



National Medal of Honor Day Recognized in South Boston

SBT Staff Report

Last Thursday, March 25th, Medal of Honor Park at M Street in South Boston was the site of a very special ceremony. It was an event that recognized National Medal of Honor Day. This is the day set aside by Congress to recognize the bravery and the unselfish act of answering the call to serve one's country by American military members who went over and above the regular call of duty.

A prestigious event such as this would naturally be expected to bring in high ranking dignitaries to gather

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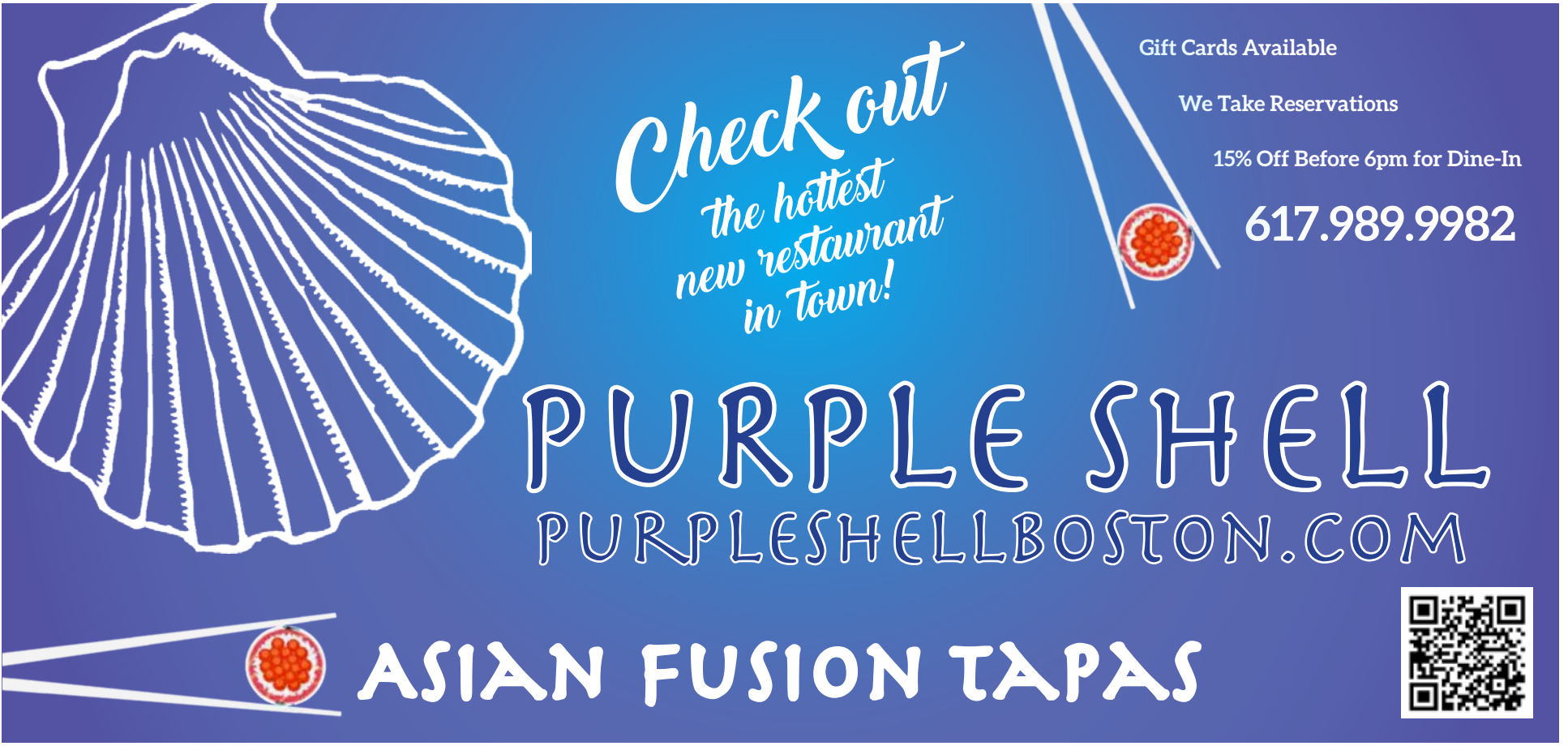
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EDITORIAL

However You Choose To Celebrate This Year, Have A Happy Easter

Last Easter, most people played it safe, stayed at home and avoided gatherings. At the 'request' of the government, rules were followed. Americans do not like to be told what to do but for what at the time was considered to be 'for the greater good'. And, because people feel strongly about keeping our families, friends and neighbors safe, the public for the most part adhered to the guidelines set up. Easter, with our churches closed, made the day, at times, feel almost surreal, but when it comes to

following our faith; especially on the most sacred day on the Christian calendar, most people adapted.

And adapt they did. Churches are up with the times, as far as technology is concerned. They have the tech skills and equipment to 'live stream' Masses and Services that could be watched on TV, on their computers and even on their phones. And data shows that they did just that and the faithful eagerly took advantage of this temporary way to worship. There is nothing like being at Easter

Service at church and in person but doing so virtually was the next best thing.

Well, that was then, this is now and far less people are willing to follow those same guidelines, especially when those who claim to be experts and have all the answers and remedies seem to be operating with a lot of guess work.

It's now 2021 and virtually no one thought Covid would still be an issue a year later. And, though some in positions of authority are doing their best to keep tight restrictions on the American

population indefinitely, those restrictions are unraveling fast for lack of compliance, much to the disappointment of those who think they are in charge. This year, thankfully, our churches have reopened and though some would still rather stay at home and view those Masses and Services online because of some lingering safety concerns, at least now, people have the option to attend them in person if they so choose. We're happy to see that option made available. Families and friends will gather to



celebrate once again and the world's 2.2 Billion Christians will observe, in a traditional way, The Resurrection.

Whichever way you choose to celebrate this joyous time of year, all of us here at 'South Boston Today' wish everyone, Christians and non Christians alike, a very Happy Easter.



SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES 2021

Massport is currently accepting applications for the following Scholarships:



• **Thomas J. Butler Memorial Scholarship**

Awarded to a high school senior who resides and is involved in community service in South Boston, with a minimum 3.0 GPA.

• **Deborah Hadden Gray Memorial Scholarship**

Awarded to a high school senior who resides and is involved in community service or employment in the city of Boston, Chelsea, Revere or Winthrop, with a minimum 3.0 GPA.

• **Lowell L. Richards III Memorial Scholarship**

Awarded to a high school senior who resides and is involved in community service in the city of Boston, Chelsea, Revere, or Winthrop, with a minimum 3.0 GPA.

