Dot Vietnamese uncertain, fearful of move to deport ‘criminal aliens’

US cites convictions; refugees cite perils

By Jennifer Smith

Five years in and facing the potential of multiple challengers in the upcoming municipal election, District 5 City Councillor Timothy McCarthy says he still brings a public works sensibility to his job.

"I think you look at what I care about the most, which is infrastructure, and what you see outside your front door, I would say that District 5 looks and feels better than it did when I got there," he said during an interview with the Reporter at his council office. "Which is what I told my kids when I was coaching: 'Make sure the dugout looks better than it was when we got here.'"

To hear him talk, traffic, transit, and the basic functionality of the street are at the forefront of the councillor’s mind. If a neighborhood does not have a good flow, he notes, people just move through it without stopping for a bite, a coffee, or some holiday shopping.

A visit to Vancouver blew his mind, McCarthy said, with the Canadian city’s approach to encouraging its population to walk, bike, or ride transit to work. He emphasized the mixed-use housing there where residents living above a store have priority for its jobs.

Vancouver’s older tram cars with their antique replica exteriors over new and modern bones could serve to inspire care for the PCC cars in Mattapan, he added.

District 5 is an amalgam of three demographically different neighborhoods — Mattapan, Hyde Park, and Roxlindale. Of Irish descent, McCarthy points to his team, which comprises a seasoned public works employee, an attentive Boston Public Schools parent, and a Haitian staffer fluent in Creole, as critical to representing the district.

“My district is the most diverse district, and I tell people all the time, ‘If you want to see what Hyde Park looks like, you need to go to District 5.’”

(Continued on page 4)

McCarthy running again in busy District 5; it’s likely to be ‘my last, my last role,’ he says

By Jennifer Smith

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“My district is the most diverse district, and I tell people all the time, ‘If you want to see what Hyde Park looks like, you need to go to District 5.’”

(Continued on page 16)

West Roxbury Education Complex to close in June

The Boston School Committee voted last week to close the West Roxbury Educational Complex (WREC), and the two high schools inside it, at the end of this school year, citing building deterioration so widespread that it could pose a threat to student safety. The vote was criticized by some students and activists who argued that closing the complex was unfair and showed a bias against students of color. Story, Page 3

Editorial: Tough call by BPS officials — but the right one

Page 8

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Dorchester Reporter

“The News and Values Around the Neighborhood”

Volume 35 Issue 52 Thursday, December 27, 2018 50¢

RUNNING TO PROMOTE THE HUMAN SPIRIT

Michael Besson of Dorchester, who is training to run in the BAA Boston Marathon next year, runs along the reservoir in Chestnut Hill with his coach, Rick Muhr. Besson, 57, was born blind in his native Haiti.

He’s prepping for Marathon run, with a twist to his dream

By Dan Sheehan

One of the easiest ways to grasp the extent of Michael Besson’s passion and intensity is to watch him play the guitar. His fingers a blur, he strums and picks the guitar strings at such speeds that they twang plaintively and seem likely to snap under the force.

The muscles on his forearm bulge and the tendons in his neck strain as concentration contorts his face.

“I’m not warmed up yet,” he said apologetically.

“The News and Values Around the Neighborhood”

Volume 35 Issue 52 Thursday, December 27, 2018 50¢

BY JENNIFER SMITH
REPORTER STAFF

Vietnamese-Americans say a Trump administration move to deport some Vietnamese political refugees who came to the country after the defeat of the Vietnam War has left a pall of uncertainty and fear in Dorchester’s Southeast Asian community.

Under a 2008 agreement between Washington and Hanoi, the US is barred from deporting Vietnamese people who arrived in the United States before July 12, 1995, when the countries resumed diplomatic ties.

The administration raised the prospect of deporting many long-term immigrants from Southeast Asian countries like Vietnam and Cambodia last year, saying that “criminal aliens” are subject to standard immigration law and not protected under the agreement.

The plan reared its head again in recent months, and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) said that 7,000 convicted criminals who are non-US citizens should be deported back to Vietnam.

“These are non-citizens who during previous administrations were arrested, convicted, and ultimately ordered removed by a federal immigration judge,” said Katie Waldman, a spokeswoman for DHS, in a statement. “It’s a priority of this administration to remove criminal aliens to their home country.”

Ngoc Tran Vu, a Fields Corner resident, artist, and community organizer, has been tracking the administration’s about-face since US ambassador to Vietnam, Ted Osius, resigned in protest last fall.

(Continued on page 16)
Committee that was recently vacated by Dr. Miren
tee Citizens Nominating Panel is now accepting ap-
with an inaugural celebration set for 7:30 p.m. that
noon on Thursday, Jan. 3 in the House chamber,
Box Office on the day of the concert.

the Uphams Corner Branch of the Boston Public

Strand Theatre at 2 p.m. Order your complimentary
its sixth annual Free Community Concert at the

National Marionette Theater for a 10:30 a.m.
performance of "Peter and the Wolf." Played out
on a handcrafted stage alongside the original score
of the Russian tale of young boy. Free, but reserve
seats at jfklibrary.org.

Hearing on Cesaria’s request for additional entertainment
– Mayor Hall, room 809A. For more information, contact 617-635-4165.

Restaurante Cesaria at 266 Bowdoin St. is seeking a change to their
restaurant.

Mayor’s Office will sponsor the monthly Mattapan-Dorchester
Services at Roudnie.Celestin@Boston.gov or 617-635-2677. The

December 27, 2018

Home, sweet, home
is his Christmas gift

By Lenny Joelleur
WBUR STAFF

Christmas presents are all shapes and sizes. For one Boston
man, the best holiday gift of the year is a big one. It’s
a home.

