

Adult Learners Must Join The 21st Century In Pursuit Of Job Opportunity

University of Massachusetts President Marty Meehan recently announced plans for the five-campus university to launch an online college intended for adult learners. He said that not only would

the new school meet workforce development needs in the region and generate revenue for the overall university, but it would serve as a competitive force to counter the inroads being made by other institutions in

New England. The announcement came during Meehan’s annual “state of the university address.”

He told attendees that the project has been studied for the last 18

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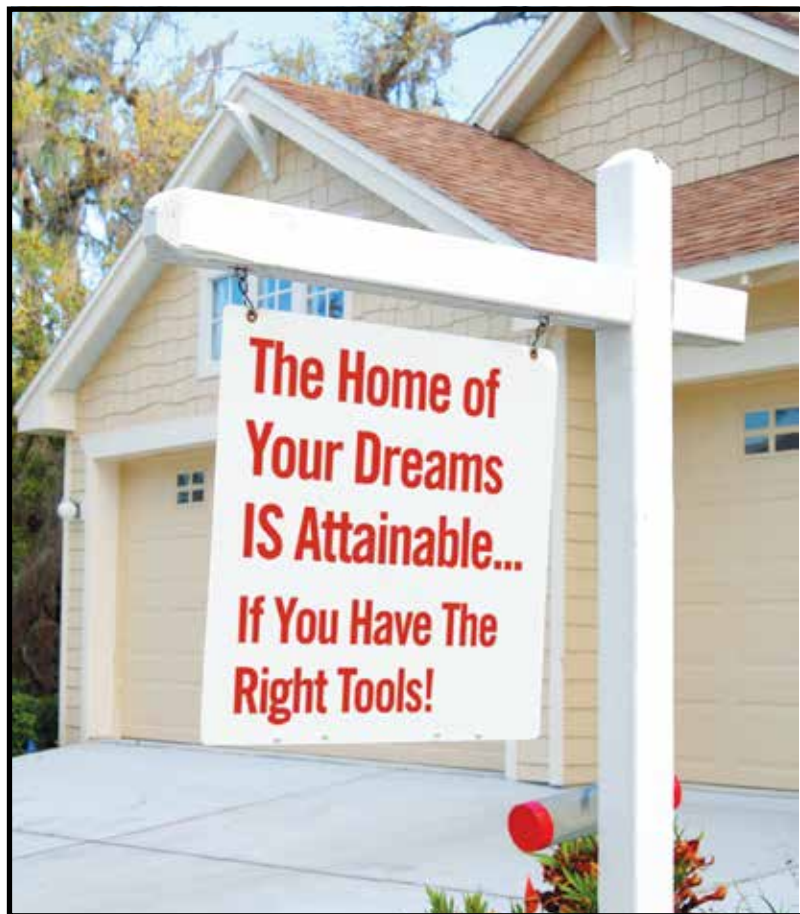
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EDITORIAL

Blindsided By Winter Once Again

Sometimes, it seems winter loves to play with us, and especially enjoys messing with the meteorologists. In the last 3 weeks, the warnings were numerous: 'Get ye to the market and stock up on food and drink, because a winter storm is bearing down on us with intent to bury us deep'. And as is often the case, the frightened populous, sometimes in a panic, scurries out to clear store shelves of groceries, ice melt and shovels, in anticipation of

the predicted deluge of the white stuff.

As it has happened several times recently, we woke up the next morning expecting an arctic-like landscape only to find 3, maybe 4, inches of snow, so light and fluffy you could sweep it away with a broom. After these false alarms, residents became complacent and all but smirked and ignored yet another warning of a major storm, confident that this time would also be a false alarm. Ah, but it wasn't.

Last Sunday, we rose in the AM to find more than a foot of cement like, heavy and wet snow, taking all the muscle folks could muster to move it. Was this a joke played on us by Old Man Winter, as he sometimes does when the thought of springtime on the horizon teases us? Possibly.

A good thing about these storms is it brings out the best in people; people willing to lend a hand and clear walk ways, stairs and cars for neighbors, who are not

capable or because of work schedule, just aren't able to do it themselves. It happens all over South Boston and it's a beautiful thing. One such person, whose neighbors were so grateful for his help, they wrote into SBT and requested we thank him publicly was Paul McDonough. Paul went into action with his snow blower and assisted his East Seventh Street neighbors and moved tons of the heavy wet stuff on their behalf. Some of those neighbors called



him a hero that day. And though Paul is a humble guy and would never seek praise for helping fellow residents in need of assistance which he so often has, he certainly deserves it. You're a good man Paul McDonough.

"Tomorrow hopes we have learned something from yesterday" - John Wayne



GATE OF HEAVEN

ANNUAL IRISH BREAKFAST THIS SUNDAY AFTER THE 9AM MASS

Please join us this Sunday March 10th after the 9am Mass for the annual Irish Breakfast sponsored by Senator Nick Collins at Gate of Heaven Church on East 4th Street, downstairs in the Lower Hall. We look forward to seeing old and new friends.

And as a reminder All Are Welcome to the Gate of Heaven Parish Coffee and Conversation on the second Sunday of each month following the 9am Mass.

SBCA EVENTS UPDATE

Sunday, March 10th,
Farragut Statue
Rededication at
1:00PM

Monday, March 11th,
Annual Basket-ball
Free Throw Competition will take place
at the Tynan Community Gym. Please
register with Kathy Davis and her staff
starting at 6:00PM.

Tuesday, March 12th, Boys and Girls
Club swimming pool
for the annual Swim
meets. Registration
begins at 6:00 PM
with the club staff.

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The Information Center



Medal of Honor Recipients/Campus Free Speech and More

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY

John Ciccone

Note: talk back to John Ciccone by email at jciccone@southbostontoday.com

This week's column will touch on several issues in the news. The first topic goes out to our readers who like writing letters, and there are many of you, which is great. And what better reason to write a letter than to thank one or more of our country's Congressional Medal of Honor recipients?

For the 3rd year in a row, motivational speaker Janine Strange, who has teamed up with retired Command Sgt. Major Gary Lee Litrel, a Medal of Honor recipient himself, is organizing a letter writing campaign to coincide with the annual Medal of Honor Recipient Appreciation Day, which is March 25th. The goal is to write personal letters thanking the 72 living Medal of Honor recipients in America for their service to our country and for their exceptional heroism on behalf of their fellow service members. The medal recipients didn't do what they did to receive praise. They did so out of a sense of duty and loyalty. But it would mean quite a bit to them to hear from their fellow Americans, who appreciate their heroism. To find out more about more on how to send these letters, log on to www.janinestrange.com. This will give you all the information needed to get your letter to these true American heroes.

One of the most quoted statements during the last 2 weeks was by Michael Cohen, when he was testifying to Congress — again, about the alleged Russia collusion scandal. When he said, "I have lied, but I'm not a liar", viewers had a good laugh. For those who still might not be familiar with Cohen, he had already been convicted of lying to Congress and is set to begin serving a prison term for it. And yet, this is the witness the 'libs' in Congress brought in to testify in the fading hopes of pinning something — anything — on President Trump that could be labelled illegal. Yes, Michael Cohen was the best witness they could come up with. Can you spell 'desperation'?

Speaking of President Trump, he says he will issue an executive order to college campuses that would require these schools to ensure that free speech is allowed. Who would have thought that in America, a President of the United State would need to make this a requirement? If colleges refuse or ignore this order, they will be denied federal research dollars that many of these institutions have come to depend on.

