



DON'T BE NAIVE CORONAVIRUS IS A SERIOUS THREAT

China has a direct flight to Logan Airport, so don't be complacent when it comes to viral pandemics.

U.S. health officials are expanding their checks of international travelers for signs of coronavirus. A source told WBZ-TV that coronavirus screenings will start at Boston's Logan Airport "soon."

The airport has so far not been screening passengers for coronavirus, because there are no direct flights from Boston to the hardest-hit areas. Nonetheless, direct flights from China cannot

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EDITORIAL

Illegal Gun, Drugs off our Streets: Kudos to Law Enforcement

If you follow news in the neighborhood as well as read the official reports released by the BPD, you are aware that last Saturday, January 25th, the Boston Police from our own C-6 unit, in cooperation with the FBI, made an arrest of a 15 year old male suspect in possession of a loaded illegal handgun and some dangerous illegal drugs. It happened in the area of 91 O’Callaghan Way.



Law enforcement should be commended for their efforts that brought excellent results in the ongoing battle to keep South Boston’s streets safe. Yet unofficial reports tell this newspaper that this one arrest of the above mentioned suspect could be just the tip of the iceberg and that armed adult drug dealers, believed to be organized, could be pulling the strings of young offenders and are constantly working to recruit more teens to do their dirty work for them. This is something all parents should be aware of and on the lookout for.

Activity like this is certainly not happening just in South Boston. In point of fact, it happens in every major city and so many suburban locations as well. But something

that our neighborhood has going for it while so many others unfortunately do not, is the willingness of residents to cooperate with police with the goal of ridding our town of the scourge of drug dealers and possible gang style activity. And this is why we continue to stress the importance of making those calls to police, anonymously if you prefer, when you have knowledge of, or even suspect criminal activity is taking place in your area.

It is cooperation with law enforcement that has helped put dangerous people in jail in the past here in Southie, it was cooperation that played some role in last Saturday’s arrest and it will be that same type of cooperation that will continue to help keep residents safe in the future. Once again: Please, if you see something, say something.

South Boston Delegation Calls For Public Apology



January 29, 2020

Ralph Cox, Principal
Redgate
265 Franklin Street, 6th Floor
Boston, MA 02110

Greg Bialecki, Principal
Redgate
265 Franklin Street, 6th Floor
Boston, MA 02110

Re: Recent comments from Redgate and Hilco Redevelopment Partnership

Dear Mr. Cox and Mr. Bialecki:

Like many residents of South Boston, we were upset to read about comments attributed to Redgate and Hilco Redevelopment Partnership’s executive team following a recent public meeting on your proposal to redevelop the former Boston Edison Power Plant at 776 Summer Street. Commenting that your proposed redevelopment would bring “quality people” into the South Boston community, and responding to questions from residents with the reply “sorry...I wasn’t born in a bathtub in South Boston,” are derogatory, pejorative and insulting to our community, our neighbors and the constituents we represent.

We were especially disappointed that your team characterized these comments as part of a private conversation, which is never an excuse for divisive and disparaging language, and refused to apologize to the community at last week’s public meeting, despite requests from elected officials in December and again from residents at the meeting.

These demeaning comments and this outrageous behavior are unacceptable and have no place in our public discourse. The South Boston community, and its residents, deserve a public apology from your team. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

STEPHEN F. LYNCH
United States Representative

NICK COLLINS
State Senator

DAVID BIELE
State Representative

ED FLYNN
District City Councilor

MICHAEL FLAHERTY
At-large City Councilor

SouthBostonTODAY
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Tom McGrath: A Dedicated Volunteer

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY

John Ciccone

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

Look at the calendar tells us that we are now moving into February – already. And as we all know, and as your inquiries by letters, emails, phone calls, texts and social media questions to this newspaper also remind us as you seek information on coming festivities, we are a little over a month away from St. Patrick's Day/Evacuation Day events. Some of your questions of course are: Will everything go on as tradition has dictated for well over a hundred years? What is the date of each event? Where will the celebrations be held and an array of other questions. The good news for those who look forward to this time of year is yes, everything is still on. The date of the parade is Sunday, March 15th and consistent announcements will be coming out soon with schedules and information about all the other big plans.

As most know, the coming celebration and lineup of events takes a lot of planning and hard work. It also takes dedicated volunteers to pull it all off and make everything go as planned. And that's the first topic of this week's column. To say South Boston is fortunate to have people who put their lives almost on hold each year to put everything together is an understatement. Leading up to the big day, South Boston Today will highlight some of the people who make it all happen.

And this week, I'd like to make mention of a true Southie hero and yes, workaholic, **Tom McGrath**.

Those of you who have lived in this community for many years and even all of your life know

exactly what Tom McGrath does. Some of our newer residents who are not yet familiar with his good work will soon hear of him and really should make an effort to get to know the guy. You'll be impressed. Along with being a good family man and a long-time coach and organizer dedicated to providing constructive opportunities to neighborhood youth, he is the president of the South Boston Citizen's Association (SBCA); the organization which puts on much of the holiday celebrations. McGrath and the great volunteers from the SBCA along with the South Boston Allied War Veterans start preparing for this sometimes as early as late summer. It should be noted also that Tom McGrath's work as a volunteer dedicated to this town started back when he himself was just a kid.

Tom McGrath and the membership at SBCA focus not just on events for adults, but also make sure that there is plenty of activities for the young people of the community including both boys and girls of every age. Sporting events and contests are many. There is the swim competition, the Boxing Show in cooperation with Peter Welch's Gym, Ice O Rama at the Murphy Rink, Basketball Throw and more. But in addition to athletic contests there is also the educational, like the Essay and Poster Contest that has local kids doing historical research. And there is much MUCH more.

Again, the point here is that ours is a neighborhood that is very fortunate to have dedicated people living here willing to take on the massive responsibilities of putting on a nearly month long

celebration that brings in and entertains very often far more than a million people over the 2-3 week period. Tom McGrath (and others who will be mentioned in the coming weeks) is such a person and his efforts are very much appreciated. And for those of you who might find yourselves with some free time on your hands, why not volunteer some of that spare time to help with one or two of the events that might hold your interest? As stated, there is something for everyone coming up.

Guaranteed, your efforts will be appreciated as well.

In closing, some might be wondering why there was none of the usual Conservative-leaning political commentary like there usually is in this space most weeks. Well, whether it causes you to be pleasantly surprised or very disappointed, not to worry and don't get used to it. This week will be one of those rare exceptions. As the saying goes, "Sometimes the occasional deviation from the norm serves to sharpen the blade."

