Gov. Baker Unveils Broad Plan to Combat Opioid Abuse

Continued on page 8

Clear in his aim to reframe substance abuse as a public-health crisis that can’t be solved by law enforcement alone, Gov. Charlie Baker on Monday detailed a suite of options to reverse the trend of opioid addiction that last year claimed the lives of more than 1,000 residents across the state. “Let me make one thing perfectly clear here. Opioid addiction is a healthcare issue that knows no boundaries across age, race, class, or demographics,” Baker said. “From the Berkshires to Boston to Cape Cod, too many people have heart-wrenching stories of loved ones and friends that battled with opioid addiction.”
EDITORIAL

“Beat L.A.” SOUTH BOSTON TODAY

By Staff

Budapest or Boston? The Seine or Southie? L.A. or L.E. (Lower End)? Turns out these are some of the competitors that Boston will have to outbid for the 2024 Olympics.

Some residents support it, a slightly larger percent oppose it, but the great majority is ambivalent. At least until it was revealed L.A. is in the bidding. Now civic pride becomes a factor. If the Olympics are held overseas, it’s no big deal but to come in second to L.A. is a matter of “not on my watch.” The only thing worse would be if New York was in the running.

Whatever your feelings there are about 2 months left to speak up or the decision will be made without your input. Venues and cost? Where will the games be held and who will pay? Organizers must do their part and answer these questions, so the people will know whether to answer yes or no. “Beat LA.”

Vote in this week’s SBT poll

“A free people ought not only be armed, but disciplined as well” - George Washington

This Week’s Poll

Where should the 2024 Olympics be held?

Boston

OR

Los Angeles

Vote online at SouthBostonToday.com

This Week’s Poll

Vote online at SouthBostonToday.com

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The Information Center

Only a Coward Would Attack a Church

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY

John Ciccone

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

The response to last week’s report in this column on the off-the wall school principal at the elementary school in Portland, Oregon who insisted peanut butter and jelly sandwiches are racist because some immigrant children might not eat them was huge. To sum up that large reader response: What the hell is happening in America’s public schools?” Parents are scratching their heads wondering why, in addition to kids being told they eat racist sandwiches, are students in some public schools being banned from wearing American Flag shirts to school, why are they being taught about Islam but never allowed to bring a Bible, being given condoms at the lower grade school level and being taught a completely revised version on our nation’s history and the Founding Fathers who started the United States of America. Parents of school children have every right to be concerned and much of what’s happening speaks to the growing movement to leave public education.

It’s no wonder so many parents are working two and sometimes three jobs to pay to put their kids in private and religious schools and also why there is a big increase in students being home schooled.

Moving to the Church shooting in South Carolina my only comments are these. A church is a sanctuary where all should be safe and everyone is welcome. The deranged home grown terrorist who entered and killed 9 people isn’t just crazy, he’s also a coward because he knew that no one at that particular Church would be armed or be able to shoot back. Declared gun free zones tend to attract the nuts. But as usual, the bodies of the victims weren’t even cold yet when all the vultures with their leftist agendas couldn’t wait to pounce and politicize the attack. One person was to blame for what happened and that was the killer himself. But in this era, it’s never the criminal’s fault. Others are always to blame. It was 21 year old Dylan Roof’s fault. He made the choice to commit murder. It wasn’t the fault of his friends, his mother, Facebook, the gun, the NRA, a flag, his Southern roots or anything or anyone else. Hillary Clinton said it was Donald Trump’s fault and one civil rights spokesman blamed FOX News. We’re still waiting for former New York mayor Michael Bloomberg to chime in claiming it was caused by too many 32oz sodas and for Al Gore to blame it on the effects of Global Warming. It’s what these people do.

This is what the culture has become in so many corners. Evil deranged people are never responsible, in fact it seems that no one now is ever responsible for their actions. But it’s not surprising hearing these declarations coming from the liberal activists with access to microphones because they are just following the lead of that guy in the White House they seem to worship so much. With him, no matter how bad he messes up, whether it’s the economy, healthcare, the southern border or foreign policy. Especially foreign policy. It’s never his fault. Someone else is always to blame for his incompetence. Passing the buck continues to come right from the Oval Office. His robotic, clone- like disciples are just following his lead.

