

THE LYNN JOURNAL

Thursday, February 11, 2021

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Sacred Heart School teachers and students holding the letters they wrote to first responders and essential workers. See Pages 6 and 7 for more photos.

Sacred Heart scholars write 'thank you' cards to first responders, essential workers

By Cary Shuman

As part of a school-wide project, the scholars at Sacred Heart School wrote some touching 'thank you' letters to Lynn's first responders and essential workers who have been so brave during the pandemic.

The Lynn Police Department, the Lynn Fire Department, nursing home nurses, supermarket grocery workers, and bank employees were the recipients of the letters, according to Principal Kristina Relihan.

Sacred Heart teachers personally delivered the letters to the lo-

cal heroes who were very appreciative of the thoughtful gesture by the students (Pre-K through fifth grade) during what has been an unprecedented health crisis in U.S. history.

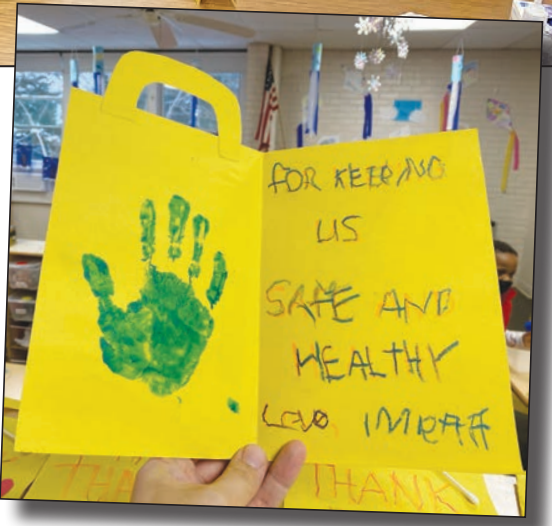
In fact, the Sacred Heart scholars were able to see through various correspondences how much their letters meant to the recipients.

"All of our scholars have seen the photos of police officers and firefighters getting their cards, and you can definitely see the smiles under their masks," said Relihan. "Just getting a thank-you card from a child is great, and for a child to understand the

importance of the community helpers' work is also great."

The length of the letters spanned from one-sentence ("Thank you for helping others") to multi-paragraphs about the importance of the work being done by Lynn Police officers, Lynn firefighters, doctors, nurses, health workers and others who have put themselves at risk to help others in need.

The project, titled "Thank You Notes For Our Community Helpers" was held in coordination with Catholic Schools Week, the annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States.



GLCC presents its annual Business Excellence Awards

Special to the Journal

The Greater Lynn Chamber of Commerce hosted its Annual Meeting and Business Excellence Awards Night Feb. 3 in a virtual event.

Executive Colin Codner said that more than 300 people have viewed the award presentation ceremony and dinner that is usually held at Spinelli's, Lynnfield, with many Chamber members and guests in attendance.

One of the highlights of the dinner has always been the su-

perb musical entertainment provided by Seth Albaum, who tailors a specific song for each award recipient as the winner approaches the podium.

Suzanne Iovanna of Pride Motor Group and Bonnie Galinski of Salem State University are new members of the GLCC Board of Directors. Joe Scianatico of the Salem Five Bank, a premier sponsor of the awards night, is the Chairperson of the GLCC Board of Directors.

Please see GLCC Page 12

Sports betting gets state attention as Wynn Resorts ramps up plans

Sen. Crighton leads the legislative effort in Massachusetts

By Seth Daniel

A new sports betting bill has been filed in the State House within the last two weeks, and it comes just as Wynn Resorts – parent of Encore Boston Harbor in Everett – has ramped up efforts to launch its new online casino and sports betting operations across the country.

All eyes were on the topic of sports betting last week as the Super Bowl unfolded amidst record numbers of people wagering on the game in areas where wagering on sports is legal, and that is followed close behind by the NCAA Basketball Tournament in March – both big takes for the sports betting world.

Wynn Resorts has greatly ex-

panded its existing sports betting book in Las Vegas over the last several months, announcing its new WynnBet online casino and sports betting operations last fall in an investor call, noting their first base of operations was New Jersey and Colorado.

"We've been very focused on this topic the last couple of years, but we've been admittedly quiet about it," said Wynn CEO Matt Maddox last fall.

"We have a strong casino brand, and we think that's particularly true for us," he continued. "On the sports side, we've operated our own sports book for many, many years. We understand trading and we under-

Please see BETTING Page 3

It's that time of the year again!
Check out our Lovelines on Page 8.

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EDITORIAL

CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU, BRIAN SULLIVAN

We know we join with many North Shore residents in offering our congratulations to former Lynn District Court Clerk-Magistrate Brian Sullivan upon his retirement from the state judicial system and thanking him for his 35 years of service to the people of the Commonwealth.

Brian began his outstanding career as a Probation Officer in the Chelsea District Court and continued as an Assistant Clerk Magistrate under the leadership of Clerk Magistrate Kevin Murphy.

He was briefly the Acting Clerk Magistrate in Cambridge before being appointed by Gov. Charlie Baker in December, 2018, to the position of Clerk Magistrate of the Lynn District Court.

Brian is a graduate of Saint Rose School in Chelsea, Malden Catholic High School, and Northeastern University and was a long-time member of the Knights of Columbus in Chelsea.

He became the Grand Knight of that well-known organization, whose headquarters were on Broadway, a block from the new Chelsea District Court building.

Brian's parents, the late Vincent Sullivan, Assistant Commandant of the Chelsea Soldiers Home, and Eleanor, a long-time schoolteacher, and his siblings were among the most-respected families on the North Shore.

Brian, who is married to the former Paula Hansbury, a Chelsea High graduate, was regarded by all who knew him as a very personable and hard-working individual who always held a special place in his heart for the residents of this area.

We know we join with all of the many friends and colleagues of Brian and his family from Lynn, Chelsea, and their hometown of Swampscott in wishing Paula and Brian the best in their golden years.

