatically last week and went from five percent of Boston residents testing

positive for the virus to 11.9 percent—a 138 percent increase.

At his daily press conference last Thursday Mayor Martin Walsh said there is a sharp increase in viral activity and there’s an urgent need for vigilance: The Mayor said that after a couple of weeks of declining numbers Boston is now seeing, in the wake of Thanksgiving, a significant uptick in COVID activity.

“On Wednesday and Thursday, we recorded a combined 960 new cases in Boston, and Wednesday’s number for Massachusetts was the highest since the pandemic began,” said Walsh. “In addition, we are seeing more patients admitted to Boston hospitals due to COVID-19. Since Friday (Nov. 27), we’ve seen an increase of about 70 patients. We’re going to be monitoring the data, working closely with our hospitals and health care leaders, and bringing relief and resources where they are needed.”

Walsh said in the meantime, Bostonians must double-down on their personal precautions.

“Wear a face covering that covers your nose and your mouth when you are outside your house,” said Walsh. “Wash your hands frequently and use hand sanitizer. Clean and disinfect your surroundings, especially at work. If you are an employer, make sure your workers have what they need to be safe, and allow as many people to work from home as possible.”

The Mayor asked seniors, in particular, to take extra care and continue to stay at home as much as possible.

The Mayor repeated his request that everyone get tested, especially if you have reason to think you’ve been exposed to COVID-19, or if you spent Thanksgiving with a group larger than your immediate household.

“Currently, we have over 30 testing sites in Boston,” said Walsh. “You can find them listed and mapped at boston.gov/coronavirus, or you can call 311.”

The free mobile testing site in Eastie is located in Central Square Park.

“The City will continue to invest in free mobile sites and bring them to neighborhoods where COVID activity is higher,” said Walsh. “Our mobile sites are free and open to anyone, regardless of whether you have COVID symptoms or not.”

Eastie’s infection rate rose by 7.5 percent according to the data

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Region / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

released by the BPHC last Friday. Eastie's COVID infection rate went from 757.7 cases per 10,000 residents to 814.6 cases per 10,000 residents. The city-wide average is 420.8 cases per 10,000 residents and Eastie still has one of the highest infection rates in all of Boston.

An additional 267 Eastie residents contracted the virus with 3,823 confirmed cases, up from the 3,556 reported two weeks ago.

The statistics released by the BPHC as part of its weekly COVID19 report breaks down the number of cases and infection rates in each neighborhood. It also breaks down the number of cases by age, gender and race.

Citywide positive cases of coronavirus increased 11.4 percent last week and went from 27,228 cases to 30,342 cases in a week.

Nineteen more Boston residents died from the virus and there are now 938 total deaths in the city from COVID.

MENDEZ HONORED

EAST BOSTON - Rep. Adrian Madaro and the Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus (MBLLC) recently honored NOAH's (Neighborhood of Affordable Housing) Manlio Mendez as a Latinx Trailblazer for his continued impact on the East Boston community despite grim challenges.

Madaro nominated Mendez for his many contributions to Eastie through his work with NOAH and beyond.

Mendez was born in El Salvador and immigrated to the United States in 1992. He moved to Boston in 1995. He overcame the challenges many new immigrants face, including learning English, obtaining legal status, finding work, and a decent, safe affordable home. But he loved the city and the opportunities Boston offered.

In 2003, Mendez began working as a community organizer at NOAH and now serves as their Senior Community Organizer.

For years, Mendez has helped countless new immigrants transition to life in the United States by teaching them English, providing information about resources to support their families, and uplifting the leadership of community members who are eager to create positive change.

Mendez leads NOAH's ESOL programming, 2020 Census outreach, citizenship classes, and community building efforts.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic Mendez has led efforts to distribute food and basic necessities to residents impacted by economic and food insecurity.

Madaro said Mendez's passion is to help others learn the skills necessary to organize for social justice.

"Manlio (Mendez) is committed to helping our neighbors learn and grow their leadership skills, and to have patience with the process of creating positive community change," said Madaro. "I am incredibly proud to be able to nominate Manlio for this year's award. He is an incredible organizer and force for change in East Boston and among our Latinx community. I deeply appreciate all of his hard work, dedication, and commitment to our neighborhood".

The annual celebration recognized the rich cultural history of the Massachusetts Latinx community and serves as a valuable opportunity to learn from one another.

"I have always believed the diversity of the Commonwealth is one of its greatest assets, and celebrating cultural heritage not only instills a sense of personal pride, events like this allow others to share in that celebration, which fosters understanding and appreciation and makes our state a better place for all," said Speaker Robert DeLeo.

The event was filled with powerful remarks offered by nominees, who served as a testament to the resilience and innovation of the rising population of Latinos across the Commonwealth who continually impact their communities despite challenges.

