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THE LYNN JOURNAL

Thursday, February 9, 2024

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Honored at the North Shore Juneteenth Association's Black Excellence Ceremony for their outstanding individual achievements and contributions to the community were award recipients, from left, in front row: Nayellie Estrella, President Nicole McClain, Toni Waldron, Johann Hunter, Jireh Ishaazi, Jah'Nyah Spencer and Whitney Bright. In the back row, from left to right are Khiry Todd, Ferns Francois, Schuyler C. Hogan, Jesse J. Warren Jr., and Garcia Dalzon.

NATIONAL GLORY

Lynn Rams U-12 football team finishes sixth in AYF Nationals

By Cary Shuman

One must admire the competitiveness, determination, and candor of Lynn Rams U-12 football head coach James Hunt.

After leading his team to one of the greatest seasons in Lynn

youth football history – an undefeated season in New England and a sixth-place finish in the AYF National Championships in Florida – Coach Hunt said, “We’re not satisfied with just getting to Florida. We want to

Please see YOUTH FOOTBALL Page 3

Nicholson delivers his State of the City Address

By Journal Staff

Mayor Jared Nicholson delivered his State of the City Address Jan. 30 in the City Council Chambers.

Nicholson spoke about his many accomplishments in office to-date and outlined his goals for the future of the city. Nicholson, a graduate of Princeton and

Harvard Law School, received standing ovations from the audience throughout his speech and at its conclusion.

Following is the text of his State of the City Address:

Thank you, Madam Vice President. Good evening Councilors, School Committee members,

Please see STATE OF CITY Page 8

NSJA hosts Black Excellence Ceremony

Story and Photos by Cary Shuman

The North Shore Juneteenth Association (NSJA) held its Black Excellence Ceremony Feb. 6 to kick off Lynn's observance of Black History Month.

NSJA Founder and President Nicole McClain, a Lynn councilor-at-large, presided over the program at City Hall that culminated with the awarding of Black Excellence awards to individuals for their outstanding achievements and contributions to the city. Each of the honorees received congressional, state, and city citations at the ceremony. The honorees photos' were unveiled for display on the Black

Excellence banner situated in the City Hall foyer.

“I think it's really important that we have representation on the walls of City Hall of people of color that are doing great things, so Happy Black History Month,” said McClain, adding that the North Shore Juneteenth Association thrives on sharing and highlighting positive image of Black American culture.

Mayor Jared Nicholson thanked McClain and the North Shore Juneteenth Association “for putting on this amazing event.”

“There is Black excellence in Lynn,” said Nicholson. “It is so important for us to have these op-

portunities to recognize that, to celebrate it, to tell those stories. We want to know our history and be able to build on that. We want to know the role models among us so we can look to those folks that have been recognized and will be recognized. It also helps us imagine possibilities for the future.”

Nicholson noted the recent swearing-in of the city's “first Afro-Latina councilor, Natasha Megie-Maddrey, and first African-American woman councilor, Nicole McClain.”

Public Health Coordinator Norris Guscott, a 2022 Black

Please see BLACK EXCELLENCE Page 4



Mayor Jared Nicholson is pictured with his predecessor as Lynn mayor, Tom McGee, at the State of the City Address.

For the latest news in Lynn that you need to know, go to lynnjournal.com

EDITORIAL

ZUCKERBERG, ET AL:
THE WORST OF THE WORST

Last week's dramatic hearing in the U.S. Senate, in which the heads of a number of social media companies testified in front of a gallery that was filled with parents who lost children because of the pernicious effects of social media companies, hopefully will result in meaningful regulation that will hold these social media companies accountable for their deliberate targeting of our nation's youth with content that the companies know is harmful.

Arguably the worst offender among the group, Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg, apologized to the parents sitting behind him and weakly told them he would try to do better. However, as South Carolina Senator Lindsey Graham bluntly put it directly to Zuckerberg, "You have blood on your hands."

Two years ago the Wall Street Journal revealed that Facebook was fully aware of the addictive and harmful qualities of its social media platforms and the specific damage that they cause to vulnerable young people. Yet Facebook has done nothing to ameliorate its behavior because of the billions of dollars it earns by targeting children with content that they know is dangerous for our childrens' mental -- and ultimately physical -- well-being.

One of the most telling pieces of testimony came from the head of Tik-Tok, who was asked whether he allows his own children on the Tik-Tok platform. He replied that he doesn't -- because his family resides in Singapore, where Tik-Tok is not allowed to be used by children. However, as Minnesota Senator Amy Klobuchar pointed out, here in the United States there are no limits placed on social media companies because of the millions of dollars that they spend to lobby members of Congress.

The very next day after the Senate hearing, the stock of Facebook (which is now known as Meta) jumped by a whopping 20% after it announced record earnings, increasing the company's value by hundreds of billions of dollars.

