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CONTINUED ON page 10

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EDITORIAL

Voters Need To Send A Message To Irresponsible Politicians

Americans who love their country are watching the rioting, looting and endless violence going on in several cities around the nation that's being directed at civilians, as well as police and they don't like it a bit. Every survey and poll confirm this. And it may have already come to an end by now, if not for irresponsible politicians who either justify it with their silence or come right out

and encourage more of it. Massachusetts has at least 2 such politicians who have issued statements that could easily be interpreted and are interpreted as urging the mayhem to continue.

A couple of months back we had this state's chief law enforcement officer, Attorney General Maura Healey state that "America is burning, but that's how forests grow" in response to rioting, and just last week, Massachusetts

Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley actually advocated for having even more unrest in the streets and urged her followers to harass supporters of the President of the United States. When you combine these inflammatory words with the policies of Suffolk County District Attorney Rachael Rollins, who says she will not prosecute crimes which SHE deems not worthy of her time and releases dangerous criminals from jails

who are then free to commit and do commit more crimes, this gives a green light to those whose goal it is to continue the increasing lawlessness.

The three above mentioned politicians are clearly, and we believe willfully, adding fuel to the fire. They are radicals by most standards. It's who they are. If voters actually reelect these people, knowing now how they abuse their status and authority,

in efforts to push their personal lawless agenda, those voters are just as much to blame and just as irresponsible as these office holders themselves.



"The summer night is like a perfection of thought" - Wallace Stevens

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The Information Center



Church Bells Ringing With Beautiful Patriotic Songs 'Trigger' A Few?

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY

John Ciccone

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

South Boston has always had a reputation of honoring our veterans and being an overall very patriotic community. And I'm happy to say that even with the influx of so many new residents, it remains the same today as many of the new comers seem to have similar beliefs. But in every town, you are bound to have a few that just don't get it. We had one such disgruntled caller, who left a voicemail late one night whose phone number came up 'unknown caller' who stated that perhaps the church bells at Gate of Heaven should not be playing the song called 'America the Beautiful'. Why? Because, well, it could make some feel uncomfortable and even be 'offensive' to recent immigrants, who might think that the song is not fostering enough "inclusivity". The caller obviously didn't want a call back, since he chose not to leave his name and number or other contact. But he apparently reads this newspaper so we'll respond to him here.

To the caller: 'The song America the Beautiful, as is the case with God Bless America and our National Anthem itself, means a lot to most Americans. In fact, we are just fine with these songs. We don't want them to cease to be played and we definitely do not want the lyrics changed and the fact that our local churches have their chimes play these songs makes most people happy. There seems to be the sentiment among some people that just because someone or some group doesn't like a particular song or statue or name of a street or building that they must be changed to appease the few. The fact that the

overwhelming majority of people don't want the change seems not to matter to those who do. The feelings, wants, needs and preferences of the few should take precedent and are apparently far more important than what everyone else wants. That's not how it should work in America and it's definitely NOT how it works in South Boston. This neighborhood is not the NFL or the NBA, New York City or Harvard University. It does not buckle to the whims of Political Correctness to appease someone or some group so fragile that the playing of a song, especially a beloved anthem 'triggers' them. It sounds like you might have a little more growing up to do. The title of the old Rolling Stones song called 'You Can't Always Get What You Want' comes to mind'.

And now, for what is racist this week, we have yet another surprise. Have you and your family gone camping this summer? Have you EVER gone camping? So sorry to inform you but you need to stop it and apologize for your insensitivity. Because according to the Los Angeles Times newspaper, yup, you guessed it, Camping is racist, and it seems it always has been. Who Knew? No need to go into the details as to why the LA Times came to that conclusion. Look it up if you feel the need to know. We did and it's just more of the usual PC babble.

Remember the sounds of the Ice Cream Trucks that used to play their music when they came to the neighborhoods? It was one of the familiar sounds of summer. But NO! In the places where the trucks still operate,

pressure is being put on the owners to cease playing the jingles or to change them immediately because they are racist. Of course, they are. Why would anyone think anything different?

Staying on the absurd, well known Hollywood loon 'Cher' is convinced that when President Trump makes his speech at the Gettysburg Civil War Memorial, he will be doing so to show support for 'The Confederacy'. Cher somehow seems to be unaware that the Confederacy has been non-

existent for more than 150 years. She probably believes that there will be thousands of Confederate soldiers massed there to cheer on the President. Perhaps she also believes that Hitler is poised to invade Poland next weekend, Roman Legions are assaulting the British Isles and Patrick Henry will be a featured speaker at this month's Republican National Convention. After listening to so many other statements that Cher has made over the years, none of the above would be hard to believe.

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Massport Supports Summer Jobs for South Boston Students

Annual program has given local students opportunities since 1991

South Boston students were able to experience a change of pace and scenery while also gaining some valuable skills this summer through the Massachusetts Port Authority's Community Summer Jobs Program. Now in its 29th year, Massport's program supported 40 South Boston high school and college students in summer jobs with community organizations.

This summer, 279 area high school and college students will earn a paycheck through our Community Summer Jobs Program. Massport is funding summer jobs at 7 **South Boston organizations including: Condon Community Center, Curley Community Center, Harry McDonough Sailing Center, South Boston Boys & Girls Club, South Boston Neighborhood House, the Stretch Walsh Center and the Tynan Community Center.**

Massport's Community Summer Jobs Program is designed to help civic and social service agencies by providing funds to support youth employment in neighboring communities including: Charlestown, Chelsea, East Boston, Revere, South Boston, Winthrop, Bedford, Concord, Lexington, Lincoln and Worcester.

"During these challenging times, we strive to be a good neighbor by supporting the youth in our surrounding communities," said Massport CEO Lisa Wieland. "Creating work opportunities for these young people allows them to gain hands-on experience and give back to the communities in which they live."

Participating organizations are responsible for recruiting, interviewing, hiring and supervising student employees. Since Massport's Community Summer

Jobs Program started in 1991, thousands of summer jobs have been funded providing local

high school and college students with the opportunity to gain important job skills while serving their community.

The Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport) owns and operates Boston Logan International Airport, public terminals in the Port of Boston, Hanscom Field, and Worcester Regional Airport. For more information, please visit massport.com.



