



The Rich Are Getting Richer - As Always

The daily headlines and reports say that roughly 30 million American workers are out of work and collecting unemployment benefits (1 out of 5). More than 4 million Americans have contracted the coronavirus; more than 145,000 (3.5%) have died from it in the U.S. The number of corporate bankruptcies is high. Economists are predicting the worst recession in our lifetimes, perhaps worse than what occurred during the 2008 financial crisis. Given this you'd think that things are looking

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EDITORIAL

When 'Entitled' Activists Whine

When whiny, 'entitled' college students demand someone or something be removed from the public sector because THEY are offended by it and those demands are granted for trendy or politically correct reasons, those who bend to those demands should not be put into or allowed to remain in positions of authority. Not only do they not have the courage or leadership skills to be decision makers, but they also lack the maturity to resist pressure from political activists with an agenda that goes against

the will of most people. We refer of course to the recent controversy in the Town of Hingham, Massachusetts in regard to removing the 'Back the Blue' police supporting flags from the town's fire trucks and other town property.

As the story goes, some college kid who resides in that community sent an email, demanding the blue lined flags be removed from the town's fire apparatus because 'HE' was offended, so the Hingham police and fire chiefs scrambled to accommodate. That the flags were put up to honor one of Hingham's fallen heroes

and met with the approval of most town residents didn't seem to matter – the student's feelings were more important. Some might ask why would an editorial in a South Boston newspaper focus on what's going on in the Town of Hingham? The answer to that question is it's to use it as an example of what not to do and how not to respond in situations like this no matter where they take place.

As most are aware, Boston has more than its share of whiny college students, whose actions are often influenced by Socialist, America-hating professors

who have over the years made similar demands. It could be a statue, the name of a street or any number of things that most people are just fine about, but a disgruntled few have a problem with. When you indulge and cower from the unreasonable demands of politically motivated activists, hell bent on trashing or eliminating those things that mean so much to the greater community, it usually doesn't end there. The activists, sensing weakness, are emboldened to make even more politically motivated demands and will only come back for



more and still more after that. The ability to say 'No' to activists on a crusade to eliminate what others consider important is not the mark of a true leader. The fire and police chiefs in Hingham should be embarrassed. The rank and file who have refused to remove those flags should be applauded for standing up to honor the memory of one of that town's true heroes.

"The summer night is like the perfection of thought" - Author Unknown

You've got to read...

My two books, The Southie Pact, and the sequel, Hope and Despair, The Southie Pact Part Two are works of fiction set in South Boston. Although set in Southie, these two books depict the untimely deaths resulting from drug addiction which is affecting every community in the nation. They illustrate the grief, sadness, heartache, and despair loved one's experience when they are left behind with memories of what was; and

thoughts of what should have been.

In the first book a group of teenagers swear to a Pact not to see anymore of their friends die from drug overdoses, but as time passes, those involved with this pledge can't keep their promise. In the sequel, new characters are introduced and the struggle against drug addiction continues.

Thousands and thousands of Americans die from drug overdoses each year. From 1999 through 2017, 702,000

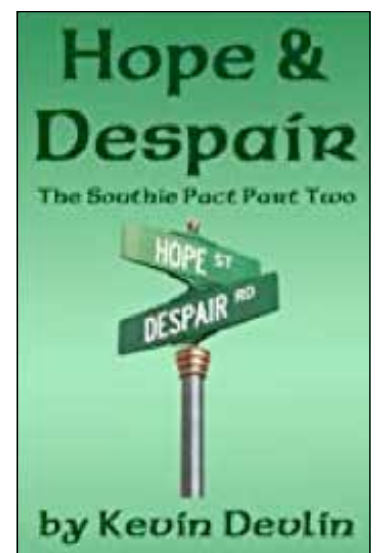


Americans died from drug overdoses. In 2016, 64,070 died (116 Americans per day), in 2017, 72,237 died,



in 2018, 67,367 died, and in 2019, over 70,000 died.

And this virus of addiction is not going away, only wors-



ening with each passing day.

These two books are available on AMAZON.COM in paperback and kindle.

SouthBostonTODAY Online • On Your Mobile • At Your Door

PO Box 491 • South Boston, MA 02127

Publisher • John Ciccone

info@southbostontoday.com • ads@southbostontoday.com

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The Information Center

We Shouldn't Believe Our Lying Eyes. There Are No Riots

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY

John Ciccone

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

The term that Climate Change alarmists and radicals use to describe those of us who question the predictions of so called 'scientists' who have been warning of the end of life on earth as we know it for decades is 'Deniers'. Yes, there are those of us who have doubts about the findings by so called weather experts like Al Gore, when they can't even accurately predict if it will rain on Monday. Though the riots taking place in Democrat run cities in America are not funny, I have to laugh when some of the same people who throw the 'denier' label around at Al Gore's skeptics, are also now in complete denial that riots are even happening.

How clownish do they look when people like Congressman Jerry Nadler are insisting that the rioting and looting and burning of buildings is just a myth that President Trump is fabricating for reelection purposes. And all the while he's saying it, there is a 70 inch TV screen directly behind him showing live footage of burning buildings in Portland and Seattle up in flames and masked punks dressed in black clothes and masks hurling bricks at helmeted police holding shields? And the thing is, these congress members are so contemptuous of the American people, that they actually think that the public is buying it. Granted, Nadler can probably convince part of his voting base; I mean they couldn't be all that bright to begin with if they voted him into office, but the rest of the country can easily see what's going on.

I guess none of this is surprising and should be expected from these liberal democrats. Their hatred for our country in general and the president in particular has been fully exposed to the point that

they no longer even try to hide it. Just recently, at the Democrat Party Awards Ceremony, one of the honorees was the vile alleged comedian Kathy Griffin. We all remember her. She was the one in the photo holding the mock-up of a severed Donald Trump head. Most of the nation was repulsed by that photo, even many Democrat voters. Yet there she was being praised and honored at the Party's Award's Dinner. Joe Biden didn't show up in person, they are still keeping him under wraps, but he did send in a fawning video praising the event and the honorees, Griffin included. But let's get back to the rioting.

