



Chanukah
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December 22



**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**

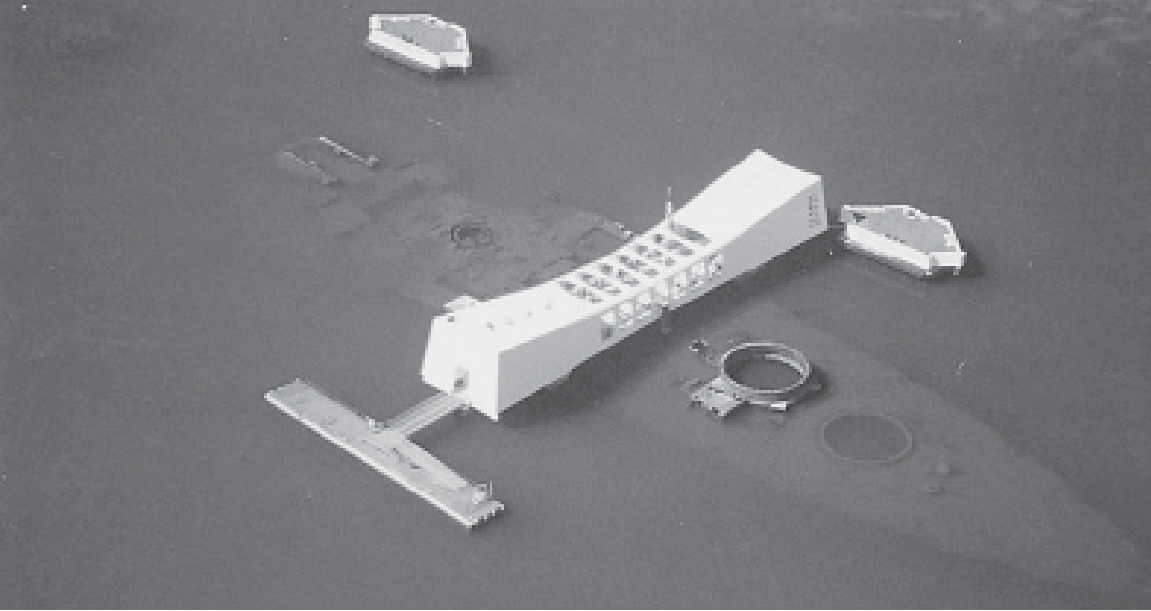


**Happy New
Year – 2009**



TAXI DRIVERS
Carriage News
FREE TO THE TAXI INDUSTRY
BOSTON AND NEW ENGLAND
VOLUME 39, NO. 8
10,000 CABDRIVERS TALK TO A HUNDRED THOUSAND PASSENGERS
DECEMBER 2008





USS Arizona Memorial spans the midsection of the sunken battleship which claimed the lives of 1177 crewmen during the infamous Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor which triggered America's entrance into World War II.

USS Arizona Memorial Pearl Harbor, Hawaii

The USS Arizona is the final resting place for many of the ship's 1177 crewmen who lost their lives on December 7, 1941 in Pearl Harbor.

The 184-foot-long Memorial structure spanning the mid-portion of the sunken battleship consists of three main sections: the entry and assembly rooms; a central area designed for ceremonies and general observation; and the shrine room, where the names of those killed on the

Arizona are engraved on the marble wall.

Arizona was the most heavily damaged of all the vessels in Battleship Row, suffering three near-misses and four direct-hits from 800-kg bombs dropped by high-altitude Kates. The last bomb to strike her penetrated her deck starboard of turret two and detonated within a 14-inch powder magazine. The result-

(Continued on page 8)

Captain's Corner

Hard times bring greater opportunities

by Capt. Robert W. Ciccolo, Jr.
Inspector of Carriages

First of all, I would like to wish a Happy Holidays to all members of the Boston taxi community, while we share many faiths, almost all of those faiths share a time of goodwill in the approaching season.

We are engaged in a time of tremendous change in the industry, and as with any time of great change, there are tremendous opportunities for those prepared to take advantage of them. One of the places where the industry should be moving to increase business is from the black car community. Sources tell me that business in the black car industry is down nearly 40 percent. While a certain amount of this business is simply going away, a significant number of companies are looking for ways

to cut transportation expenses. The minimum charge for many black car services is \$75 while a taxi can make the trip for much less. The lower expense combined with the upcoming ability to accept credit cards should enable the taxi industry to reclaim this lost business. But only if you work for it. There is no such thing as a free lunch. The radio associations should be actively soliciting business from companies that currently use black cars, touting the lower cost and convenience of credit cards. New hybrid taxis with credit card swipes can easily compete with the black cars under the current economy. Once you gain the business, you will have a good chance of

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The Weston Boston Waterfront Hotel's General Manager David Connor and Sales and Marketing Director Greg Clark are seen here with Pat Moscaritolo, President & CEO, Greater Boston Convention & Visitors Bureau on the occasion of the hotel winning a 2008 Gold Key Award from Meeting and Conventions magazine.

Two local hotels win prestigious gold key awards

Two prominent Boston hotels have been named winners of the 2008 Gold Key Award, presented annually by *Meeting and Conventions* magazine.

For the Boston Marriott Copley Place Hotel, the award marked the fourth consecutive year and 14th time within the last two decades the hotel has been so honored. The hotel was inducted into the Meetings and Conventions Magazine Hall of Fame in 2005.

Also joining the winners'

circle this year was the Weston Boston Waterfront Hotel.

This year, the readers honored 172 domestic and 14 international hotels and resorts as Gold Key winners. Meeting planners selected the winning properties based on strict industry criteria including: staff attitude; quality of meeting rooms; quality of guest services; food and beverage service; proficiency of handling reservations; availability

(Continued on page 35)

NYC Mayor proposes using lease caps to circumvent court objection to forced greening of taxi fleet

New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg has announced a series of initiatives to increase the use of fuel efficient and environmentally friendly taxicabs, through new financial incentives and legislative initiatives.

The Mayor's announcement followed a recent decision in Federal District Court that prohibited the City from mandating the use of cleaner, more fuel efficient taxicabs. The new program offers financial incentives for taxi fleet owners to purchase fuel efficient vehicles and financial disincentives for the continued use of less efficient vehicles. Bloomberg was joined at the announcement by Congressman Jerrold Nadler, Taxi and Limousine Commission

(TLC) Chairman Matthew W. Daus, Council Member David Yassky, Richard Kassel of the Natural Resources Defense Council, Meir Yakuel, Co-Owner of the Yakuel Taxi Garage where the announcement was made, and Rati Sharma, a taxicab driver.

"Last month, we hit a speed bump in our efforts to turn New York City's yellow cabs green when the courts upheld an archaic law, preventing us from reducing greenhouse gases and improving air quality," said Bloomberg. "But one of the reasons we have been so successful over the last seven years is we do not let obstacles stop us

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The Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital hosted its annual fundraising dinner last month at the Citi-Wang Theatre. This year's themed "Technology in Motion" gala welcomed nearly 400 guests, including Governor Deval Patrick, and paid tribute to Helen Spaulding and the entire Spaulding family for their continued dedication to the hospital and rehabilitative care in Massachusetts. Shown here are Gala honoree Helen Spaulding with (l to r) her son Jeb Spaulding, Governor Deval Patrick, Co-Chair Dr. Deborah Prothrow-Stith and son Josiah Spaulding. Photo by Roger Farrington.

Cambridge Marriott extends its “Wii Stay and Play” package

The Boston Marriott Cambridge Hotel has extended its exclusive “Wii™ Stay and Play” package, which began as a pilot program in early October. The package, now available through March 31, gives guests unlimited use of an in-room Nintendo Wii system and a variety of 20 games, including the popular Mario Kart™ Wii, Super Mario Galaxy™, and Wii Sports™, as well as the revolutionary fitness game, Wii Fit™. For neighborhood Wii enthusiasts, the Wii game system is also available for complimentary use in the hotel’s Characters Bar & Grill restaurant. “Wii has been a hit with every age group. The intuitive, motion-sensitive controls of the Wii Remote™ controller makes the games easy to play, whether

alone or in groups. With Wii Fit, guests can even burn calories while having fun, all in the comfort of their hotel rooms,” according to a hotel spokesperson. Marriott International, Inc. is piloting the specially built Wii hotel game system from Nintendo in select guest rooms and lounges at six Marriott and Renaissance properties in North America. The Boston Marriott Cambridge Hotel is the only hotel in Greater Boston where this technology is now available. For “Wii Stay and Play” reservations visit www.marriottcambridge.com or call 1-800-228-9290 and refer to promotional code XYO. The package is available seven days a week, and requires three-day advance reservations. Rates are based on availability at the time of reservation. The

offer does not apply to groups of ten or more, and can not be combined with other promotions. Other restrictions may apply. Located in Kendall Square, the Boston Marriott Cambridge Hotel is a striking landmark in a city known for its universities, scientific research and historic sites. The 26-story hotel offers 431 newly renovated guest rooms and 13 suites, all of which feature high-speed internet access, high definition televisions, 300-thread-count linens, down comforters, abundant pillows and thicker mattresses. Dining options include: MC² American Bistro (for breakfast, lunch and dinner); Characters Bar & Grill (for cocktails, casual fare and entertainment); a Lobby Lounge; and an always-bustling Starbucks® café. Guests enjoy an indoor pool, newly remodeled fitness center, sauna and whirlpool. ■

Ambitious plans to increase college grads among city public school students

Mayor Thomas M. Menino has issued a community-wide challenge to ensure that more Boston Public Schools’ graduates go on to earn a college degree. In a news conference at Northeastern University, the Mayor joined officials from Boston Public Schools, area colleges and universities, businesses, college access non-profits and the funding community to announce new commitments to double the college graduation rate among graduates from Boston public high schools. “We are proud that Boston sends more graduates to college than just about any city in the country, but we must do more to ensure success once they are there,” Menino said. “This baseline report, along with an action plan that provides a roadmap of measurable progress, will help all of us make the changes necessary to

give our young people the quality educational experience they deserve.” The announcement coincides with the release of a new report prepared by the Center for Labor Market Studies at Northeastern University, which indicates that 35.5 percent of the graduates from the Boston Public Schools Class of 2000 who enrolled in college had earned a two-year or four-year post-secondary degree or certificate by June of 2007. The Mayor’s challenge calls for a 50 percent increase in the college graduation rate for college enrollees from the BPS Class of 2009, and a 100 percent increase — doubling the college graduation rate — for college enrollees from the BPS Class of 2011. National data indicate that fewer than half of the students who enroll in college in this country graduate

(Continued on page 27)

Joslin’s High Hopes Gala raises funds and hope

by Susan Mulford

Portions of the proceeds from last month’s 10th Annual Joslin Diabetes Center’s High Hopes Gala have been targeted to help a child recently diagnosed with diabetes and pregnancy care for a woman with diabetes trying to have her first child.. Shannon and Ray Allen of the Boston Celtics and Rich and

Anna Levitan served as this year’s event co-chairs. Both couples hold Joslin particularly dear because of the first-rate care their children, Walker and Merritt, respectively, receive at the Center. The Allen’s two-year son, Walker, was diagnosed last Spring with Type 1 diabetes just

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Do you know what a 710 is?

