

THE LYNN JOURNAL

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A WINNING WEEK FOR ST. MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL

Lynn community rallies behind Amanda Mena in quest of 'Idol' title

By Cary Shuman

Are the rumors true that Amanda Mena will be appearing in concert at the Lynn Auditorium this summer?

If you ask James Marsh, general manager of the most popular entertainment venue in the area, the answer is "yes."

This week Marsh congratulated Mena on earning a "Golden Ticket" to Hollywood after her wildly successful audition on Sunday's American Idol show on ABC TV.

"On behalf of her hometown Auditorium we want to wish her all the best as she heads to Holly-

wood," said Marsh.

And it may soon be Mena on the marquee at the auditorium which is located inside Lynn City Hall.

"We hosted a sold-out American Idol show here in August of 2017 with the Season 16 (Maddie Poppe) and Season 8 (Chris Allen) winners," recalled Marsh. "After seeing Amanda perform Sunday night on ABC, I'd book her right now at the Lynn Auditorium. She is simply amazing."

There is also a report that a Lynn business owner is trying to

Please see MENA Page 4



St. Mary's High School sophomore goaltender Angela Catino holds aloft the CCL Cup championship trophy in the company of her triumphant teammates following the team's dramatic 3-2 victory over Matignon in championship game Saturday night. See more photos on page 6.

St. Mary's girls basketball team captures Catholic Central League Cup

By Cary Shuman

It wasn't easy, but when all was said and done in an historic season that was complicated by an ongoing pandemic, the St. Mary's High School girls team was No. 1 – again.

Though they won't be officially crowned as state champions for the second year in a row, Jeff Newhall's 2020-21 Lady Spartans were unquestionably one of the best teams in the state.

Twenty wins – the most in the state. Another title in the high-

ly competitive Catholic Central League. A 1,000-point scorer in Division 1-bound Sacred Heart commit Maiya Bergdorf. One of the most successful players in school history in Endicott-Col-

Please see ST. MARY'S Page 4



Amanda Mena sings at St. Mary's High School's STEM and Gateway Building Blessing and Benefit in December, 2020.



The St. Mary's High School girls basketball team is pictured at midcourt after winning the 2021 Catholic Central Cup championship Saturday at the Tony Conigliaro Gymnasium.

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EDITORIAL

AN UNFATHOMABLE NUMBER

When COVID-19 first came into our national consciousness more than a year ago, it was just a blip on the news. The prospect that a viral bug originating halfway around the world would alter every aspect of our lives seemed inconceivable.

And even if the virus did come here, America was not some third-world country. We had confidence that the world's best medical care system and scientific minds would work together to prevent something as seemingly trivial as a mere virus from overwhelming our nation.

But one year -- and 500,000 American lives -- later, that which was unimaginable has become a nightmarish reality.

To be sure, the unprecedented incompetence and outright malevolence of the previous administration contributed substantially to amplify and worsen the problems brought on by the pandemic.

But even in a best-case scenario, the virus would have upended every aspect of our lives. Although the politicization of the virus contributed to our nation's suffering, the pandemic still would have caused death and economic turmoil to an unprecedented extent.

The official count of 500,000 COVID deaths was surpassed this week. Let's hope that as we move forward and as the daily numbers of deaths and hospitalizations continue to decline, we have learned that despite our high-tech lifestyle, we are no match for Mother Nature.

The pandemic has exposed many problems in our country, including the inadequacy of our health care system, especially for minority groups, and the danger of politicizing scientific information.

Hopefully, we have recognized our multitude of mistakes and we will make the necessary investments in our health care and pandemic detection systems to ensure that we will be ready for the next pandemic.

As the philosopher succinctly put it, those who do not learn from the past are condemned to repeat it.

SPRING IS IN THE AIR

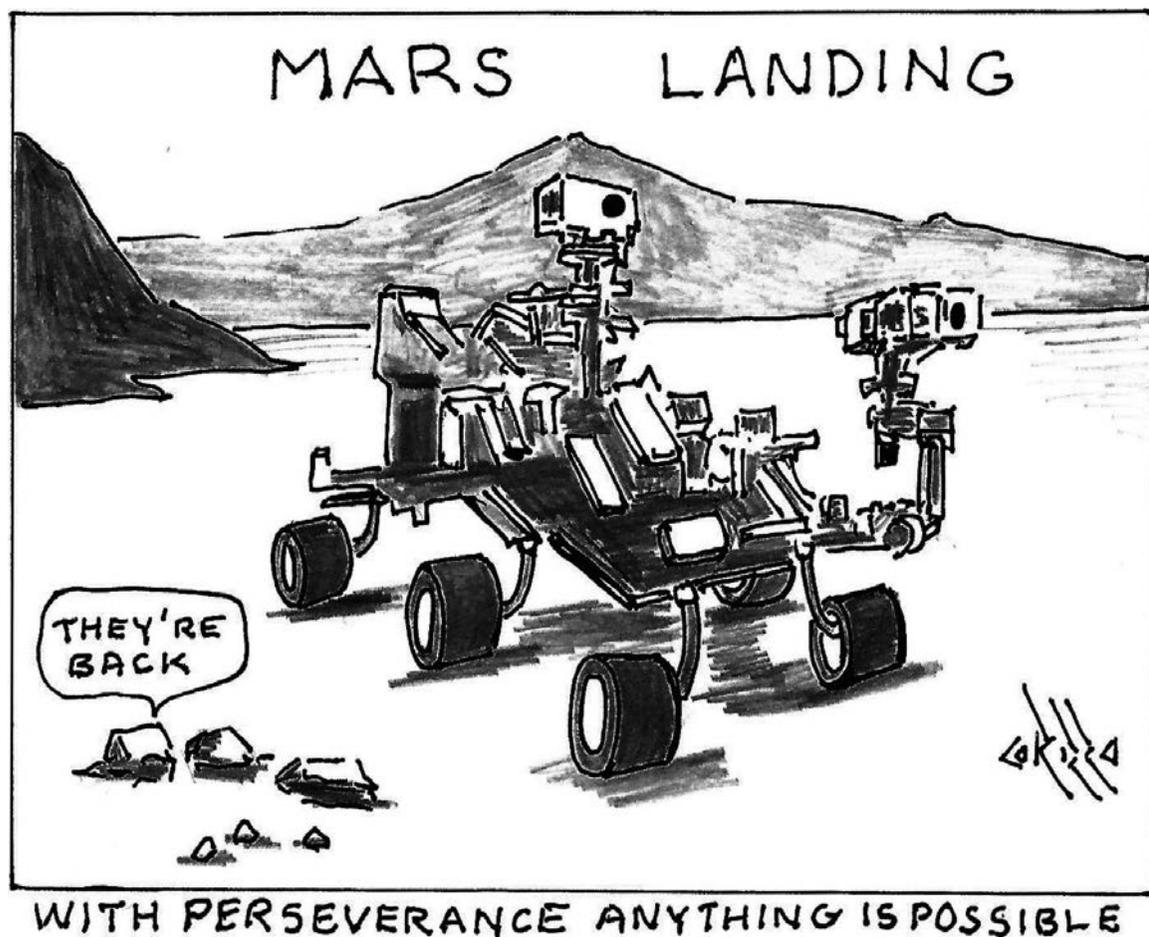
This winter has not been a particularly difficult one for us in the Northeast, although February has been colder and stormier than January.