WINTRY BLAST IS NOT SO HARD TO TAKE

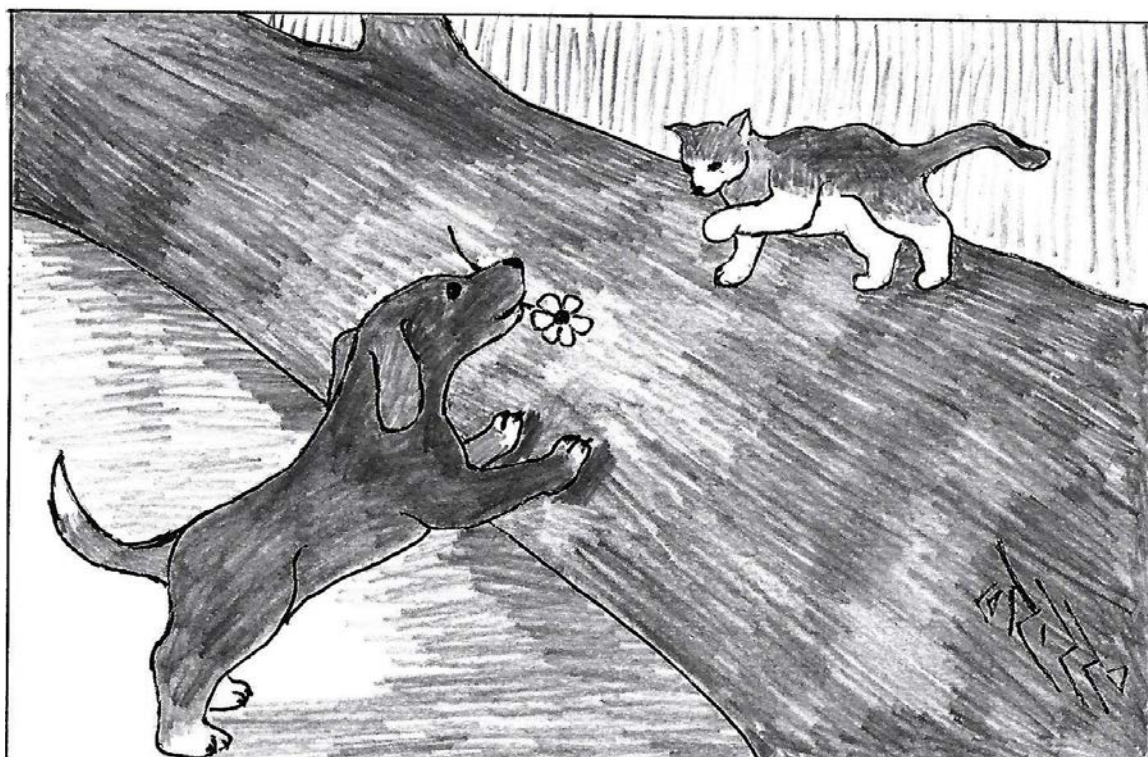
The polar vortex once again has spun out of control, as it has done often in recent years. Instead of remaining in a tightly-wrapped circular motion around the Arctic, the vortex has been weakened by record-high temperatures in the Arctic in recent years because of climate change, thereby loosening the vortex's centrifugal force and allowing waves of cold air to drift from the Arctic to the continental United States.

We have to admit however, that the cold air has been refreshing. We're not suggesting that we want the sort of cold that is gripping the midwest with below-zero temperatures and -50 wind chills, but what is winter without a little spell of cold weather?

We think all would agree that Sunday's snowstorm, with those huge flakes of snow floating down upon us, was wondrous. Catching them in your mouth (as we did while out for a run before the Super Bowl) was something to be appreciated by all of the senses.

Sure, milder winters are easy on our heating bills and we don't have to worry about freezing pipes, slippery roads, and all of the other difficulties that come with winter weather.

But it is precisely the harshness of winter that makes us appreciate summer all the more. It won't be long before the lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer are here and these days of sub-freezing weather will barely be a memory.



HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

LETTER to the Editor

VACCINATE THE POSTAL WORKERS

Dear Governor Baker,

We, the undersigned members of the Massachusetts General Court, are writing to respectfully request that you prioritize United States Postal Service workers to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, as recommended by the CDC's national Advisory Council on Immunization Practices (ACIP). These workers are currently designated in the CDC's Phase 1b recommendation, but have not been specifically named in the state's eligibility criteria for Phase 1 or Phase 2. This has led to confusion, and a plea for assistance from postal workers in our respective districts.

Postal workers have been on the front lines throughout the entire pandemic, and sometimes do not receive the credit they so rightly deserve. As the old adage goes, "Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds," and in 2021, this motto should be updated to include the words "nor pandemic." Every day since the beginning of the COVID pandemic, letter carriers and postal workers have shown up to ensure our mail gets to its destination. Postal workers interact with the

public regularly, whether it is when delivering mail to a person's home or in the post office when citizens are buying stamps or mailing packages. Further, as a result of the pandemic, the USPS experienced a major increase in workload, as the agency handled millions of mail-in ballots during the 2020 elections, as well as a surge in package deliveries through the holiday season.

Ensuring that these workers remain healthy is essential to averting backlogs that have plagued the USPS since the onset of the pandemic. As State Representatives and State Senators, we know the postal workers in our districts, and we share their concerns both for their health

and their ability to continue their essential work. We urge you to acknowledge the public health value of their role, and explicitly name these workers in the state's eligibility criteria as soon as possible. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Donald H. Wong
State Representative
9th Essex District

Brendan P. Crighton
State Senator
3rd Essex District

Lori Ehrlich
State Representative
8th Essex District

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Betting/ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

stand what excites the customer and where the market is. We are working with a team that understands it as well as we do... You have to understand the market and what the customer wants and scale into that. That's what we're in the process of doing now in New Jersey."

Since that time, they have mobilized and seized a great deal of market share in numerous states – with the hopes that Massachusetts would also approve the new wager and give them first crack at a model that could help them emerge after so many COVID-19 shutdowns.

Lynn State Sen. Brendan Crighton is on board with the idea as well, re-filing his sports betting bill with the hopes it can get some attention, provide needed new revenues to the state and help with the revival of properties like Encore post-COVID.

"Certainly sports betting is alive and well in Massachusetts, but is done thought the illegal market and over our state borders in Rhode Island, New Hampshire, New York and soon to be Connecticut," he said. "Our goal is to get the consumer out of the shadows and into a regulated marketplace and make sure that money doesn't go offshore or over our borders."

Crighton said estimates are that about \$6 billion is bet on sports annually in Massachusetts, and that would equate to about \$61 million annually that the state could recoup in revenues at a time when COVID-19 is set to bust State Budgets for some time to come.

His bill would legalize wagers in person at the state's existing licensees – which includes two casinos in Everett and Springfield, a slots parlor in Plainville, Suffolk Downs, Raynham Greyhound Park and Wonderland Greyhound Park in Revere. The bill also has an online component to it as well and would allow mobile sports betting in the state.

The licensing fee would be \$10 million to start out, with a renewal fee each year as well.

"If everyone we expected to apply did so, you're looking at \$70 million right there in licensing fees," said Crighton.

