

THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2003

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STAFF PHOTO BY MARC VASCONCELLOS

Penza, a physical education teacher at Medford High School, congratulates Olympian Chris LoBrutto with a kiss after he won the gold medal. LoBrutto initially fell at the finish line during his first running event so he was extra thrilled to win this event.

## Going for the GOLD

**OLYMPICS, FROM PAGE 1**  
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...erous local agencies contributed funds and volunteers to the event, including the City of Malden, the Malden Redevelopment Authority...



STAFF PHOTO BY MARC VASCONCELLOS

McGlynn Middle School Olympian Allison Bailey is all smiles, giving her mother Linda and grandmother Claire Plumber sitting on the sidelines a thumbs up after crossing the finish line and scoring a gold medal.

## Special Olympic provides fun, medals

By Seth D. Michaels  
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**N**early 150 young contenders from all over the region, including Medford, took part in the Special Olympics in Malden...

Burkhart, assistant section director for the Central Middlesex region of Special Olympics. "We have about 80 volunteers, and a lot of official people came out today — the mayor was here, and an honor guard from the Malden Police and the sheriff's department. We have about 90 athletes from Malden, over 40 from Medford, and 10 from Wakefield. All the volunteers got here at 7 a.m. — they're all working together and it's all flowing."

**THURSDAY**

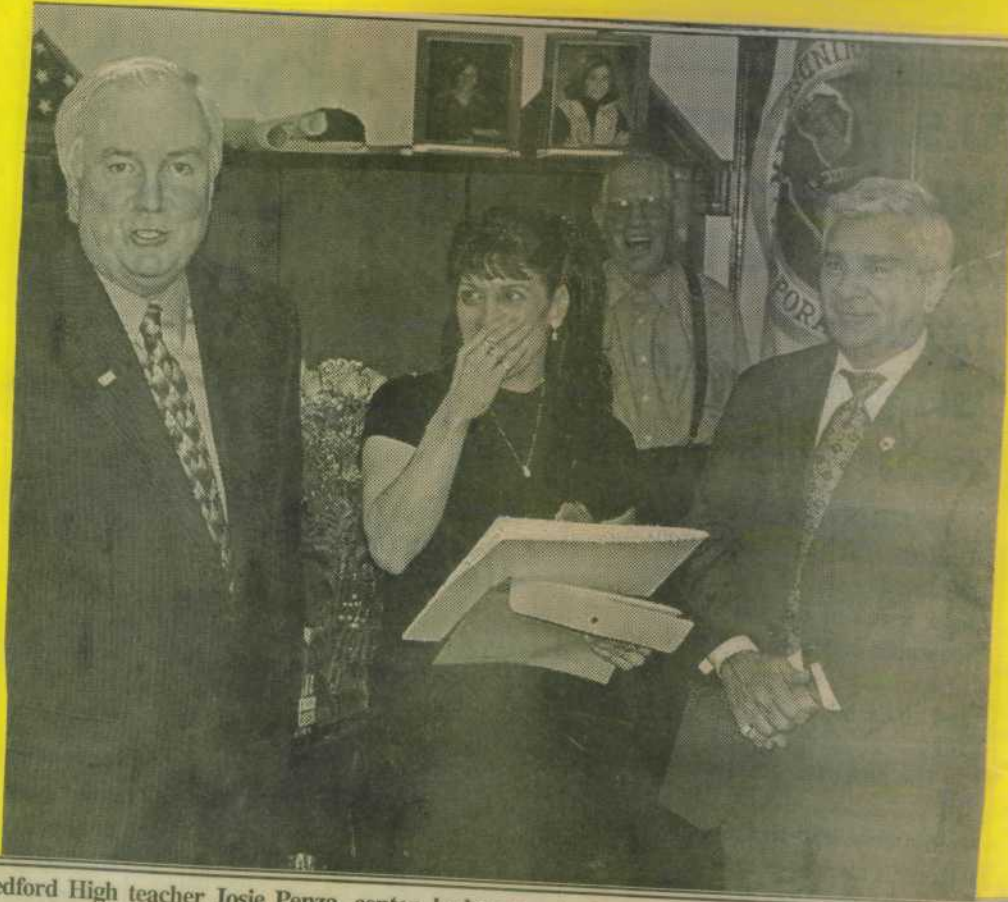
June 24, 2004

Vol. 124, Number 124, 12 pages

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**MEDI**



Medford High teacher Josie Penza, center, looks surprised yesterday upon receiving a Disability Awareness Award from Mayor Michael J. McGlynn, left and state Paul J. Donato, D-Medford, at right. Photo by Shavaun Callahan



Josie Penza, a physical education teacher at Medford School, congratulates Olympian Chris LoBrutto with a kiss after he won the gold medal. LoBrutto initially fell at the line during his first running event so he was extra tired to win this event.

STAFF PHOTO BY MA

## Mayor McGlynn, city honor National Champ cheerleaders and Disability 'champions'

Continued from Page One

Kaitlyn Contardo, Amanda Mannke, and Caitlyn Meagher.

In a separate ceremony held at city hall, Mayor McGlynn presided over the Annual Disability Awareness Awards, presented by the Commission for Persons with Disabilities.

Among those honored were Medford High School teacher Josie Penza, who has worked for many years with the Special Olympics, Rev. Eugene Adams for his work with the less fortunate in Medford, and the staff at the Buddy Coholan Center for their work on behalf of Alzheimer's patients.

## Going for the GOLD

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McGlynn Middle School, and Medford High School. Every student participated in three of a wide variety of track and field events. Any student with a developmental disability is encouraged to take part in the Olympics.

"We're really proud of how they're doing," said Ron Zupell, athletic director for the Medford schools. "It's so positive for the kids."

Numerous local agencies contributed funds and volunteers today, including the City of Malden, the Malden Redevelopment Authority, the Partnership for Community Schools, Golden Tornado club, and several local officials.

"The kids really live for this," said Josie Penza, a special education physical education teacher at MHS. "You really have to give them the chance to compete."