If we were to list the worst kind of people in the world, they would include murderers, rapists, child molesters, and drug dealers. But in this era of pervasive social media, we now can add a new type of sociopath -- the heads of social media companies that deliberately prey upon our children, whom they view as nothing more than a profit-center for their businesses.

A new book by Boston native Frank McCourt, a billionaire real estate mogul and former owner of the Los Angeles Dodgers, makes the case for regulating social media companies because of the threat they pose to our children and our democracy. His central thesis is that we need to do so now before it is too late.

We call upon our national legislators, especially Senators Warren and Markey, to support the bill in the Senate that will allow these social media companies to be sued by those whom they harm. As Senator Graham pointed out, the social media companies have refused to police themselves and the only way to do so is to "open the courtroom doors" to their victims.

....AND THOSE ON-LINE SPORTS BETTING
COMPANIES ARE NOT FAR BEHIND....

A while back we wrote an editorial about the clear and obvious evils of the easy availability of sports gambling via smartphones. This past Sunday evening, the news program 60 Minutes had a segment on exactly that topic, highlighting how young men under the age of 25 have become addicted to on-line sports gambling, where they can place a bet not only on the outcome of a game, but also literally wager on every play, pitch, and moment across the international sporting world, simply with the push of a button on their smartphones at all hours of the day and night.

The report noted that many young men have gambled away their college loan money and their inheritances because of their addiction to these so-called sports books. The advertising for these gaming sites, such as Draft Kings and FanDuel, pitched by high-profile celebrities, makes it look like harmless fun. But as 60 Minutes noted, the reality is far darker.

We have no problem with sports betting when it is done at a casino or similar venue. However, allowing it to happen via a smartphone invites addictive behavior, especially by young people, that can lead them to financial ruin and a lifetime of gambling addiction.

In our view, it is clear that the companies such as Draft Kings, FanDuel, and others are nothing less than predatory monsters that seek to take advantage of vulnerable young people.

Just as our state legislature realized two generations ago that lowering the drinking age to 18 was a societal disaster, we call upon our state legislators to revise the laws that allow these sports betting houses to prey on vulnerable individuals 24/7/365.

GUEST OP-ED

A little bit of kindness to protect Massachusetts
parklands and foster community

By Brian Arrigo

Just under a year ago, I had the honor of being appointed to lead the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), the state's largest landowner and steward of roughly half a million acres across Massachusetts. It's been an amazing first year -- I've traveled across the state, getting to know our beautiful state park system, and the incredible and dedicated staff, who work every day to preserve these spaces for generations to come.

Growing up in and later serving as mayor of Revere, I loved being close to Revere Beach -- America's first public beach -- and would often start my day by clearing my head with a run along the beach. As the fastest growing city in the Commonwealth, the Revere community and so many others depend on our beaches, parks, reservations, reservoirs, and other open spaces that serve as urban oases and retreats.

The pandemic showed us how important these spaces are for our mental and physical wellbeing. They connect us with nature and our neighbors, building healthy and diverse communities of all ages and backgrounds. With more people than ever visiting and experiencing the beauty of our state parks, it's important to be mindful of the impacts our actions have on each other and the environment.

With this in mind, I'm excited to invite everyone to join us in the

Be Kind! public awareness campaign, that we launched last fall in partnership with the Friends of the Fells and the Friends of the Blue Hills. Be Kind! encourages all of us to act with kindness while visiting our state parks -- to the people around us, park staff, and the plants and animals that call these spaces home.

Be Kind! suggests actions that park visitors can take to ensure they are being respectful of one another and of our natural environment. Specifically, it encourages all, whether they are regulars in our DCR parks or first-time visitors, to:

- Listen for other people on trails and make space for others to pass;
- Keep dogs leashed outside of designated off-leash areas;
- Leave no trace of litter or waste; and
- Stay on the trails -- on foot, paw, or bike.

Whether hiking, biking, or walking your dog, keep an eye out for Be Kind! signs along the trails at the Middlesex Fells and Blue Hills Reservations. While

these parks are piloting the program, we are excited to expand this initiative to parks across the state in the future.

You can join us in sharing the Be Kind! message on social media using #BeKindMA and we would love to see your photos and stories of kindness in our parks.

As part of DCR's commitment to providing access to natural, recreational, and cultural resources, we look forward to collaborating with more groups, elected officials, civic leaders, and communities across the Commonwealth to grow this movement of kindness, protect our precious spaces, foster community, and create unforgettable memories for all. Let's Be Kind!

For more information about the Be Kind! public awareness campaign, visit <https://www.mass.gov/guides/be-kind-massachusetts>.

Brian Arrigo is the Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR).