• **Diversity STEM Scholarship**

Awarded to high school seniors of color who reside or attend school in the city of Boston, Chelsea, Winthrop, Revere, Worcester, Bedford, Concord, Lexington, or Lincoln, and are involved in community service with a minimum 3.0 GPA.

Scholarship applications must be received by Massport no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 30, 2021. For more information on these scholarships, including application checklist and criteria please visit www.massport.com

"So I say to you, ask and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you." - Jesus Christ



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The Information Center



It Seems A Huge Majority Of All Races Favors Voter ID Laws

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY

John Ciccone

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

One of the multitudes of issues in the news swirling around, causing screaming and shouting by activists is 'Voter ID'. As everyone not living in a cave knows, Democrats around the country are melting down over Republican efforts to make showing Identification in order to cast a vote in elections the law. Showing an ID is that simple and easy thing Americans are required to do when cashing a check, getting a driver's license, getting on a plane at the airport, buying a gun...pretty much everything we do. Everyone who wants an ID can easily get one. But asking people to show one before being allowed to vote is a travesty according to Democrats, the news media, the loony egotists in Hollywood and others who so badly want the option of cheating in elections, if it's the only way they can win. No one is fooled by the denials.

You can hear the bellowing and gnashing of teeth at the mere mention of voter ID laws, but especially now because of what's happened in the State of Georgia. Shouts of 'voter suppression', 'racism', 'Jim Crow' and the newest trendy/fad label added to their list of babble – 'White Supremacy'. Blah Blah Blah! Americans are getting tired of all of this BS.

So, what's happening in Georgia to cause all of this protesting and shrieking? Well, for those who haven't been paying attention, the State Legislature and their Governor just did something that elected officials in Massachusetts and other liberal-run states should have done but don't have the guts to do. They just passed and signed into law a bill called S.B. 202. It breaks down as follows: No one

votes without proving who they are. And no one includes those voting by absentee ballot as well.

Oh, but here's the frosting on the cake. The opponents of voter ID are saying that it's all a plot to prevent minorities from voting and that minorities are outraged about this. But then this happened. The results of surveys and polls on the issue, and these are REAL polls, not some CNN fake survey doctored to get the results they want, show that the minorities are not outraged after all. And here's the breakdown: 74% of Whites favor ID requirement, as do 69% of Blacks. And a whopping 82% of other minorities also favor showing an ID. Talk about taking the wind out of the opposition's sails. Al Sharpton, for one small and rare passing moment was stunned into silence.

What followed later was telling. Reporters went out into the streets to interview minority voters to find out why exactly they were in favor of Voter ID. They were shocked at the answers. The media members were told in no uncertain terms that showing an ID to prove that you are eligible to vote should be a given, especially when ID must be shown for most everything else. They believed in taking every precaution to make sure that elections were fair, honest and on the level and that the system could not be corrupted and that one side could not cheat and steal election from the others. This is as important to minorities as it is, or should be, to every American. But, response from those being interviewed highlighted something else that is so important. Minorities do not, let me repeat, they DO NOT need white liberals telling them that they aren't capable of obtaining an

ID or that they need help deciding who and what to vote for. In fact, many of those being questioned resented the fact that liberals look upon people of color that way.

Many of those being interviewed happily volunteered to show the Identification they were caring with them at the time. So, it all breaks down to this: The voter suppression argument being pushed for so long by the Left, was blown out of the water by the very people they said they were speaking for. Well done to the Georgia State Legislature and Governor Kemp for doing the

right thing and not allowing the radical element in their state, in Hollywood and in the news media to intimidate them. It's nice to see some state governments with courage. What they did by passing this law will do much to stop any more elections from being stolen in that state.

To close this week, On behalf of myself and all of us here at 'South Boston Today', we hope everyone during this sacred season and time of year has a Happy and Blessed Easter. Stay safe and enjoy the company of family and good friends.

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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.

The latest and not the last: Chang-Díaz explores run for governor in 2022

We certainly don't want this to get lost in all the pandemic-related news, to wit: State Sen. Sonia Chang-Díaz, a Boston Democrat, progressive and the first Latinx woman to serve in the state Senate, is "seriously considering" a run for governor in 2022, according to reports by SHNS's Matt Murphy and Katie Lannan and MassLive's Steph Solis. And so the list grows longer of declared and undeclared Dem candidates eyeing the Corner Office. They all sense something out there – and it has to do with Republican Gov. Charlie Baker's third-term intentions and vulnerabilities. Commonwealth's Michael Jonas has more.

The pandemic's latest victim: Becker College

The Telegram's Scott O'Connell reports that Becker College in Worcester will close at the end of this academic year, the victim (partly) of financial woes tied to the pandemic. The BBJ's Hillary Burns has more on Becker's demise. Meanwhile, they're

already hovering over Becker's academic remains in Worcester. From MassLive: "Clark University responds to closure of Becker College by launching Becker School of Design & Technology at Clark." Some area schools are offering to help displaced Becker students, according to reports at SHNS and MassLive.

'Impending doom': CDC chief warns of virus surge as Baker stands by reopening (for now)

As the Globe's Dasia Moore reports, CDC director (and former MGH doctor) Rochelle Walensky is warning of "impending doom" tied to increasing coronavirus cases across America, including in Massachusetts. At least for now, Gov. Charlie Baker is standing by his recent decision to reopen more sectors of the state's economy – and the Herald's Joe Battenfeld says the governor effectively now owns any new surge and he can't spin his way out of that fact. Meanwhile, the Globe's Joan Vennoch notices a touch of red in Baker, as in a red Republican attitude when it comes to not forcing front-

line workers to get vaccinated. And here's more from the pandemic front, via the Martha's Vineyard Times ("Following weeks of decline, island sees Covid spike") and MassLive ("Springfield sees 76 percent jump in Covid cases in single week").

Despite lack of riders and workers, MBTA commits to restoring full transit services

Acting Mayor Kim Janey was among those yesterday calling on the MBTA to restore full bus and subway services (WCVB) – and that's exactly what the chastened T intends to do. Or at least will try to do soon. Even though there seems to be a shortage of both workers and passengers. SHNS's Chris Lisinski and Commonwealth's Bruce Mohl have more. Fyi, from SHNS: "New Red, Orange Line Trains Remain Out of Service." Fyi II, from Universal Hub (and this is a great idea, we'd add): "Boston to try free CharlieCards/Bluebikes for workers in five areas."

East-West rail anyone?

U.S. Reps. Stephen Lynch and

Richard Neal say a proposed multitrillion-dollar infrastructure and climate bill could have lots of goodies in it for Massachusetts, chief among them funding for East-west passenger rail through Springfield. SHNS's Colin Young has the Lynch angle, while MassLive's Jim Kinney has the Neal angle.

