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JP AMERICAN LEGION RECOGNIZES BLACK NURSES AT ANNUAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENT



American Legion Commander for District 7 Suffolk County Karen Scott, keynote speaker BG Dr. Andrea Gayle-Bennett, Massachusetts Deputy Secretary from the Executive Office of Veterans Services, with Marcia Sharpe and Commander Neysa Wright from Post 296 shown during the annual Black History Month event at the American Legion Post 76 on South Street. See more photos on Pages 8-10.

JPNC Housing Comm. discusses affordable housing programs, Arborway garage

BY GAZETTE STAFF

The Housing and Development Committee (HDC) of the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council (JPNC) held its regular monthly meeting this past Tuesday evening. Vice-chairperson Purple Reign presided over the meeting that was attended by a large number of committee and community members including Esther Belliard, Gert Thorn, Willie Mitchell, Pam Bender, Carolyn Royce, Renee Stacey Welch, Allan Ihrer, Susan Cibulsky, Lo-

renzo Bartoloni, John Harding, Sarah Horsley, Sarah Freeman, and Kathy Brown.

Jamal Brinson, the Resident Services Representative at the Lena Park Development Corporation, was the guest speaker.

"We provide assistance for our residents and provide them with a voice to make sure they receive what they deserve," said Brinson,

Betsy Lin, who works with Brinson, also spoke to the group about the services provided to residents by Lena Park, which has been serving the Boston com-

munity since 1968.

Brinson and Lin spoke of the lotteries that are available for the first 80 units (out of an eventual total of about 200 units) for affordable housing opportunities at the new housing development at The Preserve at Olmsted Green in Mattapan, which will provide housing for a wide range of individuals, from senior citizens to young adults who are emerging from foster care.

According to the Olmsted

Continued on page 4

Emerald Necklace Conservancy files suit to stop redevelopment of White Stadium

BY ADAM SWIFT

Mayor Michelle Wu and members of her administration touted how a redeveloped White Stadium will benefit the city's students and residents at a virtual community outreach meeting on Feb. 12.

A little over a week after the Feb. 12 meeting, the Emerald Necklace Conservancy and 15 citizens filed suit against the city of Boston, Wu, Boston Unity Soccer Partners LLC, Boston City Council President Ruthzee Louijeune, and others to stop what it characterizes as the proposed privatization of White Stadium and 1.5 acres of surrounding public parkland in Franklin Park.

Boston Unity Soccer Partners have a public-private partnership with the city of Boston and

Boston Public Schools to renovate White Stadium to bring a professional women's soccer team to Boston in 2026.

Under the agreement with the city, Boston Unity will redevelop the west grandstands and create a public area called the Grove just outside the entrance of the stadium. The city would be responsible for the redevelopment of the east grandstands as well as the field itself.

Boston Unity would have full use of the stadium for about 20 game days from May through November, while the updated stadium would be open for use by the city, school sports and other activities, and possible community events the rest of the year.

"The Project Site, a portion

Continued on page 5

City issues reminders ahead of Presidential Primary

Early voting will take place February 24 - March 1

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

The Boston Election Department is reminding voters that the Presidential Primary will be held on Tuesday, March 5, 2024. The Presidential Primary determines the presidential candidate who will represent their political party in the November State

Election. Voters can update their voting status including party affiliation, new address, or name change until February 24 here. Early voting begins Saturday, running through March 1.

Continued on page 6

JP OBSERVER

Public trees to be protected here as of March 28

But what's next for the majority of trees—those that grow on private land?

BY SANDRA STOREY / SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Permission of the Parks and Recreation Department, through a Tree Warden, will soon be required for anyone—including city officials themselves—to have healthy trees removed from City of Boston property. Getting that permission will require a well-publicized public hearing.

An ordinance spelling out those and other new processes for City of Boston tree removal on its own properties—such as parks, school grounds, libraries and public housing—was passed unanimously by the Boston City Council on Dec. 13 and signed into law by Mayor Michelle Wu at the end of January. The public tree protection ordinance (TPO) will go into effect on March 28.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has long had a law regarding preserving “public shade trees” that is referenced and treated in the new Boston ordinance as a separate category of public trees from those on City property.

The original draft TPO, that also regulated removing trees on private property, was first submitted and discussed by the Boston City Council in 2021. All Council members signed on to co-sponsor it within a short time.

But the provisions that cov-

ered removal of private trees—which make up about 60 percent of the tree canopy here and represent the greatest losses of trees, according to the Parks Department—were dropped about a year ago.

At a government operations committee hearing of the council it was decided to bifurcate the first ordinance to deal with regulating public trees first, to be followed by developing the potentially more controversial rules for private tree removal later.

“Later” should be coming soon.

Jamaica Plain has a 44 percent tree canopy, the largest of any Boston neighborhood. About eight acres of canopy were lost here between 2014 and 2019, according to City assessments

Now that the public tree part of the TPO has passed into law, it's time for Boston to revisit the most significant part of tree protection regulation—creating prior review of possible removal of trees on private land.

The original 2021 draft ordinance was similar to regulations on the books in quite a few cities and towns around the country, including Austin, Tex., Atlanta, Palo Alto (updated from

original from 1951), Portland, Ore. and Seattle. Friends of Urban Forests lists about 50 cities and states that have official tree protections around the country on its website. <https://friends.urbanforests.org/tree-ordinances-in-other-states/>

Massachusetts cities that have TPOs governing private tree removal include Cambridge, Canton, Newton, Somerville, Salem and Wellesley.

An extensive Urban Forest Plan (UFP), developed by the City of Boston with lots of community and expert participation over more than a year, and released in September, 2022, calls for regulations protecting trees as a critical action item within the first five years.

Since then, the Urban Forestry Division of the Parks Department expanded its workforce to care for thousands of trees and secured a grant of \$11.4 million from the U.S. Forest Services Urban and Community Forestry Program, according to a press release from the City.

In an online poll of the UFP's equity centered Community Advisory Board (CAB) in March, 2022, 85 percent of the 35 voting CAB members said they believe “the existing tree protection regulations need to be strengthened,” 54 percent said regulation of private tree removal should happen in “all instances,” 38 percent said “just during land development or construction projects.” Three percent were unsure.

No one said that “tree removal on private property shouldn't be regulated at all.”

Trees make incredible contributions to the well-being of cities and their residents, as the UFP says. They reduce storm water run-off, air pollution, the heat island effect, rates of respiratory ailments and energy usage. They provide wildlife habitat and give off oxygen while taking in harmful carbon dioxide. They are visually pleasing and provide shade and privacy.

Former local District 6 City Councilor Matt O'Malley cited a study that showed the average tree gives \$293 worth of benefits

a year to its community at a City Council hearing in 2018.

Boston's tree canopy covers about 27 percent of the city, according to a Tree Canopy Assessment put out by the City in 2020 that analyzed tree cover changes in the City from 2014-2019. That isn't high.

Findings from the same City of Boston Tree Canopy Assessment of 2020 show that Jamaica Plain saw a net loss of about eight acres of canopy coverage, most of which came from “residential, mixed use and public open space,” according to the Parks Department in 2021 and quoted by the Gazette.

During Mayor Marty Walsh's administration, the goal of 35 percent tree coverage in Boston by 2030 was set. That will be difficult to achieve just by planting new trees. Preserving mature trees, which bring more benefits than young ones, is important, especially in Boston's environmental equity neighborhoods.

Key to thinking and planning for Boston's urban forest is the fact that lower income neighborhoods with significant populations of people of color are being negatively impacted by a lack of trees. Chinatown, Dorchester, East Boston, Mattapan, and Roxbury residents suffer from related health issues.

“It's no coincidence that many of the communities disproportionately impacted by poor air quality and the urban “heat island” effect also have inadequate tree cover.” Parks Commissioner Ryan Woods said when the Urban Forest Plan, which has “equity” for those neighborhoods as a primary goal, was originally announced.

District 5 City Councilor Ricardo Arroyo, who drafted the original TPO in 2021, said at a Council hearing where Woods was present that equity was a major goal of both the UFP and the TPO.