But with temperatures reaching the 50s by the middle of this week, there is the feeling that spring is just around the corner.

We realize that "spring" is a relative term for those of us living on the Massachusetts coast, but undeniably the onset of warmer weather will provide more opportunities to get outside and enjoy the fresh air and sunshine after months of being cooped-up amidst our pandemic quarantines.

Spring traditionally symbolizes rebirth and rejuvenation. That thought is especially meaningful in the spring of 2021.

Hopefully, the coming of spring and the availability of mass vaccinations will enable all of us to emerge from our cocoons and allow us to return safely to our pre-pandemic lives.



GUEST OP-ED

Making your funeral arrangements

Dr. Glenn Mollette

A good friend died recently. At the age of 80 all his life insurance had expired and his savings was spent. His family, financially, were living from week to week. His failing health along with Covid-19 put him in an Intensive Care Unit for days apart from his family where he died. His hospitalization brought more bills and financial hardship for those left behind. Needless to say, there wasn't any money to pay for a casket, embalming, plot of ground and a grave marker.

His young adult son put together their dire scenario and sent it out to everyone his family knew. Within a week 103 friends had given \$20,300 to momentarily rescue this family from their perilous situation. It was enough money to buy a casket, embalming, a plot of ground and a small grave memorial marker.

Do you have 103 friends who would give \$20 to \$2000 each to pay for your burial expenses? I know I do not. Such an outpouring was a testimony to his life and the lives of so many he had touched. This story is a sad reminder that we must take prudent steps toward covering our burial/

funeral costs.

I don't want my wife or children to have to figure it out after I'm dead. Often, we don't get a choice. We die way before we have time to make our final arrangements. This happens a lot. This is why we need to do it now or as soon as we can.

Another dear friend recently died very young. Her family was strapped for cash and went the route of cremation. Cremation is costing between \$2500 to \$7500 depending on where you live. Not cheap. My Navy son said, "Dad, just cremate me and scatter my remains over the north Atlantic." I pray he lives to be a hundred and his grandchildren have to do that.

Some of you know my wife died back in 2002. Her funeral cost me about \$10,000 and her grave plot was \$600. I was cash strapped at the age of 47. I had nothing but medical bills and a house payment. I wasn't prepared for a funeral, mentally or financially. The only thing that saved me was a year before she was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, a good friend sold us small life insurance policies. He also talked us into paying extra for a disability waiver on the pol-

icy. The disability waiver was the only way I was able to maintain that life insurance policy which we used 13 years after he sold it to us. It was the only way I could have paid for that funeral, unless I could have borrowed more money on my house. This was doubtful because I already had a second mortgage on the house from trying to pay other medical bills. I would have been hurting and probably would have had to go the cheapest route available for her funeral. It was simply the grace of God and a wise insurance agent who saved us in that respect.

My mother and father in law both died recently and their funeral expenses alone were over \$14,000 each. Fortunately, they had saved enough money to cover these costs. You can spend less and you can spend more of course. The question is do you want your family to have to figure it out? Sit down with a trusted funeral director and begin making preparations now.

Decide which route you want to go. Decide how much you want to spend. You can plan everything. Pick out everything.

(Op-Ed Pg. 3)

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Baker announces plan to eliminate remote learning for elementary schools by April

By Lauren Bennett

Governor Charlie Baker on Tuesday announced that the state has a goal of getting elementary school students back into the classroom full-time by April.

“I think we all know that when COVID hit last year, just about this time, teachers, staff, and students experienced an incredible disruption to their daily routines in school,” Baker said, “and ever since, have been adapting and adjusting to the challenges that came with the pandemic.”

Baker said that districts across the state have made adjustments to help their students adapt to the challenges put forth by the pandemic, “but I think we all agree there’s no substitute for in-person learning, especially for kids in elementary school,” he said.

“Our administration has been clear for months that the best place for kids is in the classroom,” Baker said.

He said that Jeff Riley, the Commissioner of the state De-

partment of Elementary and Secondary Education, began a process on Tuesday with the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education “to get more kids back into the classroom full time by phasing out remote-only learning in April” and allow students, beginning with elementary school students, to attend classes in person Monday through Friday.

Baker said that the process would begin with students in elementary school, and that the state “hope[s] to be moving ahead soon,” he said. “We know the pandemic’s been difficult on everyone, but it’s been really tough on kids and their parents as they struggle to be out of the classroom and detached from their teachers and their peers.”

Approximately 80 percent of the state’s school districts are currently providing some sort of in-person learning, whether it be a hybrid model or fully in person, Baker said.

“Districts with in-person

learning, regardless of how high COVID transmission is in their community, have seen few, if any, examples of in-school transmission,” Baker said. He said that with “proper mitigation strategies” and compliance with protocols, “schools across the Commonwealth have been able to safely welcome kids back to the classroom for many months now.”

However, about 20 percent of the state’s school districts are still fully remote, which translates to about 400,000 kids, Baker said, “most of whom haven’t been in a classroom since March [of last year].”

Baker said that students’ “social, mental, and emotional well-being has been significantly impacted” by being out of the classroom.

“The science is pretty clear on this one: there are now dozens of reports from all over the world that it’s safe to be in school, and doctors and public health experts, including Dr. Fauci, all agree that getting kids back in school needs to be a top priority,” Baker said.

He said that the state has “committed funding, resources, and supports to schools and districts to return to classrooms.”

Commissioner Riley said he would “take a phased-in approach to returning students to the classroom, working closely with state health officials and medical experts.”

He said he would work first to return elementary school students to in-person learning, “with the plan likely extending to middle school grades later in the school year and possibly high

schools as well.”

Parents who do not wish to send their children for in person learning will not be required to do so, and they can remain learning remotely through the end of the school year, Riley said, adding that “there will be a waiver process for districts who may need to take a more incremental approach,” Riley said, adding that fully remote schools could first transition to a hybrid model.

Baker said that “with COVID cases and hospitalizations continuing to decline and vaccines well underway, it’s time to set our sites on eliminating remote learning by April and starting with elementary schools.” He said the state will continue to ramp up vaccine distribution as much as possible and open more mass vaccination sites statewide.

Op-Ed (from pg. 2)

Most likely pay for everything. Just make sure you are dealing with a very trusted funeral director. Write out everything you want done including music, speakers and anything specific you want them to say. It’s up to you of course. Make several copies of your wishes and what you have done. It’s amazing how people lose stuff.

When we are dead, we won’t care. We won’t know, but we care now. I know most of us care about those we leave behind.