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MAYOR WALSH RECOMMENDS 40 PROJECTS, OVER \$24 MILLION FOR COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT (CPA) FUNDING

The projects will be submitted to the Boston City Council for approval with an anticipated vote in the coming weeks



Mayor Martin J. Walsh and the City's Community Preservation Committee (CPC) yesterday recommended 40 projects, totaling more than \$24 million, for inclusion in the next round for the Community Preservation Act (CPA) funding. The CPC held a public meeting yesterday to vote on the Mayor's recommended slate of projects for funding. The projects will be submitted to the Boston City Council for approval with an anticipated vote from the Council in the coming weeks.

"We're in the middle of a housing crisis that requires bold and creative solutions," said Mayor Walsh. "I'm proud that through this new round of funding, we are dedicating the majority of this funding round to affordable housing projects. All of these proposals will support our community in countless ways. We look forward to continuing to use this revenue to build on our work related to affordable housing, historic preservation and open space."

With this funding round, the City of Boston will have awarded over \$67 million to support projects in every neighborhood since residents voted to adopt the Community Preservation Act in 2016. After a thorough review process of the applications received, the following projects are being recommended for funding:

CITYWIDE

- \$4,000,000 for the Acquisition Opportunity Program to prevent displacement by purchasing existing private market rental units and making them permanently affordable, both protecting current tenants and safeguarding the City's affordable housing stock
- \$4,000,000 for the ONE+Boston program to help income-eligible first-time homebuyers receive down-payment assistance and a permanent

reduction in the interest rate of a 30-year fixed-rate mortgage for Bostonians buying within city limits

CHARLESTOWN

- \$400,000 to the John F. Kennedy Family Services Center to restore the slate roof and prevent water damage to the historic school building that provides child care, after school, and senior services

- \$20,000 to the USS Constitution Museum to protect its collections by relocating the

CHINATOWN

- \$1,000,000 to the Parcel P-12C development on 290 Tremont Street that will provide 58 rental units, including 11 units set aside for formerly homeless individuals and families. The units will be part of a larger proposed mixed-use affordable housing project on a Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA) owned parking lot

- \$500,000 to the Asian Community Development Corporation to purchase a vacant lot near the Chinatown Gate and Rose Kennedy Greenway for transformation into a neighborhood garden and gathering space

DORCHESTER

- \$800,000 to Norwell Street Park to build a new park on four parcels of open space adjacent to Talbot Avenue Station on the Fairmount Line

- \$250,000 to the Franklin Field Seniors Garden to build a new community garden for residents of Franklin Field and surrounds

- \$400,000 to restore the steeple of the Second Church in Dorchester, one of the oldest wooden churches left in Boston, built in 1806 and home to a Paul Revere bell

- \$730,000 to the Dr. William W. Henderson Inclusion School for a new, fully accessible playground and school yard on its lower campus

- \$150,000 to the Magnolia Street Garden to develop a per-

manent community garden and neighborhood plaza after serving as an informal gardening space for several years

- \$20,000 to First Parish Dorchester, built in 1897, to remove and restore the Palladian window and complete the window restoration on the only Colonial-Revival clapboard meetinghouse in Boston

EAST BOSTON

- \$400,000 to purchase the Donald McKay House, a Greek Revival style house built in 1844 by Donald McKay, the country's premier clipper ship designer, to preserve as a community asset

ROXBURY

- \$150,000 to the Egleston Peace Park to renovate this heavily used community space for arts, passive use, and neighborhood events

- \$250,000 to Oasis @ Bartlett to create a new arts park for the community and for the residents of Bartlett Yard, a new affordable housing community near Nubian Square

- \$40,000 to the Shirley-Eustis House to restore the wood shingle roof of the 1806 Carriage House to enhance its functionality as an accessible space for education, programs, and community use at the Georgian house museum

- \$400,000 to the Nubian Gallery to restore the neo-Classical facade of the former Hamill Gallery on a surviving 19th-century commercial block in the Dudley Station Historic District

- \$250,000 to the Dr. Marie E. Zakrzewska Building to continue restoration of the historic windows, so that the Dimock Center can create a residential recovery program in the space for men with substance use disorder

- \$400,000 to the Eliot Congregational Church, built in 1873, to restore the facade and roof in preparation for reuse of the underutilized spaces as affordable housing and a

commercial kitchen

- \$1,500,000 to the Fountain Hill development, creating 26 affordable homeownership opportunities in the Tommy's Rock neighborhood

- \$750,000 to 2147 Washington Street in Nubian Square to contribute to the fund to build eight new affordable homeownership units for first-time homebuyers

- \$1,000,000 to the Madison Park Community Development Corporation to contribute to the fund to build 15 new affordable units for first-time homebuyers at 75-81 Dudley Street. The units are part of a 20-unit, 100 percent affordable project recently approved by the BPDA at this location

SOUTH BOSTON

- \$150,000 to Barnard Place to create a small park with planting beds, benches, and a bocce court

- \$75,000 to the Kearsarge Memorial in Marine Park to replace the crumbling base and missing interpretive plaque, and restore the 1898 anchor honoring naval veterans of the USS Kearsarge, a class of battleships including one active ship in service today

ABOUT THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT (CPA)

After Boston voters adopted the CPA in November 2016, the City created a Community Preservation Fund. This fund is capitalized primarily by a one percent property tax-based surcharge on residential and business property tax bills that began in July 2017. The City uses this revenue to fund initiatives consistent with statewide CPA guidelines: affordable housing, historic preservation, and open space and public recreation. The funding of any project requires a recommendation from the Community Preservation Committee and appropriation by the City. For more information, please visit the Community Preservation webpage.

REP. BIELE VOTES IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION TO EXPAND ACCESS TO SCHOOL BREAKFAST AND NUTRITION

Recently, *Representative David Biele* joined his colleagues in the House of Representatives in unanimously passing legislation to ensure Massachusetts' students have access to breakfast after the beginning of the instructional day, while supporting the health and education of the Commonwealth's most vulnerable students.

The legislation, entitled An Act Regarding Breakfast After the Bell, requires public schools where 60 percent or more of the students are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch to offer its students breakfast options after classes begin. The legislation will increase access to healthy breakfast for 150,000 low-income students in the Commonwealth and provides

schools the flexibility to use the model that best suits its students, such as: breakfast in the classroom, grab and go breakfast, or second chance breakfast in the cafeteria.

"The evidence shows that students perform better at school when they've eaten a nutritious breakfast, unfortunately one in eight students in Massachusetts struggle with food insecurity and start the day hungry," said Rep. Biele. "This legislation will ensure that every student has access to breakfast so that they are well-fed and ready to learn, leading to better outcomes in the classroom with increased attentiveness and participation, and better overall health in our students."

This legislation builds on the House's ongoing efforts to prioritize

programs that support the health, wellbeing and academic success of the Commonwealth's most vulnerable children. Providing breakfast to students has been shown to improve concentration, increase school attendance and decrease tardiness and visits to the school nurse. It also serves to destigmatize traditional school breakfast programming by supporting an all-inclusive schoolwide option.