To close, we would be neglectful if we didn’t give the Boston Police and the Feds the congratulations they deserve for the great job they did in taking down a major part of what’s being called Boston’s biggest criminal organization. 48 members of the so called Columbia Point Dawgs were indicted and rounded up on a long list of charges last week in early morning raids that took place all over the Boston area. The massive raid by 500 Federal, state and local law enforcement personnel wearing bullet proof vests was called ‘Operation Rising Tide’. The people rounded up were bad guys. Of that, there is no doubt. They are accused of large scale drug trafficking and murders all over the area during the course of several years. Yes, this made the news everywhere last week and most people know the story, but if no one has as of yet said thank you to law enforcement for a job well done, let it be said here and echoed everywhere. Thank you! You’ve made the city a much safer place.
PITTSFIELD SUBSTANCE ABUSE CENTER WORKERS VOTE TO STRIKE

As state officials in Boston outlined ways to address the damage being caused by opiate addiction, direct care workers in the western part of the state on Monday said they’re ready to go on strike beginning July 6 to protest “poverty wages” and rising health care costs that are contributing to high turnover. According to SEIU Local 509, clinicians and other staff at The Brien Center in Pittsfield, a provider of mental health and substance abuse services, have voted overwhelmingly to authorize a strike. “When I started at Brien, one of my first clients asked how long I planned to stay. He had worked with a new nurse every month up to that point,” Jessica Kemp, a registered nurse in Brien’s substance abuse treatment program, said in a statement. “We voted to strike because the clients we serve deserve better. This work is just too important to devote anything less than consistent, high quality care provided by experienced and passionate staff.” The center serves more than 10,000 children and families in the Great Barrington, North Adams, Pittsfield, Williamstown area, according to the union. “Our programs are short staffed and overstressed, with many clients sitting on wait lists for weeks, if not months. Families do not have access to the services they need in Berkshire County, and that’s unacceptable,” said Raya Kirby, an intensive care coordinator at Brien. - Michael Norton/SHNS

GALVIN ANNOUNCES ON ONLINE VOTER REGISTRATION

Secretary of State William Galvin announced his plan to implement the state’s new online voter registration system. Voters in Massachusetts may register online to participate in the March 1, 2016 presidential primary, the first Bay State election that will feature the election reform that’s in place in 20 other states. Under a law signed last year by Gov. Deval Patrick, online voting registration was authorized through the use of a digital affidavit of registration and a website aimed at updating citizens on the status of their registration. Lawmakers last year differed on proposals to allow voters to register on Election Day and that reform, often called same-day registration, was not included in the election reform law, which also authorized early voting and the pre-registration of certain 16-year-old residents. - Michael Norton/SHNS

REGISTRY: 156 LOW-NUMBER PLATES AVAILABLE IN LOTTERY

Massachusetts transportation officials on Friday opened up the application period for 156 low-number license plates up for grabs in this year’s lottery, including Z9, 650, 7X and L91. Winners will be picked during a drawing later this summer and applications are available on the registry’s website and at its branches. Registry officials say they receive about 6,000 applications per year for low-number plates. Applications this year must be postmarked by Aug. 21 and winners, by law, must be announced by Sept. 15. - Michael Norton/SHNS
A look into the abyss. That’s what last week’s outrage in Charleston S.C. was. Sadly some seem to enjoy the view. Some vultures see it as a chance to make political points for their side. Those types are always with us, the philosophy of “never let a crisis go to waste” types. Even more alarming are those who welcome it as another step toward the chaos and eventual collapse of our system.

We know of the ISIS terrorists and others who want to destroy America. There is a strong and not so secret movement of those who hate capitalism. Who believe America is an evil entity. Who believe it must be destroyed and rebuilt according to their view of justice and right and wrong. They do not fear Islamic terrorism but welcome it. This punk terrorist who murdered those 9 innocents is just a useful idiot for those who seek to divide and destroy us. They are not just voices in the crowd, but those who have slithered their way into leadership in politics, academia and business and today are firmly entrenched.