At the moment, the brakes seem to be on regulating removal of private trees in those environmental equity neighborhoods and all of Boston, actually for some good, practical reasons.

But drafting and passing an ordinance regarding private tree removal should be put on the fast track in six months to a year. Every day those regulations are not in place, the environmental advantages they will bring to our neighborhoods and city are postponed.

Meanwhile, there is a lot of work to be done in coming months to prepare for drafting and passing the new private tree ordinance.

JP's new District 6 City Councilor Ben Weber and David Meshoulam, co-founder and executive director of Speak for the Trees, said in separate interviews earlier this month they are happy to have the public tree ordinance on the books. Both said they want to monitor the implementation of that ordinance before moving on to regulating removal of privately owned trees, specifically paying attention to enforcement of the new rules and processes.

A Parks Department spokesperson pointed out another two reasons to not rush into creating the next TPO. City Chief of Environment, Energy and Open Spaces Mariama White-Hammond, who was a key person in leading the Parks Department's UFP process and acting as a resource on the TPOs, will be leaving her position in April. Her replacement will need to be brought up to speed on tree protection activities here, along with myriad other subjects.

The Parks spokesperson also pointed out that the public tree ordinance that goes into effect next month calls for creation of an Urban Forest Advisory Committee (UFAC) of at least seven members. She said that group that will be convened this summer can be a valuable source of input.

With the UFAC, which can possibly help shape and guide the ordinance governing private trees, and a new chief of environment in place, additional input from City agencies relating to private property, including

Continued on page 3

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JP Observer

Continued from page 2

the Planning and Inspectional Services Departments, will be sought, along with residential property owners, neighborhood associations, institutional property owners and advocates for various causes, according to the Parks Department spokesperson.

Public education needs to be done during coming months to make sure the private PTO is considered with a maximum of knowledge and a minimum of fear and interference on the part of the entire, interested Boston community.

The Parks Department working with tree advocacy and environmental groups in Boston can play an important role in gathering and sharing information necessary to make good decisions about developing private tree protections that work for everyone when the time comes.

Discussions about a private TPO will go better if all participants have already:

1. Familiarized themselves with some tree protections already in place in a city or cities around the country.

Boston is not alone. Urban tree protections are not some wild experiment cooked up by local tree-huggers. As individuals and organizations, the community can learn a lot from the tree ordinances and experiences of other cities. There's no need to invent this private TPO wheel from scratch. We can look at existing regulations while crafting our own.

Councilor Arroyo asked his staff to contact some of those cities for information, especially about any pitfalls they had encountered, as he drafted the original ordinance. Although specifics and lingo can be different, and provisions in some cities are scattered throughout various parts of their laws, successful TPOs have a lot of basics in common.

Most tree protections go easy on small homeowners. Most make dealing with DDI ("Dead, Diseased, Imminent Hazard,"

according to Austin) trees easy, too. Developers, attorneys, architects, landscapers and builders often treat the rules as just another part of a building code they already have to follow. Quite a few, I've heard, are into protecting trees and the environment as the ordinances say.

My brother and his wife own a single-family house in a newish development in Austin, which has had tree protection regulations since 1984. I asked him last week, objectively speaking, what his experience with those regulations there has been. He said he and his wife have had to have four trees on their property cut down over the years because they were diseased or leaning way over. No special permits were necessary because they were smallish trees and were not healthy.

"the average tree gives \$293 worth of benefits a year to its community"

On the other hand, he said, he is very happy that builders of a nearby housing development preserved lots of mature trees along the shared fence and planted other new trees throughout the development to keep with the City's regulations. He said he likes knowing that the environment of all of Austin, not just his neighborhood, is better because of tree protection rules.

People who have friends or relatives in other cities with TPOs might want to ask them about their experiences.

2. Read the City of Boston's Urban Forest Plan and its appendixes. <https://www.boston.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/urban-forest-plan>

3. Read the provisions regarding trees on public and private land in the original ordinance submitted to the Boston City Council in 2021. <https://www.boston.gov/sites/default/files/>

[file/2021/08/0858.PDF](https://www.boston.gov/sites/default/files/file/2021/08/0858.PDF)

and of the one regarding trees on public land that just passed with a link to it here: <https://www.boston.gov/news/mayor-wu-signs-public-tree-protection-ordinance-advancing-urban-forest-plan>. They give a good idea of how private tree provisions might go.

4. Think in terms of the widely different types of private ownership of trees that will need to be considered when tailoring an ordinance suitable to each of them: institutional, commercial, small homeowner, large residential property owner or entity, new developments of various sizes, etc.

5. Think in terms of what trees should be protected based on history, size, age, etc.

6. Everyone interested in the topic of tree protections should be open, not only to taking in information, but also to holding transparent, sometimes public dialogues with others when discussing protections and any concerns.

7. After the private TPO passes, outreach about it should be done to everyone in the city in various ways, including in brochures like the ones the City puts out now every winter regarding dealing with snow and low temperatures. It's not too late to educate the entire community about the public TPO either.

District 9 City Councilor Liz Breadon—a co-sponsor of the urban tree protection ordinance as well as the original one, along with former Councilors Arroyo and local District 6 Councilor Kendra Lara—said at the Dec. 13 Council meeting that she was "delighted" that the "critically important" public TPO had passed.

"This is one phase," Breadon pointed out. "I am committed to continue to work for public and private tree protections."

Isabella Gambill is Assistant Director of Climate, Energy, & Resilience at A Better City (ABC), an organization that "represents a multi-sector group of nearly 130 business leaders united around a common goal: to enhance the Greater Boston region's economic health, competitiveness, equitable growth,

sustainability, and quality of life for all communities," according to its website.

ABC has not taken a position on either the new urban tree protection ordinance or an upcoming private tree ordinance.

One thing is clear right now. Boston needs a private TPO. We need to prepare to draft and pass it after some prior practical actions, community education and monitoring of enforcement of the existing public TPO.

"No one will be surprised to hear that I am very supportive of a tree ordinance," local environment and open space advocate Sarah Freeman of the Arborway Coalition, said during her City Council testimony when the first TPO, with urban and private trees included, was introduced in 2021.

"The best time to enact it was 20 years ago," she said. "The second-best time is now."

The same is still true of the part of that ordinance that remains to be enacted three years later.

Putting a lot of time between

the public TPO taking effect next month and developing a draft ordinance to add the majority of trees (private ones) to those we are safeguarding is slightly dangerous.

People quickly forget. And it's tempting to want to ignore policies that could be controversial and a little complicated. The thought of private tree protections makes many people happy, but it makes a few people, especially those not familiar with what they typically entail and the benefits they bring, nervous, especially at first.

We can't let the beginning of public tree protection in Boston mark the end of caring for more numerous, more threatened privately owned trees. That would be a real shame.

And for a city that takes pride in its concern for science, green-space and the environment, failing to pass a good private TPO would be downright shameful.

Sandee Storey is Publisher Emerita of the Jamaica Plain Gazette.



JP



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La inscripción cuesta \$25.00 — hay descuentos disponibles.

La temporada de primavera tiene una duración de 8 semanas, cada semana realizamos una práctica de 45 minutos para cada equipo, con sesiones disponibles los miércoles a las 4 p.m., los sábados a las 9, 10 & 11 a.m., o los domingos a las 10 a.m.

Necesitamos líderes voluntarios para apoyar a cada equipo, ¡no se necesita experiencia! Visite nuestro sitio web para obtener más detalles o contáctenos directamente en: contact@jpcsoccer.org.



PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

JPNC

Continued from page 1

Green web site, "The Preserve at Olmsted Green is a one-of-a-kind, 42-acre landscaped community located just six miles to downtown Boston, which offers apartments for rent, homeownership opportunity, and a mix of smartly designed flats and townhomes with private backyards and lush landscapes. Its uniquely designed neighborhoods feature abundant green-space, landscapes, and lawns. 63 of the 80 condominiums are designated as income-restricted and will be sold to first-time homebuyers making at or below 80% AMI, 100% AMI, or 120% AMI (Area Median Income)."