This is one way we can help them to know how and what we want done and relieve their burden by making the arrangements ourselves.

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.

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RMV encouraging customers to renew expired inspection stickers

The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) is ramping up customer communication efforts to encourage anyone driving one of over 584,000 registered vehicles with an expired Massachusetts' inspection sticker on their vehicle's front windshield to make a plan to get their annual inspection and update their sticker as soon as possible. All vehicles registered in Massachusetts must pass a yearly vehicle emissions and safety inspection, also known as the Massachusetts Vehicle Check Program, which is essential to the safety of the Commonwealth's environment and roadways.

At the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic, some extensions were

granted to annual inspection stickers expiring between March and May of 2020, however those extensions have since expired and no further extensions are planned. There are 1,800 local inspection stations, many of whom are small businesses, across Massachusetts that are open for business and conducting inspections in accordance with state public health guidelines and safety protocols. Customers are encouraged to visit the [Inspection Station Locator](#) to find a location near them and plan their trip to update their sticker.

"Annual motor vehicle inspections are an integral part of helping ensure that vehicles travelling on roadways across

the Commonwealth are deemed safe and not releasing dangerous emissions that can be harmful to individuals and the environment," said Acting Secretary of Transportation and CEO Jamey Tesler. "We are thankful for all of the work and collaborative efforts that are currently underway with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, Massachusetts State Police, local law enforcement, and key businesses partners and stakeholders to remind customers with expired inspection stickers to have their vehicles inspected as soon as possible."

The RMV is teaming up with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

(MassDEP), Massachusetts State Police (MSP), local law enforcement, and other business partners to remind customers of this time-sensitive requirement. While driving any motor vehicle without a valid inspection sticker is a traffic violation that may result in a fine and impact individual insurance rates, the RMV is asking law enforcement to use their discretion at this time and help remind and not cite those with expired stickers it's time to renew.

"We encourage individuals to proactively check the current status of their motor vehicle inspection stickers, and not wait to schedule a safety inspection, if warranted," said Chelsea Chief

of Police and President of the Massachusetts Major City Chiefs of Police Association Brian Kyes.

RMV records show that approximately 584,000 active vehicle registrations in Massachusetts currently have an expired inspection sticker. An email reminder will be sent to the 437,000 individuals with an address on file. Other communication efforts will include social media outreach, reminders to RMV business partners and law enforcement, and buck-slip reminders will be included in registration mailings to encourage customers to "Check Ya Stickah" and take appropriate steps as needed.

Mena / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

secure the rights to "Mena Mavens" T-shirts but that story is still developing.

Meanwhile, at Amanda Mena's high school, St. Mary's of Lynn, the excitement is brewing in support of the talented 18-year-old senior.

St. Mary's Head of School Dr. John F. Dolan said, "We are blessed at St. Mary's to have students with a wide range of abilities — in academics, athletics and other extracurricular activities, including the arts. Amanda is a generational talent and an amazing ambassador for our school and the City of Lynn. We are proud to have the rest of the country be reminded of what we have known all along: Amanda is a special young woman with unlimited potential. We look for-

ward to continuing to follow her American Idol journey."

Said senior Vanessa Gedeon, class of 2021, classmate and friend of Amanda, "I was so proud of my friend watching her on American Idol this past Sunday. Amanda has grown into such a mature and talented person. I am not surprised that the judges were in awe. I remember the first time I heard her sing in mass here at St. Mary's, I got the chills. I know Amanda is going to go far and be successful in her career. She is also a great friend, very positive and always knows how to brighten someone's day. I will be watching when Hollywood Week begins and definitely voting for her!"

Mena opened Sunday's American Idol show with a tremen-

dous performance of "Golden Slumbers," which was first recorded by the Beatles for their Abbey Road album.

The reaction of the 'Idol' judges was breathtaking. "You're one of a kind," 13-time Grammy Award nominee Katy Perry told Mena.

Legendary singer and songwriter Lionel Richie and country music star Luke Bryan then joined Perry in informed Amanda of the honor she and her fans wanted to hear: "You're going to Hollywood!"

Mena, who said she's very grateful for the support of the Lynn community, will next appear on one of the American Idol Hollywood Week shows that are scheduled for March 21 and March 28.



Amanda Mena is pictured at the American Idol auditions where she received a 'Golden Ticket to Hollywood' for the next phase of individual musical performances on the popular show that airs on ABC TV.

St. Mary's / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

lege bound Nicolette D'Itria, who led a senior class that produced 80 wins in four years.

A rising star guard in sophomore Yirsy Queliz who will be a future All-Scholastic if she is not one already. The superb sixth-person junior who became a huge contributor as a starter as a senior, Alyssa Grossi. And the breakout season of St. Mary's next great all-around player, sophomore Kellyn Preira.

On Saturday at the Tony Cognigliaro Gymnasium that would have been packed for the championship showdown against rival Fenwick under normal circum-

stances, St. Mary's showed its mettle.

After pulling away to a substantial lead in the third quarter, St. Mary's held off the fast-closing Crusaders to take a 46-40 victory and the CCL Cup championship trophy.

D'Itria was the unofficial MVP of the game, with 15 points, seven rebounds and four assists. D'Itria took over the proceedings with three successive 3-pointers in third quarter that helped expand the lead to 39-16.

"It feels great to be CCL champions and especially to get the chance to beat Fenwick in

our home gym — it's a great way to end our senior season," said D'Itria. "Eventually my shots started falling at the right time. I had a great five years (grades 8-12) with Coach Newhall and all the coaches. It was a great team to be with each year."

Newhall said that D'Itria was a difference maker in the title game.

"Nicolette played well all game, but the three 3-pointers in third quarter — that's when we made our run," said Newhall. "That's probably the sequence that won the game for us."

Queliz had nine points and

will return next year to pilot a potential run to the Garden. Preira (7 points) and Grossi (6) played well for the Spartans. Grossi was also the game's leading rebounder with 11 caroms. Bergdorf, a talented 6-foot center, emerged from early foul trouble to score six points and end her special career with a second consecutive championship.

"When you look back at the season, you can't help but be more than happy," said Newhall, whose career record is now a lofty 323-137. "We were the best team in the regular season and the best team in the post season."

Newhall thanked his five seniors — Nicolette D'Itria, Alyssa Grossi, Maiya Bergdorf, Van Nguyen, and Pej'ae Parent — for their contributions to the program.

"We have five great seniors that have been through a lot," said Newhall. "They go out as winners and they've had an unbelievable run. It's going to be tough to see them move on, but the future is bright."

Newhall was assisted on the St. Mary's staff by coaches Jim Foley, Mike Jalbert, Tim Spinney, Alison McCarthy, and Victoria Ault.

MALDEN CATHOLIC HOLDS ROLLING RALLY FOR ACCEPTED STUDENTS

Photos & Story by Marianne Salza

Malden Catholic High School (MC) held an Accepted Students Rolling Rally on February 13 to welcome the incoming Class of 2025. Families paraded in line through the back parking lot, honking their horns in celebration to begin the spirited festivities that included triumphant music and a performance by the MC cheerleaders.

