



Is It Safe To Open Up The Classroom For On Site Learning?

What was once a drum-beat of support on social media, at the beginning of the pandemic, from exhausted parents saying that ‘teachers are important in the lives of their children and deserve to make more money’, many teachers these days feel that they are being made to feel more like villains than heroes. As a growing number

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EDITORIAL

Suffolk County DA Rollins Is At It Again

There is an often used saying that comes to mind after the reports of the latest tirade by Suffolk County DA Rachael Rollins. And no, we are not referring to the episode at the South Bay Mall parking lot or the one outside of her home. It's the more recent one and what residents believe is a slap at this neighborhood. It goes like this: "Where there is no racism, there are some that will go to great lengths to create it".

try to pay as little attention as possible to the racial comments by what many consider to be a totally out of control

elected official, but in this latest episode she has negatively singled out the South Boston Community. So unlike so many quivering so called journalists in the mainstream media, who don't dare criticize her, we have no problem at all calling her out when we feel it justified.

Rollins was irate and shouted "racist" because there is a Covid-19 distribution site in South Boston (and near Fenway Park) and none in what she declares to be communities of color. First of all, there are quite a few people of color living in South Boston,

but apparently not enough to prevent Ms Rollins from the temptation to label our neighborhood with the racist label that so easily and so often rolls from lips of the misinformed. What she doesn't seem to realize, or possibly doesn't much care about, is that it's early in the vaccination process and there will be other locations being named shortly.

But why miss a chance to throw the racist label around, particularly at the favorite target of so many who think as she does? But here is another thought to ponder: Given the DA's past perfor-

mances and her attitude, with accompanying shoulder chip, we'd be willing to guess that if, oh, say the Roxbury Community or Mattapan received the first vaccine distribution station rather than South Boston or even if South Boston were never to get one at all, she'd be just fine with that and wouldn't utter a word about it. This latest episode brings to mind another saying that has been around since at least 1940's Germany: "Accuse those who you oppose and disagree with, of that which you yourself are guilty".



"Patriotism is supporting your country all the time and your government when it deserves it." - Mark Twain

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The Information Center

So How Did Week One Go?

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY

John Ciccone

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

Here's a question being raised by many Americans on social media sites: Why are Americans in great need because of the 'pandemic' related lockdowns, still waiting for their stimulus check of \$1400, but the new Biden Administration and many in congress are working at break neck speed to send another 4 billion tax payer dollars to Central American countries and countless more billions to nations, groups and organizations around the rest of the world; many of which hate the United States?

The emphasis of this new administration and congressional allies seems to be making big promises to benefit illegal aliens AND opening up the border and ordering ICE to release those here illegally into the general population. Biden is going full throttle to cater to and appease the leftist radicals who have his ear by shutting down energy production, which is causing thousands of layoffs already. He is openly planning actions meant to appease Communist China and Iran and preparing to re enter into the 'Paris Climate Accord', which will drain the US economy dry with little to no positive results as far as climate goes.

There are these and so many other plans in the works that it is pretty evident that the era of America First, as far as this bunch is concerned has turned into anything but. And yet, are these really Biden's decision or is he the puppet whose strings are being pulled by the puppet masters?

Already, many who supported Biden in the last election are admitting that they are having 'Buyer's Remorse'. It's not even worth saying we told you so, because some people just never learn; no matter how many times they get lied to and betrayed. Prior to the election,

Biden promised that he had a plan to curb the Covid-19 situation. Now he has stated that well – maybe not.

But there are people who think they have struck gold in a sense and hope that they can make good on their threats to get even with their political enemies. We hear the lefties in the media and in Hollywood threatening the 75 million people who voted for President Trump with payback. Saying they will black ball them to make sure they cannot find jobs or get fired from the ones that they have is just a part of the revenge they are advocating. 'Deprogramming' the opposition is how they will try to change the way non likeminded people act. Deprogramming, translated into leftist speak, is making sure everyone with a different opinion is taught not to have one. Everyone must think, do, speak, believe and live their lives as the leftists' order or there will be consequences. Adolph Hitler was a big advocate of this type of deprogramming. But some Conservatives, aka Patriots, have come up with a response to the insidious plans being bandied about by the Trump haters. Who knows, maybe in response, the Trump supporters should take it upon themselves to hang the other side by their ankles to allow the blood to flow back into the brain and stimulate it in an effort to create a bit of common sense. Now there's a thought.

So, what's the status on combating the Covid-19 'pandemic'? Well, many find the timing interesting that just days after the inauguration, Democrat and RINO governors and liberal mayors announced that they will be allowing the restaurants and other small businesses to reopen. Like magic, it is now safe to allow people to go back to work and children back to school after being ordered closed for so many months. It's just amazing

that on January 19th, reopening was much too dangerous, but on January 21st, its safe. It's a miracle.

No one is denying that there is a virus. But if there are still people who don't believe that so much of this was politically motivated, that some in government on power trips with the craving for control, and in the medical field who are working for the government were not playing the public, manipulating everyone with tactics that were not working, send me your email addresses and I'll send you photos of the unicorns that graze in my backyard every morning.

The lock downs, the forced mask mandates, the shuttering of businesses and schools and recreation facilities were obviously not helping. The places where these tactics were mandated and enforced the strictest seemed to be the locations with the highest infection rates. But yet, they continued with them. And it seemed the more they doubled down on them in places like New York and California, the higher the number of cases climbed. Was it a test on how easily the public or at least part of the public, can be controlled by those in power?