Brinson noted that 3000 applications already have been

received for those lottery units.

Eric Brickley, a Loan Officer with M&T Bank, spoke about the affordable housing loan programs that are available for prospective buyers of units. He discussed the concept of affordable lending with deed restrictions, which essentially ensures that affordable units will remain affordable for future buyers in line with the then-AMI and that buyers of the units are forbidden from renting them out.

Brickley also outlined the rather complicated income requirements for eligibility for the program which are based on Area Median Income (AMI), family size, and the zip code of the property. In addition, there is a wide range of programs available for prospective purchasers that can vary the size of down payments, eligibility for receiving grants, and obtaining below-mar-

ket mortgage rates.

The members then discussed the MBTA Arborway Garage project. Royce presented an update from the most recent meeting between the Arborway Garage Subcommittee and T and city officials on January 25 at which the T defended its controversial plan to locate a parking lot for 150 cars for employees on the eight acres of land that had been designated for community development.

Royce said that T officials promised to hold a multitude of public meetings in the future to keep residents updated on the progress of the project. Royce noted that the design stage has reached the 15% mark and soon will reach the 30% mark.

Royce also highlighted that city and state officials and others made the point that the garage, which will house 200 of the T's future electric bus fleet (the leg-

islature has mandated that all of the T's buses must be fully-electric by 2040), is viewed by many constituencies as a necessary part of environmental justice goals for the larger Boston community.

However, many of the committee members expressed their dissatisfaction with the T's insistence on locating its employee parking lot on the eight acres that have been set aside for community development purposes.

"This eight acres of land was meant as impact mitigation," said Ihrer, who pointed out that the effective acreage for community development will be closer to 6.5 across. He went on to say, "Sticking 150 parking spaces in the middle of our much-needed development," is not in keeping with the promises that had been made by T and city officials (the original Memorandum of Understanding was signed by Mayor

Tom Menino and the T in 2001).

"They feel no sense of responsibility to the community," said Thorn, echoing Ihrer's comments. "This is not the way the system is supposed to work. We're just powerless. They've already established a design in their minds and are proceeding full speed ahead."

"The T is not negotiating with us," added Bender. "They're making their decisions on their own and then announcing them to us."

Other speakers similarly took the T to task for reneging on the promise of the eight acres for community development.

The date for the next meeting of the Arborway Garage Sub-Committee is set for Monday, March 18, and the next meeting of the Housing and Development Committee is set for Tuesday, March 19.

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SJC Clerk Maura Doyle will not seek re-election in 2024

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Maura S. Doyle, Clerk of the Supreme Judicial Court for the County of Suffolk, announces that she will not be seeking re-election in 2024.

"It has been an incredible honor to work at the Supreme Judicial Court for 32 years, first as an assistant clerk for 4 years and then as the Court's elected Clerk for the past 28 years, during which time I have had the privilege of working with 28 justices and 6 chief justices.

I have been invigorated over the years by the numerous collaborations I have had with my



Maura S. Doyle, Clerk of the Supreme Judicial Court.

constituents, court professionals, attorneys, law schools, and bar associations. Most of all, I have cherished working with my extraordinary staff and assistant clerks who have aided me in creating an incredibly responsive, accountable, and professional office for all who seek relief from the highest court in the Commonwealth.

However, I will not be seeking reelection in 2024 because the time has now come for me to step back from public life and look to a future spent with my amazing family who have graciously supported me throughout the years."

White Stadium

Continued from page 1

of Franklin Park, has been held in trust for over 74 years for the beneficiaries of the White Fund Trust—the residents of Boston," the complaint from the Emerald Necklace Conservancy reads. "In that time, the Project Site has been used as an open space for public recreation, public school sporting events, and numerous music and cultural festivals. In 2023, the City began discussions with Boston Unity Soccer Partners, LLC to undertake a joint venture to redevelop the Project Site as the home for a professional sports team (the "Project")." The project, if permitted to go forward, would illegally transfer the public trust lands constituting the Project Site to private parties, ensuring extensive, exclusive use of public trust lands by a private party for the operation of a professional sports team and associated uses, the complaint further states.

"Although White Fund Stadium has fallen into disrepair and is in need of substantial renovations, the City has failed to consider any alternatives to the Project, all while rapidly pushing forward the Project and ignoring the terms of the White Fund Trust and the requirements of Article 97," the complaint states. Wu stated that she is excited about the opportunity the redevelopment of the stadium represents, and that it would triple the number of hours that it could be used by the Boston Public Schools and the public.

"The soccer team is just a small

portion of how it would actually be used," Wu told Boston25 news. During the Feb. 12 meeting, Wu said she understood that the White Stadium project was a complex project involving the park, the schools, and the community.

The mayor also said the redevelopment of White Stadium would uphold the vision of Frederick Law Olmstead to increase activity for the public in public parks. Karen Mauney-Brodeck, the Executive Director of the Emerald Necklace Conservancy, spoke at the Feb. 12 virtual meeting, and said she understands that the stadium needs work.

"I don't want to slow this down, but it's regrettable that the community was not asked first: no one from the community was asked if it wanted a professional Women's soccer team," Mauney-Brodeck stated.

Concerns about traffic and an influx of people to the neighborhood were also raised in the complaint, which was received in Superior Court on Tuesday, Feb. 20.

"It would fundamentally alter the nature and feel of a significant portion of Franklin Park during the majority of fair weather weekends each year," the complaint states. "Boston Unity Soccer Partners, LLC proposes to host at least 20 home games on Saturdays between April and November, causing a rapid influx of over 10,000 people on those days, and radically changing the public open space of Franklin Park, well beyond the boundaries of the Project Site, for a huge portion of summer weekend days. This does not even factor in the additional

exclusive use of the Project Site during practice sessions for the professional soccer team on at least 20 additional Friday evenings, and the continuous, exclusive use of the West Grandstand buildings and the "Grove" portion of the Site by Boston Unity Soccer Partners, LLC."

The Grove portion of the project is a proposed outdoor space in front of the stadium that would be used for public events and gameday activities, according to the developers.



PLEASE WRITE...

The Gazette welcomes letters to the editor.

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Coalition builds momentum for ranked choice voting in Boston

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

The coalition group Ranked Choice Boston (RCB) announced the addition of a new partner to its campaign, as it continues to build momentum to promote rank choice voting in the City of Boston. RCB, along with the voting rights group MassVOTE, last night held a gathering with its new group partner Neighbors United for a Better East Boston (NUBE), a Latinx-led organization that advocates for inclusive

democratic processes and just public policies to create a vibrant economy and environment for all of East Boston. RCB has witnessed an increase of support from allied groups around the City with currently over thirty coalition members since its launching on August 2023, marking a significant step toward its collective mission to create a more just and inclusive democracy. “Our most active members and volunteers have expressed

that with the implementation of Rank Choice Voting, we strongly feel we have the opportunity to have authentic representation in Boston” said Enilda Lovo, Lead Coordinator of NUBE. “We are extremely excited at the possibility of enacting in the near future this fairer system of voting in Boston” Among those who participated at the event include Boston At-Large City Councilors Julia Mejia and Henry Santana, City Councilor Enrique Pepén, and

RCB Co-Chair Rahsaan Hall, who is President and CEO, Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts, as well as Latinx leaders from the East Boston community. “We are proud to join fellow democracy advocates and justice seekers in this growing coalition to advance ranked choice voting. Our collective efforts will seek to mobilize Bostonians of every neighborhood to have a strong presence in their communities and at the ballot box,” said RCB

Co-Chair Rahsaan Hall. RCB’s mission is to empower individuals and foster civic participation, ensuring that every voice is not only heard but also honored. To that end, RCB has called on the support of key voices in the voting rights and community empowerment space to help lead this effort with campaign Coalition Co-Chairs Cheryl Clyburn Crawford, Executive Director of MassVOTE;

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Voting

Continued from page 1

Voter Registration Deadline and Registration Information

The Voter Registration Deadline for the Presidential Primary is Saturday, February 24, 2024. Registration must be postmarked by February 24, 2024. Voters can register in person at the Boston Election Department, located in City Hall Room 241, by 5 pm or register online by 11:59 pm here.