His bill, unlike previous bills, would allow sports betting on college sports. Gov. Charlie Baker exclude college sports in his bill three years ago, and Crighton said some Massachusetts institutions have said they don't want to be included in the betting world. However, overall, he said consumers wouldn't switch from the

black market or out of state without college sports.

"Colleges need to be a part of it," he said. "They are such a big part of sports betting that you won't get people to switch their app or come on over if you don't allow sports betting on college football and basketball. It's just such a large part of this market."

An even bigger piece for those in and around Encore is the revival of visitors to the casino following an up and down year with COVID-19 shutdowns and occupancy limits. Crighton said casinos don't make a killing off of sports betting in general, but adding that activity brings in more foot traffic.

"The revenue a casino brings in for sports betting isn't going to necessarily be a game-changer," said Crighton. "It is a way to bring folks in for restaurants and shopping. That's something we've heard loud and clear from the stakeholders. It would make them more competitive by keeping consumers in the state."

Wynn Resorts' Craig Billings said they had been examining how to best break into the market and found a great partner in the United Kingdom with BetBall.

"We scoured the Earth and we found a company in the UK called BetBall," he said. "The founder and operators of that company, we had a great cultural fit... They understand it intimately and built the product in the UK to be very social. The engagement they had with their customers was really quite extraordinary. When you see your friend making a bet, it will pop up on your phone to ask if you want to follow your friend. It's very parlay heavy and moves you into chat rooms fairly quickly. It's quite fun."

Maddox said they invested in the company in 2019 and began working on a U.S. rollout. Now, Wynn Resorts owns a 70 percent share of the company and call that section of the company Wynn Interactive. Last fall, they had 150 people employed and they have signed market-share agreements in several states.

Billings predicted they could have 50 percent of the accessible market share in the U.S. with WynnBet in the near future.

"It's encouraging what we're seeing," said Maddox. "We will be rolling out this product in the various markets we have access to and we're very focused on it. We've invested \$80 million into that company to focus on user acquisition and continued development over the next few months. We've had lots and lots of inter-

est from people... who want to be a part of it... We're going to build an amazing product and have real business opportunity and rollout. We feel very good that while currently Wynn Interactive does \$20 million in revenue, that number will grow at a very exponential rate as we move forward."

Crighton said his bill is expected to go through the usual process and he expects a public hearing very soon, followed by it being assigned to Committee. This time around, he hopes there is more of an appetite for unleashing this new market in the state.

Crighton was one of the first legislators to offer a regulatory framework for legal sports betting in Massachusetts after the U.S. Supreme Court opened up the industry in 2018.

St. Mary's winter sports team set for CCL Cup tournaments

The St. Mary's High School boys and girls basketball and hockey teams will compete in the Catholic League League (CCL) Cup tournaments that begin this weekend.

All four teams are considered strong contenders for the CCL's post-season championship titles.

Below are the opening games for each sport in the CCL Cup:

Girls Hockey

Quarterfinal, Saturday, February 13, home vs. Archbishop Williams, 7:20 @ Connery Rink.

Boys Basketball

Quarterfinal, Sunday, February 14, home vs. Bishop Fenwick, 2:00 @ Conigliaro Gymnasium.

Girls Basketball

Quarterfinal, Monday, February 15, home vs. Spellman or Austin, 6:00 @ Conigliaro Gymnasium.

Boys Hockey

Semi-final, Wednesday, February 17, home vs. Arlington Catholic, 2:00 @ Connery Rink.

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Pioneer Charter School of Science II seniors receive early acceptance letters from Cornell, Stanford, and UPenn

Pioneer Charter School of Science II (PCSS II) announced this week that three of its high school seniors have received early acceptance letters to top universities across the country.

Misato Chinchilla, Claire Kafeero and Norah Asemota from the graduating class of 2021 have been accepted to Cornell University and University of Pennsylvania and Stanford University.

Misato Chinchilla, 18, of Lynn received her early acceptance letter from Cornell University where she will pursue her studies in Atmospheric Sciences. Chinchilla said of her time at PCSS II, "My high school experience was challenging but full of fun. I gained lifelong friends along the way and had the honor of meeting wonderful teachers who not only taught me new knowledge but also served as mentors to me."

She added "I had a lot of questions when I first started applying to colleges, but starting early in the process allowed me the time to get all of my ques-

tions answered and think over the direction that I wanted to take with my application", Chinchilla added. "While the college application process was demanding, I was able to overcome the challenge with the support that I got from my counselor, friends, and family."

Claire Kafeero, 17, of Malden was accepted to the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business. Claire is the first PCSS II student to be accepted to UPenn.

"My high school experience would not have been the same without Pioneer," said Kafeero. "At this school, I was pushed academically in ways I never thought possible. Pioneer has laid the foundation for my success, and I am forever grateful for the school."

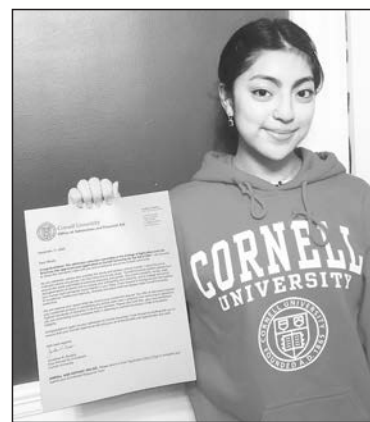
Kafeero also noted how integral the PCSS II community was to her success, explaining that "Due to the support of my counselor, teachers, and friends during the college application process, I was able to get into my dream school. I learned that

while it is important to have good grades and test scores, being able to showcase your personality can really help you stand out."

Norah Asemota, 18, of Lynn was also accepted to Stanford University via their early action program where she will pursue a degree in Biomedical Engineering. Norah is also the first student from PCSS II to be accepted to Stanford.

"I am incredibly proud of these students and what the future holds for them," said Vahit Sevinc, Executive Director of PCSS II. "These early acceptances are the culmination of years of hard work and perseverance that culminated in truly extraordinary circumstances brought about by COVID-19. Yet these students stayed the course and earned acceptance to some of the nation's most prestigious schools. I look forward to seeing the bright futures they have in store."

PCSS II is part of a family of charter schools that offer a rigorous curriculum that emphasizes math, science, and analytical skills balanced by a strong foun-



Misato Chinchilla, a senior at Pioneer Charter School of Science II in Saugus shows off her early acceptance letter to Cornell University.



Claire Kafeero, a senior at PCSS II in Saugus, will attend the University of Pennsylvania's prestigious Wharton School of Business this fall.

ation in humanities. PCSSII serves grades 7-12 and is located in Saugus. There are 53 in the class of 2021.

