

SEN. COLLINS & REP. BIELE ANNOUNCE STATE RELIEF FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

*\$1.295 Billion in
Economic Stimulus*

Last week, State Senator Nick Collins and State Representative David Biele joined their colleagues in the Massachusetts Legislature in approving a \$626 million economic stimulus package. Combined with last month’s announcement of a \$668 Small Business Relief Grant Program,

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EDITORIAL

The Shock of the Property Tax Increases: What are People to Do?

Yes. We've heard the shrieks of horror and the gasps from residents in shock when they opened their City of Boston property tax bills that arrived at the beginning of this month. This newspaper, like others, is getting calls and emails and even hand-written letters by outraged people saying they will be moving out of the city. We have also heard from folks who are frightened as they wonder how on earth, they will be able to remain in their family's life-long homes,

because they must pay the increases that have jumped as much as 80% over the already crippling amounts that they were paying last year. And make no mistake, renters too will be negatively impacted, as property owners will be forced to increase rents – by a lot. Raising taxes even a little during a 'pandemic' when people have lost their jobs and businesses makes no sense. But increasing rates by astronomical amounts is simply heartless and cruel.

We are all familiar with the U-Haul Company. They

rent trailers and moving vans. They recently released a report saying that Massachusetts is among the top 3 states out of the 50 with the smallest population growth, because thousands of people are just packing up and moving away to states, usually Red States, where the taxes are reasonable and actually affordable. According to the report, one of the main reasons this is happening is because it has become nearly financially impossible for so many to raise their families and make a



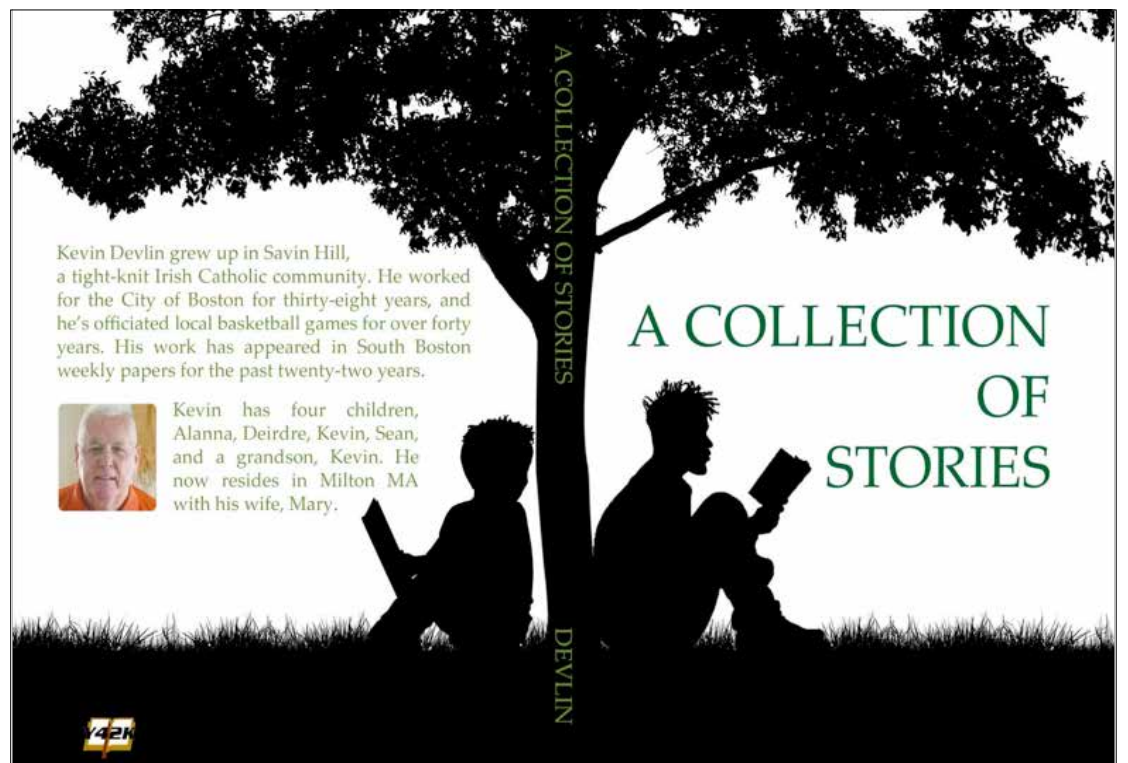
go out of it here any longer.

This situation leads many to ask the following question: Do those making the rules WANT everyone to move out of this city and state to make room for mostly high-priced devel-

opment instead of working class families or are they just tone deaf and out of touch and unable to understand the reality that is leading to that financial ruin facing so many bewildered and desperate citizens?

“Freedom is the oxygen of the soul” - Moshe Dyan

Kevin Devlin's trilogy of the “Southie Pact” & “A Collection of Stories” –now available on AMAZON.COM.



SouthBostonTODAY

Publisher • John Ciccone

info@southbostontoday.com • ads@southbostontoday.com

PO Box 491 • South Boston, MA 02127

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The Information Center

Are You Shocked By What Happened In DC?

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY

John Ciccone

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

The left wing in this country is still in meltdown over the 'assault' on the Capitol Building in DC. Finally, they are speaking out about violence and rioting and demanding police protection. Ok, just a pause for a comment on that one: They want 'police protection'? Really? This is where it gets almost comical. Many of the same people demanding that law enforcement take action against rioting and violence are the same people who have been clamoring and demanding that police be defunded and even abolished. And have we forgotten when the rioting, looting and burning was taking place by violent left-wing radicals, it was Democrat operatives along with their allies in Hollywood and the media who were shelling out tons of cash to bail the offenders out of jail, so they could go right back and riot some more?

