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Thursday, June 23, 2022

LYNN ENGLISH FOOTBALL PLAYERS ATTEND LIFE SKILLS PROGRAM PARTY



Lynn English football players Jarvin Simon, Edwin Castro, Jaiden Rosario, Zimari Omosefe, Mack Peters, and Eli Ramirez visited the Life Skills Program for a celebration at the school.

Members of the Lynn English football team joined students at the school's Life Skills Program party, bringing joy and camaraderie to everyone at the celebration

"Our players brought donuts, muffins, and bagels to the get-together for the Life Skills Program," said first-year head coach Anthony LaFratta, who attended the party. "I really give all the recognition to the players for this wonderful gesture."



Lynn English football players join students in the Life Skills Program for a photo at the party.

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

lynnjournal.com

Agganis All-Star Week kicks off June 26

Special to the Journal

Agganis All-Star Week starts Sunday, June 26 with the Opening Ceremony and four of the nine All-Star Games that will take place over the course of four days.

The Opening Ceremony, which will be held at 9 a.m. at Manning Field in Lynn, will include the presentation of 2022 Agganis Foundation Scholarships, five major awards, and the

introduction of this year's Agganis All-Stars in the following sports: girls and boys lacrosse, softball, baseball, girls and boys basketball, girls and boys soccer and football.

The lacrosse doubleheader will be held June 26 at Manning Field, with softball and baseball played at the adjacent Fraser Field.

Action continues Monday,

Please see AGGANIS Page 4

School principal Mary Dill honored at retirement party

By Cary Shuman

Colleagues and friends in the Lynn school district honored retiring school principal Dr. Mary Dill at a retirement celebration June 15 at the Gannon Municipal Golf Course function room.

Dr. Dill worked for 40 years in the field of education. She began her career as a teacher for six years at St. Mary's High School. She served 23 years as school principal at the Tracy, Connery, and Brickett elementary schools in Lynn.

Dill is a graduate of the St. Pius School and Lynn English High School, Class of 1977. She celebrated her 63rd birthday June 20.

"I enjoyed my years in the Lynn schools," said Dill. "I loved every minute of it. There was never a day that I didn't want to go to work. I love the compassion and the schoolchildren. I had great staffs in all three

Please see DILL Page 5



Dr. Dan Dill, master of ceremonies at the retirement celebration, with his wife, retiring Lynn school administrator Dr. Mary Dill

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LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

DEAN COLLEGE ANNOUNCES DEAN'S LIST

Dean College is pleased to announce the students that have earned a place on the Dean's List for the Spring 2022 semester. These students have demonstrated a serious commitment to their studies while at Dean College.

Cristopher Correa of Lynn Abigail Morris of Lynn Ava Perry of Lynn

LYNN RESIDENT NAMED TO PRESIDENT'S LIST AT DEAN

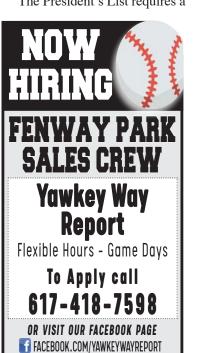
Daniel Lilja of Lynn has earned a place on the President's List for the Spring 2022 semester. Students named to the President's List have demonstrated a series commitment to their studies while at Dean College.

Founded in 1865, Dean College is a private, residential college located in Franklin Massachusetts, 45 minutes from Boston, Massachusetts, Providence, Rhode Island. Dean College offers baccalaureate degrees, associate degree programs, as well as a robust schedule of part-time continuing and professional education credit and certificate programs throughout the calendar year.

HARKNESS NAMED TO SIENA COLLEGE PRESIDENT'S LIST

Emma Harkness was named to the Siena College President's List for the Spring 2022 Semester. Emma is from Lynn.,

The President's List requires a



3.9 grade point average or high-

Founded in 1937, Siena College is a private, Catholic Franciscan, residential, liberal arts college with a student body of about 3,000. Siena College offers 41 degree programs, 80+ minors and certificate programs, and professional curricula in teacher preparation/education, pre-medical, pre-law and social work. A student-to-faculty ratio of 11-to-1, average class size of 21, rigorous academics, Division I athletics, intramural sports and widespread service.

LYNN RESIDENT INDUCTED INTO NATIONAL SOCIETY OF LEADERSHIP AND **SUCCESS**

Saint Anselm College student Hannah Bates of Lynn in the class of 2023, has been accepted into Sigma Alpha Pi, a national society of leadership and success, for the 2021-2022 academic year.

Membership in Sigma Alpha Pi is by invitation based on criteria determined by local chapter leaders. Students are selected by their college based on their academic standing and/or leadership potential. Candidacy is a nationally recognized achievement of honorable distinction providing students with an opportunity to build their leadership skills, network with other successful students, and stand out as valued candidates to graduate schools and employers.

