

Lessons From Boston Charter Schools

(excerpted from the Hechinger Report's Jill Barshay)

Research sometimes shows that charter schools are better at raising student achievement than traditional public schools. But many charter schools get about the same results and sometimes charter schools do worse. Since charter schools are funded by public tax dollars, it's important to have a way to decide which ones to open.

A new Boston study suggests a possible path forward: allow only charter schools that can prove they are better than traditional public schools to expand. That might sound like common sense, but many states and districts

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EDITORIAL

The White House Lit In Blue To Honor Fallen Police Officers



Last week the annual observance of Peace Officers Memorial Week was highlighted by the color blue. President Trump ordered the White House to be lit up in Blue Lights in honor of fallen police officers all over the country, who lost their lives in the line of duty. It's refreshing to see that, finally, there is an administration in Washington that openly and proudly shows its appreciation for the difficult and dangerous job America's law enforcement members have, while honoring their oath to 'Protect and Serve'.

By their courage and dedication and with their training, America's police officers including of course those who serve the people of Boston, put themselves in the line of fire constantly to make sure the rest of us are safe. If not for them, our country would fall into anarchy; of that there is no doubt. And there is good news. It was reported this week that so far in 2019 that the number of police officers killed in the line of duty is the lowest it's been in decades. Thankfully it seems that the growing numbers of assaults against them is in decline and let's hope it's a per-

manent thing. The strong support they are finally receiving from the White House on down seems to be having a positive effect, negating the lack of support and even at times, a hostility directed at them by irresponsible officials during the previous administration in DC.

So this Memorial Day, when we honor the memory of our nation's fallen military heroes and express our appreciation to those veterans still with us and active service members for the job they do, why not also say thank you to those other 'good guys' in uniform on duty – our 'cops'.

"One advantage of talking to yourself is that you know at least somebody's listening" - Franklin P. Jones

Police Seek Information on Brutal South Boston Attack



Police continue to investigate a brutal attack that took place in South Boston early Sunday morning, May 12th near the intersection of G and East 3rd Streets. According to police sources, it happened at approximately 1:00am, when a local resident attempted to quiet a large group of perhaps a dozen or more males and females, who were said to be causing a loud disturbance. The victim of the attack reportedly asked the crowd to keep the noise down, because there were families with young children that live in the area. The victim entered his home, but then came back out when the disturbance continued and asked the crowd

for a second time to quiet down. It was then that he was allegedly attacked and severely beaten by at least 2 members of the crowd.

The victim suffered several face fractures and a chest injury. Descriptions of the 2 attackers are as follows: One had blonde hair, parted on the side and about 5'10". The other, about 6'1" with dark hair and both looked to be between 25-32 years old and wearing jeans and dark T-Shirts. The Boston Police are reviewing the circumstances regarding the incident and are asking for help from residents. Anyone who knows details about what took place are asked to contact Boston Police District C-6, Detectives at 617-343-4742.

Police also remind residents that you can report what you saw without giving your name by calling the Crime Stoppers Tip Line at 800-494-8477 or you can text TIP to CRIME 27463. The anonymous Crime Stoppers also reminds residents that the identities of those who report incidents are never made public.



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A Profile In Courage? Really?

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY

John Ciccone

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

Recently, as many of you know, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi was the recipient of the John F. Kennedy 'Profiles in Courage' Award. It was presented at the Kennedy Library in a glittery event that was covered by the national news media. Over the years, the Kennedy family has given these Profiles in Courage awards to people I personally don't believe were courageous at all. Agreeing with and acting upon a certain agenda and ideology is more about what the award is all about far more than courage, the way I see it. That's my take on it. Everyone has the right to their own views. But if you read up on JFK and study what his beliefs and political leanings were, you might wonder just how the late President himself would have felt about Pelosi getting an award in his name. I'm pretty sure he'd have a problem with it. He might even be shocked at this woman's politics and the direction she has helped take his party. Maybe even a bit disgusted.

JFK believed in cutting taxes, not raising them at every opportunity, a military second to none and slapping job killing regulations on everything that moves wasn't his thing either. Freedom of speech was a given. This is America. You can't tell our people what words they can use and which ones they cannot. He believed in the right to keep and bear arms. In fact, he was a Life Member of the NRA. The security of the country was priority. If he could see what was going on at our southern border today and how the Democrat party, led by Pelosi is throwing up every road block and obstruction

they can muster to stop President Trump from securing that border and ending the surge of illegals from pouring in, he wouldn't like it at all. That this flow contains a number of terrorists, cartel members, and vicious gang members makes it that much worse. Remember, it was Pelosi who scolded President Trump, because he calls the murderous members of MS-13, animals. They are 'human beings' lectured Pelosi and should be treated with respect. WHAT?!

To advocate for allowing babies to be aborted right up until birth, and even after they are born, probably would have turned JFK's stomach. A walking tour of Speaker Pelosi's congressional district, which includes San Francisco, where the homeless rate has skyrocketed, and the city must spend tens of millions of dollars constantly to clean the needles and human waste from the streets because of the policies she pushes for, shows that her once beautiful city along with so many other cities run by liberals has been turned into a Third World. That the leaders of his former party are now actively trying to push our country toward Socialism would be something I believe would be mind-numbing and infuriating to him. I don't believe the late President would approve of the John F. Kennedy Profiles in Courage award going to a person like Nancy Pelosi. I do believe that JFK, a Democrat and a good man, has far more in common with another late, great president, Ronald Reagan, than he would have with Speaker Pelosi. I believe a comparison of these two men and what they believed would back me up on this.