Larry Summers: He's back and not happy

Speaking of big-ticket spending bills in Washington, Larry Summers, the former Harvard president and former economic adviser to Presidents Obama and Clinton, is in the news again, this time as a critic of President Biden's economic policies and this time Dems aren't paying attention to him. The Washington Post has more.

Ethics Commission clears Rollins in road rage case. Next up: U.S. Attorney?

It's not a big surprise, but it may have big consequences. Boston 25's Ted Daniel and the Globe's Andrea Estes report that the state Ethics Commission has dropped its investigation into an alleged road-rage incident involving Suffolk DA Rachael Rollins. And the end of the probe may remove a "potential obstacle from Rollins' bid to become the next US attorney for the district of Massachusetts," as Estes reports.

SEN. COLLINS, REP. BIELE ANNOUNCE STATE FUNDING FOR MARINE PARK IMPROVEMENTS



Senator Nick Collins, State Representative David Biele and the Department of Con-



servation and Recreation (DCR) announced several grant awards for greenspace improvements to

Marine Park in South Boston. The awards are a part of the 2021 Partnerships Matching Funds Program. The program, administered by DCR, provides vital matching funds for projects that improve or enhance the Commonwealth's natural, cultural, and recreational resources.

"I want to thank our partners in the Baker Administration, at DCR, and in the parks advocacy and non-profit community for their continued commitment to the improvement of our shared greenspaces, playgrounds, and memorials," said Senator Nick Collins. "These funds for South Boston will enhance our

community spaces in Marine Park for generations to come."

"These state grants will help improve our community's use and enjoyment of playgrounds, memorials and park space in Marine Park," said Rep. Biele. "Thank you to the Baker Administration and the Department of Conservation and Recreation for these investments in our community's green space and to residents for their efforts in submitting proposals for community-based projects to work on in partnership with the state."

The grants total more than \$220,000. All projects are managed by DCR to oversee the implementation of the project with considerable consultation from contributing partners and other stakeholders.

Flynn and Bok File Hearing Order Regarding Firing of 52 Workers at Nine Zero Hotel



Ed Flynn and Kenzie Bok filed a hearing order at last week's City Council meeting regarding the recent firing of 52 workers at the Nine Zero Hotel, owned by Brookfield Asset Management. The Boston Retirement Fund has \$14 million invested in the Brookfield Asset Management, and this hearing aims to discuss the unraveling situation at the Nine Zero and potential

implications Brookfield's decisions have for the Boston Retirement Fund beneficiaries.

The Nine Zero Hotel is a high end hotel located at 90 Tremont Street in Boston, and on March 22, the hotel informed the Nine Zero workers through their union UNITE HERE Local 26 that it plans on permanently eliminating 52 out of 77 employees. This termination comes only

days after a contract provision running out that guaranteed the right for workers to return with full seniority, which makes this firing even more unconscionable. Through hospitality jobs, many Black, Brown, and Asian Boston hotel workers have achieved first generational wealth, allowing them to buy a home, raise a family and stay here in the City. In recent months, several hotels have already used the pandemic as an excuse to lay off their workers. With the latest firings from Nine Zero Hotel, it is wholly appropriate to discuss the Boston Retirement Fund's investments with this hotel's owner. The Councilors also joined the hotel workers at the picket line in front of the Nine Zero Hotel last week to support their call for the hotel to reverse their decision.

"It is outrageous to use the COVID-19 pandemic as an excuse to lay off these hard-working hotel

employees," said Councilor Flynn. "It is critical that we support our working families, and not allow companies with huge profits to use the pandemic to lay off workers who rely on their jobs to support their families and put them on a path to the middle class. We will use this hearing to ask Brookfield Asset Management to explain their decision on firing their employees, and see how this will impact the Boston Retirement Fund."

"We cannot allow companies to take advantage of this moment to get rid of long-term loyal workers and hire people at worse pay and benefits," said Councilor Bok. "Hard-working folks in my district, and all over the city, have built a stable life and intergenerational wealth due to these jobs. There is no recovery from COVID-19 without these workers getting their jobs, seniority, and benefits back. I'm eager for Brookfield Asset Management to come and speak with us, and I'm hopeful they will reverse their decision."

Flaherty Holds Community Preservation Committee Hearing to Review \$24.3 Million in CPA Funding



Boston City Councilor At-Large Michael F. Flaherty, Chair of the Council's Committee on the Community Preservation Act, held a hearing to review and recommend passage of the appropriation of over \$25,500,000 in FY21 Community Preservation Fund revenues. The City of Boston's Community Preservation Committee recommended these funds be used to support 67 proj-

ects across the city. This year, over \$13M will be used to support affordable housing projects; over \$5M for historic preservation projects; and over \$6M for projects focused on the creation and preservation of recreational use and open space projects.

Following a very productive virtual hearing on Thursday

March 25th with testimony from project advocates, neighborhood leaders, and representatives from the City of Boston, Councilor Flaherty will recommend passage of all 67 projects at the amounts designated. "Holding these hearings is one of the most rewarding parts of my job," said Councilor Flaherty. "I get to see the fruits of the labor of so many who worked alongside me to get the Community Preservation Act passed in Boston, and we see how many fantastic organizations are doing top quality work to make Boston a better place. I am honored to be able to help those organizations with additional funds to support their goals."

The Community Preservation Fund was created upon the adoption of the Community Preservation Act, Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44B in November 2016. Including this fourth round of funding, over \$92 million has been allocated to support 198 projects across the City. To date, 24% of funding has been devoted

to 85 open space and recreational use projects, 23% of funding has been devoted to 86 historic preservation projects, and 53% of funding has been used for 27 affordable housing projects.

Councilor Flaherty is proud of the success of this program thus far, having taken a leadership role in the campaign alongside the Yes for A Better Boston Coalition for its passage by popular vote in the City of Boston in 2016 and as the Chairman of the City Council's Community Preservation Committee since its inception. Many projects from earlier rounds of funding are at or nearing completion and have had a transformative effect on their neighborhoods already.

Councilor Flaherty added that "The program is really hitting its stride. The word is out there among our city's non-profit groups that this funding is available, the Committee has a top-level staff who can help you in your application, and that these funds can really make a difference in the community."

MAYOR JANEY APPOINTS VETERAN LEADER DION IRISH AS CHIEF OF OPERATIONS FOR THE CITY OF BOSTON

Current Chief of Operations Patrick Brophy will depart on April 16 for new opportunity with Suffolk Construction

Mayor Kim Janey announced today that the City of Boston's Chief of Operations Patrick Brophy will depart his role on April 16 for a new opportunity with Suffolk Construction. Mayor Janey will appoint Dion Irish, who currently serves as the Commissioner of the Inspectional Services Department, to be Chief of Operations after Chief Brophy leaves the post next month. Chief Brophy and Commissioner Irish are both veterans of city government in Boston, having each served decades in various leadership positions. The Chief of Operations role oversees hundreds of city employees within three critical operational departments, including the Property Management Department, Inspectional Services Department, and the Public Facilities Department.

