

THE LYNN JOURNAL

Thursday, December 29, 2022



SANTA'S HELPING HANDS SCAVENGER HUNT FOR CHILDREN



Scavenger Hunt teams competed for first place to win the honor of hosting the 2023 Santa's Helping Hands fundraiser. The Helping Hand committee gave a list to each team to search at hidden sites to accumulate points. Two teams tied for first place. The Red Elves received the distinguished honor to organize next year's event. Shown above, Lynn Ancient Order of Hibernians Division 10 supports Santa's Helping Hand. LAOH also had a benefit to help families during the Holiday Season. See Page 9 for more photos.

Lynn Journal will publish twice monthly starting Friday, Jan. 13

Special to the Journal

Independent Newspaper Group President Stephen Quigley has announced that the Lynn Journal will become a biweekly publication starting on Friday, Jan. 13, 2023.

The Journal will be published every other Friday beginning on

that date. The newspaper will be available at stores and other locations throughout the city.

"We're looking forward to continuing our coverage of news, sports, and events in the community and thank our loyal readers for their support during our two-decade history as a Lynn-focused newspaper," said Quigley.

Mass Lottery to introduce its first \$50 instant ticket Calvani: Lynn's players await new product

Special To The Journal

The Massachusetts State Lottery will soon be introducing its first \$50 instant "scratch" ticket. Billion Dollar Extravaganza will offer over \$1 billion in total winnings and feature the largest instant win prize in Mass Lottery history, \$25 million.

The Billion Dollar Extravaganza ticket, scheduled to go on sale Tuesday, February 7, 2023, includes three \$25 million prizes, five \$2 million prizes and 15 \$1 million prizes. With an overall prize payout of 82.0 percent, Billion Dollar Extravaganza will deliver the highest payout percentage of any game ever offered by the Mass Lottery. The odds of winning a prize in the new game are 1 in 4.10.

"As the Lottery's 50th anniversary celebration approaches the end, what better time to introduce the \$50 ticket to begin our next 50 years!" said State



Treasurer Deborah B. Goldberg, Chair of the Massachusetts State Lottery Commission. "Our customers had been requesting this ticket for some time. After careful consideration, the Lottery has what we believe will provide them with the entirely new level of excitement they have been seeking."

Excitement builds in Lynn

Barry Calvani, the 54-year-old owner of Cal's News Store, said his customers are excited about the new \$50 instant ticket.

"There's definitely a lot of anticipation for the Lottery's new

Please see LOTTERY Page 3

Avery Excellence

Marquese Avery and Marvin Avery Jr. are emerging stars in their respective sports

By Cary Shuman

The fall sports season and the bragging rights in the Avery family of Lynn belonged to Marquese Avery.

All Marquese did in his first season as a starting linebacker for St. John's Prep was help lead the Eagles to the Division 1 state championship. St. John's defeated No. 1-ranked Springfield Cen-

tral, 13-0, in the Super Bowl at Gillette Stadium. Springfield had averaged 40 points a game leading up to the Super Bowl, but the Avery-led Eagles' defense shut out the heavily favored Springfield contingent.

But Marquese's younger brother, Marvin Avery Jr., is continuing the family's success this winter as a starting freshman guard on the Lynn Classical bas-

ketball team that is coached by his father, the legendary Lynn hoop coach, Marvin Avery Sr.

Marvin Jr. is averaging well into double figures, most recently scoring 18 points and displaying his shooting, ballhandling, and passing skills in a 50-44 win over Lynn Tech Tuesday in the Walter Boverini Basketball Tournament.

Please see AVERY Page 3



ACTUALIZACIÓN OFICIAL

La basura y el reciclaje no se retrasarán las semanas del lunes 26 de diciembre al viernes 30 de diciembre y del lunes 2 de enero al viernes 6 de enero.



TODA LA BASURA DEBE ESTAR EN LA ACERA A LAS 7 A.M.

REGULAR TRASH AND RECYCLE WEEK

CHRISTMAS WEEK
December 26th through December 30th. (NO DELAYS)

NEW YEARS WEEK
January 2nd through January 6th 2023 (NO DELAYS)

ALL TRASH MUST BE CURBSIDE BY 7AM



EDITORIAL

ENJOY A HAPPY -- AND SAFE -- NEW YEAR'S EVE

The end of one year and the start of another provides all of us with an opportunity for reflection. We are a year older -- but have we become any wiser?