We keep hearing the rioters being referred to as 'mostly peaceful' and 'unarmed'. But we all know they are neither. We are not blind and we're not stupid. They are roaming the streets armed with baseball bats, bricks, pepper spray and in some cases guns with live ammo and explosives. They are attacking, burning, and looting buildings. Many of these buildings are small businesses they are out to destroy. Like rampaging cowards, they surround innocent people they catch alone and beat them, pull drivers out of their cars and they are not only attacking police with the intent to injure them, they are even trying to kill them. We can watch it on TV and on social media nightly. Not only are these Democrat mayors seemingly unable to control it, they have all but tied the hands of their own police forces rendering them unable to defend the public and even these officers themselves. Some of these mayors have removed all doubt that they actually want these riots to continue.

It wasn't that long ago that conservatives warned that liberals

in America would rather see the country burned to the ground rather than have President Trump succeed in anything. When people heard that, they just rolled their eyes at such ludicrous statement. Well, few doubt it now because we are watching it play out on live TV and we can hear it from the mouths and the inaction of Pelosi, Schumer and the like who absolutely refuse to condemn what's going on.

So, Trump has made good on his warning to these mayors and governors like Andrew Cuomo. Either

bring your cities under control or he will send in federal law enforcement to do it. And he has and is. Now, the howling coming from the left side of the aisle in congress is demanding that Trump pull 'his troops' out because it's 'fascism' to use force on these peaceful young woke protesters. But the Left has misjudged the sentiment in the country. Americans want these riots stopped and if Trump must be the one to do the job, they will stand in support of what he does, and they are in overwhelming numbers.

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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.

Baker's housing bill: 'Is it out or is it in?'

The House today resumes debate on its sprawling 'catchall' economic development bill (SHNS- pay wall). And one of the bill's proposals is getting a lot of attention – the surprise inclusion of Gov. Charlie Baker's 'Housing Choice' legislation. But the Globe's Jon Chesto and CommonWealth magazine's Shira Schoenberg report that final passage of the governor's plan is far from certain. Speaking of the economic development bill, from SHNS's Chris Lisinski (pay wall): "Immigrant Driver's License Amendment Withdrawn."

Maine governor digs in her heels over requiring Mass. residents to quarantine

Out of the goodness of our hearts, the state of Massachusetts exempted Maine residents from our new pandemic quarantine rules. But will Maine return the favor? Noooo. Not

if Maine Gov. Janet Mills has her way as she battles GOP lawmakers over Maine's anti-Mass. quarantine rules. The Globe's Travis Andersen has the details.

UMass joins other colleges dumping SAT/ACT scores for applicants

Blame the pandemic. MassLive's Patrick Johnson reports that the UMass-Amherst has become the latest school to drop SAT/ACT test scores for student applicants, due to the difficulty of proctoring tests during the pandemic. The new rule starts with those applying for the spring semester of 2021. Separately, from CBS Boston: "UMass Amherst RAs Slam 'Suicidal' Reopening Plan, May Refuse To Work."

Markey gets the progressive nod from the Globe

Most political endorsements don't matter much. But some political endorsements do matter – and this morning U.S. Sen.

Ed Markey got a big one with the Globe editorial board's endorsement of Markey in his Dem primary battle against U.S. Rep. Joseph Kennedy, touting Markey's progressive credentials and politely stating "Kennedy has not made a persuasive case for removing Markey from the Senate."

And, yes, newspaper endorsements still matter (though not as much as they used to), especially in tight races with little time left. In other U.S. Senate race news, from the Globe's Marcela Garcia: "Markey-Kennedy Senate race brings intense focus on Latino communities." From the Globe's Joan Vennoch: "No high-minded debate in Kennedy-Markey Senate race." And CommonWealth's Michael Jonas looks at how the pandemic has scrambled the campaign playbook this year.

It's true: Markey spends less time in Mass. than the rest of the delegation

The Globe's Victoria McGrane

and Liz Goodwin have dug into congressional travel records and found that U.S. Sen. Ed Markey really does spend less time in Massachusetts than other members of the state's congressional delegation, a point U.S. Rep. Joseph Kennedy has been hammering away at in his tight U.S. Senate race against Markey. One thing is also clear: Markey has most definitely not spent time in the towns of Dana, Enfield, and Prescott, as the Herald's Joe Dwinell explains.

Blitzed in the 4th: Auchincloss ad buy ramps up race for Kennedy seat

Newton City Councilor Jake Auchincloss says he'll spend \$381,000 on a new TV ad, the largest single media buy to date in the race for the 4th District seat in Congress being vacated by Joseph Kennedy III, Matt Stout at the Globe reports. At least four of the Democrats in the race have made major TV ad purchases--normally a summertime rarity but made necessary by this year's primary coming on Sept. 1. Meanwhile, in another congressional race, via Polito's Ally Mutnick: "Labor-aligned group knocks Neal's primary challenger in new ad."

Chairman Lynch Opens Investigation Into Trump Administration Decision To Overturn Firearm Suppressor Export Ban



Washington, D.C. – Yesterday, U.S. Representative Stephen F. Lynch, the Chairman of the Subcommittee on National Security, sent a letter to Russell T. Vought, Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), requesting documents re-

garding the Trump Administration's decision to overturn a longstanding prohibition on the export of firearm sound suppressors to private entities located in foreign countries. Recent reports indicate that the decision was made at the urging of a White House official with personal and financial ties to the American Suppressor Association (ASA), whose sponsors stand to make potentially millions of dollars as a direct result of the new policy.

"The overseas sale of U.S. defense articles, especially when those weapons could endanger the safety and security of our men and women in uniform, cannot and should not be influenced by personal financial or political interests," Chairman Lynch wrote.

In April 2002, the Department of State restricted the export of firearm sound suppressors (i.e. gun silencers) to "only official end users such as government or military entities." This policy was implemented in order to "prevent American equipment from being used against American service members."

On July 10, 2020, the Trump Administration reversed the 2002 firearm suppressor export ban. According to recent reports, then-Deputy Assistant to the President and Counselor to the White House Chief of Staff, Michael B. Williams, played a leading role in the State Department's July 10, 2020, decision. Before joining the Trump Administration, Williams worked as general counsel to the ASA along-

side his brother, ASA President and Executive Director Knox Williams.

"Michael Williams' involvement in U.S. gun policy, and specifically his reported role in overturning the State Department's 2002 restrictions on the foreign export of firearm suppressors, raise significant concerns about whether the safety of our men and women in uniform is being exchanged for personal or commercial profit."