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PRESIDENT: Stephen Quigley EDITOR IN CHIEF: Cary Shuman
cary@lynnjournal.com

PHONE 781-485-0588

EMAIL: EDITOR@LYNNJOURNAL.COM

WEB SITE: WWW.LYNNJOURNAL.COM

DIRECTORY

Advertising & Marketing
Director of Marketing
Debra DiGregorio
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Atlantic Works Gallery announces February Show

Special to the Journal

Atlantic Works Gallery (AWG), the East Boston art-

ist-run collaborative space for art and ideas, announced that as part of its traditional new year's focus on its newest

members, Renato Viganego will have a solo show in February: Lo Immenso...Cotidiano. Bodegones. The Immense... Daily. Still Lives. Viganego will show work that revolves around the still life and human figure where the oil paint on the canvas plays an essential part of the piece. The show opened Saturday, February 3 and will run until Saturday, February 24. There was an opening reception on February 3, and will be a "Third Thursday" reception at the gallery on February 15, from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

"My inspiration comes from emotion," says the Co-

lumbian-born artist. "From my emotion, the line is infinite, the drawing is my language and the drawing is a faithful response of emotion and nothing can be truer."

Viganego's compositions, painted in oil on linen, focus on everyday objects: jars, vases, vessels, dishes, cups, sugar bowls, milk pitchers, crystal plates. "For me it is important to always keep smaller details in context of the larger forms," he said.

Lo Immenso...Cotidiano. Bodegones. The Immense... Daily. Still Lives (details)

• Show opens Saturday,

February 3; Reception 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

• "Third Thursday"; February 15, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

• Show closes Saturday, February 24

Atlantic Works Gallery, 80 Border Street, Boston, MA 02128, now in its twenty-first year, is an artist-run collaborative space for art and ideas located in East Boston. The gallery is open to the public every Friday and Saturday, 2:00 – 6:00 p.m. For private viewing, contact contact@atlanticworks.org.

For more information, visit <https://atlanticworks.org/>.



Youth Football / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

compete for a national championship again next season [in the U-13 division]."

Coach Hunt and assistant coaches Paul Beath, Justin Day, Vinnie Marino, and Calvin Johnson are already looking for a return to the AYF Nationals at Paradise Sports Complex, the beautiful new AYF facility located in Naples (Florida).

"Let me say that I'm very proud of all the players. It was a great season," said Hunt. "But our goal for next season is to win

the whole entire thing. That's what we work all season for. Our goal is to win a national championship."

The Lynn Rams' 2023 campaign was one for the record books. The Rams were a perfect 13-0 in New England, winning all eight of their regular season games, and their five playoff games, taking home the Eastern Mass., state, and New England regional titles. Didus Hoeun scored the winning touchdown in Lynn's dramatic 28-22 over

Springfield in the regional finals.

At the national finals, the Rams fell short in two hard-fought games against Savannah (Georgia) and San Diego (California).

Lynn was the highest-scoring team in New England this season, averaging 34 points per game. Quarterback Mikey Walsh threw for more than 3,000 yards and 31 touchdowns to pilot Lynn's explosive offense. Running back and wide receiver Maki Kirk also had an incredible season, scoring



COURTESY PHOTO

The Lynn Rams U-12 football team players and coaches are shown at the American Youth Football (AYF) National Championships in Florida.



The Lynn Rams U-12 football team, who competed in the Nationals in Florida, is pictured above. Front row, from left, are Maki Kirk, Taleel Baez, Jordan Urena, Kassius Chea, and Gavin Perez. Back row, from left, are Coach Vinnie Marino, Amari Anderson, Jairo Fernandez, Noah Gardner, Head Coach James Hunt, Trevon Bruton, Anthony Lacava, Jeremiah Porter-Veal, and Coach Paul Beath.

23 touchdowns and accounting for more than 2,000 yards in total offense. Jairo Fernandez had 800 yards as a pass receiver.

Defensive tackle Traevon Bruton and Vinny Nalen (who is the son of Bishop Guertin head football coach and former Springfield College and Pope John High School star quarterback Anthony Nalen) were defensive standouts all season.

Hunt, who played four years of football at Deerfield Academy, is setting an excellent example for the players with his hard work, dedication, and inspirational style.

Meanwhile, Lynn Rams President Amy Robinson is building a winning tradition in the football and cheerleading programs. Two of the cheering teams also made it to Nationals this season.

Two years after a merger with the Lynn Chargers, Robinson, a legendary figure in Lynn youth sports, has her organization on the right track – with a national championship a realistic goal for the 2024 season.



Mayor Jared Nicholson joined city and state officials for a photo at North Shore Juneteenth's Black Excellence Ceremony Feb. 5 at City Hall. Councilors, pictured in front row, from left, are Coco Alinsug, Obed Matul, Dianna Chakoutis, Nicole McClain, Natasha Megie-Maddrey, and Brian Field. Back row, from left, are School Committee members Lenny Pena and Sean Reid and Sen. Brendan Crighton.



North Shore Juneteenth Association Planning Committee member Erica Seals, with Association Founder and President Nicole McClain, who is holding the special award of gratitude that she received during the ceremony.



North Shore Juneteenth Association President Nicole McClain, with Tim Potter, radio show host at Zumix, who was one of the guest speakers at the Black Excellence Ceremony.



