



PHOTOS BY SUZANNE KREITER/GLOBE STAFF

Aleanny Concepcion, Kevin Tuon, and Jorge DeJesus played cards at the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell.

## Facilities, and goals, expanding at Lowell Boys & Girls Club

A \$23.5m renovation will double capacity, add more teen-focused programming

By Julian E.J. Sorapuru

GLOBE STAFF

**L**OWELL — Inside the administrative offices of the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell, a black and white photograph of the club's 1972 groundbreaking ceremony is hard to miss. In the photo, directly behind the six people standing on dirt, a billboard reads: "Future site of the new one million dollar Lowell Boys Club building."

That was then. Today, looming over the two-lane Middlesex Street where the club first broke ground, a mound of earth stands as tall as the old, pale brick building it's camped out in front of. It's a different kind of sign, one that shows the half-century-old Boys & Girls Club is under construction.

This time, it's a \$23.5 million facelift that would expand the club's footprint and the services it offers to hundreds of youth in Lowell. The goal is to finish the project — nicknamed Believe & Become — in 2025, a date its developers say is tied to the urgent need to help end generational poverty in one of Massachusetts' poorer cities, where 80 percent of club members qualify as low income.

"It certainly is an audacious goal, not only financially but in terms of ending generational poverty," said project co-chair John Carson. "If we can do it one kid at a time, one family at a time, that's all to the benefit of not only the Greater Lowell community, but American society in general."

About \$13 million has been raised over five years, which already makes it one of the largest nonprofit fundraising campaigns in the history of Lowell, according to club executive director Joe Hungler. Among those supporting the project are two former club kids who have gone on to successful careers, NBA player Terance Mann and award-winning architect Pat-

LOWELL, Page B2



JuanCarlos Rivera, deputy executive director, with Yesenia Joseph, development director, at the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell. Below: The mound of earth from renovation work outside the club stands nearly as tall as the building itself.



BETTE NASH 1935-2024

## She was known as world's longest-serving flight attendant

By Bryan Marquard

GLOBE STAFF

On all those shuttle flights from Washington, D.C., to Boston and back, Bette Nash got to know a lot about her regular passengers: nicknames, drink orders, and who needed help with a carry-on.

En route to becoming the longest-serving flight attendant in the world and the oldest woman to hold the job, she learned something else, too.

"People want a little love," she told the Boston Globe in 2014. "And I don't mean a lot of hugging and everything, even though we might do that. But this is the big thing: People

need attention."

That extra care, she added, can be offered "for free. You can give this to people for free."

Recognized by Guinness World Records for her longevity in the sky and honored by American Airlines for decades of dedication, Ms. Nash died May 17.

ABC News reported that she had been in hospice care after a breast cancer diagnosis. She was 88 and still an American Airlines employee, the company told the Associated Press.

With the seniority of flying for 67 years — longer than many flight at-

NASH, Page B4



DINA RUDICK/GLOBE STAFF/FILE 2014

For years, Boston — and Logan International Airport in particular — became a second home of sorts for Ms. Nash.

## Treasury Dept. sued over new regulation

Black-owned businesses, allies, say it's too intrusive

By Milton J. Valencia

GLOBE STAFF

A team of Black women business owners and Boston-based advocacy groups have sued the US Department of the Treasury, saying new financial requirements seeking an unprecedented level of private information from investors would have a chilling effect on small businesses that already face intrusive government oversight.

Under the Treasurer's Corporate Transparency Act, more than 32 million small businesses nationwide must for the first time report private information about each "beneficial owner" to the federal government, including their name, date of birth, address, and government ID number. Doing so, the suit alleges, would be burdensome to business owners of color who already disproportionately face hurdles and also put immigrant business owners at risk.

The lawsuit, filed in federal court in Massachusetts by the Lawyers for Civil Rights, asks a judge to strike down the law as unconstitutional.

"This lawsuit is our way of standing up for the business owners that we support and the community we represent," said Abdul Hussein, CEO of African Community Economic Development of New England, one of the suit's plaintiffs.

A Treasury spokesperson said in a statement Thursday that the department believes the new transparency act "plays a vital role in protecting the U.S. financial system, as well as people across the country, from illicit finance threats like terrorist financing, drug trafficking, and money laundering." The spokesperson advised businesses to consult the department's website for more information on filing requirements and deadlines.

TRANSPARENCY, Page B5

## Migrants long before 'right to shelter'

A (very) brief history of immigration to Massachusetts

By Vince Dixon

GLOBE STAFF

and Daniel Kool

GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

Catastrophic violence, economic turmoil, and political upheaval abroad driving waves of newcomers here: Immigration is an old story in Massachusetts as much as it is a current one, an elemental force that's shaped the state throughout its history.

