

OPINION

The Daily Item

SERVING THE NORTH SHORE SINCE 1877

EDWARD M. GRANT
President and Publisher
MICHAEL H. SHANAHAN
Chief Executive Officer

ERNE CARPENTER JR.
Advertising Director
WILLIAM J. KRAFT
Chief Financial Officer
JAMES N. WILSON
Chief Operating Officer

GAYLA CAWLEY
Regional Editor
THOR JOURGENSEN
Editorial Page Editor
CAROLINA TRUJILLO
Community Relations Director

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 Wilnot 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

Prosecute Capitol rioters now

Editorial from the Dallas Morning News

One of the largest criminal investigations in American history is happening right now, and it's one we should not forget.

Well over 300 people have been charged with crimes in connection with the historic events of Jan. 6 when a violent mob stormed the Capitol building in Washington, D.C., and disrupted the functions of government.

According to news reports, investigators have identified more than 540 suspects. More arrests are likely. More charges are too. New developments last week have revealed that prosecutors are building cases for more serious charges. According to The New York Times, about two dozen people face charges of conspiring to overturn election results. The most serious charge being considered is seditious conspiracy, which is partly defined as using force "to prevent, hinder, or delay the execution of any law of the United States." It carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison.

What was clear, even before the Capitol insurrection ended, was that our country's response to these crimes would be just as important as the spectacle itself. When violent actors break the law, the democratic response is not to strike back with equal lawlessness, but to rejoin by affirming the rule of law. Each of the people who stormed the "temple of democracy," as House Speaker Nancy Pelosi called it, must answer for individual actions, not the actions of any other. And each must be given due process. That is the hallmark of equal justice.

It's also a standard that means prosecutors have their work cut out for them. In January, Steven D'Antuono, head of the FBI's Washington field office, said his team has been inundated with more than 140,000 videos and photos of the attack. There is an enormous amount of data to sift through.

The Times has parsed video of critical moments of the siege. And USA Today is compiling dossiers on each of the defendants. More details will emerge in the weeks and months ahead, but as they do emerge, everyone should be careful not to get out in front of proven facts.

Last Tuesday, news broke that the Department of Justice has launched an internal probe into its members making so-called inappropriate comments to journalists, including unnamed sources who spoke with The Times, and Michael Sherwin, the former acting U.S. attorney for Washington, D.C., who gave an extensive interview to "60 Minutes."

Transparency in government is crucial to fostering public trust, so we hope officials continue to speak to journalists and media outlets continue to compile key details. But false narratives can foul cases, so our hope is that facts continue to drive this story regardless of where it ends.

in the wake of Lynn Mayor Thomas M. McGee's announcement last week that he would not seek re-election.

The editorial opined that McGee did not fully engage in the job of mayor, but did not state examples of goals or city needs not met. In his March 19 column, Editorial Page Editor Thor Jourgensen nostalgically cited the my-way-or-the-highway approaches of former mayors and top aides adept in "twisting arms and knocking heads."

This tone is startling and surprising if we compare the three-plus years of McGee's tenure as mayor and the four brutal years of our former president. If we cannot appreciate and honor consensus-building and collaboration now, have we learned nothing?

To the editor:

Let me start by telling you about my friend, Kate DePrizio. If you have ever met Kate, you are immediately welcomed by her smile and maybe even a hug. Her warmth and kind nature are not something that turns on and off, she is genuine to the core. This drew me to Kate when I asked her to be a Girl Scout troop leader with me for our incoming kindergartners in 2018.

Kate and I volunteered together at Tower Day School in various roles and it was obvious from the start that she was a volunteer at heart. After we spent more time together in Girl Scouts, what I saw in Kate was a natural leader.

She was not only a troop leader but led in a way that inspired others to follow. She listened intently to our Girl Scouts in a way that made each 5-year-old feel celebrated and heard. No girl was ever overlooked. This trait is not something that you learn, this is something that is built in to your character. Kate is a compassionate listener by nature.

Shortly after our troop was formed, I heard that the Huckleberry Hill School (HHS) variety show was looking for someone to shadow the outgoing chairs and then take over the event. With Kate's background in dance and my love for events, I raised my hand and said that we would do it...and only after I volunteered us both, I told Kate.

Even though we had no clue what we'd gotten ourselves into, Kate was there and ready to take on the task alongside me. We worked together closely with the outgoing chairs and learned the ropes. If anyone has been to the HHS variety show you know this is not merely a talent show, but a full-on production.

It involves months of planning, organizing

learners in kindergarten through fourth grade, parents of those children, volunteers, teachers, administrators, custodians, while keeping to a timeline and making sure the plan stays in motion.

Through all of this, Kate continued to be an amazing mom to her four sweet children. You might be saying, "Oh that's great Crystal, she can put on a show, but what does that have to do with running for School Committee?"

