

# THE LYNN JOURNAL

Thursday, March 24, 2022

## ST. MARY'S BOYS AND GIRLS ARE MIAA STATE CHAMPIONS



THE 2022 MIAA DIVISION 3 BOYS BASKETBALL CHAMPION



THE 2022 MIAA DIVISION 3 GIRLS BASKETBALL CHAMPION

### St. Mary's boys basketball roars past Watertown to claim Division 3 state title

By Cary Shuman

There were tense moments for the St. Mary's High School boys basketball team who had won all 26 previous games it played in the state of Massachusetts this season.

But in a second half of team basketball that was an absolute clinic, the Spartans erupted for 27 points in a third-quarter take-over, and proceeded to roll to a 71-40 victory over Watertown and claim the Division 3 state championship.

As usual, the Spartans (28-1) had multiple stars in victory. Ali Barry, a senior captain who scored his 1,000th career point this season, was the leader with 21 points. Omri Merryman was brilliant in the third quarter, scoring 15 of his 19 points in electrifying fashion. David Brown Jr. scored 11 points, dished out six assists, and again showed his rebounding skills with six caroms.

Brown, a 5-foot-9-inch guard, closed the show with a spectacular dunk in the fourth quarter. It was the perfect ending to an All-Scholastic junior season for Brown, who averaged 15 points, 5 rebounds, 5 assists, and 3 steals per game.

Nick Sacco, a 6-foot-4-inch forward from Saugus, contributed 12 points and 10 rebounds in his usual, dependable role off the bench. Super sixth man Anthony

D'Itria, whose 14-point effort versus Dover Sherborn was a highlight in the run through the tournament, also contributed to the victory.

And the main man on defense all season, Derick Coulanges (8 points), made his presence felt at both ends of the court.

"Derick was the best defender in our league, hands down," lauded Coach David Brown. "He always faced the opposing team's leading scorer, whether it was a point guard or a forward. Derick always did his job by shutting that player down. He shut down Watertown's leading scorer to two points, and when you do that, you're most likely going to win the game."

Henri Miraka overcame some injuries during his career to help lead St. Mary's to the title.

"We don't win a state championship without Henri," said Coach Brown. "He's a leader and one of my better defenders. I'm so happy for him as well."

St. Mary's played one of the toughest schedules in the state and claimed every crown in its path.

"It's an amazing season when you look at the schedule that we played," said Brown. "We faced eight Division 1 teams in the state of Massachusetts and went 8-0. We went down to Florida,

Please see BOYS Page 10

### St. Mary's girls basketball defeats Rockland, 46-44, to capture the state championship

By Cary Shuman

The St. Mary's High School girls basketball team won 26 games this season, but saved its best for last.

Junior forward Kellyn Preira blocked Rockland's last-second shot at the buzzer to give St. Mary's a thrilling 46-44 victory over Rockland in the Division 3 state final Friday at the Tsongas Center in Lowell.

Junior guard Yirsy Queliz's jumper with 30 seconds left had given the Spartans a two-point lead. Queliz scored her 1,000th

career point during the memorable season, but the 'best for last' label also applies to her immensely clutch basket.

"We were running a double-screen high, and Yirsy just slipped right behind the screen and hit a nice, little elbow jumper, which is quite frankly her shot," lauded Newhall. "To have the ball in your best player's hands and taking that shot, you really couldn't ask for much more than that with 30 seconds left in the state final. Yirsy was our steadying force all game."

Preira had 16 points, seven

rebounds, and six blocked shots, capped by her game-winning defensive play.

"That play happens to win the state title at the end of the day, but Kellyn's effort against [Bentley-bound] Elie for 32 minutes was the story of the game," said Newhall.

Niya Morgen, who scored five points, completed a tremendous season for the Spartans. Morgen (414) was one of three players to score more than 400 points this season, joining Queliz (457) and Preira (405), to form the high-

Please see GIRLS Page 10

# EDITORIAL

## SPRING IS IN THE AIR FOR ALL THE SENSES

This past Sunday marked the vernal equinox, also known as the beginning of astrological spring. It's one of the two days of the year -- the other being the fall equinox -- when day and night are roughly equal in length around the globe.

We would note that "meteorological spring" began March 1, the date used by meteorologists and climatologists to mark the beginning of the spring season.

However, to paraphrase Bob Dylan and Sam Cooke, we don't need a weatherman (or a calendar) to be aware that a change is coming. Our senses have alerted us for the past few weeks to the impending arrival of spring.

We can see the crocuses that have been emerging, providing a burst of color through the barren ground.

Every morning right around sunrise, we can hear the chorus of birds in the trees, loudly chirping and tweeting after their winter of silence.

On clear days, the sun feels warm and strong, especially if we are on the leeward side of a wall or other structure, protected from the still-chilly March wind.

And even in the city, there is an earthy smell we have known since childhood that instinctively informs our brains that there is a change in the seasons.

To be sure, Mother Nature most likely will have some wintry surprises left for us. This April 1 will mark the 25th anniversary of the April Fool's snowstorm of 1997 (we'll write about that next week).

But our senses have told us that Ol' Man Winter is done and spring is here.

## WHAT WILL WE DO IF (WHEN) PUTIN USES A NUCLEAR WEAPON?

With the news that Putin's Russian army at best is facing a stalemate in Ukraine, the odds that Putin might use a so-called tactical nuclear weapon are increasing daily.