Lynn Rams Youth Football President Amy Robinson congratulates Garcia Dalzon, a coach in the organization, for receiving a Black Excellence award at the North Shore Juneteenth Association ceremony.



Black Excellence Award recipient Nayellie Estrella (second from right), with friends, Manny Mon, Luisito Maldonado, and Helina Almonte, at the ceremony.

Black Excellence / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Excellence awardee, and Zumix radio host Tim Potter delivered inspiring addresses during the program. Helina Almonte presented a poem honoring the event.

Guscott related some of the impactful remembrances of his youth. "Because I was able to see professionals that looked like me, it was like, okay, this isn't impossible," said Guscott. "Yes, I have role models of all races, but it definitely hits different when it's someone that looks like you."

Noting the honorees sitting in the front row, Potter told the audience, "Here is your future."

"It is time for real change, real leadership, and this generation has the access to make the world better," said Potter. "So enlist these folks in stewardship, in helping and volunteering in the community, participating and making this world a better place."

The Black Excellence honorees recognized with the prestigious and inspiring awards were: Lacreia Thomson, Garcia Dalzon, Attorney Schuyler Hogan, Johann Hunter, Whitney Bright, Ferns Francois, Nayellie Estrella, Toni Waldron, Khiry Todd, Jesse Warren Jr., Jireh Ishaazi, and Jah'Nyah Spencer.



North Shore Juneteenth Association Black Excellence Award recipient Whitney Bright (second from right), with supporters, Kati Huynh, Aliya Carter, and Claudia Buruca, following the impressive ceremony.

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PLUTO CANNABIS GRAND OPENING

Pluto Cannabis Company held an official Grand Opening Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at 193 Oxford Street. Family Co-owners, Ansh Bhammar and Umang Patel, are excited to have the opportunity to open a Lynn business in the downtown area.

Lynn has always been a gem to us according to Ansh. He noted, “A great development occurred when an earlier dispensary left the state. It allowed us to get into the Cannabis ecosystem.” “We received great support from the mayor’s office, City

Council, and EDIC since the beginning. Lynn is one of the best cities to work in. They made the transition smooth for us to start the business. We had a lot of communication with the development corporation, Ward 5 Councilor Dianna Chakoutis,

Tenax Strategies consultants, and our Lynn Attorney, Greg Demakes.” said Ansh. Mayor Jared Nicholson presented the official City of Lynn citation to Pluto Cannabis as he said, “We appreciate your effort and your investment in the city.

I congratulate you and wish you the absolute best.” Other presentations were from Greater Lynn Chamber of Commerce Chairperson Christine Pierce and Sean Reid from the Massachusetts’ Senate and the State Representative House.

PAT GECOYA PHOTO



Pluto Cannabis owners, Ansh Bhammar and Umang Patel, received the City of Lynn Citation from Mayor Jared Nicholson.



GLCC Chairperson Christine Pierce presented special recognition certificate from the Greater Lynn Chamber of Commerce to Ansh and Umang.



State House Staff member, Sean Reid, presented State House Citation to Umang and Ansh.



City officials at Pluto Cannabis Grand Opening – GLCC Chairperson Christine Pierce, Ward 4 Natasha Megie-Maddrey, Mayor Nicholson, Pluto Co-Owners, Ansh Bhammar and Umang Patel, Ward 3 Coco Alinsug, Ward 2 Obed Matul, and At-Large Hong Net



Co-Owners Ansh and Umang officially cut the Grand Opening ribbon as Mayor Jared Nicholson and board members participate.

pluto
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193 Oxford St., Lynn Mon-Sun: 9am - 10pm

GLCC HOSTS THE LYNN HOME SHOW AT LYNN TECH

PAT GECOYA PHOTOS

The Greater Lynn Chamber of Commerce (GLCC) organized its First Big Home Show at Lynn Vocational Technical Institute. Twenty-two vendors participated in the program promoting businesses to the greater Lynn community.

This was a good outlook for the initial show as GLCC Chairperson Christine Pierce said, "We are looking to expand this program next year. Our goal is to have a Business Expo to include all of our members along with any interested businesses within and beyond the Greater Lynn area. This was a great turnout of vendors and visitors surpassing our expectation."



Lynn OBTEK Services with John Barry and Dan Gates.



Salem Five Mortgage Specialist – Sean McCarthy.



Home Décor Group – Debbie Athanas, Kerrie Ward, Stephen Madow, Jonathan Tapper, and Joe Scali.



Charles Page of Rescom Windows & Doors Replacement.



Todd Flannery of Boston Street Self-Storage & Flannery's Handyman Specialist with GLCC Chairperson Christine Pierce.



Licensed Electrician Sean Martin of Martin Electrical Services



King Affordable Movers of Lynn – Owner Santiago Aguilar, Delmy Alvarado, Alissa Aguilar, Jeff Wilson, and Domingo Nunez.



Gabriella Gil and Barry Kolsky of Wayne Alarm Systems.