So, we are shocked at what happened in DC? Seriously? Do I personally wish that what happened in Washington did not? Of course, I do. No one should want to see things turn ugly like that. But as predictable and expected, the phony outrage by the liberals in this country is typical. They uttered hardly a sound of protest and opposition when months of rioting were taking place all summer long and into the autumn and in some cities like Portland, Oregon, is still going on. And that includes silence from Biden, Pelosi, Schumer and all the others who are now wringing their hands about the DC demonstrations: Let's do a quick recap of what took place month after month shall we?

The left burned cities, businesses, court houses, private homes and even churches. They looted and stole everything they could carry. In attempts

to blind police officers, they aimed lasers and professional grade fireworks at them along with pelting the cops with bricks, bats and Molotov cocktails. And it was pretty obvious that they were literally trying to kill police officers. Innocent people were pulled out of their cars and beaten, and they were even harassed and attacked while in restaurants and stores when out with their families. Whole sections of cities were taken over by thugs and deemed 'off limits' and when arrests actually were made, some Democrat mayors ordered them immediately released. When Trump offered to send troops, the Democrat mayors and governors refused, preferring instead to let their cities burn rather than the president get credit for putting a stop to it.

While all of this was going on night after night, Trump supporters for the most part stood by peacefully and obeyed the law, while the other side was getting everything it wanted because they were violent. The leftists even had their flags raised at city halls, their banners and logos displayed prominently at pro sports events and fawning praise was being heaped on them by the media and politicians who either supported the violence or were too intimidated to speak out against it. These violent rioters were actually being praised as heroes. And on and on it went. The message being sent was clear: Riot and you get everything you want. Stay peaceful and law abiding and get walked over and ignored. It is sad that it had to come to this in DC, but not unexpected if you look at the big picture. So, to the lefties, who stood silent during long periods of street violence, spare us your one-sided, fake outrage. It's making you look ridiculous and it exposes you for the hypocrites you are.

So now, the attacks on President Trump and his supporters by the media and Democrats have been joined by the 'big tech' social media companies. Face Book, Twitter, Amazon and the like united in an attempt to silence Conservative Patriotic Americans, because they hate the thought of anyone having the ability to express opposing views. History shows us that shutting down real news and communication is how Nazis and Communists came to power. The technology might be far more advanced in this century than it was when Hitler, Mao and Stalin

came to power, but the goal is very much the same. Take away freedom from the masses and then maintain total control of them and any and all dissent must be eliminated. Yet it should be noted, there are still far too many Americans unwilling to sit back and allow our great country to be taken over and dominated by those who hate it and hold it for very long. Our Founding Fathers instilled in the fabric of America willingness, determination, courage and yes, the ability to do whatever necessary to protect and defend this country and keep it free.

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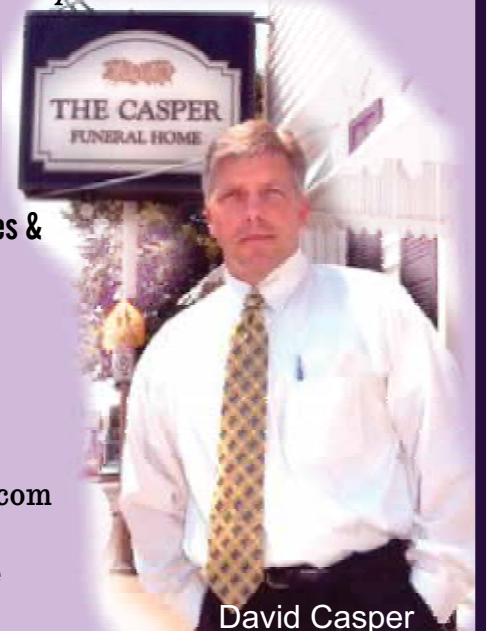
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Councilor Flynn Files Five Hearing Orders

At this week's Boston City Council meeting, Councilor Flynn has filed five hearing orders on issues related to quality of life, property tax assistance, public health, traffic safety, and civil rights issues. The hearing orders include:

Hearing to discuss the proliferation of electronic billboards: There has been an increase of electronic billboards in the city over the years, but studies have linked electronic billboards to distracted driving and increased crash rates, and found a negative correlation between property values and electronic billboards. Electronic billboards' energy consumption is contrary to the City's energy reduction goals, and often-times do not fit in with the historic character of our neighborhoods. The hearing order aims to discuss how the city can strengthen existing restrictions on the usage of electronic billboards. The hearing is co-sponsored by Councilor Kenzie Bok.

Hearing to discuss property taxes and assistance programs for seniors & long term residents facing difficulties During COVID-19: Property taxes are a heavy financial burden for many families, particularly seniors on fixed incomes, who may have brought their homes years ago before housing prices and

property values skyrocketed in the city. With the COVID-19 pandemic, many are facing additional financial difficulties, and may not be able to afford paying their property taxes. As many seniors and long time residents are facing financial hardship because of COVID-19, the City of Boston should also consider financial assistance programs for those who may be unable to pay their property taxes, including potentially doubling the exemption for seniors over a certain age while considering their income and evaluation.