The thing about autocrats is this: Just when you think they've gone as far (or as low) as they can go, they cross a new threshold of evil.

We were both surprised and dismayed to read that Russia has nuclear weapons that only are about two percent as powerful as the atom bombs that the U.S. dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in WWII.

Both the Soviet Union and the U.S. have long-maintained nuclear arsenals with hydrogen bombs that are 2000-3000 times more powerful than the first A-bombs, but we were not aware that both sides also have developed these mini-nukes.

Indeed, Putin can look at our use of the A-bombs in WWII as an example of how to force an opponent into submission. Japan only surrendered after we used the bombs. With the Ukrainians defiantly resolved to fight to the last person, the use of a small nuclear weapon might be the only option left to Putin to win his war.

So what if Putin were to drop a small nuke over say, Kyiv?

What will be the response of NATO and the U.S.?

The world as we know it is being threatened -- and thereby controlled -- by a sociopath.

The civilized world can impose all of the economic sanctions it wants upon a despot, but in the final analysis, nukes are what matter, which is why the No. Koreans are trying to get them.

We can only speculate about the future path that the war in Ukraine will take us.

We are entering a deep, dark cave with no light at the end of the tunnel.

Hopefully, that light, when it comes, will not be the flash of a nuclear bomb.

## GUEST OP-ED

### Utility bills, gasoline prices and Ukraine

Dr. Glenn Mollette

Most of us simply want peace in our lives, nation and world. We enjoy resting in a warm or cool house, with something to eat, free from worry and stress. Peace is not always easy. This winter, chances are that your heating bill was chomping on your checking account and taking a huge bite out of your income. You may have turned your thermostat down and wore extra layers hoping to cut back on literally burning up your money.

People have reported gas and electric bills from \$500 to over a \$1,000 for one month of trying to stay comfortable in their homes.

While you are attempting to stay warm or cool, you are wondering if you can afford to start your car. Americans are seeing gas prices dance between \$4.00 and over \$6.00 for one gallon of gas. Filling up my old truck is pushing toward \$150 at a time. When my wife goes to the grocery store the same staples seem

cost more every time she goes.

The current inflation is not only expensive but is chipping away at our peace. Peace? It's hard to have peace if you go into cardiac arrest every time your utility bill arrives, you buy gasoline or go to the grocery store. If you are renting a place in America then you have a further burden as some Americans are paying over \$2,000 a month to rent a house. If they can find one to rent.

Russia has destroyed Ukraine and has become a major player in driving up our cost of living. We were already experiencing inflation but the entire planet is reacting to what Russia is doing to Ukraine. Do you remember when we heard the news that Osama Bin Laden had been shot by one of our seal teams? When and how will the murderous rein of Vladimir Putin end? We must hope and pray for an end to this evil.

Unfortunately, the world is a difficult place for peace. The Bi-

ble assures us that in the last days there will be wars and rumors of wars. There will be pestilence, famine, and our hearts will fail us from fear. Thus, our peace must come from God who is greater than our problems. There is an internal strength and peace that comes when we focus our minds on Him. Currently millions of Ukrainians have nothing left but the shirts on their backs and whatever internal resolve and fortitude that is keeping them going.

Our peace in America is very unsettling but compare your situation to millions of Ukrainians today. Pray for them and let us all give thanks for what we have.

*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.*

## LETTER to the Editor

installation out of recycled materials. "Traditional construction and demolition of houses is currently the largest generator of landfill waste in the U.S. We need to start using sustainable

building methods to ensure more equitable and affordable housing in the future. Reusing trash to

Please see LETTER Page 3

## GALA'S NEXT EXHIBIT

To the Editor,

Galleries At LynnArts (GALA) is happy to announce their next exhibit: Environmental Awakening, which will run from April 1 to May 12. The show is curated by Emmanuelle Le Gal, Stefanie Timmermann and assistant curators Nathan Hamerschmitt Le Gal and Nathaniel Boyd. We asked artists to create work with a perspective on our ever changing planet. We asked them to tell us about their connection or personal vision on nature. Do they educate or advocate environmental changes? With this exhibit, we wanted to address the urgent need to live sustainably within earth's resources.

We reached out to artists who incorporate recycled, reused or repurposed material in their art. Heather Goodwin, owner of Sea Hag Studios in Nahant, embodies that concept. "Sea Hag Studios creates art from objects that can be found where the land meets the sea. Curator Stefanie Timmermann will present a unique

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**Letter** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

construct homes is one obvious path to such sustainability – and for Environmental Awakening, an igloo-style prototype out of all the recycled milk and juice cartons donated by members of the community was built. At nearly six feet across, this dwelling is big enough to crawl inside. Environmental Awakening is

happening. As inhabitants of this planet, we have a responsibility to maintain the nest we live in. We hope this exhibit will empower visitors to develop their own solutions and become themselves advocates for sustainability.

**Galleries at LynnArts**

**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

**MS-13 member sentenced to 43 years in prison**

An MS-13 member was sentenced yesterday in federal court in Boston for RICO conspiracy and for his participation in the July 2018 murder of a teenage boy who was stabbed at least 32 times in a public park in Lynn.