Prompting this move of course is what's been happening on many campuses. Most Americans are coming to realize that many colleges have become left wing indoctrination centers, dominated by radical professors and administrators and students, who follow their lead like mindless obedient sheep. They ban speakers they don't agree with, harass and penalize patriotic conservative thinking students for their beliefs. Campuses have even been the scenes of violence against anyone who dares express a different view.

Some schools try to excuse what they do by setting up 'Free Speech Zones', where opposing views are allowed during certain hours of the day. Ah, no. Setting aside Free Speech Zones doesn't cut it. This is the United States of America and our Constitution guarantees that all of America is a free speech zone, not some roped off 8x10 plot of land in some obscure location on the school grounds. Needless to say, the patriotic students have had enough of this, they now have the President's backing and these colleges better smarten up or start running bake sales, if they want to be able to afford to stay open.

The Democrat campaign to try to further infringe on the Second Amendment by pushing more unfair gun control laws is hitting a stone wall in those states where these attempts are being made. County sheriffs in several states are drawing a line in the sand and are refusing to enforce these new laws passed by

liberal legislatures. Gun owners for their part are refusing to obey these new restrictions and tens of thousands of lawn signs are popping up all over those states where it's happening. The signs read 'We Will Not Comply'. The sheriffs support them and have said "They Will Not Enforce". And these Sheriffs have made it perfectly clear that they swore an oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States, the Second Amendment is clearly a part of the Constitution, and therefore, they have instructed their personnel not to infringe on those rights. This is a revo-

lution of sorts that these anti-gun politicians never expected and have no idea what to do about it.

And finally, there is an effort afoot by some California Snowflakes to remove the name of late actor and American Icon John Wayne from the airport named in his memory and honor. It seems they are offended by something he said some 35 years ago. Well, even in California, the backlash against this move has been swift and fierce which shows that even after all these years, you just can't mess with 'The Duke'.

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Window Into The State House

Window Into The State House provides our readers a synopsis of important issues of interest, past and current, that are being proposed, debated or acted upon by the Massachusetts Legislature. Many issues that are not related to local city government services are acted upon and have a direct impact on daily life. They are tax policy, transportation infrastructure, judicial appointments, social services and health, as well as higher education. We will excerpt reports from the gavel-to-gavel coverage of House and Senate sessions by news sources focused on this important aspect of our lives. These sources include a look ahead at the coming week in state government and summaries and analyses of the past week, re-caps of a range of state government activity, as well as links to other news.

Are the air rights over the T's Cabot Yard the next development bonanza?

The Globe's Jon Chesto reports that state Sen. Nick Collins and Rep. David Biele of South Boston have written to the T about the possibility of developing the air rights over the MBTA's sprawling Cabot Yard. Hoping to raise hundreds of millions of dollars, the two note UMass-Boston's recent mega-development deal at the old Bayside Expo site.

Life without parole or life with parole? That is the question

SHNS's Michael Norton (pay wall) and Sarah Betancourt at Commonwealth magazine report that criminal-justice reformers on Beacon Hill are now turning their attention back to a familiar issue, to wit: Whether some who are sentenced to life in prison should at least have the chance at parole.

The do's and don'ts of paying and accepting bribes

This is an odd one. From Adam Gaffin at UH: "The Supreme Judicial Court (yesterday) upheld a fine of more than \$2.6 million against a beer distributor for kickbacks paid to some Boston-area bars to give its beers guaranteed taps, but said that the state commission that oversees liquor laws

can't punish a Seaport bar that accepted the bribes because of what it said was a tortured interpretation of those laws."

From defense to offense: UMass's Meehan proposes new online college

Watch out, Southern New Hampshire University. From Kirk Carapezza at WGBH: "University of Massachusetts President Marty Meehan announced on Monday plans to launch a new online college solely for adult learners. In his third annual State of the University address, the former Democratic congressman said the new online college, which is still being developed, would preserve the university's mission as the number of college-aged high school graduates in the northeast drops."

Gintautas Dumcius at the BBJ and Deirdre Fernandes at the Globe have more. As Fernandes notes, "It remained unclear how much such an enterprise would cost, what types of classes UMass would offer, and who would teach them. Meehan suggested that the system would likely have to borrow millions of dollars to launch this college, with the expectation of a return over the long term."

Re Southern New Hampshire University: The school has emerged as one of

the national powerhouses of adult online education. Its commercials are all over cable TV, in case you haven't noticed.

Southern Vermont College the latest to announce it's closing

Needless to say, UMass's Marty Meehan isn't exaggerating the market pressures on colleges today, especially small private colleges (see first item in our Happening Today section above). The latest higher-education casualty: Southern Vermont College, which announced yesterday it will be closing after conclusion of this spring semester, citing dire financial problems, reports Jim Kinney at MassLive.

Amid mounting public criticism, MBTA members balk at fare hike for all riders

From Bruce Mohl at Commonwealth magazine: "Facing pushback from the public and transportation advocates on a proposed 6.3 percent average MBTA fare increase, some members of the transit agency's oversight board signaled on Monday that they may not rubber-stamp the increase. Brian Lang, a director of the Fiscal and Management Control Board, said the T shouldn't be raising its fares in isolation from the rest of the transportation system."

Meanwhile, the Globe's Adam Vaccaro reports that "bus riders, senior citizens, and students may yet see a reprieve from the MBTA fare hike, after members of the transit system's board of directors asked it to consider keeping rates stable for those riders."

Senate slips family-cap measure into mid-year spending bill

From SHNS's Colin Young: "The Senate is proposing to eliminate a state limit on family welfare benefits as part of a \$144 million mid-year spending bill that is poised to become the first significant piece of legislation passed this session by the Senate later this week. New Senate Ways and Means Committee Chairman Michael Rodrigues proposed a new version (S 2181) of the supplemental budget bill passed last week in the House (H 3506) and the Senate teed it up for consideration at a full formal session this Thursday."

Purdue Pharma says Healey's lawsuit is 'sensational and inflammatory'

Speaking of Sackler family, Purdue Pharma and the peddling of opioid drugs, the company is firing back at Attorney General Maura Healey's lawsuit against the drug firm, filing for dismissal of the case and accusing Healey's office of engaging in "sensational and inflammatory" rhetoric, reports the BBJ's Jessica Bartlett.

File under: Small violin – very small.

Btw: Did you read the Globe story the other day about the former Insys Therapeutics? **continued on page 7**

REP. BIELE VOTES TO PASS \$135 MILLION SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET

Includes funding for low income heating assistance programs, homeless shelters, sexual assault kits



Representative David Biele joined his colleagues in the Massachusetts House of Representatives to pass a supplemental budget which addresses multiple areas including heating assistance, enhanced support for victims of sexual assault, and programs to help those battling homelessness.

The spending bill, approximately \$135 million, highlights the House's ongoing commitment in support of critical social service investments while balancing fiscal prudence; this practice has resulted in Massachusetts priori-

tizing its most vulnerable residents while maintaining a strong and diverse economy.

The supplemental budget makes key investments in crucial areas:

- \$30 million for Low Income Heating Energy Assistance to make up for Federal funding shortfalls;
- \$10 million to fund emergency assistance for homeless families;
- \$8 million for Sexual Assault Evidence Kits at the State Police Crime Lab; and
- \$39 million to fund ratified collective bargaining agreements

at various state agencies.