Long before Massachusetts became the country's only "right to shelter" state, drawing a new influx of migrants chiefly from Haiti and Latin America, foreigners arrived in the wake of every kind of tragedy — the Irish potato famine, economic repression and natural disasters in southern Italy, antisemitic pogroms in eastern Europe, stifling colonialism in the Caribbean, the Armenian genocide, the Vietnam War, overpopulation, land shortages and recurring famines in China, and violence in Latin America.

How does this latest wave compare with historical ones? It's not clear precisely how many new immigrants have arrived in Massachusetts over the past two years, because there is no systematic effort to count them all. The state says 11,000 new migrants were served by state and federal programs from October 2022 through September 2023, and it's likely thousands more have

IMMIGRATION, Page B4

### INSIDE

#### Protest at Warren home

Pro-Palestinian demonstrators called on the senator to do more to stop the war in Gaza. B3

# An uncommon approach to help marginalized patients

Treatment uses framework based on liberation

By Lauren Booker

GLOBE STAFF

Dr. Natasha Holmes, a licensed psychologist, has worked in various settings in the mental health field, ranging from prisons to hospitals. Six years ago, she decided to focus her work on serving marginalized communities and founded And Still We Rise in Boston, where she would apply an approach unseen in other mental health spaces.

The organization, known as ASWR, a mental health care practice and consulting firm, utilizes what Holmes calls a liberation-focused framework that centers the experiences of women, BIPOC individuals, and members of the LGBTQ community in supporting their treatment.

“The liberation piece of what we do is supporting individuals or larger organizations and rec-

ognizing how they may be impacted by oppression or discrimination or marginalization, whether it’s racism or sexism or what have you,” Holmes said. “It’s the recognizing of that, but it’s also putting in place something to do about it.”

Since being launched in 2018, the firm has grown into its own sense of a community: a team of almost 80 people working in different capacities, including as clinicians, coaches, or consultants. ASWR also has a newsletter that connects subscribers with services, community events, and tips.

“It’s difficult to do liberation kind of focused work in a silo by yourself,” said Holmes. “You need to be in community to do that.”

We asked Holmes to describe her background, and her vision for how ASWR can support marginalized communities.

**Q.** What does having a liberation-focused mental health practice look like?

**A.** It’s like that blending of social

justice and knowledge or information around it. As a therapist, what that could look like is sitting in the therapy room with your client, supporting them and recognizing, “Oh, the fatigue that you’re experiencing is tied to the capitalist system that you’re currently navigating.” But then also showing up with that client at a protest or something that’s happening.

**Q.** I think that’s interesting, the idea of the therapeutic connection going beyond the walls of the doctor’s office. Is that central to a liberation-focused practice or is that becoming more prevalent within the mental health space?

**A.** I don’t know if I’d say it’s becoming more prevalent, but I would say it’s a really critical component to liberation work in general, is the recognition of ‘X’ and the willingness to do something about it.

In my opinion, one of the ways that the mental health field can become problematic is when there’s a separation be-

tween a recognition of systems that people are navigating. I think this is one of the ways that the mental health field can be harmful to folks from marginalized communities. ... Many therapists aren’t trained in how to recognize some of those things.

**Q.** Can you tell me more about how this liberation-focused framework has affected the outcome of a patient?

**A.** I think one of the things that you can see when working with clients is that especially in the Western world, there’s a heavy emphasis on individualism and “what I did” or “how I messed up here,” or “There’s something wrong with me.”

What a liberation framework kind of focuses on is this sort of collective, this “we,” and an acknowledgement that you’re a part of something much larger than you, and in fact, some of the symptoms that you may be experiencing now are responses to the system or the structure that you’re a part of.



Dr. Natasha Holmes, a licensed psychologist, has worked in various settings in the mental health field.

**Q.** What would you say are some of the barriers that BIPOC individuals face when accessing mental health care?

**A.** I think one of the biggest barriers is just knowing how to access, where to go, and how to go about finding a therapist and what kind of words to be using when you do finally sit with a therapist ... to know, “Yes, this person’s going to be a good fit

for me or not.”

**Q.** Our final question we try to ask everyone: What does wealth mean to you?

**A.** Because of the capitalist system that we are functioning within, my initial thought regarding wealth and the meaning of wealth was tied to financial means and access to capital, both financial capital and social capital. Wealth is that multigenerational money that is intentionally and strategically built — often by exploiting the bodies and the labor of “the other.” When I step back from a capitalist framework, however, I remember that wealth is found in our relationships, in our health, in giving ourselves permission to unapologetically live life — wealth is in our liberation. I remember that wealth is a fullness that can be found in many aspects of life.

*Interview has been edited for length and clarity. Lauren Booker can be reached at lauren.booker@globe.com.*

## DANCE UNDER THE SUN



JESSICA RINALDI/GLOBE STAFF

Members of Mavi Dance recorded a video in the Seaport on Sunday as they performed a traditional Georgian dance.