When we met 53-year-
old Brian DeSilva early in
the summer, he was one of
nearly 500 people on the
city’s official list of those
who are chronically home-
less. Boston is working to find housing for all of
them.

And now is off
the list of
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an apartment
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move-in was a long
time coming, but he
has moved into a space in Boston Housing Author-
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South End this week.

DeSilva, who lived for
two years in a Dorchester
shelter run by Pine Street Inn, went to see his new apartment
for the first time last week.

"Oh, this is nice!" he said as he looked around and
started making room where he would put his things.

The apartment had been spiffed up with fresh paint and new cabi-
nets and appliances. It's small — but it's a huge milestone for DeSilva.

"I'm happy. It beats sleeping on a cot. I get my own
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Brian DeSilva stands in his studio apartment with
Melanie Daniel, the property manager.

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Wearing a Santa Christmas costume, Brian DeSilva
hugs his new roommate, Joanne.

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To all of our friends and neighbors in this great community,
We wish you a joyful present,
A well-remembered past,
And a bright, peaceful future.
Happy Holidays!
From Members Plus Credit Union

December 27, 2018
THE REPORTER
Page 3
dotnews.com

School Committee votes to close two high schools in West Roxbury

By Max Larkin
WBUR Reporter

The Boston School Committee voted last week to close the West Roxbury Educational Complex (WREC), and the two high schools inside it, at the end of this school year. Interim Superintendent Laura Perille first proposed the closings in October, citing building deterioration so widespread that it could pose a threat to student safety.

Perille admitted that deterioration was the consequence of decades of deferred maintenance. But she and other officials pointed to the schools’ uneven academic record and dwindling enrollment as secondary reasons for the closure.

The facilities concerns seemed to dictate the board’s decision-making last Wednesday night (Dec. 19).

Board member Alexandra Oliver-Davila said she “couldn’t sleep” knowing that students were in a building that has been plagued by accumulating leaks and unstable masonry, and that members “have an obligation” to opt for whatever is safer for students.

But there was some dissent. Regina Robinson, a dean at Cambridge College, said she was concerned about the psychological safety of students. The vote comes amid a growing national conversation around the negative effects that school closures and transitions can have on students’ academic performance and their mental health. When it came time to vote, Robinson abstained.

All throughout the meeting, the board faced a hostile public, made up mainly of activists and students, educators and parents from the two WREC schools – West Roxbury Academy and Urban Science Academy.

In public comment, attendees leveled charges of bias and inconsistency against the district and the committee. Several attendees returned to a contention that committee member Jeri Robinson (who voted yes) raised weeks ago: That if the Boston Latin School had trouble with its building, its students would not be scattered throughout the district.

District officials insisted that they had conducted a thorough search for a space suitable to fit all the WREC students, and found none.

Mike Heishman, a Dorchester activist and teacher, said of the closure proposal: “This is mean and this is racist,” in that it will widen the gap holding back Boston’s most vulnerable students. Heishman was not the only attendee to call for the city to return to an elected school committee, rather than one appointed by the mayor.

Multiple committee members declined interviews after the meeting.

The vote was devastating for Catari Giglio, a junior at West Roxbury Academy. She has been a leading student advocate to keep the school open, and left the meeting in tears. She said it was a small consolation to have been recognized for her advocacy by O’Neill. “My friends and I, we all did our best. I just hope we can enjoy our last year at our school,” she said.

This story was first published on Dec. 20 by WBUR 90.9FM, Boston’s NPR News Station. WBUR and the Reporter have a partnership in which the two news organizations share resources and content.
McCarthy is running again in busy District 5; it’s likely to be ‘my last, my last role,’ he says

Continued from page 1

By Jennifer Smith

With Hyde Park attorney Ricardo Arroyo jumping into the race last week, there are now two candidates seeking the District 5 council seat currently held by Councillor McCarthy. Arroyo announced his candidacy last Friday, April 20, and that marks the beginning of his campaign.

When I was "at a young age," he said, he "grew up on his website, "my parents instilled in me a love for this city and the importance of giving back." It was those lessons that led me to become a public defender where I saw first-hand the devastating impact and lack of opportunity have on people’s lives.

In his father, Felix D. Arroyo, the first Latino to serve on the Boston City Council, is now the Register of Probate in Suffolk County. His mother, Elisa Montano, is a retired Boston Public Schools teacher. Arroyo’s brother, Felix G. Arroyo, served on the council until 2015.

Ricardo Arroyo received a bachelor’s degree in history from the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, and later a degree in law from Loyola University Chicago. He is on the board of the state chapter of the National Lawyers Guild and is a member of the Boston Bar Association, the Massachusetts Bar Association, the NAACP, and MiJPone.

Bar Association, according to his campaign website, Arroyo’s work as a public defender involved “fighting! every day for those that are often unseen and unheard, and he is now ready to do that for the communities that raised him.”

Ricardo Arroyo voices, he says, will lead to “stronger economic, quality schools, affordable housing, safe neighborhoods, and healthy communities.”

The other hopeful challenging McCarthy is Yves Mary Jean, who pulled papers to run on Aug. 29. Jean, a Haitian immigrant and Roslindale resident who describes himself as a “social worker who has worked for the European Parliament, has been active in social media, introducing his campaign under the slogan Together We Are One.”

Posts on Facebook show he supported US Sen. Elizabeth Warren’s re-election campaign and endorsed Jeffrey Sanchez, who was ousted in November. "I won’t waste your time! I want to win!" Jean wrote on Facebook on Dec. 6, "It’s our history, our people, the mayor, to build relationships with colleagues on the council, with everybody to ad- here to the needs of the District 5 and the City of Boston.