"I can't thank Chief Brophy enough

for his steadfast leadership and dedication to the City of Boston during his 26 years of service across three administrations," said Mayor Janey. "It's not an exaggeration to say that the people of Boston have benefited tremendously from Pat's work, which future generations will continue to enjoy. Whether it's new libraries, schools, police and fire stations, community centers, or the ambitious redesign of City Hall Plaza, Pat's impact on Boston can be felt throughout our neighborhoods. We wish him the best in his new chapter and thank him for his many years of service."

As Chief of Operations since 2015, Brophy worked with public and private partners to create many notable public spaces throughout the city, including the Boylston Street Memorial to the victims of the Boston Marathon bombing, Martin's Park in



the Seaport, a seasonal skating rink and other programming on City Hall Plaza, and the first major renovation of City Hall Plaza. The \$80 million project to reimagine City Hall Plaza as an accessible and sustainable family-friendly destination with seating and gathering areas, play space, public art, and an iconic water feature is due to be completed in spring 2022. Additionally, Chief Brophy managed major school facilities projects, including the construction of the \$80 million Dearborn Stem Academy in Roxbury and the new \$120 million Boston Arts Academy in Fenway.

During the pandemic, Chief Brophy wrote Boston's COVID-19 construction safety protocol and the COVID-19 control plan for the City's municipal buildings. Brophy will begin his new position as Senior Director of External Affairs in the Northeast for Suffolk Construction next month.

When Chief Brophy departs, Commissioner Irish will assume the duties of Chief of Operations, where he will bring a deep knowledge and understanding of key operational departments. Commissioner Irish has served the City of Boston for 25 years in various leadership positions, most recently as Commissioner of the Inspectional Services Department (ISD) since 2019. Prior to becoming commissioner, Irish worked at ISD for 17 years, serving previously Assistant Commissioner and Director of Housing Inspections for 12 years. In that role, he helped establish nationally recognized programs such as Breathe Easy at Home, Rental Property Registration, and the statewide comprehensive certification training

for housing inspectors.

"I'm excited to appoint Dion Irish to the role of Chief of Operations, and I want to thank him for his continued service to the people of Boston," said Mayor Janey. "Few individuals have the level of expertise and knowledge that Dion will bring to this critical position on day one. Dion's robust understanding of municipal operations and permitting issues make him uniquely qualified to take on the responsibilities of the job and continue to advance the progress made under Chief Brophy's leadership. I am fortunate to welcome such an experienced leader to my cabinet."

In 2012, Irish stepped away from ISD when he was appointed Executive Director of Boston's Office of Civil Rights (now known as the Office of Fair Housing and Equity). Here, he established interagency collaborations to address housing discrimination and lead paint in homes, both of which limited opportunities for families and children. In 2014, Irish received a Henry L. Shattuck Award for public service from the Boston Municipal Research Bureau. In 2015, former Mayor Martin J. Walsh appointed Irish as Commissioner of Boston's Election Department, where he oversaw the implementation of early voting initiatives, the administration of 11 elections, and improved technology and cybersecurity for the department. Irish also helped expand civic engagement through collaborations with the Boston Public Schools and other partners.

As Chief of Operations, Irish will oversee the Property Management Department, ISD, and the Public Facilities Department. The Property Management Department is responsible for the use, management, maintenance, building security, and repair of the City's municipal building inventory. ISD enforces building, housing, health, sanitation, and safety regulations as mandated by the city and state. The department's mission is to permit, regulate, and inspect construction work, homes, and businesses in a strategic effort to protect and improve the quality of life for all Boston residents and the business community. The Public Facilities Department is the City's construction management arm, responsible for executing Boston's multi-year, \$900 million capital building program.




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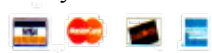
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ACTING MAYOR JANEY ANNOUNCES OPENING OF APPLICATIONS FOR SUCCESSLINK YOUTH JOBS PROGRAM

Acting Mayor Kim Janey announced the opening of SuccessLink Summer Youth Job applications. SuccessLink is the City of Boston's online tool that enables Boston youth to register for summer jobs. Applications are open on the City's website now through May 9 for Boston teens aged 15 to 18. With the support of the Mayor's Health Human Service (HHS) cabinet, the Department of Youth Engagement and Employment's (DYEE) commitment to youth jobs remains steadfast in spite of the challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic. The City will aim to provide 5,000 jobs to youth and young adults this summer across more than 170 nonprofit, community-based organizations and city agencies.

"The SuccessLink Youth Summer Jobs program provides Boston's youth with valuable skills and opportunities that will empower them and lead them to future success in the workforce," said Janey. "I encourage all Boston teens to apply for the program, as it will inspire personal growth and allow for a head start for future opportunities in the working world."

Like last summer, SuccessLink will continue to offer a combination of hybrid, virtual and in-person work experiences in a range of fields, including the arts, government and advocacy, STEM, sports and recreation, childcare, education, and more. In partnership with DYEE, the Mayor's Office of Workforce Development will continue the Learn and Earn Postsecondary program. Virtual experiential learning through project-based activities will also be offered, focusing efforts on providing jobs to vulnerable youth populations through the Massachusetts Commonwealth Corporation Youth-Works partnership. This partnership ensures disadvantaged, vulnerable and youth with identified risk barriers have access to employment opportunities.

As an additional youth leadership development initiative, DYEE is collaborating with the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Advancement to further a Dreamers Fellowship initiative designed to engage immigrant youth.

To further strengthen the Boston summer jobs program, DYEE has introduced a grant funding component for partner organizations as part of the SuccessLink Youth Employment Pro-

gram. This new approach will provide selected grantees with an allocated number of youth positions, where the wages for the youth employees will be funded through a grant. The partner organization will be responsible for managing the recruitment, hiring, and payroll process for youth participants. The goal of this revised service delivery model is to increase job placements and improve quality experiences for youth and non-profits who partner with the City of Boston to hire and create workforce development opportunities for young people.

With the introduction of grant partnerships, there are two ways for youth to get connected to a SuccessLink job:

- **SuccessLink Direct Jobs:** Youth will be hired by the City of Boston through the traditional SuccessLink portal to work across various organizations
- **SuccessLink Grant Jobs:** Youth will be hired directly through the grant partners' online application process.