A few days ago, I was having some work done at my local garage. A blonde came in and asked for a seven hundred ten. We all looked at each other and another customer asked, “what is a seven hundred ten?” She replied, “You know, the little piece in the middle of the engine. I have lost it and need a new one.” She went on to say that she did not know exactly what it was, but this piece had always been there.

The mechanic gave her a piece of paper and a pen and asked her to draw what the piece looked like. She drew a circle and in the middle of it she wrote “710.” He then took her to another car which had its hood up and asked, “is there a 710 on this car?”

She pointed and said, “Of course, it's right there.”

If you're not sure what a 710 is, turn to page 18 to view a picture of a 710. ■

(Reprinted courtesy of the United Kingdom's biggest Taxi trade Publication www.taxi-today.com.)

Belfast cabbies concerned about increase in violence

Taxi drivers in Belfast are campaigning to be allowed to carry pepper spray so they can defend themselves against violent passengers.

Public hire drivers say drastic action is needed to cut down on the number of attacks on drivers.

The drivers claim more and more drivers are being assaulted by passengers and say some are even being threatened with knives and guns.

They have also called for tougher laws to punish violent passengers. ■



Gone but not forgotten — The Boston cruise ship season is over and these majestic ships will not grace The Black Falcon Pier again until next spring. The most recent cruise season saw a record number of cruise ships in the Port of Boston and an equal record number of passengers. Photo by Bob LeBovidge.

Electric taxis set to “charge” into Scotland

The first of a new generation of electric taxis will roll off the production line at Glasgow's Allied Vehicles in the next couple of weeks, after the group took delivery of a revolutionary battery pack from Dundee-based Axion Holdings.

“The entire electric project has been designed and built in Scotland, which is a remarkable achievement,” commented Allied Vehicles managing director Paul Nelson.

“We’ve had to wait a little longer than we had hoped for the batteries, but we have been impressed with the technical skills and professionalism shown by the Axion team and we look forward to doing increasing business with them.”

The new taxi, based on the current E7 Model, will have a range of up to 100 miles on a single charge and a top speed of 60 mph.

It is already attracting keen interest from potential European buyers and UK local authorities, although it has run afoul of antiquated hackney carriage laws in London and Liverpool.

“It seems the taxi has a larger turning circle than their rules which were drawn up for horse-drawn carriages, but I can’t believe that will prove an insurmountable problem,” commented the director.

The privately owned Allied Vehicles, which employs 360 people in Glasgow, is already a major supplier of taxis through its subsidiary Cab Direct and is Europe’s biggest specialty vehicle manufacturer of wheelchair accessible cars, MPVs and minibuses.

It has placed a £17.3 million order for a minimum of 1000 vehicle batteries with Axion which will be used in vans and other motors, as well as taxis.

The deal is seen as cementing Alm-listed Axion’s reputation as Europe’s leading pioneer of lithium-ion batteries, which are used mainly in cordless power tools and mobile phones, rather than vehicles at this stage.

But the group has seen its share price crumble from 99p to 33p in the last year on concerns of working capital needs and a potential slowdown in or-

ders.

The company’s own brokers think the fears have been overdone, stressing the company is sitting on nearly \$5 million cash and that the high power lithium-ion batteries are continuing to win business from the traditional nickel metal hydride packs.

They concedes that Axion, which is headed by chief executive Hamish Grant will report an increase in half year losses from a previous £522,000, but says the group remains on course to deliver its first annual profit of around £1.2m with as much as £4.7m in prospects for 2009.

Edinburgh-based IndigoVision, a fellow Alm-

listed company, is expected to report a lift in its own annual profits from \$570,000 to \$2m on Thursday as a result of continuing demand for its sophisticated CCTV systems used in casinos, banks and airports.

But it has also suffered from the stock market malaise and its shares have fallen to new lows of around 400p, down from 967p last autumn. Brokers say the slide reflects investor disillusionment with the junior Alm market, where the relevant FTSE index has shed 40 percent of its value this year. This is almost double the fall seen in the widely quoted FTSE 100 share index over the same period.

(Continued on page 18)

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Remembering Ramon Subejano, a one man army

by Al Livingston

I first met Ramon Subejano after coming back from the Korean War.

Subejano had moved to Boston from New York in the early 1950s and was living in the South End on Rutland Street. He later moved to Fidelis Way in Brighton, where I again met him walking on the street. His head was bowed and he looked very sad. I asked him what was wrong and he told me his story.

Someone had broken into his apartment and stolen all the medals that he had fought so hard for, and because of that he was ashamed to march in any more Veterans Day parades.

I saw tears come to his eyes as he told me this story and said, "People make fun of me. But, they don't know what I went through in the war."

I told the old soldier not to worry and that I would try to get his medals back.

Later, I contacted Sen. Edward Kennedy's office in Boston and the Department of Defense. In less than a month, Ramon received all his medals, with his name engraved on each.

Subejano came to this country from the Philippines many

years ago as a stowaway. The ship's captain, Capt. Icclander, bought Ramon his first pair of shoes. The rest is history.

Fought in five battles

When Ramon showed me his discharge from the United States Army, I was astounded. Here was a soldier who fought in Europe in five of World War II's major battles: Normandy, the Ardennes, northern France, Holland and Belgium. From the beginning of the war to the end, he was on the front lines. During one engagement, he was the sole survivor as the rest of his company was wiped out by German SS troops.

"We were surrounded," he recalled. "They were everywhere. I told the boys that were left in my company not to surrender, but they wouldn't listen to me. When they surrendered, German machine guns fired from all directions, killing every one of the boys."

"A German officer came out and started emptying his Luger into the dead American soldiers. I aimed my rifle at the top of his hat. I was about 350 yards away.

(Continued on page 18)

AAA's Boston area gasoline prices as of 12/01/08

	Regular	Premium	Diesel
Current	\$1.852	\$2.067	\$2.896
Month Ago	\$2.487	\$2.710	\$3.421
Year Ago	\$3.049	\$3.403	\$3.531

Highest Recorded Price: Regular: \$4.087 on 7/9/08 Diesel: \$4.92 on 6/13/08

Gasoline prices in Massachusetts continue hovering well below \$2.00 per gallon, according to AAA Southern New England. AAA's December 1 survey of prices in Massachusetts finds self-serve, regular unleaded averaging \$1.849 per gallon, 7 cents less than last week, and \$1.18 less than the \$3.02 average at the close of Thanksgiving weekend 2007. The last time prices dropped this low was in late January of 2005, when the unleaded average fell to \$1.82. The range in prices in the latest AAA survey for unleaded regular is 52 cents, from a low of \$1.679 to a high of \$2.199. Diesel fell one cent last week to \$2.99. AAA advises motorists to shop around for the best prices in their area, and to make sure they and their passengers buckle up — every time.

AAA Tip of the Week: Forecasted warmer temperatures this week make this an ideal time to assemble an emergency roadside kit to store in your car this winter. Jumper cables, de-icer, snow scrapers, duct tape, a reflective safety vest, and a blanket and hat are all handy items to include. Taking these steps to prepare now can make all the difference in coping with a cold weather emergency down the road.

City promotes new training programs for “green collar” jobs

Mayor Thomas M. Menino recently awarded a contract to the Asian American Civic Association (AACA) for its proposal to run a training program that will prepare Boston residents for “green collar” jobs.

AACA, in partnership with the Asian Community Development Corporation (ACDC), will run a Facilities Maintenance Energy Efficiency training program that will train 28 people in its first cycle. The City will fund the program with an initial grant of \$125,000. AACA has already lined up employer partners, including CJ/CMJ Management Company, Cornu Management Company, Maloney Properties, Winn Residential, the Lenox Hotel, and the Hilton Back Bay Hotel. These employers have assisted in the development of the training curriculum, and have agreed to interview all program graduates, hiring them as vacancies allow.

“To combat climate change and meet future energy challenges, our region and the nation will need hundreds of thousands of “green-collar” workers,” Menino said. “Despite the downturn in the economy, the City needs to be ahead of the curve and prepare residents now for the next wave of jobs, many of which will be generated by new technologies created in a green economy.”

In June 2008, the Mayor issued a Request for Concept Papers to seek proposals that would boost the skills of local residents so they are ready to fully participate in the emerging green technology industries. At the time, the City set aside \$250,000 of linkage funds from the Neighborhood Jobs Trust to fund the programs. Since then, Boston Connects, Inc. has joined the effort by providing \$100,000. The City has identified several other green jobs training programs, which are currently in development, and will use the additional funds to operate those in 2009.

Menino added, “Today’s announcement is the beginning of implementing our vision of greening Boston’s job training portfolio. When the economy improves, green jobs are going to be the most in demand jobs. We don’t want our residents left behind — it is imperative that we make sure Bostonians have the skills and the training needed to do these jobs so they will be the most competitive job

applicants.”