The Subcommittee requested that OMB provide documents regarding Michael B. Williams' communications and U.S. government interagency meetings related to the foreign export of firearm silencers, mufflers, and sound suppressors by August 11, 2020.

Rowdiness at our Beaches And Vandalism At The Sailing Center *It Shows that More, Not Less Law Enforcement is Needed*

It's been a hot summer so far and it's been a different kind of summer to be sure. Ignoring the pleas from some health experts and elected officials, huge crowds are flocking to beaches seeking relief from the typical weather that we have come to expect in June, July and August. And with large crowds seeking that cool refreshing plunge in the ocean, some communities are also experiencing rowdy behavior and that unfortunately includes at South Boston's own beaches.

Heavy consumption of alcohol is the new norm at M Street beach every summer, as the dense crowds are almost piled on top of one another, but seems even more so to be the case this year. And as many neighbors can attest, sometimes it's even happening right under the watchful eyes of police. Pleasure boats filled with drinking occupants have been videoed coming to within 10 feet of the shore on crowded days at high tide getting dangerously close to swimmers. Trash is piling up and overflowing in some locations.

Along Day Boulevard and even up on East and West Broadway, youths on motorized scooters and even dirt bikes are speeding back and forth with Castle Island as their destination and causing problems when they arrive, not only with locals and tourists alike, but even with each other as violent gang activity has been documented. At least one stabbing was reported to have taken place last weekend among rival groups. And now, the rowdiness and quite a bit of vandalism have spread to within the gated and fenced grounds of one of the South Boston Community's recreational gems – The Harry McDonough Sailing Center at Castle Island.

Damage has been done to both of the sailing center's safety boats. One of the motors will even have to be replaced. At times there have been as many as 2 dozen youths, said to be from out of town, congregated inside the perimeter of the sailing center after hours; diving off the rafts and they have been leaving a mess of broken beer bottles and discharged fireworks on the new docks. They do this during times when there are no lifeguards assigned to the beach at the island adjacent to the sailing center which poses a dangerous safety con-

cern. The wiring for the control switch that operates the crane has been ripped out which has caused at least \$800 worth of damage and someone has cut down the large American Flag that flies from the sailing center flagpole.

Following the incident, South Boston Today reached out to our State Electeds, specifically on the issue of the Sailing Center. Senator Nick Collins and Representative David Biele spoke with the Massachusetts State Police about check-ins and enforcement at the Harry McDonough Sailing Center, organized a meeting between the Massachusetts State Police and the Sailing Center, and are in discussions with the Department of Conservation and Recreation on how to eliminate the risk of future acts of vandalism and other activities at the Sailing Center at Castle Island.

The vandalism and destruction has baffled the workers and organizers at the McDonough Center. Sneaking into and trespassing at a closed facility is one thing, but "why would anyone want to destroy such a wonderful facility that has served the youth of Boston for more than 47 years?" asked Robert Ryan who is president of the sailing center and is someone who himself learned to sail there when he was just a kid.

South Boston Today spoke with Ryan, a lifelong Southie resident and President of the McDonough Sailing Center about the situation. Said Ryan "Each morning when myself or one of the other staff members comes to check on the facility before it opens, we never know what to expect or what condition we'll find it in." Ryan, like most everyone who has grown up at the center is saddened and angered at the vandalism that has been taking place. "It's a great facility where positive experiences take place and lifelong friendships are made, skills are learned, and safety is priority. "When parents drop their children off for a day of sailing, they are at ease because they know their kids are under the watchful eyes of trained professionals." Said Ryan.

This year, because of Covid-19, things are a bit tight financially. The funding from donors is way down because in many cases, those busi-



nesses who do so much to support the program are themselves in difficult situations. Said Ryan "Compared to most years, the Sailing Center is pretty much running on fumes financially. The money is tight and when things like the current vandalism hit us, it makes it even worse because of expensive repairs.

Ryan had high praise for South Boston's elected officials, which have always made it a point to get state and city funding for the sailing center. Last year was the first time monies were secured through the State Budget for funding of Youth Programming at the Center due to the diligent work of Senator Collins and Rep Biele. He also praised DCR, the City of Boston, Massport, the Convention Center and many of the private business who have over the years provided resources that have made it possible for the McDonough Sailing Center to continue to thrive. A special thank you from the Sailing Center goes out to Lt. Steve Owens, Park Ranger. He is by himself with the responsibility of the entire Island. Ryan said "he's a big

help to the Center."

One answer to preventing further damage to the Sailing Center and in fact, help to curb the increase in rowdy behavior, vandalism and destruction of property throughout South Boston that has been taking place this summer would of course be increased security, police patrols and enforcement of the rules. It's a given that police are stretched thin both at the city and state levels. It doesn't help matters when there are attempts to defund them and cut back on what they do and what resources they can purchase with cuts to their budgets. There is also a question as to whether police have been ordered to 'stand down' by officials, when it comes to enforcing certain laws and regulations because of politics. But if recent events and all the disturbing activities that have been taking place in every part of the neighborhood and in particular this summer along our beaches and parks have shown anything, it is that more – not less law enforcement is needed to calm things down and bring on a return to normal.

Councilors Ed Flynn, Andrea Campbell, and Kim Janey File Commemorate Women's Right to Vote Anniversary

Boston City Councilors Ed Flynn, Andrea Campbell, and Kim Janey sponsored a resolution at this week's Council meeting commemorating the centennial adoption of the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote. The 19th Amendment was added to the U.S. Constitution on August 26th, 1920, and this year marks the 100th anniversary of this monumental act.

In 1848, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott organized the first women's rights convention at Seneca Falls to demand better educational and employment opportunities for women, thus sparking a national movement for women's rights. Activists such as Susan B. Anthony, Sojourner Truth, Lucy Stone, Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin, Maria Baldwin, Sarah Parker Remond and many others later raised public awareness and lobbied the gov-

ernment to grant women the right to vote. For decades, activists organized locally and nationally to advocate for women's suffrage, and by 1916, a majority of women's suffrage organizations were calling for a constitutional amendment to grant women the right to vote. African American women suffragists worked tirelessly to advocate for the 19th Amendment, even as Jim Crow laws in the South prevented African American men from voting, and would prevent African American women from voting.