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Window Into The State House

Window Into The State House provides our readers a synopsis of important issues of interest, past and current, that are being proposed, debated or acted upon by the Massachusetts Legislature. Many issues that are not related to local city government services are acted upon and have a direct impact on daily life. They are tax policy, transportation infrastructure, judicial appointments, social services and health, as well as higher education. We will excerpt reports from the gavel-to-gavel coverage of House and Senate sessions by news sources focused on this important aspect of our lives. These sources include a look ahead at the coming week in state government and summaries and analyses of the past week, re-caps of a range of state government activity, as well as links to other news.

As hundreds of thousands of vaccine doses sit unused ...

Lack of supply? Looks more like a lack of coordination. A four-reporter team at the Boston Globe reports that the Baker administration is now acknowledging that, amid a statewide clamor for coronavirus vaccinations, “hundreds of thousands of doses are sitting on freezer shelves in hospitals and the warehouses of pharmacies serving senior care sites.” Well, at least Dr. Anthony Fauci is defending the administration (sort of), saying there really is a supply-and-demand vaccine imbalance across the nation, as he tells Radio Boston at WBUR. The latest evidence of a supply problem, via Cambridge Day: “Cambridge’s expected weekly share of vaccines cut to one-fifth, with state blaming U.S. supply.”

The Herald’s Joe Battenfeld isn’t defending the governor, that’s for sure, saying he’s been an “out of touch bureaucrat” slow to respond to events. But the governor is defending himself, reports Commonwealth’s Sarah Bettancourt.

Confirmed: State is a vaccination laggard

The Baker administration can partly blame the slow delivery of vaccine doses for the slow rate of vaccinations in Massachusetts. But it can’t entirely blame the slow delivery of vaccine doses, since other states in New England – not to mention most other states around the country – have higher vaccination rates than Massachusetts even though they face the same delivery problems. The Globe’s Robert Weisman and Kay Lazar have more.

Senate President Karen Spilka to Baker: Keep it simple, stupid. OK, she’s not putting it quite like that. But she is saying the state’s phased-in vaccination program is overly complicated and confusing, according to a report at WCVB. Apparently others share her sentiments, via the Cape Cod Times: “Cape elderly frustrated by vaccination schedule.”

Maybe the performance of this player ought to get more scrutiny moving forward, via the Globe’s Anissa Gardizy: “Seven months ago CIC Health didn’t exist. Today it’s running

the state’s mass vaccination effort.” Meanwhile, from a three-reporter team at the Herald: “Officials push Charlie Baker for more vaccine sites in Massachusetts.” And from MassLive: “Worcester officials plan to reveal location of ‘super vaccination site’ in city.”

... Baker announces new vaccination sites, 65-plus residents moved up on priority list

Catching flak for the slow vaccination rate of residents in Massachusetts, Gov. Charlie Baker yesterday announced that the state is expanding the number of sites where people can get inoculations, reports Eryn Dion at the Telegram. Meanwhile, GBH’s Mike Deehan reports that residents 75 and older will be eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine after Feb. 1 – and 65-plus residents have been moved up higher on the state’s vaccination priority list.

Moderna says its vaccine can handle variants (sort of)

The BBJ’s Don Seiffert reports that Cambridge-based Moderna is confident

its COVID-19 vaccine can handle the new virus variants out there – or at least the U.K. variant. The South African one is a little more worrisome.

Baker: Budget will fully fund school reform law

Here’s something few expected only six months ago. Thanks to the state’s rainy day fund and better-than-expected tax collections, Gov. Charlie Baker says that his forthcoming budget proposal will fully fund, for the first time, the state’s landmark school finance reform law that was delayed last year due to the pandemic. SHNS’s Colin Young (pay wall) and the Herald’s Lisa Kashinsky have more.

Marijuana trade group drops lawsuit after members quit association

This one sure blew up in their face. The Commonwealth Dispensary Association say it’s dropping a lawsuit challenging the state’s new pot-delivery licensing program after a number of cannabis companies quit the trade group, saying they support regulatory efforts to racially diversify the state’s marijuana industry, reports the Globe’s Dan Adams.

Reporting before the trade group sounded full retreat on Sunday, MassLive’s Melissa Han-
continued on page 7

I Was Just Thinking...



by Kevin Devlin

If President Joseph Biden really wants to unite this country, he should make it

a priority during his next TV appearance to tell the media and their cohorts to stop demonizing Republicans. It’s over, former President Trump is not the president anymore, Biden is. He should tell them to stop calling for de-programing, detoxifying the nation of those they disagree with. Stop the calls for censorship and blacklisting. Stop attacking freedom of speech.

Demonizing millions and millions of Americans won’t heal the nation. Such so-called righteous declarations to punish those who hold different views will not bring about unity. It will only sow further division and animosity. It’s sad, disturbing, as well as scary, that those who call for retribution, that those who want to silence our voices, to stifle our words, to control

our thoughts and our lives, scream to the Heavens they do so in the name of democracy, yet they ironically are the real enemies of democracy. And if they gazed in the mirror and took a good look at what they really saw, they just might realize it.

On another note, if you’re looking to watch a movie that will tear at your heartstrings, take the time to watch “Resistance” which is currently airing on Showtime. It is a remarkable true story-emotionally riveting-concerning the journey of mime-to-be Marcel Marceau. But in 1939, Jewish-born Marcel Mangel had not yet adopted his stage name. He was only fifteen years old at the time another world war was set in motion. He joined the French Resistance and subsequently was able to save

hundreds of children from the savagery of the Nazi Regime.