With schools in Everett (PCSS I) and Saugus (PCSS II), Pioneer Charter School of Science offers a rigorous academic curriculum emphasizing math, science, and analytical thinking skills balanced by a strong foundation in the humanities. The school offers extended days/hours and career-oriented college prepa-

ration. Students must pass five math and five science classes in order to graduate - more than state standards, and students must complete 40 hours of community service. The school has a 195-day school calendar, extended days, after school tutoring and "voluntary" Saturday classes for students who need extra help.

Former State Senator Ben Downing announces candidacy for Governor

By John Lynds

On Monday afternoon Ben Downing is inside Mi Pueblito Restaurant in East Boston picking up some tacos for lunch.

"The chicken jalapeno here is also really good," Downing tells me as he pays for his lunch.

It's been a busy morning for the Western Mass native that served 10 years as a State Senator from Pittsfield before stepping down in 2017 to work full-time in renewable energy.

Downing has been on the phone all morning tapping into his network of supporters, potential donors, friends and family.

On Monday morning Downing released a video announcing he is formally entering the 2022 race for Governor of Massachusetts.

"Growing up in Pittsfield, I lived what it meant to be an afterthought in the state's political power circles," said Downing. "Now, as an East Boston resident, I'm part of a new community just as familiar with being written off. From one side of Massachusetts to the other, I have spent my life in communities that have had to fight harder than they should to get fair representation,

equitable access to resources, and attention from Beacon Hill. So I know what a difference state leadership makes. And I know we need better than what we are getting right now."

Downing was one of the youngest state senators ever elected in Massachusetts history in 2006 at the age of 24. During his tenure at the State House Downing emerged as a leading climate advocate.

Downing moved to Eastie five years ago with his wife, Michaela Morrill, and are raising their two young sons Malcolm, age 3, and Eamon, age 9 months, in the neighborhood. However, Downing's roots in Eastie are strong and the family got their start in the neighborhood at the turn of the last century. In fact, there's a hero square on the corner of Sumner and Cottage Street in Jeffries Point that was dedicated by Mayor Martin Walsh in 2019 in honor of Downing's great great-granduncle Albert Henry Downing of Eastie who died during World War I.

While living in Eastie Downing has seen first hand the inequities that have existed for quite some time but have only been exacerbated by the COVID-19

pandemic.

"I think the major issues right are going to be the COVID response and the lessons we've learned from COVID," said Downing. "What did it expose? What did it show? I think what it showed was something a lot of us already knew existed. We have these widening economic and racial gaps in Massachusetts around income and wages, around wealth and gaps between communities in parts of the state that have grown and have benefited from economic growth in recent decades. So the focus will be how do we close those gaps, how do we address economic and racial justice and, while doing that, take the urgent steps that we need to take to address climate change. We know that the most scarce resource when it comes to climate change is time. We only have really a decade here to take the steps we need to build a sustainable society and I don't think our actions at the state level have reflected that."

Downing argues that most of the urgency over climate change has percolated up from members of the legislature, there needs to be more sense of urgency from the executive branch of



Ben Downing on the campaign trail.

government.

"We need more of a sense of urgency," said Downing. "We know communities like Lynn, East Boston, Chelsea and even Pittsfield were targeted for the development of fossil fuel infrastructure and have the asthma rates and other public health indicators to reflect that. We know a transition to a clean energy economy and the spillovers from that are positive. We have more jobs to create by putting solar on roofs, building energy storage, doing energy retrofits of homes, building offshore wind---there's

a lot of jobs there."

Since 2017 Downing has served in a leadership role at Nexamp, a leading renewable energy company. In that role, Downing led efforts to improve accessibility within the green economy, expand to new markets outside of the northeast, and deploy cutting-edge energy storage solutions here at home. He serves on the board of the Environmental League of Massachusetts and is a leading advocate for climate action in the Commonwealth.

Happy Anniversary



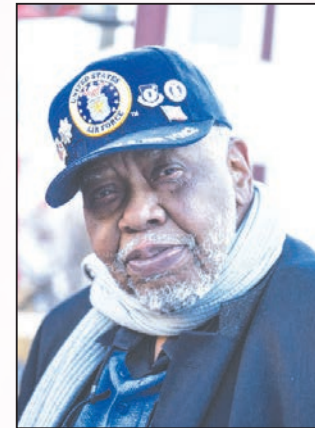
Commemoration of a Marriage – 64 Years and Counting

This is an ode to a marriage. I never thought I'd do something like this but - surviving amidst the worst global virus outbreak since World War I - why not throw caution to the wind?



I'm Lillie Clara Jones. My husband is Clarence Jones. We live in Lynn, Massachusetts and I am a retired teacher's aide from the Lynn School Department. I have known Clarence since junior high school. We married in 1957. As young children, Clarence and I were both raised by our grandparents on cotton farms in the Gaffney, South Carolina area. When our families moved into the city, a short distance from each other, we began to date and we eventually eloped at age 18. Last October, I celebrated my 82nd birthday. Clarence was 82 in June. This February, we commemorate our 64th wedding anniversary.

Clarence and I have lived through good times and bad times. We were born during the Great Depression. We watched family members leave home to serve in the armed forces during World War II and the Korean and Vietnam Conflicts. Since moving to Lynn from the south in 1963, we've witnessed and participated in numerous social awareness movements which have defined our generation and opened doors to opportunity for Americans of every stripe. And, along the way, we managed to raise a family of four children and we now enjoy the company of grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



We moved to Massachusetts in pursuit of work. Clarence got a job at a factory in Lynn and eventually he ventured out to start his own commercial janitorial service. Profit was never his overriding concern. Supporting his family was most important and so was doing good work in the community. Through his business, Clarence employed people from the neighborhood who had difficulty finding work elsewhere. He championed inclusion and diversity in Lynn's public-sector workforce which opened the door for minorities to gain employment at city hall and in the police and fire departments. Through organizations such as the 4-H Club, the Girl Scouts, the Cub Scouts and the Brownies, I too found avenues to contribute to the community. But, I must admit, my homemaking skills are what have drawn the most attention to my door. I'm pleased to be regarded as one of Lynn's best southern cooks. No kidding. Check me out on the cover of the cookbook, "Apple Pie to Pad Thai: Neighborhood Cooking North of Boston." I make a Sweet Potato Pie to die for.

Clarence, on the other hand, not the master cook, has devoted considerable time to mentoring young people. He even created a teen drop-in center to encourage good citizenship. During a turbulent period in the late 1960s, my husband established "Teen City." It kept disadvantaged children off the street and out of trouble. He also founded the Lynn Educational Action Program (L.E.A.P.) - an after-school tutoring program to encourage disadvantaged parents and their elementary school-aged children to enhance their education.