Massachusetts was a big part of the suffrage movement. In February of 1919, a group of women were arrested for protesting President Wilson on his visit to the Massachusetts State House, and to lobby him to put pressure on the U.S. Senate to pass the 19th Amendment. Twenty-two suffragists were arrested, and eigh-

teen were imprisoned in Boston's Charles Street Jail. They would be the last suffragists jailed of the seven decades long suffrage movement in the United States. As we commemorate the centennial adoption of the 19th Amendment, it is important to recognize the work and sacrifice of women suffragists, and celebrate their achievements.

"I'm proud to introduce this resolution in commemoration of the centennial adoption of the 19th Amendment, which was a giant step in furthering equality for all. This would not have happened without the work of brave women suffragists, who faced fierce opposition but never backed down," said Councilor Flynn. "Thank you to Councilors Campbell and Janey for sponsoring this, as well as to the organizations who are furthering the work in the spirit

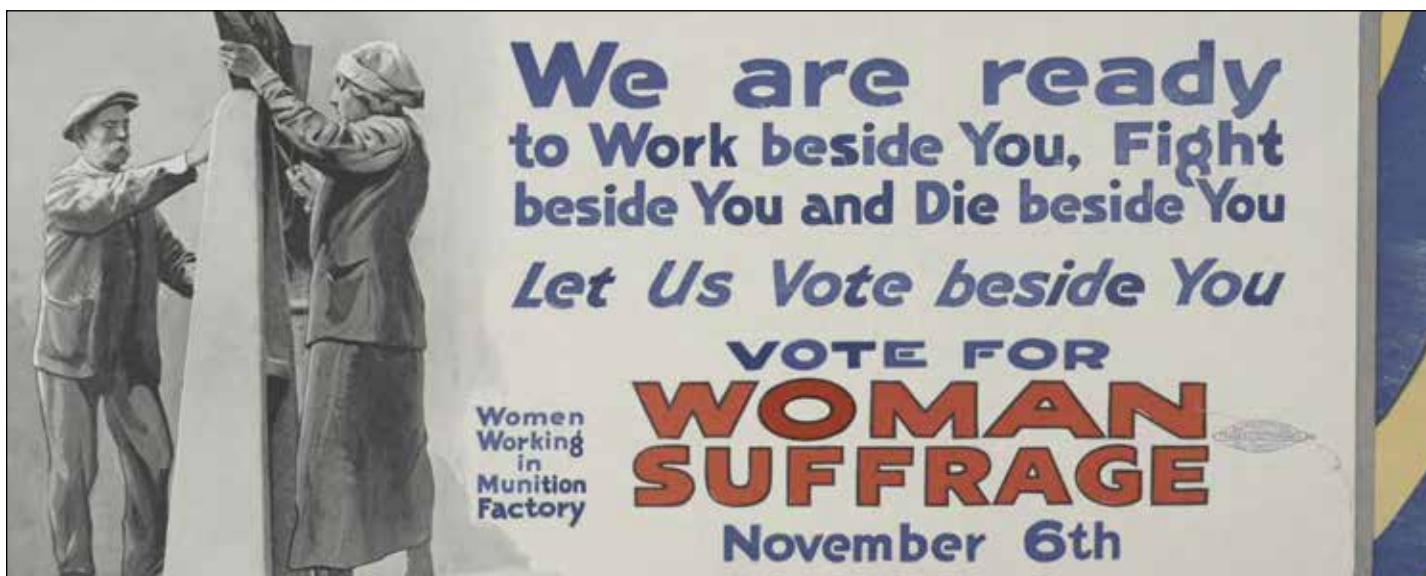
of these suffragists. It is important that we honor this history and all the women suffragists, not only by using this resolution but also by voting and protecting voting rights."

"We made history this year swearing in the first majority women Boston City Council: a sign of incredible progress toward equal representation for women in government, but that also shows how long it took," said Councilor Campbell. "We would not be here without the courageous work of suffragists and their movement, so much of which happened here in Boston, and I am proud to honor them today. As we mark this important centennial of women's suffrage, we must also highlight the voting rights battles still being fought, particularly in communities of color across the country, which serve as a reminder that formally having the right to vote does not mean all are equally able to exercise that right, and this work continues."

"The centennial anniversary of the 19th Amendment comes at a critical time in our nation's history. Even after its initial passage, it would be decades before African Americans would win their right to vote. While we have made many strides over the past hundred years, there is much work left to be done," said Council President Janey, "with oppressive and stringent voter ID laws in the South and the closing of polling stations in communities of color. The good news is that more and more women of color are running for office, so hopefully this will change."

"Suffrage100MA commends Councilor Flynn, Councilor Campbell, and President Janey for their Women's Suffrage 100th Anniversary Resolution commemorating the centennial of the adoption of the 19th Amendment," said Suffrage100MA. "This resolution honors all suffragists who worked so hard to achieve the vote for women. Most importantly, the resolution also recognizes the many barriers that women of color faced and continue to experience when accessing the polls today. We hope that in learning about the suffragists and all they did, we will all be inspired to remember to VOTE!"

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



REP. BIELE STANDS UP FOR AT-RISK CHILDREN AND FAMILIES



State Representative David Biele joined his colleagues in the Massachusetts House of Representatives in passing An Act relative to accountability for vulnerable children and families, which strengthens the laws protecting the Commonwealth's youngest and most at-risk children.

The legislation addresses the needs of vulnerable children that have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 public health crisis. Many children have not been seen by their educators, care providers or other mandatory reporters due to the pandemic and there has been a precipitous drop in reports of child abuse during the same time period.

In response, the legislation strengthens policies and operations at the Department of Children and Families (DCF), helps foster families, and requires timely and accurate reports on the well-being of children. The legislation also calls for a public service cam-

paign to increase awareness of child abuse and neglect.

"This bill will help protect our most vulnerable children from harm, especially those who are not being seen by educators, early education staff, or child care providers as frequently as before COVID-19," said Rep. Biele. "This legislation will prioritize the needs of our most vulnerable children and give state agencies the tools needed to serve and protect children across Massachusetts during these unprecedented times."

The legislation addresses the needs of at-risk children and families through several major initiatives:

Measuring the Impact of COVID-19. Requires DCF to implement a public information campaign to improve awareness of child abuse and neglect and directs the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to work with DCF on engaging the most vulnerable and at-risk students and families.

Quality Improvement. Bill installs certain safeguards to protect children from harm and improve protocols for complex cases and critical incidents involving children. The bill also requires social services programs to communicate more promptly with social workers conducting client and collateral checks.

