The City of Boston’s “National Night Out” is more than an award ceremony. It is an opportunity to combine a formal ceremony with the kind of community camaraderie that should and does exist between and among all of those who make South Boston a wonderful place to live. Indeed, a special award ceremony was held Tuesday night at the William McDonough Bathhouse at Moakley Park. It was not lost on those in attendance that the success of Boston’s Community Policing is a national model. Respect is the operative word as South Bostonians work with our police, not against them.

The importance of the event was underscored by those who made it a point to be there. This included: Mayor Marty Walsh, Police Commissioner Bill Evans, District Attorney Dan Conley, Sheriff Steve Tompkins, City Councilors Annissa
EDITORIAL

“More Outrage”

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY - By Staff

It seems virtually everyone, political affiliation aside, expressed outrage over statements a Presidential candidate directed toward relatives, including parents, who had lost a child in the Mid-East serving the United States. “Delusional” and “Lie” are two of the words a candidate has used to describe a Gold Star mother, who has taken the stage recently at the political convention. It is really not surprising that people should be repulsed by the treatment and disrespect shown.

The surprising aspect is that it took the “lame stream” media over two weeks to report that the mother of Sean Smith, who was murdered at Benghazi, was called names by Hillary Clinton. Mother Smith stood at the podium at the Republican Convention and told how Clinton and then Defense Secretary Leon Panetta cradled her face with his hands, looked her in the eye and lied about her son’s death. Isn’t that what the outrage is about?

“August carries on the beautiful summer breezes, the balmy temperatures and the relaxed easy living brought to us by July” - Glenn J Stockwell

Want to see your ad in South Boston Today & SBT Online?

office: 617.268.4032 or cell: 617.840.1355 or email at ads@southbostontoday.com
It’s August in Massachusetts and for at least the past several years this has meant that Bay State residents got a much appreciated break from the 6.5 percent sales tax we’ve been paying on most items- but as we know, not this year. The state legislature has decided that it couldn’t spare the revenue that it says would be lost if those 2 days each year -one weekend - were allowed to be tax burden free for shoppers.

Our neighbors to the north in New Hampshire used to make good natured light of the sales tax weekend down here. State officials there would put up signs in rest areas along Routes 93 and 95 for travelling Massachusetts residents and tourists AND yes, shoppers, to see that read ‘Massachusetts-2/New Hampshire 365’, rubbing in the fact that the Granite State has no sales tax all year long. They do just fine with excellent roads, parks, beaches, schools and an all-around humming economy. But New Hampshire can’t put those signs up this year, because our politicians had to eliminate even that 48-hour reprieve. Maybe this year’s sign will read ‘They Couldn’t Even Give You 2 Lousy Days??’

One has to feel sorry for the Massachusetts businesses that are located close to the border. If you have a retail shop of almost any kind anywhere near the state line you could be in financial trouble. That is, if they haven’t gone under altogether. Think about it: Why would anyone shop there for a TV, washing machine, tires for their vehicles, furniture etc. when just a short few mile drive to New Hampshire gets you those same items tax free? It’s no wonder during the Christmas shopping season Granite State mall parking lots are filled with Massachusetts cars. And this year Massachusetts pols even saw fit to take that one lonely weekend away from us. Oh well.

And speaking of taxes, as of this writing it’s said that Governor Charlie Baker will most likely veto a scheme, whoops, I mean plan for a ‘study’ to see the feasibility of adding yet a new tax on drivers, based on the number of miles the we drive in our cars. They are calling it a ‘pilot program’. Yes, it’s just what it sounds like. They want to study the ‘possibility’ of taxing you for miles travelled in your vehicles. Now what they are saying at this point is that if a mileage tax works in the effort to raise funds for infrastructure repairs and is implemented, the legislature then could consider eliminating the state tax on gasoline. Now the key words here are ‘could consider’. Ok, let’s have a show of hands. How many people actually believe they would really eliminate an existing tax if they got another one to make up lost funds? This is Massachusetts after all. Many of our politicians; especially those of the liberal persuasion would sooner fall on a sword than get rid of or even lower a tax. And weren’t we just recently told as voters that if we would just allow them to raise the gas tax, and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14
Window Into The State House

Window Into The State House provides our readers a synopsis of important issues of interest, past and current, that are being proposed, debated or acted upon by the Massachusetts Legislature. Many issues that are not related to local city government services are acted upon and have a direct impact on daily life. They are tax policy, transportation infrastructure, judicial appointments, social services and health, as well as higher education.