During the 1970s and '80s, Clarence was called on to take the reins of the North Shore N.A.A.C.P. chapter. To this day, my husband is still best known for helping people and for doing positive things for the City of Lynn.

Love of family, commitment, and a willingness to work hard to earn one's keep are core traits instilled in every member of the Jones family. Clarence and I have never owned a house. We've never owned a new car. For more than half a century, my husband supported himself and his family by means of self-employment. Nonetheless, we took pride in the treasure we had to show for this period in the form of souvenirs and mementos - newspaper articles, memorabilia, childhood photographs and documentation of family



reunions - evidence of two lives spent willingly in service to others. Unfortunately, those were our treasures until a fire in 2018 engulfed the 100-year-old apartment building where we resided and consumed much of the written and graphic history of the lives we had lived up to that point.

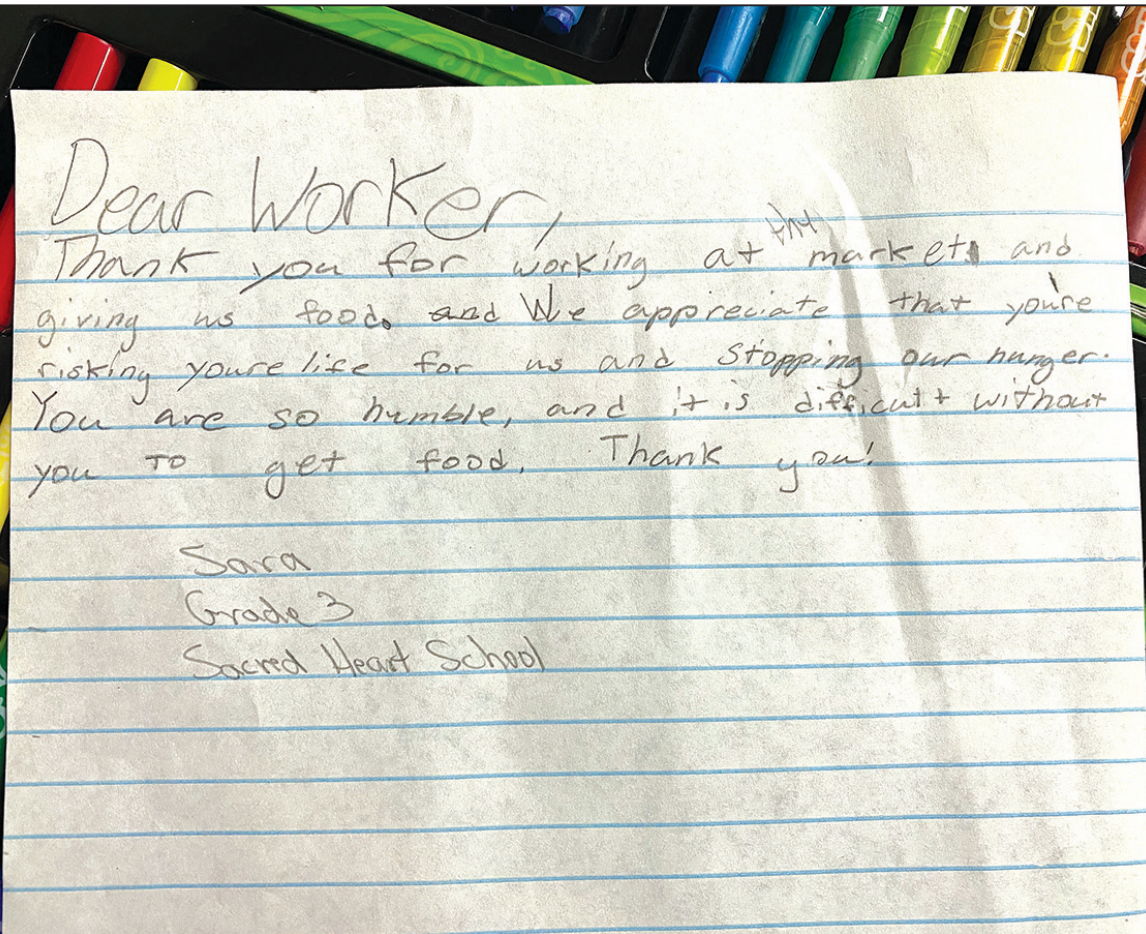
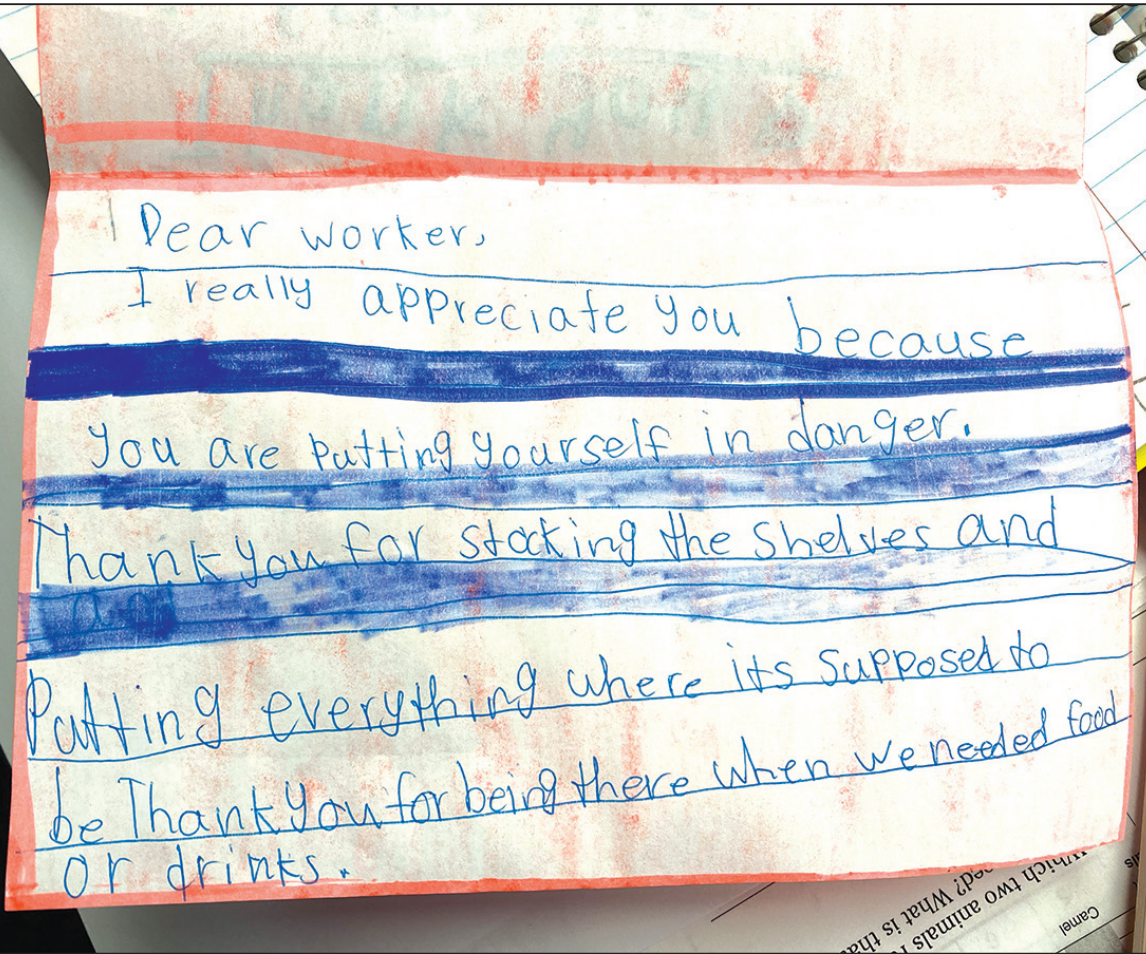
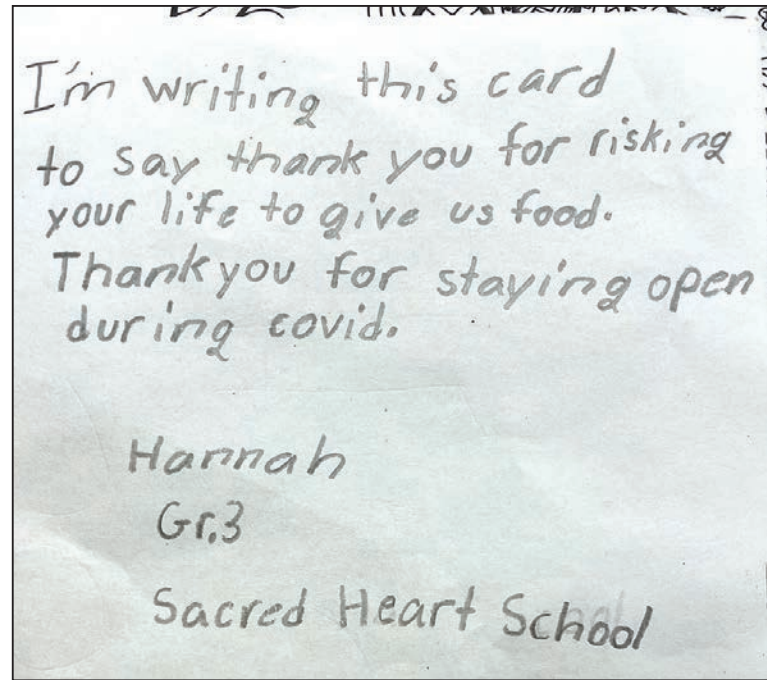
Yet, even with all which has transpired in recent years, we still live our lives optimistically. We smile. We laugh. Yes, we're old. We're frail. We're in poor health. We know the time we have ahead of us is far less than the time we've left behind. But we're still together. The man I married is not perfect but I love him - not to a fault - but in spite of his faults.