Hearing on establishing a First Responders and Frontline Workers COVID-19 Health Registry: With the long-term health impacts currently unknown to both health professionals and the general public alike, Councilor Flynn conveyed that a health registry would allow for city public health officials to track the data and monitor long term effects of COVID-19 for our first responders and frontline workers, as well as providing appropriate resources for those affected by the virus.

Hearing to discuss the creation of a South Boston Traffic Master Plan: With South Boston being at the center of Boston's development boom, transportation and traffic are critical issues that greatly impact

both long-time and new South Boston residents alike. The hearing order calls for discussion on the establishment of a traffic master plan for South Boston to assess the neighborhood's short-term and long-term transportation needs and capacity, so that the city and residents can better understand the potential impact of upcoming developments on traffic and congestion for the neighborhood. This hearing is co-sponsored by Councilor Michael Flaherty.

Hearing to discuss ways for the City to prevent and investigate incidents of hate crimes and discrimination: When someone experiences a racist or discriminatory incident, it can be difficult for them to find the avenue to report the incident or seek an investigation, and the victim of a hate crime or a racist incident might also be too fearful to come forward and report to authorities such as the police. In the city, we have different departments that interact with constituents who experienced discriminatory incidents, including the Human Rights Commission. It's important for the city to have a way for residents to report hate crime and discriminatory incidents, and have measures in place for the City to formally investigate and review these incidents, as well as



providing resources to victims and anti-discrimination education to the public. This hearing is co-sponsored by Councilors Andrea Campbell and Lydia Edwards.

"The hearing orders that I'm filing this week reflect some of the critical issues that impact our residents," said Councilor Flynn. "From the proliferation of electronic billboards and assisting our seniors and residents who are facing financial difficulties, to ensuring the future health of frontline workers and first responders, providing better traffic planning, and taking steps to prevent and investigate hate crimes, I believe that these are all critical issues that should be addressed. I look forward to these discussions at the Council in the months ahead."

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

Collins/Biele continued from front page

the State of Massachusetts has made available \$1.295 billion in stimulus funding for our local economy, and especially small businesses hurt by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sen. Collins, Rep. Biele and their colleagues in the Legislature made small business and the local economy a priority in last week's economic development bond bill, authorizing more than \$100 million in several grant programs including loans and grants to small businesses, support for restaurants, payroll protection, and job creation.

The bill also included an amendment supported by Sen. Collins and Rep. Biele to include \$500,000 for capital improvements designed to support the reopening of small businesses throughout the City of Boston. Representative Biele supported language sponsored by Senator Collins which requires the Department of Revenue (DOR) to create a pathway for tax relief for small business owners by exempting them from

the IRS' State and Local Tax (SALT) cap.

"Taken together, this \$1.295 billion package represents a significant investment in our economy, local jobs, and our community as a whole," said Senator Collins. "Now more than ever our small businesses, and the employees they support, need our assistance, and I am proud to stand with my colleagues to deliver real tangible results that will retain and create jobs, help businesses pay their bills, reduce tax burdens, and assist restaurants, gyms, salons, and other small businesses recover from the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak."

"During these tough times, I was proud to work with my colleagues in the Legislature to make crucial investments in our local businesses and industries impacted by COVID-19, such as the restaurant industry, salons, gyms, and other personal services," said Rep. Biele. "These relief packages and resources will provide support and much-needed relief to struggling businesses and their employees with over \$1 billion in grant programs and state funding."

Currently, the state has made \$668 million

available to support businesses impacted by COVID-19 through the Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation. Funds are dedicated to sectors experiencing the most significant economic hardship and a loss of revenue due to the COVID-19 pandemic with preference given to restaurants, gyms/fitness centers, event-support companies (photographers, videographers), and personal services (salons, barbershops). This new business relief program will offer grants up to \$75,000, for payroll and employee benefit costs, mortgage interest, rent, utilities and interest on other debt obligations. The Sector-Specific Grant Program is accepting applications through Friday, January 15th, and can be found at www.empoweringsmallbusiness.com.

Already, the Small Business Relief Grant Program has awarded \$116.4 million to 2,524 businesses statewide in the last month, including more than 300 businesses in Boston which received more than \$16.25 million in grants.



Chairman Lynch and House Committee Chairs Issue Statement After FBI Briefing on Investigation of 'Siege of the U.S. Capitol' and Preparations for Inauguration

Washington, D.C. — Yesterday, U.S. Representative Stephen F. Lynch, Chairman of the Committee on Oversight and Reform National Security Subcommittee, as well as Committee on Oversight and Reform Chairwoman Carolyn B. Maloney, Committee on the Judiciary Chairman Jerrold Nadler, Committee on Homeland Security Chairman Bennie G. Thompson, Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence Chairman Adam B. Schiff and Committee on Armed Services Chairman Adam Smith issued the following statement after a briefing from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and D.C. U.S. Attorney's Office relating to the deadly assault on the U.S. Capitol on January 6, which they deemed a "siege of the U.S. Capitol."

"Based on today's briefing, we have grave concerns about ongoing and violent threats to our democracy. It is clear that more must be done to preempt, penetrate, and prevent deadly and seditious assaults by domestic violent extremists in the days ahead. We will not discuss specific security measures under consideration, but we will be working closely with our leadership in Congress and all appropriate federal, state, and local authorities.

"We are also troubled by reports about warnings received by law enforcement authorities and the actions taken to share those warnings and respond to them prior to the attack. This is a moment when our entire national security and law en-

forcement apparatus must be working in complete lockstep. This was not a peaceful protest that got out of hand. This was an attempted coup to derail our Constitutional process and intimidate our duly elected leaders through violence.