I'm glad you asked. The variety show gives us the opportunity to work with so many in the community and for anyone that is watching, hosting a event that large and that seamlessly is a testimony to Kate as a volunteer.

Working tirelessly behind the scenes often goes unnoticed. She doesn't stand up and take a bow. Kate does this for the children. She never asks for recognition for any of the countless things we have done together. A true volunteer never needs to take credit, they are not posting on social media about "what they do," a true volunteer works to better their community and gives back without recognition.

For Kate, this was just the start of her volunteer work for the community. She is president of Tower Day Parents' Forum and co-vice president of the Huckleberry Hill Parent-Teacher Organization. She hosts monthly Girl Scout meetings, and she is preparing to coach cheer this fall.

She is also planning the HHS variety show, creating safety plans and protocols, submitting and reviewing them with the Emergency Management Team and working on countless other activities that give back to the community as a whole, our teachers and our students.

The reason I mention all that Kate has on her plate right now is not to seek praise, but to highlight all that Kate is currently do-

ing to better our town and our children.

Kate's most recent endeavor was leading the parent advocacy group, Together We Grow, in support of Lynnfield School Expansion.

When she was approached about getting out the word, a mere eight weeks before a very important town vote (in the middle of a pandemic), she did not back down. She instead brought together three great women with unique backgrounds and a group of additional engaged volunteers — and hit the ground running.

She spent endless hours speaking with school administrators, building and planning committee members and town officials to determine how to best reach Lynnfielders to inform them about this important need.

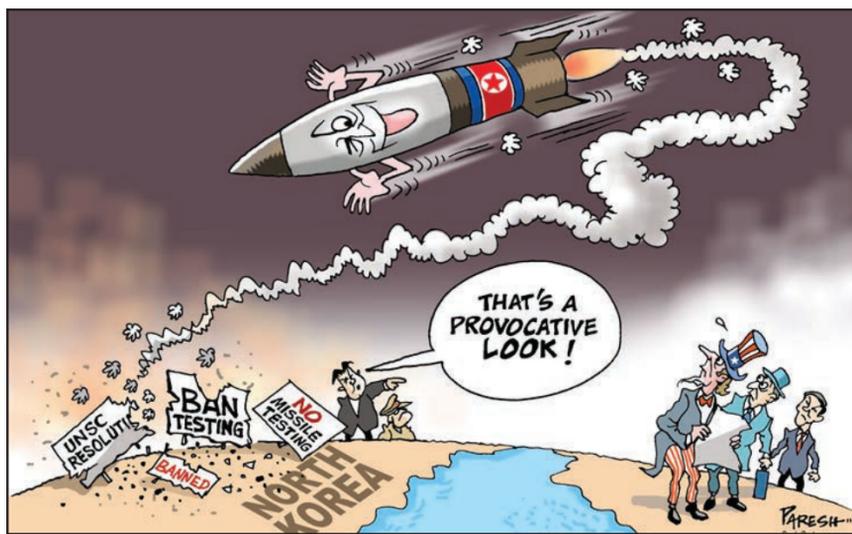
In case you missed the outcome of this special town meeting, it was a resounding yes vote for the school expansion project on the Lynnfield High School field that warm day in November. This was then followed by another vote in favor of a special election in December.

The tenacity, authenticity and dedication that Kate possesses for the tasks she takes on is second to none. She has never done anything halfway — only gives 100 percent and her whole heart.

Everything she is a part of is well thought out and planned to succeed. My dear friend, Kate is humble, loyal, kind, hardworking, dedicated, inclusive, and fair. She will work hard for our children and for their equity. She will be honest and open and communicate to families. She will not look over anyone to better herself. She is great for Lynnfield.

So, I insist you Vote for Kate on April 13. It's just the right thing to do.

Crystal Lavino
Atherton Circle,
Lynnfield



READERS' ADVOCATE

Consensus-builders should be welcomed in Lynn government

(Editor's note: The Readers' Advocate's role is to address the concerns of readers on a variety of matters, including the fairness of stories; what The Item covers and how; stories that may have been missed; and the emphasis put on certain stories but perhaps not on others. It is written by Jo Sullivan, a retired educator who is not a member of The Item staff and is not being paid. These commentaries appear periodically, on no set schedule.)

Too nice of a guy to run for re-election ... he did not fully engage as mayor ... he was limited by his skills as a state legislator ... he is a consensus-builder and compromiser but not a my-way-or-the-highway guy.

The Item (Opinion pages, March 17 and 19) offered these editorial viewpoints

By contrast, *The Item* in its latest special-issues coverage — "COVID-19 year in review," March 13, and "A Year We Hope Never to Repeat," March 19 — has been compelling and inspiring and unlike the negative tone of its statements about McGee.