To close this week, the lunacy in the State of California continues, prompting some Americans to wonder (maybe even hope) when the 'Big One', as in earthquake, will ever hit there. At George Washington High School outside of San Francisco, there is a move by the school's leadership to take down the paintings of the school's namesake – George Washington. Why? To protect the students from being 'traumatized' of course. It seems the image of America's first president and the father of

our country and the man that very school itself is named for is scary to some of the fragile youngsters; no doubt urged on by activist adults with an intense dislike for this country and its history. So, they are having 'Reflection and Action' workshops to decide when and if to remove the paintings and where to store them so they will be out of view of the young scholars. Councilors will no doubt be called in to comfort the students and everyone will get fudge brownies and teddy bears.

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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.

Groups urge three-month delay in new paid-leave taxes

You know something's seriously wrong when normally warring factions agree something's seriously wrong and needs action. From SHNS's Michael Norton: "State government should approve a three-month delay in payroll taxes needed to fund the new paid family and medical leave program, according to a coalition of business, labor and social justice groups. In a letter to Gov. Charlie Baker, Senate President Karen Spilka and House Speaker Robert DeLeo, officials from Associated Industries of Massachusetts (AIM) and Raise Up Massachusetts said there's a need for a three-month extension of the July 1 deadline for approval of employers' private paid and family medical leave plans and the start of required plan contributions."

Let's just put it this way: The rollout of the program, in terms of who's taxed and at what levels, has been more than a little chaotic.

It's official: Liss-Riordan is taking on Markey, hoping to duplicate Pressley's incumbent-slayer success

Labor rights attorney Shannon Liss-Riordan made it official yester-

day: She's challenging U.S. Sen. Ed Markey in next year's Democratic primary race. Michelle Williams at MassLive and SHNS's Katie Lannan (pay wall) have the details. The Herald's Joe Battenfeld writes that Markey is just the latest white male Democratic incumbent to face a challenge from the female left – and he may not be the last.

The old Friday documents dump trick, Part II: DEP threatened with sanctions, admits it botched compressor tests

This is getting most interesting. From Craig LeMoult at WGBH: "The hearing officer who presided over the Department of Environmental Protection's hearings last week on the Weymouth gas compressor station is now ordering the DEP to tell her why she shouldn't sanction the department for waiting four days to disclose relevant data. ... The hearings were supposed to take three days, beginning on Wednesday. But after two full days of hearings, the DEP released 759 pages of new air quality data that hadn't been shared with the petitioners yet." And it turns out the state's originally submitted data was, well, inadequate. The headline on

Chris Lisinski's SHNS piece (paywall): "Compressor station permit based on incomplete air tests, state admits."

T agrees to 'free the ramp' for shorter Silver Line tunnel trips

Why it took so long to do this, we don't know. From the Herald's Sean Philip Cotter: "The state will 'free the ramp' — for a little while, anyway — as Silver Line buses will begin to use the staties' emergency ramp to skip to the front of the traffic at the Ted Williams Tunnel this summer. MBTA officials informed the joint MBTA oversight and Department of Transportation officials on Monday about the plan to start a pilot program to let T buses to zip down the state police ramp onto Interstate 90 rather than looping around and entering the Pike farther from the tunnel." Separately, Bruce Mohl at Commonwealth magazine reports on the various less-than-attractive commuter options now before transformation officials as they prepare for the giant Allston-Pike project.

Her son is shot on Saturday, she pulls papers to run for mayor on Monday

Dan Glaun at MassLive reports that the son of Springfield community ac-

tivist Yolanda Cancel, who has worked with community members and police officers to address street violence in the city, was shot and wounded outside a convenience store on Saturday. So she did something about it: On Monday, she pulled papers to run for mayor against incumbent Domenic Sarno. She has until May 28 to collect the 500 signatures required to make the ballot, as Glaun notes.

The Boston Globe now has more online subscribers than print ones

This is pretty amazing. The Globe's weekday paid subscriptions fell below the 100,000 mark in the first quarter of this year, while its paid digital subscriptions rose more comfortably above the 100,000 mark. Bottom line: The Globe now has more online subscribers than print ones, as Don Seiffert reports at the BBJ. The good news is that the digital side is thriving. The bad news is the profitable side isn't.

Elizabeth Warren even has plan to fix comedian's love life

She's proposed a plan to fix most everything else in America. So why not help fix comedian Ashley Nicole Black's romantic life? Spencer Buell at Boston Magazine has the details on U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren's funny response to Black's desperate call for love-life help. File under: "Ask Beth, II." Btw: There's no love loss here, via WBUR: "Years Ago, Warren And Biden Battled Over Bankruptcy. Their Fight Still Defines A Party Rift."



Jim Brett, President and CEO of the New England Council, has been reappointed by Speaker Nancy Pelosi to the National Council on Disability, an independent federal agency making recommendations to the President and Congress to enhance the quality of life for all Americans with disabilities and their families and to promote equal opportunity.

Mr. Brett is also the Chairman of both the Governor's Commission on Intellectual Disability and the Disabled Persons Protection Commission.

PHOTO: Jim Brett is grateful to Rep. Stephen Lynch of South Boston for his support of his efforts.

COLLINS VOTES TO SEND \$15 MILLION IN INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDS TO BOSTON Annual Municipal Road Repair Bill Advances through Key Senate Committee



State Senator Nick Collins recently voted with his colleagues in the

Senate Committee on Bonding, State Assets, and Capital Expenditures to advance legislation that authorizes \$200 million for Chapter 90 funding to help municipalities complete road, bridge, and infrastructure improvement projects. As part of an annual reimbursement program, these dollars help mitigate the costs of repairs for cities and towns.