Tynan Community Center employees and program participants

South Boston Electeds Announce Boston Resiliency Funds for Nonprofits

Boston City Councilor Ed Flynn, City Councilor At-Large Michael Flaherty, along with other members of the South Boston Delegation - **Congressman Stephen F. Lynch, State David Senator Nick Collins, and Representative Biele,** announced that Mayor Walsh and the City of Boston Resiliency Fund have awarded a second round of grant funding for the South Boston Association of Non-Profits.

This funding is geared toward critical and essential services, such as food access, to Boston residents most impacted by the COVID-19

pandemic, including our seniors, low income families, and persons with disabilities.

Senator Collins said, "This represents a continued collaboration between Mayor Walsh, the South Boston elected officials, and the South Boston Association of Non-Profits. During these challenging times, our service providers have been a lifeline to those in need. Thank you to Mayor Walsh and our City Councilors, Michael Flaherty and Ed Flynn, for their leadership and advocacy on behalf of the South Boston community."

Representative Biele said, "These

resources from the City of Boston's Resiliency Fund will provide food access for families and seniors during these challenging times. Thank you to Mayor Walsh, Councilor Flynn and Councilor Flaherty for their support, and to the South Boston Association of Non-Profits for providing these important services to residents. I'm proud to work with colleagues in government and service providers to support those in need."

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





Roxbury Community College Creates RoxSTARS Program to Close Digital Divide

Roxbury Community College (RCC) is making sure every college student at RCC has the technology to complete courses online through its new RoxSTARS: Scholars with Technology Achieving Results program. All participating students who need laptops will receive them at no additional cost. New students who maintain full-time continuous enrollment will be gifted the laptop upon the completion of their degree or certificate. Hotspots are also being made available to students who need them. RCC's IT office will provide instruction on how to use the laptops and will provide technical assistance to all students in need of additional support.

"We knew we had to do something to help our students. Because of the community we

serve, many of our students do not have reliable technology or internet at home," says Andres Oroz, RCC Associate Vice President of Student Life. "Prior to COVID-19, many of our students came to campus to use our facilities, technology and free wi-fi to do their work." More than 80 percent of students at RCC are Pell-eligible.

Technology was a priority of Roxbury Community College from the start of the COVID-19 crisis. In the sudden rush to make more than 350 classes available online at a moment's notice, the school distributed more than 100 laptops and made it possible for students to access courses on smartphones. The school also purchased and distributed 50 hotspots to increase student Wi-Fi access and

worked with cell phone data providers to encourage them to increase data usage at no extra cost to students.

RCC will offer a combination of online, virtual, hybrid and in-person classes for its students in the fall 2020 semester. All members of the RCC community must always wear a face covering or mask while on campus. In-person classes will be held in spaces that allow instructors and students to remain six feet apart. Anyone on campus will be required to adhere to social distancing guidelines. The guidelines include staying at least six feet from other people, avoiding shaking hands, avoiding gathering in groups, avoiding crowded places, and maintaining appropriate distance when studying or meeting in person.

Despite the necessary changes due to COVID-19, RCC remains committed to its important mission of providing a cost-effective education and essential resources to students facing financial challenges. For more information on RoxSTARS, please visit the website.

About Roxbury Community College:

Founded in 1973, Roxbury Community College (RCC) is a comprehensive, multicultural, urban, student-centered, open-access community college. RCC offers associate degree and certificate programs, online courses, corporate and community education programs, and lifelong learning programs. For more information on Roxbury Community College, visit www.rcc.mass.edu.

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ROXBURY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

U.S. MARINE VETERAN AND VETERAN ADVOCATE JOINS HOPE FOR THE WARRIORS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tom Lyons joins national military nonprofit



For over 13 years, Hope For The Warriors has been dedicated to restoring a sense of self, family and hope for veterans, service members and military families. Each year under the leadership of trusted board members, the national nonprofit aims to provide support through a variety of programs focused on clinical health and wellness, sports and recreation and transition.

Vietnam veteran and veteran advocate Tom Lyons recently joined the 12-member Hope For The Warriors board of directors.

“I am honored and proud to be part of the Hope For The Warriors board of directors,” said Lyons. “Their mission to support our men and women in uniform as well as their families is something I’ve been dedicated to for the past 40 years.”

The Boston native served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1967-1970 which included a yearlong combat tour in Vietnam. Lyons served as vice president of government affairs and corporate communications at MassHousing Finance Agency for 16 years. From 1995 to 2002, he was the executive director of the New England Shelter for Homeless Veterans and served as commissioner for Veterans’ Services for the City of Boston from 1984 to 1995.

In 1978, Lyons organized a committee of Vietnam veterans to pay tribute to the 25 young men from his community who died during the Vietnam War. On September 13, 1981, the committee erected the South Boston Vietnam Memorial, which was one of the first of its kind in the nation.

In 1987, he founded the Semper Fidelis Society of Boston, a Marine



Corps organization that has grown to over 2,500 members. The Society sponsors an annual luncheon on the Marine Corps’ birthday and donates the proceeds to the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation and local veterans’ charities.

Lyons also started the annual Boston Marine Corps Honor Run, which raises money for the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation. He was chairman of Marine Week Boston in 2010 and chairman of the 2001, 2006 and 2015 Medal of Honor Convention.

Lyons is the recipient of the 2011 “Marine For Life” Award presented by General James Amos, 35th Commandant of the Marine Corps, for his 30 years of advocacy on behalf of our nation’s veterans. In addition, he is the 2014 recipient of

the Commandant’s Award from the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation and received the John W. McCormick Distinguished Public Service Award in 2019.

He was also recognized in 2019 at the Hope For The Warriors 10th Annual Got Heart Give Hope Gala with the Harry Bridgwood Lifetime Service Award, awarded to a Vietnam-era veteran who has committed his or her life to serving the next generations of the warrior community.

“As a longtime friend and advocate for Hope For The Warriors, we’re honored to officially have Tom join the board of directors,” said Robin Kelleher, co-founder and president of Hope For The Warriors. “His personal experience as a veteran and compassionate knowledge

of the needs of service members, veterans and military families is essential in serving this community.”

Lyons currently serves on a number of boards and committees including serving as a member for the Governor’s Veterans Advisory Council and chairman of the Subcommittee on Veterans’ Housing, chairman and founder of the South Boston Vietnam Memorial Committee, board member Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation, board member of ATCNE (Addiction Treatment Center New England), chairman of the Board of Trustees for the Chelsea Soldiers Home, a board member of the Brighton Marine Health Center and a member on the Long-Term Care Commission for Veterans.