The bill also directs DESE to issue guidance or regulations in order to implement programming, allowing for consultation with nonprofit organizations with experience regarding the opportunity gap, hunger and food security issues, and best practices for improving student access to school breakfast.



Similar legislation recently passed the Massachusetts Senate and next steps will involve reconciling differences in the two pieces of legislation.

House Speaker DeLeo Congratulates Tommy Lyons *Named Board Chairman for Chelsea Soldiers Home*

There are some people who are well known for all the great work they do on behalf of others. And when it comes to working for the good cause of assisting our nation's veterans, one of the names that always stands out is of course Thomas 'Tommy' Lyons. The Speaker of the Massachusetts House, Robert DeLeo, has now congratulated him for yet the latest honor bestowed on this good man.

Tom Lyons is now the Board Chairman of the Chelsea Soldiers Home. If you've ever travelled along Massachusetts Route 1 northbound, you've seen the Chelsea Soldiers Home on the right-hand side, positioned majestically on the hillside. It will now have the expertise and professionalism of Tom Lyons to help oversee and assist with the excellent job the facility does on behalf of the veterans who reside there.

Tom Lyons is a well known and well liked native of South Boston, a Marine Corps veteran of the Vietnam War and has provided decades of distinguished service to veterans and veterans' causes. He is a founding member of the committee that created the South Boston Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the founder and presi-

dent of the Boston Semper Fidelis Society, which every November hosts the nation's largest annual Marine Corps Birthday luncheon from which proceeds benefit veterans and their families through various programs and scholarships.

In 2014, he was honored by the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation for his many years of work on behalf of veterans their families. The Tommy Lyons Scholarship was created in his name for the child of a Marine Corps or Navy Corpsmen veteran.

Lyons is a former Vice President of External Affairs at MassHousing. He spent 10 years as Boston's Deputy Commissioner for Veterans and seven years as Executive Director of the New England Center for Veterans before joining MassHousing. He was chairman of the committees for the Congressional Medal of Honor Society's annual conventions in Boston in 2001, 2006 and 2015.

In 2012, Lyons was appointed as Chairman of the Massachusetts Veteran and War Memorial Commission. The five-member commission, created by the Legislature through the Acts of 2012, is charged with evaluating and making recommendations "on an equitable method for



awarding funding for the upkeep, maintenance or repair of veteran or war memorials within the Commonwealth." In 2011, Lyons was appointed to a national advisory committee on homeless veterans by former U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. By any standard, this is an impressive resume of public service.

Maura S. Doyle, Clerk of the Supreme Judicial Court, Named 2020 SBCA General Chairwoman



Clerk of the Supreme Judicial Court, Maura S. Doyle will serve as General Chairwoman of this year's Evacuation Day activities, which will begin with the **Jimmy Flaherty Kick-Off Breakfast on Saturday, Feb. 29 at 10 a.m. at the Seapoint Restaurant**, where the presentation of the Henry Knox Unsung Hero awards will be presented.

The Breakfast will be followed by a host of community events which include **The Senior Salute, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.** (Sponsored by Mayor Walsh and the SBCA) **on March 7 at St. Peter's Lower Church Hall**, and the **140th Annual Evacuation Day Banquet on Friday, March 13 at the South Boston Convention Center**. Please note that with the St. Patrick's/Evacuation Day Parade being held on Sunday, March 15, **the Memorial Mass will be at 9 a.m. followed by the Historical Exercises at The Dorchester Heights Monument on Tuesday, March 17.**

On Oct. 7, 1996, the Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court announced their unanimous decision to appoint

Maura S. Doyle as Clerk of the Supreme Judicial Court for the County of Suffolk. On Oct. 21, 1996, Mrs. Doyle was sworn in and became the first woman to hold this position since its inception in 1693. And on Nov. 3, 1998, she became the first woman elected to Suffolk county-wide office.

As Clerk, Maura Doyle is responsible for the management of the court's single justice caseload, which is comprised of petitions seeking relief of lower court rulings under the SJC's superintendency power and various rules of court; bail reviews; appeals from State registration boards and agencies; and all matters concerning the admission of attorneys to the Massachusetts Bar, as well as, attorney discipline.

In addition to managing the Court's single justice caseload, Mrs. Doyle has been credited with instituting numerous management initiatives to improve the operation of the Clerk's office, increasing the public's access to court records and modernizing the storage and retrieval of County Court records.

Mrs. Doyle received a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice, cum laude, from Northeastern University in 1977 and a Juris Doctor from Suffolk University School of Law in 1981. She has been a member of the bar since 1981. Before joining the SJC's Clerk's office in 1992 as an Assistant Clerk, she was a civil litigator in the state and federal courts for 11 years and served as an adjunct professor at Suffolk University Law School.

Mrs. Doyle is a guest lecturer at bar association meetings across the state, MCLE and CPCS training sessions and law school forums. She is currently a member of the SJC's Standing Advisory Committee on Civil and Appellate Rules, the SJC's Information Technology Steering Committee for the Appellate Courts, and the SJC's Standing Advisory Committee on Professionalism. She is currently a member of the Board of Directors and Vice President of The Catholic Lawyers Guild of the Archdiocese of Boston, a member of the National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks, and a member of the Board of Harbor Health Services, Inc.

In 1998, she was inducted into the YWCA's Boston Academy of Women Achievers for her demonstrated leadership and accomplishment in her work and community. In May of 1999, Mrs. Doyle was named as the recipient of The McDermott Award for her outstanding alumni contribution by Suffolk University Law School's Student Bar Association. On June 2, 2000, she was presented with the 2000 Alumni Achievement Award at Pope John XXIII High School's Commencement ceremony.

This award is presented annually at the graduation ceremony to an individual who demonstrates outstanding achievement in a professional, religious or civic field of endeavor.

Mrs. Doyle lives in Dorchester with her husband, Attorney Frank Doyle. They have three grown children.

"The executive board and I look forward to working with Maura, to ensure once again the success of this unique community celebration, the commemoration of the British evacuation of Boston in 1776," said South Boston Citizens' Association President Tom McGrath. "Everyone is aware of her commitment and genuine devotion to South Boston Community. She has been an active participant in the South Boston Citizens Association from the early days of past Presidents Tommy Butler and Bernie O'Donnell. She has been assisting the Executive Board with all the behind the scenes work that helps put on these events for the past 25 years. Her dedication to the South Boston Citizens' Association and the neighborhood of South Boston are greatly appreciated. We are honored to list her as a member, and even prouder to name her this year's General Chairwoman. She may even tell a joke or two."

While the citizens of South Boston see the three weeks of celebration with each year's Evacuation Day, there are another 12-15 weeks of preparation to put it all together.

