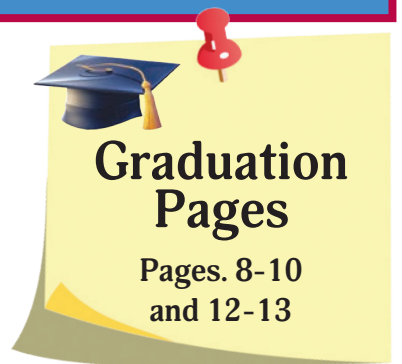


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East Boston

TIMES-FREE PRESS



Wednesday, June 17, 2026

2026 GRADUATION



PATRICK O'CONNOR PHOTO

Above, the East Boston High School's 146th commencement took place at Sartori Stadium on Friday morning, June 12. See pages 8 and 9 for more photos.



PHOTO BY MARIANNE SALZA

Right, East Boston Central Catholic School graduates and families gathering at Most Holy Redeemer Parish for their graduation mass and exercises on June 6. See Pages 12 and 13 for more photos.

ZUMIX awarded \$240,000 Cummings Foundation Grant

Special to the Times-Free Press

ZUMIX has been selected as one of 150 nonprofits to receive funding through Cummings Foundation's annual grant program, which awarded \$35 million this year. Chosen through a competitive review process that drew a record 959 applicants, the East Boston-based organization will receive a total

of \$240,000 over three years to support its award-winning creative youth development programs.

Rooted in the East Boston community for 35 years, ZUMIX offers programs for young people ages 7-18 in songwriting and performance, creative media and technology,

See GRANT Page 3

WORLD'S LARGEST SOCCER BALL



DEREK KOUYOUJIAN PHOTO

A towering 47.9-foot soccer ball displayed at Piers Park II in East Boston has officially earned the Guinness World Records title for the World's Largest Soccer Ball. See story and more photos on Pages 6 and 7.



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Forum

JUNETEENTH IS MORE SIGNIFICANT THAN EVER

Juneteenth, which has been a national holiday since 2021, marks the day when the Union Army entered the city of Galveston on June 19, 1865, and formally freed those who still were being enslaved in Texas.

As the Union Army advanced through the South in the final months of the Civil War, Confederate slave-owners in states such as Louisiana, Mississippi, and Arkansas forced tens of thousands of slaves to go to Texas, which was the only Southern state where the Union Army had not taken full control during the Civil War.

Until Major General Gordon Granger issued his order on June 19, more than 250,000 enslaved individuals in Texas had been unaware that they were free men, even though the Emancipation Proclamation had been issued more than two years earlier (on January 1, 1863) and the South had surrendered on April 9, 1865.

Juneteenth celebrations began as early as the following year and expanded over the decades across the country. However, they remained largely local celebrations until President Joe Biden signed into law the official observance of Juneteenth as a federal holiday.

Juneteenth serves to remind us of our nation's tragic past and of the hope for a better future, as often expressed by Dr. Martin Luther King: "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice."

However, that arc has reversed course in the past few months. The U.S. Supreme Court's recent evisceration of the 1965 Voting Rights Act (which had created Black-majority voting districts to ensure persons of color would be represented in Congress in the South), has turned back the clock, allowing for gross gerrymandering of Congressional districts that will largely eliminate Black representation.

In addition, many states, especially Texas, have enacted laws that have criminalized traditional voter registration efforts that sought to bring Blacks and Latinos into the political process. These new laws, which have resulted in the arrests of voting-rights activists, have cast a pall of fear that are significantly reducing Black and Latino voter registration in Southern states.

It is not an exaggeration to say that, thanks to the U.S. Supreme Court and Republican-dominated state legislatures in the Southern states, a 21st century version of Jim Crow (the term used for the post-Civil War laws that marginalized former slaves in the political process) is on the rise in the South.

So as we celebrate Juneteenth, let us resolve to restore the broken arc of the moral universe in order to ensure the full participation in our democracy by every American.

THOMAS BERNINGER

We would like to express our condolences to the family and friends of Thomas "Tommy" Berninger, a lifelong Eastie resident, who passed away recently after a fierce and courageous battle with ALS.

Tommy was a Navy veteran who served for 32 years with Massport Fire-Rescue as a firefighter on both the Engine and Marine Units. He also was a member of the Boston Red Sox EMS staff.

We know we join with all of our fellow East Boston residents in offering our condolences to his wife Mary and their children upon the passing of this wonderful man, who was beloved and respected by all who knew him, and whose life was devoted to the love and service of his family, friends, and community.

Donations in Tommy's name can be made to The Pete Frates Foundation to support those who are battling ALS at: <https://petefrates.com/donate/>

Basile brothers will honor the memory of their mother at observatory ceremony

By Cary Shuman

Former state representative Carlo Basile and his older brothers, Alex, Anthony, and Paul, will hold a rededication ceremony Saturday for the newly renovated observatory at the Madonna of the Universe Shrine that will honor the memory of their mother, Teresa Basile, who passed away on March 26, 2026.

Mrs. Basile immigrated from Italy to the United States of America and raised four boys on her own following the death of her husband, Anselmo Basile.

Basile said the idea for the tribute to his mother was initiated after he visited the observatory area and determined that major renovations were needed.

Carlo reached out to attorney Jeff Turco, who is counsel to the Sons of Divine Providence, and Turco set up a meeting with the Rev. Angelo Alvarez, one of the priests at the Don Orione Church.

"I told Father Angelo what my intentions were, and he was elated," said Basile. "So, we painted, recarpeted, repaired the electricity, added restroom facilities, fixed the elevator, and installed prayer chapels."

The tribute at the observatory honors a kind, generous woman, who was dedicated to her family and her church.

"My mom was a dedicated servant to the church and God," Carlo said proudly. "The observatory offers beautiful views of the Boston skyline and the area, and if a person wants to engage in prayer there, they'll be able to pray there. My brothers and I wanted to do something everlasting in memory of my mom's name, and we took on this big project. You can

see as far as Gloucester on a beautiful day."

Basile said he was happy to complete the project for Father Angelo. "He cares so much about the church. He's a godsend. Everyone is invited to an outdoor Mass this Saturday, June 20 at 7 p.m."