“This has been an outstanding enrollment season,” announced Mr. John Thornburg, Headmaster. “We are up to 140 students enrolled.”

Scholars filed individually through a line of applauding cheerleaders as their names were announced. With a burst of confetti, Mr. Thornburg presented each student with a certificate of admission on stage.

“Malden Catholic is the only school in the area that has continued to hold in-person classes,” explained Mr. Thornburg. “What Malden Catholic has to offer cannot be delayed.”

Students received a special \$500 waived registration fee, and Malden Catholic backpack gift for registering.



Peter Walsh, holding his certificate of admission, with Headmaster Thornburg.



Morgan Hardy, holding her certificate of admission.



Isabella Mejia receiving her MC backpack gift for registering



Cheerleaders performing during the opening celebration of the Accepted Students Rolling Rally.



Katana O'Keefe holding her certificate of admission, with Headmaster Thornburg.

LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

MALDEN CATHOLIC STUDENTS ACHIEVE HONOR ROLL FIRST QUARTER

Malden Catholic High School students have completed the coursework for the first quarter for the 2020-21 school year. Malden Catholic divides honors into three sections: Headmaster's List, First Honors and Second Honors.

Headmaster's List is achieved by having over a 90 in all classes, First Honors is achieved by having over an 85 in all classes and Second Honors is achieved by having over an 80 in all classes.

The following Lynn resident achieved:

Headmaster's List:

- Aidan Cole
- Liam McDonough
- James Meklis
- Samuel Ohannesian Jr.
- Rylan Scaglione

- Jovanny Vargas
- Brianeliz Gomez
- Brooke Langis
- Angie Mejia

First Honors:

- Elijah Barboza-Boyd
- Devin Hong
- Katie Erazo
- Kyla Reynoso
- Lilyanna Romero
- Yolandy Vargas

Second Honors:

- Jeremy Afwande
- Joseph Connolly
- Thomas Do
- Bernardo Sanchez
- Ryan Sweeney
- Sabrina Armstrong
- Shadel Kibirige

Since 1932, Malden Catholic High School has shaped emerging leaders in our community, claiming a Nobel Laureate, a Senator, two ambassadors and countless community and business heads among its alumni. Annually,

graduates attend some of the nation's most renowned universities including Harvard, Georgetown, Brown, Cornell, Tufts, Georgia Tech, Boston College and Amherst College. Foundational to student success is Malden Catholic's codivisional model which offers the best of both worlds, single-gender academics during the day and integrated social and extracurricular opportunities after school. Malden Catholic is known in the community for its rigorous academics, SFX Scholars Program and award-winning STEM program (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) with electives such as Robotics and Engineering Design. Malden Catholic curriculum is designed to improve individual growth mindset, leadership principles, success outcomes along with integrating the Xaverian values of trust, humility, compassion, simplicity and zeal. <https://www.maldencatholic.org/>

ST. MARY'S GIRLS HOCKEY WINS CATHOLIC CENTRAL LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

The St. Mary's High School girls hockey team completed an outstanding season by winning the CCL Cup championship Saturday at Stoneham Arena.

Sophomore Jenny Chaplain led the way with a hat trick in the Spartans' exciting 3-2 win over an undefeated Matignon (Cambridge) contingent.

Goaltender Angela Catino led a superb effort by the St. Mary's defense, making several key saves in the game.

Coach Frank Pagliuca's Lady Spartans concluded their championship season with a 15-2-3 record.

The Spartans would have been one of the main contenders in the MIAA Division 1 State Tournament, but the playoffs were canceled due to the coronavirus.



Head Coach Frank Pagliuca congratulates Jenny Chaplain after the Spartans' star scored her third goal of the game.



It's Trophy Time for the Spartans of St. Mary's of Lynn Girls Hockey Team. Captains Makayla McGrath, Felcia D'Alessandro, Marina DiBisio, and Samantha Porazinski are presented the CCL Championship trophy by Matignon's AD Mike Lahiff at Stoneham Area last Saturday evening.



Sophomore goalie Angela Catino secures the puck from a possible rebound attempt by a Matignon player in the Spartans' 3-2 victory.



Marina DiBisio takes a shot on net in the company of four Matignon players during Saturday's CCL championship game.



Head Coach Frank Pagliuca, Asst. Coaches Alison Butler, Scott Chaplain, Maggie Carmany and Tatiana Doucette and the 2021 CCL Girls Hockey Champions, the Spartans of St. Mary's of Lynn.

ST. MARYS GIRLS BASKETBALL ROAD TO THE CCL TITLE

Head Coach and Athletic Director of St. Mary's of Lynn led his Lady Spartans to the CCL semi-finals on Wednesday night with a huge win over Austin Prep 69-37.

It was all Spartans from the opening inbound of the ball, only allowing two points in the first eight minutes, taking the first period, 29-2. The girls will be at home Wednesday, Feb. 17, at 6 p.m.



Nicolette D'Itria being double teamed, looks for an outlet pass to a teammate.



Yirsi Queliz looks to capture a rebound after a foul shot.



Alyssa Grossi racked up plenty of points at the foul line for the Spartans.



St. Mary's High School Head of School Dr. John Dolan and senior standout Maiya Bergdorf proudly display the CCL Cup championship trophy.



St. Mary's High girls basketball head coach Jeff Newhall, with his daughter, Eva, sons Alex and Andrew, and his niece, basketball player Lily Newhall, after the game.



Not be denied, Yirsi Queliz goes in for two more Spartan points.



Only allowing two points in the opening quarter, St. Mary's played a tough defense.



Alyssa Grossi had a great game for the Spartans, she accounted for a huge amount of Spartan points from the foul line and the floor.



Head Coach and St. Mary's AD, Jeff Newhall directs his Spartans from the sideline.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

60 CANDIDATES APPLY FOR DIVERSITY DIRECTOR JOB

CHELSEA - More than 60 candidates applied for the new Diversity Director position within the City of Chelsea – a new department that will have high-level status and will be charged with making City government more inclusive and welcoming.

It's a department proposed by City Manager Tom Ambrosino and Councilor Leo Robinson last summer in the wake of the murder of George Floyd, and in response to a list of demands from young people in Chelsea. Earlier this year, the City put together a Hiring Committee chaired by City Attorney Cheryl Fisher Watson. That Committee is currently interviewing candidates, and reportedly has some great options.

Fisher Watson said they had approximately 60 applicants and the Committee has reviewed all 60 applicants. They were ranked and from those rankings, six or seven were interviewed.

The goal will be to forward three applicants to the City Manager for the final hiring decisions.

Councilor Damali Vidot, who is on the Committee, said she was excited about the pool of applicants.

"We have some amazing candidates and we've narrowed it down now to a couple of folks," she announced at the Feb. 8 Council meeting.

A decision is expected in March.