"Maura works side by side with other dedicated SBCA members in those hectic weeks, licking stamps, making phone calls and doing whatever it takes," said McGrath.

Coronavirus continued from front page

unequivocally affirm that those travelers from the Wuhan area have not traveled through other parts of China to travel here.

China has confirmed more than 4,500 people with the new illness, which can cause pneumonia, and more than 100 deaths. So far, there are five confirmed patients in the U.S., and no sign that they have spread the illness to anyone around them. They had all traveled to the center of the outbreak.

Two people in New Hampshire are undergoing tests for corona-

virus after they recently traveled to Wuhan and developed respiratory symptoms. Health officials stressed Tuesday that the risk to Americans so far is very low. For "the individual American, this should not be an impact on their day-to-day life," Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar told reporters.

While reports from China suggest that people there may have spread the illness before showing symptoms, there is no evidence of that in the U.S., stressed Dr. Robert Redfield, director of the

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. And while some other viruses are known to occasionally spread before symptoms are obvious — such as the flu — health officials say that's far less of a concern than the obviously contagious patients.

The CDC already has been checking arrivals at five U.S. airports that once had direct flights from the hardest-hit section of China. While China has instituted broad travel bans, people who had been in other parts of China still may be arriving via other countries.

The CDC is now beefing up screening at 15 more "quarantine stations" around the country, airports and other places where health workers regularly check arriving travelers for signs of illness. But travelers may not be sick right then, CDC's Dr. Nancy Messonnier said. The screenings also are an opportunity to educate travelers that if they develop symptoms — such as fever or a cough — after returning from the outbreak zone, they should contact their doctor, she said. That's exactly what the first two U.S. patients did.

SENATOR COLLINS VOTES TO ADVANCE BUS IMPROVEMENT LEGISLATION

All MBTA Buses to be Zero-Emissions by 2040

Last week, the Senate Committee on Ways and Means advanced a series of bills aimed at addressing climate change and reducing emissions. Included in the package was S.2476, An Act to Accelerate the Transition of Cars, Trucks, and Buses to Carbon-Free Power.

This legislation directs the MBTA to limit purchases and leases of buses in its fleet to zero-emissions vehicles by 2030. That means more effective vehicles that do not contribute to environmental pollution in our communities, and ultimately improves our air quality,

asthma rates, and quality of life. The bill calls for a fully emissions-free bus fleet by 2040.

“Reducing emissions and improving air quality in our communities is a top priority,” said Senator Nick Collins, who voted for the measure. “Children, seniors, and persons with asthma and other respiratory conditions are impacted every day by growing vehicle emissions in the city, and this legislation is a big step forward to reducing that, and protecting our environment.”

The legislation also requires all state vehicles to be zero-emissions starting in 2024, and studies the feasibility of require public municipal



vehicles to do the same. The full Senate plans to take up this bill, and several other climate bills as part of a Next-Generation Climate debate on Thursday, January 30.

Councilor Flynn Files New Hearing Orders

Focused on Traffic, Public Safety, Census Outreach, and Disability Rights

Councilor Flynn is filing four new matters at this week’s Boston City Council meeting, including three hearing orders and one resolution. These matters reflect some of the important issues facing the city, including:

Hearing to discuss establishing a traffic master plan for South Boston: In partnership with Councilor Michael Flaherty, the Councilors call for a hearing on the establishment of a traffic master plan for South Boston to assess the neighborhood’s short-term and long-term transportation needs and capacity. South Boston is in the midst of a development boom with large developments on all major corridors, and the added density and people will greatly impact traffic and transportation in South Boston. A South Boston traffic master plan will help the city and residents better understand the potential impact of upcoming developments on traffic and congestion for the neighborhood.

Hearing to discuss security at high-rise garages in the City of Boston: Over a period of seven months, there were three inci-

dents involving five deaths at the Renaissance Park Garage, all of them suspected suicides. Another person tried to jump from a six-story garage in Brighton earlier this month. These tragic incidents have called attention to the security at high rise garages in the city, as well as suicide prevention resources for those in distress. In partnership with Councilor Kim Janey, the hearing order calls for a discussion on how the city should work with parking garage operators to prevent tragedies like those that occurred at the Renaissance Garage from happening again, as well as ensuring access to mental health resources and counseling.

Hearing to discuss ways to promote a complete and accurate count of the 2020 Census in the City of Boston: The 2020 Census will be critical in determining how federal funds are distributed in our community, including benefits for SNAP, Medicare, Section 8, Head Start, and many other federal programs. Boston is ranked as the ninth hardest to count in the list of 100 largest cities, and the city must do what it can to ensure hard to count communities



like immigrants, non-English speakers, students, and renters are included in the census count. The census will also determine the number of congressional seats in our state, as well as the boundaries of local, state, and federal legislative districts. With Councilor Michelle Wu as the co-sponsor, the hearing will discuss ways and resources needed to ensure a complete and accurate count of the 2020 Census in Boston.

Resolution recognizing National Braille Literacy Month

in the City of Boston: January is designated as National Braille Literacy Month to promote and raise awareness of the importance of the Braille code to the blind and visually impaired community. Braille literacy is an important way for those with visual disabilities to attain independence and employment, yet in recent years, Braille literacy has fallen among the blind and those with visual disabilities as a result of increased reliance on audio and text-to-speech technology. This resolution affirms the City Council’s support for the blind and visually impaired community and recognizes and honors January as Braille Literacy Month in the City of Boston.

“The matters that I filed this week at the City Council reflect some of my top priorities, such as quality of life issues like transportation and public safety, as well as ensuring an accurate count of the 2020 Census, and bringing awareness to disability rights,” said Councilor Flynn. “I want to thank Councilors Flaherty, Janey, and Wu on partnering with me on these hearing orders, and look forward to our continued work on these issues.”

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

The Wine Guy

Big Game, Big Wines



enjoy the Big Game a lot more if you've got some good food and a big wine or two to go with it. Here are some suggestions-

2016 The Calling, Cabernet Sauvignon, Sonoma, Alexander Valley, is a wine that you can drink now through 2028. It's a full-bodied and well-structured wine with definite dark fruit notes and a nose of black-currant, spice and a hint of vanilla. It's a flexible food wine-big enough for a roast but able to be enjoyed with game day finger foods like beef and cheese egg rolls, filet puffs with mushroom paste or duck confit.

Peter Lehmann, "The Barossan" Shiraz, 2015 Syrah/Shiraz Barossa, South Australia, has a smooth berry nose, creamy texture, lively acidity, and bright berry and plum flavors; it's juicy, fresh, and has a long, lingering finish. It's grown in Australia's Barossa Valley, home to some of the most famous labels in the country. If you're having any Thai or Chinese at halftime this

Sunday, a bottle or two of this one will really add to the enjoyment.