We will excerpt reports from the gavel-to-gavel coverage of House and Senate sessions by news sources focused on this important aspect of our lives. These sources include a look ahead at the coming week in state government and summaries and analyses of the past week, re-caps of a range of state on daily life. They are tax policy, transportation infrastructure, judicial appointments, social services and health, as well as higher education.

Evans blasts lawmakers for not mandating fingerprinting of Uber drivers

William Evans, Boston’s commissioner of police, is furious that lawmakers on Sunday didn’t mandate that Uber, Lyft and other ride-hailing drivers must be fingerprinted before they can transport passengers. “I don’t think you can put a price on making sure people driving the vehicles are as safe as possible,” Evans said, as reported by the Globe’s Michael Levenson. “I think it wasn’t much of an ask on fingerprints.” He added that background checks of drivers, as mandated by lawmakers, can help in screening out questionable drivers, but they’re not as good as fingerprints. “There’s no better gold standard than the fingerprint. ... We’re looking for violent offenders who have sexual histories or violent histories. That’s all we want to weed out here.”

Legislative leftovers: Lawmakers override Baker’s veto of Lyme disease coverage

After a legislative session ends in a burst of last-minute activity, like what happened this past weekend on Beacon Hill, it can take a while to sort out what did and didn’t pass. There’s usually a lot of legislative leftovers to sort through and examine. So following are some of this year’s leftover items from the recently concluded session, starting with this: The Legislature overturned Gov. Baker’s veto of legislation requiring insurance companies to provide coverage for the long-term treatment of Lyme disease, even though the medical community backed Baker’s veto, reports Brian Benson at Wicked Local. The legislation requires coverage of long-term Lyme treatment “as prescribed by licensed physicians.” Despite vacancies, T eyes layoffs amidst $110M deficit

Layoffs remain on the table at the MBTA, which is facing a $110 million operating deficit, even though more than 250 employees took buyout offers and despite vacancies in key upper-level positions, Nicole Dungca of the Globe reports. The T’s acting general manager, Brian Shortsleeve, said about half of the positions vacated by buyouts will be filled, meaning the T would need another 150 workers to leave to meet financial targets. Hiring continues meanwhile, with 500 new workers added to the T payroll since January. Report: Feds are now probing Grand Prix debacle

The Herald’s Joe Battenfeld is reporting that the feds have now widened their probe of City Hall’s strong-arm tactics on behalf of unions to include the now cancelled IndyCar race in Boston, in a move that brings added legal pressure on the already beleaguered Walsh administration. John Casey, head of the Grand Prix organization that tried to organize the race event, said he’s cooperating with U.S. Attorney Carmen M. Ortiz’s office and the U.S. Department of Labor, Battenfeld reports.

Sounds pretty serious. Still, we found this Casey quote interesting: “I reached out based on the issues that we had. They asked for my cooperation along the way and have made great strides.” So Casey reached out to the feds? Hmmmm. Before or after he had heated problems in Colorado, where a judge ruled that he committed fraud in a leasing company case. Meanwhile, parade organizers say city strong-armed them

Organizers of the South Boston St. Patrick’s Day parade claim in new court filings that city officials coerced and threatened them into including LGBT groups in their annual event, Bob McGovern and Dan Atkinson of the Herald report. The lawsuit stems from March and claims that the city violated the First Amendment rights of the South Boston Allied War Veterans and the new claims echo allegations against tactics used by city officials that led to recent extortion indictments at City Hall. Walsh denies the new charges, telling the Herald: “It’s completely not true. I don’t know what veterans are claiming that, but they should call me if there’s an issue.”

Energy bill generates a lot of reactions

It will take days, if not weeks, to determine exactly what was in the renewable energy bill passed in the waning minutes of the legislative session on Sunday night. Still, Michael Norton of State House New Service reports that many industry and environmental groups have quickly reviewed the legislation and their reactions “run the gamut.” The general consensus of many (though not all): The bill is a major step forward in promoting renewable energy, particularly wind and hydro power. Gov. Charlie Baker said he’s just glad that lawmakers passed such a complicated and contentious bill, calling the effort a “real tribute to them.” But he withheld his specific views on the bill’s numerous provisions, saying “we’ve got to spend some time reviewing it.”