Lyons is a 1978 graduate of Boston State and the Senior Executive Fellows Program at Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government in 1988.

Today, Lyons resides in Wakefield, Massachusetts with his wife Jean. They have two daughters Sarah, Maura and his son, Todd, a Federal Agent in Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) who is a veteran of the Iraq War.

About Hope For The Warriors: Founded in 2006, Hope For The Warriors is a national nonprofit dedicated to restoring a sense of self, family and hope for post-9/11 veterans, service members and military families. Since its inception, Hope For The Warriors has served over 30,000 through a variety of support programs focused on clinical health and wellness, sports and recreation and transition. One of the nonprofit’s first programs, Military Spouse and Caregiver Scholarships, has awarded 150 scholarships to caregivers and families of the fallen. In addition, Run For The Warriors has captured the hearts of over 27,500 since 2010. For more information, visit hopeforthewarriors.org, Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.

BOSTON ANNOUNCES POLLING LOCATION CHANGES

All in-person polling will be conducted in accordance with public health guidelines

The City of Boston Election Department today announced polling location changes for 20 precincts ahead of the September 1 State Primary. The election includes the following races: Senator in Congress, Representative in Congress, Governor's Council, State Senate, State Representative, and Register of Probate. Polling locations will be open on Election Day from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. Those interested in working as a poll worker can apply

Due to COVID-19, health and safety protocols during the early voting period and on Election Day will be implemented at polling locations. All poll workers will receive face shields, face masks, gloves, disinfectant wipes, disinfectant spray and hand sanitizer. Cleaning will take place at each site every two to three hours. Voters waiting in line will be instructed to stand 6 feet away from others and wear a face covering.

The Election Department is reminding residents that Saturday, August 22 is the last day to register to vote and Wednesday, August 26 is the deadline to request a vote-by-mail ballot for the State Primary. Residents who have requested to vote by mail can track their ballots here. If a voter has not received a vote-by-mail application in their mailbox or lost the application, they can request a new one by completing this form and sending it to the City of Boston's Election Department.

Registering to vote

Individuals can register to vote either in person at the Election Department in City Hall in room

241, by mail, online or through the Registry of Motor Vehicles by August 22, 2020 at 8:00 p.m. to vote in the State Primary election. To be eligible to vote, an individual must be at least 18 years of age and a U.S. citizen.

Early voting

Registered voters can also decide to vote during the early voting period from **Saturday, August 22 through Friday, August 28, 2020**. Registered voters can vote at any of the early voting sites. No excuse is required to vote early.

Voting by mail

All registered voters have received a vote-by-mail application in their mail boxes during the week of July 20, 2020. The application is in a postcard format. To receive a ballot, voters must first complete, sign and return the prepaid postcard application to the Election Department **by August 26, 2020 for the State Primary**. Voters may request a ballot using the vote-by-mail application for the September 1, 2020 State Primary, November 3, 2020 State Election or all 2020 elections. Voters may also request ballots in Spanish, Chinese and Vietnamese.

If a voter has not received or lost this application, they can request a new ballot application by completing this form here and sending it to the City of Boston's Election Department, via mail, email, or fax:

1 City Hall Square, Room 241

Boston, MA 02201

Email: absenteevoter@boston.gov


Fax: 617-635-4483

Voters may return their ballot by mail using the prepaid envelope, at an early voting location **(during the early voting period)**,

ATTENTION South Boston voters, Tuesday, September 1 is Election Day
Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

<p><u>If you used to vote at...</u></p> <p>Ward 7, Precincts 1 and 2 BCYF Curley Recreation Center 1663 Columbia Rd South Boston</p>		<p><u>You're now voting at...</u></p> <p>Joseph P. Tynan School 650 E 4th St South Boston</p>
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CITY of BOSTON



or using the Election Department dropbox located on the third floor of City Hall. City Hall is currently open to the public on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The dropbox will be accessible Monday through Friday.

Absentee voting in person is available until **August 31, 2020 at 12:00 p.m.** at the Elections Department in City Hall. To qualify to vote absentee, registered voters must be absent from the City on

Election Day, must have a religious belief which prevents them from going inside of a polling location, or have a physical disability which prevents them from going to a polling location. The application to request an absentee ballot can be completed by mail or in person at the Election Department in City Hall. Learn more about applying here.

For more information on how to participate in this year's elections, please visit boston.gov/election.



Nick Collins
STATE SENATOR

Vote 9/1

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- ✓ **\$14.7 million for Boston road investments**

The Wine Guy Something Different



Usually, I write these columns from my home office, but this week, I'm writing it from my girlfriend's (actually, lady friend's) "flat" in London. She's here on a teaching fellowship and I'm also fortunate to have friends here, especially my friend, Simon, who's a wine buyer. He was nice enough to bring some samples of wines he's bought for this fall over here to taste. Here are the wines and what we thought, (prices were converted from British

Pounds to Dollars).

Comarca Tempranillo, 2018, (\$19.99), was a great wine to start with. Simon and I both think that you'll see more Spanish wines to choose from this fall; don't miss a chance to try one if you haven't. We all thought this was more like a good, solid Cabernet; Ellen liked the smoky, earthy notes, as did Simon. I thought the finish was long and smooth and that the structure was like a good Pinot Noir. Food pairings? I was pretty basic - Strip steak and mushrooms. Simon mentioned Coq au Vin and Ellen thought St. Louis BBQ ribs.

Britain has access to a wide variety of wines because many of today's biggest and best wine producers are members of the British Commonwealth (formerly the British Empire). One of the best providers from this group has been Australia and lots of great wine down under comes from the Margaret River region of Southwest Australia. Of the many vineyards in the area, Redgate Wines remains one of the few to still make small-production wines, like their **Redgate**

Rhapsody In Red, NV, Margaret River (\$21.99). Rhapsody in Red is a delicious, full bodied, slightly sweet red. Rich with fruit on the nose and intense berry and spice on the palate. Produced from estate grown late harvest fruit, this wine is the perfect addition to your favorite spicy meal and it's best served chilled, like Beaujolais in France and Brichetto in Northern Italy.

You might try this one with some Asian Fusion or Indian take out.