2017 Aviary Vineyards, "Birds of Prey" Red Blend, Napa, California, is inspired by the guardians of its vineyards. Owls at night and raptors throughout the day, birds of prey hunt in the vines, allowing staff to naturally manage the vineyards without pesticides. As a result, this wine is big, bold, and balanced. It offers a memorable profile of chocolate, caramel, roasted nuts, strawberry preserve, and nougat with a big mouth-feel. A beautiful wine to be enjoyed now or aged for up to 10 years.

2018 Cambria Vineyards, "Julia's Vineyard" Pinot Noir, Santa Maria Valley, California, is an elegant expression of this valley's rich, robust soil and microclimate. This one has ripe blackberry and blue-berry flavors, followed by notes of cranberry, cherry and pomegranate, all in a chewy, lingering finish. Lamb, game birds and pulled pork



BBQ will all be memorable with this one on the table!

2017 Sean Minor Chardonnay, Sonoma Coast, California, (\$18.99), is, in a word, vibrant! This 100% Chardonnay wine was made from grapes that were 100% whole-cluster pressed, then fermented in French oak barrels (20% new), and aged in French oak barrels for 10 months before bottling. You'll catch distinctive aromas of lemon, cut apple, green apple and white peach, as well as plums and olives. The palate is herbal and floral, with notes of apples, pears and citrus peel. Tremendous for a wide array of halftime foods!

Talk To The Wine Guy at jdris8888@gmail.com

C-O-N-D-O-N-B-I-N-G-O- K-i-c-k-O-f-f!

Last Saturday, the staff of BCYF and the Condon Community Center Council held its first Bingo! The event was sponsored by Stephen Mulrey of Amrheins Restaurant. Council

President Mark McGonagle was on hand to help Debbie Flaherty call out the numbers loud and clear. State Rep. Biele was in attendance to assist with BINGO callbacks. Young volunteer members of the

Condon served coffee, donuts and pizza. Lots of laughs and calls of Bingo were heard throughout the event. It's a great way to spend the day with friends and family and win cash and gift cards.

Stay tuned and look for the date in March for the St. Patrick's Day Bingo! Barbara Caputo Kelly promises good craic, fun and maybe a few pots of gold from the leprechauns!



Recent South Boston Real Estate Sales

Property/Type	Price	Sale Date	Rooms	Baths	Sq Ft
509 East Second St UNIT 5 Condo	\$1,500,000	10/31/19	4	2	1,685
15 Sleeper St UNIT 206 Condo	\$1,385,000	10/24/19	8	2.5	1,933
14 West Broadway UNIT603 Condo	\$1,089,000	10/31/19	5	2	854
25 Channel Center ST UNIT 607 Condo	\$950,000	10/22/19	4	1.5	1,229
355 West Second St UNIT 23 Condo	\$855,000	10/28/19	4	2	1,020
346 Congress St UNIT 612 Condo	\$833,400	10/24/19	3	1	789
225 Dorchester St UNIT 29 Condo	\$775,000	10/30/19	4	2	1,195
488 Dorchester Ave UNIT 4G Condo	\$750,000	10/31/19	5	2	1,255
633 Dorchester St UNIT 1 Condo	\$699,900	10/30/19	7	2	1,258
152 O St UNIT 2 Condo	\$690,000	10/25/19	4	2	928
8 Springer St UNIT 2 Condo	\$620,000	10/30/19	6	1	1,019
274 West Fifth St UNIT 3 Condo	\$520,000	10/25/19	5	1	642
153-155 West Sixth St UNIT 6 Condo	\$510,000	10/30/19	3	1	650



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Gatey Hoop Notes

Boston Home Inspectors Club Wins Cadet Title

By Kevin Devlin

Last Sunday, January 26, at the McDonough gym located within the James

“Stretch” Walsh Community Center, the Boston Home Inspectors Club captured the cadet house league title. It was done in exciting fashion, as the BHI Club won in overtime, 55-50, against the Metro Energy Club. Conor Strickland was SBT’s MVP, netting 32 points, scoring all ten of his team’s points in overtime.

The Metro Energy Club took an early lead, 14-9, but the Boston Home Inspectors Club clawed back in the game. BHI Club guard, Conor Strickland, scored five unanswered points to give his team a 23-20 advantage at the break. In the second half, the Boston Home Inspectors led late in the game, but

Metro Energy Club guard, Sean Grant, hit a three-pointer with three seconds remaining in regulation, to tie it up, 45-45. In OT, Conor Strickland scored on two lay-ups and hit all six of his free throw attempts to seal the deal.

To round out the scoring, BHI Club forward, Tristen Pecevich, scored 10 points including one three-pointer. Frailyn Suazo and Chris Hosea had six and five points respectively. For the Metro Energy Club, Owen “The Gunslinger” Donovan scored 17 points including two three-pointers. Terry Markos had 11 points including two treys from downtown. Sean Grant had 10 points, Eddie Tira-

bassi and Joey Hamilton scored six points apiece.

Coach Jake Harrison was proud of his hoop warriors.

“Jerry (O’Neil) and Tristen (Pecevich) came up with big rebounds throughout the season,” said Coach Harrison. “Chris (Hosea) and Cormac (Lafferty) hit some big three-pointers along the way each week.

“We survived a rough patch before the playoffs began,” he added. “But they all played well when it counted. In the final game Conor (Strickland) took over and was unstoppable. The younger players also stepped up hitting some key baskets. And we came out on top.”



Pictured is the 2020 cadet house league champions, the BOSTON HOME INSPECTORS CLUB coached by Boston Latin varsity hoop player, Jake Harrison. The players are; Cormac Lafferty, Frailyn Suazo, Ryan Alexander, Tristen Pecevich, Chris Hosea, Jerry O’Neil, and Conor Strickland. Also pictured is Gatey commissioner, Sean Monahan.



Pictured is the 2020 cadet house league finalists, the METRO ENERGY CLUB. coached by Chris DiMaggio. The players are; Sean Grant, Owen Donovan, Alex Polena, Terry Markos, Aidan Coltan, Eddie Tirabassi, and Joey Hamilton. Also pictured is Gatey commissioner, Sean Monahan.



Pictured is midget house league player and well-known gym rat, Anderson Wisniewski, at the McDonough gym, happily watching the cadet house league championship game.



Pictured are game officials, James Donovan (on left) and Brad Hill.



Pictured is BOSTON HOME INSPECTORS CLUB cadet house league champion, Conor Strickland, with Coach Jake Harrison. Conor was the MVP of the championship game netting 32 points.



Pictured is Frailyn Suazo who plays on the BOSTON HOME INSPECTORS championship team. He scored two timely three-pointers to help his team win the title last Sunday.