We've grown up together. Our story continues. Every day we turn a new page.



SACRED HEART STUDENTS WRITE 'THANK YOU' CARDS TO FIRST RESPONDERS, ESSENTIAL WORKERS

More photos on page 7



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Lynn Police Sgt. Michael O'Connell displays the 'thank you' card he received from Sacred Heart School scholars in recognition of the department's heroism and service during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Lynn firefighter Tim Borders display "thank you" cards from Sacred Heart School scholars in recognition of the Lynn Fire Department's outstanding service and brave actions during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Crosby's Market employees display the "thank you" cards they received from Sacred Heart School students in recognition of their outstanding service during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Sacred Heart School scholars thank the Lynn Fire Department for their bravery and service during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Crosby's Market employees display their 'thank you' cards from the Sacred Heart School.



Sacred Heart School scholars in the Kindergarten-1 and Kindergarten-2 classes, who sent 'thank you' cards to Lynn's first responders and essential workers for their efforts during the pandemic.

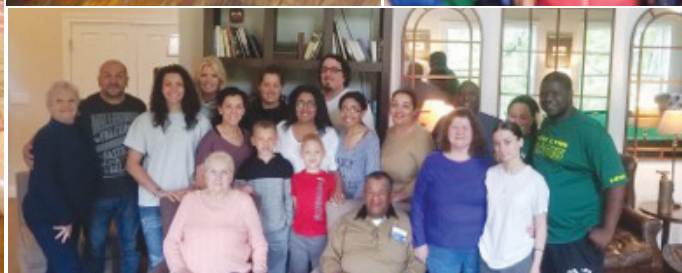
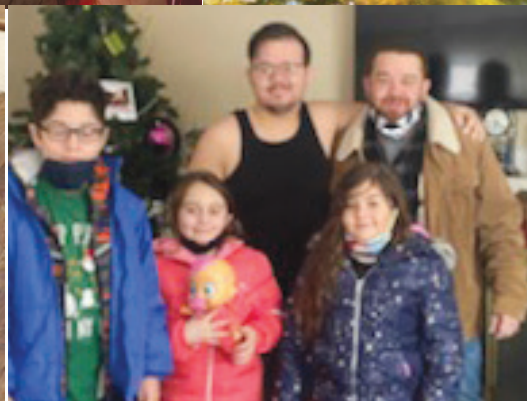
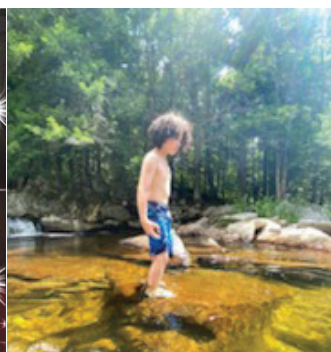
Happy Valentine's Day



*Daddy is my Valentine,
Love Paisley
xoxo*



*Happy Valentine's Day
Stella!*



Happy Valentine's Day to my Big Beautiful Family! lxo xo



Happy Valentine's Day

Charles Gaeta, Executive Director | Laura Walsh, Chairperson
Board of Commissioners Susan McGinnis-Lang,
Steve Martin, Robert Muise, & Frederick Russell

LYNN TECH COVID-19 VACCINATION SITE

The City of Lynn and the Town of Nahant are working together to distribute Covid-19 vaccines for eligible residents from each community as well as anyone who works in Lynn and Nahant.

