

OPINION

The Daily Item

SERVING THE NORTH SHORE SINCE 1877

EDWARD M. GRANT
President and Publisher
MICHAEL H. SHANAHAN
Chief Executive Officer
THOR JOURGENSEN
Editorial Editor
ERNE CARPENTER JR.
Advertising Director
WILLIAM J. KRAFT
Chief Financial Officer
JAMES N. WILSON
Chief Operating Officer

DIRECTORS
Edward L. Cahill
John M. Gilberg
Edward M. Grant
Gordon R. Hall
Monica Connell Healey
J. Patrick Norton
Michael H. Shanahan
Chairman

PUBLISHERS
Horace N. Hastings, 1877-1904
Charles H. Hastings and Wilmor R. Hastings, 1904-1922
Charles H. Hastings, 1922-1940
Ernest W. Lawson, 1940-1960
Charles H. Gamage and Peter Gamage, 1960-1982
Peter Gamage, 1982-1991
Peter H. Gamage, 1991-1996
Brian C. Thayer, 1996-1999
Bernard W. Frazier Jr., 1999-2005
Peter H. Gamage, 2005-2014
John S. Moran, Executive Editor, 1975-1990



Published by Essex Media Group
P.O. Box 5
Lynn, MA 01903
781-593-7700
itemlive.com

Editorial

Federal law on marijuana remains outmoded

Editorial from the
St. Louis Post-Dispatch Editorial Board

Consider this for an illustration of just how much society has changed in the past few generations: New data shows that, for the first time ever, more Americans use marijuana than tobacco.

Whatever the legitimate concerns about the U.S. becoming a pot-head nation, federal law continues to treat pot like the dangerous illicit drug that past generations long thought it was.

A study funded by the National Institutes for Health found that marijuana-use and cigarette-use trends have gone in dramatically opposite directions in recent decades.

The study found 16 percent of Americans today use marijuana, more than twice the percentage as in 1999. Almost half of Americans today say they have tried marijuana at some point, compared to about a third who had tried it as of 1999. Reaching back further, to 1969, just 4 percent of Americans said they had tried pot.

Cigarette use, meanwhile, is plummeting. Just 11 percent of Americans say they currently smoke, compared with 23 percent in 1999 and 40 percent in 1969.

Perhaps not surprisingly, those overall numbers are driven largely by an even more dramatic divergence of vices among young people, with those of ages 18 to 34 preferring pot to cigarettes by double-digit percentages.

But America's largely geriatric political leadership still resides far in the past in terms of federal marijuana policy, even as states' laws increasingly embrace modernity. Thirty-seven states have legalized medical marijuana, with 19 states allowing it for recreational use as well.

Yet in the eyes of the federal government, it remains a Schedule 1 drug — the most tightly regulated category that includes heroin — under the Controlled Substances Act of 1970. Which, as the above data illustrates, was a time of far different societal attitudes than today.

The federal government's answer to this cannabis conundrum has been to continue the federal prohibition on pot while declining to enforce it in states that have legalized it.

This solution may be practical, but it undermines the whole concept of federal supremacy. Banks and other institutions that operate under federal laws are put in an untenable situation when it comes to interacting with states' legalized marijuana industries, given that such interactions are technically federal crimes.

Maintaining a federal contraband law that everyone agrees can be ignored in most of the country fosters disrespect for the law. The solution isn't complicated: Federal law regarding pot should be updated to reflect where most of America is on the issue today.

ANTHONY AMORE

It's time to expedite taxpayer rebates

The state's tax agency says taxpayers overpaid in the last fiscal year and are owed a \$3 billion rebate under a 1986 voter-approved law that caps tax revenues. The next step is for the state auditor to double-check the math and then taxpayers will receive a \$250 rebate, on average.

The Department of Revenue completed its work before its statutory deadline, and the state auditor should do the same. While Chapter 62F gives the auditor a Sept. 20 deadline, she can give her thumbs up earlier.

There are two big reasons to expedite the rebates. First, taxpayers struggling with inflation on everything from groceries to gasoline could use a hand. Second,

the sooner the money is returned to the taxpayers, the sooner we remove the temptation by the Legislature to change the law and redirect the money to their pet projects.

These tax dollars are your hard-earned money and belong in your bank account. But without checks and balances in our state government the majority party on Beacon Hill may have conveniently overlooked Chapter 62F and hoped no one noticed.

In late July, Gov. Baker reminded lawmakers that Chapter 62F could kick in due to a huge revenue surplus. Legislative leaders acted surprised even though the state law is no secret. House Speaker Ron

Mariano raised the specter of changing the 62F rebate law, and he put the brakes on approving a \$4.4 billion economic development bill — even though state government has enough surplus to pay for both the 62F rebate and the massive spending package.