Nearly \$15 million will be allocated to help the City of

Boston pay for repairs to roads and bridges. Salt and sand from a heavy winter, combined with typical factors of erosion, often leave potholes and dangerous conditions come springtime. Drivers, pedestrians, public transit riders, and bicyclists alike feel the impacts of these conditions, and these funds are designed to allow cities and towns the flexibility to make critical repairs.

“This funding helps our cit-

ies and towns promote stability, safety, and efficiency on their roads and infrastructure” said Collins, Vice-Chair of the Senate Committee. “I am proud to stand with my colleagues and demonstrate our ongoing commitment to providing support to our partners in city government.”

The bill will be approved by the Governor in the coming weeks, and then the funds go to the municipalities to be allocated to specific projects.

MAYOR WALSH, COMMISSIONER GROSS ANNOUNCE SUMMER SAFETY MEASURES IN BOSTON

Continued commitment to community policing, access to services, and prevention initiatives through summer months



Building on his commitment to strengthen public safety in Boston, Mayor Martin J. Walsh joined Boston Police Commissioner William G. Gross, city officials, community organizations and clergy members to discuss plans and initiatives the City of Boston will implement in an effort to reduce violence throughout the summer months. Mayor Walsh today also announced Tracy Litthcut and Rufus J. Faulk as co-directors of the Mayor’s Office of Public Safety, which studies, develops, and puts in place violence intervention and

prevention programs and policies.

“Our focus through our summer strategy is to ensure our residents feel safe in their community each and every day,” said Mayor Walsh. “With our partners in the community, and throughout our neighborhoods, we’re working hard to prevent crime in Boston by providing positive opportunities for people, and a path away from violence. Together with our community partners, we’ll continue to use every tool we have to make sure all residents are safe and supported through our prevention, intervention, and response work.”

Under the leadership of Mayor Walsh and Commissioner Gross, the Boston Police Department continues to build on a strong foundation of community policing, prioritizing relationships with youth and the community as the key to solidifying trust and building relationships in Boston’s neighborhoods. BPD’s work starts with positive interactions in Boston’s communities and in school classrooms, and includes proactive prevention and diversion for at-risk youth and their families, providing pathways away from violence for those who are ready to make a change.

Overall crime is down in Boston by nine percent and total violent crime is down 12 percent, with property crime down eight percent, and non-fatal shootings down five percent. Year-to-date, 292 guns have been recovered from Boston’s streets, which does not include fake guns or replicas.

“We work very closely with our city and community partners to prevent violence and provide opportunities for those in need,” said Commissioner Gross. “While this is a year-round ef-

fort, we are especially focused on the summer months. We will be running programs and activities for youth and children in every district and connecting at-risk youth and families with resources and opportunities.”

The BPD has strong partnerships and collaborations with many agencies, non-profits, and community-based programs, with more than 175 programs and services across seven city departments. Programs include:

- An array of year-round district activities with youth;
- Support for families of homicide victims and victims of domestic violence;
- Home visits and referrals of at-risk youth to social workers;
- Youth dialogues with community partners;
- Coffee with a Cop, flashlight walks with residents, and Shop with a Cop
- Academy training officers to better interact with youth;
- Reentry programs for returning offenders to school safety days with special needs populations.

Boston’s work is comprised of a multi-pronged approach:

1. Prevention, as partners work to engage Boston’s young people in positive activities and education.

This includes Boston’s Summer Youth Jobs Program, mentoring, after school programs, BCYF activities, and the BCYF streetworker program. Boston also supports the Safe and Successful Youth Initiative, which intervenes with teens likely to use firearms.

2. Boston’s public safety work also includes a strong focus on intervention, intervening with youth who are already involved in violence, or are at a

high risk of being involved in violence.

Boston’s programs work directly with gang-involved youth. These include the BPHC Violence Intervention & Prevention Program, Peace Walks, National Night Out, Coffee with a Cop.

3. Finally, Boston works to respond to trauma that has occurred, ending the cycle of violence by helping communities heal.

Boston has dedicated Trauma Response Response Teams, six neighborhood-based teams and one citywide mobile team, in addition to a 24-hour trauma hotline.

“Our shared efforts continue to focus on preventing violence from happening in the community,” said Chief of Health and Human Services Marty Martinez. “By engaging thousands of young people and their families year-round and in the summer, the City works hard with our community partners to create opportunities for all youth to get on meaningful pathways to success.”

In addition to announcing Boston’s summer safety strategy, Mayor Walsh today also announced Tracy Litthcut and Rufus Faulkas co-directors of the Mayor’s Office of Public Safety. The Mayor’s Office of Public Safety studies, develops, and puts in place violence intervention along with prevention programs and policies. The Office of Public Safety includes the Office of Returning Citizens, which supports those who return to Boston after being released from state, federal, and county incarceration facilities each year, and works to help those who were previously incarcerated. The Office also includes My Brother’s Keeper, a national initiative

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PARKS DEPARTMENT SUMMER GUIDE NOW ONLINE

If you are looking for some outdoor fun this summer in City of Boston parks simply go to the City of Boston website where you can view the Boston Parks and Recreation Department's full schedule of free summer events under the Spotlight section at www.boston.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation#spotlight.