The Lynn Department of Public Health and the Lynn Community Health Center coordinated a plan to open a vaccination clinic at Lynn Tech Field House. So far since the clinic opened, 1,500 Covid-19 doses have been administered.

At the media briefing Mayor

Thomas McGee explained, "This is a big operation and we want to vaccinate as many people as possible. I want people to understand that Lynn Tech Field House is available. We are reaching out to the community through our website to eligible residents to come here and receive the vaccine. The Mayor continued to say, "We began with the first responders receiving their vaccines about two weeks ago. It was a very successful operation and we wanted to ratchet it up by making this facility available."

The Lynn Public Health Department has been coordinating with the Lynn Housing Authority to help vaccinate its residents. A mobile operation is planned to move into the community. In order to get vaccinated, one must register for an appointment through the website.

The entire operation was pulled together by the Lynn Community Health Center and the Lynn Health Department within a short period of time under the guidance from the Massachusetts' Vaccination Plan.



The Vaccine Prep Station personnel – Nursing Student Andrew Mesrobian with RN Katee Foley.



Lynn Department Public Health Michelle Desmaris, Nahant Town Manager Tony Barletta, Mayor Thomas McGee with Lynn Community Health Center staff – Nurse Practitioner Marita Gove, Chief Operating Officers Kim Eng, and Practice Manager Paul Podgmaitis.



Teanna Coogan and Deirianny Brea documenting vaccines lots.



Lynn Health Department Administrative personnel covering the Covid-19 Clinic – Monica Lemus, RN Jennifer Almonte, RN MJ Duffy-Alexander, RN Meagan Walker, and Iris Martinez.



Lynn Fire Department Paramedic Observation Station – James Mackay, Ronald Patterson, and Richard Downey.

Girls Inc. of Lynn Alumni Spotlight: Victoria Adinkra

By Aryana Richardson



Victoria Adinkra.

“I always love talking about my Girls Inc. story,” Victoria said. Victoria started her Girls Inc. journey in sixth grade and participated in programs like EUREKA!, a summer STEM based program, Sister 2 Sister, a healthy sexuality program where she became a Teen Health Ambassador and delivered comprehensive sex education to peers, and in highschool became a Girl Hero Scholar because of her outstanding academic record and involvement in her community.

At a young age, Victoria knew she had a powerful voice and could use her platform to amplify the issues she saw and create change. “Being very young and

having a lot of power and not knowing what to do with it was my biggest thing with Girls Inc. I knew I had a platform but I wasn’t sure what to do with it,”

she said. Luckily, after a conversation with Bridget Brewer, a Girls Inc. staff member, she began to reflect on how she would use her platform in the future.

“I love talking about that story because she really put a mirror to my face and made me question ‘Is this who I wanted to be?’ and if not, then we figured it out,” she said. “I give Girls Inc. a lot of credit because they instilled the strong, smart, and bold values in me,” she said.

Being from Lynn can have many stereotypes attached, but Victoria felt empowered despite people trying to put her into a box. “A lot of people were trying to put us into that box, but Girls Inc. empowered us to know we are great, especially being from

Lynn, especially being Black girls from Lynn,” she said.

After graduating from Pingree, she went on to study Public Health at Tufts University and graduated in 2018. Today, she works as a prevention case manager for youth who are experiencing homelessness and at-risk situations as well as working as a research consultant. In her free time, she loves to dance and even hosts Afro-Dance workshops through her “Lit Like Vick” series on her Instagram and YouTube channel.

She appreciates all the guidance, advice, and words of encouragement from staff, mentors, and volunteers during her time at Girls Inc. Her advice to other alums and current girls is to recognize the importance of being intentional.

“Be intentional in everything that you’re doing and know your why. It’s ok if your why is rooted in something you have to do or work through, but being intentional about actions and our words. I believe we are the masters of our own ship and we have the power to reach whatever goal we want, but we can’t get that unless we are intentional about it and truly believe this is for me,” she said.

Aryana Richardson is an alumna of Lynn English High School and Girls Inc. of Lynn. She is currently a junior at The George Washington University studying sociology and journalism.

Downing/ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

“I’ve come away from Nexamp more optimistic,” said Downing. “The naysayers will say, ‘Oh it’s big pie in the sky stuff’ and it’s not going to really do anything with the economy. I think the most exciting thing for me is to see the solutions that we have to climate change that are at our fingertips--whether that’s solar energy efficiency, battery storage, offshore wind--they’re there to be tapped. What’s been missing is leadership that’s ready to tap into that potential and set a higher standard for all of us. All too often you see Governor Baker echo talking points from the real estate lobby and others who say these will cost too much and slow down development. We’ve heard those concerns every

step along the way when it comes to the climate change debate in Massachusetts. But every step along the way those talking points have been proven wrong. Yes, there are costs but the benefits far outweigh the costs. We’ve seen that time and time again and the great thing about these jobs is they will be done in Massachusetts, the work has to be done here, and they’re good blue collar jobs that can be done in every corner of the state.”

Another focus said Downing will be to invest in transportation that can help cut down on carbon emissions.

“A big part of addressing climate change issues is making transit more reliable and you look at governor Baker’s record;

it’s a record of cutting the budget at the MBTA,” said Downing. “We need to increase ridership and make it more reliable but we need to do the same with the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) because the BRT just isn’t relevant but we need it to be. We need people to see that as a viable option that gets them out of their cars. It is a significant undertaking but it’s that much tougher to do without leadership from the corner office.”

As a state Senator, Downing represented the largest district in the state, comprising 52 cities and towns. Over a decade in office he led legislative efforts to accelerate our clean energy development and respond to climate change, rebuild our urban and rural economies, reduce poverty and hunger, strengthen our state ethics laws, and expand protections for transgender individuals.

“I’m running for Governor to build a fairer, stronger Massachusetts,” said Downing. “I believe there is no limit to what we can accomplish here. But the leadership needed to unlock this potential is sorely lacking. As we recover and reimagine our future in the months and years to come, we need a Governor who sees, feels and understands the gravity of this moment and how we got here; who is not content with accumulating power but who is ready to use that power to respond boldly to the dire impacts of the pandemic, rising racial inequality, and the urgency of climate change.”

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City of Lynn COVID-19 update

The Lynn Public Health Department has confirmed that as of today, the number of active, confirmed positive COVID-19 cases is 1,313 with 61 new cases today. 13,549 Lynn residents have recovered and 184 have died. The total number of confirmed positive COVID-19 cases in Lynn since March 21, 2020, including those who have died and recovered, is 15,046. Please visit the City of Lynn COVID-19 Data Dashboard which is updated daily.