Despite the fact that Great Britain isn't in the EU anymore, it's not stopping the wine purchases from France that have been going on for more than 1,000 years. Lots of great wines from both the traditional regions of Bordeaux, Burgundy and the Loire Valley, as well as new wines from "resurrected" regions like Cahors and the Languedoc. One of Simon's favorite wines is **Bastide Miraflores Vieilles Vignes Syrah - Grenache 2016, (\$17.99)**, from Domaine Lafarge. It's a strong-bodied, fruit forward wine that has notes of smoke, leather and cherries. Serve this one with hearty beef dishes, red sauce pasta entrees



and Veal Marsala-outstanding! We all found that this wine could only be had slowly, because of its high ABV and the long, full finish of every sip.

Finally, with dessert, Simon opened a half-bottle of **Veuve Clicquot, NV, Rheims, Champagne (\$24.99)**. This sparkling wine never fails to cause you to look at the glass after you have a sip and think to yourself, "how do they make it so tremendous every time?". It was a great evening and the end to a wonderful stay with people I care very much about. All of you should make a point of doing the same.

M STREET SOFTBALL – PLAYOFFS LOOMING

By Mark Senna

There are just two weeks remaining in our COVID shortened season which puts the start of the playoffs right on our doorstep. As a reminder, the first place team in each division will receive a first round bye. As of this writing, that's the Simpson Club (5-1-1) from the Lucas division, Roza Lyons (6-1) from the Feeney division, and the Southside Tavern (4-2-1) from the Moran division.

None of the teams mentioned above are locked into first as they each have two games to play. With many of us stuck in our houses, one thing has become very popular in the league this season and that's the use of Facebook Live. Several games have been broadcast through our page – "M Street Softball League." You can join in on the fun – "Like"



our page to receive alerts about upcoming live events. The camera is placed behind the backstop, which creates a great view of the action. It also picks up the audio heard on the field and around the ballpark making you feel right at home. Check it out!

On Monday, we started the week off with one of the highest scoring

games in recent memory. Lincoln Tavern and the Pirates combined to score forty-eight runs in just six innings. Yes, the game was shortened by an inning due to time constraints but that didn't seem to matter to those swinging the bats. Both teams scored runs in every single inning and there six lead changes in this slugfest. It basical-

ly came down to whichever team was battling last was going to win the game and in this case it was Lincoln, 25-23.

Looking back to the final inning, the Pirates trailed 19-15 and were in need of a game saving rally. Bryan Erwin got them going when he unloaded for a two-run home run that put them within two, 19-17. They added six more runs for good measure and headed to the last half of the inning ahead, 23-19. The lead didn't last long as Lincoln quickly responded by loading the bases with one out. A two-run double by Will Brennan tied the game and one batter later it was all over. Chris Boyd delivered the game winner with a two run home-run to deep left.

The high scoring affair from the first game carried right on through to the Southside Tavern versus
continued on page 14

Recent South Boston Real Estate Sales

Property/Type	Price	Sale Date	Rooms	Baths	Sq Ft
133 Seaport Blvd UNIT PH2B Condo	\$5,898,000	6/1/20	5	3.5	2,341
133 Seaport Blvd UNIT 820 Condo	\$1,954,000	6/15/20	5	2.5	1,255
362-364 West Broadway Condo	\$1,945,000	6/5/20	5	2.5	2,405
133 Seaport Blvd UNIT 623 Condo	\$1,755,600	6/8/20	4	2	1,249
150 Dorchester Ave UNIT 501 Condo	\$1,580,000	6/9/20	5	2	2,075
355 Congress St UNIT 503 Condo	\$1,300,000	6/10/20	4	2	1,156
133 Seaport Blvd UNIT 1615 Condo	\$1,170,000	6/9/20	3	1	800
545 East Third St UNIT 9 Condo	\$1,025,000	6/10/20	5	2.5	1,383
425 East Sixth St UNIT 1 Condo	\$970,000	6/1/20	5	3	2,011
495 East Fourth St UNIT 2 Condo	\$940,000	6/3/20	4	2.5	1,461
55 I St UNIT 3 Condo	\$899,000	6/12/20	6	2.5	1,753
198 West Third St UNIT 1 Condo	\$780,000	6/15/20	4	1.5	959
198 West Sixth St UNIT 2 Condo	\$745,000	6/15/20	5	2	930
33 Sleeper St UNIT 201 Condo	\$630,000	6/12/20	2	1	887
790 East Fourth St UNIT 2 Condo	\$575,000	6/4/20	3	1	736
75 Preble Street Single Family	\$569,000	6/9/20	4	1	708
39 Story St UNIT 3 Condo	\$569,000	6/17/20	4	1	608
436 West Second St UNIT 1 Condo	\$545,000	6/2/20	4	1	676
35 Fay St UNIT LG-56 Lot of Land	\$120,000	6/1/20			

Councilor Ed Flynn to Call for Hearing on Pest Control and Illegal Dumping in Boston


Boston City Councilor Ed Flynn filed a hearing order at this week’s Council meeting to discuss issues relating to pest control and illegal dumping in the City of Boston. The hearing is intended to discuss measures that the city can take to respond to the recent uptick in rodent activities, as well as ways to curb illegal dumping in our city.

There have been increased reports of rodent infestations and activities in recent months in the city, and the CDC had also warned that environmental health and rodent control agencies should expect “reports of unusual or aggressive rodent behavior” due to restaurants and other food sources for rats and rodents closing down during the COVID-19 pandemic. In discussing the issue of pest control, we should also talk about illegal dumping, as trash that is not properly disposed of can attract rodents and cause other public health issues, and there are

frequent reports of illegal dumping in our neighborhoods. This hearing will discuss ways that the city can adequately handle these issues, including increasing enforcement, and more public awareness and outreach about proper ways of disposing trash and preventing rodent activities.

“During the COVID-19 pandemic, many neighbors have contacted me regarding their concerns about pest control and the prevention of illegal dumping. With the noticeable increase in rodents and other pests in recent months, it’s important that we discuss measures for effective pest control and keeping our streets clean,” said Councilor Flynn. “These are important quality of life and public health issues for neighbors across District 2, and I look forward to further discussion at the hearing with city officials, residents, and civic organizations.”

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


Virtual Public Meeting

15 Necco Street: Notice of Project Change

Wednesday, September 2
6:00 PM


Zoom Meeting Link
bit.ly/2PNXX2h

Project Description:
Due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, the Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA) has postponed all in-person BPDA-held public meetings regarding Article 80 development projects and planning initiatives.