GLCC HOSTS THE LYNN HOME SHOW AT LYNN TECH

PAT GECOYA PHOTOS



Serving Greater Lynn Junkluggers with Owner Steve Pennypacker.



Mayor Jared Nicholson and his family, Katherine and son, Ben, previewed the Greater Lynn Chamber of Commerce Home Show – Rick Starbard, Adam Frerrante of Servpro, Columbia Insurance Agent John Olson, GLCC Chair Chris Pierce, GLCC Chris Neal, and Sanitago Aguilar of King Movers.

State, local leaders ask for reconsideration of lead water service line grant formula

By Adam Swift

A change in a federal grant funding formula for the replacement of lead line services would have a negative impact on local communities, according to state and local leaders.

Last week, Governor Maura Healey, Attorney General Andrea Joy Campbell, and Treasurer Deborah Goldberg submitted a letter to EPA Administrator Michael Regan urging him to reconsider a new grant formula that has reduced lead service line replacement funding to Massachusetts by more than \$30 million.

The EPA's new data and methodology has cut nearly half the Massachusetts share of funding through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Lead Service Line Grant. Massachusetts received \$65,783,000 in fiscal year 2022, but was only allocated \$33,700,000 for 2023 and future years of the program.

"Massachusetts has made great progress in removing lead service lines so that all of our communities can rely

on clean drinking water," said Healey. "The historic federal investments made possible by President Biden and our congressional delegation have been instrumental in these efforts, and we ask the Environmental Protection Agency to provide us the resources so we can together continue advancing this important work."

In Chelsea, City Manager Fidel Maltez said his city has invested a tremendous amount of money in removing lead lines in the main pipes in the streets.

"However, there remains a significant amount of lead lines from the streets into the houses," said Maltez. "These are typically the responsibility of the property owner, but they are a significant cost, especially in a community like Chelsea, they have a significant barrier. Landlords don't want to spend \$10,000 - \$15,000 to remove a lead line into a property."

Through grant and funding mechanisms, Maltez said Chelsea has been able to assist property owners with those



Community Credit Union in Lynn – Dorina Mitrollari, Laurene Wessel, and Amando Sena.



Leahy Landscaping – Kristina Stevens and Chris Neweskal.

costs.

Local communities have been able to use a variety of funding to help address the lead service line issues.

Last year in Winthrop, the Town Council approved a \$980,000 zero interest loan from the MWRA to pay for

the removal and replacement of about 100 lead lines, according to public works director Steve Calla.

Calla said the Department of Environmental Protection has increased the number of lead water service lines the town is required to remove

each year. In addition to full lead service lines, the DEP is now mandating the removal of partial lead service lines in their calculations, he said.

Calla said there 423 of the full lead service lines remain-



Communications and Strategic Initiatives Manager for the Lynn Mayor's Office Valerie Vong, Rep. Peter Capano, and Rep. Jenny Armini, pictured at the State of the City Address.

A photograph of a smiling woman holding a baby, standing next to a smiling man in a suit and red tie. The woman is wearing a dark blue patterned jacket and is holding the baby in a blue patterned carrier. The baby is wearing a blue patterned jacket and grey sneakers. The man is wearing a dark suit, a white shirt, and a red tie. They are standing in front of a wooden wall with a circular decorative element.



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Please see STATE OF CITY Page 9

APPRECIATION

Estelle Revelotis, well-known, Lynn resident, pillar in the community

By Cary Shuman

The Lynn community paid its respects at memorial observances Jan. 29 for well-known, life-long resident Estelle Revelotis.

The Rev. Fr. Christopher Foustoukos, Presiding Priest at St. Vasilios Greek Orthodox Church in Peabody, and the Rev. Fr. Alex Orphanos, Presiding Priest at St. George Greek Orthodox Church in Lynn, led the funeral service.

Estelle was secretary to the Rev. Charles L. Mihos at the Lynn Church and retired from the Lynn Public School Cleri-

cal Department. The late Rev. Mihos' grandson, Lynn attorney Charles Mihos, was one of the attendees at the service. Also, in the assemblage of family and friends at the church were former Lynn School Committee member Donna Coppola and her husband, Harry Coppola.

Estelle made a highly visible and joyful presence at events held by Lynn organizations such as the Greater Lynn Chamber of Commerce and the respective parishes in Lynn and Peabody. She attended many political campaign receptions, showing

her enthusiastic support for the candidates. She was an usher at the Lynn Auditorium where she enjoyed seeing her friends at shows. She closely followed the Lynn City Council, attending meetings at City Hall.

Estelle took pride in seeing her photograph at events published in local newspapers.

Sen. Brendan Crighton was among the dignitaries paying tribute to Estelle Revelotis upon her passing.

"Estelle was a pillar in the community," said Crighton. "Everywhere we went, whether it

was political-based, community based, or just folks of Lynn getting together – we could always count on Estelle's smiling face and her very quick wit. She was a friend for the whole community. My thoughts and prayers are with her family and her very extended network of friends throughout the community. She'll be greatly missed but not forgotten. Every event I go to now, you're thinking of Estelle, because she was always there. She may not be there physically, but she's there in spirit and on our minds."