Alfred Lord Tennyson's "Ring Out Wild Bells," which was published in 1850, offers timeless advice about the lessons we hopefully have learned from the past that we can use to guide our future. We quote some of the lines from that poem here:

Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true....
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,
Ring in redress to all mankind.
Ring out a slowly dying cause,
And ancient forms of party strife;
Ring in the nobler modes of life...
Ring out the want, the care, the sin,
The faithless coldness of the times;
Ring out, ring out thy mournful rhymes,
But ring the fuller minstrel in....
Ring in the love of truth and right,
Ring in the common love of good.
Ring out old shapes of foul disease...
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;
Ring out the thousand wars of old,
Ring in the thousand years of peace.

As always, we urge all of our readers to ensure that they celebrate the New Year safely and take care that their friends and loved ones do so as well. No one ever died by having a friend take their keys away if they have had too much to drink.

We wish all of our readers a Happy and Healthy 2023.

GUEST OP-ED

2023 – Love yourself so you can love others

By Dr. Glenn Mollette

You can lose about one pound a week if you try. If you don't try you won't lose any.

If you need to save some money then you need to pay yourself first. If you have a paycheck coming in then set a goal for \$500 a month if possible. Whatever the amount is will grow if you are faithful each week and month of setting money aside. You can always find a place to spend money. Even if you don't need it, you have it just in case you might.

What do you want to accomplish in 2023? If you do not have a goal of some kind, you will accomplish nothing. Maybe your goal is to just enjoy each day. Enjoy your food. Enjoy your family and friends. Make the best of each ay. These are good goals.

Be good to yourself in 2023. Love others as you love yourself. If you don't love yourself, it's almost impossible to love others. Recently we have heard of people committing suicide. They had given up on themselves but wanted to hurt or kill others before they killed themselves. It's tragic when an individual's

so hates themselves that they wanted to hurt others. If they loved themselves more then they wouldn't have had so much venom and hate for others.

One of the tools of the devil is to bring your life down to where you hate all the things you've done. He brings it up to you often so you can feel horrible about your life's mistakes. People often have trouble forgiving themselves so they begin to binge drink, take drugs and hurt themselves to try to deal with their life's pain. God has forgiveness and hope for all. People don't always forgive but God forgives. As God forgives you then you must work on forgiving yourself, loving yourself and forgiving and loving others. You see, that's a great formula. God forgives us, loves us and we are to forgive and love ourselves and then offer this same forgiveness and love to others.

In 2023 you might do something different. Maybe you want to embark on an adventure, change careers or just do better with all you have been handed. Often, all we need to do is focus on what we already have to do ad do it a little better.

My prayer for our nation in

the year ahead is that we might see politicians work together to accomplish worthy goals that will benefit our country. I hope Ukraine can overcome Russia but other countries need to step up to the plate. America cannot fight everyone's war physically or financially. We must get control of our border. Our nation is being overtaken by millions of undocumented immigrants. Who are these people? Do they all really have noble intentions in America? We must bring back our jobs from China in 2023.

Throughout this year may you a continuation of what we talk about and pray for during the Christmas season. May it be ongoing every day and may we share it with all along the way, Peace on earth and good will to all people. May you first experience it in your life so you can extend it to others.

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.

THE LYNN JOURNAL

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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. We also encourage readers to e-mail news releases and photos to Cary@lynnjournal.com

Mammograms Save Lives.

All women over 40 should have a mammogram once a year. Breast cancer found early offers the best chance to be cured. Free or low cost mammograms are available.

For more information and answers to any of your cancer questions, contact us any time, day or night.

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Lottery CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

product,” said Calvani. “They’ve talked about a \$50 ticket for a long time, and I think the Lottery is pretty comfortable with the product they’ve set forward. As usual, the Lottery is being innovative. They’ll have the largest prize (\$25 million) in the history of instant tickets. People will buy them. The advent of the \$50 ticket is going to be a shot in the arm for all the retailers. It’s exciting for the players. The Lottery is putting its dukes up to go head-to-head with sports wagering.”

Calvani’s store is one of the original six Lottery agents in Massachusetts, beginning in-store sales in 1972 when the Mass Lottery began.

“My grandfather (Ralph Calvani) started selling newspapers at this location in 1937, the same year that Anthony Athanas opened the Hawthorne restaurant right next door,” related Calvani.

Calvani has two daughters, Breanna, a graduate of St. John’s University, who works for a marketing firm in Charlestown, and Caitlin, a senior at Endicott College, who is pursuing a career in nursing.

“I’m very proud of both of them,” said Barry.

Ticket sales expected to exceed \$1.5 billion

With a print run of 30.2 million tickets, sales from the new \$50 Billion Dollar Extravaganza game are expected to exceed \$1.5 billion, giving it the potential to generate over \$150 million in net profit. Lottery profits are returned to all 351 cities and towns in Massachusetts in the form of unrestricted local aid.