Concerts, movies, fitness, sports centers, watercolor painting workshops, and a wide range of children's

activities - there's something for everyone, all offered free of charge. The schedule includes the popular Artists in Residence Craft Workshops for ages 3 to 10 in parks citywide July 9 through August 16, the Boston Children's Summer Festival at Franklin Park on August 20, park visits from the New England Aquarium, Movie Nights in 11 locations, and the opening of the Boston Common Frog Pond spray pool on June 27.

Musical offerings include the annual

Dorothy Curran Wednesday Night Concert Series sponsored by Bank of America kicking off July 17 with the Total Access Chicago tribute band on City Hall Plaza at 7 p.m., ParkARTS Citywide Neighborhood Concerts from July 10 to August 5, Summer Sundays in the Park at Jamaica Pond on July 28 and August 11, and the sizzling hot Tito Puente Latin Music Series in the South End, East Boston, Mission Hill, and Jamaica Plain from July 11 through August 15.

For more information, please view the full summer guide and other Parks Department events and programs at www.boston.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation.



Charter School continued from front page

don't have such stringent standards. The study found that, at least in Boston, proven charter schools continued to produce outsized test score gains for students even as they added campuses and served more students.

"We see something that worked," said Sarah Cohodes, a professor at Teachers College, Columbia University, and one of the study's three authors. "Authorizing charter schools is supposed to be a rigorous process, but different authorizers have different philosophies about the best way to do that. To our knowledge, Massachusetts is the only state that has this proven provider policy. This is a very promising path." (The Hechinger Report is also based at Teachers College but is an independently run news organization.)

The study by Cohodes and two other academic researchers tracked what happened in Boston after 2010, when the state allowed more charter schools to open. The charter sector doubled, enrolling more than 30 percent of the city's sixth graders, for example. But the state was very choosy about which new schools it permitted, approving only those charters with a proven track

record of raising academic achievement. In the case of Boston, those schools subscribed to a "no excuses" philosophy. The schools tended to combine strict discipline with high expectations, increased time in school, frequent testing and tutoring along with standardized practices for hiring and training teachers. They largely enrolled low-income students of color.

The researchers focused on middle schools, studying three charter networks that already had schools in the city, Roxbury Preparatory, Brooke Charter Schools and Excel Academy Charter Schools, along with two newcomers, KIPP and UP Academy, which won approval based on their track records in other cities. In all, seven new schools opened, doubling the number of charter middle schools in the city.

The new charters were popular with Boston families; there were many more applicants than seats in the schools. Researchers compared test score gains for students who won a seat in admissions lotteries with those who didn't and ended up attending a traditional public school. The researchers found that students' test score improvements in the new schools were

just as high as in the original group of high-quality charter schools. Charter school test gains continued to outpace those in traditional public schools and the charter school sector as a whole became even more effective, as measured by test scores. One of the biggest criticisms of charter schools is that they weed out difficult students.

The study, "Can Successful Schools Replicate? Scaling Up Boston's Charter School Sector," is still a working paper, meaning it hasn't yet been published in a peer-reviewed journal. But it was circulated by the National Bureau of Economic Research in May 2019. In addition to Cohodes, it was written by Elizabeth Setren at Tufts University and Christopher Walters at the University of California, Berkeley.

The researchers also noted that teacher quality at the charter schools didn't vary much. To be sure, some teachers were better than others; that is, they helped students' test scores rise even more. But these differences weren't so big. At traditional public schools, by contrast, there's a huge range of teacher quality from very effective to very ineffective.

That led the authors to speculate that

the standardization of hiring, training and teaching practices at these "no excuses" charter schools is driving the results. Much like at fast-food restaurants, there's a lot that each charter school network does identically at every campus. The researchers learned through interviews that the curriculum at these schools was largely set by school leaders or collectively planned by experienced teachers. New teachers didn't write their lessons from scratch. In Boston, experienced teachers from the parent campuses spent a lot of time mentoring teachers in the expansion schools. During the hiring process, network leaders sought new teachers who believed in the school model before they started.

Deciding which charter schools should be allowed to receive public funds and educate children is tough. This proven provider study points to a tension between using the charter school sector as a laboratory of innovation, while insisting that it must outperform traditional public schools. If we insist on the latter, that might tip the scales to large charter chains that emphasize testing, ignoring other things that we value.

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that addresses persistent opportunity gaps faced by young men of color.

Tracy Litthcut is the former Director of Youth Services and Deputy Director of Youth and Young Adult Development and has over 25 years of executive level public and nonprofit management experience. He is a recognized national expert on juvenile justice and public safety policy, in addition to be-

ing a recipient of the Clinton Administration's Innovation in American Government Award and the Dr. Martin Luther King's Dreamer Award.

"I'm proud to be able to serve the residents of Boston and use my national and local experience to help create safer lives for all our residents," said Litthcut.

Rufus J. Faulk is the former director of victim services at the Massachusetts Department of Corrections and was

previously the program director at the Boston Ten Point Coalition, responsible for development and initiating of the Boston TenPoint Coalition's youth violence reduction plan, targeting some of Boston's most proven at-risk adolescents and young adults. Faulk has over ten years of experience leading services for vulnerable populations and will receive his doctorate in Law and Policy from Northeastern Univer-

sity this summer.

"I look forward to joining Mayor Walsh, Tracy Litthcut and Boston's public safety agencies as we work to provide more opportunities to Boston's young people, and end the cycle of violence and trauma," said Faulk. "I'm grateful for the opportunity to share my experience here in Boston, and work with all our partners to ensure a safe city for all."