Eliseo Vaquerano Canas, a/k/a “Peligroso,” 22, a Salvadorian national, was sentenced by U.S. Senior District Court Judge Mark L. Wolf to 43 years in prison and five years of supervised release. Vaquerano will be subject to deportation proceedings upon completion of his sentence. In February 2021, Vaquerano pleaded guilty to conspiracy to conduct enterprise affairs through a pattern of racketeering activity, also known as RICO conspiracy, on behalf of the MS-13 gang. As part of his racketeering activity, Vaquerano participated in the 2018 murder of a teenager, who was murdered with extreme atrocity and cruelty, and with deliberate premeditation, in violation of Massachusetts law.

MS-13, or La Mara Salvatrucha, is a transnational street gang operating in Massachusetts and numerous other states, as well as countries such as El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala. MS-13 gang members often commit acts of extreme violence against suspected rivals, those suspected of cooperating with law enforcement, and others who the gang views as a threat. In recent years, dozens of MS-13 members have been convicted of RICO conspiracy and other serious felonies in the District of Massachusetts.

MS-13 is organized into “cliques” or branches operating in local territories. Vaquerano belonged to the “Sykos Locos Salvatrucha” clique of MS-13, which operated in the cities of Lynn, Chelsea, and other parts of Massachusetts. MS-13 has various ranks, with elevation to “homeboy” status generally requiring the commission of a significant act of violence. Evidence showed that Vaquerano had achieved homeboy status in MS-13 even prior to the July 2018 murder. Evidence also showed

that Vaquerano helped recruit young members on behalf of the gang, including at Chelsea High School.

In November 2018, Vaquerano and five other MS-13 Sykos clique members were indicted following an investigation into the murder of a teenage boy, whose body found in a park in Lynn on Aug. 2, 2018. The six defendants in this case included five participants in the murder, as well as one longstanding member of the Sykos clique. In a related case, the government charged a juvenile co-conspirator who was the sixth person involved in the murder.

The evidence in this case, which included a recording of one of Vaquerano’s co-defendants describing the murder in graphic detail, revealed that Vaquerano Canas and five other MS-13 gang members murdered the victim based on their mistaken belief that he may have been assisting law enforcement.

On July 30, 2018, the six gang members lured the victim to a public park. At least four of the attackers, including Vaquerano, were armed with knives. The group pretended to be friendly with the unsuspecting victim and took him to a wooded area of the park where they surrounded the victim and repeatedly stabbed him to death. At least four of the six assailants took part in stabbing the victim. Vaquerano had an especially active role in the brutal attack. Evidence showed that as the victim was being attacked, he called out to Vaquerano for help, believing that Vaquerano was his friend. Instead, Vaquerano repeatedly stabbed and hacked at the victim with a large knife. Vaquerano attacked the victim with such force that parts of his large knife shattered, and pieces of the blade were embedded into the victim’s skull.

After killing the victim, the gang members left his body in the wooded area of the public park where it was discovered days later, on Aug. 2, 2018. An autopsy revealed that the victim

suffered at least 32 distinct sharp force trauma wounds consistent with being stabbed repeatedly, along with multiple blunt force injuries.

All six defendants indicted in this case, along with the juvenile charged in the related case, have pleaded guilty. Vaquerano is the fifth defendant to be sentenced in the case. On Feb. 14, 2022, Erick Lopez Flores, a/k/a “Mayimbu,” was sentenced to 40 years in prison. On Feb. 15, 2022, Jonathan Tercero Yanes, a/k/a “Desalmando,” was sentenced to 33 years in prison. On Feb. 16, 2022, Henri Salvador Gutierrez, a/k/a “Perverso,” was sentenced to life in prison. On Feb. 18, 2022, Djavier Duggins, a/k/a “Haze,” was sentenced to 15 years in prison. A sentencing hearing for the remaining co-defendant, Marlos Reyes a/k/a “Silencio,” has not yet been scheduled by the Court.

First Assistant United States Attorney Joshua S. Levy; Joseph R. Bonavolonta, Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Boston Division; Matthew B. Millhollin, Special Agent in Charge of Homeland Security Investigations in Boston; Colonel Christopher Mason, Superintendent of the Massachusetts State Police; Essex County District Attorney Jonathan W. Blodgett; Suffolk County District Attorney Kevin Hayden; Acting Boston Police Commissioner Gregory Long; and Lynn Police Chief Christopher Reddy made the announcement. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Kunal Pasricha, Kaitlin O’Donnell, and Philip Mallard of the Criminal Division prosecuted the case.

This effort is part of an Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces (OCDETF) operation. OCDETF identifies, disrupts, and dismantles the highest-level criminal organizations that threaten the United States using a prosecutor-led, intelligence-driven, multi-agency approach. Additional information about the OCDETF Program can be found at <https://www.justice.gov/OCDETF>.



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Bike to the Sea connects communities by building and improving shared-use paths, and promoting safe and happy trail use for all ages and abilities

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# BLOCK, PARTY

## Kellyn Preira's heroics clinch title for St. Mary's

By Cary Shuman

Kellyn Preira didn't have time to weigh the options. If the St. Mary's 5-foot-10-inch junior commits a foul and Rockland's Julia Elie converts the layup and free throw, Rockland is the state champion.

But if she comes out of nowhere and blocks the shot, St. Mary's is the state champion. And that's what transpired in the final, frantic seconds of the Division 3 state final Friday at the Tsongas Center in Lowell.

In what St. Mary's head coach Jeff Newhall is calling "the play of the year," Kellyn Preira's block of Julia Elie's last-second shot sealed the Spartans' 46-44 victory and a state championship.