This is why checks and balances are critical, and it's why as a candidate for state auditor, I am using this bully pulpit to urge the auditor to act expeditiously and not succumb to any pressure to reduce or block the tax rebate.

I have assembled a coalition of 24 taxpayers who, under state law, may take the Legislature and state auditor to court, if necessary, to enforce

Chapter 62F and compel the rebate.

Looking at the Legislature's recent economic development bill, it's clear this money should be in the hands of the taxpayers. The massive spending bill includes \$5 million for the Edward M. Kennedy Institute to pay down debt; \$750,000 for the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation for a "digital infrastructure program;" \$3 million in a giveaway to corporate movie theater chains; and scores of questionable earmarks.

If the Legislature plans to spend \$4.4 billion on pork like this, what would they do with an additional \$3 billion if it's not rebated?

If not for a two-party

system of checks and balances, my hunch is Chapter 62F would have been overlooked, and legislators would be gladly spending the rebate money on pet projects.

That's why I'm running to be an independent auditor, to be a watchdog loyal to the people of Massachusetts, and to bring checks and balances to Beacon Hill. Now it's up to the auditor to resist pressure from her own party and approve the rebate. If she does not, my message is simple: "We will see you in court."

Anthony Amore is a Winchester resident and candidate for Massachusetts state auditor.

Letter to the Editor

BAYLIS UNDERSTANDS EDUCATION PRIORITIES

To The editor:
I met Diann Slaviv Baylis in the early days of her campaign for state representative, and I'm proud to have endorsed her candidacy.

Diann has made a commitment that education funding will be her top budget priority each year. As a parent of four kids, all educated in public school (her youngest is at the Village School in Marblehead), Diann understands the impact that the COVID era has had on our students' well

being.

She will fight for greater access to mental health services for students, as well as continued funding to address learning loss caused by the pandemic. She's also advocating for funding for STEAM programs in our high schools and colleges so that we can train our workforce to be ready for jobs in the state's thriving innovation economy.

Diann will also fight to ensure that the pilot program for free school meals for all kindergarten

through 12th grade students during the 2022-2023 school year will be permanently funded into the future. That's the kind of education champion that we need representing us on Beacon Hill.

*Sarah Gold, LMHC
Marblehead School
Committee member and
former chair
Mother of two public
school students
Child mental health
counselor
Marblehead*

FELICIA PIERCE AND VICKY RIVERA

ROOT culinary training provides a path out of poverty

Now more than ever, our young people need opportunities to get back on track with their education and their careers — they need a chance to build skills, build confidence, and build community.

It is no secret that the Covid-19 pandemic exposed and exacerbated inequality across the United States, and Lynn was no exception.

Lynn's poverty rate is 15.8 percent, well above the national average of 11.1 percent, and the state average of 9.4 percent.

The events of the past two-plus years have disproportionately impacted communities of color and those with lower incomes. The pandemic has taken an especially hard toll on our children, teens, and young adults, who have missed out on numerous educational, developmental, and life milestones.

Youth unemployment in Massachusetts is consistently five percentage points higher than pre pandemic levels.

Root is providing an opportunity — teaching professional skills and life skills, and helping marginalized youth build social capital — all while helping the community.

Root offers a free, 14-week culinary training program during which trainees learn and practice a wide variety of culinary skills, are exposed to and prepare dishes from all over the world and become ServSafe certified to give them an advantage when they enter the workforce.

In addition, trainees build resumes, practice interviewing and networking, and learn about many different career paths in the foodservice industry, gain real-world experience on externships at area kitchens (including Nightshade Noodle Bar and Christopher's Café) all

while earning a stipend.

Some trainees find their passion working with food and go on to industry jobs, like Fernando, who joined Ledger's kitchen team after graduation and has been moving his way up the line, and some pursue further training — like Joe who is working towards his college degree in culinary arts at Johnson and Wales University.

Others take the life and job skills that they learn at Root to pursue a different career path — like Jireh, a recent immigrant who took the workforce readiness and life skills learned at Root to help her secure a job on the fundraising team at KIPP Lynn, and who is now committed to starting her own non-profit to provide greater access to the outdoors for people of color.

Root continues to support graduates after they complete the program; officially, we provide alumni services for up to a year, but in reality, once you join Root, you're part of the Root family forever.

Our team consistently works with graduates from all cohorts to help find housing, navigate the job market, complete their HiSET (examination for out-of-school youth) or enroll in college, get their driver's license, and address any mental health and life challenges.