The highest-priced instant ticket currently available in Massachusetts is \$30, a price point that was introduced in 2014. Massachusetts will join more than a dozen other U.S. lotteries in offering a \$50 ticket.

“Billion Dollar Extravaganza is the result of extensive research and testing over the course of several years,” said Mark William Bracken, Interim Executive Director of the Mass Lottery. “With an unprecedented top prize of \$25 million and a number of ‘best ever’ features, this ticket gives customers a value consistent with its price point.”

Billion Dollar Extravaganza presents its players with the best chance to win \$500 and \$1,000 prizes in Mass Lottery history, and all winning tickets total \$100 or more. Each ticket in this key number match



Barry Calvani is pictured inside Cal’s New Store on Central Avenue.

style game contains 10 “Winning Numbers” and 35 “Your Numbers.” If one or more of the “Your Numbers” match the “Winning Numbers,” the player wins the corresponding amount. There are also multiplier symbols ranging from 5X to 500X in the “Your Numbers” spots that multiply winning combinations. Three Bonus spots give players the opportunity to automatically win \$100, \$500 or \$1,000.

The game will feature 10 second chance drawings, allowing players to enter non-winning tickets for opportunities to win cash prizes ranging from \$100 to \$50,000. In each of the 10 drawings, 15 \$50,000 prizes, 10 \$1,000 prizes, 75 \$500 prizes, and 300 \$100 prizes will be awarded.

The Mass Lottery introduced the world’s first instant ticket product, a \$1 ticket named The Instant Game, in May of 1974 – a move that revolutionized the industry and established Massachusetts as a lottery innovator.

Since selling its first ticket on March 22, 1972, the Mass Lottery has generated over \$143 billion in revenues, awarded over \$100 billion in prizes, returned over \$31 billion in net profit to the Commonwealth for unrestricted local aid, and paid over \$8 billion in commissions and bonuses to its statewide network of retailers.

The Independent Newspaper Group office will be **closed** on **Monday, Jan. 2** in observance of the New Year’s Day holiday. Deadlines for next week’s issue will be **Friday, Dec. 27 at noon**

Avery CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

We talked with Marvin Avery’s supremely talented sons in a joint interview this week:

MARQUESE AVERY

Marquese was asked the question all high school football fans want to know: How was the St. John’s defense able to keep the high-flying, unstoppable Springfield offense off the scoreboard?

“Coach [Brian] St. Pierre prepared us very well for the game, and as long as everyone did their job and we practiced really hard, we felt we could accomplish what we did,” said Avery. “I believe we have the best defense in the state. We’re all proud that we were able to win the game. We beat a great Springfield team and were able to keep their quarterback (Nebraska-bound William Watson III) from doing the stuff that he had done all season.”

Marquese, a 6-foot, 2-inch, 200-pound junior, was named to the Catholic Conference All-Star Team. He is receiving correspondences from college programs. Boston College, Pittsburgh, Penn State, Harvard, UMass, URI, and UConn are the early contenders.

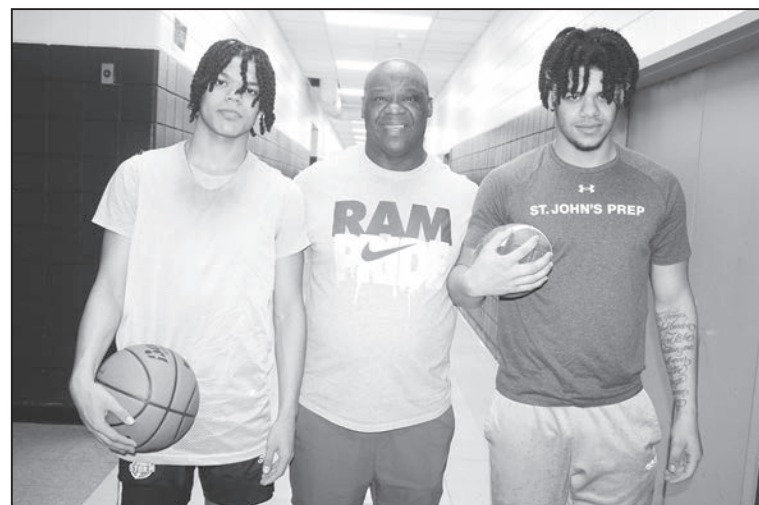
“I’m very excited about the future,” said Marquese. “I’ll be trying to get bigger, stronger, and faster for next season.”

Marquese said he couldn’t have reached the athletic and academic heights at this point in his career without the support and encouragement of his father, Marvin Avery Sr.

“My father has been around me my whole entire life and pushed me through everything,” credited Marquese. “He’s inspired me and been a positive influence. I wouldn’t be where I am today without him. I also want to thank Coach St. Pierre for giving me the opportunity to play football at St. John’s. I’m so glad he’s my football coach.”