One group that hated the bill: The New England Power Generators Association, which said in a statement that it was “deeply disappointed” by the final legislation.

One group that really liked it: The Massachusetts Association of Realtors, which was thrilled that legislation didn’t mandate home energy inspec-
A s you walk on Summer
Street heading toward First
Street there is a piece of
statuesque architecture, obscured for
decades, that once again becomes
prominent. Viewed from this angle
the original channel side gateway is
a marble-faced arch with helmeted
mythical God figure at the top and
word “Edison” emblazoned above
that. Much of the existing plant has
been added on over the last century.
This has obscured and distorted the
original design.

Built in 1892 as a coal-fired plant,
it adapted to new technology as it
appeared, changing first to oil and
finally natural gas. It became dor-
mant in 2007. A total of 4,500 spills
and contamination over its history
comes as no surprise to residents
whose memory goes back to its
operation. Then, the complaints of
blackened soot falling on drying
clothes on the line paled next to the
blackened soot falling on drying
operation. The channel side gateway is
a bit murkier. The residences on
First Street pre-date Edison
and would indicate a residential
zoning code. This would support
residential use on the Edison site
were it not for the pollution.

To further complicate the situa-
tion, the Waterway Preservation Act
was recently passed which restricts
height to 50 feet within 100 feet of
the shoreline, tideline or dockside. It
would seem, should the property be
cleaned to allow residential housing,
that the plant could be renovated as
is and grandfathered in. If, however,
de-contamination is impossible, the
demolition of the plant becomes the
only option, but would limit future
development to a size that seems too
small to offset the cost of cleanup
and rebuilding.

With the upcoming completion
of the Tommy Butler Memorial
Park and Water Walkway this
entire area will take on a new
look and active presence in our
neighborhood. If redevelopment
is possible, the channel side gate-
way can be a signature feature,
whatever the future of this site
community involvement should
decide. Stay tuned.

Finally, no better example of
community involvement could
be offered than in the passing of
Peg Flaherty. Her fierce love and
support of her husband, sons and
daughter is legendary and well
reported. Perhaps, unintention-
ally, her support and defense of all
things South Boston and its people
is overlooked. Peg was always, in
her quiet but knowing way, some-
one who instinctively knew when to
offer support and strength to those
in the community fighting for one
cause or another. The turnout for
her sendoff proves that sentiment
was shared by the thousands she
touched. It is doubtful we will see
that massive a show of affection
again in our lifetime.

*Take care till next week.*
City and State Team Up For Homeless Elders

The City of Boston, in partnership with the state’s Executive Office of Elder Affairs, today hosted a first of its kind “housing surge”, designed to connect chronically homeless seniors with housing and services. The event, held at the Laboure Center in South Boston, marks the first time housing and integrated care services have been offered together, and launches a new partnership between the city and state designed to end chronic homelessness in senior populations across Massachusetts.

“Innovative ways of removing the barriers to health and housing are how we will end chronic homelessness in Boston,” said Mayor Walsh. “We are so lucky to have such strong partners working with us to house our homeless residents. I am grateful to the state for coming to the table, allowing us to offer services and housing at the same time.”

Secretary MaryLou Sudders of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services said, “The Baker Administration is committed to working in full partnership with the City of Boston and Mayor Marty Walsh’s efforts to provide housing for some of our city’s most vulnerable residents. Addressing the complex care needs of elders jointly with housing is a huge part of the solution and crucial to providing a stable living situation.”

Secretary Alice Bonner, of the Executive Office of Elder Affairs, said, “We are pleased to be a partner in this important initiative helping older adults to live independently and thrive by pairing housing with vital services and supports.”

Attended by Secretary Alice F. Bonner, PhD, RN of the State’s Executive Office of Elder Affairs, Daniel Tsai, Assistant Secretary for MassHealth, Boston’s Elderly Commissioner Emily Shea, Boston Housing Authority’s Gail Livingston, Deputy Administrator for Housing Programs, and Boston’s Chief of Housing Sheila Dillon, today’s surge was staffed by 25 different agencies. Seniors attending the event were given “passports”, which guided them from table to table where they were able to determine their eligibility for various types of support services.