"Officials in today's briefing confirmed that they will prosecute every individual associated with this act, including anyone who entered restricted areas outside the Capitol, as well as those who breached the Capitol itself. We demand full accountability not only to hold those perpetrators responsible, but to send a strong signal that future seditious activity will not be tolerated and will be met with the full force of the law."



Postal employees will celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day

National Holiday to Honor the Iconic Civil Rights Leader

Post Offices across the commonwealth will be closed on Monday, January 18, as our employees pause to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Street delivery on Monday will be limited to guaranteed overnight parcels and there will be no collection of mail.

Full retail and delivery operations will resume on Tuesday, January 19.

The Postal Service receives no tax dollars for operating expenses and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations.

Councilor Flynn Calls For Hearing on Property Tax Assistance Programs



Boston City Councilor Ed Flynn is filing a hearing order at this week's City Council meeting to discuss possible assistance programs for our seniors and long

term city homeowners who have difficulties paying property taxes during the pandemic. The pandemic has greatly impacted the finance of many of our seniors and residents, and this hearing order aims to discuss possible ways that the city can assist those who have difficulties in paying their property taxes.

Property taxes can be a heavy financial burden for many families, particularly seniors on fixed incomes, who may have brought their homes years ago before housing prices and property values skyrocketed in the city. With the COVID-19 pandemic, many are facing additional financial difficulties, and may not be able to afford paying their property taxes. The City of Boston offers a number of property tax exemptions for

residents who qualify, including for seniors who meet income limits and residency requirements. Councilor Flynn was proud to work with Councilor Edwards as the original co-sponsors to pass an ordinance in the City Council to allow low income senior homeowners who owe back taxes to establish property tax agreements, and get interest relief from the City. Moreover, cities such as New York City have reduced interest for late property tax payments for eligible homeowners, and the City of Detroit offers an exemption of up to 100% for residents who live in poverty. As many seniors and long time residents are facing financial hardship because of COVID-19, the City of Boston should also consider possible assistance programs for

those who may be unable to pay their property taxes, including potentially doubling the exemption for seniors over a certain age while considering their income and evaluation.

"Many seniors and residents have reached out and reported concerns about the increase in property taxes, and I believe that we should do what we can to assist those who are facing financial hardship right now," said Councilor Flynn. "Our seniors and long time residents are an indispensable part of our city, and it's important that they continue to stay and thrive in our city. I look forward to working with the city on this issue and having this discussion."

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

The 245th Evacuation Day Poster And Essay Contest Topics Announced

South Boston Citizens' Association President Tom McGrath announced today that because of the tremendous success of the past several years' contest, the Association will once again sponsor the 2021 Annual Essay and Poster Contests.

After last year's outstanding effort put forth by past President Bernie O'Donnell and his committee, they expressed an interest in taking on the challenge of chairing The Essay and Poster Contests. "Bernie always taught me that these contests are a great way to educate and strengthen the interest of the children of the community, I was more than pleased when Bernie offered to head up this Event for the children of South Boston. This year we will open up the High School competition to all stu-



dents residing in Suffolk County or attends a school in Suffolk County", Remarked McGrath. Bernie further expressed "One of the missions of the SBCA is to reach out to the young children of this historically rich community, joining the SBCA in promoting, organizing, and judging the Evacuation Day Poster and Essay Competitions is a most fitting way to improve on that mission."

The current plan with respect to our annual Evacuation Day activities is to continue to host all the events as we have done in years past, but with additional precautions, including social distancing and face coverings. We will continue to work with Governor Baker, the City of Boston Health Commission, and the National Park Service for the planning of our activities, as we do every year, and will strictly follow their

requirements and guidance on all aspects of our hosted events.

We look forward to working with the community again this year, which commemorates the 245th anniversary of Evacuation Day in Boston. Celebrating Evacuation Day events in the community is a huge undertaking, especially under current circumstances. But thanks to Volunteers and Community Business partners in past years, such as Comcast, Mass Bay Credit Union and City of Boston Credit Union, we at the SBCA are confident we will be able to complete the task and make it possible for the entire community to safely enjoy this year's commemorative events.

Subject matter has been specifically chosen as follows.

Poster competition Grades 3-5

Subject matter has been specifically chosen as follows. The poster competition is open to all students that attend schools in South Boston. This year's theme is the significance of Colonel Henry Knox and the Noble Train of Artillery. Poster should be original compositions, in any medium at least 8 1/2 x 11" but preferably larger.

Prizes are as follows:

First prize \$100

Second prize \$75

Third prize \$25

Essay competition Grades 6-8

What is the significance of Dorchester Heights? Please focus on the history and importance to the South Boston community. Essays should be at least 500 words.

Prizes are as follows:

First place \$100

Second prize \$75

Third prize \$25

This Essay competition is open to all students that attend ALL schools in the City Boston.

Grade 9-12

What role did the smallpox epidemic play in the Evacuation of Boston in March 1776 and the

War of Independence till surrender at Yorktown. How did the epidemic affect General Washington and British Troops. Essays should be at least 1000 words.

Prizes are as follows:

First prize \$150

Second prize \$100

Third prize \$50

All entries should bear, in an attached envelope, the contestant's name, school and a means of contacting the entrant, and should be submitted no later than Friday, March 12th, 2021 At 5 PM. All entries may be mailed to South Boston Citizens' Association, P.O. Box 74, South Boston, MA 02127, or can be picked up at schools by a representative of the Citizens' Association. Entries can also be dropped off at 170 M Street.