•MORE MARIJUANA LICENSES

Council President Roy Avellaneda has proposed to increase the number of marijuana licenses from four to six in the City. While there was trepidation at first for the new industry, Chelsea has embraced it and already has one recreational marijuana store operating since November. Others are expected and Avellaneda said he hopes they can explore capping the number at six and not four.

"In light of some of the delays because of marijuana expansion, I feel this warranted consideration," said Avellaneda.

However, Councilor Calvin Brown warned caution on the matter, and said an increase in licenses for marijuana outlets was not what voters approved some years ago on the ballot.

"When the voters went to the ballot in 2016, it passed in Chelsea," he said. "There were certain expectations of what that meant. Now, to do this is some-

thing we need to pay attention to because it goes beyond the intent of the law when we voted on it... We need to slow down on this."

Councilor Damali Vidot disagreed and said the marijuana question passed easily in Chelsea, perhaps as much as 10 percent, and she said there is an appetite for local people to try to get into the industry. To do so, they need more licenses.

"For Black and brown and immigrant communities this is a chance to build equity and affluence," she said. "This is an opportunity to level the playing field. I don't think we're necessarily moving too fast."

Councilor Todd Taylor said one thing to consider is those that invested in the City and already opened, thinking that there would only be four competitors. With more competitors, he said, that makes their license potentially less valuable.

"The concern I have is adding additional licenses and whether it might affect people who have already invested in a license and a business that's open," he said.

The matter will be brought up again at a future meeting.

•TAX ON ROAD SALT

Council President Roy Avellaneda also proposed at the Feb. 8 meeting a tax on road salt coming out of the Eastern Salt complex on Marginal Street.

He proposed a Home Rule Petition that would allow Chelsea to charge something like 1 percent or less on the sale or transfer of a quantity of road salt. It would be levied on any company with salt storage in Chelsea.

It was moved to a Subcommittee on Conference.

•STOP WASTING FOOD

Councilor Giovanni Recupero was quite bothered during the meeting Feb. 8 about many people he sees taking food from the local food pantry relief efforts, and then throwing most of it away.

He encouraged those that don't need the relief food not to take it if they only plan to waste it. He said the problem is much larger than many would expect, particularly in his district.

"Please, if you get food, don't throw it away," he said. "I've been seeing food boxes that people get thrown in garbage cans. I'm in favor of giving out food to those that need it. I'm not in favor of wasting it. Give it to someone that needs it."

•IN THE CHAMBER?

Councilor Leo Robinson said he was only trying to ask a simple question of those that have

WINTHROP HOUSING AUTHORITY BEGINS VACCINATIONS



Residents and staff of the Winthrop Housing Authority are shown above ready to receive the first COVID-19 vaccine shot. Shown to the right, Health Dept. workers fill out the forms.



been helped by the City's Business Relief Fund, but apparently it's a question others don't support.

At the Feb. 8 meeting, Robinson asked that the City gather responses about Chamber of Commerce membership amongst those that have taken assistance from the City's business fund. He said he simply wanted to know if they were members, or if they had joined since getting the City help.

Both Councilor Damali Vidot and Council President Roy Avellaneda objected, and said the Council and City had no authority to promote the Chamber of Commerce.

"I don't see anything wrong with them asking if it's only for informational purposes," said Councilor Todd Taylor.

"I think it's a very simple question to ask," said Robinson.

The matter was voted down 7-3.

REP. RYAN LANDS CHAIRMANSHIP

CHELSEA - State Rep. Dan Ryan was appointed to his first chairmanship position late last week by House Speaker Ron Mariano, with the veteran representative taking the lead on the House Election Laws Committee.

Ryan has served for his first several terms on important committees, such as transportation, but gaining a role as a chairman indicates somewhat of a promotion within the legislative body.

Ryan said this week he knew it was going to be a very busy Committee, with a lot of hearings and testimony to be heard given the changes to the voting and Elections systems during COVID-19. The future of those changes, and any new alterations, will likely be hashed out in his new Committee in the coming months.

"I want to thank Speaker Mariano and his leadership team for putting their trust in me to take on this important role," he said. "The COVID pandemic has certainly tested our resolve as a country and Commonwealth. This past year has laid bare the fragility of many sectors of society. However, out of necessity, we have also pulled together to test some ideas that have been around for a while. Early voting, no-excuse absentee voting and other forms of ballot access initiatives were very popular. It will be a lot of work right out of the gate to refine these processes for this year's elections - as well as for the long term. We need to ensure that elections are safe and fair with as much access to the ballot box as reasonably possible."

Due to the anticipated agenda

of the Committee, Ryan was not assigned to any other Committees as a member in the coming session.

TDM HEADS TO CITY COUNCIL

EVERETT - After more than a year of discussion about Transportation Demand Management (TDM) within the City's development process, and several months of presentations to the Planning Board, the Board approved a recommendation to adopt a TDM plan - sending the matter now to the City Council for potential passage.

The TDM was proposed and discussed in early 2020, and even before, as development in Everett began to ratchet up and both the City and the development community looked for predictability in regards to parking, traffic and transportation.

Mayor Carlo DeMaria has endorsed the plan that his Administration has proposed via Transportation Director Jay Monty - something that is central to his philosophy of pushing public transit so there could be more density in the buildout along Everett's main corridors.

"The whole premise here is we want the Site Plan Review

Region / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

process to take a holistic look at the transportation impacts," said Monty. "Zoning in most communities use parking and traffic as a proxy for transportation impacts. The two are kind of conflicting. The more parking, then the more traffic. It becomes a vicious spiral where there's more parking, more traffic and then more impacts. That's what the mayor has been saying the last several years now."

The TDM plan works where it gives developers and the City more choice.

Monty compares it to a menu in a restaurant. The developer still has some choice as to what they will choose to mitigate the transportation impacts of their project, but the City sets the menu and what is offered. In that way, there are no surprises and the plan set forth by the developer must be approved at Site Plan Review by the Planning Board.

The items in the plan would be different for every development, depending on the impacts, the size of the development and the location of the development, he said.

"Every project is different," he said. "The 600 on Broadway for example has lots of amenities, good transit and bike and bus lanes that can be used to mitigate. The needs of that will be different from 1090 Parkway, or the Stop & Shop site, where the transit isn't that great... This allows the developer to say what's best for them and their project. Then we work with them for the best plan."

The TDM proposal takes parking and transportation out of the hands of the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA), and puts it within the Site Plan Review process. That allows zoning to focus on zoning, he said, and the Planning Board to work on transportation and predictable impacts and mitigation.

"We really designed this so the Zoning Board had skin in the game," he said. "It gives them more discretion and more power to shape a project... This allows the Planning Board to look at it in a much greater level and produces a project that has mitigated all concerns."

The matter will have to go through the City Council process, but the Planning Board has recommended passage. If it does pass, Monty said he will be very interested in seeing how the first few applicants use the process and shape it.