Basile was inspired by his mentor, Tony Cannata, to enter public service. He was elected state representative for East Boston and served in that position for seven-and-a-half years. Impressed by Basile's outstanding work in the state legislature, former Gov. Charlie Baker brought Basile on board in his administration as Chief Secretary.

Basile is currently a partner in the lobbying firm of Smith, Costello, and Crawford.



Carlo Basile and Father Angelo Alvarez are pictured outside the Madonna of the Universe Shrine where an observatory is located and will be rededicated in memory of Mr. Basile's mother, Teresa Basile.

TIMES-FREE PRESS DIRECTORY

617-567-9600 • 781-485-0588

FAX: 781-485-1403

President

Stephen Quigley

stephen.quigley@reverejournal.com

Advertising and Marketing

Debra DiGregorio – deb@reverejournal.com

Assistant Marketing Director

Maureen DiBella – mdibella@winthroptranscript.com

Senior Sales Associates

Sioux Gerow – charlestownads@hotmail.com

Legal Advertising

legals@eastietimes.com

Editorial

Reporters, Regular Contributors

Cary Shuman — cary@lynnjournal.com

Copy Editing, Layout

Scott Yates – scott@chelsearecord.com

Kane DiMasso-Scott – kdscott@thebostonsun.com

Business

Accounts Executive

Judy Russi

judy.russi@eastietimes.com

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Grant // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

musical theater, private instrumental music instruction, and instrumental ensembles. Welcoming the community to its LEED-certified renovated Firehouse in East Boston, ZUMIX has created a space where creativity, belonging, and opportunity thrive.

“We’re grateful to the Cummings Foundation for their support,” said Madeleine Steczynski, co-founder and executive director of ZUMIX. “Our work serving young people and empowering them to build successful futures for themselves has never been more critical. As we celebrate 35 years of ZUMIX, we’re excited to build on the work we have done and continue giving young people the tools they need to navigate a complex and challenging world.”

This year, the Woburn-based Cummings Foundation increased its annual grant program from \$30 million to \$35 million and shifted to fully unrestricted funding, allowing recipients to direct grant dollars where they are needed most.

Foundation executive director and trustee Joyce Vyriotes

noted that the changes reflect growing concerns among Greater Boston nonprofits about rising costs, increased demand for services, and sustained uncertainty around public funding.

“Nonprofit professionals are closest to the challenges facing their communities, making them best positioned to determine where and how new funds will drive the greatest impact,” said Vyriotes. “By providing increased, flexible funding, we hope to strengthen organizations’ long-term stability and help them respond to evolving community needs.”

Since its founding, Cummings Foundation has awarded more than \$650 million to Greater Boston nonprofits. The complete list of this year’s grant recipients, along with additional information about the Foundation and its grant programs, is available at CummingsFoundation.org.

ZUMIX’s mission is to empower young people to build successful futures for themselves – transforming lives and community through music, technology, and creative em-

ployment. ZUMIX works with more than 900 young people ages 7-18 each year. Free and low-cost programs are offered out-of-school in instrumental music, songwriting, performance, radio, audio engineering, and audio and video storytelling. ZUMIX also partners with local schools to bring arts education opportunities to Boston’s youth. In addition to youth programs, ZUMIX offers free concerts and events for all ages. For more information, visit www.zumix.org.

Woburn-based Cummings Foundation, Inc. was established in 1986 by Joyce and Bill Cummings of Winchester, Mass., and has grown to become one of the largest private foundations in New England. In addition to its annual grant program, the Foundation directly operates two not-for-profit retirement communities: New Horizons at Marlborough and New Horizons at Choate, in Woburn. Additional information is available at CummingsFoundation.org.

EAST BOSTON BRANCH LIBRARY NEWS

Storytime, Wednesdays at 10:30 am

This weekly storytime features books, songs, movement and a craft. Groups, please call ahead. For ages 2-5.

Baby Lapsit, Mondays at 11:15 am & Tuesdays at 10:30
-Cancelled for June 29th and 30th

ESOL Conversation Group, Thursdays at 7 pm

Practice speaking English with other adult learners in an informal and friendly group setting. This is a drop-in program. No registration is required.

Tarot & Intuition: Tapping Into Your Inner Wisdom, Thursday, June 18th 6:30-8pm

Whether you’re brand new

to tarot or looking to strengthen your intuitive skills, this workshop offers a grounding space to slow down, listen inward, and leave feeling more connected to your own inner guidance. Please email mkelly@bpl.org to register or call 617.569-021. If you have your own deck, please bring it with you. We will also have some tarot decks to share.

Felting Workshop for Adults: Saturday, June 20th at 2 pm

Learn how to needle felt a cat using a barbed needle and wool. Perfect for beginners and experienced crafters alike, this workshop offers a creative and relaxing way to explore fiber art. Space is limited. To register, email mkelly@bpl.org or call 617-569-0271.



ZUMIX Teen Council members are shown with the Cummings sign.

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NeighborHealth hosts successful Let's Get Movin' 5K to promote health and fitness

Special to the Times-Free Press

NeighborHealth, in partnership with the New Balance Foundation, hosted its 14th annual 5K for Fitness event on Saturday, June 6th, 2026, at East Boston's Memorial Park. The event brought together more than 1,000 people, including more than 900 runners and walkers, to promote healthy living through physical activity and nutrition education.

"Creating healthier communities requires more than great healthcare alone—it requires opportunities for people to stay active, connect with one another, and access the resources they need to stay healthy," said Jamie Hazard, President and Chief Executive Officer

See MOVIN' Page 11



Dr. Allison Brown, Pediatrician and Medical Director of NeighborHealth's Let's Get Movin' program, hugs a NeighborHealth patient before the race.



More than 900 runners and walkers begin to cross the starting line at Let's Get Movin' 5K for Fitness bang at East Boston's Memorial Park on Saturday, June 6.