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CDC Recommends Vaccine Now For 65 And Older

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is encouraging states to start vaccinating people 65 and older. “It’s time to move on to the next phase of the vaccination campaign,” Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar. Azar also said the feds are releasing the required second dose of vaccine to states. “This is obviously a complicated process, but as we said before the vaccines can’t get here fast enough,” said Governor Charlie Baker.

The Governor was asked about the CDC’s recommendation to start expanding the distribution of the vaccine. He said any changes to the Massachusetts timeline will come after getting advice from the state’s COVID-19 Vaccine Advisory Group. Right now, Massachusetts is still in phase one. “I think the recommendations that were made by our group are appropriate and I think folks over the age of 75 are part of the beginning of group two,” said Baker.

On Tuesday, the governor announced Gillette Stadium will be the first mass

vaccination distribution site.

Later this week, it will open for staff administering the vaccine, next week it will be available for first responders and in later phases, it will be used for people over 65 and eventually the general public. In some states, people over the age of 65 are already getting the vaccine. James Smith of Shrewsbury winters in Florida. He and his wife got the vaccine last week. “When opportunity knocks you kind of take advantage so we weren’t really sure that we would be able to get it down here but we do own a condo, so we used that address,” said Smith.

Massachusetts is currently in Phase 1 of the MA COVID-19 vaccine distribution timeline.

- Beginning the week of January 18, current priority groups in Phase 1 will be vaccinated at a few mass vaccination clinics and through a select group of retail pharmacies.

- Beginning January 18, staff and residents of congregate care settings, such as shelters and prisons, will be vaccinated.

- On January 11, vaccinations began

for first responders including EMTs, police, and fire. Details can be found at mass.gov/FirstResponderVaccine.

- On January 4, the distribution plan was updated, adding individuals age 75+ in Phase 2, Group 1, along with individuals of all ages with 2+ comorbidities. Read the state’s distribution plan.

- COVID-facing health care workers and residents and staff of long term care facilities continue to receive COVID-19 vaccinations through the Federal Pharmacy Partnership Program.

- A new vaccination dashboard includes the state’s vaccination doses and other state metrics.

- A new COVID-19 variant has emerged in the United Kingdom (UK), with an unusually large number of mutations.

Massachusetts vaccine website: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-vaccination-program#weekly-covid-19-vaccination-report>

The statewide plan to begin administering COVID-19 vaccines to Massachusetts first responders began on Monday. “Police officers, firefighters,

EMTs and all first responders work in risky situations every day and this vaccine will protect them from COVID and the terrible illness that can come with it,” Gov. Charlie Baker said last week.

Baker said more than 45,000 first responders will be eligible for the vaccination, which will be administered in one of three settings:

1. Qualifying departments, such as ambulance companies, can request to administer vaccines on site. Requirements include having appropriate storage equipment for the vaccines and a minimum need of 200 doses.

2. At 60 vaccination sites across the state where appointments will begin to be booked later this week. A map of the sites is available on the state website.

3. Four regional mass vaccination sites, which will be launched later this month. The administration said details for these sites will be provided in the near future and Baker confirmed the sites could later be used for the general public in future phases of the vaccine rollout.

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The Wine Guy

Waiting For your Vaccine?

While some of you who are reading this may have already received your Covid vaccination, there are still many who are still waiting. And though I'm not claiming that any of the following will serve as an alternative, I'm sure that they'll make the wait a little more pleasant...

Don Melchor Cabernet Sauvignon, 2018, Cabernet Sauvignon, Maipo Valley, Chile, (\$120.00).

Don Melchor, named after Concha Y Toro's founder, is among Chile's most-acclaimed wines and a Cabernet that belongs in every conversation about world-class interpretations of this singular varietal. Winemaker Enrique Tirado says of his vision for

the wine, "Don Melchor's style, complexity, and elegance are the extension of the perfect balance between the rocky soils in Puente Alto, the cold winds that slide down from the Andes Mountains, the generous climate of the Maipo Valley, the number of years the vines have taken to yield their best grapes, and the meticulous and caring work of the human hand." This is a huge and very powerful red that requires equally big accompaniments; Prime Rib or a New York strip with baby Portabella mushrooms sauteed in Sauvignon Blanc and butter come to mind.

**Philippe Jeannot 2015, Pas-
setemps Premier Cru, Santenay, (\$35.00).** It's not often that a Pinot Noir from this vintage comes in at under \$50.00, but this one does. Set at the eastern limit of Santenay next to Chassagne-Montrachet, this vineyard produces structured wines that reflect its neighbor. In this vintage, Valérie and Philippe Jeannot took advantage of rich red-cherry juiciness with a touch of pepper and almost refreshing acidity. Try this one with Salmon or Sea Bass and the finesse and elegance of this wine will really come out; better yet, Parker and Suckling are both saying that it's ready to drink now. When you find it, don't buy just one.

We don't include Zinfandel

reviews as much as we should, but I recently tasted one that drinks far better than its \$13.99 price would suggest. **2018 Double Black Zinfandel, Central Coast, Paso Robles, California,** is a genuine value, with notes of rich cherry and blackberry and a hint of smokiness. The finish is surprisingly long and full, so this wine is best had with braised Lamb Chops or Duck in a Bing cherry glaze and some long-grained and wild rice. The consensus is that it's drinking at its peak now and will be through 2023.

