

OBITUARIES / LOCAL

SSU wants 'physical presence' in Lynn

Edson S. MacKenzie, 84

Retired teacher

By Sean Leonard
THE DAILY ITEM

Salem State University wants to create a four-year degree program in Lynn and eventually hopes to have a separate presence downtown.

SSU President Patricia Maguire Meserve told members of the Lynn Business Partnership on Tuesday of the plans to build on its alliance with North Shore Community College.

Meserve made the comments during an informal presentation as the invited speaker for the partnership's 20th Annual Meeting, held at the Eastern Bank building on Market Street.

Meserve, who has been president of SSU for five years, said that despite decreasing state support the university is thriving, with approximately 10,000 students, including 6,800 full-time undergraduates.

She touted SSU's extensive partnerships with the City of Lynn and Lynn entities; that SSU students gain experience in Lynn schools and at Lynn Community Health Center, and students have a strong volunteer presence at Girls Inc. in Lynn. She also noted the increasing role SSU is playing in the Lynn business community as a member of the LBP and the Lynn Area Chamber of Commerce.

Meserve said the University's goal is to replicate its successful four-year-degree satellite programs at Northern Essex Community College and



Gordy Hall, left, president of the Lynn Business Partnership, listens to Patricia Maguire Meserve, president of Salem State University, speak at the 20th Annual Meeting of the business partnership at Eastern Bank on Tuesday.

Middelex Community College, "so students can move from earning the associate degree to earning their baccalaureate degree while they're still here in the city of Lynn."

"I think it can be very attractive to students in Lynn but also to students from Saugus, Revere, Chelsea and from Boston," she said.

Meserve said SSU is in its third semester of a partnership with North Shore Community College in Lynn where SSU

courses are offered on the NSCC Lynn campus.

"We started in a modest way we had two courses each semester and I believe in January we will be looking at three courses, as we try to identify where is the best mix with North Shore Community," she said. "It's challenging to try and anticipate what students will want."

The SSU four-year degree programs at Middlesex Community and Northern Essex Community, she said, took five

years to develop.

"One program we're thinking about for Lynn is criminal justice because we see a lot of interest in that area," she said, adding that a four-year nursing program is also a possibility.

Once the programs are identified, Meserve said. "Our hope is that we will have a physical presence in Lynn as well. Having an area that identifies SSU in the City of Lynn, we think, would be very powerful... Once we have the critical mass of students, finding the physical space we can financially support will be the next step."

"We've heard from the business community a real desire to have a presence downtown," she said, noting the aim would be to have a presence independent but in close proximity to NSCC and also close to public transportation.

Meserve said a satellite SSU building in downtown Lynn would also help stimulate the local economy "because students like to eat, like to shop and like to hang out in cafes."

James Cowdell, executive director of the Lynn Economic Development Industrial Corp., said, "SSU having a physical presence in Lynn is so important — for students to attend Lynn schools, North Shore Community College and Salem State University, and earn a four-year degree without leaving the city — whatever we can do to roll out the red carpet, we want you here."

"We want to be here," Meserve replied.

Sean Leonard may be reached at sleonard@tenthive.com.

SAUGUS

Mr. Edson Stewart MacKenzie, 84 years, died on Friday, Nov. 30 surrounded by his loving family. He was the husband of the late Ethel Ann (Penney) MacKenzie, with whom he shared 47 years of marriage.

Edson was born to the late Stewart MacKenzie and Alice (Grew) MacKenzie on Sept. 22, 1928 in Cambridge. He graduated from Wilmington High School in 1946 and then he served in the U.S. Navy for two years.

He received his bachelor's and master's degrees in education from Lowell State College and Boston University. He touched many young lives teaching in the city of Somerville. He was passionate about making a difference in the lives of his students, knowing he only had their attention for one year, until his retirement

in 1993.

Edson (Mac) is survived by his sons, Mark S. MacKenzie of Saugus, Scott L. MacKenzie and his wife Rachel; granddaughter Olivia Penney MacKenzie and grandson Shane Ahola, all of Sandy Utah; his brother, Malcolm D. MacKenzie and his wife Nancy of Shrewsbury. Also survived by many nieces, nephews and greater family. He is predeceased by his brother, Kenneth MacKenzie.