Under the leadership of the Mayor, Boston has set ambitious goals for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and developed innovative local solutions to the problem of climate change. These initiatives are fostering new economic development and job creation; it is the City’s aim to ensure Bostonians are poised to take advantage of employment opportunities generated by these innovations.

In December 2006, Boston became the first major city in the nation to require adherence to the US Green Building Council’s LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Certified standard as part of the private development review process. As such, all new buildings over 50,000 sq ft in Boston are required to be “green.”

The Neighborhood Jobs Trust administers linkage funds, paid by developers, which are used to meet the training and employment needs of low-income Boston residents. ■

The triathlon — 1.5 kilometer swim, 40 kilometer bike ride and 10 kilometer run — became an Olympic event beginning with the 2000 games in Sydney.



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Tobin Bridge update

The Tobin Bridge's Beacon Street off-ramp has reopened ahead of schedule. The off-ramp was closed in August for hand railing, steel grid and attenuation work.

"We are happy to announce that Beacon Street opened ahead of schedule, which is good news for travelers," said Bridge Director Mary Jane O'Meara. "There is still work needed to keep the bridge in good condition. While the painting project is suspended for the season, the re-decking work will continue through the winter months, therefore we urge motorists to obey posted speed limits, and exercise caution when traveling over the Tobin Bridge."

Phase 6 of the re-decking project will be ongoing into the summer of 2010. The right lane on the lower level Northbound will remain closed until early 2009. Once work is completed in the right lane, the lane closure will move to the center lane for 8-10 months, and then to the left lane for the same duration. On the upper level, re-decking is further along, however alternating long-term lane closures will continue until sometime in spring 2009. Normal work hours will take place weekdays from

7 am to 3:30 pm, and on weekends if necessary.

In April of 2009, the project will resume with phases 3 & 8. This work will take place over a 1800-ft stretch northbound from the "Little Mystic Truss" through the toll plaza, and across the "Big Mystic Truss." Work on these two new phases will happen on both the upper and lower decks, and is scheduled to be completed sometime in 2012. Temporary and longer-term lane closures will occur during this time.

All work is weather permitting, therefore schedules and sequences of the work are estimated and not final.

Over the last two fiscal years, Massport has spent roughly \$11 million in painting, re-decking and steel repairs on the Tobin Bridge. Over the next four years, more than \$50 million is earmarked for these projects.

Next month, new smart technology will be implemented on the Tobin Bridge. The new technology will enhance regular inspections. The real-time information will help to serve as an early detection system enabling engineers to address conditions of interest as they develop, and before they could become potential problems. ■

Big Apple's hackney boss responds to hybrid critics

by TLC Commissioner/Chairman
Matthew W. Dans

Considering the fact that hybrid taxicabs have logged over 70 million miles in New York City, their safety record is actually quite impressive.

The important thing to come away with in any objective discussion about these vehicles is that they feature federally-certified safety engineering that prioritizes passenger protection over any other consideration, and that both the TLC and the Ford Motor Company are confident in their safety and performance as NYC taxicabs."

On background:

- 1.3 million Ford Escapes sold since introduction in 2001, no major recalls. Contact; Lisa

Fleming, Ford, at (212) 265-2839.

- Hybrid taxicabs have logged in more than 70 million miles.

- If you read the MTBOT's release carefully, it keeps coming back to the vehicle being "totaled" in a crash . . . this is not about passenger safety, it's about how well the vehicles survive!

What they are not saying is that these vehicles are engineered to sacrifice material to redistribute the energy of a crash so that the passengers are actually better protected than in a Crown Vic, which is heavier and more "unyielding." ■



Tony Bennett appeared in concert last month at Boston's new Mandarin Oriental Hotel for the benefit of the Boston Public Library Foundation. Bennett has a special fondness for the Boston Public Library because when his daughter was studying in Boston, he would visit the John Singer Sargent murals at the Copley Square landmark and was inspired in his own painting. Proceeds from the event benefitted the Foundation's efforts to preserve and provide free access to the historical record of the Society and its educational programs in all 27 neighborhood branches and the Central Library. Bennett (center) posed after his concert with Gala Co-Chairs (l to r) Stephen and Roberta Weiner, and Marcia and Robin Brown. Photo by Roger Farrington.

The inaugural address of John F. Kennedy — a new exhibit

The John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum will mark the inauguration of President Barack Obama by unveiling a new exhibit of original documents from President John F. Kennedy's inaugural address.

Widely viewed as one of the most enduring in U.S. history, the speech was meticulously crafted — then worked and reworked — by then President-elect Kennedy and his close advisor, Theodore Sorensen. This exhibit in the Museum's Document Room, *Poetry and Power: The Inaugural Address of John F. Kennedy*, will open to the public on January 8, with the original documents being displayed

through June.

This is the Museum at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library's first exhibit on the drafting of President Kennedy's inaugural address. Included will be rarely viewed original documents, many of which have never been publicly displayed, which will reveal how the speech was composed and the steps in the drafting process.

Among the items to be displayed:

- Ted Sorensen's notes revealing some of Kennedy's instructions;
- The earliest surviving draft of the address;
- President Kennedy's dicta-

tion, taken down by his secretary on January 10, 1961, in a combination of shorthand and longhand;

- A draft of the speech handwritten by President Kennedy on January 17, 1961;

- The final reading copy of the speech, showing one of the last-minute changes suggested to the President-elect; and

- A handwritten poem by Robert Frost, composed for the inaugural ceremony.

In addition, the Museum will display the dress, coat, hat, and muff worn by First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy at the In-

VETERAN NEWS AND NOTES

Understanding the new Veterans Educational Assistance Act

For individuals who served on active military duty on or after September 11, 2001, a new piece of legislation can help further education goals or perhaps create new ones.

The Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008, also known as the Post-9/11 GI Bill, provides veterans with financial benefits for any approved program offered by a school that is authorized to grant an associate (or higher) degree.

These questions may help shed light on the subject for people who have recently served or are currently serving in the military, as well as their families:



Current and recent military personnel may be eligible to receive educational funding.

Q. Am I eligible?

A. You may be eligible if you served at least 90 aggregate

(Continued on page 23)

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The MCCA Winner's Circle



It pays to be courteous — Mustapha Amhal of Everett won \$500 last month in the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority's (MCCA) Advantage Boston Taxi Rewards Program that encourages Greater Boston cab driver hospitality and courtesy to passengers.

Joslin's High Hopes Gala raises funds and hope

(Continued from page 2)

as the Celtics entered the NBA Finals. Happily, the Celtic green machine went on to win the NBA title and the Joslin dream team of doctors and healthcare professionals provided top-notch care and education to Walker and the entire Allen family.

Ranch C. Kimball, president and CEO of Joslin Diabetes Center, explains, "Like the Allens, the reality is, just about everyone will be touched by diabetes in some way during their lifetime. More than 24 million people in the U.S. have diabetes and another 57 million Americans are pre-diabetic. Thanks to the generous support of donors and volunteers, we truly have a

sporting chance of beating this disease."

The High Hopes Fund was established in 1993 by Academy Award-winning lyricist Sammy Cahn, who wrote the song "High Hopes." The former Joslin patient's goal was to provide hope and encouragement to people with diabetes, while supporting the world-leading diabetes center's fight against a disease that affects so many. His legacy lives on today through the High Hopes Fund, which provides critical resources for Joslin's efforts to beat diabetes.

Funds from the Gala also support the astounding efforts of a team of researchers who tire-

lessly work to uncover the cause of diabetes, who strive to create life saving treatments and who research continuously to find a cure.

"The generosity of foundations and individuals is critical to Joslin's mission and research efforts in the fight against this global pandemic," said Kimball. "Joslin is the world's preeminent diabetes research clinical care organization. It will continue to meet the ever-changing challenges of diabetes until it realizes its mission of a world without diabetes."

For more information, call 1-800-JOSLIN-1 or visit www.joslin.org. ■

Happy holidays, brought to you by energy

What do the holidays and our national energy policy have in common?

Perhaps more than you think.

The holidays are a time to gather with family and friends and reflect on the past year and the one to come. And while most people don't think about energy during this time, consider how energy helps make the holidays so special.

Energy demand factors

As families pile into cars to visit relatives, they have many fellow travelers — the period between Thanksgiving and New Year's is the most heavily traveled time of year. In fact, transportation will account for 87 percent of the increase in U.S. oil demand over the next 25 years. But energy's impact on the holidays goes well beyond where the rubber meets the road.

In the coming months, the United States may see an almost 20 percent increase in energy demand. Just think of every holiday celebration you attend — ovens and other kitchen appliances working overtime, not to

mention dishwashers, clothes washers and dryers. And that's just inside the house.

Holiday lights are one of the largest consumers of energy, and these festive displays tend to get bigger and go up earlier



Almost every neighborhood boasts a "Clark Griswold" draping strands of lights across his home, sometimes leaving the lights on overnight.

each year. Just 10 strands lit for 13 hours a day can add more than \$50 to a monthly energy bill. Be thankful you don't have to pay for the Christmas tree in New York City's Rockefeller Plaza. Even though the city now

uses energy-efficient LED technology, just one day of lighting the tree's five miles of lights will use as much energy as a 1000-sq ft single-family home would use in one month.

Then consider what's under your tree. Even in these uncertain economic times, electronics purchases are projected to rise 3.5 percent during the holiday season compared to a year ago. TV sales are expected to be particularly high as people prepare for the nationwide conversion to digital television next February. In fact, by 2010, America is expected to have more televisions than people.

The gadgets at the top of your shopping list, including cell phones, computers and MP3 players, require energy to function. In 2006 alone, U.S. consumer electronics used more electricity than was produced by all the windmills, solar panels and biomass-to-electricity plants in America that year.

Necessities, not luxuries

The fact is that energy-con-

(Continued on page 26)

Website offers variety of sales and entertainment goodies for the holidays

Mayor Thomas M. Menino has launched an enhanced holiday promotional website designed to boost holiday sales and encourage families to enjoy the city's broad range of holiday events — many free or deeply discounted.