Foster Parents' Bill of Rights. Bill requires DCF to create a Foster Parents' Bill of Rights outlining the relationship between the DCF and foster parents to increase confidence and trust.

Strengthening the Integrity of the Office of the Child Advocate. Requires the Child Advocate to report ON findings from a reasonable belief that a state agency failed in its duty to protect a child that resulted in the death of a child to the Governor, Attorney General, Speaker of the House, and Senate President before the agency in question.

Data Reporting Initiative. This bill updates and streamlines DCF reporting requirements to ensure the delivery of timely and relevant data.

Councilors Ed Flynn and Julia Mejia File Internet Access Hearing Order



Boston City Councilors Ed Flynn and Julia Mejia are filing a hearing order at this week's City Council meeting to discuss strategies to ensure internet access and digital equity in Boston. As the internet is becoming increasingly indispensable to everyday life, especially during this pandemic, it is important that we discuss ways to make sure that residents have access to affordable internet services and digital resources.

Education, businesses, work, and other services are now increasingly reliant on the internet, and with the COVID-19 pandemic, having internet access and knowing how to use digital resources is now a necessity for many. However, some areas of the City are still currently underserved in terms of internet access, and still have a lack of choices in choosing an affordable and reliable internet service provider. As

access to the internet becomes more critical, some communities are exploring the idea of municipal broadband where local governments invest and build their own internet infrastructure, and the City of Boston has partnered with Verizon to expand its fiber-optic network to offer high speed broadband internet service to the entire city.

The lack of competition for internet service providers can make it difficult for families to find affordable internet service and negotiate a better rate, which can be a burden because many families are seeing financial loss due to job losses because of COVID-19. Moreover, our working class families, immigrants, communities of color, and seniors are the most likely to have issues with lack of internet access and knowledge in digital skills, and we need to ensure these residents have the resources they need to use the internet to participate in work, education, and civic life.

"Having access to the internet and the knowledge of how to use digital resources are crucial for our families and residents to engage in everyday life, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic," said Councilor Flynn. "It is important that we continue to work to ensure internet access and digital equity for everyone, and I want to thank Councilor Mejia for her partnership on this. I look forward to working with the City, internet service providers, and civic organizations on expanding internet access and digital education for our residents, so that everyone has the opportunity to access services and resources on the internet."

"Internet and technology access have become a necessity as we navigate working and learning from home," Councilor Mejia said. "Parents are being asked to balance their work responsibilities while helping their children complete their school work. It is challenging for everyone. We have heard from our people that internet access is something they need right now and it is causing another point of anxiety during an already stressful time." Councilor Mejia also noted that "This is a civil rights issue and the city must act with urgency to ensure all of our people have the same access. We look forward to working with Councilor Flynn and uplifting the voices of our community to understand what we can do to support them."

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

The Wine Guy The Chill of It All



I have both good and bad news. The bad news is that it's less than forty days till Labor Day; the good news is that, from hereon in, it's the best time, not only of the summer, but of the whole year, to have those red wines that are especially enjoyed chilled.

I'm not talking about White Zinfandel or White Merlot. I'm talking about wines that people are having right now; it's six hours ahead of us in Europe and people are sitting outside all over Europe tonight having

their chilled favorite of choice in the red category.

In Italy, this is the time of year when winemakers from the Piedmont region in the North, offer their special, "late summer red"—Brachetto (Bra-keto). Brachetto is not normally blended with other grape varieties and, in many towns, the stipulation is for 100 percent Brachetto grapes to be used. The wine is deep red in color, mildly sweet and has a natural carbonation, or "sparkling" aspect, to it. Italians have it with cheese, Caprese salad and lighter beef dishes.

Two of the brands that come from the area's larger producers and are readily available are:

Banfi Rosa Regale Brachetto, 2018, (\$19.99), really focuses on the raspberry and rose-petal flavors and is a consistently excellent wine each year. As the wines from Banfi are marketed nationally, this one should be easy to find. Have it with cheese and some cold fruit and as for the wine, the colder, the better!

Another charming and refreshing but lesser known option in the Italian sparkling wine lineup is Brachetto d'Acqui. It is one of the few sweet Italian wines to achieve

DOCG status. Only wines produced entirely from Brachetto grapes grown in a very limited area around the town of Acqui Terme in the southern Piedmont can qualify as Brachetto d'Acqui wines. One of the oldest winemaking families in this region is one of the newest names in this category in the US and the **Marenco 2019 Brachetto, "Pine-to", (\$14.99)** is worth finding. Delicate ruby red, sweet and sparkling, it expresses the elegant aromas of roses and raspberries, typical of the Brachetto grape. Aromatic, delicate and harmonious on the palate. Perfect with strawberries, red fruit, fruit salad, all kinds of desserts or just great to relax with by itself.

All over France, as the August heat persists, the French love their favorite chilled red, Beaujolais. From the western end of the Burgundy region, this lighter-bodied wine is produced across many "appellations", or, regions by both individual growers and co-operatives, as well as famous négociants, like Louis Jadot.

A couple of my favorites are **Domaine de Roche-Guillon 2018 Beaujolais-Villages, (\$15.00)**, a really terrific wine for the money.



A surprisingly rich and full-bodied wine, it's packed with crunchy cherry flavors. It also has a more tannic and structured side, giving it a firm texture to back up the fruitiness. The aftertaste is juicy and ripe. This one is a natural with your favorite burger, as well as spicier foods, like Mexican or Thai.

Collin-Bourisset 2018 Beaujolais, (\$12.00), is an impressively rich wine for a simple Beaujolais. It has plenty of fruit, while it also has a good depth with ripe red-berry fruits and some well-integrated tannins. Have it with cold, crisp salads or any kind of sharp cheese, as well as steamed Peking ravioli.

As we head into the last, "big push" of heat and humidity, take a page out of the Europeans' book!

Talk To The Wine Guy at jdris8888@aol.com

Rich get Richer continued from front page

pretty bleak across America. Maybe for the average person but not for Wall Street capitalists.

People who make money from money—hedge fund managers, private-equity executives, investment bankers are cashing in on the combination of fear and greed, while the frontline workers in the pandemic, teachers, waiters, actors, and on and on—are kind of just scraping by, as financial journalist William D. Cohan writes.