"This supplemental budget funds critical programs and supports the important work being done at the State Police Crime Lab regarding sexual assault cases," said Rep. Biele. "As we continue to face winter weather and cold temperatures, this legislation will have an immediate impact on our neediest families by providing heating assistance to low income families as well as emergency homeless assistance."

The supplemental budget now heads to the Massachusetts State Senate for consideration.

“The Heights”

The second of a 3-part series on the History of Evacuation Day

Brian R. Mahoney In Memoriam



The British conducted their last and most destructive raid into South Boston (Dorchester Neck) on February 13, 1776, burning houses and property of the Blake, Wiswell and Foster families among others. This time however, the Americans responded with 300 mounted troops, causing the British to flee in their longboats. It was this raid which seems to have been the final straw. Washington had been advocating for a frontal assault across the ice from Cambridge and Roxbury. His military council disagreed and after his final council of war on February 26, Washington wrote, “I am preparing to take a position on Dorchester Heights to see if the enemy will come out to meet me.” He had reversed course and decided the Americans would fight from forti-

fied positions and force the British to make the frontal assault.

On the morning of March 2, the Americans opened a three-day bombardment of the British in Boston. Under an advance protective screen of 800 infantry, 2,000 artillery men began their stealthy advance into South Boston. With muffled horses’ hooves and wagon wheels, this column began to snake its way up the “Turnpike” (Dorchester Street). Reaching the area of today’s “Telegraph Street”, nine cannons for three artillery batteries were muscled up to the peak of the “Twin Hill.”

The column continued up the “Turnpike” until it reached today’s Perkins Square area. There, a sloping hill began to rise, extending west toward the West Broadway parking lot and north toward Dorchester Street and Em-

erson Street. This hill was known as “Leek’s Hill” and was designated for 7 cannons. Emerson Street, the second of South Boston’s original remaining streets, was called the “way to the Castle” and extended all the way to the east shore (Farragut Road). The column moved on this road to roughly “M” & East Fourth Street. At this point, six cannons were dragged up to “Bush Tree Hill” where their muzzles towered menacingly over the British warships at anchor. The last leg of the eastern march ended at Dorchester Point where a single three-gun battery was placed.

Back at “Leek’s Hill”, 700 men and 10 cannons skirted the western base and followed “Plaski Ave.” to West Third Street. This third and final road was known as the “Way to the Nook.” This road reached, straight as an arrow, to the 125 foot high “Nook Hill” located at today’s “B” & West Third Street. This hill was closest to British positions and warship anchorage so presented the most danger to the British. At the same time, its nearness made it the most exposed to British fire. It was decided by the Americans to fortify this hill last.

The cannon’s movement and the actual construction of their fortifications was a master stroke itself. Besides wrapping hooves and wheels in rags to muffle sounds, the Americans took a number of pre-emptive measures that led directly to victory.

The crossing into the “Neck” would have been under the eyes and guns of the British, particularly the “Green” artillery position located on a rise at today’s Berkeley and Washington Streets intersection. The American created a “Blind” or a wall that would cover their movements by twisting and weaving hay. This was called “Screwed Straw”. Washington, for weeks, had his troops out in the “Wilderness” of Dorchester collecting thin tree branches and kindling. This was used to build “Fascine” or walls around cannon positions; usually by digging a trench and combing dirt and branches to make those protective walls. The frozen ground plus the need for secrecy made digging impossible. The solution was called, “chandelier”. These were simply 10 by 4 foot skeletal wooden tubs. Light, mobile, easily moved into position around the cannons, filled with the

“Fascines” and immediately turned into sturdy defensive walls.

During the next three days, the men labored to erect defenses while the non-stop bombardment of Boston provided cover their actions. A bombardment so fierce that famed jurist, Oliver Wendell Holmes, later wrote and spoke of it in a childhood memory. As a Boston schoolboy in the 1850’s, Homes recalled passing everyday by a house which still has “cannonball embedded in its chimney since that barrage”.

Over the centuries, Americans have been stirred to the defense of their country, in part by words identifying their cause. “Remember 911” is most recent. Before that it was “Remember Pearl Harbor”. Earlier, “Remember the Maine”. Still earlier, “Remember the Alamo”. It was on the “Heights” that call to battle was first used as General Washington walked among the troops exhorting them to “Remember the Men of March the Fifth”. Speaking of course, of the “Boston Massacre” six years earlier.

Upon awakening on March 5, 1776, General Howe first noticed the silenced cannons. Next, across the harbor, was the astonishing sight of the “Heights” bristling with troops and cannon from four positions. He then made his famous statement, “These men have done more work in a night than mine could do in a month.” Undeterred, Howe immediately drew up plans to attack across the harbor and dislodge the Americans from the Heights. All day, Boston was the scene of increasing alarm as British troops hustled about preparing for battle. Longboats were brought from the warships to ferry the troops for the assault and tied up at “Long Wharf”. By late afternoon, 2,400 troops were lined up at the foot of “Long Wharf”, today’s Purchase Street.

Stay tuned next week for the final chapter.

In the meantime, please remember public drinking is illegal.

A number of “Family Zones” have been created throughout the parade route and will be listed today and next week. Please ask your guests to respect the celebration, the town, and themselves and refrain from “Mardi Gras” type actions. Folks have worked diligently for a year to provide a safe, fun day that can be enjoyed by all.

Take care till next week.

William “Buddy” Christopher To Receive The 1st Annual Francis “Mickey” Roache Award

The South Boston Citizens Association is pleased to announce the creation of the Francis “Mickey” Roache Award, to be awarded at the Annual Evacuation Day Banquet. “This award will be presented to an individual, who is a truly dedicated and committed, who cares about city government and has contributed so much in their own unique way throughout the city. It is fitting for the Citizens’ Association, and the South Boston community, to honor William “Buddy” Christopher, the Commissioner of the Inspectional Services Department of the City of Boston.” President McGrath said.

William Christopher Jr. was born in Boston and is a long-time resident of the Dorchester area. Christopher, known to family and friends by the nickname “Buddy,” is married to his high



school sweetheart and raised his six children in Savin Hill. Commissioner Christopher moved from South Boston to the Bronx, NY from the 4th – 9th grade. At the age of 14, while attending grammar school in New York, an English teacher gave him a book on the life of Antonio Gaudi, a Spanish architect. This is the point when he started taking mechanical drafting and at the age of 15 knew he wanted to become an architect.

Returning to Boston, he graduated from South Boston High School and received his bachelor’s degree in Architecture from the Boston Architectural Center and attended a Career Discovery Program at the Harvard Graduate School of Design. He is a registered architect in the Common-

wealth of Massachusetts and the States of Rhode Island and New Hampshire. He is also a national key member of National Council of Architectural Registration Board (NCARB).

Christopher worked for the City of Boston in the 1990s as an Assistant Director for Architecture and Engineering in the Department of Neighborhood Development.

He was the co-founder of Roche-Christopher Architecture LLC, located in Dorchester, MA. With over 30 years of experience in architectural design, his work included the McLaughlin Center for the Boys and Girls Club of Dorchester, City of Boston Uphams Corner Municipal Building, Church of Boston at 1299 Massachusetts Ave, the League School in Walpole, MA, and other various projects located throughout the North East.

Buddy has also used his professional skills to help numerous families and non-profit organizations throughout Greater Boston by providing pro bono services to those in need. In Savin Hill, Christopher has been an active member of his community over the years in various ways, from serving as a soccer coach for the All Dorchester Sports Leagues (ADSL), as commissioner of Savin Hill Little League, a key volunteer for the former St. William’s Parish, and the former

President of the Columbia/Savin Hill Civic Association. While raising six children, Buddy Christopher knew the importance of civic engagement, community and being a good neighbor—and these are all priorities he still values in his professional capacity today.