Seniors were able to meet with representatives from state programs including the Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE); Senior Care Options (SCO); Pay for Success and Community Supports for Persons Experiencing Chronic Homelessness (CSPECH) to determine their eligibility and interest in these programs.

At today’s surge, the Boston Housing Authority was able to connect 16 homeless seniors with units of permanent supportive housing. This is the first time that guests at a housing surge have been offered specific units of housing, rather than vouchers. The BHA was able to accomplish this by creating a super-priority for chronically homeless elders who are going to be receiving services.

This is the sixth in a series of housing surges hosted by the City of Boston. The first three surges focused on homeless veterans; the last two focused on all chronically homeless individuals. The previous events have in total served over 200 homeless individuals, during which 41 received permanent housing vouchers on the spot, along with enrollment in housing search, while others received rapid rehousing assistance, applied for housing and obtained documentation that will help them secure permanent housing.

For more information on the City of Boston’s plan to end chronic and veteran homelessness, please visit our new presence on boston.gov or follow us on Twitter: @BostonsWayHome.
We feel it, too. That’s why we’re here.

You can see it in the new shops and restaurants springing up along Broadway. In the fresh paint on front doors from A Street to O Street — gleaming with the pride of ownership. Most of all, you see it in the quick, knowing smiles of neighbors who are all in on the same secret: South Boston is happening.

We feel it, too. That’s why we’re here. Since 1831, Dedham Savings has helped local families and businesses use their optimism and passion for their towns to transform them into strong, vibrant communities. Our new branch on East Broadway is an open door to a future filled with opportunity and a great quality of life for all who choose to call South Boston home.
Photographic rendering of Port of Boston revitalization

As Boston’s 6th largest employer and an essential component of the Massachusetts economy, the historic Port of Boston has been and continues to be one of our greatest and most treasured assets. From the shoes we wear, to the food we eat, to the toys our children play with, the Port of Boston is part of the rich fabric of the community.

Every year, the Port of Boston contributes $4.6 billion to the region’s economy, generating more than $300 million in Federal, state and local tax revenue, and some 50,000 total jobs. Last year, Massport’s Conley Container Terminal processed a record 221,014 containers and business is on pace to set another record this year. This month, the Journal of Commerce (JOC) ranked Conley Terminal #1 in North America for improved efficiency.

**BUT THE PORT OF BOSTON IS AT A CRITICAL TURNING POINT.** As a result of the Panama Canal expansion, Boston and other east coast ports must accommodate larger container ships that are the new standard in the industry. These “big ships” carry 8,000 – 13,000 containers; right now, Boston handles ships half that size.

Container business and jobs at Conley will be in jeopardy if Boston is not routinely able to handle the bigger ships. Work in the Port of Boston will be lost to other port cities which are already making their ports “big ship” ready.

Massport, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and state government are investing in modernizing the Port of Boston in order to compete in the 21st Century by:

- Dredging the Harbor, including constructing a CAD (Confined Aquatic Disposal) Cell to dispose of soil from the harbor bottom;
- Planning and permitting the construction of one new berth to accommodate “big ships” and revitalizing two other berths at Conley Terminal;
- Making plans to add new cranes to load and unload the bigger and wider container ships;
- Building a secure, dedicated freight corridor to take 400-500 trucks off of East First Street.

In collaboration with the South Boston community, we are creating much-needed green space -- a 4.5 acre buffer park and sound barrier complete with lighted paths for walkers and runners, bike racks, a new dog park, and 95 on-street parking spaces.

Massport is committed to working with the South Boston community, elected officials and other stakeholders to balance our roles as an economic engine -- and a good neighbor.