LOCAL STUDENTS NAMED TO **ASSUMPTION UNIVERSITY'S DEAN'S LIST**

Assumption University has announced those who have been named to the University's Dean's List for the spring 2022 semester. Students named to the Dean's List must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 for a five-class, 15-credit semester to be included on the prestigious list, which is announced at the completion of the fall and spring semesters. Local students include:

Meagan Molea of Lynn, Class

Brady Ryan of Lynn, Class of

ANDREW DOANE OF LYNN GRADUATED FROM BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY

Bucknell University celebrated nearly 900 graduates from the Class of 2022, whose degrees will be conferred in June, on Sunday, May 22, 2022. The class represents 62 majors across Bucknell's three colleges (Arts & Sciences, Engineering and the Freeman College of Management). These students hail from 33 U.S. states and 25 nations.

LOCAL STUDENT NAMED TO BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY **DEAN'S LIST**

Bucknell University has released the dean's list for outstanding academic achievement during the spring semester of the 2021-22 academic year. A student must earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a scale of 4.0 to receive dean's list recognition. The following student was named:

Andrew Doane of Lynn, Class of 2022, with a degree in Sociol-

Founded in 1846 and located along the banks of the Susquehanna River in historic Lewisburg, Pa., Bucknell University is an undergraduate-focused institution that stands uniquely at the intersection of top-ranked liberal arts, engineering and management programs. Our students choose from more than 60 majors and 70 minors in the arts, engineering, humanities, management, and natural and social sciences, as well as extensive global study, service-learning and research opportunities. Bucknell's 3,700 undergraduate and 30 graduate students enjoy a low 9:1 student-faculty ratio and exceptional opportunities to collaborate with faculty mentors on scholarly and artistic projects.

CURRY COLLEGE SPRING 2022 DEAN'S LIST

Curry College congratulates of who was named to the Spring 2022 Dean's List.

Noelle Cote of Lynn Fidelia Eleazu of Lynn Carlos Hernandez of Lynn

Curry College, founded in Boston in 1879, is a private, co-educational, liberal artsbased institution located on 131 acres in Milton, Massachusetts.

The College extends its educational programs to a continuing education branch campus in Plymouth. The College offers 22 undergraduate majors in specialized and liberal arts programs, as well as graduate degrees in accounting, business, education, criminal justice, and nursing to a combined enrollment of nearly 2,500 students. The student body consists of 1,700 traditional students and nearly 800 continuing education and graduate students. The College offers a wide array of co-curricular activities ranging from 16 NCAA Division III athletic teams to an outstanding theatre and fine arts program.

LOCAL RESIDENT **GRADUATES FROM DICKINSON COLLEGE**

Alexandria Kruizenga, daughter of Leonard Kruizenga of Lynn, graduated magna cum laude from Dickinson College on May 22 with a BS in quantitative economics and mathematics. Kruizenga is a graduate of Phillips Academy.

Dickinson College, located in historic Carlisle, Pa., was chartered in 1783. The private, liberal-arts college is nationally recognized for its cross-disciplinary, active approach to learning, international education, civic engagement and its commitment to teaching its students about sustainability across the curriculum, the community and the globe. www.dickinson.edu.

PELLETIER NAMED TO DEAN'S LIST

HEEmma Pelletier of Lynn excelled during the Spring 2022 semester at Hofstra, achieving a GPA of at least 3.5 to earn a spot on the Dean's List.

Hofstra University is a nationally ranked and recognized private university in Hempstead, N.Y. that is the only school to ever host three consecutive presidential debates (2008, 2012 and 2016). Our campus is a leafy oasis just a quick train ride away from New York City and all its cultural, recreational and professional opportunities. We offer small classes and personal attention, with the resources, technology and facilities of a large university. Students can choose from more than 165 undergraduate program options and 175 graduate program options in the liberal arts and sciences, education, health professions and human services, the Peter S. Kalikow School of Government, Public Policy and International Affairs, the Fred DeMatteis School of Engineering and Applied Science, the Frank G. Zarb School of Business, the Lawrence Herbert School of Communication, the Maurice A. Deane School of Law, the Hofstra Northwell School of Graduate Nursing and Physician Assistant Studies, and the Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/ Northwell. Hofstra University is a dynamic community of 11,000 students from around the world who are dedicated to civic engagement, academic excellence and becoming leaders in their communities and their careers.