Tenuta dell'Ornellaia, Le Serre Nuove, Bolgheri. 2005 (\$54.00). Can't afford the famed Ornellaia at \$175 a pop? Then try Tenuta dell'Ornellaia's "second label," Le Serre Nuove, which combines the smooth, juicy plum fruit of Merlot and the structure, cassis, and herbal notes of Cabernet Sauvignon. This medium to full-bodied wine is supple and fresh-tasting, yet has the tannic grip to cut through the heartiest of red meats. Consider it a Tuscan take on classic Bordeaux.

For white wine drinkers, here's one that's great all year round. **Manincor Sauvignon Blanc, Tannenberg, Alto Adige, 2018, (\$36.99).** Manincor wines are naturally pure. The 400 year-old wine estate, carefully and prudently extended by the wine cellar



built beneath the vines and hardly noticeable from above, epitomizes today the tradition and aspirations of a superior wine culture. Count Michael Goess-Enzenberg on the estate's philosophy: "Long years of far-reaching development work are now bearing fruit. The prerequisites for producing these inimitable wines with strong personality are provided by the natural diversity of sites and soil compositions, vineyards entirely cultivated on bio-dynamic principles and an uncompromising determination." Italian Sauvignon Blanc is a category that I believe will be increasing over the next few years and this wine is a terrific starting point to sample it.

**Talk To The Wine Guy at
jdris8888@gmail.com**

I Was Just Thinking...



by Kevin Devlin

"But I know, somehow, that only when it is dark enough can you see the

stars." (Martin Luther King, Jr.)

Most fair-minded Americans view what occurred last week in our Capital as outrageous. We condemn such behavior. It doesn't solve anything. We believe in the rule of law, in law and order. Not Chaos. Not violence. Not untimely death.

Yet all that transpired on this sad day didn't occur in a vacuum. Events leading up to this tragic moment in our history began when the media and many of our leaders turned a blind eye to the violence, destruction, and mayhem which occurred in our cities throughout the summer. Businesses, churches, and police stations were destroyed, burnt to the ground. Federal courthouses, historical statues and places of worship were vandalized. These lawless actions were called peaceful protests by reporters as build-

ings burned behind them.

"Whoever said protests should be peaceful," opined one newscaster. "People will do what people do," Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi, said dismissively of the protestors and rioters, who acted in a lawless manner as they vandalized and destroyed public property. She defended their actions by declaring such a "community view" outside the rule of law could be looked upon as acceptable behavior.

Then came the presidential election and many people didn't-and still don't think-the election was fair. People are angry. They want answers. They want to be heard, to be seen. But storming our Capital was not the answer. Whatever election irregularities there were, whatever election interference we suffered, won't be resolved by the unruly Mob.

We should not continue to demonize each other. Let's not sow more discord and more division. We don't need to cause more problems and create a greater divide. It's not going to make life better for anyone, only worse.

It's time for President Trump to walk away towards the setting sun as we await another dawn.

It's time to move forward.

We need to work together to build a stronger America.

We need to ask the question, what went wrong, then we need to fix the problems which are tearing at the very fabric of our democracy, our way of life.

This won't be easy but it's getting mighty dark in America.

And only then, when we resolve our problems, will we walk together as one and clearly see the stars shining up above.



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Board of Directors' Meeting

Thursday, January 14, 2021 3:30 PM



The Boston Planning & Development Agency Board welcomes the public to participate in the January BPDA Board Meeting. Please note that the Board Meeting will start at 3:30 PM, but public hearings for the following agenda items will start at 5:30 PM. To view the latest agendas please visit the Board Meetings page.

- #26 - 776 Summer Street, South Boston

The January Board meeting will be hosted through Zoom and members of the public interested in participating in the public hearing for agenda item #26 may do so by registering at bit.ly/BPDAJan2021.

The public hearing will begin at 5:30 PM, but we encourage participants to log-in early to troubleshoot the platform. For those who would like to view the Board Meeting but not participate, the meeting will be televised on Boston City TV (Xfinity Channel 24, RCN Channel 13, and Verizon Fios Channel 962) and live streamed on boston.gov.

To ensure the public process is inclusive, the agency will also accept written testimony for agenda item #26 via email at BPDAboard@boston.gov. **Testimony should be submitted by Thursday, January 14 at 3:30 PM**, and will be read aloud during the public hearing portion of the Board meeting.

Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) Agenda
Economic Development and Industrial Corporation (EDIC) Agenda

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Bon Appetit On The Bay

Compass on the Bay Director of Dining Experience Ken McCluskey and resident chefs Harriet Donovan, Michelle Peters, and John Campedelli worked together to bake a delicious Brain

Healthy Green Bean Casserole. Compass on the Bay's management company Senior Living Residences (SLR) is the developer of the Brain Healthy Cooking Program, an award-winning nutrition program

that brings residents at their assisted living communities delicious taste-tested brain healthy choices on their daily menus and offers heart-healthy, memory boosting advice and recipes for anyone through their companion website www.BrainHealthyCooking.com. SLR's Brain Healthy Cooking program is largely based on the popu-

lar and well researched Mediterranean Diet, and features "brain healthy foods" such as dark berry fruits, leafy green vegetables, whole grains, herbs, spices, fish and seafood. The full recipe for the green bean casserole can be found on SLR's Age Right Blog: <https://ageright.org/recipes/green-beancasserole/>



Residents Harriet Donovan and Michelle Peters with Director of Dining Experience Ken McCluskey



Resident John Campedelli watches the creation of the butter sauce



Resident Harriet Donovan stirring the beans



Resident Michelle Peters prepping the mushrooms

South Boston Catholic Academy News

This school year, we welcomed Ms. Taylor Avery as our new Spanish Teacher!