For more information on Massport’s commitment to our neighboring communities, visit [www.massport.com](http://www.massport.com)
Recent South Boston Real Estate Sales

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Massport is proposing a Transportation Center in the South Boston Waterfront that will include:

- Approximately 1,550 parking spaces, 9 level structure
- Shared / Public Parking
- Intermodal Transportation Hub
- Ridesharing
- Bicycle Amenities (park, store, repair)
- Electric Vehicle Charging Stations
- Innovative Technologies - real time information
- Improved Pedestrian Connections/ Covered walkway with Silver Line Station
- Accommodates Future District Shuttle Buses / Potential Regional Bus Service
- Possible Solar Panels
The South Boston Farmers’ Market was bustling last Monday with people of all ages. The hours of 1:00pm – 4:00pm were set aside specially, to celebrate the children of our neighborhood. Children were entertained by the balloon man, twisting many shapes and animals, the New England Aquarium with their tidal pool exhibit, arts and craft and lots of free give-a-ways, including ice cream!

The South Boston Farmers’ Market is sponsored by The South Boston Neighborhood Development Corporation (SBNDC). The Market runs Mondays from 12:00pm until 6:00pm. Stop by and you will see old friends and new, including Wenger’s Farm, Freitas Farm, Tea is the Way (and it really is delicious), Boston Bicycle Union, Bike to Market program, More Than Words, a book vendor and the newest bakery vendor PB Boulangerie.

The purpose of the Market is to provide an opportunity for South Boston residents to have access to healthy, fresh, nutritious local produce, fish and eggs. The selection of participating vendors certainly achieves the goal. The vendors are all located within Massachusetts, local equals fresh.

Kid’s Day at the South Boston Farmers’ Market
New England Aquarium Educators payed a special visit to the St Peter Academy Urban Explorers Summer Program this past Tuesday and presented a live tide pool exhibit.

The children listened intently to the educators’ presentation; their background knowledge and curiosity to learn more was evident in their answers and follow up questions.

Toddlers, Little Explorers and Junior Explorers got to handle and observe a wide range of live tide-pool animals from local waters which helped to build a deeper understanding of their habitats and adaptations.

The delight in the children’s eyes was evident as they interacted with Starfish, Clams, Mussels, Crabs, Snails, Sea Urchins and a Horseshoe Crab!

Next week explorers will participate in the SPA Urban Explorers Summer Olympics followed by Engineering Week!

For more information on the Urban Explorers Summer Program, please visit StPeterAcademy.com/summer-program or contact St. Peter Academy at enrichment@stpeteracademy.com or call 617-268-0750.

St Peter Academy, an independent community based private school, is South Boston’s only Toddler through Grade 8 School. It is privately funded, enriched with extended learning hours and summer programs, and fosters a nurturing, safe and individualized environment. The student/teacher ratio is 7:1 which is ideal for creating individualized instructional models filled with interactive learning opportunities. The school is located at 371 West Fourth Street and is currently accepting applications for the toddler program and 2016 school year – To learn more about the school and all programs visit www.stpeteracademy.com or schedule a private tour by contacting Ms. Doreen Brown or Ms Maria Blasi at 617-268-0750 or email SPA@StPeterAcademy.com.

TidePool Habitats Explored at St Peter Academy
Essaibi-George, Michael Flaherty, Bill Linehan, Boston Police Superintendents William Gross and Bernard O’Rourke, MBTA Police Chief Kenneth Green and Station 6 Captain Joseph Boyle. Also in the audience was former City Councillor Stephen Murphy and Gavin Foundation CEO John McGahan. Everyone arrived to applaud the night’s recipients.

From our community, Noreen Ro- sher, Chrissy Mullen and Jack Keefe of the Cityside Civic Association were recognized for their efforts in creating a welcoming atmosphere for the daily influx of kids at the Boy’s and Girl’s Club and nearby P. F. Gavin School, and in return teaching the kids to respect the neighborhood. The result is the lowest number of conflicts, complaints or incidents in memory.

The 2nd award was to residents, Milagros Pena and Perla Castagnada, whose quick thinking and immediate first aid saved the life of a baby. To save another’s life should always be recognized.

Sgt. Tim Gaughan presented the awards and Community Service Officers George Billotte, Perry Roy, Sean O’Sullivan and others kept the dogs grilling and the crowd well fed for a well-deserved community celebration. Thank you to key sponsor Target Stores as well as the South Boston Farmers’ Market. The children and their families enjoyed the Exotic Animal Face Painting and the Balloon Man and the goodie bag from Tufts Medical Center.
On Monday, August 1, 2016, the family of Patrolman Patrick J. Carr and the Boston Police Department came out to remember and dedicate a plaque in honor of Officer Carr’s 100th year anniversary. Officer Carr was killed in the line of duty as he was racing to rescue a small boy who had fallen into the water. We in South Boston will always remember our heroes.