It doesn’t always have to be that way. The families of those slain are setting an example we would all be wise to follow. An example we must follow or be destroyed. How many of us could be as noble as these victims loved ones who call not for vengeance but forgiveness? That type of sensibility can only come from the people. From us, ourselves, expecting leadership to come from the political class in D.C. is futile. For the most part they are all chameleons who will take both sides of the same issue as long as it keeps their personal power. The welfare of the nation or people to be damned. Which is alright too because those of us who live here know best.

Our local leaders know and care because this is their home and not just a stop on a career path. Just for example you have a man from Southie in Police Commissioner Billy Evans, whose whole adult life has been in service to the people. Right next to him is Superintendent in Chief and hands on Field Commander Billy Gross who I first met when he was a police cadet. It is their honest attitude and example that permeates the ranks.

Right here in Southie, officers who walk the streets created a program with Patrolman Frank Williams called “volleys against violence”. It’s a tennis program to teach kids from all backgrounds the game and about each other. Open to all, another sign up and lesson will be offered 3-5 July 12th at the Old Harbor (Mary Ellen McCormack) tennis courts. Teaching and mentoring the youth is the best way to teach a love of self community and country and preventing these acts of terrorism.

Let’s not mince words. That horror was intended to cause terror, lead to chaos and cause our downfall. That was an American Flag this cretin was burning in published photos. From all points on the compass this act was denounced. If you do know or hear of support or agreement you must call out the hate-mongers. I believe in evil, but also believe the young absorb many of the lessons and attitudes we older folks teach them. This punk didn’t walk around dressing and talking Nazi garbage without people noticing and looking the other way.

In Charleston and the nation, the question comes down to those who would use this horror to make political points to enhance their “leadership” and hence, political power and those who believe only unity can save the country. Your actions here at home determine whether we fall into the abyss or move on to a better future.

Take care till next week.
Mayor Walsh Deploys City Crews To Clean Up Hazardous Needles

Mayor Martin J. Walsh today joined Health and Human Services and the Boston Public Health Commission in announcing the Mobile Sharps Collection Team (MSCT), a new program, dispatching a crew to properly handle loose, sharp needles. In addition, Citizens Connect now has this new feature, which allows citizens to file reports through their mobile app.

"Public spaces should be safe for the people of Boston and visitors, and loose needles are a risk to anyone who is exposed," said Mayor Walsh. "Throughout the many public meetings I’ve hosted, I’ve heard, loud and clear, the concerns of our residents. I commend the Departments of Innovation and Technology, Health and Human Services, Civic Engagement, Neighborhood Services and the Boston Public Health Commission for their collaborative efforts in launching this new initiative. This new, permanent program will make positive change throughout our neighborhoods."

Since early June, MSCT has collected over 2,000 needles. Residents can now report needles through Citizens Connect or the Mayor’s 24-Hour Hotline, in which case the Mobile Sharps Collection Team will be dispatched to properly take care of the issue. The MSCT will also serve as an integral part of the city’s substance abuse outreach team and will help to identify areas where there are opportunities to engage with active users and community residents about substance abuse-related concerns.

When reporting a needle in a public area it is important to note specific details, pertaining to landmarks and other markers to best facilitate the fastest possible response. During slow reporting times, MSCT will travel consistently throughout Boston’s neighborhoods, collecting any needles they can find.

For information on how to safely dispose of needles and/or syringes, visit: http://www.bphc.org/whatwedo/Addiction-Services/services-for-active-users/Pages/Safe-Needle-and-Syringe-Disposal.aspx. For more information on how to download Citizens Connect, visit: http://www.cityofboston.gov/doit/apps/citizensconnect.asp. To contact Mayor Walsh’s 24-Hour Hotline, call: 617-635-4500.

City Council Olympics Hearing

June 26 Focus On Financing of Operations and Venue Development

Boston City Council President Bill Linehan, Chair of the Special Committee on the 2024 Olympics, hosts members of Boston 2024’s leadership team and members of the City of Boston’s Office of Olympic Planning on June 26 at 9:30am at Boston City Hall 5th floor in the Iannella Chamber.