Donations in his memory may be made to the Lupus Foundation, 40 Speen St., Framingham, MA 01701.

Service Information: Services were private at the request of the family. Burial was at Wildwood Cemetery in Wilmington. Arrangements by BISBEE-PORCELLA Funeral Home, Saugus. For condolences, www.BisbeePorcella.com.

Deliberations begin in Cahill corruption case

By Denise Lavore
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOSTON — A jury on Tuesday began deliberating corruption charges against former state treasurer Tim Cahill, who was portrayed at trial as an altruistic public servant who defended the state lottery against an attack but also as a scheming politician who used \$1.5 million in taxpayer-funded advertising for his sinking gubernatorial campaign.

Jurors deliberated about two-and-a-half hours before ending for the day.

As prosecutors and Cahill's lawyers made their closing arguments, the jury was left with two vastly different pictures of Cahill and his motivation for approving a lottery ad blitz about a month before the 2010 gubernatorial election.

Cahill's lawyer, Jeff Denner, said he did it because the lottery had been battered by a series of attacks and the Republican Governors Association ran against Cahill, who ran as an independent.

"In plain English, Timothy Cahill ... has committed no crime," Denner told the jury. "It was an appropriate advertising response to what was going on."

But Assistant Attorney General James O'Brien said a string of emails and text messages among Cahill's campaign advisers shows that it was obvious that the campaign considered the lottery ads free political advertising for Cahill, who was also promoting his work as the head of the lottery in separate gubernatorial campaign ads.

O'Brien mocked Cahill's claim during his testimony that it never crossed his mind that the taxpayer-funded ads promoting the benefits of the state



Cahill

lottery running at the same time as his own campaign ads touting his management of the lottery could promote his gubernatorial campaign.

"Do you believe that?" O'Brien asked the jury. He compared Cahill to a kid who gets his "hand caught in the cookie jar" and then denies it.

Cahill is charged with conspiracy to use his official position to gain an unwarranted privilege and conspiracy to commit procurement fraud.

O'Brien said the law allows elected officials to promote the job they do while campaigning but "within boundaries." He told the jury that Cahill broke the law because he used the treasurer's office to get a benefit from the state lottery.

The defense, however, emphasized that the idea for the lottery ads did not come from Cahill, but from the lottery's executive director, who first suggested the ads in July 2010.

Denner said that if Cahill really wanted to use the lottery advertising money to boost his campaign, he would have pushed for the ads to run immediately instead of waiting until September, when "he had no reasonable chance to win the election" with polls showing his support had dropped to 5 percent.

Denner described Cahill as a "tough Quincy kid following his dreams" who "made himself very vulnerable" when he left the Democratic Party and ran as an independent against Democratic Gov. Deval Patrick and Republican Charles Baker.

Saugus tree lighting ceremony deemed a success

By Matt Tempesta
THE DAILY ITEM

Town Manager Scott Crabtree said the annual tree lighting ceremony held this past weekend was a "big success."

"I've gotten a lot of feedback that evening as well as the last couple of days," said Crabtree in his update to selectmen Tuesday night. "Obviously that was the first time we've done something of that magnitude."



Crabtree

There was a lot of people that put a lot of time into this ... the board and Julie Mitchell and Emergency Management, the custodial staff and building maintenance."

The board continued a hearing one again for 222 Central Storage, which is looking to add a second floor to the building

on Central Street.

Selectmen Chairman Michael Serino made the recommendation to continue the hearing because selectman Julie Mitchell was out sick, and four votes are needed to grant the permit. Owners had previously requested the hearing be continued so they could provide more detailed plans to the board.

Owner Janet Boccilli said they cannot improve on the family-owned business without the addition.

"We're at a financial standstill," she said.

The board will vote at its meeting next Tuesday. In other business, the board said businesses that owed outstanding taxes had all paid up since the last meeting except for Domino's Pizza, Pro Collision, HomeTown Pizza and Saugus Taxi.

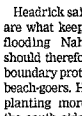
Selectmen will hold a hearing next week on those businesses that owe money.

