

East Boston

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The entire Zumix team of staff and instructors pose on the red carpet during Zumix's 30th Anniversary Gala held recently at the City Winery in Boston.

Zumix celebrates 30 years with gala at City Winery

By John Lynds

Anything that lasts 30 years is special. Whether it be a friendship, a marriage, a career when something hits that three decades mark one can assume it was meant to last. Zumix is no different and is indeed special to thousands in East Boston. The neighborhood's beloved music and performing arts program, which started as a humble organization inside a living room on Meridian Street and grew into a nationally recognized program, recently celebrated its 30th anniversary milestone in style during a gala at the

City Winery downtown.

"The team of people who have been involved for 30 years alongside me, helping to make Zumix a safe place for young people, a place where young people can express themselves freely, where they can come and be their full selves—I get goosebumps every time I think about it, and I've been thinking about it a lot over the past 30 years," said Director and Co-Founder Madeleine Steczynski at the gala.

Like a lot of good ideas, Zumix started in someone's living room. Co-Founders Bob Grove

and Steczynski founded Zumix in 1991 as a response to Boston's worst wave of youth violence. Zumix began as a summer songwriting program with 24 youth, \$200, and the simple idea that giving youth something to be passionate about could transform lives and elevate communities.

After gaining a following and moving its operation to the corner of Maverick and Frankfort Streets, Zumix won a city bid to transform the aging former firehouse on Sumner Street into its new headquarters back in the mid-2000s.

Today, Zumix serves over 1,000 youth per year through after-school and summer programming and 500 through in-school partnerships. Over 10,000 additional adults, children, and families attend its community events and festivals.

In the past 30 years Zumix has received national recognition and received a National Endowment for the Arts from the Obama Administration, performed alongside Pink Floyd's Roger Waters and Sting has been the beneficiary of grant money from Pearl Jam's Vitalogy

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After Lydia Edwards wins the Special Election for Senate; a field of candidates begin to emerge for District Councilor

By John Lynds

District 1 City Councilor Lydia Edwards' impressive victory over Revere's Anthony D'Ambrosio last week for the First Suffolk & Middlesex State Senate seat will spark a Special Election for her district council seat after the formality of a January 11 General Election.

With no Republican on the January 11 ballot

Edwards will be heading from City Hall to Beacon Hill and her council seat, which includes East Boston, the North End and Charlestown, will be up for grabs.

Already, the city's director of the Mayor's Office of Women's Advancement Tania Del Rio has announced her intentions to run for the seat.

Del Rio, of East Boston, said she was 'all in'

and has already launched an online fundraising effort for her campaign.

Before being appointed to the Office of Women's Advancement by former Mayor Martin Walsh, Del Rio served as the City of Boston's Diversity Outreach Officer, where her work is focused on helping the City of Boston shape a workforce that is reflective of its population, and promoting diver-

sity and inclusion among Boston's employers. Before joining the City of Boston she served as the head of the Citizen Protection and Community Affairs Departments at the Consulate of Mexico in Boston, and the head of Political Affairs and Press at the Embassy of Mexico in Colombia.

Del Rio earned a bach-

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Eastie organizations receive grants through Mayor's Office for MOIA

By John Lynds

To support the needs of our immigrant residents, Mayor Michelle Wu and the Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement (MOIA) announced the awarding of \$8,000 in mini-grants each to three East Boston organizations that serve the neighborhood's immigrant population.

The mini-grants to the Veronica Robles Cultural Center (VRCC), the East Boston Ecumenical Community Council (EBECC) and Neighbors United for a Better East Boston (NUBE) are funded through corporate sponsorships for We Are Boston, an annual reception that honors the contributions immigrants make to our City.

The three Eastie organizations will use the \$8,000 grant for operational support and capacity-building to serve immigrants im-

pacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The funds will be used for a wide range of services including basic needs assistance, mental health support, child and youth development, legal services, and digital equity.

"One third of Boston residents are immigrants," said Mayor Wu. "The health and wellbeing of our immigrant communities is central to our City's recovery and community. By making these investments now, we lay the foundation for generational change."

The VRCC will use the funds to uplift the cultural identities of Latinx immigrant communities in East Boston.

EBECC will use its mini-grant for technology equipment, access, and training for immigrant youth and families for the Digital Inclusion Program.

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McKay School receives MSBA Accelerated Repair Project grant

By John Lynds

State Treasurer Deborah B. Goldberg, Chair of the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA"), and MSBA Executive Director/Deputy CEO John K. McCarthy announced the MSBA Board of Directors approved a \$1.9 million grant for an Accelerated Repair Project at the Donald McKay School in East Boston.

The \$1.9 million grant from the MSBA will help

offset the \$3.4 million total project cost for repairs at the school.

"The Accelerated Repair Program allows us to make critical repairs to more schools in less time," said Treasurer Deborah B. Goldberg. "By improving the learning environment for our children, the Program also makes schools more energy efficient and generates significant cost savings."

The main goals of the

See McKAY Page 2


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AT THE TREE LIGHTING

PHOTO BY JON SEAMANS

Casandra Crespo of East Boston and her friend William Dean of Dorchester wait for the show to begin at the 80th Annual Boston Common Tree Lighting on December 2. Returning to a live show after last year's virtual ceremony, Mayor Michelle Wu, the Boston Parks and Recreation Department, and title sponsor Province of Nova Scotia hosted an evening filled with entertainment headlined by Grammy Award winner Darlene Love. This is the 50th year that Nova Scotia has given a Christmas tree to the people of Boston as thanks for relief efforts following the December 6, 1917, explosion of a munitions ship in Halifax Harbor.

Grants// CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Finally, NUBE will use the funds for wellness and health spaces facilitated by community leaders for low-income immigrants.

“We work very closely with immigrant-serving nonprofits, and they told us what their communities need right now,” said Director of the Mayor’s Office for Immigrant Advancement Yusufi Vali. “As we recover from this pandemic, we should seize the moment to identify disparities and close the gaps in innovative ways.”

Vali said these mini-grants are made possible

through the generous contributions from We Are Boston 2020 sponsors including State Street Corporation, Arbella Insurance Foundation, Harvard Pilgrim Healthcare, and Eastern Bank Foundation.

The “We Are Boston 2022: From Dreams to Action” will be held on February 3, 2022. During the reception, the city will recognize community honorees and address how government, corporate, and nonprofit sectors can work together to support the fight for equity.

McKay // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Accelerated Repair Program at the McKay School are to improve learning environments for children and teachers, reduce energy use, and generate cost savings for the district. The program provides funding for the repair or replacement of roofs, windows, and boilers in schools that are otherwise structurally, functionally, and educationally sound.

“The MSBA continues to partner with Massachusetts communities in the ongoing work of upgrading their public schools,” Executive Director/Deputy CEO McCarthy said.

“These improvements to school facilities can only enhance students’ ability to excel in the classroom.”

The MSBA partners with Massachusetts communities to support the design and construction of educationally-appropriate, flexible, sustainable, and cost-effective public school facilities. Since its 2004 inception, the Authority has made over 1,750 site visits to more than 250 school districts as part of its due diligence process and has made over \$15.4 billion in reimbursements for school construction projects.

Police investigate East Boston homicide

By John Lynds

With a little over two weeks left in the year East Boston was poised to end 2021 without a single homicide but that all changed last Thursday on Shelby Street.

Just before 12:30 pm last Thursday, a 16-year-old Eastie resident was walking down Shelby Street on his way to the gym when he noticed a man lying in his car bleeding from a wound.

“I was literally passing by down my street. All I just saw was a guy in his

car just wounded. He was just laid back on his chair. That’s all I saw,” the teen told the media outside the crime scene last week. “First thing I did was I went to my mom and I told her to call 911.”

When police arrived they found Diion Reid, 27, of East Boston, in a parked vehicle dead from gunshot wounds. Reid was pronounced by Boston EMS at the scene.

After the discovery of Reid the entire street was cordoned off with police tape as detectives marked evidence, towed the vic-

tim’s car and armed tactical officers searched a nearby apartment building. However, no arrests have been made in Reid’s death as of Tuesday.

Police also secured CCTV video from the area that apparently showed an already wounded Reid stumble across Shelby Street, drop his phone, enter and start his car before succumbing to his wounds.

The Boston Police Department is actively reviewing the facts and circumstances surrounding this incident. Anyone with

information is strongly urged to contact the Boston Police Homicide Unit at (617) 343-4470.

Community members wishing to assist this investigation anonymously can do so by calling the CrimeStoppers Tip Line at 1 (800) 494-TIPS or by texting the word ‘TIP’ to CRIME (27463). The Boston Police Department will stringently guard and protect the identities of all those who wish to help this investigation in an anonymous manner.

Eastie’s weekly COVID infections increase once again

By John Lynds

With the Omicron COVID variant now the most prevalent variant sweeping across the US—making up nearly 75 percent of all new cases—East Boston’s weekly COVID positive test rate rose once again ahead of the Christmas Holiday.

With COVID infections spreading like wildfire Boston Mayor Michelle Wu announced Monday a new initiative to require vaccination in certain indoor spaces in the city, including indoor dining, fitness, and entertainment establishments. The new “B Together” initiative will begin January 15 and will phase in second vaccine doses and youth vaccination requirements. Both patrons and employees of indoor venues will be required to show proof of vaccination and the indoor mask mandate remains in effect.