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State Representative Adrian Madaro joins up with the NeighborHealth team (from left to right) Jamie Hazard, CEO and President; Emily Martin, Communications Director; Susana Elman, Communications Manager; Takesha Hurd, Chief of Staff; Jeff Schuster, SVP of Operations; Dr. Julio Mazul, Chief Medical Officer; Eugenia Coronado, Vice President, Specialty Services and Patient Experience; and Kathy Field, Director of Health Promotion and Service Programs, NeighborHealth.



NeighborHealth Marketing Assistant Sara Quintero, Program Manager Cristina Weddle, Sports and Fitness Coordinator Alexander Eap, and Health Promotion and Service Programs Director Kathy Field.



East Boston resident Al Capozzi brought his Great Dane companion, Pepe, to Memorial Park for the 5K for Fitness event.

ZUMIX KICK-STARTS RIVERFRONT CONCERT SERIES WITH HATCH SHELL TAKEOVER



ZUMIX alumnus Mario Jarjour (left) and Director of Programs Corey DePina (right) presented Dan Fox (center) with an award honoring his 17 years of building ZUMIX's live sound program, known as Z-Tech.



Boston hip-hop artist Nick Shea, a ZUMIX alum, performs a set at the Hatch Shell.



ZUMIX's vocal ensemble, Voces, performs at the Hatch Shell with guest vocalist Koblavi Dogah (far right) and ensemble director Brandon Allen (second from right).

Agnieszka Rytych-Foster Photos

East Boston youth music organization ZUMIX recently took over the iconic Hatch Memorial Shell on the Charles River Esplanade to launch the season's Groundbeat music series. The free, community-focused outdoor concert ran from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Sunday, May 31, drawing local families and music lovers to the riverfront.

The special evening showcased a diverse lineup of local talent directly from ZUMIX's ranks. Performances featured young musicians from the organization's Sprouts program, various group music classes, teen ensembles, and select lo-



Local hip-hop group The Floor Lords performed at the Hatch Shell.



ZUMIX's Rhythms of Ghana drumming ensemble, led by Ben Paulding (far left) and student Sam Martin (center), performs at the Hatch Shell.

cal alumni artists.

As part of the ongoing Groundbeat series, the event aimed to bridge distinct neighborhoods and foster cultural connections across the Greater

Boston area through live performance. Attendees enjoyed an afternoon of music, culture, and community engagement in one of Boston's most celebrated public spaces.



Local Peruvian dance group Pumawari Tusuy performs.



Attendees participated in a salsa lesson led by ZUMIX board chair Johnny Giraldo, co-director of Salsa y Control Dance Company.



ZUMIX instructor Leo Colon and his daughter, student Coral Colon, jam out with the Zukix during ZUMIX's takeover of the Hatch Memorial Shell.

Boston celebrates Guinness World Records title for world's largest soccer ball on East Boston Waterfront

Special to the Times-Free Press

The Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport) joined Mayor Michelle Wu, elected officials, and Guinness World Records North America, Inc., at Piers Park II to celebrate a record-breaking achievement on Boston's waterfront and the start of FIFA World Cup festivities across the region. A towering 47.9-foot soccer ball displayed at Piers Park II in East Boston has officially earned the Guinness World Records title for the World's Largest Soccer Ball, giving Boston a larger-than-life symbol of the global tournament as the city prepares to welcome visitors from around the world. During the event, Guinness World Records officials formally presented Massport with the official Guinness World Records certificate recognizing the achievement.

"Massachusetts is proud to welcome the world as we celebrate the FIFA World Cup and all the excitement it brings to our communities," said Governor Maura Healey. "This record-breaking achievement on East Boston's waterfront is a fun and creative way to showcase our state's energy, hospitality, and love of sports. Congratulations to Massport and all the partners who made this possible. We encourage resi-



Massport CEO Richard Davey (right) welcomes Andrew Glass, Official Adjudicator for Guinness World Records, who certified that Boston had set the new mark for the World's Largest Soccer Ball.

dents and visitors alike to come check it out!"

The record-breaking installation was made possible through partnerships with HNTB and other sponsors, whose support helped bring the project from concept to reality. The soccer ball serves as a larger-than-life celebration of the FIFA World Cup, helping build excitement and community pride as Boston prepares to welcome visitors from around the world. The soccer ball will remain on display at Piers Park II until June 18, providing residents and visitors with a unique waterfront attraction that can be seen from multiple locations around Bos-



Massport CEO Richard Davey and Boston Mayor Michelle Wu display the stately framed certificate that was presented by Guinness World Records Official Adjudicator Andrew Glass in recognition of Boston being home to the World's Largest Soccer Ball.

ton Harbor.

"Boston's competitive spirit and drive have long made us a city of champions, and we bring that same energy to sports, tourism, and innovation," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "As a proud host of the FIFA World Cup, and now home to a new world record, we will continue to raise the bar and show the world our passion for the moments that bring us together. We thank Massport and our partner agencies for leading this effort

and helping amplify what Boston is all about."

Measuring 47.9 feet in diameter, the soccer ball officially surpassed the previous Guinness World Records mark of 38 feet, 11.8 inches, set in Doha, Qatar, in 2013. The record-setting ball was designed and produced in partnership with Britten, Inc. and Creative Inflatables and was measured at Creative Inflatables' facility in Ohio by professional surveyors before Guinness World Records officially confirmed the new title. The ball then made the journey to Boston to be inflated.

"East Boston has always been a community that embraces people from around the world, making it the perfect place to

celebrate the global spirit of the FIFA World Cup," said Senator Lydia Edwards. "This installation not only puts our neighborhood in the spotlight but also creates a fun and accessible experience that brings people together, and highlights everything that makes our waterfront and community so special."

"East Boston is proud to be home to this record-breaking attraction, welcoming residents and visitors alike to our waterfront to experience this exciting part of our World Cup festivities" said State Representative Adrian Madaro. "The World Cup is about bringing people together, and this installation

See SOCCER BALL Page 7



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CARY SHUMAN PHOTOS

Sen. Lydia Edwards, Andrew Glass of Guinness World Records, Rep. Adrian Madaro, and East Boston Liaison Stephan Marin of the Office of Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata.

Soccer Ball // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

creates a unique opportunity for families, neighbors, and soccer fans of all ages to gather, celebrate, and share in the excitement right here in our community.”