Both campaigns are using the Democratic crowdfunding platform ActBlue. McCarthy has $78,141 in his campaign account as of last week, while Arroyo has $70,017. Both campaigns are using the Massachusetts Office of Campaign and Political Finance. He said he is staying in for "the race and a competitive council run.

"Right now we’re doing a good job," he said. "Whether you’re voting for me or not, I can disagree with you, but for me, you can disagree with me all day long and we can talk about city business, as long as you never say that I’m not working hard. That’s personal, because I work really hard.”

McCarthy was first elected to the City Council in 2013 when then-councillor Rob Con- salvo was moving to mount a campaign for mayor. A

City Councillor Tim McCarthy is shown with his son PFC Dolan Patrick McCarthy and his wife of 23 years, Maureen.

McCarthy family photo

Yves Mary Jean
Lawmakers urged to find $1.5B for public education system

By Chris Triunfo
State House News Service

Students, educators, parents, and local leaders with the Fund Our Future coalition gathered at the State House last Tuesday to call on Gov. Charlie Baker and the Legislature to invest $1.5 billion in the state’s public education system.

The coalition, which was started by the Massachusetts Education Justice Alliance (MEJA) and unanimously supported by the Massachusetts Teachers Association’s board, launched its campaign earlier this month with the goal of passing legislation in 2019 that would increase state funding for public higher education by $500 million and fund pre-kindergarten through grade 12 schools by $1 billion.

The campaign comes on the heels of failed attempts from the Legislature to both raise money for education and pass bills designed to fill funding gaps.

When asked whether the coalition had proposed a plan on how to raise the necessary public funds for the reinvestment, MEJA president and executive director of Citizens for Public Schools Lisa Guisbond said that the point of the campaign is to bring attention to underfunding in public education “for way too long,” suggesting any specific way of getting the revenue, obviously the revenue has to be gotten,” Guisbond said. “We trust the Legislature can figure out how to do that.”

Malden Public Schools Superintendent John Oteri and Juan Cofield, president of the New England Area Conference of the NAACP, are among those behind the campaign. “Twenty-five years ago, education reform paired new funding with the state and school districts responding to those who have decided to address the problem, but failed to reach common ground on disparate bills that attempted to fund those costs. Meanwhile, last month, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education recommended its fiscal 2020 budget prioritize education Secretary James Peyser, saying education aid should be funded “at the highest level possible based on available revenues.”

The Fund Our Future coalition hopes to have the funding in the next academic year’s budget in order for it to be in time for public college students to avoid tuition and fee hikes in the fall of 2019.

At a Board of Elementary and Secondary Education meeting in Malden last Tuesday, Education Commissioner Jeff Riley expressed a need to “stay on” efforts to address the school funding formula. He pointed to a supplemental budget request Gov. Charlie Baker signed in October that included, among other spending items, $7.5 million for a grant program for mental health services needed to keep aging individuals safe and comfortable where they want to stay in their own home.

We coordinate, provide and supervise all the health care and home services needed to keep aging individuals safe and comfortable where they want to stay in their own home!

PHOTO: Malden Public Schools Superintendent John Oteri was among the speakers calling for what advocates described as a reinvestment in public education at the State House on Tuesday. Chris Triunfo/SHNS photo

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Malden Public Schools Superintendent John Oteri was among the speakers calling for what advocates described as a reinvestment in public education at the State House on Tuesday. Chris Triunfo/SHNS photo
Lee School educator seeks to challenge system, inspires teachers with new book

By Elana Aurese Reporter Staff

Kwame Sarfo-Mensah, a 7th and 8th grade math teacher at the Joseph Lee School in Dorchester, started writing a book about the teaching art while on paternity leave last January. Today, he’s celebrating its publication.

“Shaping the Teacher Identity: 8 Lessons That Will Help Define the Teacher in You” is based on his personal and professional perspectives and experiences but it also features additional viewpoints from colleagues. The 35-year-old educator said themes like culturally responsive pedagogy and offers insights into self-advocacy and the leveraging of pedagogy and offers in-depth viewpoints, experiences and education policy.

Kwame Sarfo-Mensah, said, “I want this book to be an anchor text for university professors and teachers of color. I hope it allows me to go into spaces to have candid conversations about what teachers can expect when they walk into an urban classroom or a public school. I want the opportunity to have constructive dialogue with educators about how to be more culturally responsive to students.”

“Shaping the Teacher Identity” is available for purchase on Amazon. Join Sarfo-Mensah at his book launch party on Sat., Jan. 26, 3:30-8:30 at Soleil Restaurant, 2036 Washington St., Roxbury.

NOTE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Notice is hereby given that a Community Outreach Meeting for a Proposed Cannabis Establishment is scheduled for:

Date: Thursday, January 17, 2019
Time: 6:00PM
Location: Mattapan Community Center
5 Milledge Avenue
Mattapan MA 02128

The Proposed Cannabis Establishment is anticipated to be located at 1589 Blue Hill Avenue, Mattapan MA 02128.

There will be an opportunity for the public to ask questions. If you have any questions about this meeting or have comments about the proposal please contact:

Ronnie Celine
Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Services
Ronnie.Celestin@boston.gov
617-635-2677

Please note, the city does not represent the owner(s) developer(s)/attorney(s) of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, you or another person may represent the above-named person at the hearing.