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Project manager recommends priorities for Nahant beach

By Kait Taylor
THE DAILY ITEM

Ron Headrick, the project manager of the master plan for improvements to make to Short Beach, recommended that the beach's sand dunes remain a first priority at a Planning Board meeting Tuesday.



Headrick

Headrick said the sand dunes are what keep the beach from flooding Nahant Road and should therefore have a fenced boundary protecting them from beach-goers. He also suggested planting more vegetation on the south side of the beach to keep the sand from the dunes in place, and less aggressive mowing on the lawn between the road and the dunes.

Headrick said the plan was to keep "a balance between the recreation and natural needs ... but high priority needs to be given to the dunes themselves."

Headrick said the plan would address the parking and drop-off issues at Short Beach, but there would be no cutting into the beachside sidewalk. "Nahant Road has a lot of inherent beauty, and we don't want to

disturb that," he said. He also mentioned putting in a four foot wide bike lane on that road.

Planning Board Chairman Richard Snyder said the recommendations would be moving to public forums to put together a definite plan of action for Short Beach and the Coast Guard Station next year.

Kait Taylor may be reached at ktaylor@tenthive.com.

Patrick cites \$540M state budget gap, orders spending cuts

By Bob Salsberg
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOSTON — Gov. Deval Patrick on Tuesday ordered spending cuts across state government to close a projected \$540 million budget hole that he pegged largely on economic uncertainty caused by the looming "fiscal cliff."

Patrick called the actions a "sensible and prudent" approach to a revenue shortfall that had been developing since the start of the fiscal year in July. He said he would not be seeking any increase in state taxes to address



Patrick

the gap.

The governor said he would use his authority under state law to cut executive branch spending by \$225 million, equivalent to about 1 percent of the budget for those agencies. He also said he would ask the Legislature to approve a similar 1 percent reduction in the budgets of the Massachusetts court system and other state constitutional offices and a \$9 million cut in unrestricted local aid to cities and towns.

The governor proposed the cuts even as the state reported a slight uptick in tax collections in November. Officials, however, concluded that it was not enough to offset the overall lower-than-expected collections through the first five months of the fiscal year, and the result was a decision to revise downward by \$540 million, the full year revenue projection.

Discussions with business leaders and economists convinced Patrick that the shortfall stemmed from the ongoing budget deadlock in Washington.

The state's economic slowdown has been blamed on other more tangible factors in recent months. MassBenchmarks, a journal published by the Donahue Institute of the University of Massachusetts, said in an October report that a sharp slowdown in the state's economy in the third quarter could be attributed to a drop in exports — tied to economic difficulties in Europe — and stagnant growth in the global information technology market.

Sen. Bruce Tarr, the Republican leader in the state Senate,

said Patrick's "inaction" on the GOP's past budget and job creation initiatives were partly to blame for the current predicament.

"Governor Patrick is confronting the harsh reality of a faltering economic recovery and budgetary paralysis in Washington to meet the requirements of a balanced budget," the Gloucester lawmaker said. "Yet it's also a harsh reality that this situation could and should have been addressed by more aggressive action to create a better climate for economic growth."

The governor warned that if President Barack Obama and Congress fail to reach a budget deal by Dec. 31, triggering tax increases and federal budget cuts, it would likely result in a further downward revision of \$300 million in revenue projections for the fiscal year.

In addition to the spending cuts ordered Tuesday, the governor said he would also ask the Legislature to transfer \$200 million from the state's reserve fund, better known as the "rainy day fund." He also noted that more than 700 new positions in state government that had been included in the current budget will go unfilled.

Report: Bay State employers wary of impending 'fiscal cliff'

BOSTON (AP) — A group representing Massachusetts employers says business confidence in the state has slipped into negative territory for the first time since June.

Associated Industries of Massachusetts said Tuesday its monthly Business Confidence Index fell 4.3 points in November to 46.8, largely over fears that the deadline in Washington over the "fiscal cliff" may result in automatic tax increases and steep federal

budget cuts. The index works on a scale of 100, with any reading under 50 meaning that employers are more pessimistic than optimistic about the direction of the economy.

Raymond Torio is chair of AIM's Board of Economic Advisors. He says tax hikes would affect virtually every business in the state, and said the defense sector and other industries would be hit hard by budget reductions.

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Love and missed Always in our hearts. Pat

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