MARVIN AVERY JR.

Marvin Jr., who stands 5-foot, 11 inches, started his freshman season for the varsity Rams with a 24-point performance, which may be an all-time Lynn city



Marvin Avery Sr. is pictured with his sons, Marvin Avery Jr. (left) and Marquese Avery.

record. Even the great Classical star Pancho Bingham must be impressed by that debut. Marvin Jr. hasn’t missed a beat since.

Marvin Jr. certainly has the confidence in his game that can be a foundation-setter to greatness.

“I put in a lot of work in the summer,” said Marvin Jr. in evaluating his fast start. “I have a lot of my confidence in my skills.”

Marvin Jr. knows how accomplished a coach his father is. Marvin Avery Sr. took the Lynn Tech program to the very top, winning a state championship

and launching the careers of Division 1 college players Antonio Anderson (Memphis), Corey Bingham (Toledo), and Tony Gallo (Towson State).

“It’s great to have my father as coach, because I’ve been around him my whole life, and it’s been easy to adapt to his coaching style,” said Marvin Jr.

Marvin Jr. is setting high goals for his basketball career. “I’d like to play college basketball and compete in Division 1, and maybe even go further than that,” said Marvin Jr. “I just have to work hard every day.”

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Bank Of America, Lynn Market Plaza

African Food Market, 112 Sutton St.

Little Field Building, 604 Essex St.

Laundromat, 167 North Common St.

The May Flower Building, 185 North Common St.

North Shore Health Care, 191 North Common St.

Supreme Food, 201 North Common St.

Discount Liquor, Market Sq.

Laundromat, Market Sq.

Santander Bank, Market Sq.

Dunkin Donut, 819 Western Ave.

Urgent Care, Western Ave.

Richdale, Franklin St.

Primo Roast Beef, Franklin & Boston St.

Eastern Bank, 156 Boston St.

Saint Jeans Credit Union, Chestnut St.

Richdale, 453 Chatam St.

2 Victory Road Building, Eastern Ave.

Ivory Bakery, Eastern Ave.

Ninas Market, Eastern Ave & Essex St.

Eastern Market, Eastern Ave.

Lilys Convenience, Lewis St.

Giovannis House Of Pizza, Lewis St.

Sofias Market, 74 Lewis St.

Dunkin Donut, 116 Lewis St.

Walgreens, Lewis St.

Laundromat, 190 Lewis St.

Lynn Housing, 10 Church St.

Walgreens, 841 Western Ave.

Corner Shop, 70 Market St.

Richdale, 149 Walnut St.

Lynn Liquor Mart, 825 Boston St.

Stop & Shop, 35 Washington St.

GLSS, 8 Silsbee St.

Edison Building, 85 Exchange St.

Mobile, 512 Chestnut St.

THE LYNN JOURNAL

The Lynn Journal

2023 Publishing Calendar

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JANUARY

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LYNN'S CHRISTMAS EVE PARADE A SUCCESS

Last Saturday night was no ordinary one, it was Christmas Eve, and every little boy and girl had

one thing on their mind, What's Santa gonna bring me? Lynn's 30-year Christmas Eve

tradition was a huge success, with Santa's visit bringing joy to families across the city.



The Grinch waves to the passing crowd.



Bundled up and waiting for Santa.



Lynn residents turn out for the annual Santa Parade.



Santa and Mrs. Claus on their sleigh with Rudolph leading the way.



Early arrivals on Boston Street for the parade, on a very chilly Christmas Eve.



A happy group of volunteers make the parade a great event every year.

LYNN'S CHRISTMAS EVE PARADE A SUCCESS



Boston Street as well as all streets across Lynn were filled with kids of all ages waiting to wave to Santa.



Parade volunteers bundled up for a long ride across the Lynn with Santa.



Floats of all sizes decorated for Christmas drive along Boston Street.



Lots of volunteers made it possible for another terrific parade.



Christmas Trees, Leaf & Yard Waste Curbside Pick-up

Christmas Trees and Leaf & Yard Waste Curbside Pickup is on your scheduled Trash Day. Please place Yard Waste in paper leaf bags or loose in a designated barrel.
Please place curbside by 7:00 am

Accepted:

- ~ Leaves, Grass & Plants
- ~ Branches & Twigs less than 3 feet long
- ~ Barrel or bag less than 32 gallons or 50 pounds

Not Accepted:

- ~ Plastic Bags or Soil
- ~ Branches & Twigs longer than 3 feet long
- ~ Barrel or bag larger than 32 gallons or 50 pounds

Christmas Trees and Leaf & Yard Waste Curbside Pickup dates:
Week of January 9 - January 13, 2023




No artificial trees. No trees in bags. No decorations. No tree stands.