An accompanying piece about codifying residential parking

stickers – which have been not allowed for many new developments – is still being reviewed in the Planning Board.

CHANGES AT OLD WOOD WASTE SITE APPROVED

EVERETT - The Planning Board on Feb. 8 approved a minor modification to the newer plan for the old Wood Waste site, a 600-plus unit residential community build on the construction waste yard, and paved the way for the project to start very soon.

Greystar Development's Tammy Copson was at the Board on Feb. 8 for a minor modification to make sure the former conditions on the approvals jived with what the plan is now on paper. The changes clear the path for a potential construction on the site of 650-units of housing in two, six-story buildings with 9,000 sq. ft. of retail space.

Copson told the Board that the 57 conditions on the permit that was given more than two years ago needed some updating so that everything was understood and clear.

"We wanted to clarify some edits of the conditions," she said.

"(The project) will most definitely start if we can get everything cleaned up," she said.

Greystar, the largest residential apartment developer in the world, got involved with the project last summer after taking it over from the former Wood Waste ownership, under Billy Thiabeault.

Planning Board member Leo Pizzano pointed out that once the project gets under construction, it's going to be a very confusing situation. That's because there are going to be multiple projects under construction at the same time.

Greystar will like start first, but the 18-month construction period will likely overlap with Grossman Properties' massive project at the Stop & Shop and Block properties' residential project on Second Street.

"That will be three massive projects and a fourth on Vale Street that are going to be going all at once and the residents at The Pioneer are going to be wanting to get out of there," he said. "I keep saying that."

The matter was approved 5-0.

•BLOCK PROPERTIES

Block Properties made their second official appearance at the Planning Board on Feb. 8 after a trip there in January for a full pre-

sentation. The residential project at Second and Vine Streets was informally introduced to the Board, though, last October.

In January, the development team had appeared before the Board and had a thorough presentation. However, a technology snafu didn't allow all Board members to get questions submitted.

The team was back for those questions on Feb. 8.

The plan is to demolish two industrial buildings on Vine and Second Streets in the Commercial Triangle near the City Line with Chelsea. They hope to build a six-story building with 320 units of apartment housing with 4,000 sq. ft. of retail space and a parking garage. The project meets most all zoning codes, and only needs to complete the Site Plan Review process.

The City has been working on transportation issues and stormwater issues with the development team, and that continues. The developer has ceded a portion of the property fronting Second Street to be used for the Silver Line extension when and if it comes to be. Meanwhile, Block Properties will likely be one of the first groups to work through the new Transportation Demand Management (TDM) plan approved by the Board last month.

An Activity Use Limitation (AUL) for pollution on the site is likely to be filed in the coming months, allowing the developer to provide 5 percent Affordable Housing rather than the usually-required 15 percent.

REP. MADARO APPOINTED BOARD CHAIR

East Boston - House Speaker Ronald Mariano appointed Rep. Adrian Madaro as Chair of the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery.

This is Rep. Madaro's first chairmanship since being elected to the House in 2015. Madaro previously vice-chaired the Joint Committee on Transportation.

The Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery considers all matters concerning behavioral health, mental illness and substance use disorder, including prevention and early intervention, treatment and recovery services as well as homelessness.

The committee oversees the state's Department of Mental Health and the Bureau of Sub-

stance Addiction Services.

"I'm very excited for the opportunity to work on issues that change people's lives, that save lives, that really makes an impact on our communities in East Boston and the Commonwealth," said Madaro. "If you think about it there's no family that I know or can think of that hasn't been touched on either mental health issues and or substance use issues so this is an incredible opportunity to really do some good."

Madaro was instrumental in the past to secure state funding for the development and administration of a program to prevent and treat addiction to opioid and related substances through the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center. The program closed services gap and ensured treatment councilors were able to cover the critical hours of night and weekend shifts with the hopes that this coverage could be the difference needed in preventing overdoses and encouraging treatment for addicts. He also secured state funding to focus efforts on mental health through the Health Center and how it pertains to substance abuse disorders.

"Most recently we worked on that issue for Telehealth to make sure those types of services are covered under Telehealth during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic," said Madaro. "As a former board member of the Health Center and later as a state representative we've worked very hard trying to bolster those types of services for our community. That's another reason why I'm really excited to have been named chair of the committee because it allows us to amplify and enhance the work that began right here in our own backyard statewide."

With the recent opening of a recovery support center in Eastie, Madaro said there needs to be more focus on long-term support services.

"That is something I've heard a lot of folks in the recovery community talk about," said Madaro. "The one thing about substance abuse and recovery is that it's almost never ending. This is an issue that touches young people, whether it's mental health or substance use, old people, veterans, there's public safety implications, there's public health implications and then it goes into the judiciary system when you think about drug court or mental health court. So the breadth of policy that we can work on is really incredible and it just presents such

an amazing opportunity to make a positive impact in our community and, more broadly, throughout the state."

Out of the gate Madaro said he plans to meet with key stakeholders in the mental health and recovery communities.

"We're starting to line those meetings up now," he said. "Not only with statewide players but also the players and stakeholders right in our own backyard. That would certainly include places like the East Boston Community Soup Kitchen volunteers, which are frontline service providers for people dealing with these challenges. It would also include North Suffolk Mental Health, the Health Center and anyone else who does that type of social service where people are dealing with those types of challenges. I really want to roll up my sleeves and help--whether it's the issues that my Senate Co-Chair is facing down the Cape or whether it's the issues we're dealing with here in East Boston. I really wanted the opportunity to dive into substantive policy that impacts people's lives and that's exactly what I'm going to get to do on this committee. I'm just thrilled and grateful to Speaker Mariano for the appointment and excited to work with my colleagues on the committee to do some impactful work here in the state."

DOLORES LAMATTINA, LONGTIME CITY EMPLOYEE, DEAD AT 85

East Boston - Dolores LaMattina, a longtime former city employee of the Paris Street Gym and Pool known for her warmth and dry sense of humor, has died.

Mrs. LaMattina who, as a single mother, raised four successful boys including former City Councilor Sal LaMattina, died on Wednesday, February 10 surrounded by her family. She was 85 years old.

Mrs. LaMattina was born and raised in East Boston and attended East Boston. Mrs. LaMattina spent her entire life living at Drake Place just off Chelsea Street around the block from the Paris Street Gym and Pool. There Mrs. LaMattina raised her four boys--Sal, Robert, David, and John.

Sal would become City Councilor while David and Robert opened up a successful karate

Region / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

studio in New Hampshire. John would go on to have a successful career in Boston's restaurant industry and worked at high end restaurants like Morton's and Strega.

"She made sure we kept in line," said Sal LaMattina. "At an early age she got us involved in the Social Centers, the Salesians Boys & Girls Club and Paris Street. We grew up poor. I'm so amazed that she raised four boys in a little house with four on Drake Place. She gave us all a really happy childhood. We never knew we were poor because she was always so generous. I find comfort that my brothers and I had a beautiful mother who loved us so much. She taught us love and respect not only to our family but with others."