The SuccessLink Youth Employment Program is largely funded by the City of Boston and is designed not only to recruit and hire youth, but also to ensure that their employment experience is

engaging, meaningful, and serves as a building block for their professional development and personal success. DYEE also partners with a host of nonprofit organizations, city and quasi-city agencies, as well as other key youth employment providers across the city, supported with outside additional resources, including Action for Boston Community Development, the Boston Private Industry Council, John Hancock's MLK Scholars, Youth Options Unlimited, and the Mayor's Office of Workforce Development, to provide meaningful employment opportunities to a collective 8,000 youth between the ages of 14-21.

Youth interested in applying to DYEE's SuccessLink Summer Job Program must meet the following requirements:

Must be a full-time resident of the City of Boston

Must turn 15 years old on or before September 1, 2021

Cannot turn 19 years old on or before September 1, 2021

Must be legally permitted to work in the United States

For more information on DYEE's summer employment program and additional youth resources, visit youth.boston.gov.



SUMMER JOBS ARE HERE!

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Sports & Recreation



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DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH
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MOH continued from front page

with patriotic citizens to pay tribute to those who served so valiantly, and it certainly did. Among the invited guests was a Medal of Honor recipient who is also a Boston resident, Captain Thomas G. Kelley (USN-Ret). Also on hand were Governor Charlie Baker, Mayor Kim Janey, Congressman Stephen Lynch, State Senator Nick Collins, State Rep David Biele, and City Councilors Michael Flaherty and Ed Flynn.

There were speeches by the attending dignitaries which further highlighted the significance of the day and gave high praise to America's heroes. There are currently 69 living Medal of Honor recipients and all of them deserve very special praise.

Recognizing National Medal of Honor Day is also a prelude to the big event coming to Boston for the fourth time in September. At this time, The National Medal of Honor Society will hold its annual convention in Boston which is a 5 day event. The dates are September 7th-11th, 2021. The convention will bring many of America's Medal of Honor recipients from around the country; all of whom have been invited to participate in touring veterans facilities, schools and other points of interests so important to veterans and their families. The convention itself will be held at the Seaport Hotel and the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center.

It's certainly fitting that Medal of Honor Park in South Boston would be the site of last week's gathering. The park is the location of the nation's first Vietnam War Memorial. As most know, Tom Lyons who is a former Marine and a committee of other South Boston Vietnam veterans led an effort to create the unique memorial to honor their fallen comrades who never made it home from the war. Each year, the memorial is rededicated with a beautiful and moving ceremony that continues to attract large crowds that turn out to also honor the fallen. 2021 will mark the 40th year that this dedication will be held. The goal of building the monument and having the rededication each year is to make good on the promise made by the South Boston Committee to never forget their fellow Vietnam veterans; good friends forever. That this dedication has continued going on for so many years, with enthusiasm always running so high, proves beyond a doubt, that they have kept their promise.



How to Host a Virtual Easter Egg Hunt That Kids and Adults Will Enjoy

Courtesy of goodhousekeeping.com

Holidays are a time for families, friends, and loved ones to come together. Easter, especially, typically calls for events, parades, and egg hunts hosted by schools, churches, and local communities. Although some events may carry on while adhering to adjusted social distancing guidelines, many Easter traditions have been put on hold to keep everyone safe amid the coronavirus outbreak.

But even in these uncertain times, the Easter Bunny will still find a way to make it to your house. That means, Easter egg hunts — both indoors and out — are still in the cards in 2021. If you typically spend Easter Sunday with family, friends, and loved ones outside of your household, then plan a virtual Easter egg hunt this year. Follow this simple step-by-step guide to get ideas on how to throw a fun, family-friendly egg hunt that lets everyone — even the big kids a.k.a. adults — search for treasures and treats without leaving the house.

Invite friends, family, and neighbors.

Send out a mass text or email to everyone on your list detailing the time, date, supplies needed, and

hiding spots. Be sure to include the videoconferencing app of choice — FaceTime, Zoom, or Skype — along with set-up instructions in case they're new to the platform. If you want to take things up a notch, send an electronic invitation from Paperless Post or Evite for free or a small fee.

Test out FaceTime, Zoom, or Skype ahead of time.

Work out the kinks before you have any sugar-crazed kids at the party. A day or two before the virtual Easter egg hunt, run a test call with the other guests to walk through the game plan. That way, if someone doesn't know how to turn on their audio or video, they can handle it before the big day. Not sure which videoconferencing app to choose? All of them have their strengths, but some are easier to use than others. **For smaller gatherings with one or two guests, go for FaceTime. Zoom allows 100 guests to chat for 40 minutes with a free account subscription and Skype permits 100 guests on a four-hour call, making them great options for larger (virtual) parties.**

Coordinate with other parents and guests.

Here comes the tricky part: You want to make sure that all the kids and adults — whether they're with you or tuning in via Zoom, Skype, or FaceTime — get the same level of attention and well, treats. Chat with the other guests ahead of time to discuss the egg hunt's theme — non-candy or candy-filled eggs, for example. Then each guest will make sure that they have the appropriate amount of filled eggs at their house, and distributes them in similar-size rooms.

If you really want to make sure that all households have an equal mix of treats and trinkets, then fill a bunch of plastic eggs and drop them off at the other houses (as long as you live fairly close by). First, count out the plastic eggs and divide them by the number of participants — kids, adults, you name it. Then pack each plastic egg with candy, coins, small toys, or whatever you and the other adults agreed upon. Pick out a few eggs that should get an extra-special treatment, then follow this easy

DIY:

- Wrap the plastic eggs up with crepe paper like a bon bon for a clever disguise.
- Stick a label on each wrapped egg

with a holiday-specific word or phrase like “Easter bonnet” or “jelly bean.”

• When someone finds one of these special eggs, they have to act out their word just like a game of charades!

To make your virtual Easter egg hunt even more personal, ask each host to designate one special egg per person, labeling it with their name. As soon as they find their special egg, they can show it off to their loved ones on video.

Create markers and clues.

First, all hosts must hide the filled eggs in the same places in each home: under the couch cushion, on the TV stand, behind the living room pillow, and so on. In the initial invite, include detailed descriptions of hiding spots, so other guests can give hints during the egg hunt (if the participants want to phone-a-friend, of course).

If you happen to live near the other houses participating, you can also make a bunch of egg hunt markers and drop them off beforehand. That way, you can guarantee that every house has the same number of clues to guide the egg hunters. Egg hunt markers, like the ones shown above, are incredibly easy to make: Just cut bunny, egg, and carrot shapes out of sturdy card stock, write helpful phrases like “more eggs here” and “look left,” and glue the cut-outs to wooden sticks.

Let the virtual Easter egg hunt commence.