The biggest American companies—those with access to the debt and equity markets—have been able to raise money very easily and in huge amounts. "nearly incomprehensible to Americans struggling to pay their rent, or to put food on the table".

The simple explanation for why people who make money from money have benefitted in 2020 is the actions taken by the Federal Reserve. As the so-called "lender of last resort," the Fed can pump huge amounts of capital into the financial system, when no

one else will and to buy debt securities when no one else will buy them. In other words, the Fed is uniquely positioned to "grease the wheels" of capitalism when they get clogged with sand. That is what happened in late February and March when the full extent of COVID-19 began to dawn on most people and when one state economy after another was shut down, essentially bringing to a halt economic activity and scaring investors to their core.

As Cohan writes, "It's often said on Wall Street that things begin to happen when the lines of fear and greed cross". The fear that rippled through the capital markets in March was the lead story of every media outlet. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 35% in six weeks. The yield on high-yield bonds skyrocketed to nearly 11.5% on March 23, from close to 5% on February 20. Those were signs of how scared investors had become.

The Federal Reserve came to the rescue on March 23 and again on April 7. Basically, it said it would do

whatever was necessary to keep the capital markets functioning.

That turned out to be a bonanza for corporations that can access the capital markets and the people who own these companies—shareholders—and the people who lend them money—Wall Street banks, regional and local banks, foreign banks, hedge funds, private-equity funds, and all sorts of other investors.

Cohan commented that without the Federal Reserve's support, these capital markets would be as shut for business as they were in March (before the Fed stepped in). In February, the Fed's balance sheet had \$4 trillion of assets; it has exploded to around \$7 trillion in assets since then. By supporting the bond market as the buyer of last resort, the Fed increased bond prices and lowered bond yields, after price collapsed in mid-March and bond yields skyrocketed. With bond yields back to nearly their February levels, investors were eager to take risks. Their fear seemed to evaporate. That's

why companies such as Boeing, the struggling jet maker, was able to raise \$25 billion. United Airlines, also struggling through the pandemic, raised \$5 billion in new bank loans, through Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley, by pledging as security its MileagePlus frequent-flyer program. If United decides to tap into a \$4.5 billion government loan, the company will have \$17 billion of cash, or cash equivalents, on its balance sheet by September, and so with American Airlines and other non-airline corporations.,

Cohan summarized that there is plenty of money out there for risky bets. But for the Average Joes? Not so much. The \$600 weekly bonus that out-of-work Americans have been getting to supplement their unemployment benefits will end on July 31, unless somehow the elected representatives in Washington can get their act together, can stop playing politics and figure out a way to extend them.

Greed and Fear seems to permeate all aspects of American lives right now.

Recent

South Boston
Real Estate Sales

Property/Type	Price	Sale Date	Rooms	Baths	Sq Ft
537-539 East Second St UNIT 303 Condo	\$953,880	4/20/20	5	2	1,125
409 West First St UNIT 9 Condo	\$2,900,000	4/30/20	5	3.5	4,005
133 Seaport Blvd UNIT 1220 Condo	\$2,095,000	4/20/20	5	2.5	1,255
133 Seaport Blvd UNIT 920 Condo	\$1,995,000	4/30/20	5	2.5	1,266
51 Silver St UNIT 3 Condo	\$1,499,000	4/21/20	6	2	1,605
409 West First St Unit 6 Condo	\$1,375,000	4/30/20	5	2	1,757
133 Seaport Blvd UNIT 1110 Condo	\$1,250,000	4/28/20	3	1.5	789
745 East Broadway UNIT 1 Condo	\$1,176,000	4/30/20	6	3	2,110
511 East Fifth St UNIT 2 Condo	\$1,120,000	4/16/20	5	2	1,529
537-539 East Second St UNIT 301 Condo	\$1,100,000	4/20/20	5	2	1,290
38 P St UNIT PH7 Condo	\$1,025,000	4/30/20	4	2	1,180
21 Wormwood St UNIT 604 Condo	\$1,025,000	4/30/20	2	1	1,096
406 West First St UNIT 406 Condo	\$1,000,000	4/30/20	5	2	1,581
537-539 East Second St UNIT 203 Condo	\$938,000	4/24/20	5	2	1,098
410 East Broadway UNIT 201 Condo	\$903,000	4/30/20	6	2	1,215

MAYOR WALSH PLEDGES HELP TO
BOSTON CONVENIENCE STORE
OWNERS AS CLERK SHOT IN
ROBBERY FIGHTS FOR HIS LIFE

Mayor Walsh working with federal officials to get visas for family of Tanjim Siyam; offered increased patrols, more resources to help store owners fight crime



Mayor Martin J. Walsh met this week with the Boston Convenience Store Owners Association and pledged to help the family of Tanjim Siyam in their effort to obtain visas so they can come visit the 23-year-old store clerk, who remains in a Boston hospital fighting for his life.

Siyam, who just moved to the United States from Bangladesh four months ago, was shot in the head in a robbery at a Roxbury convenience store two weeks ago. His parents, who live in Bangladesh, are seeking visas to come to Boston to see their son, but COVID-19 travel restrictions are preventing them from being able to get into the United States. Mayor Walsh pledged to work with the U.S. Consulate in Boston, as well as with U.S. Rep. Stephen F. Lynch and U.S. Sens. Edward Markey and Elizabeth Warren, to help the family obtain travel visas so they can be with their son during this difficult time.

The mayor also pledged to step up policing and partnerships with the city's con-

venience owners, who told Walsh that they are fearful of increased crime due to a variety of factors, including the COVID-19 pandemic and high unemployment. Walsh committed to regular meetings with the BCSOA, requested information on store locations that need assistance, and offered to look into funding for more security cameras and lighting for stores.

“We appreciate the efforts by the mayor to help Tanjim’s family,” said Humayun Morshed, secretary of the BCSOA. “We also appreciate Mayor Walsh’s recognition that our members provide essential services to many neighborhoods and need to be protected. We look forward to working with Mayor Walsh, the Boston Police Department and our communities so we can continue to offer food, drinks and the many other essential items that families need, especially during the COVID19 crisis.”

Walsh held a zoom meeting with the BCSOA this week in response to Siyam’s shooting. Also in the virtual meeting were Boston City Councilor Frank Baker; Paul Donovan, Superintendent of the BPD’s Bureau of Investigative Services; Yusufi Vali, from the BPD’s Office for Immigrant Advancement; and officials from the city’s licensing, public safety and neighborhood services departments.