The hearing will focus on the financing of operations and venue development, topics crucial to help formulate a position on the benefits and costs of the Games. The Committee will investigate the financing of operations for the games, and how the games are being funded to ensure the residents of Boston are protected. Venue development will have the most direct impact on Boston’s neighborhoods, and the hearing will look at the most recent plans to date, discuss the validity of the locations and the community process that will be undertaken as part of this effort. The public is invited to attend. The Committee will draft and issue a report this summer upon completion of the hearing series.

By holding these hearings, the Special Committee on 2024 Olympics intends to flush out key aspects of proposing a bid to compete for the 2024 Olympics. Boston is bidding for the 2024 Olympics to be the Boston Games. The Boston City Council believes these forums will be extremely valuable for Boston regardless of whether or not Boston hosts the games.
Rep. Nick Collins Testifies On His Bill To Improve Firefighter Safety

Representative Nick Collins testified on legislation to address concerns raised by last year’s fire in the Back Bay regarding the regulation of the hot works and welding trades. The bill, filed by Rep. Collins and Senator Ken Donnelly, a former firefighter, would create a special commission to investigate and study the current requirements for any licensing or permits governing cutting, welding, and other hot work processes that are capable of initiating fires or explosions to determine if the industry is adequately regulated to protect the public.

In addition, the commission will study the use of supervised details and fire watches, adequacy of fees for inspection and oversight, the deterrent effect of penalties for violations of rules and regulations, along with potential cost recovery and assessment for damages resulting from failure to comply with rules and regulations.

“The tragic fire in Boston last year raised a number of questions on the oversight of welding and hot works,” said Sen. Donnelly. “The goal of this commission is to take a thorough and thoughtful look at the trade and the regulation surrounding it. We want to make sure that we have sufficient regulations to ensure the safety of the public, the safety of the people working in the trade and the safety of our public servants who are asked to respond when something goes wrong.”

“Last year, Boston lost two of its bravest firefighters in a tragedy caused by unpermitted work, bringing to light many questions about fire safety,” said Rep. Collins. “This commission aims to bring together the experts in the fields of fire safety and hot works to identify regulations that need to be strengthened and new regulations that need to be implemented in order to safeguard the public and our emergency responders.”

The District Attorney for Suffolk County concluded a year-long investigation in April on the Back Bay fire, finding that criminal charges were not warranted. While a civil case is proceeding against the company that performed the welding that caused the deadly fire, the state only has the authority to issue a maximum $1000 fine for a permit violation. Workers who perform welding and other hot works do not have licensing requirements under state law.

The commission will include members of the legislature, members appointed by the governor, members of the trade industry and representatives from the fire services including the State Fire Marshal.

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan said, “Today, an individual can purchase a welding unit and go into business for himself without any education or certification requirements. The review that this commission would give as to whether training and certification should be required, whether we can strengthen or improve existing regulations or should increase penalties for flouting them, would be extremely helpful to public safety.”

The commission will have to complete its report by June 1, 2016 and submit any necessary legislation by that time.
Police Jurisdiction Still A Hot Issue On The SB Waterfront

Who has jurisdiction along South Boston’s thriving Waterfront and closely surrounding areas is still a hot topic of contention at times. Currently, the Massachusetts State Police respond to calls in the district. It has been their turf so to speak but there are times when Boston Police have to respond as well and therein lies the confusion.

In fact, Boston Police Commissioner Bill Evans feels that it makes no sense that BPD of- ficer Bill Evans feels that it In fact, Boston Police Commissioner Bill Evans feels that it is clearly in the interest of public safety, especially when lives may be on the line. Evans says he sees no reason to let bureaucratic issues get in the way.

The Massachusetts State Legislature is currently considering a bill that would allow the Boston Police to respond when needed to the South Boston Waterfront, but they have had similar bills before them in the past with little change being made. Evans is insistent that while the Massachusetts State Police are very good at what they do, the Boston Police are better equipped to patrol and respond to areas like the Sea- port.

Community policing he says, in city neighborhoods is among the BPD’s strong points and they have the resources to be more effective in a shorter response time especially since the State Police are spread out all across the state and sometimes have to call for addition support from units many miles away. Evans also predicts that the problems will increase as the Massport’s terri- tory expands into more areas of Charlestown and other parts of Boston.