LYNN BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB HOLIDAY PARTY

Last Wednesday afternoon the Lynn Boys and Girls Club hosted a holiday party for 375 local children. Sittings at 3, 4, and 5 p.m. of 125 children at each made for a well-balanced party for all.

Dinner of mac and cheese and chicken fingers was served to all, including hot chocolate and other surprises. Following the meal, all the children were allowed to visit the giant Christmas Tree in the center of the gymnasium, that was jam packed with toys and games for ages.

Thanks to the following sponsors to the Lynn Boys and Girls

Club, and for making the party a success.

- Nahant Police Department
- BNI Atlantic Referral
- Toomy Cleaners
- REMAX
- Rick Ristoff
- Bruce McCory Martial Arts
- Helene joy school of dance
- Commonwealth Payroll
- Lynn English
- Lynn Jets
- Eastern Bank
- Christmas Island Trees
- F&B Insurance
- Heritage Helps Foundation
- Old Neighborhood



Scarlett Ysalguez and Genesis Ochoa.



Rodrigo Abiles, Gincarlo Pena, Abdiel Germain and George Garcia enjoying dinner at the Lynn Boys and Girls Club.



Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Club of Lynn, Brian Therrien (right), and board members Matt Kirschner and Rich Nihan.



Paul Waring from Maria's Restaurant serves up mac and cheese.



Ready for a delicious dinner, Wildelis Vieves, Gabby Pena and Soleil Hedesgrath.



State Representative Pete Capano helps serve the children at the 4 o'clock seating.



Staff members from the Boys and Girls Club refill the presents under the tree for the 4 p.m. party.



PJ's and presents make a great party, staff from the Boys and Girls Club ready to assist the children picking out their gifts, Caitlin Wright, Jaylene Hearn, Kori Krovitz and Aaron Vizcaino.



Dristyn Scanzillo, Alijah Rosario and Zorian Ortez with their picks from the present selections.

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SANTA'S HELPING HANDS SCAVENGER HUNT FOR CHILDREN

Scavenger Hunt teams competed for first place to win the honor of hosting the 2023 Santa's Helping Hands fundraiser. The Helping Hand committee gave a list to each team to search at hidden sites to accumulate points. Two teams tied for first place. The Red Elves received the distinguished honor to organize next year's event.

Chairperson Christine Pierce and her committee put together a competitive list of searchable items for each team as Chris said, "This was a huge success; the real winners were the children of Lynn who will receive a new winter coat, a gift card to Market Basket, and a special gift on Christmas morning." She continued to say, "I thank all 30 teams for participating and for donating gifts toward the raffle."

Everyone is looking forward to the 2023 Scavenger Hunt which is held on the Sunday after Thanksgiving. Entire proceeds go directly to "Santa's Helping Hands."



Herbies Haulers - Mike and Lisa Mageary, Chris Plourde, and John Ladd.



Santa's Helping Hands 2022 Committee - Dawn-Marie Johnson, Diane Gorman, Lisa Nerich, Christine Pierce, and Patty Solimine.



Poinsettia Posse - Allison Perry, Kierann Wonoski, Deb Brown, Katerina Waterman.



Grinch Squad - Ward 2 Councilor Rick and Lois Starbard, Kelli Hyland, and Bill Adams.



Sleighing it for Sue in Loving Memory of Sue Pelusi-Sullivan - Ashley Aldred, Jacklyn Powers, Allison Kench, and Courtney Sullivan.



Sorry Santa Ladies - Kelly Papegeorgiou, Kim Zollo, Donna LaChance, and Nora Ann Papegeorgiou.



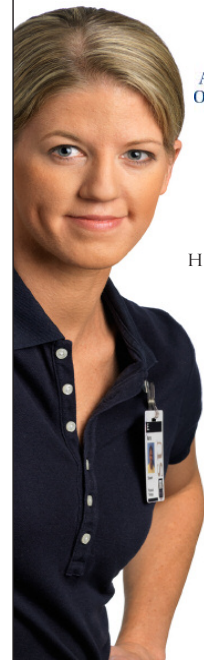
John's Ho, Ho, & Ho - Colleen Heaphy, Johannah Conway, John Heaphy, and Moira Hussey.

A SHORT STORY ABOUT A MOTORCYCLE AND A SUDDEN TURN.

When she was a young college student, Elisabeth Marra had a serious motorcycle accident that ultimately changed her life. Two years after the crash, her painful open fractures had failed to heal. Then she heard about a new and complex surgery pioneered by a surgeon who used a patient's own stem cells to concentrate the healing process. This time, her surgery and subsequent therapy were successful.