Such barbarity is a reminder that Man can sink to the depths of horror by committing torture and murder without blinking an eye, without feeling remorse. Yet it is also a reminder that Man is a noble creature who will sacrifice everything to help others.

Marcel Marceau is played by Jesse Eisenberg who starred in The Social Network and Zombieland as well as other movies. Marceau died in 2007. His life is an inspiration to all of us. He is considered the world’s greatest mime, yet what he accomplished off stage is a reminder that in the end, right overcomes wrong, justice prevails over injustice, and good ultimately triumphs against evil.

Councilor Flynn to Hold Hearing on Property Taxes, Assistance Programs for Seniors



request to testify at the hearing, please reach out to Cora Montrond at cora.montrond@boston.gov.

After speaking with many neighbors concerned about the significant property tax increase in recent weeks, Councilor Flynn was informed by the Assessing Department that values are based on the sales activity within each assessment district and that the city must adjust and keep at full fair cash value as required by law.

As a result, Councilor Flynn filed a hearing order earlier this month to discuss possible assistance programs for our seniors and long term city homeowners who have difficulties paying property taxes during the pandemic. Property taxes can be a heavy financial burden for many long-term residents, particularly seniors on fixed incomes and families who may have bought their homes years ago before housing prices and property values skyrocketed in the city.

Last week, Councilor Flynn also coordinated a meeting with Councilor Michael Flaherty, Representative David Biele, Councilor Anissa

Essaibi-George, and neighbors to discuss the concerns that residents have expressed and provide information on property tax exemptions and assistance that neighbors can apply for. In the meeting, Councilor Flynn spoke about how many residents are facing additional financial difficulties and may not be able to afford paying their property taxes. Councilor Flynn is advocating for additional assistance programs, such as potentially doubling the exemption for seniors over a certain age, while considering their income and evaluation. Councilor Flynn and Councilor Lydia Edwards also passed an ordinance two years ago aimed at low-income seniors to provide them the ability to enter payment plans with the city for up to five years, as well as cutting the interest rates by 50%. Representative Biele, Councilor Flaherty and Councilor Essaibi-George also spoke about their attention to this issue.

At the meeting last week, Assessing Commissioner Nick Ariniello spoke to neighbors about how the department calculates property taxes, deferral programs and the

different types of exemptions that qualified homeowners can apply for. 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, those who experience hardship, surviving spouses, minors with a deceased parent, veterans, and others. Residents need to apply for those exemptions by April 1st. For more inquiries about whether you qualify for certain exemptions and deferral programs available, please call the Taxpayer Referral & Assistance Center (TRAC) at (617) 635-4287 or Department of Assessing at (617)-635-4288.

“Especially during these difficult times in our city and country, I know that many neighbors have serious concerns about the recent increase in property taxes,” said Councilor Flynn. “Our seniors and long time residents are an indispensable part of the soul of Boston, and it’s important that they continue to stay and thrive in our city. I look forward to the hearing and discussing what we can do to help those in need.”

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

Boston City Councilor Ed Flynn will hold a hearing to discuss possible assistance programs for our seniors and long-term city homeowners who have difficulties paying property taxes during the COVID-19 pandemic. **The hearing will be chaired by Councilor Kenzie Bok in the Committee of Ways and Means and held next Friday, February 5th at 9am.**

To watch the hearing, you can go to boston.gov/city-council-tv. To submit written testimony or

MAYOR WALSH ANNOUNCES UPDATES ON BOSTON’S REOPENING PLAN

Boston to return to Step One of Phase Three of the Reopening Massachusetts plan as COVID-19 testing and vaccination efforts are expanded

As Boston’s COVID-19 numbers trend modestly downward and Massachu-



setts continues to expand access to vaccination against COVID-19, Mayor Martin J. Walsh today announced the City of Boston will return to Step One of Phase Three of the Reopening Massachusetts plan on February 1, 2021.

“I want to thank everyone who continues to do their part to protect our city,” said Mayor Walsh. “While there has been some improvement in recent weeks, it’s still vital that ev-

eryone remains vigilant. Wear your masks. Avoid gatherings. Wash your hands and disinfect surfaces. Think about the simple steps you can take on a daily basis to protect yourself and your loved ones.”

As of January 17, 2021, the City was averaging 415.6 COVID-19 positive cases per day, down from a high of 590.4 in mid-January, and the City’s positivity rate was at 7.2 percent, down from a high of 8.9 percent in early January. For more information on COVID-19 cases per neighborhood, visit here.

Given the improvement in the number of COVID-19 cases and the City’s positivity rate, the City of Boston will return to Step One of Phase Three of the Reopening Massachusetts plan on February 1, 2021. Boston had been in Step One of Phase Three of the Reopening Massachusetts plan since July 6, before returning to a modified Step Two of

Phase Two on December 16, 2020. This was done to help reduce the spread of the virus during and after the holiday period when more people were traveling or gathering with others from outside of their household.

Massachusetts recently announced an extension of the existing 25 percent capacity limits for most businesses through Monday, February 8, 2021. All gatherings and events remain subject to current capacity limits of 10 people indoors and 25 people outdoors. The gatherings limit applies to private homes, event venues and public spaces. For a list of sectors subject to the extended capacity restrictions, click here.