State Police sources have in the past implied that the BPD is pushing for dual jurisdiction in an effort to have more access to paid details; something the BPD has always denied. There were no State Police represen- tatives present at the council committee hearing on Monday. But Massport officials have stated that the setup of coverage as it stands now, with the area being under complete State Po- lice control is working well and they see no reason to change it at this time. The Massport security official suggested that BPD should increase its efforts to forward 911 calls over to State Police units.

This dispute over turf between the Boston and State Police has been going on for several years and it looks like both sides are standing firm in their positions. It seems it will take a legisla- tive solution to bring change, if change is ever to come. At this point, it’s not clear if the BPD will continue to respond to calls in the district even though the regulations say it should not. The situation bears watching as it continues to develop.

GOV. BAKER UNVEILS PLAN CONTINUED FROM page 1

addiction and, in some cases, lost their lives.” BAKER, who was joined at a press conference by Attorney General Maura Healey, Health and Human Services Secretary Marylou Sudders, and a Cape Cod family impacted by substance abuse, spoke of investing in new beds for treatment, providing resources for schools to educate students on the dangers of painkillers, and reforming the way the criminal justice system handles addicts. The governor’s task force on substance abuse produced a report with 65 action items that include making the state’s prescription monitoring program easier for physicians to use and more efficient at producing real-time data that can be used to target treatment and intervention programs.

Unintentional opioid overdoses claimed an estimated 1,008 lives in Massachusetts in 2014, an increase over the prior year and more than three times the number of lives lost to automobile accidents. The report calls for the creation of nearly 200 new treatment beds by July 2016, state funding for school prevention programs to be designed at the local level, a partnership with a chain pharmacy to pilot a drug take-back program, and amendments to the civil commitment statute to include substance-abuse disorders.

According to Health and Human Services, the plan calls for adding 64 treatment beds in Greenfield at Behavioral Health Network, 27 new beds in Westbrook at Spectrum Health, 34 new beds in Natick at Metrowest Medical Center, 24 new beds in Dartmouth at Acadia Health, and 43 new beds in Haverhill at Summit Behavioral Health. “It can’t just be law enforcement, and it can’t just be Health and Human Services,” Sudders said.

Baker’s task force recommended a process to certify and register drug-free housing for recovery addicts, to require prescription monitoring data to be entered into the system within 24 hours by pharmacies instead of within seven days, and to improve the affordability of the overdose reversing drug naloxone, also known as Narcan, through bulk purchasing.

Baker said he intends to file legislation “shortly,” perhaps within the next 10 days, to begin implementing some recommendations, and will seek $27.8 million in new funding from the Legislature in FY 2016. Sudders said that the administration will also repurpose $6.7 million in existing funds to bring the total investment next year to $34.5 million.

The governor also said he was in discussion with other governors in the region about how to make the state’s prescription monitoring data compatible across borders to stop patients from doctor shopping in New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and other nearby states.
### Recent South Boston Real Estate Sales

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The following organizations received grants.

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BRA awards $400,000 In Grants To South Boston

BRA awards $400,000 In Grants To South Boston

Twelve non-profit organizations operating in South Boston will receive grants, ranging from $20,000 to $80,000, to support their programs. The awards mark the successful completion of a Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) pilot program launched in February to test a new process for allocating discretionary funding from community benefits agreements associated with development projects. The twelve South Boston grant recipients will share a total of $400,000 in funding that stems from the D Street Hotel project, which is currently under construction across from the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center.

The BRA received nearly 40 applications from non-profit organizations seeking funding. BRA staff reviewed the submissions in conjunction with the Office of Workforce Development, an affiliate of the BRA with a strong track record in grant management, to determine the awardees. The grants will support an array of initiatives, from youth empowerment programs to substance abuse prevention work.

“We want to level the playing field when it comes to allocating funds from community benefits agreements, and that’s exactly what we’ve done,” said BRA Director Brian Golden. “In the past, there wasn’t a predictable process for awarding this funding. I’m proud that we’re able to support so many impactful organizations with an approach that lends itself to transparency and accountability.”