In-person Early Voting

In-person early voting begins Saturday, February 24 and runs through Friday, March 1. City Hall is Boston’s primary early voting site, with voting from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday. Voters are encouraged to enter City Hall through the Hanover Street entrance to access the early voting location on the second floor, Haymarket Room. Neighborhood early voting locations will be available throughout the city on Saturday,

February 24 and Sunday, February 25 from 11 am to 7 pm, and from noon to 8 pm. on Tuesday, February 27 and Thursday, February 29. For a full list of early voting locations click here. All early voting sites are equipped with electronic poll books for voter check in. Early voting locations are well staffed with poll workers and interpreters, and fully accessible to voters with disabilities.

Vote-by-Mail

Voters may also choose to vote early by mail. Applications to request a vote-by-mail ballot must be received by Tuesday, February 27 at 5 pm. Vote-by-mail ballots may be returned using one of 21 drop boxes located throughout the City; in-person at the Boston Election Department located at City Hall Room 241; at an early voting location during the prescribed hours for voting; or via U.S. Mail. Voters are asked to return all signed ballot packages, whether using a drop box or the US Mail in the white postage paid return envelope included with their vote by mail ballot. Ballots

POLLING LOCATION CHANGES

Ward & Precinct	Previous Location	New Location
Ward 4 Precincts 11 & 12	Museum of Fine Arts, 20 Museum Rd., Fenway	Fenway Center, 77 St. Stephen’s St., Fenway
Ward 6, Precinct 10	Artists for Humanity, 100 West Second St.,South Boston	James F. Condon School, 200 D St.,South Boston
Ward 6, Precincts 11 & 12	District Hall, 75 Northern Ave., Waterfront	Building at 55 Pier Four Blvd., 55 Pier Four Blvd.,Waterfront
Ward 17, Precincts 1 & 3	Codman Square Tech Centre, 450 Washington St.,Dorchester	Great Hall at Codman Square Health Center, 6 Norfolk St.,Dorchester
Ward 17, Precinct 8	Codman Square Library 690 Washington St., Dorchester	Great Hall at Codman Square Health Center, 6 Norfolk St.,Dorchester
Ward 18, Precinct 15	Another Course to College, 612 Metropolitan Ave., Hyde Park	New Mission High School (located within the Hyde Park Education Complex) 655 Metropolitan Ave., Hyde Park

must reach the Boston Election Department or a ballot drop box by 8:00 pm on Tuesday, March 5 to be counted. Ballots cannot be delivered to a polling location on Election Day. Voters can track the status of their vote-by-mail ballots here. If there is no movement indicated in the “Track My Ballot” system, voters should plan to vote in-person on Election Day.

Accessible Voting

The Accessible Electronic Voting System allows voters who are unable to independently read, write, hold, or physically manipulate or mark ballots to submit their ballot via a secure electronic delivery system. Voters who qualify for an Accessible Electronic Ballot may apply here. The deadline to apply for an accessible ballot is Tuesday, February 27, 2024 at 5 pm. Please note: To get access to the electronic ballot, you will need to provide your email address.

Voting on Election Day

Polling locations open at 7:00 am and close at 8:00 pm.

A list of polling locations can be found here. As a reminder, voters should check their registration status via the Secretary of the Commonwealth’s website. Printed ballots will be available in English and Spanish. Chinese and Vietnamese ballots will be available where required. Language interpreters will also be available upon request. All voting locations are wheelchair accessible and are equipped with AutoMark Voter Assist Terminal for voters with

visual or hearing impairments. After polls close at 8:00 pm, the Election Department will receive and upload unofficial results of ballots counted at polling places as they are returned from each precinct.

Unofficial Results

After polls close at 8:00 pm, the Election Department will receive and upload unofficial results of ballots counted at polling places as they are returned from each precinct.

RESEARCH STUDY: Testosterone treatment in men with back pain who use opioids for pain control

You are invited to participate in a clinical research study at the Brigham and Women’s Hospital. Investigators are evaluating the effect of testosterone treatment on back pain in men who use opioids for pain control. Your participation may help men with chronic back pain and low testosterone.

Participation includes:

- 6 to 8 study visits
- Financial compensation of up to \$935
- Free parking / meal vouchers for visits that require fasting

- You may be eligible to participate in this study:
- If you are a man aged 18 or older
 - If you have history of back pain
 - If you are receiving opioid to treat your pain

For more information, please call: 617-278-0722
or Email: lchammas@bwh.harvard.edu



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JPCC's Adult Learning Program opens its doors to over 50 immigrants

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

On February 1, Jamaica Plain Community Centers Adult Learning Program (ALP) launched a new class for basic and low level English Speakers of Other Languages. ALP, based in the Curtis Hall Community Center, is a community-based school which currently serves learners from over 40 countries who collectively speak 26 different languages.

With the financial assistance of the Board of Directors of the Jamaica Plain Community Cen-

ters (JPCC), this new class--originally created to accommodate 15-20 students--has an enrollment of over 40, all of whom are prepared to collaborate with their peers, connect with learning in new ways, and expand relationships through English.

Since early 2023, migrants from Haiti have been arriving in Boston, seeking refuge from the economic and political turmoil of their home country. Additionally, since the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year ALP has seen a wave of new enrollments, primarily in their low-level English classes and pri-

marily from Haitian migrants. ALP originally reached out to the City of Boston for help to compensate teaching staff that were pressed with overwhelming student enrollment in pre-existing classes. When the City of Boston declined the request to provide any funding, ALP's Director, Dr. Joyce Henderson, reached out to the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the JPCC, Kerry Costello, and the decision to assist the students was immediately granted.

"All of us here at ALP are grateful for the assistance in creating this new class," said ALP's Edu-



The JPCC Adult Learning Program at the Curtis Hall Community Center.

cation Coordinator, Tomm McCarthy. "I hope this is the first of many steps in helping our new neighbors to achieve their goals like finding lasting employment and pursuing higher education." The additional English class on Thursday and Friday will not fix the migration

crisis in this country, state, or even the city, but ALP in Jamaica Plain is doing their part to prepare new migrants to overcome challenges associated with communication and enable them to give back to the community that has embraced them.

Ranked Choice

Continued from page 6

Tanisha Sullivan, Voting Rights advocate and President of the Boston NAACP; and Rahsaan Hall, President, CEO of Urban League of Eastern MA.

"Boston is excited for ranked choice voting. 62% of Boston voters supported Ranked Choice in 2020, and our coalition of supporters keeps growing. RCV is easy, equitable, and will give voice to all voters," said RCB Director Ed Shoemaker.

In addition to NUBE and MassVOTE, the coalition includes the New England United 4 Justice; Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts; Union Capital Boston; Right to the City Boston; Represent Women; Represent Us; Dunk the Vote; NAACP Boston; Boston Teachers Union; MPDC (Madison Park Development Corporation); Fair-vote Action; South End-Roxbury community partnership; The RoxVote Coalition; Progressive WRox/Roz; JP Progressives; Veterans for All Voters; Brazilian Worker Center Inc.; Ward 15 Democratic Committee; Boston Ward 4 Democratic Committee; BLOC (Black Local Organizing Committee); Mass Dems Ward 11 Boston; Common Cause Massachusetts; MAHA (Massachusetts Affordable Housing Alliance); Our Revolution Massachusetts; ML (MassLandlords, Inc.); Not On My Watch Mentoring Inc.; Marcus Anthony Hall Educational Institute; Boston Ward 19; IRIE Jamaican Style Restaurant; YDMA (Young Democrats of Massachusetts).