Like John Havlicek's steal for the Celtics in the 1965 Eastern Division finals, Pereira has a block for the Spartans that will stand the test of time.

Newhall credited Rockland coach Diane Newcomb for strategizing a well-executed play for

the final sequence.

"But the more I watch the play, I think the more you have to give Kellyn credit for getting over the screen and regaining her balance and not being out of control and just blocking the ball at its highest point," said Newhall. "Half of it is probably just athletic ability and the way she plays basketball, but there was some basketball acumen that went along with the play."

Preira had 16 points, seven rebounds, and six blocks.

Asked to describe her final block, Preira said, "I was playing behind her and felt that screen and knew I had to get over it. I looked at her eyes and I knew she was going to get the ball. When she released the ball, that's when I blocked it so there would be no fouls."

When did she realize the magnitude of making the greatest defensive play in school history?

"Honestly, I feel like I don't even know if it's hit me yet," said Preira. "A lot of people have

asked me that question, and I don't even know if I actually realize that play saved the game."

Preira played to an All-Star caliber in all 29 games. She had a season-high 29-point performance versus Austin Prep while averaging 14 points a game.

Preira had back-to-back enormous defensive assignments in the Final Four, matching up with Cecilia Kay of Fenwick and Julia Elie of Rockland.

"Definitely my defense was my first priority," related Preira.

She said the St. Mary's team developed a strong bond during the season. "I love playing basketball with this team. Yirsy and I play AAU together with the MCW Stars. Just playing with my teammates on the court – it's makes me feel more comfortable."

Preira also praised the St. Mary's coaching staff, led by Jeff Newhall.

"He's probably one of the best coaches I've had," said Preira. "He's very smart with teaching



**STALWART:** St. Mary's Kellyn Preira (14) defended Rockland star Julia Elie, blocking six of Elie's shots, including one at the buzzer to secure the Spartan's win.

the game to everyone, and that's why a lot of kids that come to play basketball at St. Mary's learn so much."

An excellent student, Preira has begun looking at colleges, including the Ivy League's Co-

lumbia and Brown, American University, Assumption, and Long Beach State.

Kellyn is the daughter of Daniel Preira and Yvette Preira. She has an older brother, Dylan Preira, 18.

# A PRICELESS QUARTER

## Omri Merryman's outburst a key to State Final victory

By Cary Shuman

Rob Merryman was in his customary mid-court seat at the Tsongas Center when the third quarter started in the Division 3 state championship game.

The St. Mary's boys basketball team trailed Watertown by four points, but in an explosive exhibition of team basketball, Mr. Merryman's son, Omri Merryman, and his teammates, put together one of the most impressive quarters in post-season history.

Omri, a 6-foot-4-inch junior forward, was the chief catalyst with 15 points, including an and-one to start the run, two three-pointers, two mid-range jumps shots, and a layup – all in a span of six-and-half-minutes.

As a team, St. Mary's scored 27 points while limiting Watertown to only five on its way to turning a four-point deficit into 54-36 advantage.

Coach David Brown's contingent kept its foot on the accelerator in the fourth quarter while roaring to a convincing 71-40

victory over Watertown, a perennial Middlesex League contender.

Omri knew he hadn't played up to his potential in the first half, but he was ready when the bell rang for Quarter 3.

"I had to play better in the second half," said Omri. "Coach Brown inspired us. The third quarter was the best quarter I ever played. We pressured them full court and we started hitting shots. I think we showed we were the better team."

As for winning 28 games and taking home a state championship, Omri said, "I'm ecstatic about the season. It's an amazing feeling. I'm glad I was able to contribute in my role – scoring the basketball when I could, try to rebound and stay on the court, and help my team win."

Omri, who averaged 13 points and 7 rebounds per game this season, said optimism abounded during tryouts and pre-season practices.

"David Brown Jr. and Ali [Barry] were coming off last year's strong season and it was

great to see Ali get his 1,000th point, we had Derick [Coulanges], one of our best defenders, I love playing basketball with [6-foot, 4-inch forward] Nick Sacco – I could tell that we had a chance to win it all.

"And we all love Coach Brown and want to play hard for him. He can be tough on us at times, but I wouldn't want anyone else coaching me," said Omri.

Omri also thanked his team of trainers for helping his improvement as a basketball player. That valuable contingent includes Kenny Jackson, Marcos Echevarria Sr., Tony Gallo, and Todd Burton.

Rob Merryman and his wife, Christy, are understandably very proud of their son, Omri, and his tide-turning effort versus the Watertown Raiders.

"I knew he could do it," said Rob Merryman, a former Lynn Tech basketball player who coached Omri when he was a student at Sacred Heart School. "I was just very proud that he had his moment to help the team. Watching him smile and watch-



**WHATEVER IT TAKES:** Omri Merryman goes to the floor as he tries to steal the ball from Watertown's Sean Anthony McCusker

ing him get engaged – that's what players work hard for, and Omri has worked really hard. As a freshman, it was a reality for him that he had to put the work in if he wanted to get to the next level. He committed to working out every day – shooting the basketball, running, lifting weights, working with a trainer. He started falling in love with the game and he wanted to make himself a bet-

ter player."

Rob Merryman had special praise for his son's high school coach, David Brown Sr.