As part of the initiative, Massport is partnering with Soccer Without Borders-Massachusetts to donate 100 soccer balls featuring the same design as the record-breaking installation to youth and community organizations across the region, helping extend the excitement of the World Cup beyond the waterfront and into neighborhoods throughout Greater Boston.

“Boston is officially home to the world’s largest soccer ball, and we couldn’t be more excited to celebrate this record-breaking achievement as FIFA World Cup action gets underway this weekend,” said Rich Davey, Massport CEO. “As Boston prepares to welcome visitors from around the world, this installation is a fun and memorable way to bring people together, showcase East Boston’s incredible waterfront, and build excitement for one of the biggest sporting events on the planet. We’re proud to create an experience that residents and visitors can enjoy while celebrating the global spirit of the World Cup right here in Boston.”

Following the conclusion of the display, Massport will work with its partners to repurpose and reuse materials from the soccer ball installation whenever possible, supporting the Au-

thority’s ongoing commitment to sustainability.

“When the world comes to Massachusetts, we like to make an impression,” said Kate Fox, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism. “This is a fun way to celebrate the excitement of the FIFA World Cup, and we hope this inspires residents and visitors alike to get out and discover more of the unique places, local traditions, and unexpected experiences that make summer in Massachusetts unforgettable.”

“As Boston prepares to welcome hundreds of thousands of visitors for the FIFA World Cup, this record-breaking attraction is another exciting way to showcase the city’s creativity, energy, and sense of community,” said Martha Sheridan, President and CEO of Meet Boston. “The world’s largest soccer ball will undoubtedly become a must-see photo opportunity and gathering place, helping build excitement for the tournament while giving visitors another reason to explore and enjoy Boston.”

In addition to the weeklong display, Massport will host a community celebration at Piers Park II on Saturday, June 13, from noon to 4 p.m., featuring family activities, games, and live entertainment. World Cup matches will not be televised.

The soccer ball showcase and community event are presented by Massport in partnership with community, business, and civic partners from across the region.



PHOTOS BY CARY SHUMAN AND DEREK KOUYOUJIAN

Massport partnered with Soccer Without Borders-Massachusetts to donate 100 commemorative soccer balls to youth organizations across the region. Soccer players join dignitaries for a photo in front of the World’s Largest Soccer Ball which was on display at Piers Park in East Boston.



Anthony is content with his ball which is better sized for him than the giant one.



Damien Espinoza positions himself for a kick shot.



Visitors wait to take a photo with the giant soccer ball.



Tim Janicki with his kids Billie and Avery.



Dylan gets help from his brother Adam at the Kick And Score

EAST BOSTON HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES THE CLASS OF 2026

 The 146th commencement took place at Sartori Stadium on Friday morning, June 12. The graduates, boys in blue and girls in yellow lined up adjacent to the stadium and filed in to take their seats on the aluminum bleachers facing a staging area set up for the happy occasion. Welcoming all and serving as Master of Ceremonies was EB High graduate Dave Arinella. This year, a newly formed East Boston High School band performed

the National Anthem which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and the transfer of the School Colors. Guests on the platform included Dr. Tommy Welch, Region 1 Superintendent, State Rep. Adrian Madaro, State Senator Lydia Edwards, District 1 City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata, and retired headmaster Michael Rubin. Addressing their fellow graduates was Salutatorian Man Minh Le (GPA 4.57) and Valedictorian Arielle Alexis

Tritto (GPA 4.66). She plans to attend BU on a full scholarship. Among the 243 graduates receiving diplomas was Alexandria Ava Brangiforte, youngest of the five children of Headmaster Philip Brangiforte. After receiving their diplomas, the graduates were greeted by a line of faculty and staff offering hugs and handshakes. The Class of 2026 then headed for midfield for a final group photo before tossing their caps into the air.



Headmaster Philip Brangiforte, and his wife, with their youngest daughter, Alexandria.



Headmaster Philip Brangiforte with Salutatorian Man Minh Le (left) and Valedictorian Arielle Alexis Tritto.



Dave Arinella serving as Master of Ceremonies.

PATRICK O'CONNOR PHOTOS



The Class of 2026 arrives at Sartori Stadium for graduation.




EAST BOSTON HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES THE CLASS OF 2026



PATRICK O'CONNOR PHOTOS



*Congratulations
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Adrian Madaro**

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EAST BOSTON HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES THE CLASS OF 2026



The Graduates

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 Man Minh Le **
 Noordin Ahmed Abdi
 Samuel Alejandro Acosta Usuga
 Johan Agudelo Aviles
 Michelle Agudelo Munera
 Josef David Alas
 Anderson Enrique Alcantara Alvarenga
 Salisha Alcantara Ramos
 Talitha Faythe Allen
 Juan Antonio Alvarado Reyes
 Kevin Javier Alvarez Campos
 Hector Armando Alvarez Gil
 David Alvarez Mazo
 Tavila Kauany Alves Leal
 Andres Alzate Lopera
 Laura Vanessa Alzate Quintero
 Marlana Alzate Quintero
 Santiago Andres Amaya Arango
 Evelyn Mia Andino Colon
 Lester Yahir Andino Sanchez
 Dennis Michael Antrim
 Julian Andres Arango
 Jose Hernan Argueta
 Onan Ezequiel Argueta Castro
 Edisson Adiel Argueta Chicas #
 Jayden Antonio Argueta Soto
 Diorangel Arias Gonzales
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 Alexander Alfredo Gutierrez Flores
 Ayoub Hamdl
 Salma Duale Hassan
 Briana Elizabeth Henderson
 Diarra Skylah Henderson-Cater
 Lesnis Fabloia Hernandez
 Yudany Antonela Hernandez
 Dayanara Azucena Hernandez Cabrera + ***
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 Samuel Hernandez Vasquez
 Gerardo Edgardo Iracheta Henriquez
 Jeremiah Vitaly Jacques
 Maria Camila Jaramillo Bedoya
 Valeria Jaramillo Martinez
 Anay Jaramillo Villa +
 Evelyn Jimenez Arango
 Kemaril Johnson
 Geovana Vitoria Jordao De Oliveira
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 Sofia Ortiz Porteia
 Andres Dmarco Oterd
 Angelina Jacadi Otero
 Juliana Madelyn Palencia
 Cameron Matthew Palmer Britton
 Joelkumar Daxitkumar Patel +
 Alejandra Gabriela Pena De Paz
 Angel Alfredo Pena Robiero
 Michael Edgardo Penate Ortiz
 Dulce Maria Perez Palacios
 Frayniel Samuel Perez Pimentel
 Sofia Perez Rojas