In 2014, William Christopher was appointed as the Commissioner of the Boston Inspectional Services Department by Mayor Martin J. Walsh. As the Building Commissioner of Boston, Christopher has transformed one of the most important and complex difficult agencies in the city by focusing on changing the culture of the organization and using new technology to better serve the residents of Boston. Every week, Commissioner Christopher is out at community meetings talking to residents about the Agency and engaging community members. He leads by the belief that his agency is there to serve the people and businesses of the City, and he has an open-door policy for his employees and all residents of Boston.

Tickets to the 139th Evacuation Day Banquet on March 15th, can be purchased by contacting Tom McGrath at 857-204-5825. Cocktail Hour will be from 5:30 to 6:30 with seating for Dinner promptly at 7PM. Ticket sales are going at a rapid pace since the announcements of Award Recipients.

John Allison Presented the Community Service Advocacy Award

*‘Polish Triangle United’
Honors John Allison*

John Allison, the South Boston Coordinator for Boston Neighborhood Services representing Mayor Marty Walsh and Boston City Hall recently won high praise and a Community Service/Community Advocate Award from

very grateful members of the Polish Triangle United organization. Polish Triangle United, which was founded by Bill Trabucco, is made up of a dedicated group of hard-working neighborhood activists with the goal of making improvements to the community.

Among the many issues Bill Trabucco and Polish Triangle United focus on are traffic safety, parking, street lighting, proper street signage and other quality of life concerns in their ongoing efforts to make the neighborhood a good place to live. And this is where John Allison, with his expertise in such matters, fits in perfectly. And this is one of the reasons he is so much appreciated by the residents of what’s always and traditionally

been called ‘The Polish Triangle’ and in fact the entire area he represents on behalf of City Hall.

John Allison is a graduate of Suffolk University and like his dad, Robert Allison, who heads up the South Boston Historical Society and is the lead historian at Suffolk, is a historian in his own right. He grew up in South Boston and knows the needs and concerns of the neighborhood, which is and should be, a requirement for anyone in his position.

The Community Service Award presented to John Allison by Bill Trabucco and The Polish Triangle United organization is by all accounts well deserved. This is a man who works hard and has earned the accolades he gets from the people he advocates for so well.



Councilor Flaherty Files Hearing Order On School Year 13

Can A Year-long Intensive Program Close Achievement Gap

Boston City Councilor At-Large Michael F. Flaherty has filed a hearing order regarding the feasibility of implementing Year 13 programming in the Boston Public Schools System. Year 13 programming could be utilized as an additional resource to close the achievement gap for our students.

The hearing order comes in re-



sponse to feedback from residents and other stakeholders in support of the concept of an intensive, year-long focused program that provides additional support to students who

may opt into the program before leaving high school. Year 13 provides students with an extra year of high school that allows for students get on track for entrance to four-year colleges, vocational-technical school and/or community college as well. If implemented, Boston would be joining the ranks of many other schools across the country that are building student-centered curriculums and supports that provides all students with opportunities to flourish. Some schools across the country have even partnered with their local colleges for student transition.

“The Boston Public School system is home to over 16,000 high school aged students across, on minimum, twenty high schools throughout the City of Boston,” noted Councilor Flaherty. “Further, as we know, we live in a competitive global economy that requires our students to have equally com-

petitive skills to access and fully participate in this economy. As a result, we need to advocate for innovative solutions to close the achievement gap in our education system. Boston is home to some of the best colleges and universities in the country and there are incredible companies that call and are looking to call Boston home. Our students deserve to access the opportunities waiting for them in their own backyards, and yet, we’re finding that they’re not.”

The hearing order has been assigned to the City Council’s Committee on Education. Boston City Councilor At-Large Michael F. Flaherty is looking forward to a robust, collaborative discussion about Year 13 as a tool to provide all students with opportunities to succeed in whatever path they decide to pursue. For further information, please call Councilor Flaherty’s office at 617-635-4205.

Councilor Flynn Calls For Hearing On Increasing Linkage Fees to Fund Early Childhood Education

Cites Concerns on Childhood Development & Day Care

Boston City Councilor Ed Flynn called for a hearing to discuss the possibility of using linkage fees from large scale commercial developments to fund early childhood education. Early childhood education - including pre-kindergarten and



day care- is a critical component of a child’s development. Recent reports have highlighted the focus on child care plans from a number of candidates at the national level, as well as

Mayor Walsh’s efforts to enroll 3,000 students for pre-kindergarten last year. Councilor Flynn believes a conversation is needed to discuss ways that the city can help fund these services so that every child can have access to early childhood education, regardless of their socioeconomic status. Flynn would also like to discuss requirements to include child care services in new, large scale developments.

Studies have consistently shown that quality early childhood education has a significant and positive impact on a child’s learning, future earnings, health, and family stability - especially for children from lower-income families. However, childcare is expensive and pre-kindergarten seats are limited in Boston Public Schools, making it difficult for many families to find quality and affordable early childhood education for their children. With recent legislation filed by both Mayor Walsh

and Councilor Edwards to allow the City more flexibility to adjust and increase linkage fees, a discussion on the possibility of using linkage fees to fund early childhood education is timely.

“I know that being able to enroll a child into Pre-K or having affordable child care is vitally important and, at the same time, difficult for many parents in our city- especially our low-income families,” Councilor Flynn said. “This is an issue that Mayor Walsh remains focused on, and one that is also being discussed extensively at the national level. With possible changes in linkage fees on the horizon, it’s worthwhile for us to explore this as a way to help fund early childhood education, assist families in our city, and to place our children on the best path for success in school and what their future has in store.”

For more information, please contact Councilor Flynn’s office at 617-635-3203 or ed.flynn@boston.gov..

Window into the State House...

Continued from page 4

peutics executive who urged his sales team to watch ‘The Wolf of Wall Street’ to get pumped up to sell the firm’s Fentanyl spray to doctors and patients? He testified last week at the landmark federal racketeering trial in Boston against former Insys executives, who are accused of, among other things, bribing doctors to prescribe its opioid product.

The elderly housing squeeze: It’s getting worse

As part of a series on the housing crisis in Massachusetts, Eli Sherman at Wicked Local takes a look at how senior citizens are getting crushed by rising rents and the cost of living in general in Massachusetts. Not even reverse mortgages or selling off their homes at premium prices are covering rising costs.

Bernie Sanders: Time to declare victory and go home?

David Bernstein at WGBH reports that many Dems are shaking their heads over U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders’ second bid for the presidency. Bernstein lays out two possible scenarios that could unfold, including his candidacy splitting the progressive vote and harming candidates like Elizabeth

Warren. “To an awful lot of Democrats, it seems obvious that Sanders should simply declare victory in the battle of ideas, and go home.”

The Herald’s Michael Graham writes that there’s yet another scenario that Republicans would dearly love to see: The “dream candidate” Sanders actually winning the Dem nomination – and getting croaked in the general election by Trump.

The Wine Guy

Sweet Tooth

Most times in this column, I'm talking about dry wines, which is what the majority of wines made today are. However, over the last decade, there's been a growing preference for something more on the sweet side, especially among younger wine drinkers.

So, let's take a look at a few.