The BPDA will be hosting a virtual public meeting on Zoom Meeting to review project updates and design revisions for the 15 Necco Street Notice of Project Change. The meeting will include a presentation by the development team, followed by Q&A and comments. Pre-registration for this virtual public meeting is required.

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I Was Just Thinking...



By Kevin Devlin

While Mobs in our inner cities, the so-called peaceful protestors, are destroying property and committing other unlawful and

despicable deeds, such as physically assaulting innocent people, those caught in the throes of drug addiction struggle in the shadows to stay alive. Many don't survive their individual ordeals battling drug addiction. They overdose and die.

The virus of drug abuse is without doubt just as deadly as the Covid-19 virus, and should be considered as fearful of an enemy, an insidious foe which needs to be defeated in battle. Yet it isn't and the death toll piles up as the war rages on in endless fashion. From 1999 through 2017, 702,000 Americans died from drug overdoses. In 2018, over 67,000. In 2019, over 70,000. And when 2020 is closed out, it's a sure bet that drug overdoses will continue to be catastrophic.

Americans from every part of the nation are dying from drugs every day. In my book, Hope

and Despair, The Southie Pact Part Two, I wrote, "Tragically, these gut-wrenching occurrences blend into one solitary story about too many people dying before they should."

Indeed, dying before their time, missed sorely by their loved ones yet merely listed as statistics by others.

Numbers to be calculated for future reference only,

Maybe someday this will change.

Maybe these victims, these poor, forgotten, drug-addicted souls will no longer be considered merely as collateral damage in life by society at large.

I surely hope so.

On another note, while we are asked to wear masks, social distance, and stay home, U.S. Representative Ayanna Pressley has called for continued "Unrest" in the streets over lack of movement on police reform. We must follow the science, act as responsible and unselfish citizens, but not so much the rioters, mistakenly referred by many

as peaceful protestors. They can do what they wish, when and wherever.

Some of the meanings of the word unrest include chaos, anarchy, rebellion, uprising, rioting, turmoil, disorder, and sedition. And sedition means subversion, rabble-rousing, rebellion, revolt, subversion, and civil disorder.

That's what Representative Pressley is calling for.

But isn't she a member of Congress, a leader who has sworn to abide by the Constitution?

Shouldn't she be calling for law and order because no one is above the law?

Shouldn't she be leading in a positive manner allowing laws and reforms to be enacted in a peaceful manner?

Obviously, she's not doing that.

She's simply dismissing the democratic political process which would maintain order and protect our democracy.

And preserve peace and stability we all desire and deserve.

Voting continued from front page

less likely to be counted, more likely to be compromised and more likely to be contested than those cast in a voting booth."

Recently, and with viral aftermath, President Trump tweeted that "With Universal Mail-In Voting (not Absentee Voting, which is good), 2020 will be the most INACCURATE & FRAUDULENT Election in history. It will be a great embarrassment to the USA. Delay the Election until people can properly, securely and safely vote???"

Many people interpreted this tweet about a possible delay in the Nov. 3 election as a threat by him to postpone the election. But that's not really what his tweet said—and in any event, no president has the power to delay Election Day. Only Congress has the constitutional authority to change the date of the Federal General Election.

The general election situation aside, here in Massachusetts, the

Secretary of State William Galvin set the Primary Election date on September 1, the earliest date in recent memory. This accelerated timeframe has put enormous pressure on the City of Boston to react to mail-in ballot requests and reports are that the election department is having difficulty keeping up with the demand, which will likely have a direct effect on the ballot counting and the validity of ballots.

In the past, the election department had issues with processing absentee ballots and the reports of compromised ballots in some precincts. When asked, one local veteran campaigner lamented, "With all of the turmoil around the country, the controversy over the postal service funding and the illegal behavior of many protestors and others, don't think for one moment that mailed in ballots won't be lost or discarded, or worse". This concern apparently reflects the unprecedented malevolence of the national elections

and the blame falls to both Parties – Democrats and Republicans.

In another first for Massachusetts voters, early voting at some polling places will also be allowed for the primary election on September 1— not just the general election. It is fair to opine that, especially in traditional voting strongholds like South Boston and Dorchester, in-person voting won't be stopped by the coronavirus on either day.

The controversy with the Postal Service cannot be taken lightly and its effect on the mail in voting experiment could have unanticipated consequences in this election cycle, as well as lasting impacts on the validity of the elections.

Candidates on the ballot September 1, both incumbents and challengers, are not only having difficulty planning and executing their campaign strategies under the pandemic restrictions imposed, they now face the prospects of the failure of mail-in voting and the legitimacy of the final vote count.

Secretary of State Galvin acknowledged to WBUR that voting by mail does add some small measure of risk. But he said his office will be extra vigilant. "You're liberalizing the process to afford people the opportunity to vote by mail, and when you do anything like that, you're expanding the opportunity for people to abuse it, as opposed to somebody coming in and actually voting in person, where they can be seen," Galvin said. "But it's a risk we have to take. We have to protect the rights of voters to participate who otherwise might not."

With the primary less than 2 weeks away, and voting by mail already underway, Galvin has said he has concerns about that election, but is more worried about the November election, when there is expected to be far more people casting ballots.

Be sure that your ballot counts! The simple solution: Voting in person is the best way to ensure that your vote is counted.

John 'Jackie' O'Brien Street Hockey Court Dedication

SBT Staff Report

It was Saturday morning; the weather was overcast and warm and it was looking like rain. And while many people enjoy staying in on cloudy Saturdays and relaxing, this cloudy weekend day was special, and the crowd had no intention of missing the event that was about to take place. Because beloved South Boston Hero John 'Jackie' O'Brien was being honored on this morning and there

were many of his devoted fans who would have walked through a raging hurricane to be there. To say the crowd was enthusiastic would be an understatement. People were thrilled to be part of this celebration.

The brand new Street Hockey Court would from this day on proudly bear the name of John 'Jackie' O'Brien and was dedicated to him by a grateful community with appreciation and love for his limitless generosity and so many wonderful

things he has done over the years for people in South Boston.

The entire South Boston elected delegation was in attendance. Congressman Steve Lynch, Senator Nick Collins, State Representative David Biele and City Councilor Ed Flynn. City Councilor Mike Flaherty was the Master of Ceremonies. Jackie's long-time close friend and fellow athlete Ray Flynn was also present to wish Jackie well. Famous celebrity vocalist Mr. Rene Rancourt came

to sing the National Anthem as everyone present stood solemnly and respectfully during the beautifully performed song.