Juan Luis Perez Romero ***
 Stefania Pineda
 Miguel Antonio Pineda Aguliar
 Maria Modalona Pineda Tejada
 Isabella Pino Quintero ***
 Karon Estofany Pinto Mendoza
 Quincy Brendon Porix
 Ana Alison Portillo
 Emmanuel Alejandro Preciado Jimenez + ^
 Katheryn Dayana Ramirez Crispin ***
 Saul Otoniel Ramos Madrid
 Jesus Oscar Ramos Rodriguez
 Mario Rolando Raudales Torres
 Valentina Stephanie Reyes Cruz
 Jerarck Hodmin Reyes Hernandez
 Alexis Francisco Rivera
 Damaris Rodriguez
 Jancelley Abigail Rodriguez ***
 Joshua Ruda
 Junior Guadalupe Ruiz Delgado
 Gabriel Eusebio Salmeron Villatoro
 Giselle Elizabeth Sanchez ***
 Jeffrey Santos Almazan
 Kevin William Santos Vilorio
 Dante Giacomo Angelo Screnci
 Alejandro Serna Cells
 Luis Joel Serrano Garcia
 Karils Roberta Silva De Lima
 Zechariah Ewing Smart
 Paola Nicole Soriano Castro
 Hazel Nicolle Sorto Coronado
 Hello De Andrade Spinola
 Sara Valentina Tabares Vanegas
 Kelly Adamaris Tobar Hernandez
 Angel Danilo Toj Ildfonso
 Douglas Alejandro Torres
 Jefferson Steven Trigueros
 Alberth Nehemias Umana
 Chris Edgardo Valdez
 Alexander Valdez Peguero
 Shannon Haruml Valdiviezo
 Jonathan Josue Vargas Bonilla
 Brandon Steven Vasquez
 Marceia Esmeralda Vasquez Castro
 Sofia Vergara Cardenas
 Valeria Vergara Gil + ^
 Santiago Vergara Mora +***
 Walid Wahbl
 Delyiah Dorothy Joan Wilkes
 Simon Zapata Bedoya
 Genesis Zapata Chavarria +
 Emerson Edenilson Zetino
 Joso David Zuluaga Saldarriaga
 Koron Danifer Zuniga Palma

* Valedictorian

** Salutatorlan

^ National Honor Society

+ Early College Program

*** Seal of Biliteracy

Seal of Biliteracy with Distinction

ZUMIX to host 2026 Walk for Music

Special to the Times-Free Press

On Sunday, July 12, ZUMIX will host its annual Walk for Music, a celebration of music, community, and 35 years of serving young people. Held each July, the Walk gathers ZUMIX students, staff, families and other friends to walk through East Boston's parks and neighborhoods to support ZUMIX's award-winning music and youth empowerment programs.

This year's event will begin at 3 pm at the ZUMIX Firehouse, located at 260 Sumner Street in East Boston. The walk itself will begin at 4 pm and end in Piers Park, where the festivities will continue with a free summer concert starting at 6 pm. The Walk is held in conjunction with the kickoff of the annual Eastie Weeks celebration hosted by Boston Harbor Now.

"Walk for Music is always a wonderful day for the ZUMIX community," said Madeleine Steczynski, co-founder and executive director of ZUMIX. "We're especially excited to gather this year, as we mark 35 years of ZUMIX. Our young people continue to inspire us—they are bold, creative, curious, and capable of building their own futures. The Walk is a great opportunity to honor our work, and raise support for our vital programs in music and the creative arts."

Walk for Music is one of ZUMIX's largest annual fundraisers, allowing the organization to keep its creative programs free and low-cost and serve more than 900 youth each

year. Rooted in the East Boston community for 35 years, ZUMIX offers programs for young people ages 7-18 in songwriting and performance, creative media and technology, musical theater, private lesson instruction, and instrumental ensembles. Welcoming the community to its LEED-certified renovated Firehouse in East Boston, ZUMIX has created a space where creativity, belonging, and opportunity thrive.

On Sunday, July 12 at 3 pm, walkers will gather at the ZUMIX Firehouse at 260 Sumner Street for a pre-walk concert, with snacks and face painting, and begin the walk from there. ZUMIX is excited to welcome several Boston-area politicians to the 2026 Walk, including State Representative Adrian Madaro, a ZUMIX alumnus.

In case of inclement weather, the concert and celebration after the walk will take place at the ZUMIX Firehouse. Walkers can sign up to fundraise in advance on the event page at <https://secure.givelively.org/donate/zumix-inc/walk-for-music-2026>.

To donate, please visit <https://secure.givelively.org/donate/zumix-inc/walk-for-music-2026>, or send a check made out to ZUMIX to 260 Sumner Street, East Boston, MA, 02128. Donations will also be accepted on the day of the walk. To sign up to walk and/or fundraise, visit the GiveLively page above or sign up in person at ZUMIX.

ZUMIX's mission is to empower young people to build successful futures for themselves – transforming lives and community through music, technology, and creative employment. ZUMIX works with more than 900 young people ages 7-18 each year. Free and low-cost programs are offered out-of-school in instrumental music, songwriting, performance, radio, audio engineering, and audio and video storytelling. ZUMIX also partners with local schools to bring arts education opportunities to Boston's youth. In addition to youth programs, ZUMIX offers free concerts and events for all ages. For more information, visit www.zumix.org.

Movin' // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

of NeighborHealth. "The Let's Get Movin' 5K embodies this vision, bringing people together in a fun, inclusive way, and reinforcing that wellness is something we can build together as a community."