Schloss Johannisberg Riesling Bronze lack Trocken Rheingau, 2016, (\$29.99). A single vineyard wine from what the label proudly proclaims is the world's premier riesling estate, it's made from grapes that are picked late so that the flavors are layered, concentrated and complex. Huge lemon and citrus flavours abound with notes of herb and spice. Can be drunk now or kept for another few years and it's really great with heavier cheeses, shellfish and pork dishes.

Roscato Rosso Dolce Sweet Red, NV, (\$16.99), is an irresist-

ible, delicately sweet, gently fizzy red wine from the northern Italian region of Lombardy. Made from three native grape varieties grown in this beautiful region for centuries – Croatina, Teroldego and Lagrein – Roscato makes a wonderful aperitif and is also incredibly food-friendly. The "NV" on the label means that this is a non-vintage wine, blended from wines harvested in different years. You could have this one with braised ribs, spicy Hunan Chinese or some down-home BBQ.

Blandy's 10-Year Rich Madei-

ra Malmsey, (\$24.99), is a fortified Portuguese wine made of a combination of red and white grapes. The red grapes include Bastardo and Tinta Negra, while the rest of the grapes used in the wine are white. While not all Madeira wines are sweet, many people enjoy the sweeter Madeira wines for dessert.

Because part of the process of making Madeira involves heating the wine, it winds up a tawny color regardless of whether it's made with red or white wine grapes. If you've got a

sweet tooth, this is the one!

Castello del Poggio Moscato, 2017, Piedmont, Italy, (\$16.99). Originating in Piedmont, home of some of Italy's most sought-after wines, its slightly-sweet, refreshingly low-alcohol personality was the inspiration for this vineyard's entire collection. With an unmistakable flavor of peach, musk, honey, and white flowers, this Moscato pairs perfectly with delicate desserts, Thai spice, smoky cheeses, and Mexican dishes.

Talk to The Wine Guy at
jdris8888@gmail.com



Adult Learners continued from FRONT PAGE

months, and "it has become clear that our single greatest opportunity to preserve a thriving, healthy and prosperous UMass while meeting our workforce development mission is to take bold and intentional steps to make a UMass education more accessible to students we are not currently serving at scale." Those campus-based online programs already in place will continue to operate, serving blended and full-time online students working toward their bachelor's and master's degrees.

Several factors are driving the decision to launch the online college, Meehan said. One of them is a projected decrease of between 32,000 and 54,000 college students, who are of traditional college age, due to "plunging birth rates" during the Great Recession of 2008, which is expected to affect enrollment in a big way beginning in 2026. That short-

age, Meehan said, would leave schools with too much capacity, tracking along with expert predictions that portend the closing or merging of a quarter or more of colleges and universities over the next 10 to 15 years.

Another influence is coming from other institutions that have been recruiting in Massachusetts for their programs. Meehan specifically mentioned Southern New Hampshire University, which enrolls an estimated 15,000 Massachusetts residents, as well as Penn State World Campus and Purdue Global.

"The time for us to act is now," Meehan asserted. "Over the next several years, there will be four to five major players in online education with strong regional footholds, and we intend to be one of them."

Meehan said that the online university would generate revenue invested back into the other campuses to sustain the university's core mission

of educating those traditional undergraduate and graduate students attending campus-based and online programs.

Along with the launch of the new school, the university has already taken other steps to address financial stability; among them, creation of a shared services model for business transactions that is expected to save the university \$17 million each year and an increase in the use of data analysis and predictive analytics for better decision-making.

Publisher's Note: The New England regional education market has seen the following small colleges close, in the process of closing or reorganizing: Mount Ida (acquired by UMass), Wheelock (merged with BU), Hampshire College, Newbury College, College of St. Joseph, and Marian Court College, with others undergoing accreditation review and financial belt-tightening that may not save them in the end.

St. Peter Academy celebrates Dr. Seuss' Birthday

By Maria Blasi

Dr. Seuss' Birthday is a really big deal at St. Peter Academy and this year was one of the best ever! Everyone from teachers to students from Toddler to Grade 6 participated. All the zany characters were

represented, the Grinch, Cat and the Hat, the Lorax, Thing One & Thing Two and even Cindy Lou Who! Happy 115th Birthday Dr. Seuss. Thank you for creating all the wonderful characters and books for everyone to enjoy! Today you are you! That is truer

than true! There is no one alive who is you-er than you! - Dr. Seuss
St. Peter Academy in an independent, community-based private school and serves students from ages 15 months through grade 6. SPA is currently accepting applications for

the limited spaces available in the year-round toddler program (beginning at age 15 months) and for students in Pre-K, Kindergarten and grades 1-6. Join us!
Appointments for individual tours can be made by contacting the Main Office at 617-268-0750 or by emailing SPA@StPeterAcademy.com.





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Citizens Association Announces Jimmy Kelly/ Peggy Flaherty Shamrock Awards

South Boston Citizens' Association President Tom McGrath announced the Association's 2019 recipients of the James M. "Jimmy" Kelly/Margaret "Peggy" Flaherty Shamrock Awards for Community Service. The 2019 Shamrock Awards will be presented to Corey Morrissey, Ellen McDonough and Bobby "Red" O'Shea for their selfless efforts in aiding those in need, and pitching in at the drop of a hat, for any benefit or worthy cause in and around the town. These awards will be presented at the Annual Evacuation day Banquet to be held on March 15, 2019 at the South Boston Convention Center.

Corey Morrissey has been involved in community service since beginning a program at the age of 21, which provided day trips for the teens in South Boston. She worked tirelessly gathering donations from merchants and organizing day trips, providing transportation, and chaperoning these trips in order to keep teens busy and out of trouble. If you asked those teens who are now 47-50 years old, they still remember those years as the "best summers of their lives."

It is no surprise that with her love of children, Corey became a Special Ed Teacher. She works with troubled children in Quincy High School in the GOALS program, trying to keep kids in school and off of the streets. She has also been an irreplaceable resource and advocate to many families in South Boston, who are struggling with children with learning disabilities. Helping them navigate the system and receive the proper resources so that their children can be successful in school, despite having a learning disability. She has a calm, reassuring way about her that instantly makes you feel that she has the situation under control, and you are in good hands.

It was about 15 years ago that she began her involvement with the Veterans of South Boston, after the

passing of her father Eddie Morrissey, who was a US Marine and a Commander of the Fitzgerald Post. She knew how important this post was to her father and how it became an important socialization for him later in life. She could see the pride that the Veterans had, and the pride the South Boston community had in these veterans. She wanted to make sure the Veterans knew how important they are to our community. With her experience as a waitress and running banquets, she seamlessly began to coordinate Memorial Day, Veterans Day masses and breakfasts and the annual Christmas party, taking the burden off of the Veterans. She is their "go to girl" and she wouldn't have it any other way. "I have known Corey my whole life and she is most deserving of this award. She never hesitates to get involved in something she believes in, especially if it involves the quality of life in South Boston," McGrath stated.

Ellen McDonough is the third generation of the McDonough family that shares the love of their hometown of South Boston by continuing the legacy of community involvement. Ellen's grandfather, John McDonough was the 1960 Chief Marshal of the Evacuation/St Patrick's Day Parade and was very involved with community affairs. Her late father, Jack McDonough, was the 1973 president of the South Boston Babe Ruth League, coached Gatey High JV basketball, was President of the Tynan Community School Board & member of the City-Wide Board. Her Uncle Bill McDonough is past Athletic Director of the Gate of Heaven C.Y.O. and received the Citizens Association Shamrock Award in 2005 for his community involvement.