Gatey Raises State Championship Banners

On Sunday evening, January 26, Gate of Heaven CYO held a banner-raising ceremony at the McDonough gym. Former players, coaches, families and friends gathered to witness the 1977, 1983, and 2019 CYO state basketball championship banners being raised to the roof. It was a wonderful evening to honor these CYO state

hoop champions who are part of the Gatey championship legacy.

“It was a tremendous night,” said Gate of Heaven Athletic Director Kevin Lally. “It was great to see former players and coaches. All of them are a credit to the program and to the neighborhood they still call home.

“It was also great to raise three more state championship banners in

our home gym,” Lally added. “Showing everyone that Gatey, without doubt, has the best CYO basketball program in the entire state.”

Players on the 1977 sixteen and under CYO state championship team were; George Pike, Larry Lucas, Bobby Kaufman, Jay Casey, Bobby Allen, Jim Connolly, David Walker, Peter Yetman, Gerard Doolin, Art Downey, Terry Graham, and Jack Hart. The coaches were John “Injun” Horan and Kevin Cowell.

Players on the 1983 fourteen and under CYO state championship team

were; Mike Caputo, Ken Conley, Tom Davenport, Mike Doyle, Danny Doyle, Dennis Maginnis, Pat Lavey, John McDonough, Bobby McGarrell, Brendan Flynn, and Mike McGough. The coaches were Kevin Lally, Larry Davis, and Joseph “Joe” Kelly.

Players on the 2019 sixteen and under CYO state championship team were; James Arlauskas, Michael Brooks, Paddy Craddock, Jack McGinn, Chris Fitzgerald, Kevin Cully, Ryan Hogan, Braeden Kennedy, and Jack Mathews. The coaches were Billy Watson and Matt Hogan.



Pictured are the players and coaches of the 2019 SIXTEEN AND UNDER STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM.



Pictured are the players and coaches of the 1983 FOURTEEN AND UNDER STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM.



Pictured holding the 1977 SIXTEEN AND UNDER STATE CHAMPIONSHIP BANNER is Clerk of Suffolk Superior Court and Gatey coach, Michael Donovan, Gatey fundraising guru, William “Touchie” McDonough, former State Senator and 1977 state championship player, Jack Hart, State Representative David Biele, and Kevin Lally, Gate of Heaven CYO Athletic Director.

Massport’s Valued Support

By Sean Monahan

The Gate of Heaven CYO instructional basketball program is funded by Massport. Young boys and girls meet every Saturday morning from October until February and are taught basic basketball skills. First and second graders learn how to dribble, pass, shoot and the basics of offense and defense. The first grade boys start at 8:30 with the second graders coming in at 9:15. The boys’ instructional program is run by Michael Donovan, Fred Haddad and

me. We are also assisted by a great group of high school volunteers: Connor Strickland, Tommy White, Owen Donovan, Eddie Murray and James Buzzell.

The girls’ instructional program is run by Marie Laundry. They also have some outstanding high school students/alumni, teaching the girls every week which includes Mary Kate Hart, Emily Harris, Jacqueline Beggan, and Rebecca Donovan. It’s quite impressive to see these teenagers giving up their Saturday mornings to volunteer. And it’s extremely helpful because the younger kids look up to their teenage mentors, hoping they will be just as good as them someday.

“We are grateful for Massport’s support all these years which enables us to run this program,” said Gatey’s Athletic Director, Kevin



Lally. “This is the feeder system for all of our programs. The instructional program teaches players the basic skills and gives them confidence to graduate to our older house leagues. Additionally of the players decide to play on our travel teams and often

play for their high school teams.

“I also need to mention the young volunteers,” Lally concluded. “We are very fortunate to have these dedicated volunteers...and it’s great to see the teenagers giving back to this program every Saturday.”

Compass On The Bay Honors Veterans

Compass On The Bay paid tribute to their Veterans and dedicated the newly created 'Veterans Wall of Honor' on Saturday, January 25, 2020.

South Boston's Thomas Fitzgerald Post 561 Commander Tom McCarthy started the event off with the Pledge of

Allegiance. Ben Sears and Brad Conner entertained the crowd with songs from George Gershwin and Irving Berlin from the post-WWI and WWII eras and then transitioned into the all so famous 'Take Me Out To The Ballgame'. The audience was singing, clapping, smiling and having a wonderful time.

Music is in the heart of all of us!

After the tribute, Compass invited the community to enjoy refreshments and mingle, while the residents were getting ready for their daily lunch.

The management and staff of the Compass did a spectacular job in bringing the community into the cel-

ebration. This was another example of Compass' connecting to the South Boston neighborhood. Their summer concert series is a popular evening time entertainment program.

This paper thanks Compass for taking care of our seniors, veterans and staying connected to the community.



SBCA ANNOUNCES 244th EVACUATION DAY ESSAY AND POSTER CONTESTS

South Boston Citizens' Association President Tom McGrath has announced that, because of the tremendous success of the past several years' contests, the Association, along with Mass Bay Credit Union and Comcast, will once again sponsor the 2020 Annual Essay and Poster Contests. After last year's outstanding effort put forth by past President Bernie O'Donnell and his committee, he has expressed his interest in taking on the challenge as Chairperson for this year's Essay and Poster Contests. "Bernie always taught me that these contests are a great way to educate and strengthen the interest of the children of the community," said McGrath. "I was more than pleased when Bernie offered to take on this event for the children of South Boston. This year we will open up the High School competition to all students residing in Suffolk County or attending a school in Suffolk County." O'Donnell further expressed: "One of the missions of the SBCA is to reach



out to the young children of this history-rich community and joining with the SBCA in promoting, organizing, and judging the Evacuation Day Poster and Essay Competitions is a most fitting way to improve on that mission."

Poster Competition

The poster competition is open to all students in grades 3, 4, and 5 who are either South Boston residents or any student that attends a school in South Boston. This year's theme is Historic South Boston. For Example: Castle Is-

land, Dorchester Heights, L Street Bathhouse (Curley Rec. Center), Farragut Statue, The St. Patrick's/Evacuation Day Parade, St. Augustine's Chapel, etc. Posters should be original compositions in any medium at least "8 1/2 x 11" but preferably larger. Prizes are as follows: First prize \$100, Second prize \$75, and Third prize \$25.

Essay Competition

Topic for Students in grades 6-8: The topic is Col. Henry Knox and his contribution to Dorchester Heights and Our

Country. Essays should be at least 500 words. Prizes are as follows: First prize \$100, Second prize \$75, Third prize \$25.