The race-day schedule included a spirited warmup led by the Let's Get Movin' team, followed by the 5K through the Bremen Street Community Park accompanied by energizing DJ music. The first 250 registrants received free T-shirts, and all finishers were awarded medals. The top finishers in each age category were recognized with trophies, and a free raffle, sponsored by Rumba 97.7, concluded the event. More than a dozen community organizations joined the festivities to share resources, State Representative Adrian Madaro cheered on runners, and many community members expressed appreciation for the NeighborHealth program.

"Making physical activity part of your daily routine is one of the most important investments you can make in your health," said Dr. Allison Brown, Pediatrician and Medical Director of NeighborHealth's Let's Get Movin' program. "Regular movement not only improves physical fitness and reduces the risk of chronic disease, but it also supports mental well-being by reducing stress, improving mood, and boosting overall quality of life. I am so proud of all our Let's Get Movin' families and 5K participants for making time for wellness in their lives."

Let's Get Movin' is a family-centered program designed to support children and teens in building healthier habits through regular physical activity and improved nutrition. Created in response to the growing challenge of childhood obesity and its impact on local communities, the program integrates medical mon-

itoring, movement, and nutrition education. Participants have access to no-cost training sessions, after-school and summer programming, field trips, community events, garden resources, cooking classes, and educational opportunities that empower both youth and caregivers to make lasting lifestyle changes.

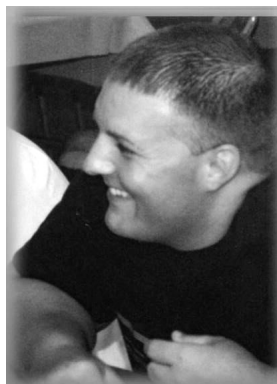
NeighborHealth would like to thank its generous sponsors, in addition to the New Balance Foundation, for supporting this event: The Boston Athletic Association, BELKO Landscaping, Cataldo Ambulance, Planet Fitness, RTT No Speed Limit, Spinelli's Catering and the YMCA; as well as our in-kind sponsors: Rumba 97.7, Wegmans, Whole Foods, Shaw's, and the Boston Water and Sewer Commission.

NeighborHealth, formerly East Boston Neighborhood Health Center, is one of the nation's largest Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and the largest community-based primary care health system in Massachusetts, serving over 120,000 people and recognized by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) as a National Quality Leader. For more than 55 years, NeighborHealth has offered access to comprehensive primary care, specialty care and emergency care for patients in the Commonwealth. In a first-of-its-kind merger in 2020, the health center joined forces with the South End Community Health Center and expanded services to patients who live and work in Boston's South End and Roxbury neighborhoods. NeighborHealth champions innovative care models to actively bridge health equity gaps in our low-income and immigrant communities with services unique from other healthcare providers in our state. For more information, visit www.neighborhealth.com.

Birthday Remembrance

Rich Ford

June 19, 1980 - June 19, 2026



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EAST BOSTON CENTRAL CATHOLIC HOLDS EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATION



Aura A., Aura Z, Brandon, and Santiago proceeding to Most Holy Redeemer Parish.



Father Paolo Cumin, Pastor, Sacred Heart Parish, reading the Holy Gospel according to Mark, with altar servers, Joseph and Matias.



Aura A. and David reading the prayers of the faithful.



GianLuca presenting an offering to Father Thomas Domurat.



Alana kneeling after receiving Communion.



Alyson reading the Communion meditation.

Photos by Marianne Salza

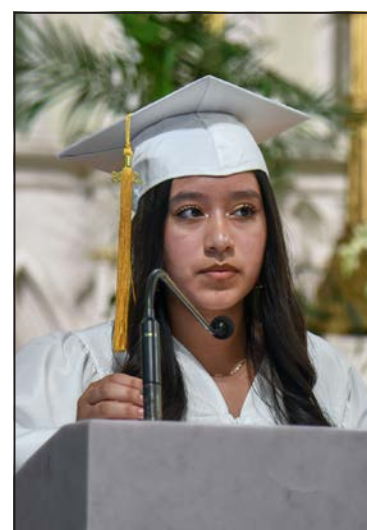
East Boston Central Catholic School (EBCCS) held its Eighth Grade Graduation Mass and Exercise on June 6, at Most Holy Redeemer Parish, with main celebrant, Father Tom Domurat, who has known some students from as early as birth and since they entered EBCCS as angels. The pastor compared the joyfulness of graduations to Chinese food: sweet in the accomplishment, and sour in that

students are leaving and moving on to new schools. Father Tom reminded graduates to keep the faith, and trust in the Lord along their new journeys.

“We have prepared you the best we possibly could with an education formed through faith, sustained by family, and enriched by wisdom,” concluded Principal Robert Casaletto. “I pray that because of that education you are inspired to achieve and empowered to serve.”



East Boston Central Catholic School Class of 2026 standing on the steps of the school on graduation day, June 6, 2026.



Rosamaria presenting the first reading, 2 Timothy 4: 1-8.



Father Tom Domurat, Pastor, Most Holy Redeemer Parish, addressing the graduates.

EAST BOSTON CENTRAL CATHOLIC HOLDS EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATION



Bradley kneeling after receiving Communion.



Valedictorian, Violet



Principal Robert Casaletto and Mr. John Teixeira, 8th grade teacher, presenting the candidates.



Maria accepting her diploma from Father Tom Domurat.



Camila carrying the offering of wine to Father Thomas Domurat.



Aura A. receiving her diploma from Father Tom Domurat.



Santiago receiving his diploma from Father Paolo Cumin.



Anderson accepting his diploma from Father Paolo Cumin.

Council invests and restores youth and senior programming, essential infrastructure, and community needs with fiscally responsible FY27 budget

Special to the Times-Free Press

Boston City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata joined a majority of her colleagues in voting for an omnibus amendment package on the FY27 operating budget. Following the Council's vote on the amended operating budget, it is now on Mayor Michelle Wu's desk for acceptance, rejection, or amendments. Previously, the Council also voted on the capital budget and the Boston Public Schools budget. The Council may only reject or pass the Boston Public Schools and capital budget without amendment power.