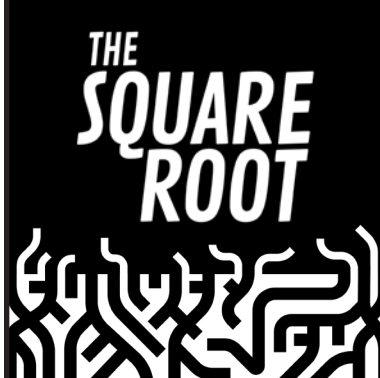
RCB's goal is to enact a Home

Rule Petition for Ranked Choice Voting in Boston's Municipal Elections, and will seek the backing of the Boston City Councilors to vote to submit the petition to the state legislature. This will need to pass the City Council with a minimum of 7 votes and have the support of the Mayor. Once that passes, it needs to be approved by the state legislature and then will likely require a referendum vote by Boston voters. This system of voting upgrades both preliminary and general elections to use ranked choice voting, for council district seats, council at large seats, and mayor, and will affect Boston's elections for Mayor and City Council, both the preliminary and the general election.

What's more, instead of being restricted to picking just one candidate, Ranked Choice Voting

gives you the power to rank candidates in the order that you like them. With Ranked Choice Voting, your top choice is never harmed by ranking additional "backup" choices. And if your favorite candidate lacks the support to win, your ballot automatically counts for your next choice.

Boston has made incredible progress over this decade with diverse candidates competing for and winning office. In the 2021 mayoral preliminary election, an astounding 95% of Boston voters cast their vote for a woman of color. Ranked Choice Voting will protect and extend these gains. By allowing voters to express their wishes more fully with ranked ballots, Ranked Choice Voting is able to ensure that candidates with the greatest overall support of the broadest majority of voters win each election.



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JP AMERICAN LEGION RECOGNIZES BLACK NURSES AT ANNUAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENT

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS

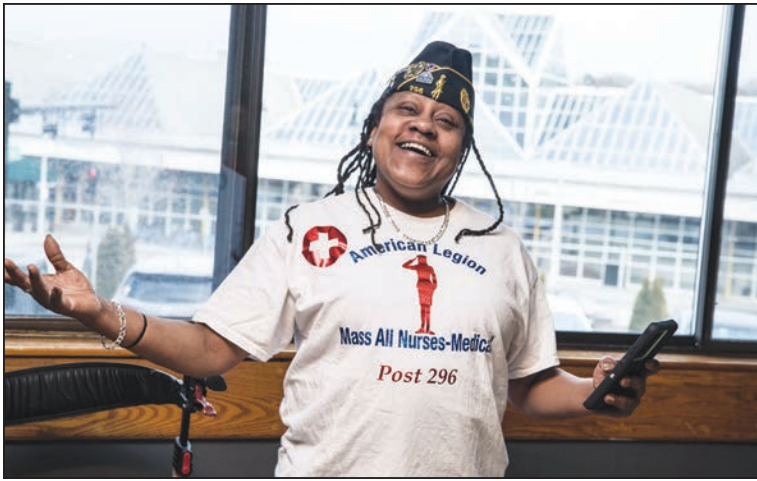
At the American Legion Post 76 on South Street, Post 296 All Medical-Nurses held its annual event for Black History Month recognizing the contribution of Black nurses in the US military.



Brendan Behan Pub
378A Centre Street
Jamaica Plain



The Commander of Post 296 Neysa Wright presents keynote speaker BG Dr Andrea Gayle-Bennett, Massachusetts Deputy Secretary from the Executive Office Of Veterans Services with a certificate of appreciation.



Carla Nelson, Post 296 Sr Vice Commander, leads attendees on singing the Black National Anthem, Lift Every Voice And Sing.

Do you have Long COVID?

Lewis Lab is conducting a study of the effect of Long COVID on the brain! Help us understand the effects of Long COVID on the brain, and receive \$100 compensation.



Adults 18-85
who have LONG COVID

Are invited to participate in this study lasting 2-3 hours, by having a magnetic resonance imaging(MRI) scan at the Martinos Center in Boston

For more information, contact the Lewis Lab at MGHLCOVID@MGB.ORG



Scan QR code to fill out screening form




A cake honoring the nurses of American Legion Post 296 was baked by Eugenia Howard.



Darsalle and Raymond Boyd catered the event with a buffet of many soul food selections.

Gazette Pet of the Week


by Sarah Carroll




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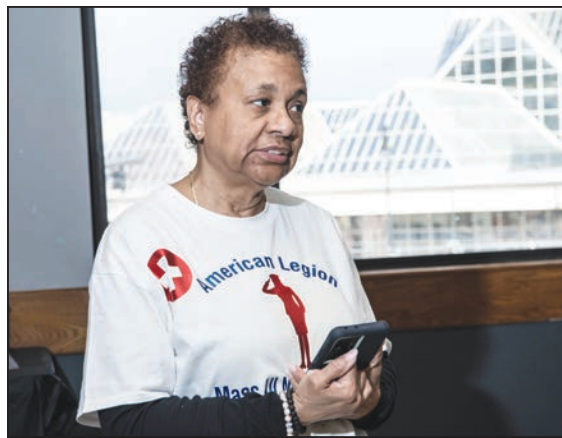
JP AMERICAN LEGION RECOGNIZES BLACK NURSES AT ANNUAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENT



Eslyn Williams and Marcia Perry (right) with US Army veteran Marcia Sharpe and her grand nephew Dishod.



American Legion Commander for District 7 Karen Scott.



The Commander of Post 296 Neysa Wright welcomes attendees to the event.



Members of American Legion Post 296 with American Legion Commander Sandra Davis.



American Legion Commander Sandra Davis speaks.



Dr Ike Benjamin, an attendee at the Holy Tabernacle Church in Dorchester, delivered the opening prayer as well as led attendees in saying grace before dinner.



Dinner was an excellent buffet selection catered by Darsalle and Raymond Boyd.

Jamaica Plain Community Centers

BOARD OF DIRECTORS NEEDS YOU !

ANNUAL ELECTION

MONDAY MARCH 18, 2023



Nominations Forms Available at:

- Curtis Hall Community Center
- Hennigan Community Center
- Electronically at jpcinc@yahoo.com

Candidates must be over 18 years old & become JPCC Members

For Additional Information Call:
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WHERE:

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TIME:

9:00 A.M. – 7:00 P.M.

WHO:

J.P. RESIDENT 18 YRS. & OLDER

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March 11th, 2024 by 5 P.M.
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JP AMERICAN LEGION RECOGNIZES BLACK NURSES AT ANNUAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENT



Soune Claveus preformed an Afro-Caribbean dance presentation.

WILLIAM RAVEIS

GB

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BG Dr Andrea Gayle-Bennett, Massachusetts Deputy Secretary from the Executive Office Of Veterans Services, was the keynote speaker.



Veteran Alfred Godfrey III.

The opinions expressed on these pages are not necessarily those of this newspaper.

Jamaica Plain GAZETTE

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Raffle prizes await lucky attendees to take them home.



Sonja Baitey with her sister Eugenia Howard, who baked the cake.

Mayor's Youth Summit returns after 20 years on February 24

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

After 20 years since it was last held, Mayor Michelle Wu is hosting the Mayor's Youth Summit on February 24, an event to celebrate youth and create opportunities for them to connect with City resources and other young leaders in Boston. The Mayor's Youth Summit aims to

engage and inspire the City's young people in a fun and interactive way. Along with the Mayor's Youth Summit, the Office of Youth Engagement and Advancement (OYEA), in partnership with community organizations and other City agencies, will host more than 20 free events for teens across the City of Boston throughout the week

of February vacation, as part of Youth Week.

"Boston's future is in our young people, and we're lucky to have their leadership and energy to build a city for everyone," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "I look forward to an exciting week culminating in this historic summit."

"We are thrilled to be able to work with our many partners to

host the Mayor's Youth Summit," said José Massó, Chief of Human Services. "Boston is blessed to have so many bright, talented, engaged young people and the Summit will be an opportunity to celebrate them and to create space to learn more about how we can better meet their needs."