## Boys & Girls Club aims to end generational poverty

LOWELL  
Continued from Page B1

rick Tighe. Still, the club remains \$10 million short of its fund-raising goal and is actively seeking new donors.

The scale of the project reflects an ambition to provide nuanced opportunities to youth in the community.

The club is currently a one-stop shop for hundreds of the city’s 8- to 18-year-olds. It has a basketball court and pool tables, professional audio equipment for podcast and music production, a computer lab, and a community garden where they grow their own produce.

The expansion would allow the club to do even more.

It would add a dance studio, a theater, and a music instruction room. There would be a teaching kitchen in the community center with the capability to feed twice as many kids a day. The club’s mental health support would be strengthened. A meditation room built. The teen center, set to be complete in December, will focus its programming on helping young people explore post-high school career options through job training and certification.

All the new features would mean doubling club staff — from 40 combined full- and part-timers to 80 — to keep up with their goal of serving around 600 youth a day at the project’s completion.

“The city is primed to have an agency of this size being able to provide that equal access [to resources] for our members,” said club director of development Yesenia Joseph. “The dollars that people are investing are going right back into the community. They are literally the future leaders of Lowell.”

Lieutenant Governor Kim

Driscoll agrees. At a visit to the club in May, she praised it for “driving the economy, providing educational opportunities, and supporting the next generation.”

Still, projects like theirs with lofty mission statements and cash goals naturally attract reasonable doubt: How can a community center tackle something as pervasive as generational poverty?

“Lowell is one of those places where it’s less fortunate,” said Ariel Cuartas, 13, who has been attending the club for six years. “With programs like the Boys & Girls Club, it has gotten children literally off the streets and into a safer environment.”

The club’s deputy executive director, JuanCarlos Rivera, believes in the power of their work and is not deterred by skeptics.

“What ending generational poverty means for me is that those obstacles that life puts in your way, you’re removing them,” he said.

The club already does that in smaller ways. Recently, Jorge DeJesus, 17, decided he wanted to pursue a career in plumbing. When club staff found out DeJesus and his mother had trouble paying for the necessary equipment, they took care of the expenses.

“I don’t think people could realize how important a space this is until they experience it,” said DeJesus, who has been attending the club for half his life.

Mann, the NBA player who grew up honing his skills on the Boys & Girls Club basketball court, has stayed engaged with the club throughout the years, organizing an annual turkey drive, rewarding scholarships, and even appearing as a guest on a podcast hosted by current club kids.

“Lowell is kind of an old, in-



SUZANNE KREITER/GLOBE STAFF

Nana Donkor worked on a recording studio course at The Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell.

dustrial place that can get slow and methodical,” said Mann. He added that he’s been supportive of the Believe & Become Project because it gives Lowell youth “an opportunity to have something new, cool, and hip. Something getting them away from video games, off their phones, and out of the house.”

Tighe is taking a more hands-on approach as the project’s lead architect — a major coup for the club given his CV is longer than some restaurant menus. But he didn’t do the work of designing the new building alone. Tighe, now based in Los Angeles, came home to Lowell to get creative input from club staff, parents, and kids directly.

That process produced a design that looks more like a humble college campus — complete with modern structures, large windows, and colorful accents — than an old mill town’s after-school community center.

“I think it was important that the design be practical, buildable, and not too outrageous,” Tighe said. However, “it needed to be something that gave a new

identity to the club — that brought it into today.”

Club member Hazel Portillo, 15, saw the concept art and thought “it was going to be impossible because it looks so fancy,” she said. But when builders filled in a long-vacant pool to repurpose the area as a community space, Portillo was convinced.

That need for more space was laid bare when the club saw increased demand during the pandemic as one of the few places youth could congregate on a regular basis while school was still remote.

“We have a very strong policy of never turning any young person away,” said Rivera, which is why annual membership is just \$30 for children, and just \$5 for teens.

Nana Donkor, 17, doesn’t think any other after-school programs in the city measure up to the Boys & Girls Club.

“They’re more of, you pay way too much to go there, do a couple of specific things, and go home,” said Donkor, who’s been going to the club for seven years. “Here is more like a family.”

Go to the club today and you’ll find it in a patchwork state. Rooms have been repurposed. Construction equipment crowds the main parking lot. The rhythmic thumping of power tools is audible throughout the building.

All of this, symptoms of maintaining operations in the midst of an extraordinary transformation. One with the potential to change the trajectory of a generation.

*Julian E.J. Sorapur is a Development Fellow at the Globe and can be reached at julian.sorapur@globe.com. Follow him @JulianSorapur*

## This day in history

Today is Monday, June 3, the 155th day of 2024. There are 211 days left in the year.