LOCAL STUDENTS **GRADUATE FROM COLLEGE OF THE HOLY CROSS**

Holy Cross celebrated nearly 755 bachelor of arts degree recipients at its 176th Commencement held in person on Friday, May 27 at the DCU Center in Worcester. Acclaimed writer and infectious disease physician Abraham Verghese delivered this year's address to the Class of 2022 and received an honorary degree.

Vincent D. Rougeau, president of the College, presided over the celebratory event, bestowing the honorary degrees and greeting each graduate as they crossed the stage. This marks Rougeau's first commencement exercises since being installed as Holy Cross 33rd president - the first lay and first Black president to lead the 179-year-old institution - back in October 2021.

The following local students earned degrees:

Katherine Barahona of Lynn, Cum Laude

Ryan Donnelly of Lynn, Summa Cum Laude

Haytam Laroussi of Lynn

Priscila Ponce Jovel of Lynn **About Holy Cross** The College of the Holy Cross,

in Worcester, Mass., is among the nation's leading liberal arts institutions. A highly selective, fouryear, exclusively undergraduate college of 3,100 students, Holy Cross is renowned for offering a rigorous, personalized education in the Jesuit, Catholic tradition. Since its founding in 1843, Holy Cross has made a positive impact in society by graduating students who distinguish themselves as thoughtful leaders in business, professional and civic life.

Residents named to 2022 Commonwealth Heroine Class

The Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women (MCSW) will be celebrating the annual Commonwealth Heroines on Wednesday, June 22 at the The Venezia Hotel, 20 Ericsson Street in Dorchester. Michelle Guzman and Adriana Paz of Lynn will be among the honorees. Opening remarks will be made by MCSW Chairwoman Denella Clark, followed by a special recognition of all 121 honorees.

"As the first Black woman to chair the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women, and also as a proud appointee of Governor Baker and Lieutenant Governor Polito, we are thrilled to recognize women from all across our great Commonwealth who sometimes are not seen for their amazing contributions. We are also pleased to be joined by our dedicated Lieutenant Governor who will deliver a keynote address. We are excited that this

year's event will be in person and look forward to celebrating our honorees," commented Chairwoman Clark.

Our Commonwealth Heroines are women who have been chosen by their legislators for their extraordinary acts of service, making a big difference in their communities but not necessarily making the news. They perform unheralded acts daily that make our homes, neighborhoods, cities, and towns better places to live. Commonwealth Heroines use their time, talent, spirit, and enthusiasm to enrich the lives of others in their community. They are mentors, volunteers, and innovators who strive to protect and represent the interests of seniors, victims of violence, children, immigrants, and other vulnerable populations. They are the glue that keeps a community together.

Medical society urges water safety and training for swimmers

Over the last few weeks, Massachusetts has seen several water-related tragedies and individuals running into trouble in the water.

As the summer nears, the physicians of the Massachusetts Medical Society (MMS) strongly advise everyone to use caution and vigilance to avoid danger in and around the water. Many public and private settings in which swimming and other in-water activities occur have reported lifeguard positions are understaffed.

Regardless of one's proficiency as a swimmer or whether the lake, pool, or beach has a lifeguard on duty, adults should never swim alone and, importantly, never leave a child unsupervised in or around water. When watching children in the water, those supervising must dedicate 100 percent of their attention to keeping their eyes on those who are in or close to the water.

Drownings can occur in just a matter of seconds. Victims often struggle silently and may not yell, scream, flail or otherwise physically signal that they are in distress.

Supervisors should never leave the area, nor should they become distracted by things like phones or books. Do not consume alcohol or drugs when swimming or when responsible for watching others in or around water. When boating, all participants should wear US Coast Guard-approved life jackets.

If you own a pool or are visiting a pool, please make sure that all local safety requirements are being met, including and especially measures designed to ensure that children cannot gain access to an unsupervised pool.

We strongly recommend that parents and guardians look into swimming lessons for children through the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), the YMCA or other local programs. Additionally, please consider taking a course in CPR or renewing your CPR certification.

We wish you a safe and happy summer.

ST. MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1976 HOLDS 46TH REUNION



The St. Mary's High School Class of 1976 held its 46th Reunion Saturday night at Old Tyme Italian Cuisine. Some of the many classmates who attended the reunion are pictured above at the celebration.



The St. Mary's High School Class of 1976 Reunion Committee, (front row), Jim Beliveau, Karen Costin Toomey, Janice Caggiano Simoes, and Kathy Coakley Harrell. Back row, Diane Gaudet Smith and Ann Mannion.

EDITORIAL

AMERICA IS IN A MAELSTROM WITH NO WAY OUT

America and the world are in a bad place, with no easy way out. Although the worst of the coronavirus is behind us, the unprecedented economic after-effects of the pandemic continue to afflict every aspect of our lives.