PROPOSED CANNABIS ESTABLISHMENT

COMMUNITY OF RAINDA ROAD

PETITION TO PROPOSE A FAMILY COURT SUIT

TO PROPOSE A FAMILY COURT SUIT

BY KAREN RICH

To the Honorable Judge of the Probate and Family Court of the County of Providence, in and for the State of Rhode Island. We, Karen Rich, being over 18 years of age, and being a person having personal knowledge of the facts in the petition herein, do hereby present the petition below:

Petitioner Karen Rich is an adult who resides at 1589 Blue Hill Avenue, Mattapan, MA 02128. Petitioner is in the process of proposing the establishment of a cannabis business in the City of Boston. No actions pertaining to the establishment of such a business have been taken by the Mattapan Branch of the Boston Public Library.
Polish American Citizens Club swears in new officers

The Polish American Citizens Club installed its new officers and board of directors for 2019 on campus on Friday, December 7. In order to qualify for Phi Alpha Theta at the newly established chapter of the society at Curry College during a ceremony on campus on Friday, December 7. In order to qualify for Phi Alpha Theta at Curry College, students must be a Politics & History major and complete a minimum of 12 semester hours (four courses) in History, achieve a minimum GPA of 3.1 in History and a GPA of 3.0 or better overall. Shown above, Jalen Alphonso Campbell receives official Phi Alpha Theta certificate from Professor William Nancearrow.

Shani Fletcher has been named the new Grassroots program development officer for the city’s Department of Neighborhood Development. Fletcher will be responsible for creating and preserving community gardens, urban farms, and other open spaces, under the leadership of Chief of Housing Sheila Dillon. "I am confident that Shani will be a tremendous leader and asset to the Department of Neighborhood Development," Dillon said. "Shani knows that creating green spaces is much more than creating new gardens -- it’s about creating a green community. She not only brings a comprehensive knowledge of community gardening and urban agriculture, but also a critical understanding of how our climate strategy provides the foundation for a state and sustain Boston’s environment."

The Grassroots program supports the development of community gardens by providing grant funds, city-owned land, and technical assistance to neighborhood groups and nonprofits that want to organize, develop, own, manage, and maintain community gardens and open space in low- and moderate-income neighborhoods. Sites are selected through consultation with local residents and stakeholders.

"I have been consistently impressed by the City’s commitment to create more livable communities as shown by the development of new open spaces and the support for those that already exist," Fletcher said in a statement. "It is a great honor to join the exceptional group of professionals at the Department of Neighborhood Development and support the Walsh Administration’s efforts to build a better city by ensuring that our neighbors have access to green spaces, under the stewardship of Neighborhood Development. Fletcher was previously the farm manager at Victory Programs for Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston prior to becoming an urban farmer, and has been a community gardener for many years. Fletcher holds a Bachelor of Arts from Wellesley College and a Master of Public Policy from Tufts University.

Dot’s Fletcher joins city’s Neighborhood Development team

Dorchester’s Shani Fletcher has been named the new Grassroots program development officer for the City’s Department of Neighborhood Development. Fletcher will be responsible for creating and preserving community gardens, urban farms, and other open spaces, under the leadership of Chief of Housing Sheila Dillon. "I am confident that Shani will be a tremendous leader and asset to the Department of Neighborhood Development," Dillon said. "Shani knows that creating green spaces is much more than creating new gardens -- it’s about creating a green community. She not only brings a comprehensive knowledge of community gardening and urban agriculture, but also a critical understanding of how our climate strategy provides the foundation for a state and sustain Boston’s environment."

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YESTERYEAR ARCHIVE

DORCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

652-570 Washington Street.

Years of the building, the dress shop sign was mounted over some of the ornamentation, hiding the symmetry of the design.

The photo from this year shows a very different structure. The grates hide the existing openings, and the building has been stripped of all ornamentation, including the medalion with the date.

The next time you travel along a street of stores, try to notice which buildings still have their distinctive architectural features, because soon they might be gone forever.
Tough call by BPS, but the right one

Last week’s decision by the Boston School Committee to close the West Roxbury Education Complex was precipitated by many years of deferred maintenance that has now prompted ‘emergency status’ and a facility that may be beyond temporary repair.

There are now some 680 students in the two schools, West Roxbury Academy and the Urban Science Academy. Student enrollment has dropped by 40 percent in five years, and poor overall performance in that neighborhood to the south, Westie, which opened in 1976, is in dire straits.

William ‘Buddy’ Christopher, the city’s chief inspector, suggested this month that he agrees with the school district’s call to close the facility, citing crumbling masonry and water infiltration troubles that pose risks to the electric and fire protection systems.

These aren’t the kind of things you can fix over time, Christopher told WBUR. ‘The amount of money they would spend, if they chose to fix it to would be Herculean.’ The plan mapped out by BPS officials would relocate students to a group of schools in Washington Irving School in Roslindale, a facility with open classrooms that is better positioned to accommodate the transient student body.

Laura Perille, the interim BPS superintendent, told reporters last week that ‘if we saw another path forward, we would take it.’ But even if they were to decide to totally renovate the building, its present condition would necessitate vacating the school for at least a year, she said.

It’s hard to argue with longtime members of the WREC community who see this outcome as an inevitable fact of life behind the facade of neglect of the form of neglect from city school officials. Veteran faculty members who have raised the alarm about Westie’s worsening structural conditions for a very long time as they saw things moving inexorably to a total collapse that would have been averted with earlier investments.

In fairness to the current administration, they seem to understand that the ‘injustice’ critique is well founded. They say that their own frustration with the whole system’s aging physical plant has been the motivating factor behind the unfunding of the Build BPS plan, which would spend $1 billion over the next decade on new schools or on repairs to aging ones. The plan will also seek to fix one of BPS’s most pressing deficiencies: the concentration of special-needs students in just a few high schools, resulting in what Perille and others have described as an ‘equity emergency.’