Working in partnership with the local hospitality industry, arts organizations, businesses, neighborhood Main Street programs, Downtown Crossing Partnership, Copley Place and Prudential Mall, the City has pulled together a central marketing effort to offer discounts for theater, dining, shopping, lodging, and parking at www.MayorsHolidaySpecial.com. The original promotion was launched five years ago to support the local performing arts community, and it has become a major resource as most of these organizations generate over 40 percent of their annual sales during the holiday season.

"The arts have an extraordinary ability to lift our spirits and remind us of all we have to celebrate," Menino said. "I invite residents and visitors to bring their families into the City to enjoy a show, holiday shopping, a festive meal, a stroll through the holiday lights, and even a skate on the Frog Pond. [MayorsHolidaySpecial.com](http://www.MayorsHolidaySpecial.com) is the ticket to a great Boston experience and memories you'll cherish for a lifetime."

"We are so pleased to partner with the Mayor on such a wonderful project," Catherine Peterson, executive director of ArtsBoston, said. "The arts really sparkle at this time of year. Sharing these joyful arts experiences truly brings people together. Plus, each ticket sale directly supports these organizations' year-round work, so each purchase is like a gift to Boston's cultural scene as well."

The newly enhanced Holiday Special website will feature:

- Discounted Theater tickets to all of Boston's big holiday performances, including "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!", Boston Ballet's "Nutcracker", Holiday Pops, Handel & Haydn Society's "Messiah", "Black Nativity", and dozens

more. Each production offers a limited number of special half-price tickets, available only at www.MayorsHolidaySpecial.com. As a new, free service this year, the BosTix Booths on Copley Square and at Faneuil Hall can assist arts-goers with in-person purchases, if desired.

- Special shopping/parking packages: These include the Prudential Center discounted parking with proof of purchase from the Mayor's Holiday Special and a PRUferred Holiday Savings Pass.

- The Boston Main Streets' Boston Community Change Card program allows cardholders to "shop locally, share locally." Customers earn a cash rebate on their purchase, while a portion also goes to a non-profit or school of the cardholder's choosing, as well as to the Boston Main Streets Foundation.

- The Boston Redevelopment Authority is working with the Downtown Crossing Partnership on a "Downtown Crossing Holiday Savings Pass," which includes a variety of discounts, good at more than 125 businesses within the district, to encourage shoppers to frequent the Crossing's retailers.

- The Boston USA Specials card; and the Faneuil Hall Marketplace Passport of Savings card.

- The enhanced website will now also highlight free, public events that make the season special, including the Boston Common Tree Lighting, skating on the Frog Pond, the Neighborhood Enchanted Trolley Tour, and First Night.

- Dozens of offers are available, including special deals at individual restaurants and promotions such as the "OpenTable Appetite Stimulus Plan."

- Special holiday hotel packages, from the romantic to the family-friendly.

- Free on street parking on Saturdays and Sundays from November 29 through the Holidays.

For a complete listing of participating organizations, events, and deals visit www.MayorsHolidaySpecial.com. ■

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A soldier’s poem

It was the night before Christmas, he lived all alone
in a one bedroom house made of plasler and stone.
I had come down the chimney with presents to give,
and to see who in this home did live.
I looked all about, a strange sight I did see,
no tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.
No stocking by mantle, just boots filled with sand,
on the wall hung pictures of far distant lands.
With medals and badges, awards of all kinds,
a sober thought came through my mind.
For this house was different, it was dark and dreary,
I found the home of a soldier, once I could see clearly.
The soldier lay sleeping, silent, alone,
curled up on the floor in this one bedroom home.
The face was so gentle, the room in such disorder,
not how I pictured a United States soldier.
Was this the hero of whom I’d just read?
Curled up on a poncho, the floor for a bed.
I realized the families that I saw this night
owed their lives to these soldiers who were willing to fight.
Soon round the world, the children would play
and grownups would celebrate a bright Christmas day.
They all enjoyed freedom each month of the year,
because of the soldiers, like the one lying here.
I couldn’t help wonder how many lay alone
on a cold Christmas Eve in a land far from home.
The very thought brought a tear to my eye,
I dropped to my knees and started to cry.
The soldier awakened and I heard a rough voice,
“Santa don’t cry, this life is my choice;
I fight for freedom, I don’t ask for more,
my life is my God, my Country my Corps.”
The soldier rolled over and drifted to sleep,
I couldn’t control it, I continued to weep.
I kept watch for hours, so silent and still,
and we both shivered from the cold night’s chill
I didn’t want to leave on that cold, dark, night,
this guardian of honor so willing to fight.
Then the soldier rolled over, with a voice soft and pure
whispered, “Carry on Santa, it’s Christmas day, all is secure.
One look at my watch, and I knew he was right
“Merry Christmas my friend, and to all a good night.

—Anonymous

Celtics legend Bill Russell receives leadership award

Boston Celtics legend Bill Russell was honored recently with the We Are Boston Leadership Award by the Mayor’s Office of New Bostonians. The award recognizes significant contributions to Boston’s diversity.

“Boston has always been a gateway for immigrants and I am proud that Boston is a beacon of hope, tolerance and opportunity for so many people throughout the world,” Mayor Tom Menino said. “Today is a new day in Boston, and we will continue to work together for mutual respect and understanding and recognize all of the contributions that each culture makes to our great city.”

Several hundred people representing the many different cultures of the City of Boston attended the third annual We Are Boston event to celebrate those who have embraced the city’s rich diversity and helped new Bostonian communities to fully participate in the economic, civic, cultural, and social life of the City. The event showcased an evening of multicultural performances and cuisine.

Russell’s almost endless accomplishments on and off the basketball court embody the spirit of diversity and inclusion that We Are Boston promotes. In 1967, he broke the color barrier, becoming the first African-American coach in American major league sports. He has been an aggressive advocate for civil rights and diversity and has

served as a Global Ambassador of basketball by partnering with the NBA and the U.S. State Department to bring the sport to more than 50 countries including China and on the continent of Africa.

In addition to Russell’s Leadership Award, several other honors were awarded. DanThuy Chu, a senior at Boston Latin Academy and a member of the Mayor’s Youth Council, received a We Are Boston Youth Leadership Award. DanThuy, who became a Dorchester representative on the Youth Council in the spring of 2007, has coordinated outreach to her community as the Girls’ Coordinator.

Other Youth Leadership Award winners included Diego Medina and Berjeany Charles. Menino also presented the We Are Boston Corporate Leadership Award, received by Verizon, and the Community Leadership Award, received by Rev. Gloria White Hammond.

The Mayor’s Office of New Bostonians was established in 1998 to meet the needs of the growing and changing immigrant and newcomer communities in Boston. Its mission and objectives were formed through a shared dialogue across immigrant groups in Boston. The New Bostonians strives to reach and serve diverse cultural and linguistic communities and create a model of a welcoming multicultural city, as well as to improve the ability of these diverse communities to access city services.■

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Two Boston landmark eateries partner with John F. Kennedy Library

The John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum is partnering with two famous Boston institutions to help celebrate their historic connection with John F. Kennedy.

For a limited time, patrons who present an admission ticket stub from the Museum at the Kennedy Presidential Library at either the Omni Parker House or the Union Oyster House will receive a complimentary item with their meal.

The Boston Omni Parker House and the Union Oyster House have long been connected with John F. Kennedy. The Omni Parker House is considered the site of John F. Kennedy’s first public speech at the age of six, when he publicly called grandfather “Honey Fitz” Fitzgerald “the best grandfather

a child ever had.” Twenty-three years later Kennedy returned to the Omni Parker House to announce his candidacy for Congress, and, in 1953, to hold his bachelor party.

While a congressman and senator, John F. Kennedy enjoyed the Union Oyster House as one of his favorite places to dine out and enjoy lobster stew. Table 18 is marked by a commemorative plaque as the booth Kennedy typically claimed his own on visits.

The Union Oyster House opened in 1826, and is America’s oldest restaurant. The Boston Omni Parker House opened not long after in 1855. Both are located downtown along Boston’s historic Freedom Trail.

Guests who present a JFK

Museum admission stub at the Union Oyster House will receive a free cup of clam chowder with the purchase of a lunch or dinner entrée. At the Omni Parker House guests will have a choice of receiving a complimentary cup of chowder with the order of a salad or sandwich or a complimentary Boston Crème Pie dessert with the order of an entrée. Both promotions are valid until August 31.

One of Boston’s most popular destinations for visitors from all nations, The John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum’s 25 multimedia exhibits and period settings from the White House offer an exciting “you are there” experience, and create a stirring account of President Kennedy’s thousand days in office. ■

People with diabetes: Eating right when money’s tight

by the National Diabetes Education Program

Diabetes is a disease that results in high glucose (sugar levels) in the blood, which can lead to serious complications. Almost 24 million people nationwide have the disease. For people with diabetes, making healthy food choices, being physically active, and reaching and staying at a healthy weight are keys to managing the disease. Although making healthy food choices on a budget can be a challenge, it is possible to eat well without spending a lot of time and money. Try these tips from the National Diabetes Education Program (NDEP) to eat better, save time, and stretch your food budget:

Review grocery store ads and clip coupons. Make a list of what you need and plan ahead to cook enough food to have a second meal. Visit your local farmers market where prices tend to be lower because you buy direct from the farmer. Buy frozen or canned vegetables with no salt



added and canned fruit packed in juice-they are just as good for you as fresh produce and will not go bad. Buy low-fat or fat-free milk in the largest containers you can handle before it spoils. Make your own meals and snacks at home instead of buying less healthy, more expensive prepackaged and processed foods such as macaroni and cheese or spaghetti. Healthy snack ideas include air-popped

popcorn or 1 cup of vegetables served with some salsa or a little low-fat salad dressing.

Here’s an example of a healthy recipe that the whole family can enjoy. The recipe is designed to serve nine people. Nutrition information, including carbohydrate grams, is provided.