Elisabeth's experience caused her to redirect her own career aspirations. Inspired by the medical professionals who helped her reclaim her active lifestyle, she changed her major to study physical therapy—a profession where her own experience could help other patients prevail through difficult recoveries.

We tell Elisabeth Marra's story here to illustrate two of the most profound messages we know. Don't give up, and remember to give back. If reading it inspires just one more person to achieve something special, then its telling here has been well worth while.



aaos.org/75years



NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

AMBROSINO NAMED ADMINISTRATOR FOR COURT

CHELSEA - City Manager Thomas Ambrosino has been selected as the next Court Administrator of the Trial Court in Massachusetts by the justices of the Supreme Judicial Court.

Ambrosino also served as mayor in Revere for over a decade, first defeating four-term Mayor Robert Haas in 1999.

In 2012, Ambrosino was hired as the executive director of the Supreme Judicial Court, and in 2015, he was selected by the Chelsea City Council to replace Jay Ash as City Manager.

"We are so pleased to appoint Tom Ambrosino as Court Administrator," said Supreme Judicial Court Chief Justice Kimberly Budd. "Tom is an experienced leader who has managed public sector entities with vision, professionalism, and compassion. We are excited that he will bring his many talents to the court system."

Ambrosino expressed his love for the city of Chelsea, and said that his time as City Manager was nearing an end, adding he expected to retire at the end of 2023.

"This has nothing to do with the city of Chelsea," he said. "I love the community and the time I have spent here."

However, Ambrosino said

the court administrator position was one he was familiar with from his time with the Supreme Judicial Court and one he had an active interest in.

In addition to his experience in legal and court settings, Ambrosino said he hopes he can bring the leadership skills he has honed over the last seven years in Chelsea to his new position.

Ambrosino will begin his new position on Jan. 30 of next year, where he will succeed John Bello, who will leave the position at the end of the year.

"During the time that I worked at the SJC, one of my roles was to assist the Chief Justice in helping to onboard the inaugural Court Administrator, and I saw what a significant impact the position has," said Ambrosino. "I now look forward to working with Chief Justice Locke and having the opportunity to advance the courts' efforts to deliver justice with dignity and speed."

Locke said that he is confident that together, he and Ambrosino will continue to grow the capabilities of the Trial Court and build upon recent successes in using technologies and improving operations.

Ambrosino said some of the accomplishments he is proudest of during his time in Chelsea include how the city reacted and mobilized in the

face of the Covid-19 pandemic, a focus on development in the city, especially downtown, the city's relationship with the school department. He noted that he is proud of the strong relationship he has with current Superintendent of Schools Dr. Almi Abeyta.

The Massachusetts Court Administrator co-leads the Trial Court, the largest component of the Massachusetts Judicial Branch with seven court departments and over 6,000 employees, across 94 courthouses throughout the Commonwealth. The position of Court Administrator for the Massachusetts Trial Court was created by court management legislation enacted in 2011.

Working together with the Chief Justice of the Trial Court, the Court Administrator is responsible for shaping administrative functions that support the Trial Court's delivery of justice to the people of Massachusetts. Duties include budget preparation and oversight, labor relations, information technology, capital projects, security, and personnel policy.

Ambrosino said it is up to the City Council to begin the process of finding a new City Manager, and he expected that process to get underway in early January.

The past year has also seen several major departures in the city. In the fall, Council President Roy Avellane-

da stepped down from the council. The year also saw long-time Police Chief Brian Kyes appointed as the US Marshal from Massachusetts, and long-time clerk to the City Council Paul Casino announce his pending retirement at the end of the year.

aters nationwide this Dec. 23.

The Phunk Phenomenon Dance Complex has a studio in Everett and is owned by former New England Patriots cheerleader Reia Briggs-Connor, whose husband Rick Connor, is an Everett Police officer.

At the popular studio this week, the excitement was brewing for the premiere of the movie about Houston, one of the greatest vocalists of all time.

"It's awesome to have two people from our studio in this movie," said Briggs-Connor. "Devin is an amazing choreographer and performer, and Maya is a tremendously tal-

LOCAL RESIDENTS IN MOVIE

EVERETT - Phunk Phenomenon dance choreographer and instructor Devin Woolridge and teenage dancer Maya Sutton will appear in the new Whitney Houston movie, "I Wanna Dance With Somebody," which hits the-

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Region/ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

ented dancer for L'il Phunk. We are so excited that Devin and Maya have this incredible opportunity to be featured in a major motion picture. I can't wait to see them on screen."