**Birthdays:** The former president of Cuba, Raul Castro, is 94. Actor Irma P. Hall is 90. Rock singer Ian Hunter of Mott The Hoople is 86. Golf Hall of Famer Hale Irwin is 79. Actor Penelope Wilton is 78. Singer Eddie Holman is 78. Actor Tristan Rogers is 78. Musician Too Slim of Riders in the Sky is 76. Singer Suzi Quatro is 74. Singer Deniece Williams is 74. Singer Dan Hill is 70. TV host Anderson Cooper is 57. Writer-director Tate Taylor is 45. R&B singer Lyfe Jennings is 51. Tennis player Rafael Nadal is 38.

► In 1621, the Dutch West India Co. received its charter for a trade monopoly in parts of the Americas and Africa.

► In 1888, the poem “Casey at the Bat” by Ernest Lawrence Thayer was first published in the San Francisco Daily Examiner.

► In 1898, Mass. Governor William Eustis Russell signed a bill creating the Metropolitan Parks Commission, the nation’s first regional park system. Starting with 7,000 acres, the service, now managed by the Department of Conservation and Recreation, encompasses almost 20,000 acres of woodlands, beaches, swimming pools, skating rinks, bicycle paths, and open areas, including the Charles River Esplanade.

► In 1935, the French liner Normandie set a record on its maiden voyage, arriving in New York after crossing the Atlantic

in just four days.

► In 1965, astronaut Edward H. White became the first American to “walk” in space during the flight of Gemini 4.

► In 1977, the United States and Cuba agreed to set up diplomatic interests sections in each other’s countries; Cuba also announced the immediate release of 10 Americans jailed on drug charges.

► In 1989, Chinese army troops began their sweep of Beijing to crush student-led pro-democracy demonstrations. Iran’s spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, died.

► In 2016, heavyweight boxing champion Muhammad Ali, whose athletic feats and activism put him among the most revered athletes of all time, died at a hospital in Scottsdale, Ariz., at age 74.

► In 2018, Guatemala’s Volcanso de Fire, one of the most active volcanos in Central America, erupted in fiery explosions of ash and molten rock, killing more than 100 people and leaving scores of others missing.

► In 2020, prosecutors charged three more police officers in the death of George Floyd and filed a new, tougher charge of second-degree murder against Derek Chauvin, the officer who was caught on video pressing his knee to Floyd’s neck. (Chauvin would be convicted on all charges.) Defense Secretary Mark Esper took issue with President Trump’s threats to use the full force of the military to quell street protests.

## The Boston Globe

### News

**CONTACTS, TIPS, COMMENTS**  
Switchboard: (617) 929-2000  
(617) 929-7400  
newstip@globe.com  
comments@globe.com

**SPOTLIGHT TEAM TIP LINE**  
(617) 929-7483

### Customer service

**PRINT AND DIGITAL**  
(888) 694-5623  
customerservice@globe.com

### Advertising

**DISPLAY**  
(617) 929-2200  
bostonglobemedia.com

**CLASSIFIED**  
(617) 929-1500  
boston.com/classifieds

	City	Retail	Other
7-day home delivery	\$45.00	\$45.00	\$45.00
Sunday-only home delivery	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00
Daily single copy	\$4.00	4.00	4.00
Sunday single copy	\$6.00	6.00	6.00

### Lottery

#### SUNDAY MIDDAY 8866

Payoffs (based on a \$1 bet)

EXACT ORDER	
All 4 digits	\$4,055
First or last 3	\$568
Any 2 digits	\$49
Any 1 digit	\$5

#### ANY ORDER

All 4 digits	\$676
First 3	\$189
Last 3	\$189

#### SUNDAY NIGHT 3872

Payoffs (based on a \$1 bet)

EXACT ORDER	
All 4 digits	\$5,683
First or last 3	\$796
Any 2 digits	\$68
Any 1 digit	\$7

#### ANY ORDER

All 4 digits	\$237
First 3	\$133
Last 3	\$133

#### LUCKY FOR LIFE

June 2 8-16-19-20-25

Lucky Ball 6

MASS CASH

June 2 4-10-13-23-31

Jackpot: \$100,000; 1 winners

MEGABUCKS

June 1 2-17-22-25-26-43

Jackpot: \$500,000; 0 winners

#### PREVIOUS DRAWINGS

	Midday	Night
Saturday	5568	8047
Friday	3476	4458
Thursday	8661	4152
Wednesday	3193	8341
Tuesday	4517	6612

#### WEEKEND NUMBERS

AROUND NEW ENGLAND

Sun. Maine, N.H., Vermont

Day: 3-digit 811 4-digit 0736

Eve: 3-digit 408 4-digit 9575

Rhode Island

Sunday 6360

Saturday’s Powerball

28-38-52-54-68

Powerball 8

Jackpot: \$161 million; 0 winners