Once everyone is logged in, the scavenger hunt begins: Guests read the clues and participants work together to find the eggs in their respective hiding places.

Create small challenges along the way by requesting that each participant performs a “victory dance” when they track down an egg, give others pep talks throughout the egg hunt, show a close-up shot of each discover, or find different creative ways to keep spirits up.

Count up the eggs at the end.

The same rules apply: Once all the eggs are found, ask the participants to tally up their loot to reveal the winner. If your group has a competitive side, agree on a special prize — a mini trophy, chocolate bunny, or homemade treat — and have each household crown their respective winner



The Wine Guy

IN THE PINK

This is the time of year when wine drinkers search out lighter, fruitier wines to go with salads, seafood and desserts, as well as an array of cheeses that just taste better in the warm weather.

For almost a thousand years, families in various wine-producing regions in Europe, especially France, have been producing, “vins rose”, made from red grapes whose juice is left in contact with the skin for only a short time after crushing. These wines are meant to be drunk when they’re young, so that the crisp and in many cases, drier aspects are easily enjoyed.

The heart of Rose wine production is located in France’s Tavel “appellation”, or district. It’s located in the

southern Rhone valley, unique in its specialization in dry rosé wines. The vineyards that produce the appellation’s wines are located around the town of Tavel, just southwest of Orange and north west of Avignon.

The wines are made predominantly from the Grenache, Syrah and Clairette varieties and are intended to be drunk chilled, as a more complex alternative to white wines during the hot summer months.

Lavau Tavel Rose, 2019, Cotes du Rhone, (\$14.99), is one of the oldest and most consistent rose wines from this region. Dry, with hints of melon and berry on the nose and a crisp, slightly mineral finish, this one is great for salads, cheese plates and grilled salmon. If you’re in the mood for some Thai or Szechuan, especially spicy dishes, pair them up with this one.

Ferraton Pere & Fils Tavel Les Lauses Rose, 2016, Rhone, France, (\$13.99), is relatively new on the wine scene, making wine since just after WWII. This particular wine has a nose of apricots and pears, but with a dry finish of herbs. It’s one to try with any red sauce dish this time of year; Penne Rosa or a Bolognese would really bring out the best in this one.



Broadening out a bit to Provence, there’s a great value Rose. *Notorious Pink, 2019, South of France, (\$11.99)*,

100% Grenache, gorgeous frosty pale pink tone with a nose of neroli and cherry blossoms, with unfurling layers of peach, lavender, pears and honey. Less than “bone” dry, but not sugary. Gentle minerality, lengthy finish with a surprise note of apples on the finish. This is something I’d buy a case of and have on hand any time guests showed up.

The Guigal family’s Tavel vin-

yards produce some of the region’s best Rose wines and have been doing it for centuries. Their offering this season, *2019 E.Guigal Rose, Tavel, Rhone (\$18.49)*, is what you’d expect from them-quality, complexity and value. This wine is blended to be structured, but still refreshing, with notes of strawberries, and lemongrass and a smooth acidic finish. This one will give any shellfish, served hot or cold, a real boost.

Talk To The Wine Guy at jdris8888@gmail.com

I Was Just Thinking...



by Kevin Devlin

“Power is always seized for power sake by ambitious and ruthless

people who pretend to seek power for the benefit of others.”

“Power is in inflicting pain and humiliation.”

“Power is in tearing human minds to pieces and putting them together again in new shapes of your own choosing.”

“Every record has been destroyed or falsified, every book has been rewritten, every picture has been repainted, every statue has been renamed, every date has been altered. History has stopped.”

“The past was erased, the erasure was forgotten, the lie became truth.”

“And since the Party is in full control of all records and in equally full control of the minds of its members, it follows that the past is whatever the Party chooses to make it.”

“Keep people divided so they can be controlled.”

“...They had come to a time when no one dared speak his mind.”

“It’s a beautiful thing, the destruction of words.”

“In the end we shall make thoughtcrime literally impossible because there will be no words in which to express it.”

The above quotes were taken from George Orwell’s Nineteen Eighty-Four, a dystopian social science fiction novel. The book was published on June 8, 1949. But think about what has been happening in America and the road it appears we are headed on today. Do you see any similarities? Scary isn’t it? Very much so.

Ruthlessly seeking power for power’s sake.

Angrily altering the past.

Viciously controlling the present.

Dishonestly attempting to shape the future.

This is precisely what many

people are doing in their efforts to transform America which they obviously view with utter disdain.

But I for one love America.

It’s a great country.

I prefer personal speech over state tyranny. I prefer free speech over censorship. I’d rather have a reckoning with history and not erase it.

And I don’t think merely by repeating something over and over again that it is necessarily the truth.

Yet this “denial of objective reality” is preferred by many in positions of power, and they tell lies to bury any facts which have become inconvenient to further their goals which are anti-American, dangerous, and totalitarian in nature.

Hopefully, the cyclical nature of history will kick in once again as it usually does in the course of time and these insidious elements are relegated to a footnote in the history books.

South Boston Catholic Academy News Happy Easter from Grade 6!

From Ms. Hoisl, the 6th Grader Teacher...Sixth Grade decided to give

back this Easter. We wanted to participate in something larger than our class so we decided to

make 27 Easter baskets for Saint Monica's Parish. We had some of the supplies donated by my parents and then the rest supplied by the children's parents. We will deliver them to Saint Monica's in hopes that they have an amazing Easter this year.

All of us at South Boston Catholic Academy wish everyone a Blessed and Happy Easter! New applicants are welcomed to email Mrs. Jamie Brown at j.brown@sbatholicacademy.org to learn more about South Boston Catholic Academy.



How Some Easter Traditions Came To Be

To the more than 2.2 billion Christians around the world, Easter is the most important holiday/holy day on the calendar. It celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 3 days after he was crucified on the cross and heralds in a new beginning of life. Churches in the United States as well as all over the rest of the world hold special Masses and Services to celebrate this joyous and most holy time.

Over the years and in different countries, other traditions and symbols have been added to coincide with the religious aspects of the season and most of them have easily withstood the test of time and are enjoyed by followers of all ages to this day. Among them are the following:

EASTER CANDY: Easter is the second biggest candy selling holiday

in America, second only to Halloween. Among the most popular are of course chocolate eggs which were made popular in Europe more than 2 centuries ago. Eggs have long been associated with new life and the Resurrection of Jesus. Another egg-shaped candy is the Jellybean and became popular in the 1930's. But the origin of the Jellybean is dated back to the Biblical era and has remained popular well into the 21st Century. And of course, who can forget the yellow PEEPS? Those yellow chicks made from marshmallows and other sugars – LOTS of Sugar. Add to this, the chocolate bunnies, the pastel-colored syrupy eggs and so many other sweet goodies and sweet toothed celebrants around the globe are quite happy.