Woolridge, 37, will appear in the movie as a back-up dancer to singer and songwriter Bobby Brown, who is being portrayed by Ashton Sanders. Sutton, a 13-year-old, eighth-grade student, will appear as a back-up dancer to Whitney Houston, who is being portrayed in the movie by Naomi Ackie.

Woolridge is an international award-winning dancer and choreographer who holds a degree in Fashion Design and Merchandising from Fisher College.

Woolridge previously appeared in the movie, "Ghostbusters 2," and performed with Phunk on the TV reality show, "America's Best Dance Crew." He also performed in Hip Hop International and was featured in a videogame, "Dance Central," for Xbox 360.

Woolridge is especially excited about his role in the Whitney Houston movie because his mother, Robin Woolridge, was a huge fan of the best-selling musical artist.

"My mother was the biggest fan of Whitney Houston," said Woolridge. "She was a singer and used to perform Whitney Houston songs, and I became familiar with her music. It's really heartwarming to see Naomi Ackie act as Whitney and hear her sing these songs that my mother used to play all the time."

Woolridge said his scene in the movie was filmed last year at the Wang Theatre in Boston.

"The set was made to look like the Soul Train Music Awards," related Woolridge. "It took two days of rehearsals for the choreography, which consisted of old-school dance moves."

Woolridge was humbled by being selected for a role in the movie. Hundreds of dancers auditioned for the role.

"I was glad I was picked for the movie because there are so many talented dancers in Bos-

ton," said Woolridge, who will be heading to theater Friday to view the movie.

Maya Sutton, daughter of Gregory Sutton and Cathy Sutton, has been a hip-hop dancer at Phunk Phenomenon for four years. She has performed for Lil Phunk at Boston Celtics home games in front of 19,000 fans at TD Garden. Her brother, Isaiah, 15, is a current dancer at Phunk. An older sister, Jada, is a former dancer at Phunk.

In the movie, Maya is one of three dancers backing up Naomi Ackie to the song, "I'm Every Woman." The concert scene was filmed in November (2021) at the House of Blues in Boston.

"It's really exciting to be in the movie," said Maya. "The whole process was a great experience. Everyone was so nice when we were filming our scene."

Maya said she is thankful to Briggs-Connor and her staff for developing her dancing skills and being an inspiration in her life.

"I just want people to know what a great person Reia is, and she really loves what she does," said Sutton. "She is such a great influence to all of her students."

Cathy Sutton also expressed her gratitude to Phunk for setting the foundation to her daughter being selected among hundreds of dancers for a role in the movie.

"It's very, very exciting," said Cathy. "We didn't expect it. It was an amazing opportunity and we're so proud of her. We're so thankful to Phunk for giving her this opportunity. The actress, Naomi Ackie, who plays Whitney, was super nice. It was just a really cool experience for Maya and the other girls to go through hair and makeup, then actually be filmed for the movie, and see how the whole movie scene takes place."

CITY OFFICIALS HOLD OPIOID HOTLINE

REVERE - The city and school department held an online forum on fentanyl and

opioid use Monday night, spurred in part by the discovery of a small baggie of powdered drugs at Revere High School earlier this month.

Initial test results showed the powder to contain MDMA and ketamine, and the Revere Police Department is awaiting state lab test results to determine if there was fentanyl in the mix of drugs.

During the forum, several local and state experts discussed the statistics for fentanyl and opioid use by young people, and discussed ways to talk about drugs with young people and help prevent overdose deaths.

"I did speak with the (police) chief again today, and he said the tests are still not back from the state lab," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Dianne Kelly. "He said it could take several months, as the state lab is backed up with testing demands. As students and parents know, we did work with local law enforcement to have the drug dogs and the firearm dogs do a sweep of the school, just to see where we are, and that happened last Thursday."

While no drugs were discovered, Kelly said there were a few areas of concern where the dogs caught the scent of marijuana in a locker or backpack. She said those concerns would be addressed with the individual students and their families.

Revere High Principal Chris Bowen said the incident does provide an opportunity for the schools and community to collaborate to help make the high school a better place.

"This was a disturbing and unsettling discovery for all of us involved, and I hope that we can use that to launch some great collaboration between the high school administration, family, students, families, and the broader Revere community," said Bowen.

Opioid-related deaths in Massachusetts have risen from an average of about 500 to 600 annually a decade ago, to over 2,000 per year in recent years, according to Dr. Alexander Walley, an internist and addiction specialist at

Boston Medical Center.

"What drove that surge was fentanyl being introduced into the heroin supply, primarily," said Walley.

While the majority of opioid-related deaths are among people over the age of 25, Walley noted that those under the age of 25 account for 1 percent of all deaths in the state, but 5 percent of opioid overdoses.