“Vaccines are the most powerful tool we have to fight this pandemic. Vaccination saves lives, and closing vaccination gaps is the best way to support and protect our communities, businesses, and cultural institutions during this pandemic,” said Mayor Wu at a City

Hall press conference Monday. “The vast majority of COVID-related hospitalizations are of unvaccinated individuals, which is impacting our entire healthcare system and compromising the health of our communities. Today’s steps to protect community members in certain indoor establishments and throughout our city workforce will help ensure that everyone in Boston will be safe. City government must take down barriers and direct our resources for easy access to testing and vaccination to protect our city and all of our communities.”

Last week, 2,398 Eastie residents were tested for the virus last week and 8.1 percent were positive--this was a 3.8 percent increase from the 7.8 percent that tested positive as reported by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) on December 13. The weekly positive test rate has now jumped 21 percent in Eastie December 6.

However, the citywide weekly positive test rate remained the same last week. According to the BPHC 30,754 residents were tested and 6.7 percent were COVID positive--this was the same

percentage reported by the BPHC on December 13.

One hundred ninety four additional Eastie residents contracted the virus between December 13 and December 20 and there are now 9,264 confirmed cases in the neighborhood since the start of the pandemic.

“COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations are on the rise in Boston. The B Together initiative is just one component of a multilayered, comprehensive strategy that the city has implemented to address COVID-19 and promote the health and safety of Boston residents,” said Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission Dr. Bisola Ojikutu. “We must also ensure that every Bostonian has easier access to vaccines and boosters, and we will be rolling out new sites across the city.”

Starting January 15, 2022, patrons of covered businesses will be required to show proof of vaccination upon entering the premises. The order states that individuals can demonstrate vaccination by showing their CDC vaccination card or a photo of their card, any official immunization record or digital image

from a pharmacy or health care provider, or on any COVID-19 vaccine verification app. The city also announced plans to create its own app, modeled on the successful Key to NYC app that has supported the vaccine requirement effort in New York City.

Businesses included will also be required to post a notice at all entrances. The city will begin a weeks-long campaign to educate residents and businesses about the new policy, utilizing city outreach workers and inspectional services. Businesses found not in compliance will receive verbal and written warnings. Repeat offenders may be subject to fines.

The statistics released by the BPHC as part of its weekly COVID19 report breaks down the number of cases and infection rates in each neighborhood. It also breaks down the number of cases by age, gender and race.

Citywide positive cases of coronavirus increased 4 percent last week and went from 92,170 cases to 95,790 confirmed cases in a week. There were 15 additional deaths in Boston from the virus in the past week and the total COVID deaths is now at 1,493.

Coalition for a Resilient and Inclusive Waterfront releases results of secons poll

By John Lynds

The Coalition for a Resilient and Inclusive Waterfront — an alliance of nearly 50 organizations from across Boston like the East Boston Main Streets, East Boston Social Centers, Eastie Farm, GreenRoots, the Jeffries Point Neighborhood Association, Harborkeepers and Piers Park Sailing Center—recently released the results of a second poll gauging Boston voters’ sentiments on pressing topics related to the waterfront following the last month’s Boston municipal election.

The Coalition has been focused on the important challenges and opportunities facing Boston’s waterfront neighborhoods, harbor, islands, and rivers.

Prior to the November election a pre-election poll reflected that Eastie and Boston voters showed strong support for the development and execution of a bold vision for the future of the city’s waterfront that prioritizes accessibility, inclusivity, resilience, and economic vitality.

Notably, the poll found significant support for the creation of a cabinet-level position in the new Wu Administration to oversee the advancement of waterfront issues — an opportunity that could lead to a more integrated and holistic approach to planning by creating opportunities for better collaboration across the many city agencies that touch the waterfront in different ways, from transportation to climate, housing, public works, arts and culture.

“The poll also found continued support for the creation and preservation of open spaces on the waterfront and the essential public health role they play for the city, as well as broad support for increased accessibility on the waterfront, and neighborhood efforts to address and prepare for the challenges brought by climate change,” said spokesman Alex Goldstein.

The poll, conducted by the MassINC Polling Group, surveyed 622 registered voters in Boston from November 8 to November 15.

The poll showed signifi-

cant support for the mayor to appoint a cabinet-level official to focus on waterfront issues, with 69 percent of voters supporting the creation of the new position.

Seventy-five percent of voters support additional city funding for creating a set of community benefit standards for developers.

Seventy percent of voters call it “very important” that the waterfront “improves the public health of the City by providing open spaces for exercise and enjoyment.”

The poll also found that climate change continues to stand out as a leading issue of concern for voters with 34 percent of open-ended comments name flooding, sea level rise, and climate change as the top issue facing the waterfront, and two-thirds of voters say it is “very important” that the waterfront protects the city from the impacts of climate change and sea level rise.

“At least two-thirds of voters call each of the climate change proposals for the waterfront a “major priority”, and three-quarters call building energy

standards, training and jobs in green industries, building coastal barriers, and creating a comprehensive plan to reduce carbon pollution a “major priority,” said Goldstein.

In terms of funding, roughly two-thirds of voters say it’s a major priority to reinforce existing structures against sea level rise, restore shoreline to control sea level rise, and develop renewable energy sources like offshore wind, and 78 percent of voters support additional city funding for climate change protections in certain neighborhoods.

The waterfront is also understood to be an important economic driver for the City — two-thirds of voters say it is “very important” the waterfront provides economic opportunities for local businesses and residents, while 55 percent each say it’s “very important” the waterfront promotes tourism and serves as a working port.

Voters are also supportive of promoting greater accessibility on the waterfront with 65 percent calling it a “major priority” to create more affordable activities for families.



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32BJ SEIU congratulates Lydia Edwards on historic victory in State Senate Race

The following Statement is attributable to Roxana Rivera, Executive Vice President of 32BJ SEIU:

On behalf of the airport workers, cleaners, and security officers of 32BJ SEIU throughout Massachusetts, I am overjoyed that Lydia Edwards has been elected as State Senator in the primary election. This historic win is long overdue; when she is officially sworn in after the general election in January, Senator Edwards will be the first Black woman to represent this heavily BIPOC district where over 2,000 of 32BJ workers live and thousands more work.

Lydia Edwards is a fierce advocate for social justice, and has been one of workers’ strongest allies throughout her time on the Boston City Council. She has stood shoulder to shoulder with airport workers in their fight for better working conditions, a union, and raises for these essential workers ravaged by the COVID-19 pandemic, and with her help, these airport workers have won significant change. She has already made positive change as a City Councilor through her housing and transportation advocacy work, and we know she will continue to get the job done for Boston and the entire state.

As we face another pandemic winter, inflation, and inequity, we need to keep electing change-makers like Senator Edwards into office. The members of 32BJ SEIU will enter 2022 with a more hopeful view due to Edward’s victory!

Candidates // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

elior’s degree in international relations from New York University and a masters in public policy from Harvard Kennedy School of Government. Del Rio was recognized by the Harvard Kennedy School with the Jane Mansbridge Research Award for distinguished research related to gender and public policy and the 2016 Outstanding Policy Analysis Exercise Award, for her paper on gender equality in the Foreign Service.

Locally, Del Rio is a member of the Board of Directors of the Veronica Robles Cultural Center; Partakers Inc., and Excel Academy, and contributes monthly as a columnist in El Heraldo Latino Newspaper. Del Rio was born in Mexico City and raised as a bicultural child between the U.S. and Mexico. In addition to her native Spanish, she can also speak French and Italian.

Former Edward’s Chief of Staff and lifelong Eastie resident, Gabriela Coletta is also mulling a run for her former boss’s seat.

Coletta, who left Edward’s office over the summer to become the External Relations Manager for the New England Aquarium’s downtown waterfront planning initiative, first joined Edwards in 2017 as her campaign manager for the Boston City Council seat and also worked on the campaigns for Rep. Adrian Madaro and interned Rep. Aaron Michlewitz.

“Thank you, for everything, Boston City Councilor Lydia Edwards,” said Coletta last week in a statement after Edward’s win. “I’m so grateful to have had the opportunity to serve the district as your Chief and to have had a seat at the table witnessing your fearless advocacy. The fight continues for housing justice, environmental justice, and tackling education inequities. I’m taking time to talk to family and friends to consider if this is the best opportunity to serve the district I’m so proud to call my home. Thank you to everyone who has reached out so far. I’ll have more to say soon.”

Coletta graduated from Boston Latin Academy and went on to graduate from UMass Boston before beginning her career in public service.

Eastie resident Jason Ruggiero, who has spearheaded the PLAN: East Boston initiative for the Boston Planning and Development, is also considering a run for the seat.

Like Coletta, Ruggiero congratulated Edwards on her victory last week saying, “ I’ve had the privilege to see first-hand up close and personal the work that Lydia has done as the Boston City Councilor for District One, representing East Boston, Charlestown and the North End. As someone who also represents these communities at an Agency level within the City of Boston, I applaud and thank Lydia for all she has done for these communities.”

Ruggiero added that while Edward’s work and advocacy will transition to the State House, over the next few weeks he will be considering a candidacy to attempt to fill her “tremendous shoes” at City Hall.

“Our next City Councilor needs to put our community and the people first, be creative in how to address the complex chal-

lenges before us today, and fight for everyone with the urgency and dedication Lydia has shown over the last four years,” he said. “The diversity of our district is its beauty, and our unity in advocacy and representation is its strength. There is no more urgent time than now to ensure we have dedicated public servants representing our communities on the elected level. East Boston, Charlestown, the North End, I look forward to talking to you more soon.”