The following industries in the City of Boston may reopen on February 1, 2021, at 25 percent capacity:

- Indoor fitness centers and health clubs, including gyms using alternative spaces

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Safe to Open continued from front page

of schools consider bringing more children into classrooms, and coronavirus cases continue to surge in Boston and in some parts of the country, teachers' unions have been pushing back. More safety precautions are needed for reopening, they say. But proponents of resuming in-person instruction point to studies showing that COVID-19 transmission rates in schools have been relatively low, when mitigation strategies are in place and community transmission remains low. That rift about when school doors should open, teachers say, is causing them to take some heat.

The pandemic began with people cheering teachers for pivoting so quickly to remote instruction, said David Labaree, a professor emeritus at the Stanford Graduate School of Education. But now, teachers are seen by a vocal segment of the public "not as the first responders, but more the people blocking the path to the classroom door." Across the country and throughout the pandemic, teachers' unions have been pushing for a more conservative approach to getting teachers and kids back in buildings. And while many states are working to vaccinate teachers in hopes of protecting employees and easing labor tensions, some unions have said that vaccinations alone are not enough to convince them it's safe to return to work.

On the other hand, teachers' unions in Massachusetts want the vaccination program accelerated. They are pushing back on the state's updated vaccine administration plan, saying it delays vaccinations for educators, slowing down the safe return to in-person learning. "The Baker administration must do a better job of balancing the needs of people at risk because of age and other factors with recognizing that people working with students need to be vaccinated," said Massachusetts Teachers Association President Merrie Najimy in a statement.

Jessica Tang, president of the Boston Teachers Union, noted that many educators are currently working in person and in close contact with students. She said they need to be vaccinated as soon as possible, "for the sake of your colleagues, students, and the family members those children could infect, as well as the larger community."

"It's like the Hunger Games," Najimy went on to say. "They are forcing communities to compete with one another for a scarce resource rather than establishing a fair system with clear rules." "We had not opposed the original prioritization list because it had a rational basis and promised to deliver vaccines to educators in February. Now, those hopes may be dashed," Najimy said.

On Monday, Gov. Charlie Baker announced changes in prioritization for Phase 2 eligibility

which bumped early education and K-12 workers down on the list. Colleen Quinn, spokeswoman for the Executive Office of Education said in a statement that the union claims are "false and misleading," saying teachers are the first group of workers in the state to get a vaccine after first responders and health care workers. Also, in the group of "other workers" with teachers are Uber and Lyft drivers, grocery store and restaurant workers, among others. "The Administration is calling on these union leaders to be honest partners in the effort to educate children in classrooms. Instead, these leaders attack good faith efforts to go back to school despite overwhelming evidence that it is safe to do so," said Quinn.

The unions say it will delay vaccination for educators by several weeks or more. "The governor keeps pushing schools to reopen for in-person learning more quickly, regardless of the risks to staff and students, yet he has just made it much harder to do that safely," said Beth Kontos, president of American Federation of Teachers Massachusetts. Najimy said MTA members, families and students feel like "pawns in a chess game — a game whose rules keep changing." The union leaders also said the state should move higher education faculty and staff and municipal librarians higher from Phase 3 into Phase 2.

Walsh continued from page 5

- Movie theaters
- Museums
- Aquariums
- Indoor recreational and athletic facilities
 - Indoor recreational venues with potential for low-contact (batting cages, driving ranges, bowling alleys, rock-climbing)
 - Sightseeing and other organized tours (bus tours, duck tours, harbor cruises, whale watching)
 - Indoor historical spaces & sites
 - Indoor event spaces such as meeting rooms, ballrooms, private party rooms, and social clubs (limited to 10 people)
 - Indoor and outdoor gaming arcades associated with gaming devices

Additional details about the current state of reopening can be found on Boston.gov/reopening.

COVID-19 Vaccination and Testing Efforts

The City is working with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to vaccinate residents against COVID-19. The Reggie Lewis Center will open as a vaccination site during the first week of February to anyone who is eligible under the

State's vaccine distribution timeline. In Boston, two mass vaccination sites have been announced: Fenway Park and Reggie Lewis Center. Following the State's lead, the Boston Public Health Commission in partnership with the Mayor's Office of Health and Human Services is working to create equitable access to the COVID-19 vaccine across all populations and neighborhoods in the city.

"In these unprecedented times, we must work together and find new ways to support each other and our community," says Roxbury Community College president Dr. Valerie Roberson. "It's crucial to have a mass vaccination center that is accessible via public transportation in a location that is familiar and comfortable. We are pleased to have the opportunity to provide such tangible support to the City and State efforts to combat the spread of COVID-19."

For more information on when and where you will be eligible to receive the vaccine, please visit Mass.gov/COVIDvaccine.

"Getting tested regularly and taking the vaccine when you

have the opportunity to are key to helping us defeat this virus," said Mayor Walsh. "We have over 30 testing sites open across the city that are quick and easy to utilize. We know people have lots of questions about the vaccine, and we're committed to making this information as clear and accessible as possible. I want to thank Roxbury Community College for working with us and the Commonwealth to open a mass vaccination site at the Reggie Lewis Center. We'll continue to work collaboratively to direct resources to where they're needed most."

Together with the Office of Arts and Culture, the Office of Health & Human Services, and the Boston Public Health Commission, Mayor Walsh today announced the Strand Theatre is now serving as a COVID-19 testing site. The testing is being conducted thanks to a partnership between the City of Boston, The Strand Theater, the Brookside Community Health Center, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Southern Jamaica Plain Health Center, and Upham's Corner Community Health Center.

Testing at the Strand is available to anyone at no cost and regardless of symptoms. Insurance is also not required.