Ellen has worked behind the scenes of many community events in our town. She was on the committee that planned fundraisers and helped organize a trip for the veterans of the

Fitzgerald, Saunders and McDonough to travel to Washington DC. She went along and she loved listening to the stories of the "Greatest Generation" and sang a patriotic or favorite Irish song or two with them!

You may have met Ellen as a volunteer at the Gate of Heaven CYO Annual Fundraiser, helping her Uncle Bill 'Touchie' McDonough checking in guests and organizing the raffles. Ellen does a great job organizing and assisting with this event

If you are a teen or parent at St Brigid or Gate of Heaven, you may have met Ellen at a Confirmation class, as she has taught for 9 years and is now the program coordinator. She is a spiritual advisor to many kids and beloved by many. A graduate of Boston Latin School, Ellen has volunteered her time and gone back to Latin to discuss careers in public service to the new students. After Latin, Ellen went on to graduate from Harvard University. Ellen's family legacy continues and her grandfather and her father, Jack, would be very proud! Ellen is what this community is all about, giving back to others without hesitation."McGrath said.

Bob O'Shea is one of those South Bostonians, who always puts others first. Bob has been in public service for many years acting as a liaison to the Commonwealth for the Big Dig and currently as the Community Liaison for the MCCA and BCEC. This is a role Bob has taken very seriously over the years working with the South Boston Community Development Fund and creating new programs to ensure that the community shares in the convention centers success.

He created the CARE program, which, when appropriate, diverts excess goods and products from vendors at conventions directly to members of our community, who are in need. He has also developed a partnership with Madison Park High School, creating internships for our

high school culinary arts students. "For these reasons accompanied by his stellar performance engaging the community and addressing its concerns, I believe he is most deserving for the Shamrock Community service award. He has a lifetime of giving back to the South Boston community and his recognition is long overdue," stated McGrath

Beyond his work life, Bob has dedicated countless hours contributing to the South Boston community. He has coached youth sports, including baseball and Pop Warner for over a decade. He always answers the call, when civic volunteers are needed, like serving on design advisory committees. Bob over the years has quietly helped our young people to enter the workforce and helped our youth suffering from addiction.

It gives me great pleasure to announce these awards," said McGrath. "These are truly dedicated and committed individuals, who have contributed so much in their own unique ways. It is fitting for the Citizens' Association, and the South Boston community, to honor these individuals. Please join us at the banquet as we honor these great community friends"

The awards will be presented at the Association's 139th Annual Evacuation Day Banquet, to be held on Friday evening, March 15th, at the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center. Cocktail Hour begins at 5PM with Dinner being served at 7PM. Curragh's Fancy will provide the entertainment, along with a host of special Dignitaries. McGrath cautioned that tickets/tables are being purchased at a good pace, with South Boston's most valued community leaders receiving awards. I urge those that are planning to attend to act fast. For information on tickets call Tom McGrath at 1-857-204-5825.

Great Turnout for the Annual Jimmy Flaherty Kick-Off Breakfast

Staff Report

Last Saturday morning, March 2nd was the Annual St. Patrick's Day/Evacuation Day Jimmy Flaherty Kick Off Breakfast held at the Seapoint Restaurant in South Boston. It began at 10am and not only did it provide great food for the attendees, but also featured some excellent live music by the very talented Bob Fowkes and Curragh's Fancy.

This year's Chief Marshal for the parade, Lt. Colonel US Army (Ret.) John Beatty led the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance. The event chairman was Suffolk County Clerk of Court Michael Donovan. The event, named in honor of and in memory of the late Jimmy Flaherty is always a good time and when the day arrives for this breakfast, you just know that the St. Patrick's Day/Evacuation Day season is in full swing.

The Jimmy Flaherty Breakfast, sponsored by the South Boston Citizen's Association, President Tom McGrath, is also the time when the Henry Knox Award presentation takes place. The Henry Knox Award is presented to outstanding citizens, who devote so much of their time and effort to helping others and making the community a great place to live. As is always the case, this year, the Henry Knox Awards were given to three well-known, liked and dedicated citizens, who continually go over and above the norm on behalf of their neighbors and the neighborhood in general.

The awards recipients were Allison Baker, presented by City Councilor Ed Flynn, Fran Dempsey, presented by State Representative David Biele and Michael Dowling, presented by Congressman Stephen Lynch. These three outstanding citizens have won the praise of the South Boston Community for the good work they do and continue to do on behalf of others. Congratulations to all three, to those who turned out in support of them and to the South Boston Citizens Association for hosting this much anticipated gathering each year.



Gate of Heaven CYO “All-Star” Game

Article by Marie Laundry • Photos by Sean Monahan

In the most exciting game of the season, the winning team coached by Allison Baker and Jacqueline Beggan, grabbed the victory by one point! The girls wearing white are Talia Scott, Isabel Sheehan,

Iris Gjoka, Gia LaMonica, Melena McGahan, Patricia Casper and Brigid Fitzgerald.

The team wearing blue, coached by Christina McDonagh, were Caleigh Houlihan, Phoebe Alto, Kiera Lombard, Brooke Doocey,

Tessa Joyce and Caitlyn Noonan. Running the scoring table was first place coach, Emily Harris and longtime volunteer, Mary Kate Hart. Marie Laundry, director of the girl's program and referee, was excited to see the improvement

shown after (15) weeks of Gatey's house league program.

Special thanks to Kevin Lally, Sean Monahan, John McGahan, Cheech, and the teenagers who work at the Walsh Center who keep the building in such good shape.



LENT 2019

Tuesdays During Lent

The Holy Rosary – Tuesday Evenings at 6:30PM at Gate of Heaven Church on East Fourth Street

Wednesdays During Lent

6:30PM – 7:30PM

PRAYER, REFLECTION, ADORATION & CONFESSION

6:30pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

6:40PM-7PM Spiritual Talk

7-7:30PM Confessions & Adoration

Join us on every Wednesday evening

Wednesday, March 13th – Gate of Heaven Church

Presenter: Rev. Robert Casey, Pastor

Wednesday, March 20th – St. Brigid Church

Presenter: Rev. Thomas Olson, Parochial Vicar

Wednesday, March 27 – Gate of Heaven Church

Presenter: Rev. Patrick Nolan, SJ Jesuit Assistant

Wednesday, April 3 – St. Brigid Church

Presenter: Msgr. Liam Bergin, Priest Assistant

Wednesday, April 10 – Gate of Heaven Church

Presenter: Deacon Adam Rosinski, SJ

Wednesday, April 17 – St. Brigid Church

Adoration and Confessions from 6:30 – 7:30PM

Fridays During Lent

Stations of the Cross • Every Friday during Lent

3PM at Gate of Heaven Church

Daily Mass

Gate of Heaven Church: Monday through Friday at 9AM

St. Brigid Church: Monday through Friday 7AM



South Boston Catholic Young Adult Commission

Lenten Study Series

Interested in giving up something this year for Lent, how about taking something on, like spiritual discussion with your peers? Please join fellow South Boston Young adults in Bible study. Starting March 14, we will meet each Thursday during Lent at 7PM in the lower church at Gate of Heaven. Because Sacred Scripture is one of the ways through which God speaks to us, each night we will prayerfully read and discuss together the following Sunday's readings.

RSVP at <https://lentenbible.eventbrite.com>.

Gate of Heaven & St. Brigid Parishes

Adult Confirmation Classes

Classes are open to anyone who is over the age of 18, has been baptized into the Catholic Church, and has received First Penance and First Communion, but not yet been Confirmed.