"Young people are over-represented, which is an important reason for us to think about overdose prevention in young people," Walley said.

While overall drug use has remained fairly consistent for people aged 14-18 over the past decade, Walley said the number of fentanyl overdose deaths has surged.

"It really points to concerns of the toxic drug supply," he said.

While fentanyl is most prevalent in heroin, there has also been a surge in deadly counterfeit pills cut with fentanyl and other substances that have helped fuel overdose deaths.

Dr. Sarah Bagley said when she talks to youth about drug use, she typically asks them why they turn to drugs. While peer pressure remains a top concern, she said that more recently, there has been an uptick in young people who state they use drugs to help deal with depression or anxiety.

"I also hear a lot about isolation or boredom, especially during Covid, that was so

common," said Bagley.

A high percentage of youth who turn to drugs or overdose also have a history of mental health issues, said Bagley.

"It's really clear from the data that there are a lot of opportunities available for us to provide more overdose education, distribute more naloxone, and be able to train people on how to respond when there is an overdose," said Bagley.

Statistics show that over 60 percent of overdoses for young people happen in their own homes and with someone nearby. Nearly 70 percent of those overdoses have no response from someone who is nearby, Bagley said.

Response strategies for youth are focused on strategies of detection, prevention, and empowerment, according to Traci Green, an epidemiologist and professor at Brandeis University.

In addition to making sure people have and know how to use naloxone, Green said it's also important for there to be access to fentanyl test strips, which can help drug users determine if there is fentanyl present in drugs.

Prevention strategies include regular medical check ups, youth having a confidential person they can talk to, and empowerment strategies can include having a safety plan in place that includes hydration and having someone available to check in on someone using drugs.

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CITY PAWS

What we learn from dogs

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

The change from one year to another is a time of reflection on the past and hope for the future. We've been thinking about the lessons we learned from the special dogs we've known and the people they've brought into our lives.

Show Your Love

We should all emulate the greetings a dog gives to someone they love. Think about how disappointing it is to come home when your dog isn't there. No matter what the reaction of others in the home is, you can count on your dog to greet you with glee and make you feel welcome. Perhaps we should greet the family with a hearty "welcome home."

Use All Your Senses

Dogs are great role models for us when it comes to using all our senses. Their world is made richer by the sights, sounds, aromas, tastes, and textures around them. They pay attention to all incoming data.

On the other hand, we often ignore the richness on offer while distracted by our busy minds or addiction to our devices. In the year ahead, watch the dogs in your life and learn to pay

attention to what they're investigating in the sensory world. See if you can notice and enjoy some of what they do.

Trust Your Instincts

We learned this lesson from our first dog, Sassy. She was a great judge of people. Her official title around our office was Vice President for security and morale. Security went beyond barking when the mailman arrived.

Sassy had three approaches to most people. Some of the best people we ever knew were greeted with exuberance and treated to cuddles and kisses. Most people, she welcomed politely.

However, she raised her hackles and growled at visitors in a few instances. In one case, it was a client who eventually proved to be an unethical person. Another example was a person at a hiring interview. In the end, other staff members voted with Sassy against this hire.

Self Care

Naps are a way of life for dogs. When they're tired, they find a cozy spot and doze. When we're tired, we try to push through and accomplish more. Perhaps we



Poppy likes to cuddle up with a friend after a good play session and nap.

should build some naptime into our days as a better way to be productive.

Exercise is essential to dogs, and so is stretching. How many times a day do you see your companion doing a downward dog? When they get up from a resting position, they stretch. We are encouraged to stretch by trainers and physical therapists. Learn from your dog and take moments each day to give your body a relaxing stretch.

One way or another, dogs ask

for what they need. Poppy jumps up with one of us when she wants a good massage and cuddles. She knows we can't resist giving her the touches she craves. Your dog may lead you to the door when they need to go out. Now think, how often do you let those around you know what you need right at that moment?

Be Thankful for Dogs

We'll end with wise words from one of our all-time favorite dog people, author and an-

imal activist Roger Caras who wrote, "Dogs have given us their absolute all. We are the center of their universe. We are the focus of their love and faith, and trust. They serve us in return for scraps. It is without a doubt the best deal man has ever made."

Do you have a question or topic for City Paws? Send an email to Penny@BostonZest.com with your request.

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SANTA'S ISLAND CHARITY DONATION

David Solimine has been supporting charitable endeavors for over 30 years. Richard Alfonsi of Lynn Camp Lions presented a check for \$2,000.00 to the Solimine Santa's Island Charity program. "I am so grateful to continue our charitable work each year helping families in need. I thank the Lynn Lions for this generous gift during the Holiday Season," said David Solimine.

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