Topic for Students in grades 9-12:

High school essay competition is open to all students residing in Suffolk County or attending a High School in Suffolk County. Who was General John Thomas and what was his connection to Evacuation Day? Essays should be at least 1000 words. Prizes are as follows: First prize \$150, Second prize \$100, Third prize \$50. As in years past, the SBCA, Mass Bay CU, and Comcast are generously sponsoring the competitions. All prizes will be presented during the Historical Exercises on Tuesday, March 17, 2020 at Dorchester Heights, following the 9 a.m. Mass at St. Augustine's Chapel, weather permitting. All entries should include, in an attached envelope, the contestant's name, school, and contact information, and should be submitted no later than Friday, March 7, 2020, at 5 p.m. All entries can be mailed to South Boston Citizens' Association, P.O. Box 74, South Boston, MA, 02127, or can be picked up at schools by a representative of the Citizens' Association. Entries can also be dropped off at 170 M Street.

St. Peter Academy offers a Pre-K Preview!

By Frank Galligan,
Principal of St. Peter Academy

"You're off to great places! Today is your day! Your mountain is waiting, so get on your way!" This exciting thought by Dr. Seuss is encouraged and lived out each week in St. Peter Academy's early childhood program! In addition to a growing and reputable Toddler wing, the Pre-Kindergarten suite at St. Peter Academy offers rich academic and social-emotional programming in a developmentally appropriate manner.

Through circle time, centers and small group instruction, children learn the foundations, habits, and skills necessary for success in school and life! Teachers utilize Eureka Math and the nationally recognized "Opening the World of Learning" (OWL) curriculum. OWL offers research-based early literacy while incorporating content that captures children's natural curiosity about the world into an activity-centered day. This specialized curriculum covers all domains of

learning: Language and Literacy, Social Studies, Science, Mathematics, the Arts, Physical Development, and Social and Emotional Development. Furthermore, and perhaps most importantly, to support the school's mission of developing the whole child, students participate in Physical Education, Visual Arts, Spanish, and Music classes throughout the week. Students also enjoy trips to Tougas Farm, visits to the Boston Children's Museum and the Franklin Park Zoo, in addition to so much more!

See for yourself why there's so much excitement surrounding our programs! Prospective Pre-Kindergarten parents and children are invited to a very special "Teddy Bear Tea" at St. Peter Academy on Saturday, February 1, 2020 from 11AM – 12 PM. Bring a stuffed animal friend with you to enjoy cookies, juice, and a fun story read by the classroom teacher, Mrs. Carmen Pepin! Reservations are required and can be made by calling (617) 268-0750 or by emailing spa@stpeteracademy.com.



Paying It Forward At The ‘L’

Today the L Street Brownie organization presented a generous donation to the South Boston Sports Hall Of Fame Scholarship Trust Fund. Ed Johnson, who represents the L Street Brownies said “Although the purpose of our organization is to reap the benefits of 365 days of swimming at the L Street Bathhouse, our membership has a certain dedication to the community of South Boston and always gives back to our own. I hereby present this check

to the Scholarship Trust Fund who awards annual scholarships to South Boston high school seniors based on community service, academic performance and financial need. It’s our way of saying thank you to this wonderful community for the recognition and respect that is bestowed upon the members of the L Street Brownies”.

The Brownies first recorded swim - it’s a swim, not a plunge - was in 1865 but became officially organized with members in 1902 with

the tag line “Cleanliness of Body is next to Godliness”. The first official New Year’s Day swim was in 1904 and has since been celebrated by Brownie members as well as other community supporters and recognized nationally as the participants sometimes brave through snow and ice to immerse themselves in the icy, salty water. Throughout the years, the New Year’s Day swim at “The L” has become a rite of passage for many across the region

with thousands of revelers gathering alongside the L Street Brownies and simultaneously running into the freezing water as a way to ring in the New Year. According to the founders and members of the L Street Brownies, the cold water swim offers many physical and mental benefits including a boost to your immune system, a supercharge for your metabolism and a gain to your mental fortitude. Cold water therapy is something the Brownies realized 100 years ago, long before it was officially acknowledged as beneficial to your health.

For over a century, the January 1 swim has never been cancelled and has not only grown in popularity, but has also been mimicked as a New Year celebration in many other waterfront communities. Annually, these L Street Brownies sell tee shirts to hundreds of participants and generously donate funds directly back to the South Boston community that support youth programs at the Curley Community Center as well broad support to other local charities. Their passion for this neighborhood is evident and the L Street Brownies always find a way to pass on the neighborhood good will. L Street Brownies have left an indelible mark on this community and we will continue to honor and respect their New Year’s Swim tradition.



L-R: Ed Johnson, L Street Brownie, Susan Hart Woods, Board member, SB Sports Hall of Fame Scholarship Trust Fund, Dan Monahan, Andrea Flaherty, Directors at Curley Community Center aka The L.



The next generation of swimmers, with an affinity for cold water swimming that was learned from the best, heading into their monthly swim!

South Boston Catholic Academy News

Shout out to Grades 3 & 4 at South Boston Catholic Academy for doing such a great job with their Class projects!

In 3A & 3B for their hard work on their cereal box recommendations!

Third grade students wrote a book recommendation to share their opinion of the book and suggested audience. They glued the recommendation and other information about the text to a

cereal box and designed a cereal to match the theme of the book.

In 4A & 4B...Can you guess the idioms??

Fourth Grade has been learning all about figurative language! Friday students dressed up as idioms.

Some of them included; made of money, double header, eye on the ball, when pigs fly, a piece of cake, break a leg, social butterfly and butterflies in my stomach!!

South Boston Catholic Academy (www.SBCatholicAcademy.org) is

currently accepting applications for all classes PreSchool (2.9) to Grade 6. All are welcome to come to our Open House on Thursday, January 30, 2020 from 9 to 11AM. We have Before School and After School Programs available and high acceptance rate to Parochial, Private, and Boston Exam Schools. Please contact: Mrs. Jamie Brown, our Vice Principal, with any questions or for a tour of the school at j.brown@sbcatholicacademy.org or phone 617-268-2326 for more information.





For the first time in a long time, this year's Super Bowl hasn't been the most important story in sports, leading up to the big game.

Our attention has instead been turned to the tragic death of Kobe Bryant and his 13-year-old daughter Gianna. The shocking news of their helicopter crash on Sunday has put many people in a state of shock. You don't even have to be a sports fan to feel this one.

Bryant's recent public appearances at basketball games with his daughter Gianna exemplified the true bond that sports creates, and also showed a side of the iconic Bryant that normal people can relate to, which was refreshing.

Now, just like that, they're both gone. And it doesn't feel real. It probably never will.

So you can understand how moving on to pregame analysis of a football game is not an easy transition for anyone right now. But it's a transition that I have to make. That's my job.

So it's with a heavy heart that I give you this analysis for a Super Bowl that most likely everyone involved will be dedicating to one of the greatest pro athlete's we've ever seen.