The year’s most crucial test of the Walsh administration’s resolve to follow through on the promise inherent in the Build BPS commitment.

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The year’s most crucial test of the Walsh administration’s resolve to follow through on the promise inherent in the Build BPS plan.

Last week’s move to close West Roxbury Education Complex, unfortunately, is a case in point. We hope that the mayor will further outline his plan for Westie, which opened in 1976, is in dire straits.

By Martin J. Walsh

The city of Boston’s new plastic bag ordinance is a big step in the right direction. But the right one will be Herculean. The amount of money they would spend, if they chose to fix it to would be Herculean.” The plan mapped out by BPS officials would relocate students to a group of schools in Washington Irving School in Roslindale, a facility with open classrooms that is better positioned to accommodate the transient student body.

Money, recognition, power as values? Surely, we have a much higher calling

By James W. Dolan

We need to be tethered to something larger than ourselves. Without connections to people, places, principles, and purpose, things, and ideas lofty and compelling, we are left adrift in a tumultuous sea struggling just to stay afloat. As much as we may think we are in control, we are tossed about on currents we cannot manage nor understand.

Such is the condition we find ourselves in this era of Trump. I was struck watching him at the memorial service for President George H.W. Bush during the recitation of the Apostle’s Creed. While the other dignitaries were reading the prayer, he stood looking straight ahead, holding the paper down without speaking.

For him to acknowledge the primacy of anything but himself is thinkable. I wonder what he was thinking as he listened to the 41st president being eulogized as a kind, generous, humble, honorable man. Did he think of how his legacy is so seriously except when pursuing the common good. Was he pondering how to better emulate him or a humble, honorable man who never took himself too seriously except when pursuing the common good.

I frankly cannot fathom the obvious limitations because I doubt he has the capacity to accept or understand values beyond those preceded by a dollar sign. His sense of responsibility for moral bearings for his moral failings is something only God can determine. What ties most of us to belief in love, to purpose, to meaning, to our inherent and absolute values and try to live accordingly. The pursuit of money, recognition, and power too often obscures our need to believe in something larger than ourselves. A life of unknowing immutable values that may be manipulated but never changed is a necessary component of faith. Otherwise, we define what is just, and moral, good and evil in terms of our own needs and perspectives. Viewed as human choices, we can avoid the urge by remembering to bring a reusable bag whenever you shop.

A concession: Businesses will be able to use their existing inventory of plastic bags by applying for an exemption to the city’s Inspections Service Department. Switching to reusable bags is an important milestone, but it’s just one of the ways that you can help reduce waste. You can also use the city’s trash cameras to report illegal trash dumping.

Clearing a hurdle to making Boston cleaner: Disposable plastic bags now banned by law

By Martin J. Walsh

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Man who shot two troopers in 1988 arrested on gun charges on Columbia Road

By Reporter Staff
Boston Police report a traffic stop at Columbia Road and Washington Street in Dorchester last Monday ended with the arrest of two men, one of whom served a lengthy prison sentence for shooting two state troopers on Blue Hill Avenue.

Police say drug-control officers monitoring the area shortly after 2 p.m. on Dec. 17 spotted a car go through a red light at that intersection.

"Officers attempted to conduct a traffic stop, and while the motor vehicle initially stopped, the operator fed into a parking lot in the area. Officers observed the male passenger suddenly exit the vehicle and flee on foot while clutching an apparent object in his waistband," a police report states.

"Following a brief pursuit, officers were able to apprehend the male suspect and recover a black Sar-Arms semi-automatic 9mm firearm loaded with 24 live rounds of ammunition. A second magazine containing 9 rounds of live ammunition was recovered at the scene as well. During the apprehension of the male passenger, the operator of the motor vehicle also fled the area, but was located and placed under arrest.

"Alonzo Dedrick, 55, of Dorchester, was charged with unlawful possession of a firearm, unlawful possession of ammunition, unlawful possession of a high-capacity feeding device, unlawful possession of a firearm in the commission of a felony, possession of Class B drugs related to the shootings, and which rejected his request for a new trial. Dedrick ran away, with the gun, and when he followed and tackled him, shot her twice in the legs. The first trooper also chased him and Dedrick shot him with his gun, and when he was subdued, he was arrested for a traffic violation on five counts related to the shootings, a judge sentenced Dedrick to 33 to 50 years in state prison - but with the possibility of parole after 22 years.

Baker, Polito plan Mattapan service on inauguration eve

Gov. Charlie Baker and Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito will be sworn in at 5 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 3 in the House chamber, with an inaugural celebration set for 7:30 p.m. that night at the Museum of Science. On the eve of their second inaugural, Baker and Polito will attend an inaugural interfaith ceremony at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 2, at the Morningstar Baptist Church in Mattapan.

On Friday, Jan. 4, the inaugural celebrations will move to Springfield, where a 3 p.m. event is planned at the Student Prince Cafe and Fort Restaurant, and Worceser, where a 4 p.m. celebration is scheduled at Union Station. The Baker-Polito 2019 Inaugural Committee on Wednesday launched MovingMAForward.com where the public can register to attend the celebrations. Additional inaugural events will be announced in the coming days.