From our Spanish Teacher, Ms. Taylor Avery... ¡Bienvenido! Welcome to our Spanish class at South Boston Catholic Academy! We have had fun incorporating the Spanish language and culture into our classes. In December, we celebrated Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe (Our Lady of Guadalupe, Feast Day December 12th), the day when Mother Mary appeared to Juan Diego, a farmer in Mexico, in the year 1531 and gave hope to the people of Mexico! Our Lady gave flowers to Juan Diego as a sign that she truly appeared, and our kindergartners and first graders made their own flowers that we put on our bulletin board (as shown in the picture). Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us! Most recently, we celebrated El Día de los Reyes Magos (Three King's Day, January 6th) when the three wise men brought gifts to baby Jesus. This day is important in Spanish-speaking countries as many of

our friends receive gifts on this day and leave out dulces (candies) for the three kings and heno (hay) for the camels, similar to leaving cookies and milk and carrots for Santa and his reindeer!

The older classes (3rd-6th) have been working on a project "Planning a Trip to a Spanish Speaking Country" on the Chromebooks (as shown in the pictures). They chose one of the 22 Spanish speaking countries in the world and researched basic information about the country and sites they want to visit. We have enjoyed learning basic vocabulary in all grades and are looking forward to speaking, listening, singing, and writing more in Spanish in the months to come. ¡Gracias por leer! Thanks for reading!

New applicants are welcomed to email Mrs. Jamie Brown at j.brown@sbcatholicacademy.org to learn more about South Boston Catholic Academy.





This week, Danny gave "Pic's Picks" for the Divisional Round of the NFL Playoffs:

I went 2-3-1 against the spread in last weekend's "Super" Wild Card Round. Now, we're down to eight teams. Four games this weekend. Two games on Saturday, and two games on Sunday.

Only one of the four games in the Divisional Round is a rematch from the regular season: Tampa Bay at New Orleans. The Saints beat Tom Brady and the Buccaneers twice. Will the third time be a charm for Tampa?

The heaviest favorite of the Divisional Round goes to the Kansas City Chiefs, as they're a 10-point favorite at home against the Cleveland Browns. This game also features the highest over-under of the weekend, at 56.5. So expect it to be a high-scoring affair.

Here are my picks for the Divisional Round:

GREEN BAY PACKERS (-6.5) over Los Angeles Rams

-The No. 1 seed Packers had the first-round bye, and now they'll host the No. 6 seed Rams on Saturday at 4:35 p.m. LA isn't your typical No. 6 seed, however. With the best defense in the NFL during the regular season, allowing just 18.5 points per game, the Rams do have a winning formula here in the playoffs. For the

Packers, it's nice to have this one at home, but it's not a perfect scenario because they can't pack the house due to COVID-19 precautions. Lambeau won't be completely empty though. The team will be allowing 6,000 ticketed fans into the game, so it's better than nothing. The Rams are expected to have quarterback Jared Goff under center. Goff had thumb surgery a few weeks ago and was forced to return earlier than expected in last weekend's Wild Card game against the Seahawks because of an injury to his replacement. Goff threw a touchdown pass in the fourth quarter, but it was his defense and running back Cam Akers that really led the way. No matter how you break it down, because of the Rams' defense, this is a tough game to pick. But the Packers' 13 wins this season was no fluke. They were one of the best teams in the NFL all season long. I can't possibly pick against Green Bay in this one. Give me Aaron Rodgers and the Packers by seven.

BALTIMORE RAVENS (+2.5) over Buffalo Bills

-Both Baltimore and Buffalo won close games in the Wild Card Round. The No. 5 seed Ravens beat the Titans in Tennessee, 20-13,

while the No. 2 seed Bills beat the Colts in Buffalo, 27-24. In previous seasons, the Bills, as the No. 2 seed, would have received a first-round bye. But with the addition of an extra Wild Card team in each conference this season, that was not the case. I'm taking the Ravens on Saturday night in Buffalo because they had the second-best defense in the NFL in the regular season, allowing just 18.9 points per game. That's not the only reason though. I'm also taking Baltimore because Lamar Jackson is currently playing his best football of the season. When he's on, he's as dangerous an offensive weapon as they come. Josh Allen's time will come. But right now, I think the Ravens are ready to get past the Divisional Round, the same Divisional Round that they lost in last year. Give me Baltimore by a field goal.

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS (+3) over New Orleans Saints

-So the No. 5 seed Buccaneers have lost to the No. 2 seed Saints twice in the regular season. The first loss came in Week 1, when it was clear that Tom Brady still had a lot of work to do with his new offense in Tampa Bay after 20 years in New England. As the weeks have gone

on, the Bucs offense has improved dramatically. Add an Antonio Brown late-season surge, and you have arguably the most dangerous offense in the NFL. The Saints, meanwhile, have some dangerous offensive weapons themselves. And this Brady vs Drew Brees playoff matchup is one for the ages. This game is in New Orleans on Sunday at 6:40. Will the Saints make it a clean 3-game sweep? I wouldn't bet on it. I'll take Brady as a playoff underdog all day, every day. Bucs by six, setting us up for Brady vs Rodgers in the NFC Championship.

LOCK OF THE WEEK: KANSAS CITY CHIEFS (-10) over Cleveland Browns

-The No. 1 seed Chiefs had the most wins in the NFL this season, with 14, and are coming off the bye to take on the No. 6 seed Browns who shocked a lot of people by putting up 48 points on the Steelers in Pittsburgh in the Wild Card Round. Cleveland is riding high, and rightfully so, but there's no way they beat the defending champion Chiefs in Kansas City on Sunday at 3:05. Easy pick here. Chiefs by two touchdowns, at least.