"The Council has spent countless hours across more than 40 hearings reviewing thousands of budget line items and identifying opportunities to restore critical investments

during a challenging fiscal year. Throughout this process, we have focused on exercising fiscal discipline while ensuring we advance an amendment package that invests and restores youth and senior programming, essential infrastructure, and addresses the needs of communities across Boston," said Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata. "This budget supports several of my priorities, including investments in age strong programs, youth jobs, ESOL classes, housing vouchers, access to counsel, food justice grants, tenant stabilization funds, down payment assistance, and more. This vote demonstrates the Council's responsible use of its budgetary authority to amend, restore, and improve the budget while ensuring the continued delivery of essential City services. Thank

you to Ways and Means Chair Ben Weber for his leadership throughout the budget process and to Central Staff for their assistance."

Partial List Of Operating Budget Investments:
 \$2,000,000 for Housing Vouchers
 \$1,350,000 for Age Strong community grants and programs
 \$925,000 for Office of Immigrant Advancement Grants
 \$750,000 for Youth Jobs grants
 \$825,000 for Arts & Culture grants
 \$600,000 for Legacy Business grants
 \$555,000 for Office of Black Male Advancement
 \$500,000 for Returning Citizens grants
 \$450,000 for Access to Counsel
 \$300,000 for Down Payment

Assistance
 \$300,000 for Grow Boston
 \$275,000 for ESOL
 \$250,000 for caregivers impacted by incarceration pilot program at the BPHC
 \$200,000 for Office of LGBTQ2SIA+ Advancement
 \$150,000 for Food Justice grants
 \$125,000 for the BHA Credible Messenger Program
 \$100,000 for Office of Women's Advancement
 \$60,000 for the Tenant Stabilization Fund
 \$25,000 for Graffiti Busters
 Partial List Of Capital Budget Investments:
 Streets Reconstruction and Resurfacing FY25-27 - Locations across East Boston, Charlestown, the North End, and Wharf District this summer.
 Sidewalk and Ramp Recon-

struction FY 25-27 - Program for sidewalk reconstruction and repair including responses to 311 requests as well as planned reconstruction of brick and concrete sidewalks for the 2025, 2026, 2027 construction seasons.

311 Modernization - Upgrading front and back ends of BOS:311 system to modernize architecture for improved usability and access improvements.

Street Lighting Assessment - System-wide structural assessment on all City street lighting infrastructure.

Coastal Resilience Reserve - Funding reserve that will be used to provide matching funds as needed for state, federal, or other grant programs, and to

See BUDGET Page 15

EAST BOSTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND YMCA HOST COFFEE CONNECT EVENT

On Friday, June 12, the East Boston Chamber of Commerce was pleased to partner with the YMCA for a complimentary Coffee Connect networking event at the YMCA facility located at 215 Bremen Street in East Boston.

The event highlighted the YMCA's longstanding commitment to the community. Having recently celebrated 26 years of service in East Boston, the YMCA organization is also commemorating its 175th anniversary this year.

The well-attended gathering brought together local leaders, business owners, and community members including Kristin McSwain from Mayor Michelle

Wu's office, State Representative Adrian Madaro and members of his staff and Community Representative Carlos Garcia.

The Coffee Connect event provided a valuable opportunity for networking, relationship-building and community engagement. Attendees also had the chance to learn more about the YMCA's facilities, programs and services which reflect the organization's dedication to exceptional customer service and its ongoing investment in the East Boston community.

La Cámara de Comercio de East Boston y la YMCA Organizaron un Evento de Coffee

Connect

El viernes 12 de junio de 2026, la Cámara de Comercio de East Boston tuvo el agrado de colaborar con la YMCA en un evento gratuito de networking Coffee Connect, celebrado en las instalaciones de la YMCA ubicadas en el 215 de la calle Bremen, en East Boston.

El evento destacó el compromiso de larga trayectoria de la YMCA con la comunidad. Tras haber celebrado recientemente 26 años de servicio en East Boston, la organización YMCA también está conmemorando este año su 175.º aniversario.

La concurrida reunión reunió a líderes locales, propietarios de negocios y miembros de la

comunidad, entre ellos Kristin McSwain, de la oficina de la alcaldesa Michelle Wu; el representante estatal Adrian Madaro y miembros de su equipo; así como el representante comunitario Carlos García.

El evento Coffee Connect brindó una valiosa oportunidad para establecer contactos, fortalecer relaciones y fomentar la participación comunitaria. Los asistentes también tuvieron la oportunidad de conocer más sobre las instalaciones, los programas y los servicios de la YMCA, los cuales reflejan el compromiso de la organización con un servicio al cliente de excelencia y su continua inversión en la comunidad de East Boston.



State Rep. Adrian Madaro.

Asian American Ballet Project and Project Asian Joy debut first-of-its-kind waterfront ballet experience in Boston

Special to the Times-Free Press

Asian American Ballet Project (AABP), the nation's first ballet company dedicated exclusively to Asian American dancers and narratives, in partnership with Project Asian Joy and its founder, artist Anita Yip, will present Asian American Ballet on the Bay, a free outdoor performance and participatory arts experience on June 20, at 4pm (rain date: June 21) at Fan Pier Park on Boston's waterfront.

Conceived by Anita Yip, a public artist whose work connects people to place, culture, and history, and a member of the Boston Harbor Women of Color Coalition, the event uses art to foster community connection and expand access to

Boston's waterfront for communities historically underrepresented there. Together, AABP and Project Asian Joy bring this to life through world-class ballet, cultural storytelling, and joyful intergenerational participation.

The program begins with a curated performance by AABP dancers, featuring original works inspired by Asian folklore. Audiences are then invited into the performance space to learn simple, expressive movements and join dancers in a collective movement experience. The event concludes with dynamic photo opportunities, allowing attendees to connect directly with artists and create lasting memories.

For many attendees, this will

be a first encounter with live ballet—and a first experience of feeling culturally centered in a waterfront environment.

By pairing an art form historically perceived as elite with a public space that has not always felt inclusive, Asian American Ballet on the Bay creates a powerful cultural intervention. More than a performance, the event reimagines who belongs in both ballet and on the Harbor.