The North End’s Stephen Passacantilli, who ran an unsuccessful bid against Edwards for the District 1 seat back in 2017 is rumored to be considering another shot at the seat. Passacantilli signaled last week that he’d be a ‘fool’ to not consider another run but would discuss it with his family before making any decisions.

There were some rumors that former District 1 City Councilor Sal LaMattina may come out of retirement to once again serve the people of Eastie, the North End and Charlestown but in a statement to the media LaMattina said, “While the prospect of working again on behalf of the people of Boston would be exciting and rewarding I have learned to value my retirement and enjoy the time I can spend with family and friends. Therefore, after careful consideration, I will not be a candidate for the District 1 City Council seat. Moreover, I look forward to providing support and guidance to whomever is elected to succeed my friend, Senator-elect Lydia Edwards.”

POSTAL SERVICE CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY AND NEW YEAR’S DAY

Post Office locations nationwide will be closed on Christmas Day, Saturday, Dec. 25, and New Year’s Day, Saturday, Jan. 1, 2022.

All Post Office locations will be open, and regular mail delivery will resume, on Monday, Dec. 27, 2021, and Monday, Jan. 3, 2022.

Some Post Office locations may have extended hours leading up to the holidays, while others may have limited hours on Christmas Eve, Friday, Dec. 24. There are currently no plans for limited hours on New Year’s Eve, Friday, Dec. 31. Customers are advised to always check with their local Post Office for hours of operation.

Blue collection boxes with final collection times before noon will not be affected by an early closing Dec. 24.

If a box has a final collection time after noon, its mail may be picked up earlier. For mail pickup on Dec. 24, customers are asked to either put their mail into blue collection boxes by noon regardless of the final collection times posted on the box, or take their items to one of our more than 34,000 Post Office locations.

Customers who are unable to mail items before the scheduled collection box pickup times on Dec. 24 should visit the online Postal Locator tool at tools.usps.com to find Post Office locations that may be open late.

As a reminder, blue collection boxes are not serviced on Sundays.

The Postal Service generally receives no tax dollars for operating expenses and relies on the sale

NEWS IN BRIEF

of postage, products and services to fund its operations.

MALDEN CATHOLIC MAKE-A-WISH CLUB GRANTS A WISH

Jasper, a playful two-and-a-half-year-old who loves puzzles, dinosaurs and trucks. Diagnosed with myopathy, a life-threatening neuromuscular disease, the amount of time he spends on his favorite activities is limited, but his positive attitude always keeps a smile on his face. Seeking a welcome escape from the challenges of his illness, Jasper wished to have a play structure with a clubhouse!

Recently, Malden Catholic’s Make-A-Wish Club presented a check for \$7,340 to Make-A-Wish® Massachusetts and Rhode Island to create and build Jasper’s playset. Mayor Christenson from Malden, Mayor Brodeur from Melrose and Hilary Muntz, Make-A-Wish® Massachusetts and Rhode Island Special Events Coordinator, we onsite for the ceremony along with the MC Make-A-Wish® Club members.

After seeing his customized playset for the first time, Jasper was amazed by its exciting features and the possibility for adventure. From the swings to relax on to the monkey bars to help him exercise to a slippery slide, Jasper was thrilled by this new world of exploration. As his mother reflects, “I am (and pretty sure I always will be) moved to tears when I look at the play structure. It’s so much more than a play structure – it’s proof that Jasper is a warrior and he can’t be held back.”

Over the 2020 and

2021 academic year, Malden Catholic students and parents came together and raised money through a variety of events, candy grams and product sales to make his wish come true. “This served as a reminder that with a community working together, we can provide renewed hope and uplifting joy when it is needed most,” stated John Thornburg, Malden Catholic Headmaster. “Our MC Make-A-Wish Club is also actively pursuing the fundraising plans to fulfill a fourth wish in 2022.

Since 1932, Malden Catholic High School has shaped emerging leaders in our community, claiming a Nobel Laureate, a Senator, two ambassadors and countless community and business heads among its alumni. Annually, graduates attend some of the nation’s most renown universities including Harvard, Georgetown, Brown, Cornell, Tufts, Georgia Tech, Boston College and Amherst College. Foundational to student success is Malden Catholic’s codivisional model which offers the best of both worlds, single-gender academics during the day and integrated social and extracurricular opportunities after school. Malden Catholic is known in the community for its rigorous academics, SFX Scholars Program and award-winning STEM program (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) with electives such as Robotics and Engineering Design. Malden Catholic curriculum is designed to improve individual growth mindset, leadership principles, success outcomes along with integrating the Xaverian values of trust, humility, compassion, simplicity and zeal. <https://www.maldencatholic.org/>

LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

LOCAL STUDENTS NAMED TO THE HONOR ROLL AT BOSTON COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL:

The following four East Boston residents were named to Honor Roll at BC High

- Jack Brodin, High Honors (Class of 2022)
- Matthew Muneton, High Honors (Class of 2023)
- Gabriel Aviles-Lemus, High Honors (Class of

2024)

- Jesse Ramos, High Honors (Class of 2024)

For High Honors a Sophomore, Junior, and Senior must have at least a 3.80 quality point average and all grades “C+” or higher. Freshmen need a 3.6 quality point average and all grades “C+” or higher.

For Honors a Sophomore, Junior, and Senior must have at least a 3.20 quality point average and all grades “C-” or higher.


Freshmen need a 3.165 quality point average and all grades “C-” or higher.

About Boston College High School: Boston College High School is a Jesuit, Catholic, college-preparatory school for young men in grades 7 to 12. Founded in 1863, the school enrolls approximately 1,500 students from more than 140 communities in eastern Massachusetts. For more information please visit [bchigh.edu](https://www.bchigh.edu).

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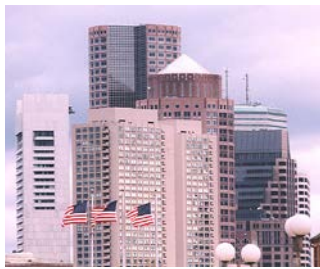
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Forum

GUEST OP-ED

Gift ideas for Christmas

Dr. Glenn Mollette

This Christmas give somebody the gift of mercy and forgiveness. Be broad with your giving and generous. We all need a lot of both. For such a joyful holiday of cheer, giving and yuletide merriment there is much to be stressed about.

Typically, people have been stressed about all the holiday parties, gatherings and Christmas scheduling. This year there is more stress related to sickness, masks, vaccinations, Omicron, natural disasters, filled hospitals, massive numbers of funerals and inflation. The last couple of Christmases have not been life as usual for most of us.

You may have watched Chevy Chase in National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation. He becomes over the top stressed out

when his Christmas lights won't work and he literally kicks, stomps and curses a blue streak across his yard. It's a funny scene. Mostly because in some way we've all been there a time or two.

Most of us enjoy giving if we can. We enjoy giving to the people we love. Christmas trees, decorating, eating and gatherings are all a part of the season. However, we become frustrated when we lose sight of the big picture. The big picture includes looking around and beyond our Christmas pain. Millions of people would simply be thrilled to have the problems that some of us have. Many people are in the nursing home and will never go to the mall again. Some have a terminal disease and this may be their last Christmas. Depression will weigh heavy on many who have

lost their homes, buried loved ones or experienced financial devastation from medical care or natural disasters. Most of these people would love to have a house to decorate or gifts to buy for a loved one.

Celebrate Christmas this year. Give away some special gifts. Give gifts that money can't buy or time cannot fade. Give love, give forgiveness and give some mercy. Extend these generously to yourself. If you can't give them to yourself it's impossible to give them to others.

The little baby that Christmas celebrates became a man and taught people that we should love God and love others as we love ourselves. Herein is part of the rub. Too often people stop loving themselves. Life becomes imperfect, we fail, get hurt or mad and we kick Santa or the reindeer across

the yard. Unfortunately, we don't stop there. We go into Ebenezer Scrooge bah humbug mode. We don't get our groove back and miss out on some of Christmas' most wonderful characteristics- mercy and forgiveness.

The Christmas story is about a child who came to show us the way. He showed us how to love, forgive and be merciful. Some of the people in your life probably need it more than you know. Give generously and start with yourself.

Glenn Mollette is the publisher of Newburgh Press, Liberty Torch and various other publishing imprints; a national columnist – American Issues and Common Sense opinions, analysis, stories and features appear each week in over 500 newspapers, websites and blogs across the United States.

ABCD reaches 6,000 toy goal for holiday drive

'Twas three weeks before Christmas and...

The ABCD toy room was rather empty. About 400 toys rested on the distribution tables. Meanwhile requests for help were pouring in at an unprecedented rate. SIX THOUSAND toys were needed for families seeking to celebrate Christmas, Kwanzaa, Channukah and Three Kings Day.

"With the pandemic still impacting the families we serve in Boston and the Mystic Valley region – with jobs lost and soaring prices – many parents had very limited resources for buying gifts for their children this year," said ABCD President/CEO John J. Drew. "We knew we had to help them put smiles on their children's faces after this difficult year, as the ABCD Toy Drive has done for more

than 50 years."

ABCD immediately launched a media outreach campaign and the press responded big time! The media was wonderfully supportive. THANK YOU!

"We greatly appreciate all the terrific coverage and how everyone stepped up to help get the word out," said Sharon Scott-Chandler, ABCD Executive Vice President & COO. She noted that the organization's communications team was sometimes fielding eight or ten toy drive stories a day.