“We will be meeting with the mayor and his team again very soon to make sure that we are taking care of Tajim and his family and to continue the very positive conversation we started,” Morshed said. “I believe we will have the help we need from the mayor so that we can run our businesses as safely as possible.”



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M STREET SOFTBALL

By Mark Senna

Rightly softball games returned to M Street Park two weeks ago and for a few hours, everything seemed normal. However, it wouldn't be long before a resident registered a complaint with the city about some of the players not following social distancing guidelines. The coaches and players have been reminded of the rules and have been warned to comply or face the consequences. Such is life when navigating through COVID hysteria.

In this brief and accelerated season, the league standings are already reflecting the great parity amongst the teams. In the Lucas ("A") division, we have a three-way tie (2-1 record) at the top between the defending champions Pat Simpson Club, Telegraph Hill, and first year team Los Bravos. In the Buckeye Feeney ("B") division, Smoke Shop BBQ, VMT, and DRC are the remaining undefeated teams. In the Moran ("B") division, it's the Ballers that are the only unbeaten team (2-0). It's a sprint to the division titles and at this rate; all three are very much up for grabs.

Once the regular season is complete, a single game elimination round in all three divisions will take place just after the Labor Day weekend. From there we will have four teams remaining in each division who will pair off for a best of three series. The winners of each series will then play in the division finals. Hopefully, we are able to stay on the field and play out the season as it's going to be a great finish.

One pitcher, who is hoping to be standing on the mound when the last out of the season is recorded in the Lucas division, is Jose Bonilla. The strong righty last pitched for Mike Medico and the Olde Time Hardware softball team way back in 1999.

Twenty-one years later Bonilla and his son Jonathan are back playing for coach Dan Donovan and the Los Bravos club. The years have been very kind to Bonilla as he is sporting a 2-1 record while giving up less than three runs a game. Impressive!

Also making news here in the early going is the debut of Charlie Connors JR. of the Pirates squad. Charlie has been following his dad to the M Street field for many, many years and has now seen some playing time. Hopefully, high school sports returns this fall so Connors can pursue his goals at Arch Bishop Williams.

A few other notable mentions that already took place this season. After going twelve years with a player hitting for the cycle, we have already seen two. Sean Higgins of the Dorchester Brew Crew and Glenn Peterson of the Southside Tavern each hit a single, double, triple, and a homerun in their prospective games. Well-done boys!

On the mound, Brian Walsh's season opening two-hit shutout for the Dukies has been the most dominating performance thus far. Walsh used his experience and pitching knowledge to keep the batters guessing all game long. Walsh had to be extremely sharp in this one as his team's offense could only put up one run.

Just a tick behind Walsh was the performance of the Simpson Club's pitcher, Eric Mercers. Eric tossed seven scoreless innings of six hit ball at the STATS squad in an 8-0 win.

Aside from some great individual performances, we have also had a fair share of great games. One game saw the Simpson Club being shutout by Chris Boyd and the Lincoln Tavern, 2-0 in the sixth inning. However, Mike Lush hit a two run home run and then Mike Gallo doubled home a pair of runs to give Simpson the come from behind win.

In another contest, the Ballers and Southside were locked in a back and forth battle before Evan MacDonald put the Ballers ahead to stay in the seventh inning.

Following that same script was the Brew Crew and Playwright Shamrocks who slugged it out for thirty-five runs. There were several lead changes and the game was hanging in the balance until Sean Clarke and Sean Higgins scored in the bottom of the seventh that gave the Shamrocks the 18-17 victory.

Last we had a match up of last year's champions, the Simpson Club ("A" champ) took on the Telegraph Hill ("B" champ). After winning the title in their first year, Telegraph accepted the league's request to move

the team into the very competitive Lucas division. Their first game didn't go well as they were pasted by STATS. However, the Hill gang responded like a champ and brought their best game against the best team the league has to offer. In the end, it was Telegraph prevailing 14-12 in another game filled with great plays, enthusiasm, and timely hitting.

In closing, Tommy Clark from the DRC squad spent his Monday afternoon cleaning the stands, backstop area, and playing field. The great thing about Clark's efforts is that he wasn't asked or directed. Tommy saw a need and went into action. Thank you Tommy!

That will wrap up an action-packed week of softball at this address. M Street Softball games are played Monday through Friday starting at 6pm, 7:30, and 9pm. Have a great week everyone!



**"Pitcher Jose Bonilla
of Los Bravos"**



**"The M Street Cup will be on display this
Thursday and Friday at M Street 6pm-10pm"**



This week, Danny reacted to the resumption of professional sports in 2020:

I can't put into words how good it felt to sit on the couch last Friday night and watch a Red Sox game. Finally, it felt like summer.

Sure, the 100-degree heat gave this past week a physical summer feel. But mentally, it's not summer until we're able to watch meaningful baseball games in that heat.

And even though the Red Sox have struggled out of the gate, it's just refreshing to watch baseball again, even if it has a somewhat different feel with no fans, cardboard cutouts of fans, and fake crowd noise. Oh well. At this point, we'll take what we can get.

And now, we're not just getting baseball. We're also getting the Stanley Cup playoffs and the NBA playoffs. Before you know it, we'll also have the NFL.

Life is back to normal.

Right?

On second thought, let me go knock on wood. Because while it's great to watch pro sports right now, there's no guarantee things are going to run smoothly moving forward. In fact, the drama has already started in Miami.

The Marlins had nearly 20 people test positive for Coronavirus after their first series of the season last weekend. That's forced MLB to

postpone all of their games this week. It also has forced changes to other teams' schedules. And it's even forced one team — the Washington Nationals — to vote on not making their next trip to Miami to play the Marlins.

MLB is saying that nobody else around the league has since tested positive for Coronavirus. But as testing continues, and as teams continue to travel to other cities for the next two months, will we see more positive tests at some point? Most likely.

Some believed that the latest Marlins "outbreak" would force MLB to cancel the season for good, just a week in. But we're seeing now that that's not the case. But that certainly doesn't mean they're in the clear.

It's funny to think about what forced sports to be postponed back in March, when Coronavirus tests first started to roll in. All that was needed was one NBA player — Rudy Gobert — to test positive for Coronavirus, and all hell broke loose.