"David Brown has coached my son since third grade," said Rob. "I have nothing but respect for David Brown. He's done a lot for kids and a lot for the community. He's never given up on my kid and always included

# ST. MARY'S GIRLS WIN MIAA DIVISION 3 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

BOB MARRA PHOTOS

St. Mary's of Lynn ruled the Tsongas Center in Lowell Friday night as both the girls and boys walked off with their respective MIAA Division 3 State championship trophies. First it was the girls, in a dramatic 46-44 win over Rockland.



**SOLID DEFENSE:** Kellyn Preira breaks up a pass intended for Rockland's Julia Elie.



**IN THE WAY:** AJ Hyacinthe (5) blocks the way of Rockland's Charlie Kelleher.



**LONG REACH:** Bella Owumi has a long reach above the crowd for a rebound.



**BRIGHT FUTURE:** In just the seventh grade, Bella Owumi played a key role in the Spartans championship run—suggesting that St. Mary's will be a force for years to come. Here Owumi gets past Rockland senior Julia Elie.



**DEFENSE, TOO:** Yirsy Queliz scored 17 points, but played tough defense as well.



**MAKING WAY:** St. Mary's Kellyn Preira fends off Rockland's Julia Elie and moves toward the basket.



**ANOTHER TROPHY FOR THE CASE:** St. Mary's seniors Olivia Abbot (32) and Abbie Constine carry the championship trophy off the court.



**REJOICING:** St. Mary's fans surround Olivia Abbot (32) as she gives them a close-up view of the championship trophy.

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- **VISTA MARKET (New Owners)**

**TUESDAY 4/ 5/2022 AT 3:00 PM 391 ESSEX ST. LYNN**



Members at the NSLBA Network Event, held on March 16, as things start going back to normal. Next NSLBA General Meeting is on April 20, at 6 p.m. at 33 Sutton St. Lynn.

- **NORTH SHORE COMMUNITY COLLEGE Ribbon Cutting Ceremony**

**“Welcoming President Heineman: Fostering a stronger sense of community.”**

**TUESDAY 4/12/2022 2:00PM 300 BROAD ST. LYNN MA**

# VICTORIA'S RESTAURANT HOLDS RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY

Looking for a quaint and comfortable atmosphere that specializes in Hispanic and American Food, Victoria's International Restaurant is the place on 207 Lewis Street. A very wholesome and healthy menu is prepared by owner/chef Jose Landaverde. As one enters the premise, Blanca Landaverde greets each customer. The restaurant offers freshly prepared orders either for delivery or for pickup service.

Ward 3 Councilor Coco Alinsug and Precinct 4 Captain

Sandra Corneau welcomed Victoria's Restaurant to their neighborhood. Coco explained he had an accident walking down the street as he said, "I unfortunately tripped, but in Philippine culture, it signifies good luck." As he continued to say, "On behalf of the Lynn City Council we welcome your business here and wish you all the success." Other citations presented were from Mayor Jared Nicholson, State Reps Peter Capano and Daniel Cahill with Sean Reid representing State

Senator Brendan Crighton.

North Shore Latino Business Association Executive Director Frances Martinez congratulated the Landaverde Family moments before the official ribbon cutting ceremony.

The restaurant is a hidden jewel in the heart of Ward 3. Desiring to taste a delicious meal, visit Victoria's Restaurant or call 781-584-8751 for a dining reservation.



Jose and Blanca Landaverde received the MA Senate Citation from Sean Reid.



Mayor Jared Nicholson welcomed Jose and Blanca Landaverde with the official City of Lynn Citation with Frances Martinez of North Shore Latino Business Association.



North Shore Latino Business Associates and Friends – Dianna Moreno, Ex. Director Frances Martinez, Jose and Blanca Landaverde, Sandra Corneau, Mayor Jared Nicholson, Ward 3 Coco Alinsug, Obed Matul, David Zeller, State Reps Peter Capano and Daniel Cahill.



State Representatives Peter Capano and Daniel Cahill presented the MA State House Citation to Blanca and Jose Landaverde of Victoria's Restaurant.



Ward 3 Councilor Coco Alinsug and Precinct 4 Captain Sandra Corneau presents the Lynn City Council Citation to Victoria's Restaurant owners Joes and Blanca Landaverde.



**207 Lewis St., Lynn • 781-584-8751**

# Victoria's Restaurant

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**WE DELIVER**






# ST. MARY'S BOYS WIN MIAA DIVISION 3 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

BOB MARRA PHOTOS

The boys basketball team made sure there was no doubt: St. Mary's of Lynn High School is the epicenter of Massachusetts high school basketball. Minutes after the girls left the floor with their Division 3 trophy in hand, the boys came out and—after a slow start—dismantled then dominated Watertown en route to a 71-40 victory to add another state championship trophy to the St. Mary's display case.



**TWO MORE:** Omri Merryman goes up for a pair of his 19 points as he is defended by Watertown's SeanAnthony McCusker.



**OFFENSIVE FIREPOWER:** Ali Barry scored 19 points on the night, here driving past Watertown's Tyler Timperio.



**STIFLING DEFENSE:** Trailing by four points at halftime, St. Mary's rolled out a suffocating press defense and blew the game open with a 27-5 third period that opened up a 54-36 lead that the Spartans never relinquished. Here junior Derick Coulanges gives Watertown's Joseph Spinelli with no where to go.