The COVID-19 look-back stories covered in detail the terrible, heartbreaking effects of the pandemic on our local communities. The stories spoke to community collaborations to fight the pandemic, including Lynn helping Nahant with vaccine administration; Lynn and Swampscott joining forces to vaccinate veterans; and the large and efficient vaccination site at Lynn Tech organized by the city of Lynn and the Lynn Community Health Center.

When I received my first

vaccine dose at Lynn Tech in February, I thought it could not be more organized and smooth. Yet when I received my second dose last week, the site had even more staff and volunteers, so patients moved quickly through the process. The city and Lynn Community Health Center collaborated to recruit school nurses, nursing students from Salem State University, National Guard members, local firefighters and EMTs to serve.

Even the photos published in *The Item* demonstrated what consensus can do: Mayor McGee being vaccinated by a National Guard member and teachers vaccinated by a fire chief at Breed Middle School. So, yes, let us have many committed, service-minded candidates. Bring them on, all

who care about Lynn and are willing to work hard for the good of all our citizens. Consensus-builders are welcome. May the my-way-or-the-highway folks stay home and reminisce.

Since my education commentary in February asking for more stories on schooling, The Item published 25 articles or opinion pieces on schools. Now more than ever, it is important to keep readers informed on this important topic. This reader was pleased to see that there have been 25 local editorials in the 11 weeks in 2021. Whether on regional issues or a local take on state and national concerns, Item editorials have an important role to play.

(Send your comments to ReaderAdvocate@com-cast.net.)

HOW TO REACH US

The Daily Item
itemlive.com

@itemlive f dailyitem

@itemlive

110 Munroe St.
P.O. Box 5
Lynn, MA 01903

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

Connecting
All Departments:
781-593-7700

Ext. 2
Classified/Legal Advertising
classified@itemlive.com

Subscriptions
readerservices@itemlive.com

Circulation
circulation@itemlive.com

Ext. 3
Newsroom
news@itemlive.com
obits@itemlive.com

Ext. 4
Sports
sports@itemlive.com

Ext. 5
Retail and Online
Advertising
advertising@itemlive.com

ADVERTISING

Ernie Carpenter Jr.
Director of Advertising
and Business Development, ext. 1355
ecarpenter@itemlive.com

Ralph Mitchell
Sales Representative, ext. 1313
rmitchell@itemlive.com

Patricia Whalen
Sales Representative, ext. 1310
pwhalen@itemlive.com

BUSINESS OFFICE

Susan J. Conti
Controller, ext. 1288
sconti@itemlive.com

Ted Grant
Publisher, ext. 1234
emg@itemlive.com

Marian Kinney
ext. 1212
mkinney@itemlive.com

Will Kraft
Chief Financial Officer, ext. 1296
wkraft@itemlive.com

Paula Villacreses
A/R Specialist, ext. 1205
paula@itemlive.com

Mike Shanahan
Chief Executive Officer, ext. 1956
mshanahan@itemlive.com

Carolina Trujillo
Community Relations Director, ext. 1226
ctrujillo@itemlive.com

Jim Wilson
Chief Operating Officer, ext. 1200
jwilson@itemlive.com

CIRCULATION

Lisa Mahmoud
Manager, ext. 1239
lmahmoud@itemlive.com

CUSTOMER SERVICE

La' Masha Ball
Customer Service, ext. 1276
lball@itemlive.com

GRAPHICS

Trevor Andreozzi
Designer
tandreozzi@itemlive.com

Sean Casey
Designer
scasey@itemlive.com

Aaron Fee
Designer
afee@itemlive.com

Edwin Peralta Jr.
Designer
eperalta@itemlive.com

NEWSROOM

Mike Alongi
Sports Editor, ext. 1228
malong@itemlive.com

Elyse Carmosino
Reporter, ext. 1264
ecarmosino@itemlive.com

ALLYSHA DUNNIGAN
Reporter, ext. 1302
adunnigan@itemlive.com

Tréa Lavery
Reporter, ext. 1317
tlavery@itemlive.com

Gayla Cawley
Regional Editor, ext. 1236
gcawley@itemlive.com

Cheryl Charles
News Editor, ext. 1278
ccharles@itemlive.com

Spenser Hasak
Photographer, ext. 1332
shasak@itemlive.com

Julia Hopkins
Photographer, ext. 1224
jhopskins@itemlive.com

Thor Jourgensen
Editorial Page Editor, ext. 1267
tjourgensen@itemlive.com

Daniel Kane
Sports Reporter, ext. 1228
dkane@itemlive.com

Steve Krause
Senior Writer, ext. 1229
skrause@itemlive.com

Guthrie Scrimgeour
Reporter, ext. 1222
guthrie@itemlive.com

Anne Marie Tobin
Assignment Editor, ext. 1307
atobin@itemlive.com

TECHNOLOGY

Tim Noyes
Director, ext. 1247
tnoyes@itemlive.com