But it wasn't just pomp and ceremony on this morning. Adding to the excitement was some fast-moving sports action courtesy of the players in the Danglefest Street Hockey Tournament. These players may have been young pre-teens, but they were talented, played with heart and put on a great show which fit

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right in with the rest of the activities honoring Jackie. The kids were honored to have Jack drop the ball for the first faceoff at center court.

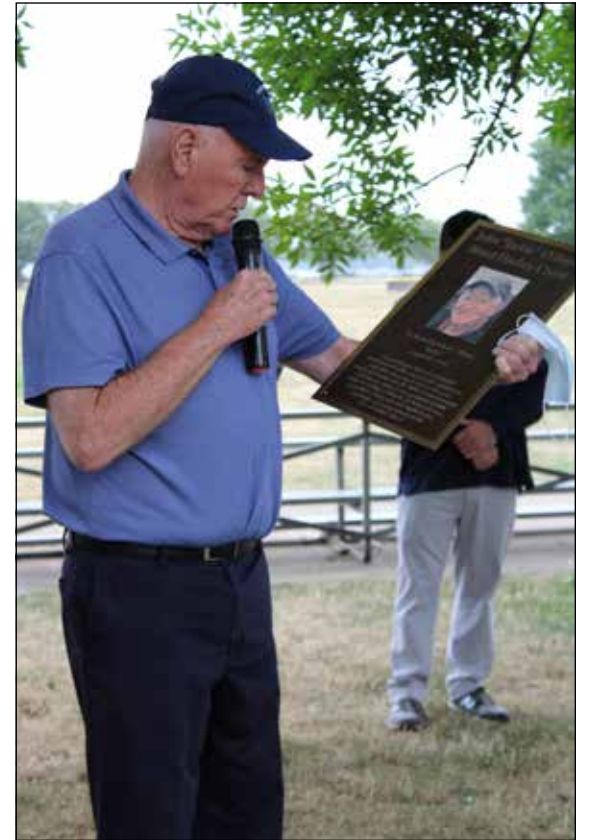
John 'Jackie' O'Brien is recognized as one of Southie's greats. He has donated and contributed so much to

so many and to just about every good cause in town. Every youth organization has benefitted from Jack's kindness and generosity as well as senior citizens groups, veteran's organizations and the endless number of charities and fundraisers that have work so hard to make the lives of

South Bostonians better; especially those in need. And as is said so often, Jack never did it for recognition or praise. He did it to give back to his neighborhood. For him, it was always a labor of love.

So, on this day, Saturday, August 15th, 2020, the people of South

Boston got their chance to say as a group, 'Thank You, Jack O'Brien' for all you have done and continue to do. As always, Jack was there to greet his friends and neighbors with his familiar big, friendly warm and sincere smile. And yes, even the rain held off for this very special event.



To The *South Boston* Community



thank you



I would like to acknowledge and recognize all the special people that were instrumental in creating an unforgettable day for the Street Hockey Court Dedication to my dad, Jackie O'Brien, in Moakley Park on August 15, 2020.

- To Mayor Martin J. Walsh, for allowing us to come together for my dad's special event during such a difficult time in our lives, knowing and trusting that we would take all the necessary precautions to keep everyone distant and safe during our COVID-19 times.
- To Commissioner of Parks and Recreations, Ryan Woods, who was instrumental in making the idea of the dedication to my dad a reality; tirelessly working on this project, preparing and cleaning the street hockey court and the area surrounding for us to enjoy.
- To Former Ambassador and Mayor of Boston, as well as a dear family friend, Ray Flynn, for your kindhearted words and presentation of my dad's honor plaque.
- To City Counselor and childhood friend, Michael Flaherty, for being the perfect event host as well as being wonderfully witty with your thoughtful words about my dad.
- To Congressman Stephen Lynch, for presentation of the Congressional American Flag.
- To Edward Flynn, Nick Collins and David Biele, for participating in the days' events.
- To Rene Rancourt, for leading us in the National Anthem.
- To John Jankowski and the First Dangle Fest, for letting us join in your special day. Congratulations to you for all your hard work making a fun, successful day for all the teams and players who participated!
- To Kenny Ryan and Tommy McGrath, for helping behind the scenes.
- To Mary Sheehan, for developing our wonderful logo.
- To Pat Byrne and E street Screening, for printing our event T-shirts.
- To Andrea Flaherty and L Street Bathhouse, for letting us borrow and proudly display our American Flag as well as supply chairs for our event.
- To Barbara O'Dwyer, for letting us borrow your fabulous speaker

and microphone so our voices could be heard loud and clear.

- To Sean O'Connor at Awards Unlimited in Somerville, for the beautiful dedication plaque.
- To all the First Responders, EMTs, Firefighters and Police officers that came to the event, especially officers from Area C, we thank and salute you for your service everyday keeping our community safe so we may live in peace.
- To Bobby Ferrara, for all your hard work and dedication for making my dad's special go off without a hitch.
- To all the sponsors that were instrumental in creating such a memorable event: Roza Lyons, Perkins Post, Fire Sprinkler Corp., Southie's Own, Deja Brew, BP Elecomm, McCaffrey Mechanical's, Chippewa Athletic Club, Inc., Gatey CYO, Joe Quinn/Bob Turner, The O'Leary Foundation, Dodo Nee Foundation, Sullivan's -Castle Island, L&4th Market, E Street Screening, MD, The Jankowski Family, The Rooney Family, Paul and Dayna Ford and Nancy Troy.
- To the man who had the original idea for the event, Robert Pacitti. You made it your mission to make this event possible. You are truly amazingly committed and dedicated when you have a plan. Your passion becomes action. From the bottom of my heart, thank you, Robert, for taking action and making this day happen for my dad. Your thoughtfulness and kindness will be forever remembered. You are a true earth angel and I am blessed to call you our friend.

I thank each and every one of you for making this day a treasured memory to be forever remembered.

- Tara O'Brien

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Broadway Bombers contest. In the top of the first, Southside batted around the order and scored nine runs, 9-0. The Bombers answered responded and after two innings it was 11-8 Southside. From that point on, Southside cruised as pitcher Johnny Brooks settled down and kept the Bomber attack in check, 18-10. Jack Hockington (4 hits) and Nick Manning (4 hits) provided the big hits for Southside while Dan McKenna (3 hits) and Chris Joyce (3 hits) paced the Bomber attack.