**DOUBLE TROUBLE:** Derek Coulanges (20) and Henri Miraka (3) have Watertown's Joseph Spinelli trapped.



**KEEPING CONTROL;** Dave Brown Jr. keeps the ball away from Watertown's Tyler Timperio.



**THE SMILE SAYS IT ALL:** Dave Brown Jr. flashes a champions smile after the Spartans dismissed Watertown 71-40 to win the MIAA Division 3 boys basketball championship.



**TITLE IS IN SIGHT:** The St. Mary's bench erupts as the Spartans gain control of the game in the third period.



**PHOTO BOMB:** As his players pose for a photo, Coach Dave Brown leaps into the view and adds a big smile to the picture.

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# CONGRATULATIONS

# BOYS BASKETBALL STATE CHAMPIONS



NEWS BRIEFS

**APRIL'S FOOL BIKE RIDE SET FOR APRIL 2**

Bike to the Sea's first ride of the year will be held on April 2, starting along the car-free Northern Strand Community Trail at Bent Water Brewing, 180 Commercial Street, in Lynn.

The April Fools' ride is open to everyone and will start along the newest stretch of the trail before going on the bike lanes on Western Avenue, South Common Street, Market Street, and Broad Street. The 15-mile ride will also include a stretch on the East Coast Greenway in Swampscott before heading back to Lynn.

The ride is rated "easy/intermediate" and will include off-road paved and unpaved trails, as well as on-road bike lanes.

Parking is available in the lot behind the brewery or on Alley

Street.

All are welcome to join the ride for free, but everyone riding must fill out a waiver at least once every year. And if you don't have a Bike to the Sea Membership then you may only join one ride organized by Bike to the Sea per year. Basic memberships cost \$25/year and are available here.

If you're interested in participating in this ride, please RSVP here.

For more information, contact Pete Sutton at beausutt@hotmail.com.

**RAISING FUNDS TO SUPPORT ST. JUDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL**

The Revere Joseph L. Mottolo VFW Post #4525 strives to raise money for charities. In 2021, their primary charity was

a local one, the Chelsea Soldiers Home. This year, they are working to raise money for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.

Their major fundraising event for this charity is going to be a Retro night held at the Mottolo Post/Casa Lucia in Revere, on May 7. The event will be a 70's- and 80's-themed glow party in one hall, and live music in the second hall.

To make this fundraiser a success for St. Jude's, they are asking for donations from their neighbor businesses. They would be very grateful for your support of this fundraising endeavor. Any donation you can give would be appreciated - cash, food, gift card for raffles. They are working to ensure all the monies raised goes directly to St. Jude's. To that end, the halls, decorations, time by people and food will be donated to ensure all

the money raised goes directly to the children in need.

Floor and Decor in Saugus has also signed on to be a major sponsor.

Please join in supporting the kids of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital by donating to my fundraiser. Your support would mean so much to and will change the lives of kids and their families.

**SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT ISSUES ORDER RELAXING MASK MANDATE IN STATE COURTHOUSES**

The Supreme Judicial Court (SJC) issued a new order on Monday regarding access to Massachusetts state courthouses, which relaxes the requirements with respect to the wearing of

masks, effective March 23, 2022.

The order continues to encourage the wearing of masks inside courthouses to protect against the transmission of COVID-19, especially by those who are at increased risk for severe disease or are not up to date on COVID-19 vaccinations. Masks are no longer required, however, except under certain identified circumstances.

The order also continues to prohibit entry into courthouses by persons who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the previous 5 days, have symptoms consistent with COVID-19, are not up to date on vaccinations and have been in close contact with someone with COVID-19 within the last 5 days, are awaiting test results after experiencing symptoms, or should be in isolation or quarantine.

**LOCAL STUDENTS IN THE NEWS**

**MULLEN TRAVELS TO COTERIE NYC TRADE SHOW**

Dylan Mullen, a student at Lasell University in Newton, Massachusetts, traveled with the University's School of Fashion to Coterie NYC, a premier trade show hosting more than 500 brands at the Jacob Javits Center.

Mullen, a resident of Lynn, was one of 50 Lasell School of Fashion students who attended the show to view apparel lines from vendors around the United States, and witnessed firsthand how buyers select products for their stores and e-commerce sites.

Lasell's School of Fashion provides students hands-on learning opportunities, taught by instructors who have frontline experience in design, production, merchandising, communication and promotion, marketing, and more. Students major in Fashion Design and Production, Fashion Merchandising and Management, or Fashion Media and Marketing. In addition, many students on campus participate in fashion events such as the trip to Coterie to contribute their skills and gain perspective in areas such as business management, marketing and communications, accounting, and more.

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**LEGAL NOTICE NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE**

Notice is hereby given by McGarvey Towing of 1481 Broadway Saugus, MA, pursuant to the provisions of Mass G.L. c. 255, Section 39A, that they will sell the following abandoned vehicles

on or after March 25, 2022 beginning at 10:00 am by private or public sale to satisfy their garage keeper's lien for towing, storage, and notices of sale. Vehicles are being stored at McGarvey Towing:  
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3. 2009 Nissan Murano VIN JN8AZ18W69W207659  
Signed  
Stephen McGarvey  
Owner, McGarvey Towing  
3/10, 3/17, 3/24  
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**FINAL WEEK!!**

# Massport announces goal to be Net Zero by 2031 Merryman / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

The Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport) unveiled a new, bold agenda to reduce carbon emissions across all facilities and become Net Zero by 2031, coinciding with the Authority's 75th anniversary. The Roadmap to Net Zero focuses on 100% of the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions directly controlled by Massport-owned facilities, equipment, and purchased electricity, with continued influence in areas the Authority does not control. The plan outlines the steps Massport will take to reduce emissions within the decade, directly benefiting neighboring communities and further preparing the Authority for the impacts of climate change.