- Michael P. Norton/SHNS

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Public meeting on marijuana business proposal for Mattapan Square

A community outreach meeting for a proposed cannabis establishment to be located at 1589 Blue Hill Ave. in Mattapan will be held on Thurs., Jan. 17 at 6 p.m. at the Mildred Avenue Community Center, 5 Mildred Ave., Mattapan. If you have any questions about this meeting or have comments about the proposal contact Roudnie Celestin, Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Services at Roudnie.Celestin@Boston.gov or 617-635-2677. The purpose of this meeting is to get community input and listen to the community’s positions on this proposal.

JFK Celebrate Series continues

The John F. Kennedy’s Celebrate! series offers attendees months of activities and performances run through the fall of 2018 and the spring of 2019. Designed to expose young audiences to the strong diversity of cultures embedded in American communities, the arts-focused programming revolves around everything from difference forms of dance and music to marionette puppetry. All of the performances will take place from 10:30-11:30 a.m. on Thurs., Dec. 27, the JFK Library will turn to the National Marionette Theater performance of “Peter and the Wolf.” Played out on a handcrafted stage alongside the original score of the famed composer, Prokofiev, these carefully manipulated puppets will introduce the audience to the Russian tale of young boy. See jfklibrary.org for more info.

Uphams Corner Main Street Annual Meeting

The annual meeting for Uphams Corner Main Street will be held on Thurs., Jan. 31 from 8 - 9:30 a.m. at Restaurant Laura,688 Columbia Rd., Dorchester. See uphamscorner.org for more info.

Mattapan-Dorchester Residents Meeting at Gallivan Center

The Mayor’s Office will sponsor the monthly Mattapan-Dorchester resident meeting at Gallivan Community Center, 61 Woodruff Way, Mattapan on Wed., Jan. 16 at 6:30 p.m. The purpose of this meeting is for more information at 617-635-2677.

Hancock Street Civic to meet on Jan. 8

The Hancock Street Civic Association will hold its next meeting on Tues., Jan. 8, at 7 p.m. The location of this meeting will be the Uphams Crossing Apartments Community Room at 530 Columbia Road.

Forum on Public Monuments on Jan. 9

The Committee to Renew the Shaw 54th Regiment Memorial will host a community conversation on “The Power of Public Monuments and Why They Matter” on Wed., Jan. 9 at Tremont Temple, 88 Tremont St., Boston. This event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served after the program. Questions or for more information, call 617-427-0046 or email shaw54thmemorial@gmail.com.

(Continued on page 14)

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(Wollaston)
(617) 773-1332
Race, and now he is training to run the Boston Marathon. I told me, ‘My dream is to inclusion in sports and organizations dedicated to inclusion in sports and recreation for children with disabilities. Dawn Oates, founder of The Play Brigade, told "The Reporter" that she crossed paths with Besson in a serendipitous meeting last year.

“When I met him, he told me, ‘My dream is to run the Boston Marathon.’ I said, ‘Let me help your dream come true,’” said Oates.

Soon after, in October, Besson completed The Play Brigade’s 5k benefit race, and now he is training for the marathon with the help of the Marathon Coalition, a team that helps charitably runners prepare for the race, and Achilles International, an organization specializing in the training of athletes with disabilities.

He trains on a strictly regimented schedule with the help of a group of volunteers. "The guitar offered an escape, fleeing from bullies who attacked him on his way to school. He is attached to a tether with a guide beside him to help navigate crosswalks and potholes. As he gradually increases the pace and length of his runs, the training program will bring him closer and closer to marathon level of fitness.

That milestone will represent the culmination of a long personal journey for Besson, who struggled with obesity for much of his life. Overweight as a teenager, he continued to gain weight after moving to Boston in 1985. Hampstered by depression and a lack of purpose, he watched his weight rise from 210 to 400 pounds before the recognition of health risks drove him to change his lifestyle and switch to a more healthier diet.

Now, he’s down to 180 pounds and determined to reach his goal of 150 pounds. "It feels good to help the community, to help children learn, he said."

"The difference is now I have a discipline. If I say I can do something, I have to do it," Besson said. "Because if you don’t, you don’t know if you can," he said.

Besson compares his journey to the training of athletes with disabilities. "It is a mental training, and we have a strategy already. You say I can do something, I will try to do it," Besson said.

Because if you don’t try, you don’t know what potential you have," he said.

You can donate to Michael Besson and support The Play Brigade here.

Michael Besson and his wife Nadida were pictured after a The Play Brigade’s 5k benefit race last October.
License flow points to maturing marijuana market in '19

By COLIN A. YOUNG
STATE HOUSE NEWS

As the state’s third retail marijuana shop prepares to open this weekend, the Cannabis Control Commission on Dec. 13 churned through almost two dozen more business licenses, setting up the legal pot industry to truly take off in 2019.

The CCC approved eight businesses for final licenses, which allow the companies to begin amassing an inventory of cannabis but does not allow them to begin sales or other business operations. Among those to receive final licenses Thursday were four retail pot shops: Northeast Alternatives at 999 William Canning Boulevard in Fall River, Temescal Wellness of Massachusetts at 252 Coolidge Street in Dorchester, and Theory Wellness at 394 Stockbridge Road in Great Barrington.

Before the commission worked through the approvals and results of the CCC’s staff inspections, it had granted provisional licenses, which allow them to go through site reviews and planning, to 14 businesses for final licenses, which would allow them to begin sales. According to CCC officials, they expect more stores to open over the next year.

The CCC officials have said that they plan to limit the number of retail marijuana stores to 20 in each county, with no more than three in any one city. The commission plans to limit the number of licenses approved to the number of stores that are able to meet the needs of the market.

“After Thursday’s meeting, the CCC has now granted 52 provisional licenses, 17 final licenses, and has given the ultimate green light to every one of our biweekly meetings,” Hoffman said last month.