Monday closed with the Simpson Club looking to revenge an earlier season loss to the Telegraph Hill. Things didn't start the way they had hoped as the Hill jumped out to a 2-0 lead heading into the top of the third inning. Brian Goodman and newcomer Miguel Dupree each hit RBI singles to even the score, 2-2. With a boisterous home crowd behind them, Simpson would strike again in the top of the fourth when Pat Dolbeare and Mike Bulman each scored on Mike Garland's double, 4-2. Now with the lead, Dupree

got stingy and kept the Hill off the bases as he struck out eight batters over the course of the game. The two clubs would trade runs in the later frames but that would be it, Simpson and Dupree prevail 5-3.

On Tuesday, Dan Gambill hit a two-run double to break a 12-12 tie and lead Roza Lyons to a 15-12 victory. Pitcher Kyle Szatrowski picked up his league leading sixth win of the season while Dan Manton was the hitting force, collecting two hits and five RBI. Austin Miller (2 hits and 4 RBI) was the hitting star for the Playwright.

The middle game saw the VMT squad take on the rising Dorchester Brew Crew. However, VMT would be too much to handle in this one as they scored a run in every inning but the fourth. Josh Press and Dan Oconnell each connected for three hits while pitcher Dave Wasylak gutted out his fourth win of the season. Wasylak was backed by some impressive defense that included a game ending rare double play (U3-2).

Wednesday's early action turned into the Jack Sheehy show as the

tall righty swatted three homeruns and knocked in five runs for Betty's/Publico. Sheehy brought a nice contingent of fans to the game and they didn't go home disappointed. Betty's scored in every inning as they held off the Dukies, 14-9. Chris Peris and Steve Dazzo chipped in with three hits apiece.

The middle game featured a rematch of the Los Bravos and STATS. Bravos took the first game 5-4 and were looking for a win to hold onto third place in the Lucas division. After three scoreless innings, STATS struck first in the top of the fourth when Tad Gold ripped a two-run double to center. STATS would score two more runs in the inning to go up 4-0. Gold struck again the very next inning with his second two-run double which put STATS in control, 7-0. With the game slipping away, the Bravos fought back in the bottom of the inning when they loaded the bases and scored four runs, 7-4. However, that would be as close as they would get as STATS kept them in check and won, 9-4. Kevin Miller (3 hits, 3 runs) and Tim Higgins (3 hits) led the attack for

STATS while Rey Melo (2 hits) led the Bravos.

Thursday's middle game featured a match up of two teams that were destined to meet in the "B" finals last season, Roza Lyons and Telegraph Hill. Telegraph made it through their bracket and eventually won the championship. However, the Dukies knocked out the previously undefeated Roza squad so the dream match never happened, until now. The game lived up to its billing as both clubs played solid defense and got timely hits. Neither team could take a commanding lead as the game moved into the top of the seventh with Telegraph holding onto a 9-7 lead. Roza loaded the bases and scored two runs before Josh Lopez (3 hits, 4 RBI) hit a two-run single to put them ahead, 11-9. Pitcher Kyle Szatrowski gave up two hits in the seventh but then walked a fine line to victory. Dan Manton (3 hits, 5 RBI) and Dan Gambill (3 hits, 3 runs) led Roza's attack while Scott Howard (3 hits), Matt Doyle (3 hits), and Luke Serra (2 hits, 4 RBI) paced Telegraph.

Thursday came to a close with the Kekambas looking to snap a three game losing streak. However, their opponent on this night was on a streak of their own, as STATS had won their last three games. With STATS ahead 3-0 in the fourth, the Kekambas bats came to life as David Kurey (2 HR, 3 RBI) and Will Sleeper hit back to back homeruns to tie the game, 3-3. In that pivotal fourth inning, STATS through it into high gear and batted around the order while scoring seven runs. Tim Higgins (3 hits, 3 runs) and Tad Gold (2 hits, 3 RBI) were the hitting stars for STATS while the author of this article picked up his second win on the mound.

Friday's winners were the Dorchester Brew Crew, Fat Baby, and Banshee.

That will wrap up another very busy week of softball at this address. Remember, "Like" our page on FaceBook. M Street Softball games are played Monday through Friday starting at 6pm, 7:30, and 9pm. Have a great week everyone!





I'll be honest. It took me a few games to get into playoff mode.

After watching the Bruins' first three games in the Toronto bubble — the “Stanley Cup Qualifiers” — I was bored. It wasn't just because the Bruins lost all three of those games. There was something missing.

That “something” was obvious. There were no fans. And it was weird.

Then the actual Stanley Cup Playoffs began last week. Even after the first two games against the Carolina Hurricanes, I was still having a tough time getting into it. It did not feel like playoff hockey.

Bruins goaltender Tuukka Rask agreed.

“Well, to be honest with you, it doesn't really feel like playoff hockey out there,” said Rask after the Bruins' Game 2 loss to the Hurricanes last Thursday. “There's no fans, so it's kind of like playing an exhibition game. Obviously there's some scrums after whistles, and, I haven't noticed anything that [opponents] would be targeting me or whatnot. Things happen, people fall on you and whatnot, but it's definitely not a playoff atmosphere out there.”

To be fair, there should be some context added to Rask's answer in the postgame press conference. So you should know what the question was.

“Tuukka, obviously playoff hockey is playoff hockey,” said a reporter. “I'm wondering if Carolina is doing anything to cross the line when they enter your crease?”

Rask didn't just answer the question about Carolina “crossing the line.” He also felt the need to correct the reporter's suggestion that “playoff hockey is playoff hockey.” In Rask's mind, that wasn't so obvious. Not right now. Not after four months off. Not during a pandemic. Not in August. Not in Toronto. And certainly not in an empty arena.

For whatever reason, some fans and media couldn't understand Rask's reasoning. We've been so desperate for sports to resume, that to us outside the bubble, we're just happy that sports are back. We're happy we get to watch a delayed version of the Stanley Cup Playoffs. We get to sit back, turn on the TV, watch hockey all day and all night like it's the Olympics. Some of us even get to gamble on it — that

is, if you're watching outside of Massachusetts (wink emoji) because the state still hasn't legalized sports gambling, which is so ridiculously stupid I don't even know where to begin.