100th Year Anniversary for one of Boston’s Finest

Increasing the Renewable Portfolio Standard, prohibiting gas pipeline subsidies and creating oil heat energy efficiency programs.

Legislative leftovers, Part II: New financial disclosure could impact fall elections

The House and the Senate over the weekend accepted Gov. Baker’s amendment on a financial disclosure bill that will now require identifying the major donors paying for political mass mailings, reports SHNS’s Katie Lannan at the Telegram. Baker had insisted that labor unions be included in the list of donors that needed to be disclosed – and lawmakers accepted the change that’s effective for the upcoming November elections. The law was originally aimed at the conservative-leaning Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance, which often sends out political mailers that are critical of Democratic candidates.
Tynan “Fun in the Sun” Program

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY - By Emily Nagle

My name is Emily Nagle and it is a pleasure to be the camp’s Assistant Director for a second year. I have worked on and off at Fun in the Sun for nearly 5 years, starting as a junior counselor back in high school. I am currently in my senior year of college, working towards a Bachelor’s degree in Child Development with a teaching certification in Early Childhood Education at Colby-Sawyer College. At school, I am the president of the Campus Activities Board, a board member for Orientation, and I work in both the Student Activities Office and the Admissions office.

Along with being involved on campus, I spend most of my week at the local elementary school. I love working with kids in the classroom watching them grow and learn throughout the school year but working in a summer camp I get the opportunity to see kids in a different setting. At camp I’m not Miss Nagle, and I’m not grading anyone or teaching a lesson. Instead, I get to play games with them, share experiences, and build a type of bond that I wouldn’t get to do in a classroom setting, that is by far the best part of my job at Fun in the Sun.

This week we had the opportunity to visit George’s Island. We have gone the past few years and the kids can’t get enough of the island. We had to take a boat there and for some of the campers, it was their first time on a boat! The campers made their way through the tunnels, including the haunted ones, and walked along the top of the fort to see the city skyline in the distance. There was a story time where we learned all about the Lady in Black and how she haunts the island now. It was a long day full of adventures and laughs! We also got to take a trip to M Street Park this week to play some wiffle ball and enjoy the nice weather.

With week three coming to an end, the counselors are happy to announce that Stephen Flynn won Camper of the Week! He is someone who helps make camp more enjoyable for everyone. He helps clean up during the day and is always willing to participate in all kinds of games, often being the one to start them and is very kind to everyone he meets and is always there for his friends. I want to thank the Tynan Council and the Administrative Coordinator, for giving me this great opportunity to work with our community youth.

Community Health Center’s “Breakfast of Champions”

South Boston Community Health Center invites you to our “Breakfast of Champions” in honor of National Health Center Week. The event will take place on Wednesday, August 10th under a tent at our 409 West Broadway facility and will honor individuals who have made significant contributions to community health.

The Health Center’s Board of Directors, staff and patients will be honoring these dedicated individuals who, in their daily professional lives have been “champions of community health”. The public is invited to attend and a continental breakfast will be served.

The breakfast will kick off at 8:30 AM. William J. Halpin, Jr. CEO of the South Boston Community Health Center will present the awards. Honorees include:

• Captain Joseph Boyle and Officer Robert Lucas, South Boston C6
• Dr. Nisha Thakrar, Chief Medical Officer, SBCHC
• Ms. Ann Brady, President of the Board, SBCHC

“Celebrating America’s Health Centers: Innovators in Community Health” is the theme for National Health Center Week 2016 to underscore how Community Health Centers provide access to affordable, high quality, cost effective health care to medically vulnerable and underserved people throughout the United States. They are strong partnerships of people, governments and communities who work together to meet the unique and diverse health conditions of the community. Health centers are run from the bottom up, by a patient-majority governing board who guides how limited resources can be effectively directed to meet the health care needs of the community.

Please join us to celebrate National Health Center Week and help us honor these community health heroes!

CICCONE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

we did, there would be no need for a mileage tax or any other tax to be raised or added? Many suspect that some in public office believe or at least hope that voters have the memories and attention spans of a moth.