In South Boston, Memorial Day Has That Special, Traditional Meaning

By the Entire South Boston Today Team

What special meaning and significance does the Memorial Day weekend hold for people would probably depend on who you asked. Surely, it signals what many consider the unofficial start to the summer season. Weather permitting, folks look forward to it as a time to maybe get away for the long weekend on a trip to the beach or the mountains. Back yard family barbecues and cookouts are always popular as are gatherings with friends for parties etc. Perhaps you'll stay local and relax at home and catch a game or two on TV and enjoy that much deserved extra day off on Monday. To a lot of South Bostonians it could be one or more of the above. To us, and people who live in other traditional, what most

would consider patriotic, communities around the country, it means all of the above yes, but something else as well. It means something far more important than our own personal creature comforts and fun and relaxation and it certainly is more than just the unofficial start to the summer season.

Memorial Day is set aside to remember and to honor America's heroes, who served in our country's armed forces and put their lives on the line and often lost those lives, so that all of us could enjoy the freedom and liberty that our Nation's Founding Fathers envisioned for us when they drew up that amazing document called the Constitution of the United States. South Boston has had many sons and daughters, who never returned from fighting our country's battles. On a per capita scale, there may not be another community anywhere that had more. Many people will, this weekend, make that solemn journey to a cemetery where a family member is buried and lay a wreath or flowers at a grave site. Others will attend a special Church Service, proudly display Old Glory or attend a Memorial Day dedication or parade. All the




other activities that come with warm weather and sunshine are part of the tradition as well of course. But as Americans, at least in the opinion of South Bostonians, remembering and honoring our veterans; especially those who are no longer among us should always remain the most important reason for this holiday.

We owe it to those heroes to never

forget the sacrifices made on our behalf. It makes us proud that so many of our neighbors never have and never will. And one more thing: If not for those fallen heroes and those who served with them over the last 200 plus years, right up until today, 2019, the United States of America would not exist. So when you are out and about this coming Memorial Day weekend, if you are approached by a veteran asking for a donation for worthy veteran's causes and offering you a red 'poppy' in return, why not reach into your pocket and donate what you can and thank them for their service. This gesture of gratitude is very much appreciated by those who served and continue to serve our great country.

From all of us here at South Boston Today, Honor Memorial Day!



"I am thankful for the dedication of our community's veterans and appreciate the sacrifices they have made for all of us as we honor them on this Memorial Day."

SENATOR NICK COLLINS -1st Suffolk District



"On Memorial Day, we remember those brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. May God bless our fallen heroes and their families, and let us always remember those who served and gave their lives for us and the freedoms we enjoy?"

David Biele
State Representative
4th Suffolk District



"On this solemn Memorial Day, we honor those who have made the Supreme Sacrifice for our nation to preserve freedom and democracy throughout the world."



Boston City Councilor Ed Flynn, District 2



To our men and women in uniform...
past, present and future
God bless you,
and thank you.

Castle Island Association



The Wine Guy Long Weekends

Hard to believe, but we're on the verge of another Summer season. Whether you're staying in town or heading out, maybe to the Cape or up to Maine for the long weekend, here are some ideas about what to have to welcome in the season.

2018 Cantina Zaccagnini Dal Tral-cetto Dry Rose, Cerasuolo D'Abruzzo, (\$18.99), is the type of Rose you're go-

ing to see more of this year, as Southern Italy brings its Rose wines to this country. A wild strawberry and herb aroma carry a slight balsamic edge on the nose. The palate is well rounded and juicy in feel, with delicious red cherry and strawberry flavors that are honed by bright acidity and a tangy slick of wet stone. Cherry skin astringency marks the close, extending the fruit flavors into a medium finish. This one will pair really well with summer salads, some cold chicken or a fruit and cheese platter.

Vie Di Romans 2016 Chardonnay, Friuli Isonzo DOC, (\$44.99), is also from Italy and is another trend-setter; the result of a firm commitment by growers in this region to produce a Chardonnay comparable to its sisters from Napa and Burgundy. Wine Spectator says, "Light- to medium-bodied and harmonious, with a lightly juicy, round frame for flavors of poached peach, quince paste, jasmine and pastry. Offers a creamy, spiced finish. Drink now through 2023." ...and James Suckling

scored it 94 points saying, "Lemon and apple curd, nutmeg, cloves, vanilla, pie crust, dried apricots and papaya. Full-bodied and very textured with a butteriness, but forthright acidity that carries this through to a creamy finish."

This is a really complex, supple wine and it should be had with food like a Tuscan Roasted Chicken or a fresh Rainbow Trout.

On the drier side, the New Zealand Sauvignon Blancs are, as always, my first choice for crisp, refreshing whites with a citrus and melon blend that always goes well with any kind of seafood or salad. **Babich Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc 2018, New Zealand, (\$18.99)** is a classic Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc which is consistently produced in a fuller, riper, softer style that develops well. This wine is clean, fresh and tropical, with fruit from several vineyards situated throughout Marlborough. You'll definitely taste aromas of blackcurrant and gooseberry over tropical fruits and citrus with a trace of jasmine, mango, passionfruit,

peach-skin and honeydew melon. Lemongrass leads to lime on the lingering and mouth-watering finish. This is a really well-structured wine for the money, and you'll enjoy it even more with some oysters on the half shell.