Beef & Bean Chili

- 2 lb lean beef stew meat, trimmed of fat, cut in 1-inch cubes
 - 3 Tbsp vegetable oil
 - 2 cups water
 - 2 tsp garlic, minced
 - 1 large onion, finely chopped
 - 1 Tbsp flour
 - 2 tsp chili powder
 - 1 green pepper, chopped
 - 2 lb (or 3 cups) tomatoes, chopped
 - 1 Tbsp oregano
 - 1 tsp cumin
 - 2 cups canned kidney beans
- To cut back on sodium, try using “no salt added” canned kidney beans or beans prepared

(Continued on page 36)



Hailed as “the most romantic... table in the city,” Tresca’s Restaurant at 233 Hanover St., in the North End, offers a multi-regional Italian menu complemented by an award-winning wine cellar. The award winning restaurant was the brainchild of co-owners former Boston Bruin and Hall of Famer Ray Bourque, Massimo Tiberi, Paul Geary and Harvey Wilk.

SS Arizona Memorial Pearl Harbor, Hawaii

(Continued from page 1)

ing massive explosion broke the ship in two forward of turret one, collapsed her forecastle decks, and created such a cavity that her forward turrets and conning tower fell thirty feet into her hull. The USS Arizona Memorial grew out of wartime desire to establish some sort of memorial at Pearl Harbor to honor those who died in the attack. Suggestions for such a memorial began in 1943, but it wasn’t until 1949, when the Territory of Hawaii established the Pacific War Memorial Commission, that the first real steps were taken to bring it about. Initial recognition came in 1950 when Admiral Arthur

Radford, Commander in Chief, Pacific, ordered that a flagpole be erected over the sunken battleship. On the ninth anniversary of the attack, a commemorative plaque was placed at the base of the flagpole. President Dwight D. Eisenhower, who helped achieve Allied victory in Europe during World War II, approved the creation of the Memorial in 1958. Its construction was completed in 1961 with public funds appropriated by Congress and private donations. The Memorial was dedicated in 1962. According to its architect, Alfred Preis, the design of the Memorial, “Wherein the structure sags in the center but stands strong and

vigorous at the ends, expresses initial defeat and ultimate victory... The overall effect is one of serenity. Overtones of sadness have been omitted to permit the individual to contemplate his own personal responses... his innermost feelings.” Contrary to popular belief, the USS Arizona is no longer in commission. As a special tribute to the ship and her lost crew, the United States flag flies from the flagpole, which is attached to the severed mainmast of the sunken battleship. The USS Arizona Memorial has come to commemorate all military personnel killed in the Pearl Harbor attack. ■

U.S. driving drops nine straight months

Motorists on U.S. roads applied the brakes hard on driving when gasoline prices peaked over the summer at more than \$4 per gallon, according to the latest government figures released. The 3.6 percent year-over-year decline in miles traveled on all roads in July cemented a downward trend begun nine months ago in response to rising pump prices and economic weakness.

While the June drop was five percent, the July drop was still sharp and may be more illustrative of consumer habits and concerns about the economy. July is a usually heavy driving period marked by traditional summer vacations and the Independence Day holiday. Mileage is figured to rebound once consumers lower their transportation costs by purchasing more fuel efficient ve-

hicles. Average retail gasoline prices at the end of September were nearly 50 cents lower at \$3.63 per gallon compared with July, according to figures released by the Energy Department. The summer months experienced the most precipitous decline in U.S. petroleum demand in 26 years due to record gaso-

(Continued on page 15)

Groundbreaking for new \$58 million Pearl Harbor Memorial Museum and Visitor Center

HONOLULU, HAWAII — The National Park Service, Navy Region Hawaii and the *Arizona* Memorial Museum Association officially broke ground last month on a new \$58 million Pearl Harbor Memorial Museum and Visitor Center that will replace the current USS *Arizona* Memorial Visitor Center shore side facility. The 10 am groundbreaking ceremony and Hawaiian Blessing took place on the back lawn of the USS *Arizona* Memorial Visitor Center at Pearl Harbor. Government and military officials; community leaders; donors; Pearl Harbor Survivors and the general public attended the ceremony. Hawaii State Senator Daniel Inouye served as the keynote speaker. Other guest speakers included Hawaii State Governor Linda Lingle; John Jarvis, Pacific West Region Director for the National Park Service; Rear Admiral Charles W. Martoglio, USN, Director for Operations, U.S. Pacific Command; Paul Deprey, Superintendent for the National Park Service at the USS *Arizona* Memorial; Mal Middlesworth, National President of the Pearl Harbor Survivor Association; Captain George Sullivan, USN (Ret.), Board Chairman of the *Arizona* Memorial Museum Association; Admiral Tom Fargo, USN (Ret), National Vice Chairman of the Pearl Harbor Memorial Fund; Rear Admiral Ron Tucker, USN (Ret.), Chairman of the *Arizona* Coordinating Committee of the Pearl Harbor Memorial Fund; and Denny Watts, President and CEO for Watts Constructors, LLC. Kahu Kamaki Kanahele and Kahu Herbert Kalena Hew Len conducted the traditional Hawaiian Blessing during the groundbreaking ceremony. The new visitor center will include an additional six acres of land, bringing the total land area to approximately 17.4 acres. The new museum and visitor center, at 23,600 sq ft, nearly doubles the size of the current museum allowing for a greatly expanded and comprehensive interpretation of the attack on Pearl Harbor and WWII in the Pacific. Construction of the new visitor center will be done in phases over the next two years enabling the center and tours to the USS *Arizona* Memorial to remain open throughout the entire construction period. Construction is expected to begin within the next few months with completion schedule for September 2010 and an official grand opening in December 2010.

Need for a new visitor center
Built in 1980 to serve as a support facility to the USS *Arizona* Memorial, the visitor center was constructed on 11 acres of “reclaimed land” where fill material was used to expand the Halawa Basin area. Designed to settle no more than 18 inches, the Center has instead, settled more than 30 inches allowing water from the harbor to seep into the basement and deteriorate the concrete structure.

Originally designed for 2000 daily visitors, the Visitor Center today receives over 4500 visitors each day, and nearly 1.5 million visitors each year. Larger than expected visitation, structural deterioration, lack of space for the growing collection of rare museum artifacts, as well as insufficient educational and curatorial space have all contributed to the urgent need to replace and expand the current museum and visitor center. “The new center will greatly help the National Park Service and the Pearl Harbor Historic Partners tell a comprehensive story of the attack on Oahu and the other key events of World War II in the Pacific. Visitors should walk away from their experience at the USS *Arizona* Memorial with a gut level understanding of December 7th and a personal connection to this history,” said Frank Hays, Pacific Area Director, National Park Service. New indoor and outdoor museum galleries which will nearly double the size of current exhibit space. An Attack Theater exhibit recreating via a dramatic audiovisual production the moments before, during and after the attack. Oral History Kiosks featuring the personal stories of the men, women and children who experienced Pearl Harbor first hand. Oahu 1941 Gallery depicting the civilian experience on Oahu before the attack. Expanded visitor comfort areas and bookstore. New design and layout of center which maximizes the use of space, while preserving the panoramic views of Pearl Harbor and the USS *Arizona* Memorial. Gently curving rooflines and large east-facing louvers provide optimum ventilation and limit the need for air-conditioning. Silver LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Green Building Rating System certification. New ticketing booth will allow visitors to obtain information and tickets for all major Pearl Harbor sites including the USS *Arizona* Memorial, The Battleship *Missouri* Memorial, The USS *Bowfin* Museum and the Pacific Aviation Museum - Pearl Harbor. State-of-the-art Education and Research Center will offer a resource area with digitized documents, photos and oral histories; classrooms and video conferencing room. Renovation of the twin movie theaters which provide a critical interpretive part of the visitor experience. The Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific and the National Park Service will oversee the project. Watts Constructors, LLC will serve as the general contractors for the construction of the new visitor center and museum. The lead design team is Portico Group and architect Glenn Mason.

(Continued on page 10)

Official statement of VFW on anniversary of Pearl Harbor attack

Today, we recall an event that changed the course of history and the destiny of civilization.

Nearly 70 years ago, the attack on Pearl Harbor awoke a sleeping giant, and with it, produced what has been called the “greatest generation.”

That day of infamy produced many U.S. casualties: 3500 dead and wounded, 18 ships sunk or damaged and more than 350 aircraft destroyed although it was a day of great tragedy, it was also a day that served to reignite our national pride and our great national spirit.

We recall the events of December 7, 1941, but more importantly, we remember the thousands of soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen who died during that terrible ambush and in the years that followed.

Franklin D. Roosevelt spoke with prophetic words when he stated, “no matter how long it may take us to overcome the premeditated invasion, the American people, in their righteous might, will win through absolute victory... With the abounding determination of our people — we will gain the inevitable triumph — so help us God.”

America was strengthened by its enduring values of freedom, tolerance and service. The long odds that we faced during the dark days that followed the attack on Pearl Harbor, served to fuel the indomitable spirit of our nation and carry us through to ultimate victory against the Axis powers.

The attack on Pearl Harbor taught us that we need to be ever vigilant against enemies of our way of life. It taught us the necessity of maintaining a strong national defense, and a well-trained and well-equipped military, able to hinder the efforts of freedom hating tyrants.

For nearly 60 years, the lessons learned from the attack on Pearl Harbor kept our nation safe and secure. But we learned on September 11, 2001, that we must never let our guard down, that because we enjoy an abundance of freedom, we are not exempt from danger.

The attacks that occurred on December 7, 1941 and Septem-

ber 11, 2001, prove one thing; our people may be killed and our buildings destroyed, but our enemies will never be successful in destroying our democracy or the American way of life.

Many of the survivors of the attack on Pearl Harbor are no longer with us. Many of them went on to serve in other places; some became casualties of other battles. A good many returned home to their families and friends and quietly resumed their lives as civilians.

Their contributions, their sacrifice, their steadfast devotion to duty, God, country and to their families, provide us with examples we need to emulate every day of our lives. We remain inspired by their diligence and their perseverance, and today, we are strengthened by the memory of their actions. So, let us leave here equally resolved in our determination to serve our nation as well.