"The Latino contributions are shaping a new and diverse Massachusetts," said Chairman of the MBLLC, Representative Carlos González (D-Springfield). "We are teachers, principals, nurses, doctors, builders, motivators and are motivated to make a difference in our communities for the next generation. Somos un pueblo - we are one community."

Nominated by legislators of the House and Senate, each 2020 Latinx Trailblazer has demonstrated exceptional leadership and served as powerful reminders that leadership means a dedicated investment in the power of community.

The MBLLC was created in 1973, with the intent to be a leading voice on Beacon Hill for communities of color across Massachusetts.

DELL ISOLA RETURNS TO COUNCIL

EVERETT - Former City Council President Rich Dell Isola will return to the Council perhaps as soon as next Monday to fill the vacancy now left by the resignation of Peter Napolitano - as is dictated by the City Charter.

Dell Isola, who was the last man out in the City Election in 2019, said he will take the seat and likely run again for it in the 2021 City Election.

"I'm going to go in like I left a year ago," he said. "When I became president last year, I said we had to work as a team. I hope that can happen. Me, personally, I don't see a team right now. We have to work together with the Mayor's Office, the School Committee and everyone as one. I'm going in as a team player and whatever is good for the residents, that's what I'll do."

He said he understands that there is what is likely to be a competitive City Election next year, and he's ready to cast his hat in the ring as of now to run for re-election.

"As of now, I am going to run next year," he said. "Being out for a year, you begin to look at politics differently. I want to have us working as a team."

City Clerk Sergio Cornelio said the City Charter dictates the at-large Council replacement process, calling for the sixth-place finisher in the five-seat race to automatically take the seat if accepted.

The caveat is that the City Election cannot be less than 90 days away (which would be August 2021) and that the replacement candidate must have received at least 20 percent of the ballots cast. In this case, the City Election is nearly 11 months away, and Dell Isola received

approximately 33 percent of the ballots cast in the 2019 election.

Cornelio said the Council would have to vote on the matter, but that is a formality as the Charter is specific in saying the 6th place finisher is automatically the new councilor on a vacancy.

"By his vote, he automatically gets it," said Cornelio. "It goes to a vote of the Council, but the Charter says they 'shall' vote for that candidate. It is a formality vote really. He automatically receives it according to the Charter because he was 6th and had more than 20 percent of the ballots cast."

The Council has 30 days to take the action of voting Dell Isola in and swearing him into office. Cornelio said they were contemplating taking that action on Monday, Dec. 14, but the agenda hadn't yet been set.

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Standing in front of the Salvation Army Red Kettle – Raymond Bastarache, Paul Price, Reggie Peral, and James Harris.

Lynn Rotary members for the last 15 years continued a community service tradition. Several members rang the bell for donations at the Salvation Army Red Kettle in front of Market Basket. All proceeds will go towards buying toys and gifts for those in need during the Holiday Season.



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NSCC student wins first prize for creating LSCNS logo

Special to the Lynn Journal

Kelsey Taylor, a North Shore Community College liberal arts student, won first place for cre-

ating a new logo for the Life Science Consortium of the North Shore (LSCNS).

Taylor, from Lynn, won \$1,000 for her design. In addition, NSCC also received two out of the four Honorable Mention awards. Mia Swensen and Photis Theodorou from NSCC each received \$50 for their Honorable Mention awards. The other two Honorable Mention awards went to Gordon College students, Linzie Ciarcia and Quentin Cole.

LSCNS was founded in 2012 as a public-private partnership to promote life science education, training, and business growth. Its mission is to: improve job readiness; increase resource sharing; and enhance collaboration between local higher education institutions and the regional life science industry. LSCNS is comprised of North Shore Community College, Endicott College, Gloucester Marine Genomics Institute, Gordon College, Salem State University and North Shore InnoVentures.

The contest attracted 31 entries from four of the member academic institutions. Two thirds of the entries came from NSCC. The strong NSCC contest performance was in great part due to NSCC's Sandy Fuhs, Program Coordinator, Graphic Design for Print & Integrated Media. Sandy used the contest as a real-world project for her Digital Illustration class where the students learned how to create designs and prepare the multiple file types required for a logo.

"It was gratifying to see the



Kelsey Taylor.

students' level of participation and enthusiasm for the contest. The winning logo was chosen because it captured the momentum of the regional Life Sciences community in a simple and attractive design," said Lynn Sutherland, LSCNS Executive Director.

Contest judges were the presidents or chief executives of the member institutions along with the LSCNS Steering Committee, which is comprised of deans, faculty and administrators at the institutions. 100% of the judges voted.

The contest was quite competitive. The judges were asked to rank their top five choices and 70% of the logos received at least one vote for a top five logo. Taylor's logo received the most votes for top logo and the most top 5 votes overall. All contestants received an electronic certificate featuring their logo for their portfolios. Additionally, the top five winners received a framed certificate.

Jolly Old Saint Nick won't be making any appearances for photos this year
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