Lamb, Ham and Other Tradi-



tional Easter Foods: Not all the tasty delights are of the sweet sugary variety. The sumptuous main courses of Ham, Lamb, Beef, Pork and even Turkey are all favorites not only in America but in other parts of the Christian world as well. Lamb especially is considered an Easter delicacy as Jesus was and still is referred to as the 'Lamb of God' The meats are prepared in a number of ways; often determined by what part of the world one resides in. Then there are the perfectly prepared vegetables, with varying recipes, the many kinds

of breads and fruits and a multitude of desserts that satisfy the most discriminating appetites. All of these foods are prepared in ways geared to the regional Easter methods.

Easter Lilies: The traditional white Easter Lilies symbolize the purity of Christ to Christians and are common decorations in churches everywhere. Often, the church altars are not decorated until Easter Morning to herald in the joyous celebration of the Resurrection itself. Their growth from dormant bulbs in the ground blooming into beautiful flowers is part of that symbolism of new life. Easter Lilies are native to Japan and were brought to England in the 1700's and eventually found their way to America. They have since become the unofficial flower of the Easter Season.

continued on page 13

St. Peter Academy

Ms. Carmen's PreK2 Wonderful World of Colors

St. Peter Academy's PreK2 class wrapped up the OWL curriculum Unit, the World of Colors. Ms. Carmen does a wonderful job of deliver-

ing the Open World to Learning and Eureka Math curriculum to her students. She fully engages the students and they enjoy learning and fun activities.

The activities included painting with straws, writing stories about colors, painting with primary colors, mixing food coloring, life paintings and in math, patterns, remove one number and tangrams. The class enjoyed listening to all the books associated with the Wonderful World of Colors, Max's Dragon Shirt, Gilberto and the Wind, The Mixed-Up Chameleon, Dear Juno, Mouse Paint, Dog's Colorful Day and Cat's Colors. Students are excited to start their new unit Shadows and Reflections.

St. Peter Academy is an independent, community-based private school and serves students from ages 15 months through grade 6. SPA is currently accepting applications for the limited spaces available in the year-round toddler program (beginning at age 15 months) and for students in Pre-K, Kindergarten and grades 1-6. Appointments for individual virtual tours can be made by contacting Maria Blasi, at 617-268-0750 or by emailing m.blasi@StPeterAcademy.com



Easter Traditions continued from page 12

Easter Parades: These were popular in America in during the 19th and 20th centuries and still are in many parts of the world. In the past, people would wear their finest clothes and walk up and down main streets in cities and

along country roads to meet and greet neighbors and friends after attending church. Easter Parades appear to be making a comeback in the United States as some cities and towns put on extravagant processions, at times, through the main streets. Floats and colorful

marching bands keep everything upbeat and happy for the spectators who turn out and of course, always included is the beloved Easter Bunny; the main attraction as he waves to the crowds.

So, there you have it, a brief review of just some of the many

Easter Traditions that have become popular over the years and have remained so ever since. Oh, and we certainly can't forget the Easter Egg Hunts that top off the perfect Easter activity for the kids.

(Some of the Information for this article was provided by history.com)



This week, Danny reacted to the latest Jimmy Garoppolo trade rumors:

It's truly amazing to me that some people think the New England Patriots re-signed Cam Newton, only to then acquire Jimmy Garoppolo in a trade with the San Francisco 49ers.

I can't tell if people in the Boston sports media actually believe that, or if they're just desperate for new content.

Either way, it's not happening. Garoppolo is not going to be traded to the Patriots this offseason. Why? Because, again, the Patriots re-signed Newton.

Chatter involving Garoppolo's name has increased over the last week, after San Francisco moved up in the draft by finalizing a trade with the Miami Dolphins. In the trade, the 49ers moved up to the No. 3 spot in the Draft, while sending Miami their No. 12 pick, two additional first-round picks, and a third-round compensation pick.

So now, the popular reaction to that trade is that the 49ers only made the move in order to draft a quarterback, which would suggest that Garoppolo's time in San Francisco will soon be coming to an end.

Ok. Fair enough. I can see why you would think that. But I'd also

understand your logic if you told me that San Francisco would draft a quarterback at No. 3 overall and also keep Garoppolo, who's under contract for the next two seasons.

After all, it's not like the 49ers are drafting Clemson's Trevor Lawrence. He'll be going to Jacksonville as the No. 1 overall pick. In fact, the 49ers might not even be getting the second-best quarterback in the draft, because many mock drafts have the New York Jets taking a quarterback at No. 2 overall.

So whoever is left for San Francisco to take at No. 3 — whether it be BYU's Zach Wilson, Ohio State's Justin Fields, or Alabama's Mac Jones — there is a clear difference between any of those remaining quarterbacks and Lawrence, who's been projected to be the No. 1 overall pick in this draft for over a year.

If the 49ers traded into the No. 1 overall spot in order to draft Lawrence, then ya ok, I'd say it would be a lock that San Francisco trades Garoppolo immediately. In fact, Garoppolo would probably be part of that trade. But that's not the reality.

Instead, the reality is, the 49ers

want to draft a young, talented quarterback while probably wanting to create a competition and take another shot at a Super Bowl with Garoppolo under center.

I realize the pandemic has knocked a lot of us on our behinds, but don't forget that just before that pandemic began, Garoppolo had led the 49ers to the Super Bowl in February of 2020. Sure, the Kansas City Chiefs beat the 49ers in that game, but the point is, there's little reason for San Francisco to suddenly give up on Garoppolo right now, just because they're going to select the third-best quarterback in this year's draft. They can draft that quarterback and also keep Garoppolo at the same time.

Now, there's always the possibility that Garoppolo sees the 49ers' draft plans and demands a trade this offseason. If that happens, I expect some here in New England to continue to live in fantasy land and wonder whether or not the Patriots would pull the trigger on bringing Garoppolo back to New England.

To which, again, I will tell you, no they won't. And the reason for that all comes back to Newton.

The Patriots re-signed Newton to an incentive-based contract just before the start of free agency. Then the Patriots went out and spent a crazy amount of guaranteed money. Clearly, Bill Belichick made the commitment to a second year with Newton under center. And clearly, Newton made the return under the belief that he would be the starting quarterback.

Even if Belichick was foolish enough to also bring Garoppolo in and essentially start a fire in his own locker room, why in the world would Garoppolo — who has a full no-trade clause — want to return to his old team that's already committed to a starting quarterback?