Regardless, hockey is back. They playoffs are on. And most fans and media seem to be into it.

Me? Ok, fine. I'm into it now. But it took me until Game 4.

So do I blame Rask for telling the truth? Not at all. In fact, I'm pretty sure he's not alone in feeling that way. He's just the only one to come out and say it.

But then, after those comments, he decided to get up and leave. Rask opted out to go be with his family, and the announcement was made just hours before Game 3 on Saturday.

“I want to be with my teammates competing, but at this moment there are things more important than hockey in my life, and that is being with my family,” said Rask in a statement. “I want to thank the Bruins and my teammates for their support and wish them success.”

It has since been rumored to be a “family emergency.” But it's also since been rumored that everything is now fine with that

family emergency.

First off, it's good to hear that everyone in his family is doing good. But the last thing anyone wants to then hear is that Rask was seen golfing a few days later.

Again, we need to add context to all of this. And the context is, perhaps Rask needed a day to take his mind off everything, so he went golfing. But man, if I'm one of his teammates, I'm not so sure how I feel about that.

The Bruins are trying to win a Stanley Cup. Rask is one of the best goalies in the NHL. He gives them their best chance to win. And a few days after opting out, he's back home on the golf course? Not really a good look. And I'm usually a hardcore Rask supporter.

Rask is under contract for one more year at a \$7 million cap hit. But I'm willing to bet that a team not named the Bruins is paying that next season.

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SPORTS TODAY

HAYWARD SPRAINS ANKLE, WILL MISS FOUR WEEKS



SBT Staff

Boston Celtics forward Gordon Hayward suffered a Grade III ankle sprain during the fourth quarter of Game 1 of their first-round playoff series against the Philadelphia 76ers on Monday night. The team announced the severity of the injury on Tuesday, saying that Hayward is expected to miss approximately four weeks.

Boston went on to win Game 1. Hayward had 12 points in 34 minutes before leaving the game with the right ankle sprain.

Hayward missed the entire 2017-18 season after breaking his left ankle in the first game of that season.

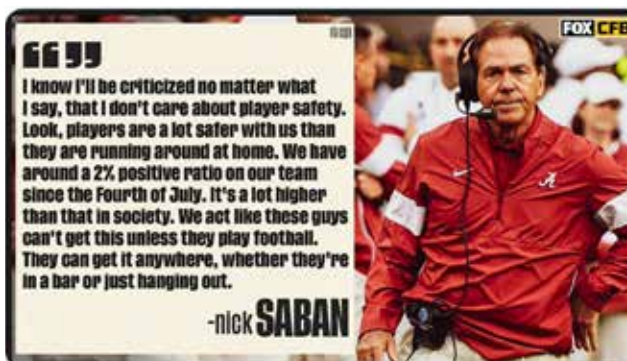


FOX College Football @CFBONFOX

Nick Saban gives his take on the state of college football



Tweet of the Week



BRADY: I'M HAPPY WITH MY DECISION

SBT Staff

NFL Training Camps have begun, and things are certainly different in New England and Tampa Bay.

The common denominator, of course, is Tom Brady.

Brady's absence at Patriots camp has given it an incomplete feel. While down in Tampa, the Buccaneers are already feeling like a Super Bowl favorite with No. 12 under center.

When talking to Peter King of NBC Sports earlier this week, Brady expressed his happiness with the decision to leave New England and sign with the Bucs.

"When I added it up, Tampa seemed like it was a great opportunity," said Brady. "I am so happy with the decision I made."

Brady told King that there were "about 20 factors" that he considered when making the move from New England to Tampa Bay, but wouldn't go into detail on those factors.

"I made a decision to do something different," said Brady. "It was a very thoughtful decision. It wasn't a spur of the moment thing. Really since the moment I got here they've embraced me. They've embraced me with the opportunity to go and lead the team — that's a big responsibility for me."

RASK OPTS OUT OF BRUINS' PLAYOFFS

SBT Staff

Boston Bruins goaltender Tuukka Rask has opted out of the Stanley Cup Playoffs. The announcement was made public just a few hours before Saturday's Game 3 of the Eastern Conference Quarterfinals against the Carolina Hurricanes.

Rask released a statement that read, "I want to be with my teammates competing, but at this moment there are things more important than hockey in my life, and that is being with my family. I want to thank the Bruins and my teammates for their support and wish them success."

The Bruins' first-round series with the Hurricanes was tied at 1-1 when Rask chose to opt out.

Rask, 33, had the NHL's best goals-against average during the 2019-20 regular season, at 2.12. He enters the final year of his current contract next season, on a \$7 million cap hit.

WHAT TO WATCH

NBA FRIDAY, AUG. 21
Eastern Conference Quarterfinals
Gm 3: Boston vs Philadelphia
6:30 P.M. TNT

SUNDAY, AUG. 23
Eastern Conference Quarterfinals
Gm 4: Boston vs Philadelphia
1 P.M. ABC

NHL THURSDAY, AUG. 20
Eastern Conference Quarterfinals
Gm 6 (if necessary): Boston vs Carolina
TBD NBCSN

SUNDAY, AUG. 23
Eastern Conference Quarterfinals
Gm 7 (if necessary): Carolina vs Boston
TBD NBCSN

WWE SUNDAY, AUG. 21
SummerSlam
7 P.M. WWEN/PPV

MASSACHUSETTS BANS FANS THROUGH SEPTEMBER FOR RED SOX, PATRIOTS

SBT Staff

The Massachusetts Reopening Advisory Board informed the Boston Red Sox and New England Patriots this week that fans will not be allowed into any events through the month of September.

The Red Sox' last regular season game is Sunday, Sept. 27. The Sox are currently in last place in the division, and even if they were to make a miraculous comeback in the standings and advance to the Postseason, Major League Baseball is likely to have its playoffs in several bubble cities, which does not include Boston.

The Patriots' first regular season game is Sunday, Sept. 13 at home against the Miami Dolphins. They were originally planning on having fans in attendance at Gillette Stadium for this game at 20 percent capacity, but that proposal has been rejected by the state's Reopening Advisory Board.

This development comes on the same day that the NFL's reigning Super Bowl champion Kansas City Chiefs announced they'll have fans at all their home games this season, reducing Arrowhead Stadium's capacity to 22 percent, which is approximately 16,000 fans.



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