Governor Baker announced a new policy today allowing one caregiver per 75+ person to also schedule their own appointment for a vaccine at the same time in

an effort to support more 75 and older people getting vaccinated. Caregivers will be required to self-attest that they are accompanying a 75+ person.

Appointments for 75+ people and their caregivers should be scheduled for the same day, as close together as possible. If a caregiver is accompanying a 75+ person to their second dose, they may still schedule an appointment for themselves for their first dose, and then come alone to their second dose appointment.

COVID-19 vaccine appointments are available at Lynn Tech for MA Phase 1 and 75+ residents, and one caregiver, who live or work in Lynn & Nahant or are

Lynn Community Health Center Patients: <https://www.lchcnet.org/covid-19-vaccine-scheduling>. Seniors 75+ can call 2-1-1 to make an appointment Mon-Fri 8:30am-5:00pm

Please visit http://www.ci.lynn.ma.us/covid19/resources.shtml#p7GPc1_2 for the most up to date COVID-19 testing information, as well as more detailed information on the State and City of Lynn's Reopening Guidelines. 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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LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

LOCAL STUDENTS NAMED TO DEAN'S LIST FOR FALL 2020

North Shore Community College Interim President Dr. Nate Bryant is pleased to announce that the students listed below were Dean's List students for the Fall 2020 semester.

Dean's List Honors are awarded to students who have earned six or more semester hours of academic credit with a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.30 or higher.

Nelson Nkengbezah, David Noonan, Cristy Novas Novas, Kelly Noyes-Sarmento, Emely Nunez, Cassandra Ochoa, Joshua Odafe, Abiola Odusanya, David Okoro, Fiorivic Oliva, Oladapo Olofinmoyin, Olabayo Onile-Ere, Gerardo Ortega Cruz, Carlos Osorio, Ebere Osuji, John Otalvaro, Khadija Ould-Sahraouia, Eric Pacheco, Ana Palomares Gomez, Jefferlina Paris Ortiz, Kaylee Pasuy, Jenine Patten, Ashley Peach, Ethan Pech, Jesus Peralta, Geovamphry Perez, Keisha Perez, Madians Perez, Manuel Perez, Ramona Perez, Leanny Perez Morel, Perla Piantini, Destiny Pierce, Yaxeni Pineda, Lizbeth Plasencia Suarez, Joseph Plessas, Roger Powell, Jerry Presmy, Melissa Prum, Felix Ramirez, Johaida Ramos, Maria Ramos, Bryan Reyes, Kayla Reynolds, Andrew Richard, Dahvonte Richards, Carlos Rivera-Melo, Ryan Robison, Yaritza Rodriguez, Joshey-la Rodriguez, Julissa Rojas, Djane Romelus Douyon, Keren Romero, Jasmine Ros, Ryan Rotcavich, Adriana Ruiz, Souraxay Saengthavy, Flavia Sana-

bia Liranzo, Nancy Sanchez, Aracelis Santana, Briana Santiago Fernandez, Smarlin Santiago Vargas, Lucia Sazo, Courtney Scali, Jerry Semper, Kenneth Shay, Laurent Simard, Brandon Small, Alexa Solano Guzman, Jailyn Soto-Soto, Jandeirvy Sous, Katelyn Sponholtz, Courtney Sprague, Cynthia Suarez, Fereshtah Tajiki, Robert Tamilio, Maria Tavaréz Holguin, Kelsey Taylor, Elizabeth Tea, Monica Tejada Lemus, Diomira Tejada, Christopher Telusma, Colleen Terry, Sulthanamole Thajudeen, Katrina Thomas, Danielle Thomas, Sameer Thompson-Masoom, Karen Tithy, Jecser Toledo Medina, Emely Tolentino, Lai Tran, Erin Tremblay, Alisha Turnbull, Anthony Uva, Monica Vanna, Katiria Vargas, Vianca Vasquez, Kimberly Vasquez Tineo, Daquale Vaughn, Oladapo Vera-Cruz, Jack Viana, Alan Victorino, Genesis Vizcaino, Lawrence Walker, Derek White, Mariah Williams, Emilse Zapata Barrow, Sarita Zapet Mendez, Elfejo Zavala

Lauren Casey of Lynn, a member of the Class of 2023, majoring in Theatre & Sociology

Ackiaara Chhim of Lynn, a member of the Class of 2024, majoring in Undeclared

To qualify for the Dean's List, students must pass four or more letter-graded courses with no failing grades during the semester and earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

LOCAL STUDENTS NAMED TO HOLY CROSS FALL 2020 DEAN'S LIST

A total of 1,453 students were named to College of the Holy Cross' Dean's List for outstanding academic achievement during the fall semester of the 2020-21 academic year. The following local students made the list:

Ryan Donnelly of Lynn, a member of the Class of 2022, majoring in Chemistry

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ST. MARY'S OF LYNN SPARTAN HOCKEY SENIOR NIGHT AT CONNERY RINK

Last Wednesday evening the seniors of the boy's hockey team from St. Mary's of Lynn were recognized for their achievements on the ice for the past 4 years. During this time these Spartans have recorded a record of 50 wins, 24 loses and 9 ties. This excellent record shows that St. Mary's boys hockey continues to be one of the finest programs for high school athletes in Massachusetts.

GLCC/

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Following are the 2021 GLCC Business Excellence Award recipients:

Buddy Fennell Hall of Fame Awards

- Bibby Real Estate Corp.
- Greater Lynn Senior Services
- The Lazy Dog Sports Bar

Community Pride Award

Nicole McClain, founder of North Shore Juneteenth Celebration

David J. Solimine Sr. Community Service and Support Awards

- Atlantic Ambulance Service
- The Salvation Army Community Corps Community Center
- George Markos of Brothers Deli, Lynn
- Richard Sullivan of R.F. O'Sullivan's

2021 Chairman's Award

Awarded to all GLCC members for your hard work and tenacity through an extremely difficult year.

SEND US YOUR NEWS

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



Senior Captain Christian Moran with his parents, Desiree and Mark.



Terance Moynihan with his parents, Peg and Tim.



Senior Captain Colby Magliozzi with his parents, Elisa and Kevin.



Kory Ouelette with his parents, Maureen and Steve.



Max Giardina with his parents, Tara and Mark.



Senior Captain Kyle LoNigro with his parents, Jennifer and Ed.



Dante D'Ambrosio with his parents, Michelle and Dave.