The Strand, which is located at 543 Columbia Road in the Upham's Corner neighborhood of Dorchester, is open for testing on Mondays and Wednesdays from 8:30 a.m. - until 4:00 p.m. There is no prior registration required, and testing is walk-up only. Individuals arriving for testing should enter through the main entrance of the building and will wait in line inside the theater. Testing will occur outside at a mobile van in the back parking lot of the Strand. There will be no public parking available at the Strand during testing.

The City of Boston is partnering with community health centers to increase access to testing, particularly in neighborhoods experiencing higher rates of COVID-19. More information about COVID-19 testing sites throughout the city can be found here. The City is also offering mobile testing sites that are available to anyone, regardless of symptoms and insurance coverage.

Congressional Medal of Honor Society Will Have 2021 Convention in Boston

Many of the nation's 69 living Medal of Honor Recipients will return to Boston for an unprecedented fourth time September 7-11

The Congressional Medal of Honor Society and Mayor Martin J. Walsh announced today that the Society will hold its annual convention and Patriot Award Dinner in Boston for an unprecedented fourth time in September 2021. Many of the nation's 69 living Medal of Honor Recipients will be in Boston from September 7-11.

"Our great City of Boston is honored to host our nation's most brave and valiant heroes and the recipients of our country's highest honor for an unprecedented fourth time," said Mayor Walsh. "Like the hundreds of thousands of Bostonians who have served our country, from the Revolutionary War to the present, these Medal of Honor Recipients are shining examples of courage, bravery and sacrifice. Their selfless dedication and service are the foundation of the liberties and freedoms we enjoy today."

The Medal of Honor Recipients held their first Boston convention in October 2001 a month after postponing the event because of the September 11 terrorist attacks. The Medal of Honor Society was the first organization to reschedule their Boston convention following 9/11.

The Medal of Honor Recipients returned to Boston in 2006 and were again welcomed warmly by the city. Their 2015 convention

marked the first time the Medal of Honor Recipients held their convention three times in the same city. The Boston 2021 visit will be an unprecedented fourth visit by the Medal of Honor Society.

"These Medal of Honor Recipients have formed a strong bond with the city and people of Boston and to be able to honor them here for the fourth time in 20 years is unprecedented in the history of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society," said **Thomas J. Lyons, Chairman of the Boston Congressional Medal of Honor Society Host Committee.** "The duties and sacrifices they have made on behalf of the nation, and their unwavering support for our men and women in uniform, is awe inspiring and we intend to host their convention in a manner that will truly honor and celebrate these incredible heroes." While in Boston, the Recipients will be involved in several public events and will also be visiting area schools.

"The Medal of Honor recipients are thrilled to be coming back to Boston," said **Thomas G. Kelley of Massachusetts, a retired Navy Captain who was awarded the Medal of Honor for his gallant and courageous actions in Vietnam on June 15, 1969.** "The outpouring of warmth we experienced in our previous conventions

in Boston left an indelible impression on all of us."

"We are excited that my fellow Recipients will return to Boston this September and once again enjoy all that the city has to offer and the warm reception we are sure to receive again by the greater Boston community," said **Medal of Honor Recipient Ryan M. Pitts, a Lowell native who now resides in New Hampshire, and who received the Medal of Honor for his gallant and courageous actions as an Army Sergeant in Afghanistan on July 13, 2008.**

"We don't consider ourselves to be heroes. The heroes are the ones who did not come home. We wear the medal to honor them, as well as all the men and women who have served and continue to serve."

The 2021 convention will culminate with the Congressional Medal of Honor Society's Patriot Award Dinner on Sept. 11 at the Seaport Hotel Boston where the Recipients will present several awards to honorees who have shown exceptional service to the country and for their commitment to our veterans and men and women currently serving in the Armed Forces.

For more information about the 2021 Medal of Honor Society Convention please visit www.mohboston.com, @bostonmoh on



Twitter and Boston Medal of Honor Convention on Facebook.

About the Medal of Honor

Created in 1861 by President Abraham Lincoln, the Medal of Honor is our nation's highest and rarest military decoration. It is bestowed by the President of the United States, in the name of Congress, upon a member of the United States Armed Forces who distinguishes himself or herself through "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his or her life above and beyond the call of duty while engaged in an action against the enemy of the United States." Fewer than 3,500 individuals have received the Medal, half of which have been awarded posthumously. There are currently only 69 living recipients, one of the lowest numbers in history.

About the Congressional Medal of Honor Society

In 1958, the United States Congress chartered the Congressional Medal of Honor Society. The purpose of the Society, among other things, is to perpetuate the legacy of the Medal of Honor. The living recipients of the Medal of Honor constitute the members of the Society. These recipients meet annually for their national Medal of Honor Convention.

Windows continued from page 4

son and Commonwealth's Shira Schoenberg have more on the blow-back controversy.

The T's long list of woes: Employees testing positive, talk of 'death spiral,' climate transformation costs

First, the good news about the T, via SHNS's Chris Lisinski

(pay wall), who reports the transit agency is managing to sock away some savings, despite revenue woes that have led to service cuts. ... Now for the bad news, also via SHNS's Chris Lisinski (pay wall): "Virus Cases Among T Employees Hit Highest Recorded Level." ... They're talking about a possible T 'death spiral' over at GBH, as

well as discussing that recent NYT editorial taking digs at Gov. Charlie Baker. ... And, finally, Commonwealth's Bruce Mohl reports on the daunting costs ahead if the T fully commits to transforming itself amid climate change.