I could see if the Patriots didn't re-sign Newton, and right now, Jarrett Stidham was atop their depth chart. Then, sure, let's turn up the Garoppolo-to-New-England talk. But I'm also willing to bet that Belichick checked in on Garoppolo's availability before re-signing Newton in the first place.

Which brings me back to stating the obvious: Newton is and will be the Patriots starting quarterback in 2021.

Follow Danny on Twitter and Instagram @DannyPicard.

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SPORTS TODAY

WHAT TO WATCH

MLB THURSDAY, APRIL 1
Opening Day
Baltimore at Boston
2:10 P.M. NESN

SATURDAY, APRIL 3
Baltimore at Boston
1:10 P.M. NESN

NHL THURSDAY, APRIL 1
Pittsburgh at Boston
7 P.M. NESN

SATURDAY, APRIL 3
Pittsburgh at Boston
1 P.M. NESN

NBA FRIDAY, APRIL 2
Houston at Boston
7:30 P.M. NBCSB

SUNDAY, APRIL 4
Charlotte at Boston
6 P.M. NBCSB

E-ROD SCRATCHED FROM OPENING DAY START

SBT Staff

Red Sox starter Eduardo Rodriguez has been scratched from Opening Day with what the team is calling “dead arm.”

Nathan Eovaldi will make the start for Boston instead, this Thursday at home against the Baltimore Orioles.

It marks the second straight year that Rodriguez has been scratched from his Opening Day start. Last season, Rodriguez suffered from a COVID-related heart condition that forced him to miss the entire 2020 campaign.

Red Sox manager Alex Cora implied earlier this week that there was a good chance Rodriguez will be placed on the 10-day injured list to start the season, as Rodriguez is not expected to be ready for when

Tweet of the Week

Daniel Theis @dtheis10

Over the last 4 years Boston became home for me and my family ! I'm grateful for all wins, losses and moments but most important for people I met and friends I found for life ! Boston will always have a place in my heart and I will never forget my time as a Celtic !



the Red Sox will need to utilize a fifth starter next Wednesday afternoon against the Tampa Bay Rays at Fenway Park.

Thursday will mark the second straight Opening Day that Eovaldi has replaced Rodriguez as Red Sox starter. Last season, Eovaldi stepped in and picked up the Opening Day win against the Orioles at Fenway, allowing just one earned run in six innings while striking out four.

Eovaldi goes up against Orioles left-hander John Means, who, ironically enough, was scratched from his Opening Day start against the Red Sox last season with a dead arm.

The Red Sox begin the season with a three-game series at home against the Orioles, and then host the Rays for three more, before leaving for a seven-game road trip in Baltimore and Minnesota.

Boston looks to improve upon its

last-place finish in the AL East last year. Entering this season, the New York Yankees are the favorite to win the division at -200. The Red Sox have the fourth-best odds to win the division at +2000.

The Los Angeles Dodgers are the favorite to win the 2021 World Series at +350, with the Yankees having the second-best odds at +550. The Red Sox are heavy underdogs to win it all at +5000.

RED SOX HIT WITH FALSE-POSITIVE COVID RESULT

SBT Staff

It looks like the Red Sox dodged a COVID-sized bullet to start the 2021 regular season.

Just days after Matt Barnes tested positive for COVID-19, the Red Sox reliever was cleared to return to the team after his positive test was considered to be a “non-infectious positive.”

Along with Barnes, eight other members of the organization — including three pitchers — were

also cleared to return, after they were initially sent to quarantine due to contact tracing.

As to what exactly a “non-infectious positive” test means, remains a mystery. But the Red Sox are handling the situation as if Barnes is 100 percent healthy, and that the positive COVID-19 test result never happened.

Even though Barnes was forced to miss three days of spring training camp, he is expected to be ready and available out of the bullpen on Opening Day, this Thursday afternoon against the Baltimore Orioles at Fenway Park.

CELTICS ACQUIRE ORLANDO'S FOURNIER, SEND THEIS TO CHICAGO

SBT Staff

The Boston Celtics didn't make any blockbuster deals before last Thursday's trade deadline, but they did perform a minor shakeup, acquiring Orlando Magic guard Evan Fournier, while sending center Daniel Theis to the Chicago Bulls in a separate deal.

In exchange for Fournier, the Celtics sent two second-round picks to the Magic. In the other trade — which was a three-team deal — the C's sent Theis and guard Javonte Green to the Bulls, and received center Luke Kornet from Chicago and center Moe Wagner from the Washington Wizards.

Fournier, 28, spent the last six-and-

a-half seasons with the Magic after playing the first two seasons of his NBA career with the Denver Nuggets. Denver drafted Fournier with the 20th overall pick in the 2012 Draft.

The 6-foot-7 shooting guard out of France is having the best season of his career, averaging 19.7 points per game in 26 games with the Magic before the trade. Fournier is in the final year of a five-year, \$85 million contract. Boston was able to take on the remainder of Fournier's salary by using part of the trade exception they added when sending Gordon Hayward to the Charlotte Hornets in a sign-and-trade over the summer.

Wagner, 23, and Kornet, 25, will both also be unrestricted free agents after this season.



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Mass & Service Schedules for Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter



Palm Sunday Weekend:

(Note: Confession will be heard on Saturday, March 27th, at Gate of Heaven Upper Church: 2:30pm – 3:45pm and at St. Brigid Upper Church:
Sunday: March 28th, 4:pm -5:45pm)

Mass & Services: Palm Sunday, March 28th, 2021

8am – St. Brigid

9am – Gate of Heaven, St. Peter(English)

10:30am – St. Peter(Lithuanian),St. Brigid. St. Monica(English),

Noon – Gate of Heaven

12:30pm –St. Monica(Spanish)

6pm-St. Brigid

Holy Thursday: April 1st, 2021

5pm – St. Peter(English)

7pm- Gate of Heaven(Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper)

8pm-Gate of Heaven and St. Brigid(Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament)

Good Friday, April 2nd, 2021

10am – Gather at St. Monica Church for Stations of the Cross Walk is also Organized by the 4th Presbyterian Church of South Boston

3pm-Gate of Heaven, St. Monica(English)

5pm-St. Peter Church(English)

7pm-St. Monica Church(Spanish),St. Brigid Church, St. Peter Church(English)

EASTER SUNDAY April 4th, 2021

7:30am St. Brigid Church

9am-Gate of Heaven Church, St. Peter Church(English)

9:30am-St. Brigid Church

10:30am- Gate of Heaven Church, St. Peter Church(Lithuanian),St. Monica Church(Spanish)

11am-St. Brigid Church

Noon – Gate of Heaven Church

12:30pm St. Monica Church(Spanish)

*Note: There will be no Easter Sunrise Service at Castle Island this year because of the Virus.
There may be a Sunrise Service held at a later date.*