The City, together with youth-serving partner organi-

zations, is hosting more than 20 events for teens during this week of February vacation, concluding with the Mayor's Youth Summit hosted at Artists for Humanity on Saturday, February 24. The goal of these events is to create safe spaces for young leaders to connect and have fun during this

Continued on page 14



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Heath Street Gang members charged in federal court following two-year investigation

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Over 40 members and associates of the Heath Street Gang in Boston were charged in federal court in Boston with racketeering conspiracy; drug trafficking; firearms; wire fraud; and financial frauds, including COVID fraud, following a two-year investigation into gang violence in Boston.

According to the charging documents, the Heath Street Gang operates primarily out of the Mildred C. Hailey Apartments (previously known as the Bromley Heath Housing Development), a public housing development located in Jamaica Plain. It is one of the largest housing developments in the greater Boston area.

Formed in the 1980s, it is alleged that the Heath Street Gang is comprised of over 150 members and has historically been involved in acts of violence to preserve and protect the Gang's power, territory and reputation. According to the charging documents, in furtherance of the racketeering conspiracy, members/associates are implicated in a number of murders, attempted murders and shootings – many of which targeted rival gang members/associates of other Boston-based street gangs, particularly the Mission Hill Gang and the H-Block Gang. This allegedly includes an October 2016 shooting targeting rivals in the Mission Hill Gang's territory, in which a nine-year-old female victim was shot and severely injured, as well as a June 2021 murder allegedly committed by a juvenile Heath Street member/associate in Mission Hill Gang territory.

It is alleged that the Heath Street Gang commonly recruits juveniles living in the Mildred C. Hailey Apartments to join the Gang and participate in crimes on the Gang's behalf, including shootings. It is further alleged that members of the Heath Street Gang require younger prospective members/associates to commit acts of violence as an act of initiation and often reward the juveniles with appearances in Heath Street Gang songs or music videos, which are used to publicly assert and affirm Gang membership/association, brag about acts of violence they have committed and denigrate and threaten rival gangs. On numerous occasions, members/associates of the Heath Street

Gang have allegedly brazenly assaulted local law enforcement officers while engaged in official duties.

According to the charging documents, Heath Street Gang members/associates have used the Mildred C. Hailey Apartments as a point for drug trafficking activities and, over a period of multiple years, have worked together to establish drug distribution networks throughout Massachusetts, Maine and California. Heath Street members/associates often use social media platforms to facilitate the distribution of controlled substances including fentanyl, fentanyl pills, cocaine, cocaine base and marijuana – specifically using social media posts to advertise, negotiate and arrange drug sales.

It is further alleged that the Heath Street Gang engages in a number of financial and theft crimes. This includes an organized retail theft group that, since at least approximately 2019, has allegedly openly and brazenly stolen merchandise from various stores in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Additionally, it is alleged that members/associates of the Heath Street Gang have engaged in widespread CARES Act loan and unemployment fraud.

The charge of RICO conspiracy provides for a sentence of up to 20 years in prison, three years of supervised release and a fine of up to \$250,000. The charges of conspiracy to distribute controlled substances and possession with intent to distribute controlled substances each provide for a sentence of up to 20 years in prison, three years of supervised release and a fine of up to \$1 million. The charge of being a felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition provides for a sentence of up to 10 years or 15 years (for offenses committed after June 25, 2022) in prison, three years of supervised release and a fine of up to \$250,000. The charge of possession of firearm in furtherance of violent or drug trafficking crime provides for a mandatory consecutive sentence of five years in prison up to life, five years of supervised release and a fine of up to \$250,000. The charge of conspiracy to interfere with commerce by robbery (Hobbs Act conspiracy) provides for a sentence of up to 20 years in prison, three years of supervised release and a fine of up to \$250,000. The charge of wire

fraud provides for a sentence of up to 20 years in prison, three years of supervised release and a fine of up to \$250,000, or twice the gross gain or loss from the scheme, whichever is greater. Sentences are imposed by a federal district court judge based upon the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and statutes which govern the determination of a sentence in a criminal case.

Acting United States Attorney Joshua S. Levy; Boston Police Commissioner Michael Cox; James M. Ferguson, Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives, Boston Field Division; Michael J. Krol, Special Agent in Charge for Homeland Security Investigations in New England; Jonathan Mellone, Special Agent in Charge of Department of Labor, Office of Inspector General; and Harry T. Chavis Jr, Special Agent in Charge of the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigations made the announcement today. The investigation was supported by the Boston Housing Authority Police Department; Massachusetts State Police; U.S. Marshals Service; Suffolk County Sheriff's Office; and Suffolk County District Attorney's Office. Valuable assistance was provided by

the New England State Police Information Network; U.S. Department of Agriculture; U.S. Secret Service; U.S. Postal Inspection Service; Maine Drug Enforcement Agency; and the Quincy, Randolph and Lincoln Police Departments. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Michael Crowley, Sarah Hoefle and Lucy Sun of the Organized Crime & Gang Unit are prosecuting the cases.

This effort is part of an Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces (OCDETF) operation. OCDETF identifies, disrupts, and dismantles the highest-level criminal organizations that threaten the United States using a prosecutor-led, intelligence-driven, multi-agency approach. Additional information about the OCDETF Program can be found at <https://www.justice.gov/OCDETF>.

The details contained in the charging documents are allegations. The defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

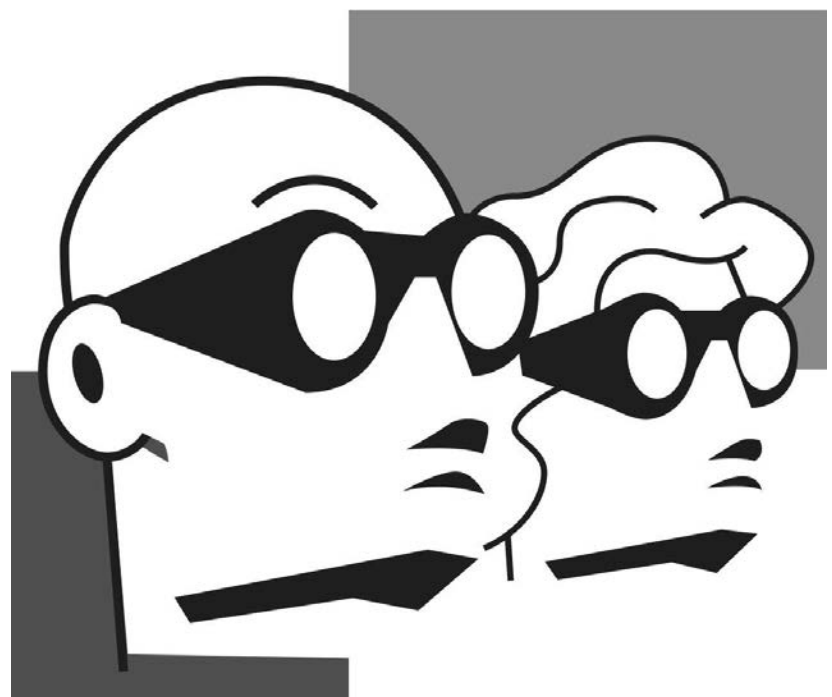
The following were charged:
1. Jaquori Lyons, a/k/a "Gizzle," a/k/a "Y Gizzle," 25, of JP, is charged with RICO conspiracy;
2. Joan Avalo-Quezada, a/k/a "Trouble," 26, of Hyde Park, is

charged with RICO conspiracy and conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute controlled substances;

3. Trevon Bell, a/k/a "Moula," 27, of Roslindale, is charged with RICO conspiracy;
4. Keonte Campbell, a/k/a "Keko," 28, of Hyde Park, is charged with RICO conspiracy;
5. Amos Carrasquillo, a/k/a "Cruddy," 35, of Mattapan, is charged with RICO conspiracy;
6. Deshawn Cirino, a/k/a "D," a/k/a "Lil D," 26, of Boston, is charged with RICO conspiracy;
7. Dominique Finch, a/k/a "Heff," 34, of Boston, is charged with RICO conspiracy;
8. Zion Ford, a/k/a "Bricks," 24, of Hyde Park, is charged with RICO conspiracy;
9. Tyrre Herring, a/k/a "Blick," a/k/a "Smooov," 26, of Billerica, is charged with RICO conspiracy;
10. De'vonne McDonald-Jones, a/k/a "Daedae," a/k/a "D Jones," 27, of Roslindale, is charged with RICO conspiracy;
11. Rickquille McKinney, a/k/a "Ricky Mazarati," a/k/a "Mozzy," 30, of Arlington, is charged with RICO conspiracy;
12. Amani Perkins, a/k/a "Chop,"

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EDITORIAL

House Democratic leaders are to blame for Ukraine's predicament

When a small gang of extreme Republicans undertook the ouster of former House Speaker Kevin McCarthy last year, we wrote at the time that the refusal of Democrats to aid in keeping McCarthy in his seat was foolhardy. Despite the contempt that Democrats felt about McCarthy, we noted that he was better than any likely replacement from the GOP. McCarthy had negotiated a debt ceiling increase and a budget with President Biden, and he was a staunch supporter of Ukraine.