Estelle Revelotis.

State of the City / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

pression. They are tirelessly doing that work, coordinating with different agencies and building their capabilities, adding a data analyst and grant writer last year and increasing home visits with families of at-risk youth.

Other departments also play an important role. Last year, we launched a workforce development partnership with ROCA and the Department of Public Works, funded by our American Rescue Plan Act funds, which has created 6 job slots for at-risk young people transitioning into the workforce. The team has worked on projects throughout the City, from clearing sidewalks after a storm to cleaning litter in a municipal lot. Four of the initial participants have already gone on to transition into a permanent job placement.

We are also looking forward to the City's exciting addition to our public safety team, the Lynn Calm Team, an independent unarmed response for mental health, quality of life, community mediation, and post-incident follow-up dedicated to furthering racial justice. Thank you to all our commu-

nity partners, including the Lynn Racial Justice Coalition, Eliot Community Health, My Brother's Table, and others for their help in creating this new program, which will be launching soon.

We are also making sure we can reach and communicate with our residents in order to establish the connections we need and effectively deliver City services, sharing information in multiple languages and working with our Language Access Coordinator and team of interpreters to reach our multilingual community.

Jobs

Our city and our residents deserve good jobs. A path to stable employment is critical for the economic mobility we seek to help us overcome intertwining disinvestment and discrimination as well as the most compelling counter we have to a path to negative behavior with harmful consequences.

That's one of the reasons we offered to pay for our residents to get their commercial driver's license, a new program that 11 Lyn-

ners are participating in.

The goal of finding good jobs for all is why Lynn Tech got a grant to offer new adult education evening programming with 20 slots in the welding and auto tech shops. This is in line with a forward-thinking vision we share with the schools, nonprofits, businesses, and labor to expand capacity at Lynn Tech to prepare adult learners to move into better paying careers. To give you a sense of the level of interest and ambition our residents have for these opportunities and the work we have



To read the complete text of Mayor Nicholson's State of the City address Online, please scan this code.

before us to meet this need, there were more than 150 applications submitted for the 20 slots.

Our goal of connecting residents with good jobs is one of the reasons why we're proud to say we've been able to diversify our City workforce, increasing the percentage of City employees of color from 1 in 10 in 2018 to 1 in 3 this year.

We're also working to harness private investment to create job opportunities for our residents.

A great example of that is the project that the Council approved several weeks ago at the South Harbor site on the Lynnway, which at over \$450 million is the largest private investment in the City's history. The project will create much needed housing, including affordable housing. It will create new opportunities for small businesses and a new public park, both of which will draw in residents from all over the City. And it will create jobs, with 15% of the subcontractors required to have a registered apprenticeship program that creates good new jobs and goals for hiring 30%

Lynn residents, 25% people of color, and 10% women.

That project is exciting and it is a sign of more to come for our waterfront. We are making progress on a South Harbor Implementation Plan for that entire neighborhood, creating a street network to connect our neighborhoods to the waterfront and unlock its potential. Its potential for development, new and expanded transit connections, open space, water access, jobs, and housing. You'll see a great example of this concept later this year when the extension of Blossom Street across the Lynnway opens. It will add another opportunity to cross the Lynnway, turning a barrier between the downtown and the waterfront into a connection.

We're continuing our long-term push to plug Lynn into Greater Boston's innovation economy. Lynn Tech is adding a biotechnology shop, opening a pathway to some of the best-paying and fastest-growing jobs in the region. Next week, we are visiting Greentown Labs to pitch Lynn to clean energy and...



Lynn School Committee members, from left, Eric Dugan, Lennin Pena, Mayor Jared Nicholson, Lorraine Gately, Brian Castellanos, and Sean Reid.



Lynn Police Chief Christopher Reddy, Fire Chief Daniel Sullivan, and Essex County District Attorney Paul Tucker.

LYNN CLASSICAL GIRLS BASKETBALL ATTENDS ENDICOTT COLLEGE GAME



The Lynn Classical High School girls basketball program took its annual trip to a women's college basketball game Saturday. Pictured outside the bus that transported the team to Endicott College in Beverly are, from left, Skyler Crayton, head coach Tom Sawyer, assistant coach Rob Smith, Jada Tejada, Keisha Perez, Kalrigh Bullock, Juliany Perez, Deleisha Perez, Gianna Laft, Molly Keel, Yarlenny Ruiz, Jayda Gonzalez, Divine Egbuta, Lauren Wilson, Jennifer Ramos, Linda Jallow, Savannah Tang, Ylianna Clark, Jayliana Wesley, and assistant coach Cheynisse Hill.

Water Lines / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

ing in town, and about 400 partial lead service lines.