“I am pleased that the pilot was successful and that this strategy is being adopted as standard practice,” said Mayor Martin J. Walsh. “This application process gives the South Boston community equal access and opportunity to receive grant money resulting from new development in and around their neighborhood. This continues our commitment to transparency, accessibility, and streamlining city government by modernizing the way we do business. I commend the Convention Center Authority, the BRA, elected officials, and the community for working with the development team to secure this important funding for South Boston.”

Given the success of the pilot, the BRA will now release the remaining $230,000 in community benefits associated with the D Street Hotel project. Non-profit organizations operating in South Boston that applied for but didn’t receive funding in the first round are eligible to reapply in round two. Applicants can request up to $25,000 in funding for this round. The second round D Street Hotel Community Benefits application is available on the BRA’s website. Submissions are due Monday, July 20.

“I am encouraged by the new transparent community benefits process and glad that many important service providers in South Boston will benefit from this funding,” said City Council President Bill Linehan.

“South Boston’s non-profit organizations do a tremendous job serving our community and caring for some of our most vulnerable residents,” said Councilor Flaherty. The community benefits attained through the grants provided by the D Street Hotel project will set an example for other developers who look to invest in our thriving neighborhood.”

“I was proud to be the house sponsor of the bill authorizing the D Street hotel expansion in South Boston,” said Representative Collins. “I worked hard with my colleagues in the legislature to ensure passage of the bill because it will bring many benefits to the South Boston community in the form of construction jobs, permanent jobs and funding for our local nonprofit organizations.”
Mayor Walsh
Neighborhood Coffee Hour At Sweeney Playground

St Peter Academy Kindergarten Students are all smiles as they welcome Mayor Walsh to one of their favorite play areas – the Sweeney Playground.

Mayor Martin J. Walsh welcomes Betty Flaherty, president of the West Broadway Task Force, to the June 17 Neighborhood Coffee Hour hosted by Mayor Walsh and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department at Sweeney Playground in South Boston. Attendees were treated to coffee and Munchkins from Dunkin’ Donuts and fresh fruit from Whole Foods Market along with pink petunias from the Parks Department greenhouses at Franklin Park.

Danny Nee of South Boston was spotted at Mayor Martin J. Walsh’s Neighborhood Coffee Hour at Sweeney Playground with neighbors Kerry Ryan, her son Max (11 months), and the cheerful tot’s grandmother Judy Ryan. Mayor Walsh and other City officials hosted the Boston Parks and Recreation Department event allowing residents a chance to speak one-on-one about issues ranging from park improvements to housing. Coffee and breakfast treats were provided by Dunkin’ Donuts along with fresh fruit from Whole Foods Market and pink petunias grown in the city’s greenhouses.

Three Kindergarten One Students from St Peter Academy presented Mayor Walsh with a thank you card for refurbishing the Sweeney Playground and making it a fun, kid safe place.

Fort Point resident Ashley Mahanama and her youngsters Aram, 17 months, and Teya, 4, enjoy the June 17 Neighborhood Coffee Hour hosted by Mayor Martin J. Walsh and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department at Sweeney Playground. The Neighborhood Coffee Hours give residents a unique opportunity to speak directly with Mayor Walsh and representatives of several city departments about issues in their community.

Two-year-old Graham Dudley enjoys some fresh fruit at the June 17 Neighborhood Coffee Hour hosted by Mayor Martin J. Walsh at Sweeney Playground. Coffee and breakfast treats were provided by Dunkin’ Donuts along with flowers grown in the Boston Parks and Recreation Department greenhouses and fruit from Whole Foods Market.

One-and-half-year-old Weston Spitz almost stole the show when he strolled at the feet of Mayor Martin J. Walsh as he addressed the crowd at the Mayor’s Neighborhood Coffee Hour held June 17 at Sweeney Playground. Weston’s grandmother Dolly Pickup and mom Justine later got the happy youngster to stay still long enough for a photo.
‘Summer is officially here as kite surfers hit the water AND the air at Pleasure Bay’
McDonough Sailing Center-Pleasure Bay - Castle Island

The McDonough Sailing Center was the dream of the late South Boston sailing enthusiast Harry McDonough. Harry wanted to create a sailing center that would provide children from all economic and ethnic backgrounds the opportunity to learn and grow through sailing.