God bless you.
God bless America. ■

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The staff at *Carriage News* wishes you and yours
a safe, happy and prosperous new year.

Did you know?


On February 17th, when most local broadcast TV stations switch to “all digital” signals, older TV sets will no longer work, unless they’re connected to a cable or satellite service or a special converter box. Go to www.GetReadyForDigitalTV.com for details.

* * *

The traditional greeting in China may be “Have you had your rice today?” but did you know that same greeting could very well be heard here in the United States? Surprising to many Americans is that nearly 85 percent of the rice consumed in the U.S. is grown here. ■

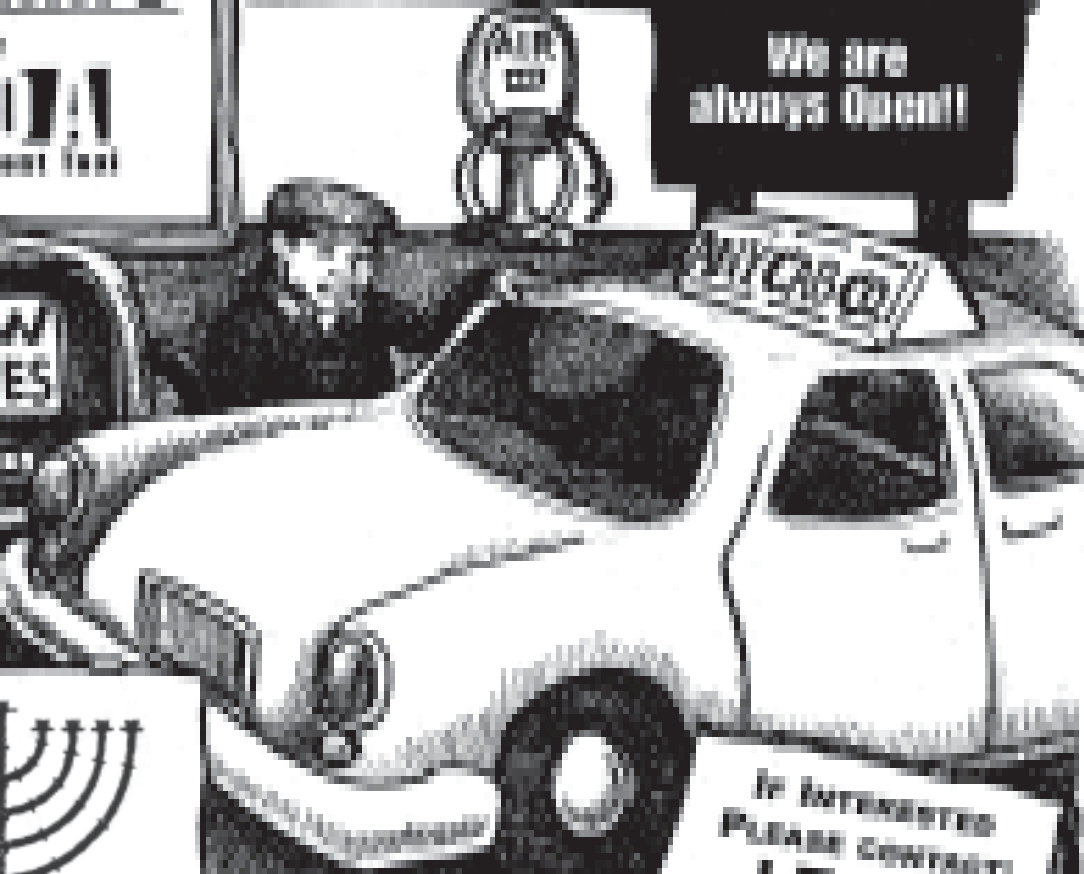
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Groundbreaking for new \$58 million Pearl Harbor Memorial Museum and Visitor Center

(Continued from page 8)

The *Arizona* Memorial Museum Association (AMMA) established the Pearl Harbor Memorial Fund (PHMF) in partnership with the National Park Service to raise a minimum of \$58 million in capital improvement and endowment funds for the new visitor center and museum. To date, the campaign has raised a total of \$54.162 million to date.

“I am very pleased that we are breaking ground on this project today and I thank the Arizona

Memorial Museum Association Board for their support and all the many others that were involved with the fundraising for this museum and visitor center.” Said George Sullivan, Chairman of the Board, Arizona Memorial Museum Association

The new visitor center will also serve as a gateway to other Pearl Harbor Historic Sites partners offering ticket and tour information. Partners include the USS *Oklahoma* Memorial, USS *Bowfin* Museum and Park, Battleship *Missouri* Memorial and Pacific Aviation Museum -

Pearl Harbor.

The Pearl Harbor Historic Sites provide a powerful historical journey unlike any other, an experience that has matured and grown far beyond that of a mere single day. These memorials and museums carry forth the legacies of several of our nation’s most treasured icons, are enduring tributes to the valor and sacrifices of our veterans, and provide windows into a past era when the future of our nation and the world truly hung in the balance. ■

A Look at Sports

by Leon Saperstein

Despite the loss of Tom Brady, the New England Patriots were still in the battle for first place in the AFC’s East.

(Editor’s note: This column was written before the final three games in the regular season were played.)

Receiver Wes Welker is the biggest factor for the New England. He is even more important than Randy Moss. Opponents will have to use tighter coverage on him than in the past.

Defense is still the key to any chance for the Patriots in the playoffs. Bill Belichick even brought back 39 year old Junior Seau to strengthen his linebacking corps. Some of the veterans have aged and it shows when the defense has to be on the field for long stretches.

Another factor has been the loss of safety Rodney Harrison, whose 15-year career is probably over. Harrison tore his right thigh muscle while pursuing Denver Broncos quarterback Jay Cutler on the last play of the third quarter of the Patriots’ 41-7 win in a Monday night game.

Harrison has had persistent thigh problems dating back to last season. Rehab could take as long as eight to 10 months and that could spell the end of his playing days.

I was one of the few football mavens who felt at the start of the season that the Miami Dolphins were a team to be reckoned with. Despite last year’s one and fifteen record, the Dolphins, surprisingly could end up first in their division by taking their final three games. This has been indeed a weird year in the NFL.

At the time of this writing, there has not been any big news in the Hot Stove League. The big free agents like Manny Ramirez and C. C. Sabathia were still waiting to sign huge contracts. (Editor’s note: Sabathia has since signed a seven year, \$161 million deal with the New York Yankees.)

I feel that in a week or two, there will be a flurry of activity. It will be a domino effect. Players are waiting to see what the other guy is getting before deciding on how much they are worth.

Next month, I will be profiling Red Sox and MVP player Dustin Pedroia. Dustin resides in Arizona and Boston fans will be interested in learning more about him.

The NBA is still the same story

This season in the NBA is little different from last year, especially in the East. The Boston Celtics, once more, are off to a torrid start. The rest of their Atlantic Division rivals are mediocre or just above that level. Only injuries will prevent the Celtics from moving deep into the final playoffs.

The Toronto Raptors will be in a dogfight with the improved New York Knicks. Chuck Duhon and Eddy Curry could give the Knicks a strong team at the finish.

In the Central Division, the Cleveland Cavaliers, led by their superstar, LeBron James, should edge out their top rival Detroit Pistons. The Pistons traded their star guard Chauncy Billups for Allen Iverson, but so far it has not improved Detroit’s game. Iverson is still Iverson and he marches to his own drummer.

The Chicago Bulls lack the depth to challenge the Cavaliers. They have a strong backcourt, and in Kirk Hinrich have perhaps the best third guard the league.

The Indiana Pacers can be tough and are certainly capable upsetting any of the top ranked teams.

In the Southeast Division, look for the Orlando Magic to repeat their first place finish of last season. They have two very good players in Dwight Howard and Rasheed Lewis. Jameer Nelson is dangerous , as well as Hedo Turkoglu.

The Atlanta Hawks and the Miami Heat are improved, but not that much. There is probably no more intense player than the Heat’s Dwayne Wade, but he cannot, single handedly take Miami to the promised land.

Eastern Conference predictions

Atlantic

Celtics
NY Knicks
Raptors
76’ers
Nets

Central

Cavaliers
Pistons
Bulls
Pacers
Bucks

Southeast

Magic
Hawks
Heat
Wizards
Bobcats

I would like to comment briefly about the Western Conference. Probably the best teams reside there.

Number one — the Los Angeles Lakers. They are probably improved over last season’s title winners. Andrew Bynum missed half the season and he has greatly helped the Lakers on both offense and defense.

Then, what about MVP Kobe Bryant? He is still the best player in the NBA.

Look for another exciting battle in this conference.■

Three-time world
welterweight
champion Jack
Britton competed in a
record 37
title bouts.



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Proposed toll hikes will impact public safety in city

by Thomas M. Menino
Mayor of Boston

About two weeks ago, the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority held a board meeting to vote on increasing the toll rates for drivers entering the City of Boston. The Turnpike Authority board voted to increase the tolls at the Allston-Brighton toll-booths by 75 cents, bringing the toll there to \$2, and to raise the tolls for the Sumner and Ted Williams tunnels by an unprecedented \$3.50, doubling the current rate to a total of \$7.

This proposed toll increases would not only directly impact the communities abutting those locations (Allston-Brighton, South Boston, East Boston, and the North End); it would impact the thousands of commuters traveling through Boston on a daily basis.

As Mayor, I sympathize with Governor Patrick's need to explore all potential sources of revenue in this difficult economy. However, toll increases of this proportion are inequitable for Boston residents, and it is important to me that the negative impact to Boston, its residents and the business community resulting from any increase is minimal. I am disappointed that the City of Boston and neighboring communities were not briefed in advance of the Turnpike Authority's proposed toll increase plan. In fact, Boston Transportation Commissioner Tom Tinlin was one of the few area public officials present at the November 14 vote.