The Great Resignation has disrupted supply chains for goods of all kinds and made air travel, which formerly used to be a pleasure, a fraught experience, with thousands of flights cancelled every week because of a shortage of pilots and crew.

All of us are griping about the high cost of energy, but with oil refining capacity at an all-time low relative to demand, it is all but certain that gasoline prices will remain at record levels for the foreseeable future.

Electric cars are still a long way off from becoming practical for most Americans for a host of reasons.

The war in Ukraine, the largest in the world since WWII, is exacerbating shortages of commodities of all kinds, especially food.

Avian flu, the worst on record, continues to devastate both domesticated and wild bird populations.

Our health care system, which proved so inadequate during the pandemic, is completely incapable of handling the coming influx of aging Baby Boomers -- just visit any ER, anywhere and everywhere.

Our public educational system not only has fallen far behind because of the pandemic, but the looming teacher shortage means that catching up will be all but impossible.

Drug overdose deaths are at their highest rate ever, with no solution

Mass shootings are a routine occurrence with [p;iticians too-cowed by the gun lobby to take even the simplest, most common-sense ac-

Climate change continues unchecked and unabated. Life on the planet as we know it never will be the same.

And last but not least, it is apparent that a large percentage of Americans are committed to overthrowing our democracy. What happened on 1/6 is just a prelude to what is to come in the 2022 and 2024

Yes, the present is tough going -- but the future is even bleaker.

BOATING AND DRINKING DON'T MIX

A national news headline caught our attention recently:

"Five people, including four from the same family, died in a boating collision on Saturday along a river popular with boaters outside Savannah, Ga., the authorities said. Four other people were injured, including one who was charged with operating a boat while under the influence."

This story, coming at the start of the summer season, should serve as a sober reminder (pun intended) that alcohol consumption on a boat is never a good idea.

For far too many boaters and their guests, heavy drinking and boating go hand-in-hand. Unfortunately however, the proverbial "booze cruise" all too often ends up with tragic consequences.

Boating under the influence -- BUI -- is every bit as dangerous as DUI (driving under the influence) and also is a criminal offense.

We urge all of our readers who are either boat owners or their guests to ensure that someone on board will be a designated "sober sailor" in order to avoid becoming another sad, grim statistic.

File of Life document considered a lifesaver for older adults

Recently, a resident of a senior housing apartment building was having a health emergency. And when such emergencies happen, the primary information first responders ask for are medications and the individual's medical history. However, in this case, it got complicated when the prescription bottles were in Chinese and the resident did not speak English. The spouse was understandably stressed trying to communicate information to the emergency team. The Mystic Valley Elder Services Resident Service Coordinator who works at the apartment complex immediately went to the refrigerator and was thrilled to find both of the tenants' File of Life folders. each with their own Chinese character on it. Through visual signals, the spouse was able to indicate which one belonged to her husband in distress. The

town's Fire Lieutenant stated, "These are lifesavers!"

The File of Life is a red, magnetic packet that contains important medical information about the individual as well as list contact information for their doctor, family members, insurance information and any other special circumstances that rescue personnel should know. It is designed to help the local fire department, paramedics, and emergency rooms obtain the necessary medical history and emergency contact information in an emergency. It is kept in plain sight, usually on a refrigerator.

It should include:

- Existing conditions or chronic illnesses
- Current medications (including over-the-counter medications taken regularly) with dosages and schedules
- · Allergies to any medications

and food sensitivities

- · Regular healthcare providers (names and phone numbers), including the primary care physician and any specialists, along with the specific conditions each specialist is addressing
- · Special dietary considerations, such as low sodium, gluten-free, kosher, vegetarian
- Communication issues, such as confusion, speech or hearing impairments, language prefer-
- Emergency contact information for trusted family members or friends

To attain a File of Life folder, visit or call your local Fire Department or call Mystic Valley Elder Services at 781-324-7705 or email info@mves.org to have one mailed to you.

Agganis continued from page 1

June 27 with the girls and boys basketball doubleheader at Lynn Classical High School. The girls and boys soccer games will be June 28 at Manning Field.

The 60th Agganis All-Star Football Game will close the week on Wednesday, June 29 at Manning Field.

The Agganis All-Star Games are played in memory of legendary Lynn athlete Harry Agganis, an All-American quarterback at Lynn Classical and Boston University. He was expected to be the first-round draft pick of the Cleveland Browns, but he opted for a professional baseball career and was the starting first baseman for the Boston Red Sox when he died of a pulmonary embolism in 1955 at the age of 26.

The Agganis Foundation was formed shortly thereafter with a mission of awarding college scholarships in Agganis' name. Since 1955, the Foundation has awarded more than \$2.3 million in scholarships to 1,040 student-athletes.