The NBA season was immediately postponed indefinitely. The NCAA canceled the NCAA Tournament. The NHL postponed their season indefinitely. And MLB shut everything down at the end of spring training, only to resume with

a shortened 60-game regular season that began last week.

Now though, you have half a team test positive, and all you get is a week's worth of games postponed for one team, with a few other teams having to change up their schedules a little bit.

The reaction to an "outbreak" now is quite different to the reaction of one player testing positive back in March. Perhaps that's because we know more about Coronavirus now than we did then. We have more testing now as well. We think we have a better grasp on it. But I'm still hesitant to believe these leagues will finish their resumption of play.

What happens if a few more teams in baseball have "outbreaks?" And I'm not just talking about baseball. I'm also talking about hockey and basketball, and even football, as NFL teams begin Training Camp over the next few weeks.

Speaking of football, you already have a good amount of NFL players opting out of the upcoming season because of Coronavirus concerns. For example, two of the New England Patriots' best defensive players — linebacker Dont'a Hightower and safety Patrick Chung — are two of six Patriots to opt out, as

both have newborn babies.

So who knows where we're going with the NFL.

But back to baseball. Red Sox pitcher Eduardo Rodriguez was shut down a few weeks ago because he tested positive for Coronavirus. Now, he's been shut down again because the Coronavirus infection apparently created a heart issue that they must take seriously. So the concern isn't just the Coronavirus infection itself. It's also the after effects that is has on some people, even, as we're seeing, professional athletes.

These are crazy times. And you can put all the protocols in place that you want. You can test as much as you possibly can. You can even put them in a bubble like the NHL and NBA has done. But what happens when Coronavirus continues to creep in and cause disruptions?

Baseball seems to think it has the answer. But do they?

I don't have a good feeling about it. **Listen to "The Danny Picard Show" on iTunes, Spotify, Google Play, and anywhere else podcasts are available. Subscribe to YouTube.com/dannypicard. Follow Danny on Twitter @DannyPicard. Check out all of his work at dannypicard.com.**

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SPORTS TODAY

AT LEAST SIX PATRIOTS PLAYERS OPT OUT OF 2020 SEASON AMID CORONAVIRUS FEARS

SBT Staff

At least six New England Patriots players have reportedly opted out of the upcoming 2020 NFL season because of Coronavirus fears. Most recently, linebacker Dont'a Hightower and safety Patrick Chung are among the group who have opted out.

The others are running back Brandon Bolden, fullback Danny Vitale, and offensive linemen Marcus Cannon and Najee Toran.

The NFL and NFLPA agreed to resolve "all outstanding issues relating to the opening of training camps and start of the 2020 season" amid Coronavirus safety concerns from some players. In the agreement, players considered high risk for Coronavirus can earn \$350,000 and an accrued



Boston Bruins @NHLBruins · 22h
David²



NFL season if they opt out, while players without any risk can earn \$150,000 if they opt out.

Hightower just had a child in mid-July. Chung is expecting his second child.

Earlier this week, Hightower wrote a heartfelt message to "Pats Nation" on social media: "Pats Nation, you have supported me unconditionally over the last 8 years. Through Super Bowl Victories (3 of em!), season ending injuries, the occasional boomtower TD, strip sacks, charity events and everything in between. I appreciate that support more than you know, and

I appreciate that same support and understanding now more than ever.

"This wasn't an easy decision, or one I made lightly, but I do feel that it's the best decision for my family at this time," Hightower continued. "I'm so grateful for the support of my teammates and coaches as well, and I will try to continue to lead and help as much as I can. 2020 has been a challenging year for our world. I hope you can all continue to be a light in these dark times — more light and great times are ahead. Thank you and stay safe."

COVID 'OUTBREAK' FORCES MLB POSTPONEMENTS

SBT Staff

Could the Miami Marlins ruin the 2020 MLB season?

It's the question many in baseball are asking, after nearly 20 members of the team's traveling party tested positive for COVID-19 earlier in the week. The positive tests forced MLB to postpone all seven of the Marlins' games from Monday through this coming Sunday.

The league said in a statement this week that, "Given the circumstances, MLB believes that it is most prudent to allow the Marlins time to focus

on providing care for their players and planning their baseball operations for a resumption early next week."

MLB's statement continued: "The health and safety protocols were designed with a challenging circumstance like the one facing the Marlins in mind. The response outlined in the joint MLB-MLBPA Operations Manual was triggered immediately upon learning of the cluster of positive cases, including contact tracing and the quarantining and testing of all of the identified close contacts. The Marlins' personnel who tested positive remain

in isolation and are receiving care."

Miami opened its 2020 season over the weekend in Philadelphia. Because of that, the league has also postponed all four games of the Phillies' series at home against the New York Yankees. The Yankees instead will travel to Baltimore to take on the Orioles, who were scheduled to take on the Marlins this week.

The Washington Nationals were also impacted by the postponements, as they were supposed to travel to Miami for a three-game series this coming weekend. Before the league made the Marlins' postponements official, Nationals players voted against making the weekend trip to Miami to play the Marlins.

WHAT TO WATCH

MLB FRIDAY, JULY 31

Boston at NY Yankees
7:05 P.M. NESN

SATURDAY, AUG. 1

Boston at NY Yankees
7:15 P.M. FOX

SUNDAY, AUG. 2

Boston at NY Yankees
7 P.M. ESPN

NBA FRIDAY, JULY 31

Boston vs Milwaukee
6:30 P.M. ESPN

SUNDAY, AUG. 2

Portland vs Boston
3:30 P.M. ABC

NHL SUNDAY, AUG. 2

Philadelphia vs Boston
3 P.M. NBC

RED SOX' RODRIGUEZ SIDELINED WITH COVID-RELATED HEART ISSUE

SBT Staff

Red Sox pitcher Eduardo Rodriguez has been sidelined once again. This time, because of a heart condition called myocarditis, that is believed to be a result of his Coronavirus infection.

Rodriguez, 27, tested positive for Coronavirus and was forced to miss his Opening Day start last week. He had since been cleared to resume workouts, until an MRI revealed the heart issue and shut him down again for at least another week. He is awaiting results of additional testing.

The Red Sox travel to New York to take on the Yankees in a three-game series this weekend. Boston dropped two of its first three games of the season at home to the Baltimore Orioles.



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