If you're in a celebratory mood and would like to formally toast the beginning of the Summer season, why not try some Pommery, NV, **"Summertime", Champagne, France, (\$49.99)**. The Summertime vintage of the Pommery house is a Blanc de Blancs champagne, that is to say only composed of Chardonnay. Made from a blend of 10 selected wines from different terroirs of Champagne, the Summertime is a champagne with a lively nose and offers a complex champagne, highlighting the different facets of the same grape, the Chardonnay. If you haven't had this brand before, the Summertime vintage is an unusual and ideal way to discover the Pommery style.

Enjoy the weekend!

Talk To The Wine Guy At jdris8888@gmail.com

South Boston Catholic Academy News

2019 Spring Concert, "On Broadway"!

South Boston Catholic Academy students performed their Spring Show "On Broadway" on May 16. Students wonderfully performed a variety of songs from classic shows including Guys and Dolls, West Side Story, Mary Pop-pins, Oliver and Oklahoma! to more modern shows such as Hamilton and Dear Evan Hansen. Our Tap Club had their first performance and several vocal and instrumental solo-ists dazzled the audience with their

musical capabilities along with the students in the Drama Club and in the South Boston Catholic Academy Choir. We are so very proud of all our wonderful students.

Thank you to Ms. Eleanor Tynan, our Music Teacher, for her great work with the students and in coordinating and directing this show and to Ms. Carolyn Martin, who accompanied our young singers on the piano. We express our sincere gratitude to Mrs. Civian, our Principal and Mrs. Jamie Brown, our Vice Principal for their guidance and thoughtfulness in assisting us in all our musical endeavors. Thank you to Father Robert Casey, our Pastor for his

continued on page 9



Recent South Boston Real Estate Sales

Property/Type	Price	Sale Date	Rooms	Baths	Sq Ft
505 East Broadway Single Family	\$1,850,000	3/22/19	15	3	5,822
301 West Broadway UNIT 9 Condo	\$1,725,000	3/22/19	4	2	2,201
33 Sleeper St UNIT 406 Condo	\$1,225,000	3/26/19	2	2	1,602
9 West Broadway UNIT 203 Condo	\$1,125,000	3/20/19	4	2	1,289
346 Congress St UNIT 518 Condo	\$1,110,000	3/26/19	5	2	1,149
69 I Street Three Family	\$1,100,000	3/25/19	12	3	2,622
143 N Street Two Family	\$1,035,000	3/25/19	11	2	2,540
15 Dixfield St UNIT 2 Condo	\$770,000	3/22/19	5	1.5	1,066
98 G St UNIT 2 Condo	\$752,000	3/20/19	4	2	1,135
150 Dorchester Ave Unit 102 Condo	\$740,000	3/20/19	3	1	1,055
372 East Eighth Street Single Family	\$695,000	3/25/19	6	1.5	1,206
496 East Seventh St UNIT 2 Condo	\$655,000	3/19/19	4	1.5	1,109
9 West Broadway UNIT 214 Condo	\$649,000	3/26/19	3	1.5	818
430 East Sixth St UNIT 2 Condo	\$550,000	3/19/19	5	2	810
649 East Second St UNIT 2 Condo	\$495,000	3/22/19	3	1	579
314-330 West Second St UNIT 211 Condo	\$480,000	3/22/19	3	1	585



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SBCA continued from page 8

spiritual leadership and all his work on behalf of South Boston Catholic Academy. Thank you to the Faculty and Staff of South Boston Catholic Academy for their continued support of our music program. A Huge Thank You goes out to all the parents/families of our student performers. We appreciate your dedication to their studies and thank you for welcoming the concert songs into your homes. Thank you to all who helped in anyway to make this musical school event possible. Your

time and support are extremely appreciated. We are so proud of all our students and their hard work and look forward to many more musical productions to come.

There are still limited spots available for the 2019-2020 school year. Please check our website at www.sbcaatholicacademy.org for more info. or contact Mrs. Jamie Brown, Assistant Principal, at j.brown@sbcaatholicacademy.org or phone 617-268-2326 to schedule a tour of the school.

PARKS DEPT. ANNOUNCES SOUTH BOSTON TREE REMOVAL HEARING

In accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 87, the Boston Parks and Recreation Department will hold a public hearing on Thursday, June 6, at 11 a.m. on a request to remove one public shade tree in South Boston. The hearing will be held by the City of Boston's Tree Warden (or designee) in the 3rd floor Conference Room of the Boston Parks and Recreation Department at 1010 Massachusetts Avenue, Roxbury.

The request is for the removal of one ash tree measuring 3 inches dbh (diameter at breast height) at 615 East Fourth Street due to a proposed curb cut. Public testimony will be taken at the hearing, or may be provided prior to the hearing in



writing to the Tree Warden, Boston Parks and Recreation Department, 1010 Massachusetts Avenue, 3rd floor, Roxbury, MA 02118 or by emailing parks@boston.gov with "South Boston Tree Hearing" in the subject line.

A final decision regarding the request will be made within two weeks of the hearing. For further information, please contact the Tree Warden at (617) 635-7275.

Second Taquan Air Seaplan Crash In A Week Kills Two



CNN news reports that for the second time in a week, a Taquan Air seaplane (also known as a floatplane) has been involved in a deadly crash in Alaska. Two people were killed, when the aircraft went down Monday afternoon in Metlakatla Harbor in the southeastern part of the state. A pilot and passenger were the only people on board the Taquan Air Beaver seaplane, according to a statement from the Ketchikan Gateway Borough.

The circumstances of the crash are not being released at this time, the Borough said, and the names of the deceased will not be released until next of kin have been notified. Taquan Air also operated a Beaver seaplane that collided in mid-air with another plane last week. Six people died in that crash, one on the Taquan

plane and five on the other plane. The passengers on both aircraft were guests on a Princess Cruises ship, the Royal Princess. That crash is under investigation by the National Transportation Safety Board.