As we wrote at the time, "The devil you know is better than the devil you don't."

However, the Democrats took the bait and sided with the small band of extremists to oust McCarthy. Instead of being the adults in the room, the new Democratic House leadership decided instead to sit back smugly and watch the spectacle, no doubt figuring that the GOP's self-destruction would be advantageous politically.

But it is obvious now that the Democrats severely miscalculated. McCarthy has come and gone and Mike Johnson, an evangelical right-winger, is the new House Speaker. The chaos surrounding McCarthy's final days is long-forgotten and the new reality is that Johnson represents an even more-extreme form of Republicanism than before. Most significantly, Johnson has refused to take up the bill that was passed by a bipartisan majority in the Senate to provide additional military aid to Ukraine.

For Americans who have been alarmed by Vladimir Putin's assault on freedom, this has been a very depressing week. First came word that Putin's main political adversary, Alexei Navalny, had died in a Siberian gulag under still-unknown circumstances. A few days later, the Ukrainian army had to abandon its position in a key city because of a lack of ammunition thanks to the failure of the U.S. to deliver military assistance.

But what is most-depressing is that it is becoming increasingly clear that Putin has outfoxed American leaders in the White House and in the Congress. To use a common metaphor, Putin has been playing three-dimensional chess and our petty and ineffectual leaders, especially the Democrats, have been playing checkers.

Putin understands American politics better than our own leaders, especially the Democrats, who obviously are clueless. The Democrats thought they were scoring political points when they abetted in McCarthy's downfall, but in reality, they fell into a trap, with the result that they have become nothing more than the useful idiots of the 21st century.

Democratic leaders need to tell Biden to step aside

It has become increasingly obvious that President Joe Biden is spiraling faster-and-faster downhill, both physically and mentally.

He can barely string together two sentences -- not even from a teleprompter -- and if he answers questions off-the-cuff (which he seldomly does because he has held fewer press conferences than any president in modern history, and when he has held press conferences, he answers questions that have been pre-submitted on index cards), he invariably will commit a major gaffe.

His advisors tell us that in meetings, he's as sharp as ever. But if that's true, then (as Jon Stewart suggested) why not show us a video of one of those meetings so we all can see him in action, so to speak?

Let's be clear where we stand: Joe Biden has been a great president and his administration has accomplished more legislation that will benefit Americans than any since Lyndon Johnson's in the 1960s.

But as much as Biden deserves credit for his landmark achievements, the only thing that matters is the future. No politician deserves re-election based solely on what they've done in the past. Our elected public officials are public servants -- not the other way around -- and candidates have to be judged based on what they can do if re-elected.

The view of a majority of voters, including Democrats, is that Joe Biden is a stumbling and bumbling old man. His rapid descent into old-age before our eyes is evidence of the truth of the maxim, "Time and tide wait for no man."

However, despite Biden's low poll numbers, no Democratic leader has had the courage to come forward to tell Biden that he should step aside. In our view, the Democrats' failure to acknowledge the reality that the whole world can see eventually will be shown to represent a serious miscalculation that threatens not only the future of democracy in this country, but throughout the entire free world.

If Biden were to step aside (as LBJ did in March of 1968) it would energize the Democrats and the country. Yes, it might be a bit messy, but the end result would be a younger and more vigorous candidate, such as Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo, for example, with a vice-presidential candidate such as Maryland Governor Wes Moore (or vice-versa) in whom the American public would feel proud and confident in tackling the challenges facing the world today.

Youth Summit

Continued from page 11

school break, with programming ranging from open mic sessions, to music showcases, workshops, career fairs, sports fairs, and more.

The free Mayor's Youth Summit, designed for teens 14-19, is a celebratory event where Boston's youth can engage directly with City staff, providers, and each other. The goal is to showcase the various opportunities offered by the city, and partners, to encourage more significant social investment, and foster enthusiasm for leadership and civic engagement among younger generations. Throughout the summit, participants will have the chance to engage in thought-provoking discussions, work on interactive art exhibits, see outstanding youth performances, and connect with like-minded peers from diverse backgrounds. The event will feature Mayor Michelle Wu and Cousin Stizz, a rapper and songwriter from Dorchester, as keynote speakers. Stizz, who currently resides in Los Angeles, California, will speak about his experience growing up in Boston and what it took to become a successful recording artist.

The Mayor's Youth Summit was first held in 1994 and was held annually for 10 years. The 2024 Mayor's Youth Summit will mark the 20th anniversary since it was last held and 30 years since its inception. The City has brought this event back with new energy reflecting the values and interests of Boston's youth. The relaunch of the Mayor's Youth Summit was made possible under the leadership of Pedro Cruz, the inaugural Executive Director of the Office of Youth Engagement & Advancement. In the development of the Summit, he recognized the importance of supporting youth to engage directly with local government and leaders in their community to foster a vibrant civic culture, responsive to all demographics.

Pedro's story of leadership and commitment to Latinx and urban youth begins with his own experience as a proud first-generation American-Puerto Rican child growing up in Boston, being a part of Boston Public Schools

and Boston Centers for Youth & Families. After becoming the inaugural Executive Director of the Office of Youth Engagement and Advancement, Pedro has shaped the City's vision of what it means to engage authentically with youth as partners in the work of improving the City. His vision for the reinvigorated Youth Summit is to focus intentionally on creating a summit environment that will resonate with youth.

"The Mayor's Youth Week and Summit are important because the young people of this city need to know we are willing to invest in them," said Pedro Cruz, Executive Director of the Office of Youth Engagement & Advancement. "We aim to create spaces where they can tap into their leadership and be connected to resources."

The event will have free meals, giveaways, awards, performances, activities, and resources for youth. Activities will include an interactive art wall, festival games, a self-care station, a 360 photo booth, and more. Youth will have access to a multitude of resources, including mental health resources, job providers, LGBTQ+ support, and food access. There will be performances by 617Peak, Beat the Odds, Teen Empowerment, and Boston's Youth Poet Laureate. The Office of Youth Engagement and Advancement will be presenting the Youth Leader Award at the Summit, open to all Boston youth ages 14-19 who demonstrate high levels of leadership and/or commitment to civic engagement.

"The decision to revive the Youth Summit highlights the substantial investment the city has made in our youth. We are deeply grateful for the opportunity to bring our young people together to connect, collaborate and celebrate each other," said Camila Pineiro, Founder of Beat the Odds. "Mayor Wu's unwavering dedication to our community is evident, and her commitment serves as an inspiration for the positive change we aim to achieve."