SEND US YOUR **NEWS**

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

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$Dill \ \hbox{continued from page 1}$

schools who were very dedicated professionals. I was very lucky as a principal."

Her husband, Dr. Dan Dill, a retired Lynn school psychologist, was the master of ceremonies for the speaking program. "I met Dan in 1981 just as I was graduating from college [Salem State]," said Mary. "He was teaching at Ingalls and coaching football at Lynn Classical at the time."

Mary Dill said she is looking

forward to spending more time with her three grandchildren in her retirement years.

"We're going to do some traveling," said Mary. "Reading and traveling are two of our passions."



Dr. Dan Dill, Dr. Mary Dill, Kerrian Lampert, and Matt Lampert.



Guest of honor Dr. Mary Dill, with her daughter, Kerrian, and grand-child, Sydney, at the retirement celebration.



Jim Dill, Estelle Dill, and Brad Dill are pictured at the retirement celebration for Dr. Mary Dill.



Colleagues and friends honored retiring school principal Dr. Mary Dill at a celebration June 15 at Gannon Municipal Golf Course.

LYNN CHALLENGER LITTLE LEAGUE HOLDS CELEBRITY DINNER

The Lynn Challenger Little League held its Celebrity Dinner Fundraiser Saturday at the Old Tyme Italian Cuisine outdoor function area behind the restaurant.

Local officials served as celebrity food personnel at the dinner for the special needs baseball league that is celebrating its 30th season this year.

League Vice President Melissa Carter thanked former Babe Ruth President Jim Beliveau and current President Jeff Earp for being instrumental in the success of the event. Beliveau and Earp coordinated the donations for the grand prize drawings while Babe Ruth coaches assisted at the dinner.

Carter, whose father, Steve Scranton has been league president for 25 years, said the league fields five teams that play their baseball games at Volunteer Field.

The accommodations were excellent at the banquet, prompt-



Ward 7 Councilor Jay Walsh and his daughter, Jayla Walsh, who volunteered their efforts at the Challenger Little League Dinner.

ing Melisssa Carter to say that the league's season-ending pizza party will likely be back at Old Tyme in July.

"I want to thank Dianna [Chakoutis] for having us and being such a great host," said Carter.



Associate DPW Commissioner Lisa Nerich is pictured with former campers from the Lynn Special Needs Camp. From left, are George Furlong, Larry Walker, George Mitsiaris, Meghan Scire, Lisa Nerich, Robert Hauser, and Red Fisher.



Ward 5 Councilor Dianna Chakoutis greets Challenger Little League President Steve Scranton at the fundraiser.



Challenger Little League President Steve Scranton thanks
Greater Lynn Babe Ruth President
Jeff Earp for his organization's
tremendous support that helped
make the fundraising dinner a big



Celebrity banquet personnel, from left, State Sen. Brendan Crighton, Associate DPW Commissioner Lisa Nerich, Councilor-at-Large Brian Field, Ward 7 Councilor Jay Walsh, Councilor-at-Large Hong Net, and Ward 4 Councilor Richard Colucci.



Enjoying the Challenger Little League dinner are (front row) Andrew Craven, Kelsey Sammartino, Bob Demore, and Jake Hunt; (back row) Larry Walker, Dax Billingsley, Tina Weber, and Laurie Demore.



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LYNN CHALLENGER LITTLE LEAGUE HOLDS CELEBRITY DINNER



Red Fisher and Kielisa Fisher are pictured at the Challenger Little League Dinner at Old Tyme Italian Cuisine.



The Greater Lynn Babe Ruth organization helped the Challenger Little League with its support at the fundraiser. From left, are Josh McGrath, Tommy Butera, Danny Lewis, Scott Sack, Jim Beliveau, Challenger Little League President Steve Scranton, Babe Ruth President Jeff Earp, Rich Avery, Pat Whalen, and Joe Driscoll.



From left, Andy Carter and daughter, Lauren Carter, League Vice President Melissa Carter, son, AJ Carter, Lukas Brewer, Bella Brewer, Jenine Brewer, League President Steve Scranton.



The Challenger Little League leadership team (from left), Rivercats Manager Bob Demore, President Steve Scranton, Board Member Cindy Mitsiaris, Raptors Manager Barbara McCann, Vice President Melissa Carter, Rays Coach Debbie Sutherland, Rays Coach Brian Sutherland, and Lugnuts Manager Tina Demore.





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LPS TEACHER TYMOND TRAN RECEIVES CITY CITATION

Marshall Middle School computer science teacher, Tymond Tran, received the 2022 Amazon Future Engineer Teacher Award of the Year. He was chosen out of thousands of eligible teachers across the country as one of the best American teachers.