Taquan Air directed all inquiries about Monday's crash to the NTSB. The agency said the plane was on a commuter flight, not a sightseeing tour.

A seaplane/floatplane is an aircraft with pontoons or floats that allow it to land on water.

A Coast Guard spokeswoman said they launched two 45-foot Response Boats from Coast Guard Station Ketchikan and one Air Station Sitka Jayhawk Helicopter to assist with the search, but good Samaritans and local emergency responders were able to assist before the Coast Guard arrived.

St. Peter Academy Art Show/Relatives Day

By: Maria Blasi

This past Friday, St. Peter Academy celebrated our Annual Art Show and Relative's Day. The Art Teacher Ms. Juleen

Jones did an amazing job presenting the students' artwork. Family and friends of St. Peter Academy Students were welcomed to visit and view the incredible work completed

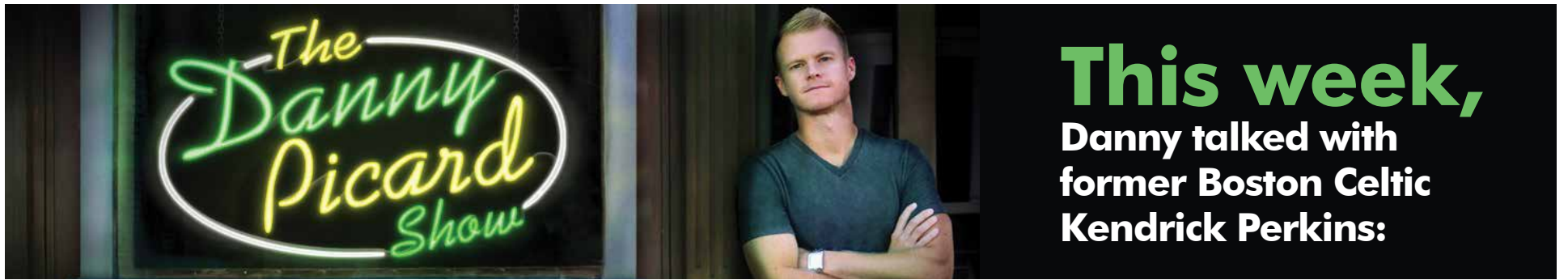
in Art Class during the school year. Thank you to all that joined us in the festivities. St. Peter Academy would like to wish everyone a Safe and Happy Memorial Day Weekend.

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 for our Open House May 1st 9:00 – 11:00 am and 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm.

Appointments for individual tours can be made by contacting the Main Office at 617-268-0750 or by emailing SPA@StPeterAcademy.com.





DANNY PICARD: The Celtics are going to have an assistant coaching position opening up. If they came to you, is that something that you would be interested in?

KENDRICK PERKINS: Absolutely. I mean, there's certain things you can't turn down, and that's one of them. And then being back in Boston, the city that basically raised me for my NBA career and were the first people to take a chance on me and stood by my side. You have no choice but to accept a job like that, man. And those jobs are not easy to come by, by the way. They have a lot of guys in this basketball world that's been trying to get on a coaching staff in the NBA for a long time, and they haven't had their opportunity. So if the opportunity was to present itself, I probably would really have to consider taking that job.

DP: Speaking of the Celtics, they're a hot topic in this town, as you know. And you've been very outspoken about this Celtics team that lost in the second round to the Milwaukee Bucks. Now, we're all trying to figure out what happens next and

where this team goes . . . When you look back at this Celtics season, Perk, who should get the most blame for how it ended?

KP: At the end of the day, you got to look at the writing on the wall. I think if you're watching the game and you're watching the Celtics play, you can see it man. Last year, how they gelled together and was loving to play with one another. And then you're watching this year, you could give a lot of blame to a lot of guys on the team, but you always have to start out with your leader. And the leader of the team was Kyrie [Irving]. I think Kyrie didn't carry himself well. As the leader of the team, I didn't think he led by example. He didn't represent what Celtic pride was all about. And then you go down the line. You're expecting more out of Gordon Hayward. Even big Al Horford, you're expecting more out of him also. He didn't really have his best games during the playoffs either. Jayson Tatum had a little drop off. It's hard to place blame on Brad [Stevens], just because for the simple fact that I can only imagine what he was going through at that time,

trying to control all the egos and stuff like that, and the locker room, and managing minutes. And you know that guys are not buying into your system, that's pretty hard.

DP: What frustrated me the most out of Kyrie all year long was the things he said to the media. And then in that Game 5 postgame, he's sitting up there saying, "This is no time to be disappointed." And I couldn't believe he said that, because if there's ever a time to be disappointed, this would be it. If you were a teammate of his, and you heard him say that, how would you react?

KP: I watched it man, and it was very disturbing to watch. Just to listen to him say that just showed that, to me, he really didn't care. He showed it to us, so I had to believe it, like, ya, this guy don't really care about being in Boston. Obviously he don't know what it means to play for the Celtics, in my opinion. At the end of the day, I listened to it, and part of me, that's what made me come out and say he was a poor leader and he didn't care. He didn't lead by example. You don't get knocked

out of the playoffs and just feel that type of way. He was talking about how he couldn't wait to finish watching the Bucks play and stuff like that. And I'm looking at it like, man are you serious? Is this really coming out your mouth right now?