For all events hosted by Mayor's Youth Week, please visit <https://www.boston.gov/human-services/mayors-youth-summit>

Gang

Continued from page 13

a/k/a "Choppa," 25, of Mattapan, is charged with RICO conspiracy;
13.Michael Riley, a/k/a "Snyda," a/k/a "Sneed," 46, of Malden, is charged with RICO conspiracy;
14.Keyon Roberson, a/k/a "Beano," 23, of Dorchester, is charged with RICO conspiracy;
15.Randy Diaz-Pizarro, 32, of Central Falls, R.I., is charged with possession with intent to distribute cocaine and being a felon in possession of firearm and ammunition;
16.Bryon Palmer, 36, of Charlestown, is charged with being a felon in possession of ammunition and possession with intent to distribute cocaine and fentanyl;
17.Rolando Coxon, 31, of Hyde Park, is charged with two counts of distribution of fentanyl;
18.Cerone Davis, 30, of Arlington, is charged with possession with intent to distribute controlled substances within 1,000 feet of a public housing facility;

19.Donte Daily, 33, of JP, is charged with being a felon in possession of firearm and ammunition;
20.Theodore Gamble-Williams, 39, of JP, is charged with possession with intent to distribute controlled substances;
21.Jameel Gibbons, 39, of Roslindale, is charged with possession with intent to distribute controlled substances;
22.Charles Bomman, 33, of Roxbury, is charged with conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute controlled substances;
23.Deondre Blanding, 27, of Roslindale, is charged with possession of firearm in furtherance of violent or drug trafficking crime;
24.Gelson Rodrigues, 33, of Randolph, is charged with possession of firearm in furtherance of violent or drug trafficking crime;
25.Riccara McKinney, 28, of Roxbury, is charged with conspiracy to interfere with commerce by robbery (Hobbs Act conspiracy) and wire fraud;
26.Rachel McKinney, 32, of Arlington, is charged with conspiracy to interfere with commerce

by robbery (Hobbs Act conspiracy) and wire fraud;
27.Teshawnda Knight, 41, of Hyde Park, is charged with wire fraud;
28.Antawn Davis, 39, of Boston, is charged with wire fraud;
29.Taisha Garcia, 27, of Lynn, is charged with wire fraud;
30.Dawan Searcy, 32, of Somerville, is charged with wire fraud;
31.Nathan Bootman, 26, of Randolph, is charged with wire fraud;
32.Jameela Gross, 27, of JP, is charged with wire fraud;
33.Robert Platt, 44, of Brockton, is charged with wire fraud;
34.Donovan Scarlett, 25, of West Roxbury, is charged with wire fraud;
35.David Avalo, 28, of Hyde Park, is charged with conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute controlled substances;
36.Victor Pimentel, 27, of Brockton, is charged with conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute controlled substances;
37.Amanda LaPointe, 39, of Ripley, Maine, is charged with conspiracy to distribute and pos-

sess with intent to distribute controlled substances;
38.Krystin Mathewson, 38, of Enfield, Conn., is charged with conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute controlled substances;
39.Jacob Lyford, 32, of Milo, Maine, is charged with conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute controlled

substances;
40.Michael St. Pierre, 54, of Dedham, Maine, is charged with conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute controlled substances; and
41.Kayla Tasker, 31, of Dexter, Maine, is charged with conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute controlled substances.

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LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT Suffolk Probate And Family Court 24 New Chardon St. Boston, MA 02114 (617)788-8300 CITATION G.L. c. 210, ? 6 Docket No. SU21A0399AD In the matter of: Thaddeus Milo Ameus Mukti To: Audrey Mukti any unnamed or unknown parent and persons interested in a petition for the adoption of said child and to the Department of Children and Families of said Commonwealth. A petition has been presented to said court by: Eugenie Meneide requesting for leave to adopt said child and that the name of the child be changed to Thaddeus Milo Ameus If you object to this adoption you are entitled to the appointment of an attorney if you are an indigent person. An indigent person is defined by SJC Rule 3:10.

The definition includes but is not limited to persons receiving TAFDC, EACDC, poverty related veteran's benefits, Medicaid, and SSI. The Court will determine if you are indigent. Contact an Assistant Judicial Case Manager or Adoption Clerk of the Court on or before the date listed below to obtain the necessary forms. IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT: Woburn ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING (10:00 A.M.) ON: 02/29/2024 WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: December 28, 2023 Felix D. Arrayo Register of Probate 1/26/24, 2/9/24, 2/23/24 JP

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT Bristol Probate

And Family Court Office of Register Suite 240 40 Broadway Taunton, MA 02780 CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION TO EXPAND THE POWERS OF A GUARDIAN Docket No. BR23P0383GD

In the Interests of: Jennifer Duncan Of: New Bedford, MA RESPONDENT Incapacitated Person/ Protected Person To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Lemuel Shattuck Hospital of Jamaica Plain, MA in the above captioned matter requesting that the court: Expand the powers of a Guardian The petition asks the court to make a determination that the powers of the Guardian and/or Conservator should be expanded, modified, or limited since the time of the appointment. The original petition is on file with the court. You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written

appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 03/01/2024. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which. You have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date. IMPORTANT NOTICE The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense. WITNESS, Hon. Katherine A. Field, First Justice of this Court. Date: January 31, 2024

Thomas C. Hoye, Jr. Register of Probate 02/23/24 JP

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT Suffolk Probate And Family Court 24 New Chardon St. Boston, MA 02114 (617)788-8300 CITATION ON PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME Docket No. SU24C0064CA In the matter of: Eliza Brown Tyack A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Eliza Brown Tyack of Jamaica Plain, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to: Eliza Brown Tyack Black IMPORTANT NOTICE Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Suffolk Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/11/2024. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written

appearance if you object to this proceeding. WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: February 05, 2024 Stephanie L. Everett, Register of Probate 2/23/2024 JP

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT Suffolk Probate And Family Court 24 New Chardon St. Boston, MA 02114 (617)788-8300 CITATION ON PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME Docket No. SU24C0065CA In the matter of: Antonio Jamahl Humphrey A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Antonio Jamahl Humphrey of Jamaica Plain, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to: Antonio Jamahl Humphrey Black IMPORTANT NOTICE Any person may appear for purposes of objecting

to the petition by filing an appearance at: Suffolk Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/11/2024. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding. WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: February 05, 2024 Stephanie L. Everett, Register of Probate 2/23/2024 JP

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS Probate & Family Court SUFFOLK, SS. Docket No. SU24E001PP To Patrice A. Flesch of Boston, MA, and to all other persons interested. A Petition has been presented to said Court by Courtney Zenz of McLean, VA and Kimberly Zenz of Berlin, Germany in the County of Suffolk representing that each hold 16.665% share as tenant in common undivided part or share of certain land lying in Boston, MA in

said County, and briefly described as follows: A certain parcel of land with the buildings thereon, situated in that part of Boston, Suffolk County, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, formerly West Roxbury, on the northerly side of McBride Street, and being shown as Lot No. 5 on a plan drawn by William H. Garbett, dated March 19, 1860, and recorded with Norfolk Deeds at the end of Book 285 and being bounded and described as follows: SOUTHERLY by McBride Street, forty-seven (47) feet; EASTERLY by Lot No. 6 as shown on said plan, ninety-nine and 39/100 (99.39) feet; NORTHERLY by land now or formerly of D.S. Greenough, Trustee, forty-seven and 17/100 (47.17) feet; and WESTERLY by Lot No. 4 as shown on said plan, ninety-five and 3/10 (95.3) feet. Containing 4,575 square feet of land and said premises are conveyed subject to and with the benefit of restrictions and easements of record in so far as the same are in force and applicable. setting forth that the petitioners desire

that all the following described part of said land may be sold at private sale for not less than \$1,400,000.00 dollars. And praying that partition may be made of all the land aforesaid according to law, and to that end that a commissioner be appointed to make such partition and be ordered to make sale and conveyance of all, or any part of said land which the Court finds cannot be advantageously divided at either private sale or public auction, and be ordered to distribute the net proceeds thereof. If you desire to object thereto you or your attorney should file a written appearance in said Court in Boston before ten o'clock in the forenoon on the 12th day of March 2024, the return day of this citation. Witness, Brian J. Dunn, Esquire, First Judge of said Court, this 30th day of January 2024. Stephanie L. Everett Register 02/09/2024, 02/23/2024, 03/08/2024 JP

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