Ward 3 Councilor Coco Alinsug noted, "Tran initiated a computer science training program at Marshall so the school can offer computer science classes; he adopted his program to students of varied interests, proficiency levels, and learning requirements by

introducing different methods of learning."

"This recognition was so well deserved for Tymond to receive this national award," stated Mayor Jared Nicholson. The Mayor continued to say, "This is amazing how he mastered this technology and passed this knowledge on to the students, especially having the students think about the future as they become young adults."

Tymond Tran was very honored to receive this City Citation and he extended a wonderful thank you to Amazon for sending grant money to the school. Tran said, "I am bringing my very best every day for the students so they will have the right opportunities. We can improve education by bringing in new equipment and dedicating it toward robotics and computer science. Our message from the teaching staff to the students is that we care and support you."

This national recognition from Amazon brings a \$5,000.00 cash award and a \$25,000.00 grant to the Marshall Middle School.



Proud Tymond Trans displays the Citation with his wife, Tiffany, and Supt. of Schools Dr. Patrick Tutwiler.



Citation Presentation – Ward 3 Councilor Coco Alinsug, LPS Teacher Tymond Tran, Ward 6 Councilor Fred Hogan, Mayor Jared Nicholson, Supt. of Schools Dr. Patrick Tutwiler, and Council President Jay Walsh.



City Council and Mayor congratulates Tymond Tran.

LCHC's Gargi Cooper receives the 2022 Beacon of Hope Award

Lynn Community Health Center (LCHC) is pleased to announce that nurse practitioner Gargi Cooper received the 2022 Beacon of Hope Award from the Lynn Continuum of Care (Lynn CoC) last Thursday. The Beacon of Hope Awardee embodies the mission of the CoC by displaying in their daily work the mission of ending homelessness; does more than what is required and makes a visible difference in the life of the people being served; and always demonstrates dignity and respect while engaging with everyone.

The Lynn CoC, established in 1995, is a coalition of non-profit organizations working together as a collaborative team to end homelessness and housing insecurity in the City. Cooper is the Medical Director for the Deborah Smith Walsh Recuperative Care Center (RCC) at LCHC, and has served for four years on the CoC Board of Directors. The RCC provides short-term residential care to people who are homeless

and sick, and without Gargi's tireless efforts, the RCC would not exist. This program provides guests with much-needed care at a critical time in their rehabilitation, and an alternative to trying to recuperate on the streets.

The Center staff, primarily through their outreach program and partnerships with Lynn CoC members, identifies clients who are unconnected to care and have a history of multiple emergency department visits. By coordinating medical care, short-term residential care, and other services which are often provided by Lynn CoC members, the RCC provides a vital service to support medically and psychiatrically complex homeless adults.

Danielle Hoyt, Lynn CoC Coordinator shared the following sentiments about Cooper that Board Members submitted when nominating her for the award, "Gargi is one of the hardest working people I know, and we have all benefited from the work



Pictured from left, are Bryan Woodward PA, Patrick Bonville CM, Jodi Amor RN, Gargi Cooper FNP, Ryan Griffin, APRN, Daenor Linton, Community Health Worker, April Martin, Peer Recovery Coach, and Yanira Concepcion, Care Coordinator.

Please see LCHC Page 9

Baby Bonds Task Force announced

State Treasurer Goldberg announced last week a group of experts, leaders, and community members to spearhead the Baby Bonds Task Force. This Task Force is charged with providing the Treasurer, the Office of Economic Empowerment, and the Economic Empowerment Trust Fund with recommendations on creating a Baby Bonds initiative in Massachusetts. The Task Force will meet monthly and will provide their final recommendations by November, ahead of the legislative filing deadline.

Baby Bonds is an initiative that provides government-supported trust funds for children. When account holders reach adulthood, they can access their funds and spend it on assets that can grow over time or generate wealth (e.g., higher education, buying a home, starting a business, etc.). Studies show Baby Bonds can help close the racial wealth gap.

The Task Force's diverse cross-sectoral group is filled with people who have expertise and lived experience in racial wealth equity, community engagement, child welfare, and asset-growth initiatives. The members' personal experiences and professional backgrounds will help the Task Force design a Baby Bonds program that is feasible, impactful, lasting, and tailored specifically to Massachusetts. The Task Force will be chaired by former Massachusetts State Treasurer Shannon O'Brien. A full list of Task Force members can be found on our website, www. mass.gov/babybonds.

"Baby Bonds has the potential to narrow the racial wealth gap and provide our youngest generation with a foundation for success in adulthood," said State Treasurer Deborah B. Goldberg. "Our task force members have multiple and diverse experiences in developing impactful programs that make a difference for Massachusetts residents of all backgrounds.'