Here is my pick for Super Bowl LIV:

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS (+1) over Kansas City Chiefs

Defense wins championships. And right now, I couldn't possibly put my money against this 49ers defense. Not even with Patrick Mahomes on the other end.

Look, let's get something out of the way here. I'm extremely disappointed that the New England Patriots are not in this game. The Pats have played in four of the last five Super Bowls, including the last three, so I'm not going to lie, it's tough to get into this one.

Am I rooting for San Francisco quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo because he used to be a Patriot? Not at all. In fact, if I had no money on the line, I'd probably be rooting against Garoppolo, knowing that if he wins a Super Bowl in his first full (non-injured) season with the 49ers, that'll just open the floodgates to more Patriots criticism about how Bill Belichick should've never traded him, blah, blah, blah.

Me, personally, I've moved on from Garoppolo. I'm all in on the rest of the Tom Brady era in New England, assuming Brady stays, which I do think he will. But I just wanted to address the elephant in the room with Garoppolo. I'm only rooting for him

on Sunday because I'm betting his 49ers to win the game.

And I'm only betting the 49ers to win the game because of their defense.

San Francisco has allowed just 15 points per game in the playoffs, which ranks No. 1 among the 12 teams that were in the playoffs. Meanwhile Kansas City allows 28 points per game. The 49ers have also created five turnovers in their two playoff games, while the Chiefs have only created one.

I expect San Francisco to put more pressure on Mahomes than Mahomes has ever seen, which will cause either a couple fumbles or a couple interceptions.

Kansas City's pass rush has been solid as well though. Still, overall, if you're going to take the Chiefs' defense over the 49ers' defense then I don't think you've watched the NFL this year.

I'm also looking at the coaches when making this pick. Chiefs coach Andy Reid was part of the Green Bay Packers' staff in 1996 that won a Super Bowl. He then became head coach of the Philadelphia Eagles, where he lost the only Super Bowl he went to. So he's looking for his first ring as a head coach. But so is the guy on the other end.

49ers coach Kyle Shanahan, who, like Reid, is an offensive guy. Shanahan has had smaller roles in multiple organizations, but never got to a Super Bowl until he was the offensive coordinator of the Atlanta Falcons. But we all know how that Super Bowl ended, with Shanahan's Falcons blowing a 28-3 lead to the Patriots.

Reid and the Chiefs have been knocking on the door now for a few years. But how could you not like what Shanahan has done with the 49ers since being hired in 2017?

Here's what I know. Garoppolo is going to have to make some plays. He won't be able to rely on his run game like he did in the NFC Championship. But a couple turnovers could help him out with either some great field position against a questionable Chiefs defense, or maybe even just points off those turnovers.

Again, I just can't pick against this San Francisco defense. Which means I'm taking the 49ers to win Super Bowl LIV.

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SPORTS TODAY

NBA LEGEND BRYANT AMONG NINE DEAD IN HELICOPTER CRASH



SBT Staff

The sports world was rocked on Sunday by the news of Kobe Bryant's tragic death in a helicopter crash in California.

Bryant, 41, was one of nine people on board and killed in the crash. Among them was his 13-year-old daughter Gianna.

NBA commissioner Adam Silver released the following statement:

"The NBA family is devastated by the tragic passing of Kobe Bryant and his daughter, Gianna.

"For 20 seasons, Kobe showed us what is possible when remarkable talent blends with an absolute devotion to winning. He was one of the most extraordinary players in the history of our game with accomplishments that are legendary: five NBA championships, an NBA MVP award, 18 NBA All-Star selections, and two Olympic gold medals. But he will be remembered most for inspiring people around the world to pick up a basket-



Tweet of the Week

SHAQ @SHAQ · Jan 26

Kobe was so much more than an athlete, he was a family man. That was what we had most in common. I would hug his children like they were my own and he would embrace my kids like they were his. His baby girl Gigi was born on the same day as my youngest daughter Me'Arah.



ball and compete to the very best of their ability. He was generous with the wisdom he acquired and saw it as his mission to share it with future generations of players, taking special delight in passing down his love of the game to Gianna.

"We send our heartfelt condolences to his wife, Vanessa, and their family, the Lakers organization and the entire sports world."

Also killed was Orange Coast College baseball coach John Altobelli, the father of Boston Red Sox scout J.J. Altobelli. J.J. Altobelli's younger sister, Alyssa, and stepmother, Keri, also died in the crash.

Red Sox Chief Baseball Officer Chaim Bloom released the following statement:

"The Red Sox are devastated by the news of [Sunday]'s tragic helicopter crash in Southern California. We are heartbroken for the victims and their families, including John Altobelli, father of Red Sox scout J.J. Altobelli, John's wife Keri, and their daughter Alyssa. John touched so many lives in his 27 years coaching at Orange Coast College, and we join the entire baseball community in mourning him."

A GoFundMe page has been created for the Altobelli family: [gofundme.com/f/support-for-the-altobelli-family](https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-for-the-altobelli-family).

REPORTS: RED SOX TALKING TO THREE TEAMS ABOUT MOOKIE BETTS



SBT Staff

According to multiple reports, the Boston Red Sox are currently engaged in trade talks with three teams for outfielder Mookie Betts. Those three teams are the Los Angeles Dodgers, San Diego Padres, and Arizona Diamondbacks. The Boston Globe's Alex Speier

WHAT TO WATCH

NFL SUNDAY, FEB. 2
SUPER BOWL LIV

San Francisco vs Kansas City (-1)
6:30 P.M. FOX

NBA THURSDAY, JAN. 30

Golden State at Boston
8 P.M. TNT

SATURDAY, FEB. 1

Philadelphia at Boston
8:30 P.M. ABC

NHL FRIDAY, JAN. 31

Boston at Winnipeg
8 P.M. NESN

SATURDAY, FEB. 1

Boston at Minnesota
8 P.M. NESN

reported earlier in the week that the Red Sox are discussing the options of acquiring a "combination of big leaguers and prospects." Speier indicates that there's no guarantee Betts will get moved before the start of the regular season, but also says the team's willingness to consider trading Betts "appears serious."

Betts, 27, will be an unrestricted free agent after the upcoming 2020 season. The expectation is that Betts will be seeking a long-term contract of at least \$300 million. According to reports, Betts rejected an eight-year, \$200 million offer from the Red Sox after the 2017 season.

The Red Sox have publicly expressed their desire to cut payroll this winter in order to get below the league's luxury tax threshold.

Trade rumors involving Betts' name also come at a time in which the organization is still searching for a new manager. Alex Cora was fired two weeks ago, and the Red Sox have yet to replace him as of Wednesday afternoon.

Pitchers and catchers report to spring training in less than two weeks, on Tuesday, Feb. 11. Positional players report on Sunday, Feb. 16.

The Red Sox' first spring training game is Saturday, Feb. 22 against the Tampa Bay Rays.



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