Employment opportunities in the Root kitchen are open to all Root alumni. These positions provide additional training and mentorship and the chance to gain more professional culinary experience.

The graduates in this program work alongside our chefs to fulfill all retail and contract catering orders, run the Root Cafe, and produce 500-plus delicious, nutrient-rich meals per week for community partners,

including My Brother's Table and the Haven Project, who are helping to address food insecurity in Lynn and the surrounding cities and towns.

Root is proud to partner with the City of Lynn and local nonprofits like RAW Art Works and La Vida Scholars to make our program available to anyone ages 16-26 who might be interested in and benefit from the culinary and job skills training we provide.

While the greatest number of our trainees come from Salem, the second-largest group hails from Lynn, and 75 percent of the alumni working in Root's kitchen to make community meals and fulfill catering and on-site event orders are residents of Lynn.

As Lynn residents who work in education and community development, and as dedicated volunteers on Root's board, we are excited to make more young people in Lynn aware of the opportunity to enroll in Root's program.

We are currently accepting applicants for the next cohort, which will begin on Monday, Sept. 19, and we still have some spots available. We need you to help us spread the word!

Please share this opportunity with anyone ages 16-26 who may be interested and help us ensure that all young people in our community have access to the educational and job training opportunities they need to earn a living wage, help support their families, and create a life for themselves.

Lynn residents and Root Board members, Felicia Pierce, Chief Program Director of North Shore CDC and Vicky Rivera, Director of College Counseling at Community Charter School of Cambridge.

HOW TO REACH US



@itemlive f dailylitem

@itemlive

85 Exchange St.
Lynn, MA 01901

Customer Service
Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Connecting All Departments:
781-593-7700

Classified/Legal Advertising
classified@itemlive.com

Subscriptions
readerservices@itemlive.com

Circulation
circulation@itemlive.com

Newsroom
news@itemlive.com
obits@itemlive.com

Sports
sports@itemlive.com

Retail and Online Advertising
advertising@itemlive.com

ADVERTISING
Ernie Carpenter Jr.
Director of Advertising and Business Development,
781-214-1897
ecarpenter@itemlive.com

Joel Gilroy
Sales Representative, 781-214-1002
joel@itemlive.com

Ralph Mitchell
Sales Representative, 781-261-0734
rmitchell@itemlive.com

Patricia Whalen
Sales Representative, 781-261-0740
pwhalen@itemlive.com

BUSINESS OFFICE
Susan J. Conti
Controller, 781-214-1059
sconti@itemlive.com

Ted Grant
Publisher, 781-214-0337
emg@itemlive.com

Will Kraft
Chief Financial Officer, 781-214-1117
wkraft@itemlive.com

Paula Villacreses
A/R Specialist, 781-214-1137
paula@itemlive.com

Mike Shanahan
Chief Executive Officer, 781-214-1066
mshanahan@itemlive.com

Jim Wilson
Chief Operating Officer, 781-261-0219
jwilson@itemlive.com

CIRCULATION
Lisa Mahmoud
Manager, 781-214-8237
lmahmoud@itemlive.com

CUSTOMER SERVICE
La' Masha Ball
Customer Service, 781-214-1996
lball@itemlive.com

GRAPHICS
Trevor Andreozzi
Designer
tandreozzi@itemlive.com

Erika Bastos
Designer
erika@itemlive.com

Sam Deeb
Production Manager
sam@itemlive.com

Emilia Sun
Designer
emilia@itemlive.com

NEWSROOM
Rachel Barber
Reporter, 781-214-1172
rachelbarber@itemlive.com

Anthony Cammalleri
Reporter, 781-214-0857
anthony@itemlive.com

Michael Coughlin Jr.
Sports Reporter, 781-214-0739
mike@itemlive.com

Allysha Dunnigan
Reporter
adunnigan@itemlive.com

Madison Filip
Sports Reporter, 781-214-0657
madison@itemlive.com

Emma Fringuelli
Intern, 781-214-0818
emma@itemlive.com

Spenser Hasak
Photographer, 781-261-0483
shasak@itemlive.com

Dorothy Irrera
Reporter, 781-214-0193
dorothy@itemlive.com

Thor Jourgensen
Editorial Editor, 781-261-0455
tjourgensen@itemlive.com

Courtney La Verne
Copy Editor, 781-214-1796
courtney@itemlive.com

Charlie McKenna
Reporter, 781-214-1750
charlie@itemlive.com

Anne Marie Tobin
Assignment Editor, 781-261-0484
atobin@itemlive.com

Ryan Vermette
Reporter, 781-214-1138
ryan@itemlive.com

TECHNOLOGY
Tim Noyes
Director, 781-214-8084
tnoyes@itemlive.com