To avoid traffic and parking issues that nagged the CCC in the early days of recreational sales, Alternative Therapies Group is requiring that all customers at its Salem store first schedule an appointment on its website.

“At the CCC’s meeting on Dec. 13, the commission decided to proceed with four additional retail marijuana shops that are ready to begin operations,” Hoffman said Thursday.

The city of Salem also announced that it will mail every Halloween season, every week, the CCC’s work in 2018, including the number of licenses approved and other metrics.

“The city of Salem will mail every one of our biweekly reports that are ready to begin operations,” Hoffman said Thursday.

The CCC, which has been one of the most visible and controversial regulatory bodies in recent years, has seen its work progress slowly. But the slow pace of the legal retail marijuana rollout has made the CCC’s work in 2018, including the number of licenses approved and other metrics.

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“At the CCC’s meeting on Dec. 13, the commission decided to proceed with four additional retail marijuana shops that are ready to begin operations,” Hoffman said Thursday.
Haitian artists assemble for a celebration of Haitian culture in New England. The exhibit will feature paintings of Boston’s cultural landmarks, highlighting the contributions of Haitian-Americans in the city. The event will be held in City Hall through Jan. 30. HAITIAN INDEPENDENCE OBSERVED

At Randolph Gala

Haitian-Americans United, Inc. hosts the 20th annual Haitian Independence Gala on Sat., Jan. 5, starting at 3:30 p.m. at Steinbach’s, 150 Centre Street, Dorchester. The evening’s entertainment will be provided by Maestro Fritz Orvil with young artist Ashley Rose. The reception will include the signing of an art book, “Migrating Colors: Haitian Art in New England.” The exhibit will be in City Hall through Jan. 30.

Dothouse health

Blood Drives Planned at Carney, Haitian Independence Observed

Mon., Jan. 14 from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. A seasonal decline in Dorchester on Fri., Jan. 11. The drives will be held See hauinc.org for more details.

Maestro Fritz Orvil with young artist Ashley Rose. The evening’s entertainment will be provided by Maestro Fritz Orvil with young artist Ashley Rose. The reception will include the signing of an art book, “Migrating Colors: Haitian Art in New England.” The exhibit will be in City Hall through Jan. 30.

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It’s a nearly perfect vision – waking up Christmas morning with the children, nestled under the tree is a big brown-eyed puppy with a bow attached to its collar. While this scenario can make a joyful holiday for some, it’s not ideal for every family. That being said, pets can make a perfect holiday gift, but it cannot be an impulse decision and the process should start with a conversation.

If giving your loved one a new pet as a present is making a joyous holiday for the children, and nestled under the tree is a big brown-eyed puppy with a bow attached to its collar.

While this scenario can confirm that their landowner allows them. If their building is pet-friendly, you’ll also want to confirm any weight or breed restrictions. Find out what they can handle – You want to know that the animals you are giving them match the lifestyle, physical limitations, ages, and personalities in the household.

Adopt from a shelter – In this way, you are giving an animal a second chance. Adopting from a reputable shelter like the Animal Rescue League of Boston also has many benefits. All adoptable animals, for example, receive spay/neuter services, vaccines, and a health and behavioral screening.

If given the option, most pet owners would rather choose the animal themselves. It’s all about forming a personal connection. Animals, like people, have distinct personalities. Some like to be in your lap watching television while others are more independent spirits. My Ruby, true to her terrier form, will give an excited welcome when you come through the door but does not like to cuddle. As pets are a long-term commitment, making the right match is critical.

That said, you can still surprise your loved ones. Many shelters (including ARL) offer gift certificates for adoptions. If you’re looking for a family pet, a stuffed animal under the tree will make everyone excited and promises that the entire household will take part in choosing an animal. Also, engaging everyone in the process allows time for the important conversations about responsibilities, training, and what else to expect.

Pets can make for wonderful gifts, and like any meaningful gift, they require a little more thought and strategy. From the entire ARL family to yours, we wish you the happiest of holidays and a prosperous New Year!

Mary Nee, a Dorchester resident, is the president of the Animal Rescue League of Boston. Pet questions? Email ARL at press@arlboro.org.
Dot Vietnamese uncertain, fearful of move to deport ‘criminal aliens’

(Continued from page 1)

"It's constant fear, a lot of it," Vu said. "As a refugee, you feel as though you are constantly in survival mode, fending for yourself in terms of basic needs of shelter, food, never completely secure or protected. Even in Dorchester, to even think about rising costs of rent and developments, gentrification, people once again thinking they're not secure and protected, to have this other thing creating fear, creating the constant unknown, it's hard when most people in Dorchester in the Southeast Asian community are very working class."

The language barrier is still an issue, as is a class divide between people who arrived in waves in the '70s versus those who came over in the '90s, she said. Where some had the opportunity to build lives for themselves and do not fear deportation, others “struggle with to how to define yourself, how to seek help, now up against this backdrop of hostility.”

A cross-generational event hosted earlier this month highlighted those generational differences, Vu said. Many of the older Vietnamese residents are more conservative, while younger generations are not. But they are all feeling the pressure. "There are so many of our community members that still need help," she said. "There are still so many challenges." Asian-American groups are seeing increased attention over the year-and-a-half that deportation has hung over their heads, said Kevin Lam, 29, organizing director with the Asian American Resource Workshop, a pan-Asian community group that works with other local and national organizations to provide support, information, and connections to legal aid.