In Revere late last year, city officials warned of the potential of high levels of lead in the drinking water of homes with lead service lines and urged residents to remove the lines.

The City of Revere Water and Engineering Departments removed 68 lead services and confirmed 32 services to be non-lead, this fiscal year. All lead services included in the tests done in October were also removed, city officials stated late last year.

"I applaud the Governor's office for pushing back on Lead Abatement funding," said Revere Mayor Patrick Keefe. "Providing safe drinking water is a basic function of government. I am hopeful we continue to receive the appropriate amount of funding until

lead is no longer a concern for our water systems.

"Contamination from lead pipes disproportionately hurts our historically marginalized populations and environmental justice communities," said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. "We ask the EPA to reconsider these changes in their funding allocations to ensure that federal dollars are distributed most effectively to Massachusetts and states across the country."

Campbell said lead pipes are known to contaminate the water people drink, including in homes and schools, and pose serious health risks for Massachusetts residents, especially children and those living in underserved communities.

"We are deeply committed to ensuring the safety of our

drinking water, protecting the public's health, and supporting our communities across the entire state," said Goldberg, who is also Chair of the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust. "There are very serious concerns with the EPA's data that will hinder this vital work, and we urge them to reevaluate their position. The well-being of Massachusetts residents, particularly our most vulnerable, depend on the continuity of these critical resources."

The EPA's lead remediation programs are a realization of President Biden's goal to remove 100 percent of lead service lines nationwide and address the critical public health and environmental justice challenges that come from lead-contaminated drinking water, according to Healey.

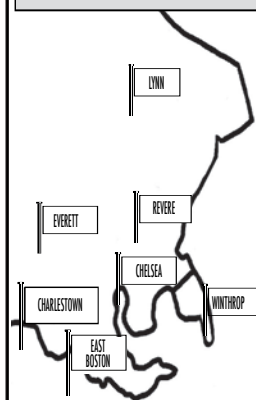
This includes the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund which has \$15 billion in funding nationally from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), signed by President Biden in 2021.

The letter from Governor Healey and state leaders identifies Massachusetts's unique needs for lead remediation funding based on the high percentage of housing stock from before 1940, when the use of lead in service lines was prevalent and emphasizes how the effects of this today cause disproportionate lead exposure in

communities of color.

"The reductions in EPA funding could dramatically limit Massachusetts's incredible work addressing our unique challenges with lead service lines," said Director of Federal Funds and Infrastructure Quentin Palfrey. "Massachusetts has shown the ability to impactfully use federal funding to make progress on this public health crisis, and we will continue our efforts to secure each and every federal dollar that enables this work to continue."

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SUPER SUNDAY

Fans set to wager on the Big Game this Sunday at WynnBET Sportsbook in Encore

By Cary Shuman

Football fans will be making their way to Encore Boston Harbor in Everett Sunday to make a wager on the Super Bowl at the WynnBET Sportsbook located on the casino floor.

The NFL's title game, matching the defending champion Kansas City Chiefs and the San Francisco 49ers, arrives just more than a year after wagering on sports became legalized in Massachusetts.

As befitting its status as a world-class, five-star resort/

casino, Encore's sportsbook is considered "New England's premier destination to place a wager."

Fans will be able to view the game at the sportsbook on more than 70 televisions, including a 10-foot-high and 123-foot-long video wall. Two food establishments, Frank and Nick's and Shake Shack, are situated inside the sportsbook area.

While the New England Patriots are in a rebuilding phase following a two-decade dynasty that produced six Super Bowl titles, there is still

considerable interest in this year's game. The NFL is at an all-time high in international viewership and popularity. Sponsors are paying \$7 million for a 30-second commercial during the broadcast.

And in a strong local connection to the game, former Everett High School and Brown University football standout Mike Borgonzi is the assistant general manager of the Kansas City Chiefs. Borgonzi, who starred for the Crimson under long-time head coach John DiBiase, has helped build two Super Bowl championship teams and will be seeking a third Lombardi Trophy for the Chiefs on Sunday.

Encore officials said the WynnBET Sportsbook will open Sunday at 9:30 a.m. and remain open all day. In addition to the Super Bowl, fans can also wager in person on other sports such as NBA and NCAA college basketball and the NHL.

San Francisco is currently a two-point favorite over Kansas City in the game.

(Information from the Encore Boston Harbor/WynnBET Sportsbook website was used in this story).



The WynnBET Sports Bar is pictured inside Encore Boston Harbor in Everett.

'Annie' playing at the Wang Theatre through Feb. 11

Story by Marianne Salza

Spunky, little orphan, Annie, and her friends endure a "hard knock life" at a neglectful orphanage in 1933 New York. Although times can be burden-

some, she believes there is hope for sunshine. "Annie," directed by Jenn Thompson, and featuring scores by Tony Award winners, Thomas Meehan, Charles Strouse, and Martin Charnin, will be presented in Boston's Boch Cen-

ter Wang Theatre February 6-11 for its 2023-2024 North American Tour.