The power of the press was demonstrated quickly as toys and donations poured in. On December 15, Josh Young, Director, ABCD Field Operations, announced that the goal of 6,000 toys was met!

"We are so grateful for

the immediate and effective response from a warm-hearted public," said Young. "I can't tell you what a difference it makes. We also thank the many friends and supporters of ABCD who donated, including our board and staff members."

Bianny Suncar, Director, ABCD Mattapan Family Service Center and Toy Drive Coordinator, spoke from a toy room overflowing with dolls and games, sports equipment and stuffed animals. "Thank you to everyone who helped us meet our goal and serve the families who need and deserve this help," she said.

Suncar said that toys would be distributed at ABCD neighborhood centers during the week of December 20th, filling the requests made earlier by families in those neigh-

borhoods.

A nonprofit human services community action organization, ABCD provides low-income residents in the Boston and Mystic Valley areas with the tools, support and resources they need to transition from poverty to stability and from stability to success. Each year, we've served more than 100,000 individuals, elders and families through a broad range of innovative initiatives as well as long-established, proven programs and services. For more than 50 years, ABCD has been deeply rooted in every neighborhood and community served, empowering individuals and families and supporting them in their quest to live with dignity and achieve their highest potential. For more, please visit bostonabcd.org.

Leftover safety: Extending your holiday meals

Enjoying terrific food is one of the highlights of the holiday season. However, all good things must come to an end, including the holiday celebrations. But holiday meals often bring leftovers and leftovers can help stretch out your holiday cheer. According to Mystic Valley Elder Services Registered Dietician Candace Quigley, it's important to assess the safety of the foods that are leftover. "If perish-

able foods, such as meat, poultry, cooked foods, cheese, cut up fruits and vegetables, were out for more than two hours, they should be discarded," she says. "The last thing your winter season needs is a bellyache—or worse—caused by improperly stored leftovers. And after the holidays, you may find yourself with a particularly full refrigerator."

To keep your food tasty and free of nasty bacteria,

follow these food safety tips (adapted from the Federal Food Safety Service):

Keep food out of the danger zone: Bacteria grow rapidly between the temperatures of 41° F and 140° F. After food is safely cooked, hot food must be kept hot at 140° F or warmer to prevent bacterial growth. Make sure to refrigerate the food within 2 hours of cooking food or after it is removed from an appliance keeping it warm.

Cool food rapidly: To prevent bacterial growth, it's important to divide large amounts of hot food into shallow containers so it reaches the safe refrigerator-storage temperature of 41°F or below as fast as possible. Cut large items of food into smaller portions to cool. Cut turkey into smaller pieces and refrigerate. Store turkey and stuffing in separate containers.

Wrap leftovers well: Cover leftovers, wrap them in airtight packaging, or seal them in storage containers. These

practices help keep bacteria out, retain moisture, and prevent leftovers from picking up odors from other food in the refrigerator. Immediately refrigerate or freeze the wrapped leftovers for rapid cooling.

Store leftovers safely: Leftovers can be kept in the refrigerator for 3 to 4 days (gravy should be used within 1-2 days) or frozen for 3 to 4 months. Consider marking your leftovers with the date.

Reheat leftovers safely: When reheating leftovers, be sure they reach 165° F as measured with a food thermometer. Reheat gravy, sauces, and soups by bringing them to a rolling boil. When reheating in the microwave, cover and rotate the food for even heating. Arrange food items evenly in a covered microwave safe glass or ceramic dish, and add some liquid if needed. Be sure the covering is microwave safe, and vent the lid or wrap to let the steam escape. The moist heat that is created will help destroy harmful bacteria and will ensure uniform cooking.

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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

Kathleen Bright
kbright@reverejournal.com
Sioux Gerow
charlestownads@hotmail.com

Legal Advertising

Ellen Bertino
ebertino@eastietimes.com

Editorial

Reporters, Regular Contributors

Cary Shuman
cary@lynnjournal.com
John Lynds
john@eastietimes.com

Copy Editing, Layout

Scott Yates
scott@chelsearecord.com
Kane DiMasso-Scott
kdscott@thebostonsun.com

Business

Accounts Executive

Judy Russi
jrussi@eastietimes.com

Printer

Gannet Publishing

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The Times welcomes letters to the editor. Our mailing address is 385 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151. Our fax number is 781-485-1403.

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Letters must be signed. We reserve the right to edit for length and content.



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We wish you a Merry Christmas
& a Very Happy New Year full of
health and happiness in 2022



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East Boston Neighborhood Health Center distributes at-home COVID-19 test kits to use ahead of the holidays

Ahead of the holiday, staff and volunteers at the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center's Community Resource and Wellness Center gave out At-Home Covid-19 Test Kits to hundreds of community members this week in addition to giving out food, masks, diapers and other critically needed resources.

"We know that families will be celebrating the holiday season together over the coming weeks, and we wanted to give our community another tool to help combat the spread of COVID-19 and celebrate the holidays safely...testing, masking, and vaccination remain critical to slowing and stopping the spread of COVID" said Greg Wilmot, Interim President and CEO at East



Pictured here in front of the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center's Community Resource and Wellness Center at 282 Meridian Street is Interim President and CEO Greg Wilmot, Wellness Center Director Kathy Field and employees and volunteers of the Wellness Center – at-home test kits in hand.

Boston Neighborhood Health Center. East Bos-

ton Neighborhood Health Center is also sharing supplies with other communi-

ty organizations ahead of the holidays.



A member of the community stands with Health Center leader Greg Wilmot as she comes for weekly food and also leaves with a few test kits for family members to use before they gather for the holidays.

East Boston Chamber of Commerce Holiday Open House set for Dec. 22

The East Boston Chamber of Commerce is holding a 2021 Holiday Open House on Wednesday, Dec. 22 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Chamber's office at 464 Bremen Street. Join the East Boston Chamber of Commerce as we celebrate the holidays with refreshments, reflect on the year in business here in East Boston, and work

to sow the seeds for prosperity in the upcoming new year. We will be announcing the winner of the holiday window decorating contest as well as the winner of the 50-50 raffle. Happy Holidays!

Cámara de Comercio de East Boston "Open House" de fin de año 2021.

La Cámara de Comercio de East Boston llevará

a cabo una jornada de puertas abiertas durante las festividades navideñas del 2021 el miércoles 22/12/21 de 5:00 a 7:00 p.m. en la oficina de la Cámara en 464 Bremen Street.

Únase a la Cámara de Comercio de East Boston para celebrar las fiestas con refrigerios, y reflexionar acerca de el año en

su negocio aquí en East Boston y de cómo podemos trabajar juntos para sembrar las semillas de la prosperidad en el próximo año nuevo.

Anunciaremos al ganador del concurso de decoración de ventanas navideñas, así como al ganador del sorteo 50-50. ¡Felices vacaciones!



The East Boston Chamber of Commerce Holiday Open House on Wednesday, Dec. 22.

SEND US YOUR NEWS

The Times encourages residents to submit engagement, wedding and birth announcements, news releases, business and education briefs, sports stories and photos for publication. Items should be forwarded to our offices at 385 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151. Items can also be faxed to 781-485-1403. We also encourage readers to e-mail news releases and photos to deb@reverejournal.com

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EAST BOSTON CORN HOLE TOURNAMENT RAISES MONEY FOR MARTY PINO CENTER

Owner of the Cunard Tavern Phil Frattaroli and Cunard Chef Anthony Pino recently hosted a cornhole tournament to benefit the BCYF Marty Pino Center's youth basketball league in Orient Heights.

Last week Frattaroli presented a check for \$5,000 to East Boston Youth Basketball League's John Forbes and Michael Gaeta that was raised during the annual East Boston Cornhole Tournament.



Supporters of the annual East Boston Corn Hole Tournament during the tournament.



The daylong tournament raised \$5,000 for youth basketball through the participation of dozens of supporters.



Cunard Tavern Phil Frattaroli with Joe Mario and Ed Deveau.



Cunard Chef Anthony Pino and Ed Deveau.



East Boston Youth Basketball League's John Forbes and Michael Gaeta are presented with a \$5,000 check from Cunard Tavern Phil Frattaroli.



The annual tournament was played just outside the Cunard Tavern in Jeffries Point.

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California Fresh Cut Broccoli Crowns.....		\$1.49/lb
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Fresh Zucchini Squash or Summer Squash		\$1.19/lb

Bakery

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Assorted "No Sugar" Muffins.....	\$4.89
Pretzel Rolls.....	\$2.99

Deli

Butterball Oven Roasted Turkey Breast....	\$5.99/lb
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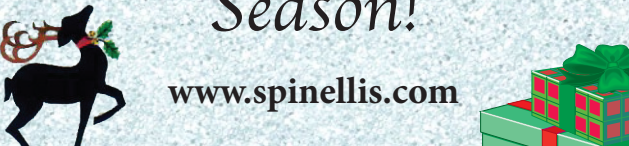
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LYDIA EDWARDS STATE SENATE VICTORY PARTY

Last Tuesday, District 1 City Councilor Lydia Edwards won the Special Election Primary for the First Suffolk & Middlesex seat.

After her historic win supporters, friends and family gathered at Spinnelli's in Day Square to celebrate her victory.



Laura Lakin and Louis Vasco.



Juan Jaramillo and City Councilor-elect Ruthzee Louijeune.