Follow Danny on Twitter and Instagram @DannyPicard.

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SPORTS TODAY

BELICHICK DECLINES PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM

SBT Staff

New England Patriots coach Bill Belichick has declined the Presidential Medal of Freedom, which President Donald Trump was planning to present to him this week.

Belichick released a statement on Monday night, saying he made the decision “not to move forward with the award” after last week’s protests turned violent inside the U.S. Capitol

while Congress was confirming Joe Biden as the next President.

“Recently, I was offered the opportunity to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom, which I was flattered by out of respect for what the honor represents and admiration for prior recipients,” said Belichick in a statement given to ESPN’s Adam Schefter. “Subsequently, the tragic events of last week occurred and the decision has been made not to move forward

with the award. Above all, I am an American citizen with great reverence for our nation’s values, freedom and democracy. I know I also represent my family and the New England Patriots team. One of the most rewarding things in my professional career took place in 2020 when, through the great leadership within our team, conversations about social justice, equality and human rights moved to the forefront and became ac-

tions. Continuing those efforts while remaining true to the people, team, and country I love outweigh the benefits of any individual award.”

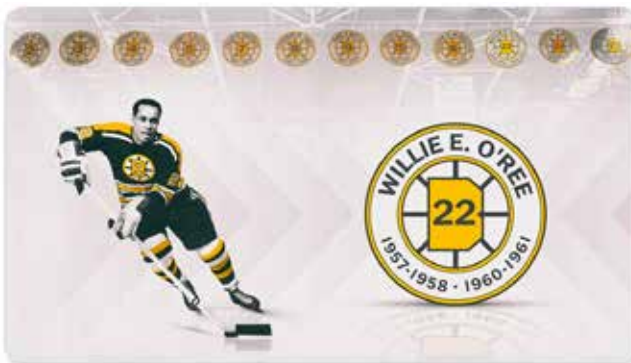
The Presidential Medal of Freedom is the Nation’s highest civilian honor. It is awarded to individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the security or national interests of America, to world peace, or to cultural or other significant public or private endeavors.

Tweet of the Week



Boston Bruins @NHLBruins

On Feb. 18, Willie O'Ree's No. 22 will become the 12th number honored by the #NHLBruins



BRUINS TO HONOR O'REE, RETIRE NO. 22

SBT Staff

The Boston Bruins announced, this week, that they will honor Willie O'Ree by retiring his No. 22 on Thursday, Feb. 18, prior to the team's game against the New Jersey Devils at the TD Garden.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the pre-game ceremony is expected to be virtual. In a statement on Tuesday, the Bruins also said they will honor O'Ree a second time, in front of a full crowd at the TD Garden, once fans are allowed back into the building.

O'Ree was the first black player to compete in an NHL game, which he did

in 1958 for the Bruins. His longest tenure with the B's came in 1960-61, when O'Ree played in 43 games, scoring four goals and picking up 10 assists.

“On behalf of the Boston Bruins organization I would like to congratulate Willie O'Ree as well as his wife, Deljeet, and his daughter, Chandra, on having his number retired in the TD Garden rafters,” said Bruins President Cam Neely in a team statement. “Willie’s contributions to the game of hockey transcend on-ice accomplishments and have opened countless doors for players who have come after him. He is without question deserving of this honor.”

Bruins CEO Charlie Jacobs also praised O'Ree for his impact on the game of hockey.

“Throughout the history of the National Hockey League, there have been very few individuals that have had such a profound impact on the league and its culture than Willie O'Ree,” said Jacobs in the team’s statement. “After breaking the color barrier as a Boston Bruin in 1958 and eventually retiring from professional hockey in 1979, Willie became the ultimate ambassador for improving diversity and inclusion within the game of hockey. The entire hockey world is forever indebted to Willie for all that he

has done, and continues to do, for the sport. We are incredibly proud to retire Willie’s number and cement his legacy as one of Boston’s greatest athletes.”

O'Ree becomes the 12th player to have his number retired by the Bruins organization, joining Lionel Hitchman (#3, 1934), Aubrey V. Clapper (#5, 1947), Edward W. Shore (#2, 1949), Milton C. Schmidt (#15, 1957), Robert G. Orr (#4, 1979), John P. Bucyk (#9, 1980), Philip A. Esposito (#7, 1987), Raymond J. Bourque (#77, 2001), Terence J. O'Reilly (#24, 2002), Cameron M. Neely (#8, 2004), and Richard D. Middleton (#16, 2018).

Since 1998, O'Ree has worked for the NHL as a Diversity Ambassador, focusing on the league’s “Hockey Is For Everyone” initiative.

WHAT TO WATCH

NFL DIVISIONAL ROUND PLAYOFFS

SATURDAY, JAN. 16

LA Rams at Green Bay (-6.5)
4:35 P.M. FOX

Baltimore at Buffalo (-2)
8:15 P.M. NBC

SUNDAY, JAN. 17
Cleveland at Kansas City (-10)
3:05 P.M. CBS

Tampa Bay at New Orleans (-3)
6:40 P.M. FOX

NBA FRIDAY, JAN. 15

Orlando at Boston
7:30 P.M. NBCSB

NHL SATURDAY, JAN. 16

Boston at New Jersey
1 P.M. NESN



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