Over forty years later, the McDonough Sailing Center prides itself on opening the sport of sailing to over 500 Boston children each season, FREE OF CHARGE. The Youth Sailing Program positively influences thousands of Boston youth every summer and serves as an effective vehicle for empowering and teaching life skills to children of all backgrounds.

On Friday, June 26, the Harry McDonough Sailing Center will hold its annual fundraiser. This event has been a funtastic time over the past few years and is held at the Sailing Center’s Dock at Castle Island on Pleasure Bay.

From 6:00 to 9:00 on the 26th you will have the time of your life sipping cocktails while listening to great music. All this for a good cause to support a program that gives kids a safe, supervised place to learn the art of sailing and hang out in the summer. Contributors at this fundraiser will be eligible for early registration for this year’s classes.

We hope to see you on Friday the 26th. If you cannot make this event any donation you can make will be greatly appreciated and can be mailed to the McDonough Sailing Center, 34 G Street, South Boston, MA 02127. Please pass the word or bring a friend for a fun night out. Free parking will be available in the roped off area of the Castle Island parking lot.

For more info call: Touchie McDonough 617-792-8570 or Ken Ryan 617-269-8632.

SUGGESTED DONATION
Crew Member $100    Captain’s Club (couple) $150    Commodore $250    Admiral $500
Red Sox Still Trying To Find The Winning Formula

Joe Kelly continues to struggle, Farrell gets tossed again and Napoli strikes out four times in Tuesday's loss to the Baltimore Orioles, who have Boston's number. Meanwhile, ESPN reported that Farrell announced a number of roster moves, the most notable involving Cuban outfielder Rusney Castillo, who was optioned back to Pawtucket to make room for newly arrived catcher Erik Kratz, claimed on waivers from Kansas City.

Kratz's stay here is expected to be short-lived. Catcher Blake Swihart, who sprained his left foot while sliding into third base on Saturday and did not play the following day in Kansas City, was held out of the lineup again Tuesday but Farrell said he was hopeful he would be back Wednesday. Rusney Castillo is headed back to Triple-A after struggling to find his rhythm at the plate with Boston.

The other move of note involved pitcher Justin Masterson, who has been on the disabled list since May 14 (retroactive to May 13) with what the team called right shoulder tendinitis and has missed the past 39 games. Masterson, who was taking a regular turn in the starting rotation at the time he was placed on the DL, is returning as a member of the bullpen, Farrell said. He will be taking the place of knuckleballer Steven Wright, who was 3-2 with a 4.15 ERA in 11 appearances (four starts). Wright was optioned to Pawtucket, where he will be stretched out again as a starter, Farrell said.

“Steven didn't pitch his way out of here,” Farrell said. “He did a solid job in the rotation.”

Castillo's demotion did not come as a surprise. His last start came last Tuesday against Atlanta, and he has had just five plate appearances in the past five games. Castillo has been used primarily as a defensive replacement and pinch hitter. He lost playing time not only to hot-hitting Brock Holt, but to Alejandro De Aza, who was picked up by the Red Sox on June 3 after he was designated for assignment by Baltimore.

While the demotion was expected, it still ranks as a significant disappointment for the Sox, who signed Castillo to a six-year, $72.5 million contract in August and anticipated that the outfielder, who turns 28 on July 9 and is in the prime of his career, would become an everyday player. That has not happened. Mookie Betts and Shane Victorino beat out Castillo, who was set back by a strained oblique muscle early in spring training, for spots in center field and right field, respectively, at the start of the season and Castillo then strained his left shoulder making a diving catch for Pawtucket on April 11.

But with the Boston offense struggling, the Sox recalled Castillo on May 22 and installed him into the starting lineup in right field. Castillo did not make the impact they had hoped; he has posted a .230/.260/.284/.544 slash line in 77 plate appearances, leading to his demotion. “We need to get him back playing every day,” Farrell said. “He has been relegated to a bench role, and has difficulty getting into the rhythm of the game, and gaining the confidence he needs.”