"Massport is committed to working with our surrounding communities to reduce our impacts to the environment, while remaining focused on supporting the region's economy," said Massport Board Chairman Lew Evangelidis. "Massport's Roadmap to Net Zero aligns with the Commonwealth's climate goals."

Massport will accomplish this by:

- Improving energy efficiency in buildings through design standards and operational controls;
- Transitioning to clean fuel sources such as renewable electricity, renewable natural gas, etc.;
- Generating as much renewable energy as possible on-site, and make off-site renewable energy purchases;
- Acquiring renewable energy credits, renewable identification numbers, and carbon offsets as a transition strategy, for the fossil fuel sources that cannot be reduced, electrified or switched to renewable energy in the near-term;
- Implementing all remaining facility-specific initiatives identified to ultimately reach net zero.

"The pandemic gave us an opportunity to rethink the way we do business going forward, and we are now on the path to Net Zero," said Massport CEO Lisa Wieland. "This is a real commitment, with aggressive goals, tied to real actions that will take us to Net Zero by 2031, which also happens to be Massport's 75th anniversary. While we get our own house in order, simultaneously we will be working with our business partners on ways they can help reduce emissions."

For any areas where emissions cannot be reduced to zero, Massport will invest in carbon offsets

to reach the target. The Authority expects to be Net Zero without offsets by 2040. Carbon offsets are investments in GHG reducing projects, such as a solar farm, that diminish the impact of an organization's own GHG emissions. Massport's aim would be to purchase offsets that benefit local projects within the Commonwealth.

"As an East Boston resident and community advocate, I'm glad to see Massport making this commitment to becoming Net Zero that will greatly benefit neighboring cities and towns," said John Nucci, Massport Board member and Chair of the Community Outreach Committee. "Logan Airport and Massport's other facilities create greenhouse gases that impact our neighbors and this plan takes real steps to improve air quality and reduce those impacts."

Components of the phased plan controlled by Massport include items like upgrading lighting systems across all facilities to LEDs, which has already been started, to rehabilitating Logan Airport's Central Heating Plant, upgrading the Logan Express and shuttle bus fleet to electric vehicles, and installing more solar panels and renewable energy sources.

There is also a section of the plan including emissions that Massport does not control, but can possibly influence. One such example of an area of potential influence would be to enable use of SAF at Logan. SAF, or sustainable aviation fuels, are a renewable/cleaner substitute for fossil jet fuels that reduce carbon emissions and improve the air quality. It is estimated that more than 99% of airline emissions and approximately 50% of airport emissions worldwide are related to the combustion of jet fuel. This past fall, President Biden announced a goal for U.S. companies to produce at least 3 billion gallons of SAF per year by 2030 and, by 2050, sufficient SAF to meet 100% of aviation fuel demand, which is currently projected to be around 35 billion gallons per year. Massport will work to enable use of SAF at our three airports and encourage our airline partners to transition to this alternative fuel while longer term strategies are evaluated, approved and adopted.

Massport currently has several programs to reduce emissions and has had success with environmental initiatives. Past projects include:

- On-airport clean-fuel buses

since the mid-1990s;

- In 2001, Hanscom Field became the first U.S. airport to earn ISO 14001 certification for its Environmental Management Systems (EMS);

- In 2003, Conley Terminal was the first U.S. container terminal to implement an EMS and receive ISO 14001 certification;

- In 2005, Logan's Terminal A redevelopment was the first LEED® Certified airport terminal in the world;

- Installation of on-site renewable energy sources, including solar and wind;

- Developed more than 37 acres of greenspace within our surrounding communities; two new parks currently being designed in East Boston will be an additional 8 acres

- Since 1990, Massport has invested more than \$100 million in High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) transportation to and from Logan Airport, including the Logan Express system and free MBTA Silver Line service to South Station;

- In 2014, completed the Rental Car Center at Logan- a LEED Gold certified building that consolidated nine rental car agencies into one center; reduced 100 diesel buses trips to 28 hybrid buses per hour; decreased shuttle bus vehicle miles by 70%, with an accompanying 35% decrease in airport-related emissions. The facility also has rooftop solar panels that account for 5% of the building's energy usage;

- Cut carbon emissions at Logan by 40% by 2019 – goal was 2020;

- Cut energy consumption at Logan by 25% by 2019 – goal was 2020.

Massport will continue to pursue outside funding to help pay for some of these projects. The Authority was recently awarded \$600,000 by the Mass. Clean Energy Center for a pilot project to build electric vehicle infrastructure at Logan to catalyze the electrification of the ride-for-hire industry. In 2020, Massport received a \$4M VALE grant to acquire charging stations at Logan for eGSE (electric ground service equipment). The EPA granted Massport \$500,000 in 2018 to install airline owned eGSE charging stations at Logan's Terminal B, and \$330,000 in 2015 for a Clean Diesel Project at Conley Terminal.

The next steps in the road map will be prioritizing the projects, further data analysis, creating the budget strategy, and timeline.

Omri, whether it was basketball camps, going to watch David's nephews play in college – he always included Omri to be a part of something beneficial to his life. David's a great guy."