Several policy proposals on Baby Bonds have been introduced on the federal level, including Massachusetts Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley's American Opportunity Accounts Act, which would establish federally funded savings accounts for all children in the United States. Multiple cities and states are exploring or have launched these wealth-generating programs as well, including Washington, D.C. and Connecticut.

Treasurer Goldberg created the Office of Economic Empowerment (OEE) with the goal of increasing financial stability for everyone in Massachusetts. The office works to promote programs that serve women, families, high school students, Veterans, and seniors. Its initiatives focus on closing the race and gender wage gap, racial equity, increasing access to financial education, improving college affordability, and investing in STEM careers and

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LCHC / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

that she does for people experiencing homelessness in our community. When she encounters an obstacle, she not only maneuvers around it, she also takes the time to assess where the obstacle came from and works to remove it for other people.'

"Ms. Cooper is a perfect choice for the Beacon of Hope Award because she exemplifies the values represented by the Award and she embodies the mission of the Continuum of Care by always thinking of creative ways to find homes and services for people who are homeless," said Laura Gallant, Lynn CoC Board Member and LCHC Board Member. "She goes above and beyond by tackling policy change, program development and adopting nationwide best practices on a local level. She demonstrates dignity and respect by treating her patients without judgment and allowing for second chances, and engages patients by truly listening and responding with skill and practical kindness. She has played a vital role in improving services to our community's most vulnerable members."

"I would like to thank Lynn Continuum of Care for honoring me with this award," said Gargi Cooper. "This work is not possible without the dedication and hard work of my fellow team members at the RCC and the leadership, vision, and support of our LCHC Chief Medical Officer and CEO. Our community relationships have been invaluable to help problem solve and advocate for our most resilient populations in the City of Lynn. I am so appreciative of this recognition and grateful for the support of Continuum and my fellow agencies showing up daily and doing this really challenging but rewarding

SEND US YOUR NEWS

The Lynn Journal encourages residents to submit engagement, wedding and birth announcements, news releases, business and education briefs, sports stories and photos for publication. Items should be forwarded to our offices at 385 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151.

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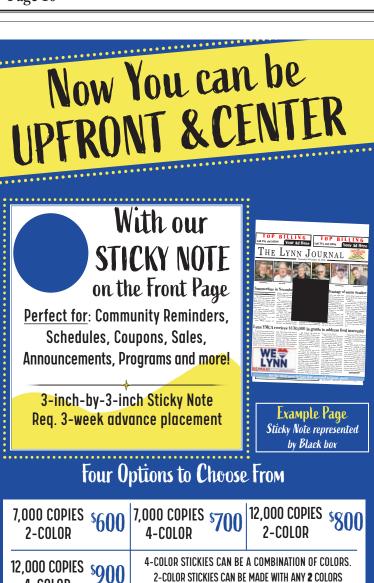
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STOP THE VIOLENCE: LYNN PRESENTS SCHOLARSHIP TO KANYE WAVEZWA



Stop The Violence: Lynn presented a \$500 scholarship to Lynn English senior Kanye Wavezwa at a ceremony at the Demakes Family YMCA in Lynn. Pictured, from left, are Antonio Gutierrez, scholarship recipient Kanye Wavezwa, Ebony White, Rob Smith, and Lynn YMCA Senior Executive Director Andrea Baez. Kanye, a member of back-to-back state championship basketball teams at English, will be continuing his basketball career at American International College. Kanye is the son of Anel Guzman and Dina Wavezwa.

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Massachusetts House passes comprehensive behavioral health legislation

The Massachusetts House of Representatives last week passed comprehensive legislation addressing longstanding issues with our behavioral health care delivery system. The bill focuses on acute psychiatric care and crisis response, youth behavioral health initiatives, community-based behavioral health services, investments in the workforce, and enforcement of existing behavioral health parity laws

"I'm proud of the legislation passed by the House today that builds on our long-standing efforts to advance important reforms and substantial investments that are aimed at improving our behavioral health care delivery system," said Speaker of the House Ronald J. Mariano (D-Quincy). "From addressing the behavioral health crisis that our young people are currently experiencing, to our efforts to alleviate emergency department boarding, to provisions that will bring us closer to treating mental and physical health equally, this legislation will benefit all residents in the Commonwealth when accessing critical health care. I would like to thank Chairman Adrian Madaro for his hard work, and for his commitment to producing a strong bill.'