This is only a test: State jury trials put on pause again

The Globe's Tonya Alanez reports that court officials are putting jury trials on hold again, but it's not because anyone has contracted COVID-19. Instead, officials want to assess how recent trials have gone amid all the pandemic safety precautions. It's sort of like those old Emergency Broadcasting System interruptions -- it's only a test.

The Wine Guy Perfect For This Time Of Year

With the temperature as low as it is, the following wines will taste even better than they would otherwise...

Seaglass 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon, Paso Robles, (\$14.95). Seaglass, from one of my favorite regions, Paso Robles, makes pleasant wines for the most part, but like most vineyards, it also produces a real value now and then and this is one of those. An exceptionally warm region still influenced by the reach of the Pacific Ocean, Paso Robles is ideal for Cabernet Sauvignon, thanks to a wide variation in day-to-night temperatures, diverse soils and an extended growing season. A minimalist approach to winemaking helped preserve the rich flavor and bright acidity of our Cabernet Sauvignon fruit. Following fermentation in stainless steel tanks, this wine was aged in French and American oak barrels, striking the perfect bal-

ance between varietal flavor, crisp acidity and oak character. The final blend is 88% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Merlot and 2% Petite Sirah. The wine opens with distinct aromas of black plum and cherry and spice. The palate is rich and complex, with ripe flavors of blackberry and black cherry, framed by hints of spicy oak on the finish. Sit around your firepit or grille with a glass of this one and don't forget the angus burgers or strip steaks!

Mossback 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon, Chalk Hill, Sonoma, (\$22.95). The term "mossback" is an old expression for farmers, folks connected to their roots and to the land. The Giguere family has a storied tradition of farming in the Dunnigan Hills, having produced the R.H. Phillips wines and the Toasted Head wines they have invaluable and long relationships with the best farmers in the region for sourcing fruit. Chalk Hill is a small AVA with a unique microclimate that favors Cabernet Sauvignon. The grapes were all hand-harvested, destemmed and crushed into small stainless-steel fermenters. They undergo a 24 hours "cold soak" to enhance the berry aromas before fermentation. Pumped over the wine twice a day to enhance color stability and aromas and pressed off at dryness into French, Hungarian and American oak barrels for 22 months. The final blend is 88% Cabernet Sauvignon and 22% Merlot. This silky Cab shows an enticing mix of berries, currants, leather and cigar box aromas. On the palate, there's a lush mouthfeel with layered flavors of cassis, black cherry, vanilla and

cocoa. The polished tannins lead to a silky finish. This is a rich, round, dense Cabernet that will age gracefully for several years, but one you can also enjoy right now with game birds, roasts or a nice Porterhouse.

Chianti Classico Riserva 2012, Il Brunone, (\$34.95). This is a rare Riserva with 10 years of age and drinking at the peak of perfection. Produced only in the best vintages, this Riserva is made from selected grapes in the Il Brunone single vineyard which grows the mother clone, one of the oldest existing Sangiovese clones. Fermentation is in stainless steel tanks at a controlled temperature for 12-18 days. After the alcoholic fermentation, the wine is placed in cement-vitrified tanks for the second fermentation known as the governo method. The technique involves saving a batch of harvested grapes and allowing them to partially dry. The half-dried grapes are added to the must which then gives the yeast cells a new source of sugar to enliven the batch and adds richness and complexity to the wine. The wine is aged 24-32 months in 20 and 15 hectoliter Slovenian oak casks and then extended bottle aging in the winery cellar. When it was released Wine Enthusiast Magazine scored this '90 points' saying, "Made with Sangiovese and 5% Canaiolo, this wine starts with aromas that recall plum cake, prune, dried cherries, vanilla and a hint of leather. The palate offers up juicy black cherry, black raspberry, white pepper and cake spices that are balanced with silky, smooth tannins. Soft, round and ready to enjoy, it will maintain well for another few



years at least. Drink through 2022." Have it with Veal chops, Beef Wellington or Steak Diane-tremendous!

Mongrana 2016 Maremma, Toscana IGT, Querciabella, (\$24.95). From their own estate vineyards in Maremma, the grapes are picked by hand. In the cellar, they undergo fermentation in stainless steel vats. After malolactic fermentation, the wine undergoes aging both in stainless steel and cement tanks until it is blended to be bottled. Mongrana is a pure expression of the coastal Maremma region of Tuscany where the great Super Tuscans, Sassicaia, Ornellaia, Guado Al Tasso and many more are produced. 50% Sangiovese, 25% Merlot and 25% Cabernet Sauvignon. No animal products or byproducts are used in the production, making it suitable for vegans and vegetarians. Pretty on the nose, with bright cherry, raspberry and cola enhanced by the floral and oaky notes. It's delicate on the palate, but it displays great balance and structure. Drinking very nicely right now, it reminds me of a Tuscan version of a "Petit Chateau" from Bordeaux-big on structure and taste, at a very reasonable price.