"At least locally, haven't seen a ramp-up in deportations around concerns in the past year and a half, but that does not include collaborations with groups like the Asian Outreach Unit of Greater Boston Legal Services (GBLS)." The legal services organization hosts a legal advice clinic at the Vietnamese community center on Charles Street in Dorchester every Tuesday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Groups like GBLS and AABW have seen a spike in alarm about whether the new policy would affect them, Lam said.

Former ambassador Osius, speaking "from Vietnam," told NPR’s Michel Martin the deportees would face an unknown country and he noted that the "criminal" tag has been applied to some individuals who committed crimes decades ago and have long since made restitution. "I know for a fact they won’t be treated well at all," he said. "They don’t have any family anymore. All their families are in the United States. They have no way of getting a job here because they won’t be able to be issued identity cards. If they’re the children of American servicemen, they won’t be trusted. They will most likely end up in prison. And this future administration will consider them human rights cases and try to get them back to the United States. It doesn’t make sense to be sending these people to Vietnam.”

Lam said that his group and other member groups of the national organization are watching the political winds closely. It is not just a Vietnamese problem but a new trend. A plane with 36 Cambodian deportees aboard, 34 of them with criminal records, left the US in mid-December. "The deportations happening in the Vietnamese community are also happening to Cambodian community," he said. "We’re seeing a trend that happened in Southeast Asia, with folks and community members being deported from the countries of Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam fleeing genocide and harmful environments while younger generations are watching the political winds closely. It is not just a Vietnamese problem but a new trend."
Our early education programs enjoyed our winter pajama day. Children came dressed in their coziest pajamas and enjoyed a day filled with fun holiday activities!

CONNECT THE DOT:
Winter Athletic Programs: This Winter our Athletic program will be offering intramural basketball leagues as follows: Boys 11 & U Low Rim, Girls 12 & U Low Rim and a 15 & U Co-ed division. These games will take place weekdays at 6:00 p.m. or later.
In addition we will see the return of our Girls TMX Non-Contact Boxing Class on Mondays at 6:00 p.m. as well as 2 co-ed Classes on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m. For those interested in cross-training we offer classes at Body & Fuel three afternoons a week at 3:30 p.m. Finally, we will have 2 All-Star teams competing in the NWNL League competing against Clubs in the region.
For more information, or to register please contact Mike Joyce at mjoyce@bgcdorchester.org.

FIND OUT WHAT’S INSIDE:
BGCD Welcomes New Art Director Katy Farrar: Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester has hired a new Art Director, Katy Farrar, to take on a full time role here at the Club. She will be offering a number of classes that will be featured in our winter programming schedule. These classes will begin in the second week of January all being held after 5:30 PM.
Some of her available winter programs include “Meet the Masters,” “Messy Art,” “Drawing,” “Painting,” “MFA Class,” “3D Art,” and “Abstract Photography.” Be sure to contact Katy at kfarrar@bgcdorchester.org for updated class availability.
Please visit our website at www.bgcdorchester.org/programs/ to learn more about different program opportunities available this winter session.

DID YOU KNOW
BGCD Partners with the Barking Crab to Host Jingle & Mingle: Last Wednesday, BGCD partnered with The Barking Crab to host the second annual Jingle & Mingle event. The night featured a seasonal ice luge, photo opportunities with Santa, drinks, dinner raffles and other fun holiday surprises!
We are enormously thankful for The Barking Crab's generosity in helping us to host this fun seasonal event. Additonal thanks to all of the generous patrons who attended and donated to help support programming at Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester.
To learn more about other upcoming events at the Club and ways for you to get involved, please visit www.bgc-dorchester.org/specialevents/.

UPCOMING EVENTS
Teen Holiday Outing December 30
Keystone Volunteering at Senior’s First Night December 30
Marr-lins Swim Meet at Woburn BGC January 5
Shawnee Peak Ski Trip January 12

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StrIve is committed to offering justice-involved youth access to occupational skills training, pre-apprenticeships, and apprenticeships opportunities that lead to an industry-recognized credential. In turn, the development framework, and SFLRP includes a pre-apprenticeship academy. SFLRP will help build a productive, responsible, and self-sufficient adult by providing them with opportunities to improve social and work skills, including occupational engagement in workforce activities, education and employment.

STRIVE Boston will provide services over a period of 39 months to approximately 172 young offenders, ages 18 to 24, from communities where poverty and crime are most concentrated.

Responsibilities:

The Job Developer will be responsible for developing and implementing employment opportunities for youth in the Boston area employers in order to provide employment opportunities that are consistent with STRIVE Boston’s mission and SFLRP’s clients. Schedules: hours are typically Monday through Friday, 8:30 am to 4:00 pm, with some evenings and weekends at times.

Four criteria market analysis to determine where are the best opportunities for our clients.

Engage local employers to develop opportunities for our clients.

• Develops appropriate outreach strategies to build relationships to attract more employment opportunities for our clients.

• Identifies and screens potential employer partnerships as possible for employment development opportunities in Boston. Graduate through various resources, including referrals and personal connections.

• Works with the local career center to make sure the clients get proper education and training opportunities and documentation of the same.

• Develops appropriate outreach strategies to build relationships and partnerships with various communities in the Greater Boston area to enhance the job development training programs that provide industry recognized certifications.

Maintain regular communication with our top employer partners.

• Maintains accurate data in Apricot which includes but is not limited to number of clients employed, place of employment, length of employment, wage info, number of clients hiring new clients/looking for work, number of new employers.

Qualifications:

• Bachelor’s degree in Human Services or related field preferred and/or relevant experience will be considered as equivalent.

• 2+ years experience in recruiting or job development.

• Knowledge of labor market analysis for Greater Boston area.

• Knowledge of community resources and social services agencies.

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