Documentation for Baptism and First Communion must be provided. Classes will meet in the Parish Offices at 841 East Broadway from 6:30PM – 8PM. Class Dates... Thursday, March 14, 21 & 28 and on Thursday, April 4 and 11th. If you or anyone you know is interested, please contact Karin at cannata.sbgh@gmail.com or call the Parish Office 617-268-2122.

Opening Day at Sullivan's Always A Blast

SBT Staff Report

To South Bostonians, traditions have always been an important part of life. We have the traditions celebrated and observed within our families, the special holiday activities during Christmas, Easter, Independence Day and of course St. Patrick's Day, among so many others. And then there is that uniquely Southie tradition – opening day at Sully's; where local residents are joined by hordes of visitors to our community in a massive daylong migration to Castle Island. And so it was once again last Friday, when a stampede of people from far and wide brought their cash and their appetites to be part of this special day.

The Sullivan's Restaurant staff was poised and ready as the doors or floodgates opened early, and the throngs flowed in and feasted their eyes on the impressive menu and then began placing their orders. The opening week

half price hot dogs were one of the most requested items, as always. But the menu has something for everyone. The burgers, fries, onion rings and the ever-popular lobster rolls were going like hotcakes. The coffee, shakes, soft drinks, smoothies and every other delicious selection were in big demand, as well. It does not matter how long the lines or how large the order, the staff reacts with the speed and precision of a well-trained military unit, accommodating all with amazing accuracy. The staff is pleasant, friendly and professional. And for the most part, the appreciative customers respond in kind. And this was the scene throughout the day long event.

But there was so much more going on. Old friends and neighbors, who hadn't seen each other in some cases for years, got a chance to catch up, and new friends were made while passing the time in the line. The weather was chilly, but sunny and pretty nice for March 1st,

at least early on before the clouds began moving in. But, a little nip in the air didn't seem to faze anyone.

South Boston Today was in the mix and we were having as much fun as everyone else. We got to speak with many locals and visitors alike and everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves in this festive atmosphere. Abby Covello, formerly from the North End and now living in Maine, says she hasn't missed an opening day in years, even though she's been living out of state since 2014. With her kids and 4 of their friends in tow, she was all smiles and the kids were having a blast, loving all the commotion. It was a road trip for them. They always plan their annual visit to Boston to coincide with the day Sully's opens.

Visiting the historical sites is on the itinerary to be sure but joining the crowd at Castle Island and enjoying a couple of Sully's 'snapper dogs' and a cup of hot coffee or burgers, fries and

sodas for the kids is a must to make the visit complete. Former Southie residents, Doreen and Marty Sullivan, accompanied their Uncle Bob Fennessy. For them too, this was an annual trip not to be missed. Pat and Bill Condon drove in from Waltham and were clearly enjoying themselves in the festive atmosphere. And then there were friends, Jackie and Alycia, hanging out with their canine pal 'Bane', a beautiful German Shepard wearing a Patriot's sweater and downing a couple of hot dogs himself.

The day was busy and noisy and crowded and hectic, but most would agree it was fun. Because opening day at Sullivan's at Castle Island isn't simply the first day of the season for a restaurant, it's an experience that people look forward to and return for year after year. 9-year-old Jenny Bickford was munching on a grilled cheese sandwich and by the look on her face it was plain to see she was loving every bite. When asked if she was enjoying the day, she smiled and said, "OH YEAH!"



Tynan Happenings

The South Boston Evacuation Day Free Throw Contest, sponsored by the South Boston Citizen's Association, has been postponed at the

BCYF Tynan due to weather. The event has been rescheduled to Monday March 11th at 6pm. The BCYF Tynan Instructional Basketball program for youth ages

5 thru 7 started a couple of weeks ago with 40 youngsters signed up. This is an 8-week program focusing on the fundamentals of Basketball, (i.e. Dribbling, Shooting and Passing.) By the end of the season children's skill development has progressed and are able to partici-

pate in scrimmages.

Youth Summer Jobs are here! City Of Boston Department of Engagement & Employment will be hiring youth ages 15-18 through the Successlink. Visit youth.boston.gov to register between now and April 5, 2019.



Boxing Show this Saturday, March 9th, Peter Welch's Gym

The Annual St. Patrick's Day/ Evacuation Day Boxing Show is this Saturday, March 9th beginning at 6pm, Peter Welch Gym, located at 371 Dorchester Ave in Southie.

If you're looking for some of the best athletic competition that can be found anywhere, the Peter Welch Gym is the place to be. On this night, the crowd will get to see these young men AND young women displaying their amazing boxing skills with all their energy, talent and heart, as they battle each other for their trophies. All competitors will be wearing safety equipment

and have been coached and trained by professional adults. Something else that will be on display this night will be good sportsmanship, as it always is.

There is no charge for admission and it's always a good time for the participants as well as the crowds of spectators who turn out to cheer on and show their support for these young boxers. This event is co-sponsored by the South Boston Citizens Association, President, Tom McGrath and the Peter Welch Gym. Register of Deeds Stephen Murphy is chairman of the Boxing Show.



Good Kids Being Good Neighbors!

The heavy snow storm last weekend was big enough for schools to be cancelled according to the City of Boston. But James, Bobby and Addis McFarlen from K Street, pictured in the photo, decided they would

make good use of their free time, grabbed shovels and were found clearing the icy snow from this fire hydrant on Sixth Street in Southie. They did a great service and made things safer for the surrounding neighbors. In the event of a fire in the area, the Fire Department would have easy access to the water supply to put out the blaze. Congratulations, well done and THANK YOU to these thoughtful local kids. Your effort was very much appreciated. Photo submitted by Brad Hill. Thanks Brad!



This week, Danny shared his thoughts on some early Patriots offseason story lines:

Spring is almost here, which means business is about to pick up in the world of sports. March Madness is right around the corner, and then before you know it, the Major League baseball season will officially begin, and we'll have more playoff hockey and playoff basketball than we know what to do with.

But even with all that going on, the NFL always finds a way to sneak into the news, and sometimes steal the top story.

The Patriots are never a stranger to the NFL's drama-filled offseason. Even if it's just a rumor that they're involved in. And as Bill Belichick and Tom Brady get set to return in 2019 and go after a seventh Super Bowl championship together, all eyes will be on what type of weapons they'll look to acquire.

There are some big names on the market. Le'Veon Bell is a free agent. Antonio Brown has demanded a trade from the Pittsburgh Steelers. And you never know what the New York Giants are going to do with Odell Beckham Jr.

So where do the Patriots come into those discussions? Well, maybe they won't acquire any of those three superstars. But at the very least, everyone in New England will once again be putting

their GM caps on and considering the possibilities.

The common theme to every Patriots offseason, it seems, is that people don't believe Brady has enough weapons. Nobody in this town has ever really been satisfied with the Pats' receivers as a whole. So when a big name is available, whether in free agency or a potential trade, there's always a sense of, "The Patriots should go after him."

I wouldn't put my money on Belichick acquiring Bell, Brown, or Beckham Jr. For one, I don't see the Steelers trading Brown to the Patriots under any circumstances. I also don't believe that the Giants will be making any attempts to help New England out either. Would the Pats throw the big bucks at Bell? I doubt it. Belichick is all about value. And at the running back position especially, I'd say the Patriots feel they have some pretty good running-back value with Sony Michel and James White.