Talk To The Wine Guy at jdris8888@gmail.com

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Recent South Boston Real Estate Sales

Property/Type	Price	Sale Date	Rooms	Baths	Sq Ft
346 Congress St UNIT 502 Condo	\$2,474,000	8/26/20	8	2.5	1,945
945 East Broadway Unit 3 Condo	\$1,750,000	7/28/20	6	3.5	2,256
25 Channel Center St UNIT PH 107 Condo	\$1,695,000	8/17/20	5	2	1,528
560 East Fifth St UNIT PH Condo	\$1,375,000	8/12/20	5	2	1,545
217 West Fifth St UNIT 217 Condo	\$1,199,000	7/9/20	5	2.5	1,550
420 West Fifth St UNIT 205 Condo	\$949,000	9/9/20	3	2	976
154 West Eighth St UNIT 155 Condo	\$899,000	9/1/20	5	2	1,157
20 West Fifth St UNIT 2D Condo	\$849,000	9/8/20	4	2	1,071
135 Seaport Blvd UNIT 1210 Condo	\$849,000	9/10/20	2	1	531
420 West Broadway UNIT 605 Condo	\$779,900	9/11/20	3	1	718
420 West Broadway UNIT 304 Condo	\$699,900	7/20/20	2	1	733
248 E St UNIT 217 Condo	\$627,000	7/11/20	4	1	1,063
39 A St UNIT 304 Condo	\$585,000	7/23/20	3	1	471
780 East Broadway UNIT 2A Condo	\$569,000	8/27/20	3	1	677
298 Bolton St UNIT 3 Condo	\$549,000	9/2/20	4	1	641
202-206 K St UNIT3 Condo	\$492,500	9/15/20	2	1	562
12 Vinton St UNIT 3 Condo	\$379,000	9/10/20	4	1	602

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 students 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 effect 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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Compass on the Bay Residents and Staff Receive Covid-19 Vaccine

On Saturday, January 16th, residents and staff of Compass on the Bay Memory Support Assisted Living were able to get their first dose of a Covid-19 vaccine. This was one of the region's first Assisted Living community clinics.

The vaccines were administered by CVS Health/Omnicare through an arrangement between the healthcare company and Senior

Living Residences of Braintree, MA, which manages Compass on the Bay.

"We are very excited that Assisted Living communities are finally getting the vaccine and are very much looking forward to the physical protection it will afford our residents and associates," said Lindsay Nelson, Interim Executive Director at Compass

on the Bay.

The mood for residents and staff was celebratory. Residents posed with homemade posters and signs featuring inspirational phrases and leaders. "We're all so excited - residents and staff - to finally be receiving this vaccine," said Kristi Faby, Director of Compass Memory Support Programming.

Compass on the Bay in South

Boston is an assisted living community dedicated exclusively to those with memory loss featuring Compass Memory Support, a renowned, research-based treatment program for those with dementia, from Mild Cognitive Impairment to Alzheimer's disease and other dementia-causing diseases. Learn more at <http://www.CompassOnTheBay.com>.



Compass on the Bay resident Michelle Peters poses after receiving her first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine



Resident Care Associate Nikki Francis gives a thumbs up about her experience receiving the Covid-19 vaccine



Compass on the Bay resident Jenna Fitzgerald after receiving her first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine

South Boston Catholic Academy News Grade 3 Enjoying Outdoor Science Class

The 3rd Graders had a chance to utilize our outdoor space in the school yard (even in January). The students had a chance to engage in such a fun, educational

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





Some things never change. Not even after a pandemic stopped the entire world in its tracks. Not even after a new U.S. President has called for unity. Not even after Tom Brady has taken the Tampa Bay Buccaneers to the Super Bowl.

Ok, so, the Brady mention could've been left out because it's somewhat out of context, but it's a thought that consumes my brain 24/7, so why not throw it in there?

Anyways, you get the point. As the world continues to turn, the baseball world remains the same: Baseball writers are going to make the Baseball Hall of Fame voting about themselves.

That was evident once again this year, as the Baseball Writers' Association of America did not vote anyone into the Hall of Fame as part of the "Class of 2021." It marks the ninth time that the BBWAA did not vote anybody in, and the first time the BBWAA did not vote anybody in since 2013. Only three players were selected to the 2013 Hall of Fame class, but all three were voted in by the veterans committee.

Because of COVID-19, the veterans committee did not meet this

year, meaning nobody was voted into the "Class of 2021" by them either, making it the first year that nobody was voted into the Hall of Fame by either the BBWAA or the veterans committee since 1960.

But forget about the veterans committee for now. Perhaps some big-name players will need that committee in the future. Right now though, in 2021, this is about the writers. Ironically enough, that's exactly how they want it to be.

A player needs to receive 75% of the vote to get into the Hall of Fame, and are only on the ballot for 10 years. As the 2021 results were released this week, Curt Schilling received the most votes on this year's ballot, receiving 71.1% of the vote. Still, that's not good enough to get in.

Barry Bonds (61.8%) and Roger Clemens (61.6%) finished second and third, respectively, in the voting.

Schilling's percentage increased by 1.1% from 2020, while Bonds' percentage increased by 1.1% and Clemens' percentage increased by 0.6%. Next year is the last year that all three will appear on the ballot. If not voted in next year, they'll need to be voted in by the veterans committee.

A total of 401 ballots were submitted this year, which included a record total of 14 blank ballots. That means, 14 baseball writers looked at this year's Hall of Fame ballot and said to themselves, "Nope, no Hall of Famers on here this year. I'll leave it blank."

Imagine getting paid to watch baseball, seeing names like Schilling, Bonds, and Clemens on the Hall of Fame ballot and thinking to yourself that there are no Hall of Famers on that ballot. It's utterly insane.

Not for some baseball writers though. To them, it's personal. They look at the BBWAA's "Election Requirements" and they see, under requirement No. 5:

"Voting — Voting shall be based upon the player's record, playing ability, integrity, sportsmanship, character, and contributions to the team(s) on which the player played."

Anyone who has ever left Schilling, Bonds, or Clemens off their Hall of Fame ballot has read that requirement, and has used the word "integrity" to justify it.