"It's an important message any time, especially during tumultuous times in the world," explained Jeff T. Kelly, who plays Rooster Hannigan in the musical. "Clinging onto optimism when situations seem to be bad and getting worse is an important outlook to walk away from after watching the show."

Annie warms the heart of billionaire, Oliver Warbucks, and his staff when she spends the holidays at his mansion. Together, they set out to reunite Annie with her parents; but Rooster --



See ANNIE Page 12



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LYNN HOUSING ASSOCIATION GROUNDBREAKING EVENT

After several years of planning the Lynn Housing Association (LHA) will break ground for a new emergency shelter located at 91 Liberty Street. This new facility will serve the Lynn unaccompanied adult population experiencing homelessness.

Over the years LHA has worked with state and federal agencies, city governments, lo-

cal businesses, and individual donors to raise money to bring an awareness of the need to create a shelter, according to Board President Rev. Clyde Elledge. He continued to say, "Everyone deserves safe and clean housing that provides some quantity of dignity from homelessness to a new chance on life on their own terms."

CEO Mark Evans expressed his deepest gratitude for this project to Lynn Mayor Jared Nicholson for his support, State Senator Brendan Crighton and State Rep. Daniel Cahill who have been strong advocates for the LHA. CEO Evans stated, "We thank you so much for your support in many ways to make this day a reality. This is truly a win for the

City of Lynn."

Mayor Nicholson extended congratulations to the LHA staff and Board members for achieving their goal for adult living. Local State House Delegation – Senator Crighton, State Reps Dan Cahill, Peter Capano, Jenny Armini, and Donald Wong played significant roles for this development. LHA supporters, David Solimine Jr.

and his wife, Magnolia, made a \$52,000.00 substantial donation. One hundred and two other donors contributed to this charitable cause for eighty adult living quarters. Jones Architecture Firm – Rick Jones, Bill Jacob and Mary Gillis - of Salem designed the new shelter. Noted from an associate, "Everyone deserves a place to call home."

PAT GECOYA PHOTOS



Dave Solimine Jr. makes a significant donation of \$52,000.00 to Lynn Housing Association to CEO Mark Evans with Director of Development Kelly Gault, and Director of Program Operations Russell Poulin.



Officials support Lynn Housing Association Groundbreaking Ceremony: State Senator Brendan Crighton, LHA Treasurer & FHL Bank Boston Frank Nitkiewicz, LHA Board President Rev. Clyde Elledge, Mayor Jared Nicholson, LHA CEO Mark Evans, and State Rep. Daniel Cahill.

Annie / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

the brother of the orphanage's caretaker, Miss Hannigan -- has his own conniving scheme.

Kelly, who considers Rooster to be a comic relief villain, feels that audiences of all ages can enjoy the play. It incorporates political references, social movements, and an inquisitive dog.

"As someone who enjoys learning about different periods, the historical element resonated with me," revealed Kelly. "The political conflicts that were going on during the Depression and Prohibition, and the music of that era tickle my fancy."

Kelly began his career in musical theater nine years ago, in his early 20s. His background in martial arts, hockey, and fencing have been useful skills on stage. Kelly is a graduate of the American Musical and Dramatic Academy, New York City. His recent theater credits include playing Fluke in "Million Dollar Quartet," and Tommy Devito in "Jersey Boys."

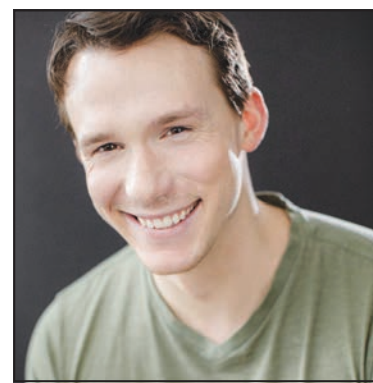
"The road has been fun and enlightening. I'm enjoying being on tour," described Kelly. "A goal of mine is to stay on tour for a while."

Kelly's acting career has allowed him to explore different cities like Denver, San Antonio, and Galveston. When traveling, Kelly asks locals about their recommendations for the best Buffalo wings in the area. Besides a shack that he discovered off a beaten path in the Bahamas, Kelly has concluded that the Buffalo wings from his hometown restaurant, DJ's Famous Wings, are superior.

"This last year has been such a good step because I did a cruise contract, played the lead in a regional, and I'm playing a prin-

cipal on a national tour. They're three, massive milestones in a performer's career," said Kelly. "I've been very fortunate. To successfully achieve them has been a really good feeling."

Kelly is excited to return to his Boston, and stop in Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers, where he would eat after marching band rehearsals when he was a member of the Boston University drumline. The Barnstable native plans to bring his friends to Cape Cod so they can revel in his favorite Buffalo wings together.



COURTESY PHOTO

Barnstable native, Jeff Kelly, who plays Rooster Hannigan in the musical, "Annie," coming to the Bock Center Wang Theater February 6-11

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