Lydia Edwards with her mom, Bridgett.



Goldie, Phil, Corina and Joe Boncore with Lydia Edwards



Myer Segal, Lydia Edwards, Dan Ryan, Marian Callahan and Elaine Donovan.



Michael Bonnetti, former Senator Joe Boncore and Gabriela Coletta during the victory party.



Rep. Aaron Michlewitz, Mayor Michelle Wu, Rep. Adrian Madaro, and Councilor Ed Flynn.

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Lydia Edwards

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Metro Credit Union partners with The Salvation Army for holiday gifting

Metro Credit Union, Massachusetts’ largest state-chartered credit union, recently partnered with The Salvation Army in support of their annual Angel Tree Toy Drive program. This marks the fifth consecutive year that Metro has participated in the program.

The Salvation Army national holiday assistance program provides new clothes and toys for children who otherwise may go without gifts. Locally, the Angel Tree program serves about 800 children from 350 families.

Donors select anonymous children (known as “Angels”) and fulfill their wish lists, which include a toy of the child’s choosing and sizes for essential winter clothes. The Salvation Army has been serving the community of Chelsea through the program for the past six years.

“The credit union philosophy of ‘people helping people’ is especially prominent during the holiday season, and Metro’s employees went above and beyond to support families in need this year through the Angel Tree Program,” said Charlene Bauer, SVP of Outreach,



Pictured (left to right) Isael Gonzalez, Commanding Officer at The Salvation Army with Metro Credit Union employees Charlene Bauer, SVP of Outreach, Advocacy and Chief Development Officer and John Prendergast, Operations Specialist.

Advocacy and Chief Development Officer of Metro Credit Union.

During December 2021, Metro employees fulfilled holiday wish lists for 75 children in need. The credit union looks forward to continuing their involvement with the program in years to come.

For more information about Metro Credit Union, please visit metrocu.org, or follow Metro Credit Union on LinkedIn.

About Metro Credit Union Metro Credit Union is the largest state-chartered credit union in Massachusetts, with \$2.4 billion in assets. Metro

provides a full range of financial products to close to 200,000 members in Essex, Middlesex, Suffolk, Norfolk, Plymouth, Barnstable, Bristol and Worcester counties in Massachusetts, and Rockingham and Hillsborough counties in New Hampshire, as well as to employees of over 1,200 companies through its Metro@work program. Founded in 1926, Metro currently operates 14 branch offices in Boston, Burlington, Chelsea, Framingham, Lawrence, Lynn, Melrose, Newton, Peabody, Salem, Tewksbury, and coming soon to



Pictured (left to right) Metro Credit Union employees Traci Michel, Chief Operating Officer; Marie O'Neill, SVP Engagement, Experience and Marketing; Robert Cashman, Chief Executive Officer; Charlene Bauer, SVP of Outreach, Advocacy and Chief Development Officer; Erik Porter, SVP Chief Financial Officer; and Jim Herndon, SVP Human Resources with toys donated by employees.

Dorchester, Reading, and West Roxbury. Metro is also a Juntos Avanzamos (“Together We Advance”) designated credit union, an honor given to financial institutions for their commitment to serving and empowering Hispanic and immigrant consumers. Metro was recently named among the most charitable companies in Massachusetts by the Boston Business Journal. Learn more at MetroCU.org and connect with us on LinkedIn.

About The Salvation Army The Salvation Army, an evangelical part of the universal Christian church established in London in 1865, has been supporting those in need in His name without discrimination for more than 130 years in the United States. Nearly 30 million Americans receive assistance from The Salvation Army each year through a range of social services:

providing food for the hungry, relief for disaster victims, assistance for the disabled, outreach to the elderly and ill, clothing and shelter to the homeless, and opportunities for underprivileged children. 82 cents of every dollar The Salvation Army spends is used to support those services in 5,000 communities nationwide. For more information, go to salvationarmyusa.org.

Legislation filed to protect survivors from dangerous individuals, distribution of explicit images

The Baker-Polito Administration last week filed legislation to create comprehensive new protections for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, assault and battery, the harmful distribution of explicit images, and other crimes. The package of legislative proposals being refiled by the Administration today includes An Act to Protect Victims of Crimes and the Public and An Act Relative to the Harmful Distribution of Sexually Explicit Visual Materials. Together, the proposals will strengthen public safety tools and statutes designed to keep survivors and communities safe.

Governor Charlie Baker and Lt. Governor Karyn Polito announced the legislation at a roundtable event where they heard from survivors whose stories speak to the importance of these critical public safety reforms. The roundtable was held at Plymouth Public Library and was moderated by Sandra Blatchford, the Executive Director of the South Shore Resource and Advocacy Center, which works with several of the survivors present today. Other advocates and survivor resource organizations were also present to speak in support of the legislative package. Several survivors who spoke in support of the Administration’s dangerousness legislation shared their experiences with domestic violence and noted that the legislation would provide stronger protections for people who encounter similar experiences in the future. Other survivors told stories that highlighted the importance of strengthening and modernizing laws that hold people accountable for the distribution of sexually explicit visual materials.

“These proposals would provide stronger protections for survivors and we are grateful for our partnership with providers and advocacy organizations who support survivors for sharing their stories in support of this legislation,” said Governor Charlie Baker. “Our dangerousness proposal would update the

current system of pretrial detention, which exposes victims and survivors to potential harm. Making these and other commonsense changes will strengthen the ability of prosecutors and the courts to hold dangerous individuals and protect survivors and our communities.”

“Hearing survivors’ stories underscores the importance of acting soon to make these reforms that will make our families and communities safer,” said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito, Chair of the Governor’s Council to Address Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence. “By modernizing the laws governing the harmful distribution of sexually visual materials, we can combat cyber-bullying through prevention education, empower prosecutors to appropriately handle cases involving minors and explicit images and help state law keep up with what technology is now.”

“We cannot overstate the courage of victims and survivors who have chosen to share their experiences and support these bills,” said Public Safety and Security Secretary Terrence Reidy. “As a former prosecutor now charged with leading the state’s public safety apparatus, I know these laws will equip criminal justice and law enforcement professionals to mitigate the threat of dangerous individuals and non-consensual sharing of explicit content, especially among our young people. The measures in these bills demonstrate the Administration’s responsiveness to challenges facing today’s society.”

“SSRAC fully supports both legislative filings to address dangerousness and SEVM. Holding offenders on dangerousness enables survivors to focus on their safety,” said Sandra Blatchford, executive director of the South Shore Resource and Advocacy Center. “Protection against the pervasive threat of a dangerous offender often means a victim may have to leave employment, uproot children, and move away from support systems. The provisions of

the dangerousness legislation will enable survivors to evaluate options, work with advocates, and move towards healing and safety.”

“We have worked with too many victims brutally assaulted at the hands of a predator with a long and violent criminal history. While pending trial, these offenders often violate stay-away orders, with little consequence,” said Julie Kehoe, chief executive officer of Health Imperative. “This dangerousness legislation will provide law enforcement and criminal justice professionals with long-overdue tools to save lives and reduce incidents of domestic and sexual violence.”

An Act to Protect Victims of Crimes and the Public: First filed in 2018, the Administration’s proposal would expand the list of offenses that can provide grounds for a dangerousness hearing and close certain loopholes at the start and end of the criminal process that currently limit or prevent effective action to address legitimate safety concerns. It would strengthen the ability of judges to enforce the conditions of pre-trial release by empowering police to detain people who they observe violating court-ordered release conditions; current law does not allow this, and instead requires a court to first issue a warrant. Under this proposal, judges will be empowered to revoke a person’s release when the offender has violated a court-ordered condition, such as an order to stay away from a victim, or from a public playground. Current law requires an additional finding of dangerousness before release may be revoked.

The legislation also expands the list of offenses which can provide grounds for a dangerousness hearing including crimes of sexual abuse and crimes of threatened or potential violence. It also follows the long-standing federal model in including a defendant’s history of serious criminal convictions as grounds that may warrant a dangerousness hearing. Current law requires courts

to focus only on the crime charged and ignore a defendant’s criminal history when determining whether the defendant may be the subject of this sort of hearing.

Additional elements of this proposal would:

- Extend the requirement that police take the fingerprints of people arrested for felonies to all people arrested, regardless of the charge, and allows a court to order fingerprinting of any person arraigned on any criminal charge, to ensure that decisions about release can be made with knowledge of a person’s true identity and full criminal history.
- Enhance the collection and value of data for the cross-tracking system required by G.L. c. 6A, § 18¾, by ensuring that information about an individual who is arrested or arraigned can be linked to a unique fingerprint identifier.
- Require that the probation department, bail commissioners and bail magistrates notify authorities who can take remedial action when a person who is on pre-trial release commits a new offense anywhere in the Commonwealth or elsewhere.
- Allow bail commis-

sioners and bail magistrates to consider dangerousness in deciding whether to release an arrestee from a police station when court is out of session.

· Create a new felony offense for cutting off a court-ordered GPS device.

An Act Relative to the Harmful Distribution of Sexually Explicit Visual Materials: First filed in 2017, the proposal modernizes the laws governing the distribution of sexually explicit images and empowers District Attorneys with additional tools to protect children. Under this proposal, the first step in an explicit images case involving minors will be to enroll in an educational diversion program rather than go through the juvenile justice process and potentially be committed to the Department of Youth Services. While District Attorneys and the Attorney General will still have the right to bypass educational diversion programs in certain instances, the focus will now be on educational diversion rather than legal punishment.