By now, you don't need me to break down those three players' flaws. Whether it's being linked

to PEDs or ridiculous tweets, these are not your perfect Hall of Fame candidates, all things considered, which, by now we know that, yes, the BBWAA considers all things.

But if we're being brutally honest here, the reason Schilling hasn't been voted in yet is because he is a Donald Trump supporter, and the reason Bonds and Clemens aren't in is because they're two of the most successful PED users, allegedly; not of the success, but the PEDs.

In my opinion, the baseball writers are making this too complicated. While, sure, character issues and integrity should probably be considered, it doesn't have to be the dealbreaker.

It's not the "Good Guys of Baseball Hall of Fame." It's the "Baseball Hall of Fame," which, in a perfect world, would be filled with nothing but good guys. Problem is, it's not a perfect world. And not everybody that's already in the Hall of Fame is a flawless Democrat who's never used PEDs.

Time for the baseball writers to get over it.

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SPORTS TODAY

BRADY TAKES BUCS TO SUPER BOWL LV

SBT Staff

Tom Brady is heading back to the Super Bowl. This time, though, he won't be going to the Super Bowl as a member of the New England Patriots.

In his first year with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Brady will take his team to the Promised Land of the National Football League. And he'll go up against Patrick Mahomes and the Kansas City Chiefs; a team that Brady is very familiar with from his days with the Patriots.

The Buccaneers defeated the Green Bay Packers, 31-26, in the NFC Championship at Lambeau Field last Sunday. Now, it's on to Super Bowl LV — where the Buccaneers will be the first team to ever host the Super Bowl in their own

Tweet of the Week

Julian Edelman @Edelman11

I am once again asking you to read the cover 2 zone defense



stadium — on Sunday, Feb. 7.

It will mark Brady's 10th Super Bowl appearance, and a chance for the greatest quarterback of all time to win his seventh Super Bowl ring.

On the other side, the Chiefs defeated the Buffalo Bills, 38-24, in the AFC Championship at Arrowhead Stadium last Sunday. Super Bowl LV will mark Kansas City's second consecutive Super Bowl. Last year, the Chiefs defeated the San Francisco 49ers to win Super Bowl LIV in Miami.

Kansas City opens as a 3-point favorite over Tampa Bay, in what's

expected to be a high-scoring affair, with an over-under of 56.5.

No matter how you break it down, the top story is that Brady continues to thrive with a new team, in his first year with that new team, at the age of 43. You'll hear many people over the next few weeks talk about Brady vs Bill Belichick, and who's winning the unofficial battle between the two, now that they've parted ways. Wherever those opinions stand, it's impossible not to acknowledge what Brady has now been able to do without Belichick.

Before this season, the Buccaneers

WHAT TO WATCH

NBA SATURDAY, JAN. 30
LA Lakers at Boston
8:30 P.M. ABC

TUESDAY, FEB. 2
Boston at Golden State
10 P.M. TNT

NHL THURSDAY, JAN. 28
Pittsburgh at Boston
7 P.M. NESN

SATURDAY, JAN. 30
Boston at Washington
7 P.M. NESN

MONDAY, FEB. 1
Boston at Washington
7 P.M. NESN

PGA THURS, JAN. 28 - SUN, JAN. 31
Farmers Insurance Open
12 P.M. GOLFC/CBS

hadn't made the playoffs since 2007. In the last three seasons, Tampa Bay has finished, 7-9, 5-11, and 5-11. In fact, in their previous nine seasons before Brady arrived, the Bucs only finished above .500 once in those nine seasons, when they went 9-7 in 2016.

Now, Brady is taking them to the Super Bowl, having won three road playoff games as a Wild Card team, knocking off Drew Brees and Aaron Rodgers in the process.

Is Mahomes the next victim en route to Brady's seventh Super Bowl title? We'll find out on Feb. 7.

FENWAY PARK TO SERVE AS COVID VACCINATION SITE

SBT Staff

Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker has announced that Fenway Park will become the state's second mass-vaccination site, joining Gillette Stadium, which officially opened as a vaccination site last week.

The Boston Red Sox and Cambridge-based health tech company CIC Health have partnered to officially begin vaccinations at Fenway Park on Monday, Feb. 1. Eligible vaccine recipients can begin schedul-

ing their appointments this weekend by visiting cic-health.com/vaccines.

"Throughout its history, Fenway Park has been a gathering place for more than just baseball, and we are honored to now open our gates as a safe location in the City of Boston for our community to receive the COVID-19 vaccination," said Red Sox President & CEO Sam Kennedy in a statement released by the team this week. "Getting our population vaccinated is a massive undertaking for our public health and government

officials that requires collaboration and support from a variety of industries. We are eager to get our facility up and running so we can all begin the process of recovery from this dreadful virus."

Fenway Park becomes the first mass-vaccination site in the City of Boston. It will open with the capacity for 500 vaccinations per day, eventually increasing to thousands of vaccinations per day. The site will adhere to all vaccination protocols established by the Centers for Disease Control and the Common-

wealth of Massachusetts.

"Mass vaccination sites like Fenway Park are critical to our state's vaccine distribution process — providing convenient, safe, and efficient access for thousands of residents," said Governor Baker in the statement. "Joining Gillette Stadium, our administration is hugely grateful to our hometown sports teams for stepping up to support the Commonwealth during the pandemic. We thank the Red Sox and CIC Health for their partnership, and look forward to opening more mass vaccination sites soon."



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