Omri Merryman is grateful that his family has been along for the ride. He loves the fact that his father always sits at mid-

## Girls CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

est-scoring trio in school history.

"Niya played very well defensively against Rockland," said Newhall. "She didn't get as many shots as we like, but we certainly wouldn't have been in this game if not for her performance against Bishop Fenwick in the state semifinals when she scored a game-high 23 points."

Seventh grader Bella Owumi had six points, and including a dazzling drive against Rockland's senior frontcourt.

"Bella had a take right at their scholarship player. She made a quick move, blew past the defense, and laid the ball in with her left hand," noted Newhall. "Not many 13-year-old players can do that."

Owumi's premier contribution in the season was a 21-point effort in an Elite 8 win over Wattertown.

Also excelling in key roles this season were team leaders Olivia Abbott and Abby Constine.

"They're our two seniors and they led this team," credited Newhall. "They did so much for this team on and off the floor."

## Boys CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and we beat two very good teams and lost one in overtime."

St. Mary's 28 wins – included a 26-game winning streak – is the most ever by an MIAA school.

Brown said the team had several goals at the beginning of the season. Those included being the Lynn city champions, winning the Catholic Central League championship, and ultimately claiming the biggest prize of all, the Massachusetts state championship.

Brown thanked the St. Mary's community for its support of the program. "I want to thank the administration at St. Mary's, Head of School Dr. John Dolan, Principal David Angeramo, Vice Principal Jim Ridley – and obviously I believe I work for the best AD

court for games, a nod to superstition.

Omri's brother, Rowan Merryman, is a seventh grader and member of the St. Mary's freshman team and the varsity team's videographer.

"I'm so happy that Rowan will be receiving a ring, too," said Omri.

We would not have been in the position we were in Friday night if we didn't have those two players' contributions in games and their leadership off the court."

AJ Hyacinthe (a key three-pointer versus Rockland) and Brooke Maloney (a terrific three-sport athlete) were other key performers for St. Mary's on the road to the championship.

For Newhall, the win over Rockland was the 350th victory of his remarkable coaching career. The 26 wins this season is a school record. Newhall's teams have won four state championships (2011, 2014, 2020, and 2022). Head of School Dr. John Dolan presented Newhall with a plaque at a school rally Monday.

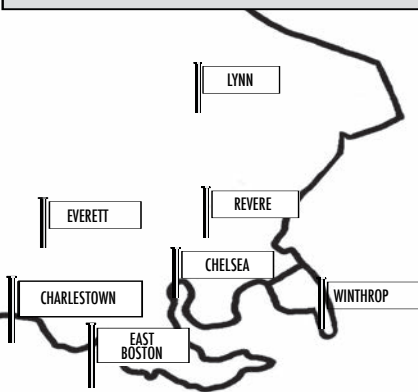
"The support of the school, the faculty, the staff, and the administration was unbelievable," said Newhall. "The electricity that was there in Lowell (for the girls and boys state championship games), I think that's a credit to the St. Mary's family and the city of Lynn, because we got a ton of support from the city."

in the state, Jeff Newhall, who is the girls basketball coach, but he also does a tremendous job for all the sports at St. Mary's," said Brown.

Much credit must go to the St. Mary's administration, who kept the school advancing fully and without a break in the vital, classroom learning experience during the challenging times of the COVID-19 pandemic the past two years.

"Dr. Dolan is amazing," said David Brown Sr.. "He puts the students first. He makes sure the academic and athletic experience is excellent for every student in the school. Our team can't thank him enough for his exceptional leadership of our school and his support."

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### IRISH FLAG RAISED AT LYNN CITY HALL

March is Irish Heritage Month. Lynn Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) traditionally raise the Irish Flag at City Hall. A jubilant cheer of pride occurred from all the participants when the flag was hoisted.

According to Past State President and AOH President Richard Wall, "We have many events occurring during this month throughout Massachusetts. We are beginning to get into full swing in Lynn since the two-year

hiatus from the pandemic. Our annual St. Patrick's Day dinner will be on March 17th to honor Dennis J. McNulty as Irish Man of the Year and Joanne Walsh as Irish Lady of the Year."

"This month is an important time to celebrate Irish Heritage in Lynn and where many of you came from the Emerald Isle," said Mayor Jared Nicholson. He concluded by saying "Happy St. Patrick's Day!"



Past AOH President Dick Wall with Mayor Jared Nicholson and Past State President Kathy Rafuse ready to hoist the Irish Flag.



Irish participants with local officials stand with the Irish Flag on City Hall steps.

### FREEZIN FOR A REASON DONATION



The Freezin for a Reason charity donated a check for \$17,000 dollars to the Nelson Family. These proceeds from the January 1st benefit will be presented to MGH Department for Infantile Spasms, a symptom of West Syndrome. This charitable cause was named "Rally4Ricky" for the Nelson's son. Committee member Mario Capano said, "This was one of the best years for us. Everyone came out throughout the Lynn community supporting the Nelsons. We are happy to do this for them; they are a great Lynn family." This was a very successful compassionate year for Freezin for a Reason; the event will be back on January 1, 2023 for another charitable ocean plunge. Pictured, Nick Capano presented a donation to Kristen and Rick Nelson along with Freezin for a Reason committee members - Mario and Patti Capano along with George and Stephanie Sonia.

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Photos will be published on April 13th & April 14th

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# HOP TO IT....

### 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

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