Massachusetts law as currently written, calls for minors who engage in peer to peer distribution of sexually explicit visual material to be subject to prosecution.

cution for the distribution or possession of child pornography. This legislation seeks to update the law consistent with our lives and 21st Century technology. Should a case proceed to the juvenile justice system, this bill affords District Attorneys the discretion to decide whether a minor should be charged with a misdemeanor rather than a felony. The flexibility provided under this law will help ensure minors that do not belong in the juvenile justice system do not wind up there.

This legislation also seeks to close a loophole under current law by creating penalties for adults who distribute a sexually explicit image for purposes of revenge or embarrassment. While current law addresses non-consensual recording of an unsuspecting person, it does not address instances where someone distributes an image without consent regardless of whether the initial image may have been taken with consent. This legislation closes the gap in state law by creating a new felony offense and empowering judges in criminal proceedings to ensure an explicit image in question is permanently destroyed.

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OBITUARIES

Louis Joseph Labadini, Sr.

Sixty-five year member of Local 17
Sheetmetal Workers International Union

Louis Joseph Labadini Sr., a lifelong resident of East Boston, passed away peacefully on December 19 at the Chelsea Soldiers Home.

Louis served his country in the United States Army during the Korean Conflict and was a 65-year member of Local 17 of the Sheetmetal Workers International Union. His hobbies included painting and photography.

He was born in Winthrop on September 21, 1928 to the late Alda (Bertulli) and Ernest Labadini, the beloved husband of the late Margaret (Berardi) with whom he shared 56 years of marriage, devoted father of Louis J and his wife, Barbara of Saugus, Linda and her friend, Robert Boudreau of East Boston and Leo and his wife, Karen of Braintree and was predeceased by his loving brother, Ernest; the cherished grandfather of Katie and her husband, Michael of Tewksbury, Michael of Saugus and Lauren, Elise and Audrey, all of Braintree and the



treasured great-grandfather of Reagan and Skyler of Tewksbury. He is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

Family and friends will honor Louis' life by gathering at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, 971 Saratoga Street (Orient Heights) East Boston, on Monday, December 27 from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. before leaving in procession to Saint Joseph - Saint Lazarus Church, East Boston for a Funeral Mass celebrating Louis's life at 11 a.m. Services will conclude with Louis being laid to rest with his beloved wife, Margaret at Holy Cross Cemetery, Malden.

To leave an online condolence please visit www.ruggieromh.com.

James Angelo Buono

Late Commission Judge for Mass.
State Racing Commission

James Angelo Buono of East Boston passed away on December 17.

He was the late Commission Judge for the Massachusetts State Racing Commission.

The beloved husband of Rita (LaVertue) Buono, he was the loving father of James Buono and his wife, Suzane of Melrose, Jared Buono of East Boston, John Marzilli and his wife, Kristine of Wilmington and Renee Waters and her husband, William of Plymouth; dear brother of Francine Billet of New York, Rosalind E. Faretra of Winthrop and the late Leopold "Butchy" Buono. He is also survived by five loving grandchildren: Cameron, Kai, Lily, Kael and James.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend visiting hours at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, 971 Saratoga St. (Orient Heights) East Boston today, Wednesday, December 22 from 4 to 7 p.m. and again on



Thursday at 10:30 a.m. followed by a funeral procession to St. Joseph-St. Lazarus Church, 59 Ashley St., East Boston for a Funeral Mass to be celebrated in his honor at 12 noon. Interment will be in Holy Cross Cemetery, Malden.

In lieu of flowers, donations in James' memory may be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital PO Box 1893 Memphis, TN 38101-9950. To leave an online condolence please visit www.ruggieromh.com.

Cynthia Ann Zirpolo

Of Lynnfield, formerly of East Boston

Cynthia Ann "Cindy" Zirpolo of Lynnfield, formerly of East Boston, passed away on December 16.

The cherished daughter of John and Cora Ranauro, she was the loving mother of Paul Forlizzi of Lynnfield and Nadine Forlizzi and her life partner, Joe Etheridge of Amesbury; dear sister of Lorna Gobi and Joy Cagno, both of Revere, John Zirpolo and his wife, Lauri of Middleton and the late Dineen Zirpolo. She is also survived by five loving grandchildren and many loving nieces, nephews,



cousins and friends.

Funeral arrangements were entrusted to the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home (Orient Heights) East Boston. A Funeral Mass was celebrated in her honor in the Sacred Heart Church, East Boston and committal services were private. In lieu of flowers, donations in Cindy's memory may be made by mail to American SIDS Institute, 528 Raven Way, Naples, FL 34110 or on their website at www.sids.org. To leave an online condolence please visit www.ruggieromh.com.

In Memory of

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12th ANNIVERSARY
December 23, 2021



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Birthday Remembrance

Rosemarie Y. (Mona) Leone

Dec. 23rd, 1935 — Dec. 23rd, 2021



Another Birthday year has come where we're not able to celebrate your birthday with you. The days, years, minutes get harder and harder without you, but you are at peace, and knowing that gives us all some relief.

We miss you beautiful smile, voice, but most of all your love, and nurture that you showed to each and everyone of us. Since you left us,

our lives changed and we will never be the same. Today is your birthday, and we'd give anything to kiss, hug and celebrate with you. You will always be in our hearts and prayers and hope your celebrating with your loved ones in Heaven.

Ma, Happy Heavenly Birthday our Beautiful Angel

Rest Easy

We Miss and Love You Always! Your Loving Husband,
Children & Grandchildren

Massachusetts unemployment, job estimates for November

The state's November total unemployment rate increased by one-tenth of a percentage point at 5.4 percent, the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development announced Friday.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics' preliminary job estimates indicate Massachusetts gained 16,800 jobs in November. This follows last month's revised gain of 26,400 jobs. The largest over the month private sector job gains were in Leisure and Hospitality, Professional, Scientific, and Business Services, and Educational and Health Services. Since the employment trough in April 2020, Massachusetts has gained 519,500 jobs.

From November 2020 to November 2021, BLS estimates Massachusetts gained 196,000 jobs. The largest over the year gains occurred in Leisure and Hospitality; Professional, Scientific, and Business Services; and Education and Health Services.

The November unemployment rate was 1.2 percentage points above the national rate of 4.2 percent reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The labor force increased by 14,100 from 3,726,300 in October, as 8,200 more residents were employed, and 5,900 more residents were unemployed over the month.

Over the year, the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was down by 3.0 percentage points.

The state's labor force participation rate – the total number of residents 16 or older who worked or were unemployed and actively sought work in the last four weeks – was up three-tenths of a percentage point at 66.3 percent. Compared to November 2020, the labor force participation rate is up 0.4 percentage points.

November 2021 Employment Overview

Leisure and Hospitality gained 5,400 (+1.7%) jobs over the month. Over the year, 53,900 (+20.4%) jobs were added.

Professional and Business Services gained 3,400 (+0.5%) jobs over the month. Over the year, 44,200 (+7.7%) jobs were added.

Education and Health Services gained 2,200

(+0.3%) jobs over the month. Over the year, 26,300 (+3.5%) jobs were added.

Construction gained 1,900 (+1.1%) jobs over the month. Over the year, 10,700 (+6.7%) jobs were added.

Other Services gained 1,100 (+0.9%) jobs over the month. Over the year, 6,600 (+5.8%) jobs were added.

Manufacturing gained 700 (+0.3%) jobs over the month. Over the year, 9,000 (+3.9%) jobs were added.

Financial Activities gained 300 (+0.1%) jobs over the month. Over the year, 1,400 (+0.6%) jobs were added.

Government gained 2,000 (+0.5%) jobs over the month. Over the year, 18,300 (+4.3%) jobs were added.


Trade, Transportation and Utilities lost 100 jobs (0.0%) over the month. Over the year, 18,700 (+3.4%) jobs were added.

Information lost 200 (-0.2%) jobs over the month. Over the year, 6,800 (+7.8%) jobs were added.

Labor Force Overview

The November estimates show 3,537,500 Massachusetts residents were employed and 202,900 were unemployed, for a total labor force of 3,740,400. The unemployment rate was up one-tenth of a percentage point at 5.4 percent. Over the month, the November labor force was up by 14,100 from 3,726,300 in October, with 8,100 more residents employed and 5,900 more residents unemployed. The labor force participation rate, the share of working age population employed and unemployed, was up by 0.3 percentage point at 66.3 percent. The labor force was up 18,900 from the November 2020 estimate of 3,721,600, as 129,200 more residents were employed and 110,400 fewer residents were unemployed.

The unemployment rate is based on a monthly sample of households. The job estimates are derived from a monthly sample survey of employers. As a result, the two statistics may exhibit different monthly trends.



Christmas Remembrance

H. Elaine Halkopoulos, Ed.D.

"HP"

July 3, 1935 - November 25, 2016

*Missing you on Christmas – and every day...
You made each Christmas special...
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kindness and generosity.
Your life was a giving and loving gift
Even though it's Christmas, the sadness
never goes away...the silent tears still flow.
You're thought of so sadly,
missed more than you'll ever know.
You were someone special and
much loved in every way.
Your spirit will live on –
not only on Christmas...but,
with affection and love in our
thoughts, hearts and prayers -
each and every day.*

Love,
Tony



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Historic selection of offshore wind projects to bring clean, affordable power to the Commonwealth

The Baker-Polito Administration announced the selection of two offshore wind projects, Mayflower Wind and Vineyard Wind, to move forward to contract negotiations to provide a combined total of 1,600 megawatts (MW) of clean and affordable energy to Massachusetts ratepayers. The selected projects, in combination with two previous projects procured since Governor Charlie Baker signed comprehensive energy legislation in 2016, bring the total amount of offshore wind procured by the Administration to approximately 3,200 MW, enough clean energy to power 1.6 million homes. The announcement, made by Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Kathleen Theoharides at the Wind Technology Testing Center in Charlestown, also advances critical economic development priorities for the Commonwealth while securing significant clean, affordable, and resilient energy for Massachusetts residents and businesses.