Boston has a vested interest in the effective function of the state's highway and toll system. I am primarily concerned that the proposed toll hikes will place an undue strain on traffic to the network of local neighborhood roadways. Local streets cannot sustain the volume of traffic and congestion that the highway system currently accommodates. As individuals try to save money, just as the state attempts to curb its budget, I am

afraid that drivers will be unwilling to pay higher tolls, and instead seek detours to their destinations through local streets. This shift in traffic patterns could present serious public safety issues by potentially crippling our local streets. Additionally, our local business community could suffer further economic impacts if consumers from outside of Boston choose to visit the City less as a result of encountering higher tolls.

Commuters choosing to switch to public transportation due to toll hikes, could also strain the current MBTA system. While I have always believed that public transportation is a favorable option for commuters, it is unclear that the MBTA could handle a significant increase in ridership. Without a comprehensive review of the potential impacts on public safety, traffic congestion, and public transportation, the proposed toll increases should not be implemented.

Finally, I would like the Turnpike Authority to assure that current toll rates for the residents of South Boston, East Boston, and the North End are preserved. These communities are directly impacted by the day-to-day operation of the Turnpike, and the discount these residents currently receive serve to partially mitigate the effects of noise pollution, air quality concerns, and traffic congestion. I urge State Secretary of Transportation Bernard Cohen and the legislature to uphold these discounted rates to protect Boston residents.

I informed Governor Patrick of my concerns in a personal letter soon after the Turnpike Authority's board voted on the proposal. My administration is eager to work with the Governor, the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority, and the legislature to address the concerns surround-

(Continued on page 25)

Fans cheer new site

Whether you're an armchair quarterback, have high hoop dreams or bleed your favorite team colors, chances are you've surfed the Web to score sports stats, facts, info and more.

Now a site called *FanDome.com* could help you take your sports quest a step further by letting you easily sort through more than 40,000 sports videos.

Just choose a play, subject or team you'd like to watch, enter it in the search box and hit "go." You can also easily browse by sport and team.

The site was started by sports industry leaders and fans to provide other fans with a simple way to watch and post their favorite plays and sporting moments. But in addition to providing video content, the site lets you celebrate (or commiserate) with other fans through a networking system, blogs, forums,



A new site lets sports fans search more than 40,000 videos.

profiles and more. It also serves as a portal to more than 600 owned and affiliated sports team communities at the professional and collegiate levels.

For more information, visit www.fandome.com. ■

If you make any money, the government shoves you into the creek once a year with it in your pockets, and all that doesn't get wet, you can keep. — Will Rogers

Area hotels offering special New Year's Eve Packages

The Greater Boston Convention and Visitors Bureau's website list the following Boston area hotels as offering special New Year's Eve packages.

Boston Harbor Hotel
70 Rows Wharf
Boston, MA 02110
617-439-7000
www.bhh.com

New Year's Eve Romance Package includes: Luxurious accommodations for two, a chilled bottle of champagne and specialty black tie chocolate dipped long stem strawberries delivered to your guest room on New Year's Eve, breakfast for two in bed provided by in room

dining, use of the health club and spa, including the indoor pool, valet parking and extended checkout until 4 pm.

Situated on Boston Harbor is the acclaimed landmark Boston Harbor Hotel, it's grand arch is the first of many breathtaking sights that will greet you from this ideal location on Rows Wharf. A Mobil Five Star property, the hotel offers beautifully appointed guestrooms, three signature dinning locations, spa and health club facilities including an indoor pool, 36 slip Marina and an attentive staff catering to your every need.

Clarion Nantasket Beach

Hotel and Conference Center
45 Hull Shore Drive
Hull, MA 02045
781-925-4500

www.nantasketbeachhotel.com
The Stay and Play New Year's Eve Party Package includes overnight accommodations in an ocean front or ocean view room/with balcony/fireplace/jet tub; and a three course dinner buffet in our oceanfront ballroom provided by Raffael's at Nantasket. Relax-check in, go to our spa, enjoy a delicious dinner, delight in the company of your friends and family (private

(Continued on page 26)

Happy Holidays



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www.battleshipcove.org



Historic landmark getting facelift — The Paramount Theater in Downtown Boston is undergoing an historic restoration and total rehabilitation to its once grand appearance. The goal is to transform the Paramount Theater into a contemporary, multi-purpose, entertainment center, while achieving a precise historic restoration of all interior details and surfaces, as well as the reconstruction of the exterior marquee above the front entrance. Photo by Bob LeBovidge.

MEN'S HEALTH

A modern approach to managing diabetes

Many men with diabetes could help their health if they learn more about their disease. Too often, many are not aware of many of the numerous health issues associated with diabetes. The American Diabetes Association recommends men manage their diabetes by monitoring blood glucose, blood pressure and cholesterol and also eating right, being physically active, maintaining a healthy weight, not smoking (or quitting smoking) and getting regular checkups. "Men with diabetes are at increased risk for complications such as heart attack, stroke, kidney disease and blindness. Many may not be aware that they are also at increased risk for other conditions that can affect their physical, emotional and sexual health," said Richard M. Bergenstal, M.D., Vice President, Medicine & Science, American Diabetes Association.



claimed to know "a lot" about their diabetes. Nearly half the men and their spouses reported feeling less connected, and more than 30 percent of men and their wives reported more arguments.

Resources

The American Diabetes Association's enhanced men's health Web site (www.diabetes.org/menshealth) offers a variety of resources specifically for men to help them better appreciate the importance of adopting a more comprehensive, or modern, approach to managing diabetes.

Men who would like to learn more can call 1-800-DIABETES or visit diabetes.org/menshealth for a free copy of The Modern Man's Guide To Living Well With Diabetes, which addresses:

- The "modern man" approach to managing diabetes;
- Complications associated with diabetes; and
- The impact of diabetes on men's physical, sexual and emotional health. ■

Receive a free tapa with donation to Tapeo's Tapa for Toys Benefit

Diners can receive a free tapa of their choice with a donation to Tapeo Restaurant's Annual Tapas for Toys Benefit which runs through December 21.

Among the item being sought this year are unwrapped toys, stuffed animals and books, new clothing for children of all ages, school supplies and backpacks, and household items such as bedding, small strollers, pillows, or baby bottles. All items will be distributed through

the Cradles to Crayons Organization reaching out to thousands of kids in Massachusetts.

For more information visit www.tapeo.com or www.cradlestocrayons.org

Established in 1995, Tapeo is one of Newbury Streets most prominent restaurants. Located in the heart of Back Bay, Tapeo offers an Spanish tapas style cuisine in a cozy European atmosphere. Tapeo offers over 40 regional tapas and desserts with

new additions every six weeks including a comprehensive Spanish wine, sherry and spirits list. Tapeo is co-owned by Fernando León and Patrick Buben. For reservations, contact (617) 267-4799. ■

To place your ad in Carriage News, call Carl Witten at 617-268-8080.



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The name Canada is derived from kanata, a Huron word for settlement.

The MCCA Winner's Circle



***It pays to be courteous* —Samson Prosper of Hyde Park won \$500 last month in the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority's (MCCA) Advantage Boston Taxi Rewards Program that encourages Greater Boston cab driver hospitality and courtesy to passengers.**

Convention Center considers going solar

The Convention Center Authority (MCCA) has commissioned a study to examine the possibility of creating a solar energy production system on the roof of the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center (BCEC).

The study will explore the feasibility of creating a huge solar panel array that will potentially lower the energy costs to the run the facility while contributing to the Commonwealth's commitment to finding and implementing renewable, environmentally-friendly energy solutions.

James Rooney, MCAA executive director, said "The BCEC has the largest roof of any building in New England, and it only makes sense to utilize that asset by exploring the possibility of reducing our operating costs while at the same time decreasing the facility's environmental impact. It is my hope that in the future, people visiting the BCEC from around the world will see solar panels on the roof as a working symbol of Massachusetts' commitment to the environment and renewable energy."

At more than 1,173,600 square feet – or almost 27 acres — the roof of the BCEC is larger than the Boston Public Garden (24 acres) and equates to more than 20 football fields and is the largest roof in New England. The MCCA has assembled a team of renewable energy design and construction experts to asses the opportunities for the BCEC

to use its potential to produce a percentage of the energy used by the building through solar power.

The Boston Convention & Exhibition Center uses 27,351,093 kilowatt hours of electricity annually of which 3.5 percent is derived from renewable sources. Preliminary estimates suggest that a solar generating system at the BCEC may be able to provide up to 600,000 kilowatt hours per year.

This feasibility project will provide the MCCA with essential information needed to guide the renewable energy project through design and construction. The four major criteria the team will analyze are:

- The feasibility for construction of a solar electric generating system on site at the BCEC;
- A cost benefit and life cycle cost analysis, including the potential benefit of annual energy cost savings to the Authority from renewable energy implementations;
- Identifying third party funding sources to assist in project development costs, including government, utility and industry incentive programs and related grant funds; and
- An analysis of project scalability to determine and evaluate the long-term opportunity of a renewable energy project that could be implemented in phases over several years.

(Continued on page 25)

Upcoming Convention Events			
Date(s)	Site	Event	Attendees
12/11/	BCEC	Massachusetts Conference for Women	3000
12/13 to 12/14	BCEC	El Jolgorio Gala	1500
12/14 to 12/18	BCEC	Novartis	1200
12/30	Hynes	Alpha Phi Omega	2000
12/11	BCEC	Virtualization Forum Q4	900
12/12	BCEC	Smart Growth/Smart Energy	800
12/13 to 12/14	BCEC	El Jolgorio Gala	1500
12/14 to 12/18	BCEC	Novartis	1200
12/30	Hynes	Alpha Phi Omega	2000
12/31	Hynes	First Night Celebration	10,000
1/12 to 1/14	BCEC	John Hancock 2009	500
1/15	BCEC	Private Reunion Reception	50
1/19	BCEC	MLK Breakfast	1500
1/22 to 1/23	BCEC	MASCON 2009	1500
1/23 to 1/24	Hynes	Massachusetts Municipal Association	1000
1/29 to 1/31	BCEC	Yankee Dental Congress	28,047
1/31	Hynes	Berklee High School Jazz Festival	2500
2/3 to 2/5	BCEC	New England Grows	15,500
2/10 to 2/16	Hynes	American Bar Association	3000
2/14 to 2/22	BCEC	New England Boat Show	54,200

“Green” convention sets attendance records

The Massachusetts Convention Center Authority closed Greenbuild International Convention and Expo 2008, sponsored by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), last month at the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center (BCEC) with impressive figures in important event markers.