Through shared, participatory experiences, the event fosters lasting emotional connections to the waterfront, transforming it into a place associated with joy, pride, and community presence. It invites audiences not only to experience the Harbor—but to feel a sense of ownership within it.



Shown are scenes from the Coffee Connect networking event.



COURTESY PHOTOS



Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
Behuniak, David J	Kevin & S M Jacques T	180 Leyden St	\$962,000
Rizzo, Veronica Grace	246 Bremen LLC	246 Bremen St #2	\$740,000
Lu, Jie	Au Rt	274 Havre St	\$580,000
Raghunadh, Wishnoo	Serrato, Veronica	287 Maverick St #401	\$730,000
344 Bremen LLC	Logan Automotive Inc	344 Bremen St	\$1,054,250
49 Condor St LLC	Toft Henry J W Est	49 Condor St	\$425,000
Tang, Ai Lin	Numic, Zelijka	52 Leyden St #B-2	\$575,000



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Budget // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

support budget increases of coastal resilience projects that may be necessary.

Christopher Columbus Park - Playground renovation including play structure, safety surfacing, fencing, lighting, site furnishings, pathway repairs, drainage, signage, and green infrastructure to mitigate future sea level rise.

Porzio Park Play Area - Improvements to the play area and splash pad.

BCYF North End Communi-

ty Center - Design and construct a new North End Community Center.

Webster Ave Playground - Improvements to the playground include upgrades to accessibility, preserving and protecting trees, infiltrating storm water where feasible.

Barry Playground - Upgrade field and sports lighting, install new drinking fountains, accessibility improvements, renovate seawall, and elevate the Harborwalk.

Doherty Park Accessibility Improvements - Design a welcoming, accessible pedestrian plaza on Bunker Hill Street.

The operating budget is an approved annual spending plan allotted to both City departments and central budgets. The budget supports the cost of the day-to-day operations of City government, such as public education, streets and sidewalks, parks, and public safety. The operating budget is funded primarily based on an estimate of annu-

al recurring revenues. The City's revenue comes from: property tax, state aid, local revenue (including department revenue and excise taxes), and non-recurring revenue.

The Boston City Council commenced its budget hearings earlier this year led by Councilor Ben Weber (D6), chair of the Committee on Ways and Means. This cycle is the fifth time the Boston City Council can re-

ject, reduce, pass, or amend line items (i.e., accounts such as personnel, contracted services, equipment, etc.) in the City's Operating Budget. To prepare for the budget cycle, Coletta Zapata hosted a series of budget town halls across the district to gather feedback from residents about their budget priorities. For a more comprehensive list of each budget, visit <https://www.boston.gov/departments/budget>.

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Suffolk Probate and Family Court
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(617)788-8300
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Docket No. SU26P1148EA
Estate of: Emilia Jorgensen
Date of Death: 10/04/2025
To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Erik Jorgensen of Boston MA

requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that: Erik Jorgensen of Boston MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court.
You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on

the return day of 07/17/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court.

Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Janine D Rivers, First Justice of this Court.
Date: June 12, 2026
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.
Register of Probate

6/17/26
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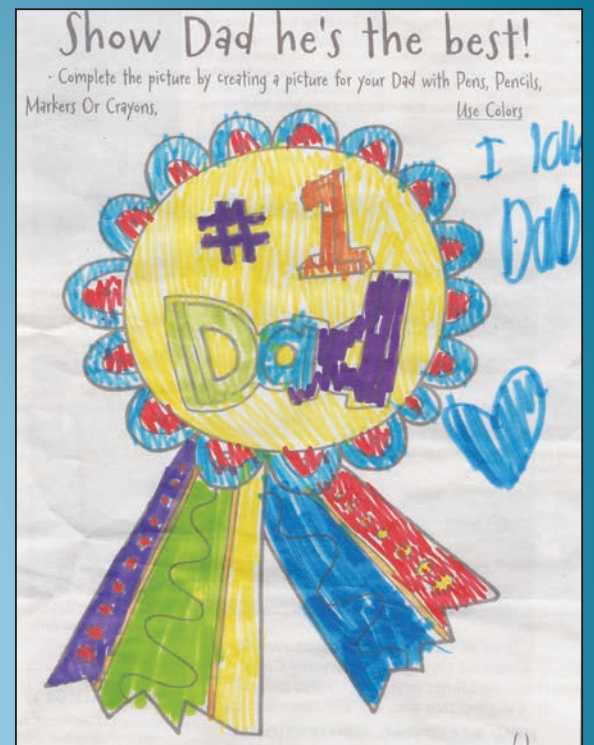
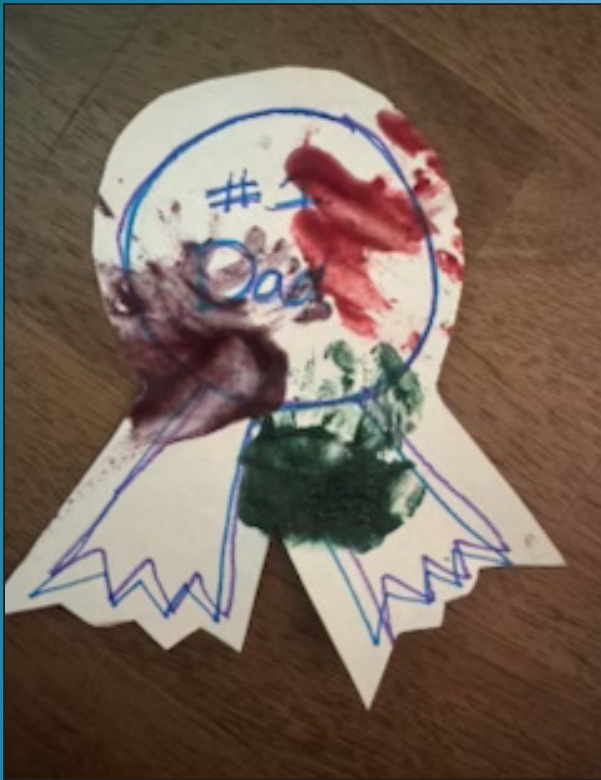
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