“Massachusetts has been a national leader in the offshore wind industry and today’s announcement is another major milestone with the selection of two projects that double the amount of offshore wind power secured by the Commonwealth,” said Governor Charlie Baker. “The bipartisan energy legislation our Administration worked with the Legislature to pass in 2016 has unlocked record low pricing and significant economic investment through three separate procurements, and the projects selected today further illustrate the potential offshore wind presents for our climate goals,

our local workforce and our port communities.”

“This historic procurement builds on our administration’s continued investments in climate and clean energy policies that have helped reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions in the Commonwealth,” said Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito. “These procurements have increased the emphasis on environmental justice and workforce diversity, maintained cost-effectiveness and increased the size and scale of the solicitation, securing significant benefits for Massachusetts ratepayers.”

The selected projects include a 400 MW proposal from Mayflower Wind and a 1,200 MW proposal from Vineyard Wind. The Mayflower Wind and Vineyard Wind bids were selected for contract negotiations based on criteria established under a Request for Proposal (RFP) released by the Administration in May 2021. In this procurement, the Administration bids included enhanced criteria for economic evaluation of the benefits for ratepayers, the project’s ability to foster employment and economic development in the Commonwealth, the project’s environmental impacts and impacts on Environmental Justice (EJ) communities, the extent to which a project demonstrates that it avoids or mitigates impacts to regional commercial fisheries, and the bidder’s proposed plans to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion as part of the project. As a result of a stringent review, a portfolio of proposals from both bidders was determined to provide the greatest overall value to Massachusetts

customers by delivering a combined total of approximately 1,600 MW of offshore wind capacity per year while providing substantial ratepayer benefits.

During the bidding process, both Mayflower Wind and Vineyard Wind proposed wind energy at a competitive price and with substantial economic development opportunities for the Commonwealth. By selecting a portfolio of projects from both bidders, the Commonwealth will secure impressive investments in job creation and economic development. Bidders also responded to new provisions in the solicitation, included by the Administration for the first time, that required plans to support diversity, equity and inclusion, including Workforce Diversity and Supplier Diversity Program plans. Bidders were also required to describe proposed strategies to actively promote access to employment and contracting opportunities for minority, women, veterans, LGBT and persons with disabilities. Bidders also included assessments of impacts, both positive and negative, on EJ populations in the Commonwealth, and plans for investments and engagement with affected communities. The Department of Energy Resources (DOER) will work with the winning bidders to track and report on progress towards their commitments regarding economic development, environmental justice, and diversity, equity and inclusion.

“In structuring the Commonwealth’s third offshore wind procurement, the Baker-Polito Administration focused on delivering enhanced economic

benefits for Massachusetts residents, affordable pricing for ratepayers, and the development of a diverse, equitable, and inclusive workforce, and the projects selected through this competitive process deliver on those critical priorities,” said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Kathleen Theoharides. “Offshore wind is the centerpiece of Massachusetts’ climate goals and our effort to achieve Net Zero emissions in 2050, and this successful procurement will build on our national clean energy leadership and the continued development of a robust offshore wind supply chain in the Commonwealth.”

“Commonwealth Wind is more than just one project, it is part of an effort to build a clean energy infrastructure including the transformation of ports around our state as well as jobs and training that will support this clean energy industry decades to come,” said President and CEO of Avangrid Renewables Offshore, Bill White. “We are proud that Commonwealth Wind will help realize the vision of Governor Baker and the leaders of the Massachusetts Legislature in pioneering this new American industry.”

“We talk often of the jobs created directly by offshore wind but just as important to the success of this industry are the jobs that can and must be created in both the US supply chain and in the overall service of the industry,” said Lars T. Pedersen, CEO of Vineyard Wind. “Commonwealth Wind builds on both of these goals by expanding the base of the industry to both the South Coast and the North Shore including bringing the first tier 1 manufacturer to the state, in addition to investing millions of dollars to increase diversity and inclusion, not to mention innovation. We’re very proud of this project and truly honored to be selected by the Baker-Polito Administration.”

“This new agreement for an additional 400MW includes over \$42 million in economic development initiatives across the South Coast region,” said Michael Brown, Chief Executive Officer of Mayflower Wind Energy LLC. “In addition to creating approximately 14,000 jobs over the life of the project, we also will build our Operations and Maintenance port in Fall River and work with Gladding-Hearn Shipbuilding of Somerset to design and build our crew transfer vessel. All of this is on top of the \$77.5 mil-

lion in benefits expected from the first 800 MW of the project. This win is the result of the extraordinary collaboration between our team and the many communities and stakeholders we have worked with over the past six months. It also reaffirms the quality and competitiveness of our bid which delivers immense community value and low-cost renewable energy.”

“Today’s announcement moves Massachusetts one step closer to achieving the ambitious offshore wind energy goals that the Legislature is continuously advancing,” said Speaker of the House Ronald J. Mariano. “We look forward to continuing our progress in making Massachusetts a national leader in clean energy.”

“This round sees a wise balance struck between economic development, on the one hand, and protection against excessively high monthly electric bills for families, on the other,” said Senate Committee on Global Warming and Climate Change Chairman Michael J. Barrett. “Going forward, this can serve as a model for us. So today’s announcement is important in its own right and important as a valuable precedent.”

As part of the Administration’s RFP drafting process, for the first time under a Section 83C procurement, the Distribution Companies and DOER released the draft RFP for public review and received numerous public and stakeholder comments. The RFP built on the Commonwealth’s previous national leadership for offshore wind procurements, and included changes made in response to the public comments, consultations with state agencies, and lessons learned from prior solicitations. The RFP was also amended to address recommendations DOER made at the conclusion of its offshore wind energy transmission investigation.

The selection of a portfolio of projects from Mayflower Wind and Vineyard Wind concludes a rigorous solicitation and evaluation by DOER and the Commonwealth’s Electric Distribution Companies: Eversource, National Grid and Unitil. Additionally, the solicitation was monitored by an Independent Evaluator that was jointly chosen by DOER and the Office of the Attorney General and was responsible for overseeing the process to ensure that all proposals were evaluated in a fair and nondiscriminatory manner.

The selection of a 1,600

MW portfolio of projects represents substantial progress towards the Commonwealth’s current authorization of 5,600 MW of offshore wind energy. The first procurement resulted in executed and approved contracts with the Vineyard Wind 1 project for 800 MW, the first large-scale offshore wind procurements in the United States. The second procurement resulted in executed and approved contracts with the Mayflower Wind Low-Cost Energy project for 804 MW of offshore wind. The combined energy output of the selected and contracted offshore wind projects represents approximately 25 percent of total Massachusetts annual electricity demand.

“Massachusetts has pioneered the offshore wind development on the East Coast and today’s announcement marks our third commercial-scale offshore wind procurement off the Commonwealth’s shores and highlights the diverse economic and environmental benefits from this resource,” said Department of Energy Resources Commissioner Patrick Woodcock. “Cost-effective deployment of clean electricity is imperative to reach our long-term climate requirements and we are encouraged that this portfolio of projects build upon previous leadership by enhancing economic development benefits, improving equity and environmental justice within project plans, and maximizing the utilization of our existing transmission system.”

The final acceptance of the bid(s) and award of contract is conditional upon successful contract negotiations between the parties and regulatory approval at the DPU. At the time of contract filing with the DPU, a public filing will be provided by the Electric Distribution Companies detailing the evaluation process. Separately, the Independent Evaluator will prepare and submit a detailed public report on the evaluation process and outcome. Final project selection as a result of successful contract negotiations will be made public following submittal for regulatory approval. More information on the selected project, process, and timeline can be found here.

In March of 2021, Governor Baker signed comprehensive climate change legislation that increased the Administration’s authorization to solicit an additional 2400 Megawatts of offshore wind, bringing the state’s total commitment to 5,600 Megawatts.

Wynn Resorts names Julie Cameron-Doe as its new Chief Financial Officer

Wynn Resorts, Limited announced it will appoint Julie Cameron-Doe as its Chief Financial Officer, effective in the second quarter of 2022 on completion of her notice period with her current employer. Ms. Cameron-Doe will succeed Craig Billings, who will become the Company’s CEO early next year.

Mr. Billings said, “Julie is a proven leader and is a sitting public company CFO. Coming from the gaming industry, she understands many aspects of our business and she has diverse international experience. She is the clear choice for this position and her appointment rounds out our senior executive team. We are indeed fortunate to have her join us next year.”

Ms. Cameron-Doe will join Wynn Resorts from Aristocrat Leisure Ltd where she has served as Chief Financial Officer since 2018. She will bring a wealth of diverse financial experience to Wynn, having held senior finance roles at Aristocrat since 2013 as well as in global businesses, including Orbitz, The Walt Disney Company, and KPMG.