DP: The rumors with Kyrie involve him going to the Knicks, and lately, we've been hearing about the Lakers. I've been saying for a while, "Don't sleep on the Lakers with Kyrie." And people laugh at me and say, "Kyrie would never want to play with LeBron again." My theory with those two is that they didn't dislike each other as much as everybody seems to believe, and I think Kyrie would go to the Lakers.

KP: You're 100 percent right. LeBron and Kyrie never had a problem. There was a never a beef between those guys. I wouldn't be surprised either if he ended up in LA.

Listen to "The Danny Picard 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

BRUINS ADVANCE TO STANLEY CUP FINAL

SBT Staff

The Boston Bruins are just four wins away from a Stanley Cup.

After sweeping the Carolina Hurricanes in the Eastern Conference Final, the B's will take on the St. Louis Blues in the Stanley Cup Final, which will begin on Monday night at the TD Garden.

This marks Boston's third Stanley Cup Final appearance since 2011, when the Bruins won their first Stanley Cup since 1972, defeating the Vancouver Canucks in seven games. Boston also advanced to the Stanley Cup Final in 2013, but lost to the Chicago Blackhawks



in six games.

The B's finished off the Hurricanes last Thursday, giving them 10 days off in between games. There are positives and negatives that come with the 10-day layoff.

The biggest positive is that it gives injured players some extra time to heal up before the biggest playoff series of their lives. And the biggest injury concern right now for the Bruins is with captain Zdeno Chara.

Chara did not play in last Thursday's Game 4 in Carolina because of an undisclosed injury. He did,

Tweet of the Week

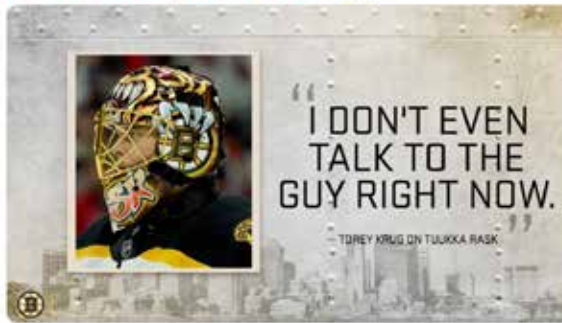


Boston Bruins

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Stay out of his way.

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however, join the team on the ice in full uniform after the game to celebrate winning the Eastern Conference. Chara also returned to practice on Monday.

The biggest negative with the 10-day layoff is that it seems like a little too much time off for a goaltender who's as locked in as he's ever been. Tuukka Rask has been on another planet as of late, and the Bruins would hate to see such a long layoff affect the

groove that he's in.

That's not to say he'll be affected by it at all. But for a goaltender who's been this good, it's not necessarily ideal to make him wait over a week to play in his next meaningful game.

Here's the entire schedule for the Stanley Cup Final:

GAME 1: Monday, May 27, 8 p.m.: Blues at Bruins, NBC

GAME 2: Wednesday, May 29, 8 p.m.: Blues at Bruins, NBCSN

WHAT TO WATCH

NBA THURSDAY, MAY 23
Eastern Conference Final
Gm 5: Toronto at Milwaukee
8:30 P.M. TNT

MLB SATURDAY, MAY 25
Boston at Houston
7:15 P.M. FOX

NHL MONDAY, MAY 27
Stanley Cup Final
Gm 1: St. Louis at Boston
8 P.M. NBC

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29
Stanley Cup Final
Gm 2: St. Louis at Boston
8 P.M. NBCSN

GAME 3: Saturday, June 1, 8 p.m.: Bruins at Blues, NBCSN

GAME 4: Monday, June 3, 8 p.m.: Bruins at Blues, NBC

***GAME 5 (if necessary): Thursday, June 6, 8 p.m.: Blues at Bruins, NBC**

***GAME 6 (if necessary): Sunday, June 9, 8 p.m.: Bruins at Blues, NBC**

***GAME 7 (if necessary): Wednesday, June 12, 8 p.m.: Blues at Bruins, NBC**

PATRIOTS BRING BACK JAMIE COLLINS

SBT Staff

Jamie Collins is coming back to New England. The 29-year-old linebacker has signed a one-year, \$1.05 million contract with the Patriots. It's a low-risk, high-reward move for the Pats, as the deal includes just \$250 thousand in guaranteed money. However, the deal could be worth up to \$5 million in incentives.

Collins was drafted by the Patriots in

2013 in the second round, at No. 52 overall. He then played three-plus seasons in New England before being traded to the Cleveland Browns during the 2016 season.

The Browns then signed Collins to a four-year, \$50 million contract that included \$26 million guaranteed. Collins then tore his MCL during the 2017 season, and was released by Cleveland this past March after playing all 16 games with the Browns in 2018.

Collins finished the 2018 season with 73 104 tackles and four sacks. During his three-plus seasons with the Patriots, Collins had a total of 326 tackles and 10.5 sacks.

EDELMAN SIGNS TWO-YEAR EXTENSION

SBT Staff

The Patriots and wide receiver Julian Edelman agreed to a two-year, \$18 million contract extension on Tuesday, keeping him in New England through the 2021 season.

The deal includes \$12 million guaranteed and an \$8 million signing bonus. Edelman was entering the final year of his deal. He turned

33 this week and is coming off a championship season in which he was named Super Bowl MVP.

Now, all eyes will be on Tom Brady, who is entering the final year of his current contract. It would seem that a commitment to Edelman for the next three seasons would also mean the same for Brady.

The Patriots will begin mandatory mini-camp on June 4.



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