I don't usually go too crazy about potential big-name wide receivers in the offseason, but I'll tell you what, I'd much rather have that discussion than sit here and talk about drafting or trading for Brady's successor. Because I have a feeling that's the road everyone

in New England is about to go down this offseason.

The latest rumor is that the Patriots could be interested in trading for Arizona Cardinals quarterback Josh Rosen, now that the Cardinals have let it be known they're interested in Heisman Trophy winner Kyler Murray with the No. 1 overall pick in this year's Draft.

The Cardinals drafted Rosen last year with the No. 10 overall pick. In his rookie season in 2018, Rosen threw for 2,278 yards with 11 touchdowns and 14 interceptions in 14 games. He's 6-foot-4, 226 pounds, and just turned 22 years old in February. So he's still a work in progress.

Rosen would obviously benefit from sitting behind Brady for a few years. And he's under contract for three more seasons, which is probably a good timetable for Brady's career to be just wrapping up. But I guess you never know, when it comes to Brady.

For what it's worth, I'm against the idea of trading the No. 32 overall pick in this year's draft to acquire Rosen. Only because, what happens if Brady plays for three more seasons, and then in two years, the Patriots come across a QB in the draft that they fall in love with? I'd expect they'd draft him. But then you'd

have wasted a first-round pick on Rosen, instead of having used that pick to add a player to help Brady win another championship while he was still playing.

I don't think the Patriots need to rush into any backup quarterback decisions at this point. As long as they feel Brady has a couple years left, which he does, then they don't need to worry about his successor just yet. Instead, they need to go all in on the Brady era. So, while the conversations about adding a big-name wide receiver are probably unrealistic, it's definitely a more necessary move than trading for a future franchise QB right now.

And I'd like to believe that Belichick has a pretty good idea as to what Brady's timetable is. If Brady has told Belichick this is going to be his last year, then ok, I guess you should consider a Rosen trade. But do we really think this is going to be Brady's last year? Come on.

The Patriots have some time to think about Brady's successor. They should spend their time this offseason worrying about Super Bowl ring No. 7.

Listen to the show at PodcastOne. Also available on iTunes, Spotify, and dannypicard.com. Subscribe to Danny's YouTube channel at youtube.com/dannypicard.

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SPORTS TODAY

HARPER SIGNS LARGEST CONTRACT IN MLB HISTORY

SBT Staff

Bryce Harper has signed a 13-year, \$330 million deal with the Philadelphia Phillies. It is the largest contract in Major League Baseball history, and it includes no opt-out clauses and a full no-trade clause.

Harper's deal comes just after Manny Machado signed a 10-year, \$300 million deal with the San Diego Padres. Previously, the largest contract in MLB history was Giancarlo Stanton's 13-year, \$325 million deal that he signed with the Miami Marlins back in 2014.

The average annual salary of \$25.4 million for Harper is not the highest in baseball though. That salary belongs to Arizona Diamondbacks starter Zack Greinke, whose average annual salary is \$34.4 million.

Just days before Harper signed with the Phillies, Colorado third baseman Nolan Arenado signed an eight-year, \$260 million extension to stay with the Rockies, which is the league's second-highest average annual salary at \$32.5 million.

Harper and his agent, Scott Boras, were obviously more concerned with the largest total salary, which they received from the Philadelphia. However, since Harper has signed with the Phillies, there's already been

speculation that the Los Angeles could be ready to give Mike Trout a long-term deal worth a total of \$350 million before he becomes a free agent after the 2020 season.

Here in Boston, seeing all this money being thrown around, the question then becomes, "What will the Red Sox offer Mookie Betts when he becomes a free agent after the 2020 season?" Betts and the Red Sox avoided arbitration this offseason by agreeing to a one-year, \$20 million contract for 2019, setting a record for a second-year arbitration-eligible player.

Betts is just 26 years old and is the reigning American League MVP. Certainly he has the right to ask for one of these mega deals, especially seeing how much money the Red Sox are currently paying some of his teammates. David Price makes \$31 million per year, and J.D. Martinez' average annual salary is \$22 million, so Betts will probably want somewhere between \$25 and \$30 million per year, for at least 10 years, if we're factoring in all the other crazy contracts that have just been signed.

The Red Sox also must consider the contracts they'll have to dish out over the next two years to players like Chris Sale, Xander Bogaerts, Rick Porcello, Jackie Bradley, and possibly Martinez, if he chooses to opt out after the 2019 season.

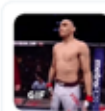
But at least now, with regards to Betts, after seeing the contracts signed by Machado, Arenado, and Harper this offseason, the Red Sox have a better understanding as to what type of offer they'll have to make to Betts.

Tweet of the Week



Conor McGregor
@TheNotoriousMMA

If we have the ability to go back, Tony. Then we have the ability to go forward again! I wish you well and am praying for you as a fellow colleague.
Respect to my Paradigm familia.
Yours sincerely, Burger King.



Tony Ferguson @TonyFergusonXT
"No Sauce Mchuggs" @TheNotoriousMMA Just A Replica Of A Former Self He Used To Be. I've Got A Solid Right Hand To Test That Chin Of His. How Sweet It Is. -Tiramisu Tuesday

WHAT TO WATCH

NBA SATURDAY, MARCH 9

Boston at LA LAKERS
8:30 P.M. ABC

NHL SATURDAY, MARCH 9

Ottawa at Boston
7 P.M. NESN

SUNDAY, MARCH 10

Boston at Pittsburgh
7:30 P.M. NBCSN

MLB SATURDAY, MARCH 9

NY Mets vs Boston
1:05 P.M. NESN

**PGA THURS, MARCH 7 -
SUN, MARCH 10**

Arnold Palmer Invitational
1 P.M. Golf Channel/NBC

FOLES EXPECTED TO SIGN WITH JACKSONVILLE

SBT Staff

The NFL's new league year doesn't begin until next Wednesday, March 13, but that hasn't stopped the offseason rumor mill.

ESPN's Dan Graziano reported this week that free-agent quarterback Nick Foles is expected to sign a multi-year deal with the Jacksonville Jaguars when free agency begins next week. According to the report, the Jaguars are also expected to release quarterback Blake Bortles and make Foles their starting QB in 2019.

After some speculation, the Philadelphia Eagles ultimately decided not to place the franchise tag on Foles. It had been reported that the Eagles were planning on franchising Foles for the purpose of trading him, but instead, the Eagles are expected to receive a compensation pick in return.

Foles' NFL career has been a wacky roller coaster ride. He was drafted by the Eagles in the third round of the 2012 draft. After three seasons in Philadelphia, Foles was traded to the Rams for quarterback Sam Bradford. Then, after one year with the Rams, Foles signed

a one-year deal with the Kansas City Chiefs to be Alex Smith's backup.

Foles ended up back in Philly on a two-year contract in 2017, and was the backup to Carson Wentz. When Wentz got injured in December of 2017, Foles replaced him as the Eagles' starting QB, and led them to the Super Bowl, where Philadelphia defeated the New England Patriots.

Foles was named Super Bowl LII MVP.

Last season, Foles returned to being Wentz' backup in Philly, even after winning a Super Bowl. When Wentz got injured again in December for the second straight year, Foles took over and got the Eagles into the playoffs, where they went into Chicago and upset the Bears in the Wild Card round.

With the Eagles once again committing to Wentz in 2019, it was time for Foles to find a new permanent home, and not as a backup quarterback. Jacksonville was one of the few possibilities, given quarterback need around the league. But with the report of Bortles being released, Foles to Jacksonville makes a lot of sense for both sides.



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