The South Boston Leadership Initiative will be hosting youth baseball clinics every Saturday in the month of June at Moakley Park. Local college coaches and players will lead the clinics which will cover all of the basic fundamentals of baseball with a focus on proper throwing, pitching, hitting, and fielding. The clinics are free and open to any South Boston resident or student between the ages of 7-12. The schedule is as follows and will take place at Diamond #2:

Saturday June 27th
10am-12pm (10-12 years old) 12pm-2pm (7-9 years old)

For more information please contact Ryan Sweeney at RSweeney@SouthBostonLeadership.org
I was missing any more hockey. I was going through the process of the conversation I guess, that you have with your team, teammates, trainers, when you suffered this injury and you thought you would return. What is that conversation like?

NATE THOMPSON: The first thing that came to mind when the injury happened was, my first mindset was, “When can I play again?” I wanted to play. I didn’t want to miss the playoffs. Talking to trainers and coaches, everybody having the conversation, we were kind of just going day-to-day to see how I feel. I notice. There’s always jokes being made from guys. I have a buddy that plays for the Minnesota Twins in Phil Hughes. We like to go back and forth a little bit, joking around about what guys play through in different sports. But I don’t try and judge too much, just because every sport is different. There’s different things that you have to do in different sports. But I do think that hockey players are some of the toughest guys in sports, just because of the grind that we go through during the regular season, and even more so the grind we go through in the playoffs. It just shows a lot about guys in hockey and in the NHL, what they’re willing to go through to win the Stanley Cup.

DP: Did you watch the Stanley Cup Final? You obviously played in the Western Conference Finals and lost to the Chicago Blackhawks. Did you watch the Final between your former team, the Tampa Bay Lightning, and the Blackhawks?

NT: I notice. There’s always jokes being made from guys. I have a buddy that plays for the Minnesota Twins in Phil Hughes. We like to go back and forth a little bit, joking around about what guys play through in different sports. But I don’t try and judge too much, just because every sport is different. There’s different things that you have to do in different sports. But I do think that hockey players are some of the toughest guys in sports, just because of the grind that we go through during the regular season, and even more so the grind we go through in the playoffs. It just shows a lot about guys in hockey and in the NHL, what they’re willing to go through to win the Stanley Cup.

DP: Did you notice guys in other sports when they sit out with less serious injuries, or do you not pay attention to that?

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NT: I didn’t watch every game, and the games that I did watch, I didn’t watch the whole thing. But I followed it a little bit. It was a heck of a series with two very good teams. It could have gone either way, but the Chicago Blackhawks are the Chicago Blackhawks. They find a way to win. They’re an experienced team that’s been there. When you say the Chicago Blackhawks, it’s kind of self-explanatory.

DP: Do players around the league now call the Blackhawks a dynasty? Can I call the Blackhawks a dynasty right now, and do players around the league feel like they are a dynasty?

NT: I think that’s one of those things that they’re pretty darn close. Or, if not, I think in this salary cap era and how hard it is to win with the parity in the league, to win three times in six years is really impressive. I don’t know how many teams are going to be able to do that in the future. So, if they’re not a dynasty, then they’re really close. They’re right on the cusp. Because when you look at other dynasties, they’ve won in consecutive years. And I think in that sense, there’s no question about those teams being dynasties.

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DP: Did you find yourself going out of your way to watch the Stanley Cup celebration, and use that as motivation for next year? Do you do that? Have you done that in the past?

NT: I didn’t watch every game, and the games that I did watch, I didn’t watch the whole thing. But I followed it a little bit. It was a heck of a series with two very good teams. It could have gone either way, but the Chicago Blackhawks are the Chicago Blackhawks. They find a way to win. They’re an experienced team that’s been there. When you say the Chicago Blackhawks, it’s kind of self-explanatory.

DP: Did you watch the Stanley Cup when it’s brought onto the ice when it’s presented to the captain. I think it’s one of those things in hockey and in sports that’s certainly rare. I don’t think there’s anything like it in any other sport. It’s just such a special moment in our sport that you can’t duplicate. I do usually watch because it’s so incredible to me. And I usually get pretty emotional every time I do watch it. And I do use it as motivation. That’s the ultimate dream, that’s the ultimate goal for every guy that plays hockey. It doesn’t matter if you’re three-years-old or 30-years-old, it’s just one of those things where you work your whole life to play in the NHL, and once you get there, the goal is to win the Stanley Cup. Nothing else matters.

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