Mrs. LaMattina worked at Macy's for many years before making a career change in 1990.

From 1990 to her retirement in 2013 at the age of 77 Mrs. LaMattina worked the front desk at the Paris Street Gym and later at the Paris Street Pool's front desk.

When her son, Sal, was elected to the City Council Mrs. LaMattina became the de facto Mayor of East Boston and the Paris Street Pool her City Hall.

"Everyone would come to her," said Sal LaMattina. "They go down to the pool and see my mom if they needed help, if they needed housing, if they needed a job, if they needed some other assistance and she'd call me with a list of names of people I needed to help."

Sal LaMattina said his mother was always very generous and always wanted to help people.

"Every Sunday she would cook Sunday Dinner, make a gravy and it was pretty much an open house," said Liana LaMattina. "Anyone could come in and get some food...friends, neighbors...that's just the type of person she was. She was always so caring and compassionate. I remember at the (Paris Street) Gym there was this stray dog that was always outside and every day when she went to work she would bring him leftover food, kitchen scraps, bones, hot-dogs...anything she had. She was a beautiful person."

9th GRADERS STRUGGLING IN COVID-19 WORLD

REVERE - Ninth grade is a pivotal year for students as they begin their high school career. It's a big adjustment being in a new school setting, learning the

ropes of high school and making connections and forging relationships that may last a lifetime.

However, COVID-19 has put a huge damper on this exciting and important transition year for students in Revere Public Schools and schools across the state.

"We're seeing that in schools across the country we are having real problems with retaining the focus from ninth graders," said Revere High School Principal Dr. John Perella. "I talked to principals in Greater Boston on a weekly basis and every single one of them identifies a ninth grade class as the most challenging and concerning and it is a definitive concern for us as well."

Dr. Perella said not only are ninth graders coming into a new school that they have never experienced in school their eighth grade school year was also severely cut short by COVID.

"They weren't able to really end that chapter of their educational life," said Perella. "Typically we have very robust programs over the summer that allow incoming ninth graders to come in and get acclimated to the school. So we're really operating under a lot of challenging situations here. Our understanding is that the ninth grade is having some troubles. We will be doing some data diving at the end of the semester to get a better analysis of failures and passes. It has been a challenge getting students to connect and to stay connected with us."

However, Dr. Perella said RHS's Assistant Principals have been interacting daily with students and families and sending home correspondences and setting up meetings.

"The ninth grade teachers are doing this as well," said Perella. "In preparation for this year we sort of established cohorts for ninth and 10th grades. So we have the systems in place to communicate and to make those connections, but there's no denying that this is a concern for us and throughout the country."

RIVERFRONT MASTER PLAN APPROVED BY PLANNING BOARD

REVERE - Mayor Brian Arrigo has been focusing his efforts on redeveloping the city's riverfront area in coordination with a community-based process that gained momentum in 2020.

Ward 5 Councilor John Powers, in whose district the property sits, has been a partner in the

Mayor's vision and the advancement of that transformational project - known as the RiverFront Master Plan - that will redevelop several of the private properties in that district as well as the improvement of public properties such as Gibson Park.

The RiverFront Master Plan also addresses climate resiliency strategies that will improve the flooding situation that has been a persistent problem in the Riverside neighborhood, not only from sea level rises but periodic rainfall events.

At its Feb. 9 meeting, the Planning Board unanimously adopted the RiverFront Master Plan that envisions the potential of the approximately 20 acres in the northern part of Revere on the Pines River bordering Lynn that is centered around Gibson Park.

The Planning Board's unanimous vote signified a special triumph for Arrigo, Powers, and the many residents of the Riverside and Point of Pines neighborhoods.

"The Riverfront District has been historically underutilized, and the Master Plan will offer a new, dynamic public space for all of our residents to enjoy," said Mayor Arrigo. "The redevelopment of the land will keep in line with our environmental goals and transform our precious riverfront into a local highlight of recreation, health, and stewardship."

Meanwhile, State Rep. Jessica Giannino, who will play a key role at the state level as the

total reconstruction plan for the nearby General Edwards Bridge moves into the spotlight, also sees the approval of the RiverFront Master Plan as a victory for the city and its residents.

"I commend the City of Revere for bringing together residents and community stakeholders of the Riverside and Point of Pines neighborhoods to begin a master planning process for the RiverFront waterfront, which faces the Pines River," said Giannino (D-Revere). "If the recommendations of the group are implemented and come to fruition, this will provide a revitalization of the neighborhood, including an opportunity for community boating, which will be an asset to our community."

Bob O'Brien, chief of planning and development for the City of Revere, said the city also anticipates the redevelopment of the current G and J Towing and Salvage Yard and the former Mirage site into a waterfront restaurant.

O'Brien indicated that the G and J Towing property is under agreement for prospective redevelopment with Redgate Residential Development "that has a long history in Revere."

One of Redgate's recent projects was 500 Ocean Avenue which is adjacent to the Markey Bridge.

"We've had a long and successful history with Redgate in Revere and one of the great advantages of the prospect redevelopment is that's it a company that

understands Revere and that the city knows well," said O'Brien.

The Boatworks Property could make way for a community rowing center (North Shore Maritime Center) and the future establishment of a Revere High rowing team (see related story).

O'Brien said the goals of RiverFront Master Plan would not have been attainable without the superior leadership of Mayor Arrigo, Councilors John Powers and Patrick Keefe, and Rep. Jessica Giannino, who also serves as a councilor-at-large.

"For Councilor Powers notably, there are two aspects of the RiverFront Master Plan which are really a reflection of his leadership - one is the proposed reuse of the Riverside Boatworks property," said O'Brien. "John has been in the forefront of opposing the kind of development that the neighbors didn't want, and as result of that, we're now getting what the community does want. The other element is the new fire station at Point of Pines, which was also a longstanding cause of John Powers. In many ways, the Boatworks, the fire station, and the redevelopment of the tow yard are near and dear to John's heart and a reflection of his leadership."

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LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

UMF ANNOUNCES DEAN'S LIST FOR FALL 2020 SEMESTER

The University of Maine at Farmington (UMF) proudly announces that Katryn Barr of Lynn was named to the Dean's List for the fall 2020 semester with honors. UMF maintains a Dean's List each semester for those students completing a minimum of 12 credits in courses producing quality points. Students whose grade point average for the semester is equal to or greater than 3.8 are listed with High Honors. Students whose grade point average for the semester is less than 3.8 but equal to or greater than 3.5 are listed with Honors. Any incompletes must be satisfactorily completed before the student is honored with Dean's List status. Academic achievement awarded at commencement is based on all course work taken at UMF.

A nationally-recognized public liberal arts college, UMF enjoys a 150-year tradition of providing a quality academic experience combined with the personal attention and close student / faculty collaboration that help prepare all students to be successful. Rooted in a tradition of teacher preparation, UMF offers top quality programs in the arts and sciences, teacher preparation, and business and pre-professional studies. UMF is located in the heart of Maine's four-season outdoor recreational region and is a welcoming, close-knit academic community that prepares students for engaged citizenship, enriching professional careers and an enduring love of learning.