So Governor Baker, Charlie, if you haven’t already vetoed the ‘pit-lot’ mileage tax proposal, please do. After 8 years of arrogant, tax happy leadership under Deval Patrick, the people put you in office to give them some relief from being treated like ATM machines. Responsible leadership and a genuine concern for the situations of working families were and still are high among the reasons you were elected.

In closing this week, we all learned that John Hinckley, the man who shot and wounded and tried to kill President Reagan will be released from prison and be allowed to return home to live with his mother. Polls show that millions of Americans have a big problem with this. They don’t take kindly to the man who tried to assassinate a President of the United States, their president, ever being allowed to walk free. But maybe this news will give Charles Manson hope. Next time he petitions to be released on parole, he may want to try to get his case heard in the same court as John Hinckley.
DANNY PICARD: The MLB trade deadline has come and gone. Looking at what the Red Sox did, they get a lefty reliever from Minnesota, Fernando Abad, for minor leaguer Pat Light. No blockbuster trade, so how do you evaluate what the Sox did at the trade deadline, and did they make the right move to not make that blockbuster, and instead, keep prospects like Yoan Moncada and Andrew Benintendi? SEAN McADAM: Well, I think in getting Abad, they got themselves another useful bullpen piece, which I think they needed. There’s no guarantee that Koji Uehara is going to come back and pitch at all this year. And you’re just getting two of your bullpen regulars — Junichi Tazawa and Craig Kimbrel — back from DL stints recently. So I think they needed to add to the bullpen to give themselves some other weapons. And a lefty like Abad presents John Farrell with a lot of matchup options over the final two months. And guys like that, I think, become even more valuable in the postseason, where every at-bat gets more meaningful. And guys like that, I think, become even more valuable in the postseason, where every at-bat gets more meaningful.

DP: And the names we all talked about were Moncada and Benintendi. They already moved Anderson Espinoza a couple weeks before the deadline in that Drew Pomeranz deal with San Diego. And as we all sit here and try to wonder what Chicago’s asking price was, I guess I wonder, if the Red Sox still had Espinoza, would that have made it more likely that we could have seen a trade where the Sox went out and actually pulled the trigger on a deal that would have landed them a top-of-the-rotation starting pitcher? SM: I think it’s fair to ask if it would have been easier to pull off had they waited. But, at the time, I think they thought they were jumping the line a little bit and getting ahead of some other teams that were going to be looking for starting pitching. The cost was significant, in giving up Espinoza, but you were getting two-plus years of control of Pomeranz, a guy who was having a breakout season. And at the time the deal was made, there was no guarantee or even early indication that the White Sox were going to even listen on Sale. So, if you don’t make the deal for Pomeranz, maybe you’re left holding the bag, where, you still don’t want to meet the asking price for Chris Sale and you don’t get anybody to help that rotation. But, would Espinoza, Eduardo Rodriguez, and someone else not in that upper-echelon of prospects have gotten a Sale trade done? Maybe. But that’s kind of 20-20 at this point, in terms of hindsight.

DP: We focus on a lot of moves the day of the actual trade deadline, but just because the Red Sox only acquired Abad on Monday, that doesn’t mean they didn’t do anything before the deadline. We mentioned Pomeranz. They got Aaron Hill a few weeks ago. And they also got Brad Ziegler. So you got a lefty reliever, a righty reliever, a starting pitcher who was an All Star, and a much needed utility player. So, glass half-full here, I guess, is that, just because the Red Sox didn’t make the blockbuster at the deadline, can we still look at the last couple weeks and say Dave Dombrowski has done a nice job trying to put together a team that can get to the postseason? SM: Yeah, I mean, the flip side to that question about jumping the gun and leave themselves in a lesser position for Sale, is, Dombrowski was proactive, and he did strike before the deadline. Dombrowski said Monday that, while people were showing signs of disappointment that they didn’t do anything bigger the day of the deadline, he said that had they acquired Ziegler, Hill, Pomeranz, and Abad in two days leading up to the deadline, it would have looked like they had killed it, and that they had dominated the Aug. 1 trade deadline with the pickups that they made. Each of whom was significant. They are all pretty positive pickups, and it will take a while to sit back and judge what sort of job Dombrowski did to make improvements. But, on paper, those are four fairly helpful additions.

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