"Everyone deserves access to quality mental health services, yet far too many people face unnecessary barriers to care. This bill reaffirms the House's commitment to increasing access to behavioral health care across Massachusetts," said Representative Adrian Madaro (D-East Boston), Chair of the Mental Health, Substance Use, and Recovery Committee. "For too long, the healthcare system has not treated behavioral health as equal to physical health, creating obstacles in addressing the mental health crisis, which has on been exacerbated by the pandemic. That's why this timely piece of legislation makes critical steps toward prioritizing mental health services for people across the Commonwealth, including our youth who have been acutely affected, and those who face challenges in getting the care they need. These policies reflect our strong belief that behavioral health care is essential."

Highlights of the bill include: Initiatives to address emergency department boarding:

• Creating online portals that provide access to real-time data on youth and adults seeking mental health and substance use services, including a function that allows health care providers to easily search and find open beds

- Requiring the Health Policy Commission (HPC) to prepare and publish a report every three years on the status of pediatric behavioral health
- Codifying an expedited psychiatric inpatient admissions (EPIA) advisory council to reduce hospital emergency department boarding, including a protocol to expedite placement into appropriate care settings for patients under the age of 18

988 implementation and 911 expansion:

This legislation seeks to increase behavioral health care access across the Commonwealth through the implementation of the nationwide 988 hotline to access 24/7 suicide prevention and behavioral health crisis services. This legislation also expands 911 to bridge the gap until 988 is implemented by increasing training, funding, and capacity for regional emergency responses to behavioral health crises.

Red flag laws and Extreme Risk Protection Order:

This bill initiates a public awareness campaign on the Commonwealth's red flag laws and Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPOs), passed by the Legislature in 2018, that limit access to guns for people at risk of hurting themselves or others.

Full-system accountability for parity:

This bill tackles disparities in mental health and other forms of health care by giving the state additional tools to enforce existing parity laws, such as:

- Requiring licensed mental health professionals to be available during all operating hours of an emergency department (including via telehealth)
- Codifying hospital clinical competencies and operational standards and directing the Department of Mental Health (DMH) to establish a complaint process for alleged violations
- Directing DMH to create a comprehensive plan to address access to continuing care beds, intensive residential treatment programs, and community-based programs for patients awaiting discharge from acute psychiatric hospital units
- Implementing mental health watch reforms in correctional settings, including changes to the referral to mental health process for those who are incarcerated or detained, and establishing a

process for a person on mental health watch for longer than 72 hours to petition to be transferred

School-based behavioral health services and programming:

- Limiting the use of suspension and expulsion in all licensed early education and care programs
- Requiring school districts to adopt a behavioral health crisis response plan which may be based on a cost-neutral model plan to be developed by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
- Creating a statewide program to help schools implement school-based behavioral health services

Access points for youth for effective behavioral health treatment:

- Creating a complex care resolution panel to ensure children with complex behavioral health needs are assisted quickly and with cross-agency support and coordination
- Requiring behavioral health assessments and referrals for children entering the foster care system
- Empowering the Office of the Child Advocate (OCA) to receive complaints from children and families and to assist them in resolving issues with access to behavioral health services

Expanded insurance coverage: This legislation requires insurance coverage of critical behavioral health services, including:

- Emergency service programs
- Services provided under psychiatric collaborative care models
- Mental health acute treatment, community-based acute treatment, and intensive community-based acute treatment without prior authorization
- Annual mental health wellness exams

Workforce investments:

This proposal builds upon the Behavioral Health Trust Fund by carving out specific grant programs for health care providers, which would finance:

- Workforce Pipeline Investments: a scholarship program to support a culturally, ethnically, and linguistically diverse behavioral health workforce, with a focus on clinicians who commit to serving high-need populations.
- Integrated Care: a grant program to expand integrated care models that enable providers to expand their practices to provide behavioral health care in primary care settings

• Support for Providers: a grant program to promote the mental health and wellbeing of providers

Behavioral health parity implementation and enforcement:

This legislation tackles the disparity by health plans to reimburse mental health services at lower rates than other forms of health care by providing the Commonwealth additional tools to enforce existing parity laws and promote compliance.

This legislation enhances oversight of parity compliance by:

• Requiring carriers to comply with annual reporting requirements

- Directing the Division of Insurance (DOI) to review and ensure insurer compliance with parity laws
- Authorizing the Office of Patient Protection (OPP) to identify and refer potential parity violations that arise during OPP grievance reviews to the DOI and the AG's office

"An Act addressing barriers to care for mental health" (H.4879) passed the House of Representatives 155-0 after a similar version of this legislation passed in the Massachusetts State Senate. The legislation moves back to the Senate for further consideration



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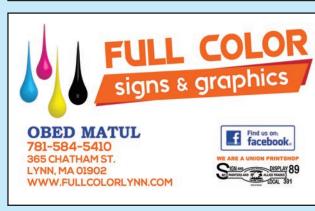


















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