KARANJA NAMED TO DEAN'S LIST

The University of Hartford is pleased to announce Bren-

da Karanja of Lynn has been named to its Dean's List for Fall 2020.

Spread across seven dynamic schools and colleges, the University of Hartford has been guiding the purpose and passion of students for over six decades. On our 350-acre campus alongside Connecticut's capital city, approximately 4,600 undergraduate and 2,000 graduate students representing 49 states and 47 countries come together for a common purpose: to collaborate across different disciplines, diversify perspectives, and broaden worldviews. We're a four-year private university focused on advancing the public good through meaningful connections within our communities. Our unique approach to comprehensive education gives us the critical perspectives that lead to impactful change, regionally and beyond. With degree programs spanning the arts, humanities, business, engineering and technology, education, and health professions, we focus on doing the work that matters. For more information, visit hartford.edu.

ENDICOTT COLLEGE ANNOUNCES DEAN'S LIST STUDENTS

Endicott College, the first college in the U.S. to require internships of its students, is pleased to announce its Fall 2020 Dean's List students. In order to qualify for the Dean's List, a student must obtain a minimum grade point average of 3.5, receive no letter grade below "C," have no withdrawal grades, and be enrolled in a minimum of 12 credits for the semester.

The following Lynn students have met these requirements:

Victoria Adebajji, Interior Architecture

Brittany Barrows, Nursing
Daniel Calnan, English
Jennifer Cartagena, Psychology

Scarlen Ciriaco Hernandez, Business Management

Taylor Darcy, Nursing
Alexis Ferraro, Nursing

Olga Hernandez, Biology/Biotechnology,

Ryan Kelley, Computer Science

Haleigh King, Criminal Justice

Michael Lam, Marketing
Katherin Melenciano Lara, Business Management

Zaynab Okirim, Nursing
Ricardo Pinto, Sport Management

Rianon Prushinski, English
Michelle Sencabaugh, Graphic Design,

Julia Steriti, Libl Studies/Education,

Jillian Yamartino, Exercise Science

About Endicott College Endicott College offers doctorate, master's, bachelor's, and associate degree programs at its campus on the scenic coast of Beverly, Mass., with additional sites in Boston, online, and at U.S. and international locations.

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CITY PAWS

Short and Sweet

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

Imagine someone in authority talking to you and what you hear is “yadda, yadda, yadda,” IMPORTANT, “Blah blah blah ...” or “LISTEN TO ME!” As far as your dog is concerned, you sound like a chattering chipmunk with an occasional word like “SIT!, GOOD GIRL!, or NO!” popping up here and there.

Now think about some of the best-trained, working dogs like herding sheepdogs, K-9 first responders, and real service dogs. These animals have learned behaviors requested with one word, sound, hand signal, or a combination of those.

What we can all learn from the professionals who train and work with these animals is to keep our directions short. And, since we know that dogs are sensitive to the tone of your voice, we suggest you also keep it sweet.

Lessons from the Pros

Sheepdog handlers use a combination of words and whistles to guide the herding work of their dogs. For example, the “Whee-Whee-Wheet” whistle sound or

the word, “Come here” calls the dog to the shepherd’s side.

K-9 first responders are taught to obey commands, often in a foreign language, and only from their human partner. Each has a related hand signal in case silence is needed for safety. Specific signals might tell the dog to, “Search for a man,” “Search for an article,” or “Release the bite.”

Real service dogs learn about 30 basic one or two-word commands. Many of these are ones that would be great for any companion animal to master. For example, “Watch me” – to make eye contact, “Get busy” – to go to the bathroom, and “Release” – to be done with work.”

Listen to Yourself

What do you sound like when you ask your dog or cat to do something? Yes, there are times when a sudden irruption in barking or yowling will startle us, and our voice, when we correct the animal, is harsh.

However, you may actually achieve the result you want more often if you practice speaking to your animals in an upbeat manner with a smile punctuating

your words. Since we’re the ones who select the command words, try to find words that are softer in sound and used less in the real world. We like the word “Hush!” instead of “Quiet,” or “Stop barking!”

The other trick we use is to give our dog a command she knows to distract her from unwanted behavior. You could try a bright and cheery, “Come here!” If those words are practiced consistently and sometimes resulted in a treat or nice ear scratch, you’ll increase your success rate.

Vocabulary Basics

Stanley Coren, PhD, of the University of British Columbia, estimates that “... dogs’ mental abilities are close to a human child age 2 to 2.5 years.” He is quoted by the American Psychological Association as saying, “As for language, the average dog can learn 165 words, including signals, and the “super dogs” (those in the top 20 percent of dog intelligence) can learn 250 words.”

When our first Westie Sassy worked at our company, the staff created a list of the words



Our Poppy is very good at obeying the “Watch me” request when her dinner is being prepared.

she knew. As the list grew, there were words we never used but that a particular staff member favored. We suggest this as a great family exercise. Once you have a list, simplify it where you can and see if you can reach an agreement on the short and sweet

words you will use to guide your furry family members through well behaved days.

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

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Birmingham, Alabama attorney Robert Norris helps injured claimants, nationwide, collect cash benefits from Asbestos Trusts. “No representation is made that the quality of legal services to be performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers.”

Care Dimensions receives \$5,000 grant from EBSB Charitable Foundation

Care Dimensions, the largest hospice and palliative care provider to adults and children in Massachusetts, is proud to announce receiving a \$5,000 grant from East Boston Savings Bank Charitable Foundation (“Foundation”) to support the nonprofit’s telemedicine program. This program provides a free smartphone equipped with a HIPAA-secure, telemedicine application and internet connection for hospice and palliative care patients who don’t have access to the internet or a device to support real-time video nursing support and consultation.

“When the pandemic began and we implemented video visits to supplement limited in-person visits, we realized that many of our patients had no access to the internet or a device to be able to participate in this type of support,” said President and CEO Patricia Ahern, RN, MBA, FACHE. “The pandemic challenged us to be creative about ensuring continuity of care and healthcare equity for all patients. We are very grateful the Founda-

tion has invested in our mission.”

A partner to Care Dimensions since 2010, the Foundation helps community organizations within their service area with an emphasis on assisting health and human services agencies and the support of low-income persons.

“For more than two decades through our Charitable Foundation, EBSB has been assisting charitable organizations like Care Dimensions by providing funding for programs that help improve the lives of those that are in need,” says Richard Gavegnano, Chairman, President and CEO of East Boston Savings Bank. “We feel very strongly about being a resource for these organizations especially during challenging times like the present.”

“Our program offers additional support and peace of mind for some of Care Dimensions’ most vulnerable patients and caregivers who lack adequate digital access,” said Vice President of Philanthropy, Donna Deveau, M.Ed.