Ms. Cameron-Doe said, “To me, Wynn Resorts represents the gold standard in resort companies. The opportunity to work alongside Craig and the team, building on their legacy of excellence, is incredibly exciting. I look forward to contributing to the company’s growth and future development.”

About Wynn Resorts

Wynn Resorts, Limited is traded on the Nasdaq Global Select Market under the ticker symbol WYNN and is part of the S&P 500 Index. Wynn Resorts owns and operates Wynn Las Vegas (wynnlasvegas.com), Encore Boston Harbor (encorebostonharbor.com), Wynn Macau (wynnmacau.com), and Wynn Palace, Cotai (wynnpalace.com).

Wynn and Encore Las Vegas feature two luxury hotel towers with a total of 4,748 spacious hotel rooms, suites and villas, approximately 194,000 square feet of casino space, 22 dining experiences featuring signature chefs and 11 bars, two award-winning spas, approximately 560,000 rentable square feet of meeting and convention space, approximately 160,000 square feet of retail space as well as two showrooms, two nightclubs, a beach club and recreation and leisure facilities. Wynn Las Vegas recently unveiled the new Wynn Golf Club and 18-hole, 129-acre championship golf course, and in February 2020 debuted a 430,000-square-foot meeting and convention space expansion powered by 100 percent renewable energy.

Encore Boston Harbor is a luxury resort destination featuring a 210,000 square foot casino, 671 hotel rooms, an ultra-premium spa, specialty retail, 16 dining and lounge venues, and approximately 71,000 square feet of

state-of-the-art ballroom and meeting spaces. Situated on the waterfront along the Mystic River in Everett, Massachusetts, the resort has created a six-acre public park and Harborwalk along the shoreline. It is the largest private, single-phase development in the history of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Wynn Macau is a luxury hotel and casino resort located in the Macau Special Administrative Region of the People’s Republic of China with two luxury hotel towers with a total of 1,010 spacious rooms and suites, approximately 252,000 square feet of casino space, 12 food and beverage outlets, approximately 31,000 square feet of meeting and convention space, approximately 59,000 square feet of retail space, and recreation and leisure facilities including two opulent spas, a salon and a rotunda show.

Wynn Palace is a luxury integrated resort in Macau. Designed as a floral-themed destination, it boasts 1,706 exquisite rooms, suites and villas, approximately 424,000 square feet of casino space, 14 food and beverage outlets, approximately 37,000 square feet of meeting and convention space, approximately 106,000 square feet of designer retail, SkyCabs that traverse an eight-acre Performance Lake, an extensive collection of rare art, a lush spa, salon and recreation and leisure facilities.

For a Founding Father, he doesn't know much about helping a kid get a student loan.



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MBTA Board approves contract with Boston Carmen’s Union (Local 589)

The MBTA Board unanimously approved of a new contract between the MBTA and the Authority’s largest union, the Boston Carmen’s Union (Local 589).

“This contract acknowledges the invaluable contributions of thousands of MBTA employees charged with providing safe and reliable service on a daily basis,” said MBTA General Manager Steve Pofatak. “I want to express my sincere gratitude to all of the Authority’s unionized employees. The successful contract negotiations reflect our joint desire to maintain and grow a workforce that will allow the MBTA to deliver the levels of service necessary to meet ridership demands, today and in the future.”

The contract and its provisions are in effect for two years, beginning July 1, 2021, and lasting through June 30, 2023. Included within the contract are provisions for annual wage increases of 2.5% on July 1 of 2021 and 2022.

The contract also includes a provision for a “pandemic payment.” Every Local 589-represented employee employed during the declared pandemic period (March 15, 2020, to July 1, 2021) will receive a one-time payment of \$2,000. Employees who retired during this period will receive a pro-rated share.

The new contract also addresses the current staffing challenges facing the MBTA. In order to recruit new hires into the positions of bus and train

operators, the MBTA may offer a signing bonus of any amount, to be paid in a manner set by the Authority. Should the MBTA pay such a bonus, the same bonus shall be offered to any incumbent who was hired within the preceding six months from the time the hiring bonus is paid to any new hire.

This new contract increases the training wage paid to MBTA recruits as they get their Commercial Driver’s Licenses (CDL), learn to be an operator on the MBTA system, and play a vital role in getting the people of Massachusetts to work, home, and everywhere in between. Under this new contract, people with good driving records and a high school diploma or General Educational Develop-

ment (GED) test can in eight weeks receive their CDLs and become MBTA bus drivers making over \$33,000 per year with the opportunity for overtime, tuition reimbursement, medical and dental benefits, a pension, and career growth opportunities.

The contract also includes a provision for a “diversion payment.” Every Local 589-represented employee who is on the active payroll on March 1, 2022, will receive a one-time diversion payment of \$2,500. In return for this payment, the MBTA is permitted to outsource diversion/shuttle bus work beyond the limits outlined in the December 2016 Letter of Understanding. This exemption is temporary and expires on February 28, 2024.

The contract included an update to paid holidays. Juneteenth National Independence Day will replace Bunker Hill Day as a guaranteed paid holiday under the Agreement.

The contract also included an update to paid personal leave. Effective January 2022, all full-time and part-time employees will receive two paid personal days per year, which are not subtracted from sick leave, regardless of the employee’s service and sick leave usage. Previously, employees received one day, provided they had two years of service and 50% of their sick leave bank unused; the personal day was also subtracted from the individual’s sick leave bank. Any unused personal days will be cashed out at the

end of the calendar year.

The contract was also updated in an effort to reduce the number of part-time employees. The MBTA currently employs 470 part-time Operators represented by Local 589. Under the Management Rights Statute, the Union is prohibited from negotiating any limit on the MBTA’s right to hire part-time employees. The contract provides an incentive for the MBTA to convert part-time Operators to full-time Operators by establishing “Special Class Runs.” A Special Run will be picked and performed under the same terms as all other full-time assignments, including a 40-hour weekly guarantee, overtime, and full benefits.

A SHORT STORY ABOUT GROWING UP WITH AN UNFAIR ADVANTAGE.

POLIO.

As one of the last American children to contract polio, Jeffrey Galpin grew up in a world of iron lungs and body casts, alone with his imagination. His story would be dramatic enough if it was just about his battle with this dreaded disease.

But Jeffrey Galpin did more than survive polio. He went on to a list of achievements in medical research—including being the principal investigator in applying the first gene therapy for HIV/AIDS.

Dr. Galpin actually credits his own incurable condition for giving him the focus that made him so passionate in his research. His story leaves us with two of the most contagious messages we know. Don't give up, and remember to give back. If Dr. Galpin's story inspires just one more person to make a difference, then its telling here has been well worth while.

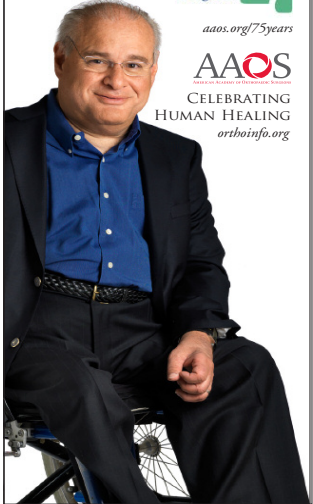
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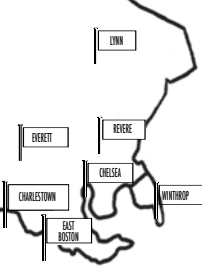
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Zumix // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Foundation. Zumix’s mission for the past three decades has been to empower young people to build successful futures for themselves – transforming lives and the community through music, technology, and creative employment. Zumix works with young people ages 7-18 through free and low-cost programs that are offered out-of-school in instrumental music, songwriting, performance, radio, audio engineering, and audio and video storytelling. Zumix also partners with three local schools – the Bradley Elementary, East Boston High School, and the McKay K-8 – to bring more arts education opportunities to Boston’s youth. In 2011 they received

the National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award from Michelle Obama in the White House, the highest honor our country has for youth arts programs. Over the summer Zumix Radio celebrated five years on the airwaves. Zumix Radio is a community radio station broadcasting the voices and culture of Boston’s youth through music, stories, and bilingual conversation. After streaming online for a decade, Zumix Radio began broadcasting as a low power FM station 24 hours daily in 2016. Currently 25 youth and 20 adults produce and host weekly shows featuring a variety of programming including talk radio and music.



Zumix Director and Co-Founder Madeleine Steczynski (right) on the red carpet during the gala.



Zumix’s Director of Creative Media and Technology Brittany Thomas (left) joins friends on the red carpet.



Zumix’s Director of Programs Corey DePina (left) with friends during the event.



Attendees enjoy a drink at the City Winery during Zumix’s 30th Anniversary gala.



Zumix’s Songwriting and Performance Manager Kadhj Bennett MCs the event.



Rep. Adrian Madaro praises Zumix for 30 years of supporting local youth through music.



Dan Lyons and Steve Snyder during the gala.



Attendees check out a media video of Zumix during the event.



Zumix alum Angelina Botticelli performs.



Zumix Director and Co-Founder Madeleine Steczynski addresses the crowd.



Attendees dressed for the occasion and posing on the red carpet.



Paul Scappicchio and Steve Snyder talk with Zumix supporters.



Steve Snyder, center, has been a longtime Zumix board member and supporter.



Local rocker Will Dailey performs with Angelina Botticelli.



Attendees were encouraged to walk the red carpet before heading into the gala.



Zumix’s African Drum Circle performs.

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