Over the three-day event, Greenbuild attracted more than 28,000 attendees, well exceeding USGBC's original estimation. With a 25 percent increase in attendance over its 2007 event, Greenbuild 2008 set a record for its highest attendee showing to date. The show also featured more than 800 exhibitors, the most in the event's history and a 62 percent increase over last year.

"The success of Greenbuild 2008 is another example of how our city and convention facilities drive a tremendous amount of economic activity in Boston by attracting thousands of attendees to major conventions. We estimate that Greenbuild's 28,000 attendees will have created more than \$22 million in spending in the region," said James E. Rooney, Executive Director of the MCCA. "These are the caliber of events that we will continue to bring to Boston in order to generate spending in all areas."

Greenbuild International Conference and Expo, the world's largest event dedicated to green building, brought together leading experts from the field, including architects, educators, engineers, and government officials, and explored, discussed and promoted "revolutionary green" products and technologies for global sustainability.

Event highlights included an opening keynote address from Archbishop Desmond Tutu, a Nobel Peace Laureate and world leader in social justice, as well as two dozen off-site tours to showcase buildings within the city and across New England that offer green technologies.. ■

Free video calls cut household costs

As household budgets shrink and phone costs rise, many consumers are using new technology to help make keeping in touch cheaper.

For instance, millions of minutes of free video calls are made over the Web each day, helping families, friends and businesses communicate face-to-face over long distances without the expense of phone calls or traveling.

Some Web sites even let users hold video calls with multiple people, collaborate on projects, conduct video interviews or even date online-and you don't have to be tech-savvy to use them.

Making calls
So how can you start saving



Get your word's worth — Some free video-call websites can be used from any computer

with a video call service? The first step is to choose a free call site, such as TokBox (www.tokbox.com), which is designed to be simple to use. With TokBox all you need is an Internet connection and Web camera to start making video calls for free to whomever you want. No regis-

tration is needed and users don't have to make adjustments to their PC or Mac — just log on and start talking.

In addition to chatting with multiple friends at once (think video conference calling), the site lets users send video e-mails and embed video communications into Web sites, blogs or social networking pages. For people using Facebook, TokBox also provides a Firefox add-on that enables voice and video calls right from Facebook chat.

Seeing clearly
The next step is to choose a webcam. Many newer computers come with the cameras built in, but you can also find cam-

(Continued to page 14)

Season's Greetings

from

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Season's Greetings

Attorney Joseph D. Wishnow

Medallion Sales, Financing, Transfers and Incorporations

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Books make ideal gifts for children

ReadBoston, a non-profit children's literacy program founded by Mayor Thomas M. Menino, suggests these Top 10 Titles for fun, inexpensive children's gifts this year. Many of these titles are even written by local authors.

- *Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type* by Doreen Cronin
- *The Dinosaur Alphabet*

Book by Jerry Pallotta

- *Flotsam* by David Wiesner
- *A Grand Old Tree* by Mary Newell DePalma (of Roslindale)
- *Ish* by Peter Reynolds
- *Kevin and his Dad* by Irene Smalls (of Roxbury)
- *Knuffle Bunny* by Mo Willems
- *The Lorax* by Dr. Seuss

- *My Buddy, Slug* by Jarrett J. Krosoczka (of Dorchester)
- *Olivia* by Ian Falconer

Childhood reading promotes language development and literacy comprehension that serve as the basis for future education. Visit www.ReadBoston.org to learn more about programming and the importance of childhood literacy. ■

Hard times bring greater opportunities

(Continued from page 1)

keeping it once the economy improves.

The second opportunity is to reclaim business from the various out-of town-cab companies that currently have accounts in Boston. You will have newer, cleaner, more reliable cars with the ability to take credit cards in every vehicle. It should be an easy sell to get accounts like hospitals and health care companies to switch to a radio association that offers clean air cabs instead of dirty, dented, smoke

profit and still bear the cost of purchase and repairs.

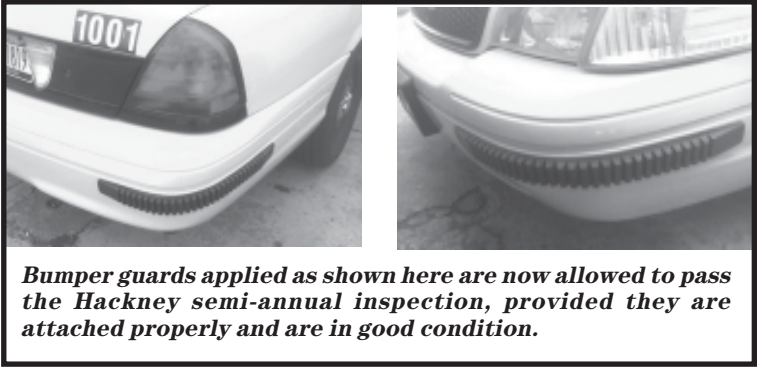
I would like to close with a few reminders of upcoming changes.

I want to remind everyone that Rule 403 requires that: *"The Radio Association shall only accept membership payment by check or credit card drawn on the corporate account of the Hackney Carriage Medallion Owner"*. This means the contract must be with the MEDALLION owner, not the driver or lessee. Too many drivers have skipped town, leaving

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OF THE
HAMPTON INN BOSTON/CAMBRIDGE
WISHES THE
GREATER BOSTON TAXI DRIVERS AND THEIR FAMILIES
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WITH GREAT CARE AND PRIDE



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www.bostoncambridge.hamptoninn.com



spewing Crown Victoria's that were already rejected by Boston as unfit.

A third opportunity opened by the credit card mandate is the possibility of generating new business from the colleges and universities wishing to ensure that their students get home safely. Many schools have a "School ID" credit or debit system for use on campus.

The radio association that can find a way to incorporate that system into their taxis will reap large benefits for themselves and their drivers.

Another opening, for those prepared to take advantage of it, is in the field of taxi management. I expect that as the requirement to purchase new vehicles closes on more and more medallions, that the number of individual drivers able to lease medallions will decrease. Many owners, particularly those who live out of state, are anxious not to become involved in the day to day shifting of taxis, and will be looking for managers to lease the medallion, buy a new hybrid, and shift it out. The new shift rates allow an owner or manager to charge up to \$980 per week if he shifts the new hybrid vehicle on a two (2) driver weekly iron with an annual contract. This gives the driver the predictability of having "his" cab for a full year, while the owner is able to make a solid

the country, owing money to the radio associations.

During my visits to the radio associations next month, I will be checking that the names on membership contracts match the Hackney Carriage Unit listed medallion owner. If they do not, the medallion will be pulled until there is compliance.

Be advised that bumper guards as pictured above will be allowed to pass inspection provided, of course, that they are firmly attached and kept in good condition.

On the issue of advertising:

The only companies authorized to place ROOFTOP advertising on licensed Boston taxicabs are Clear Channel Taxi Media and VERT, Inc.

To date, only four companies are authorized to place ADVERTISING on Passenger Information Monitors located inside licensed Boston taxicabs:

- Creative Mobile Technologies,
- Verifone Transportation Systems,
- eTaxi, and
- Ampidea.

In addition to the above list of companies, the following companies are authorized to provide credit card services in Boston Licensed Taxis:

- Credit Card Solutions, and
- Gleike Taximeter.

Have a happy and profitable holiday season! ■

Season's Greetings



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(617) 389-4400

Free video calls cut household costs

(Continued from page 13)

eras that connect through your USB port at any office supply or discount store. If you're shopping for a webcam, pay attention to something called the frame-per-second rate-the higher the rate, the better. Additionally, try to get a camera with the best resolution you can afford. That will help keep your pictures clear and detailed.

More cost-cutting tips

As a final cost-cutting tip, look for times when you could replace travel with online video

calling. Due to high travel costs, many folks may be cutting back on travel plans. But just because you can't afford to fly home to visit family and friends doesn't mean you have to miss out on seeing them.

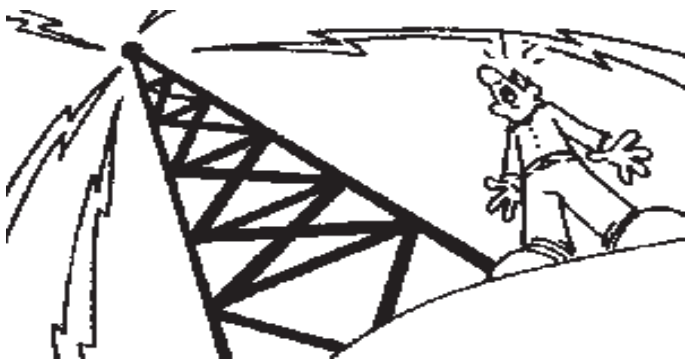
Using video calling in between visits to loved ones may allow you to extend the time between in-person visits. Eliminating just one trip a year will result in significant savings for you and your family.

For more information about video calling and to get started making calls today, visit www.tokbox.com. ■

Life itself is the proper binge.
— Julia Child

Don't Quit

When things go wrong as they sometimes will,
When the road you're trudging seems all uphill,
When the funds are low and the debts are high
And you want to smile but you have to sigh,
When care is pressing you down a bit —
Rest if you must, but don't you quit.
Life is queer with its twists and turns,
As every one of us sometimes learns,
And many a fellow turns about
When he might have won had he stuck it out.
Don't give up though the pace seems slow —
You may succeed with another blow.
Often the goal is nearer than
it seems to a faint and faltering man;
Often the struggler has given up
When he might have captured the victor's cup.
And he learned too late when the night came down
How close he was to the golden crown.
Success is failure turned inside out —
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt,
And you never can tell how close you are.
It may be near when it seems afar;
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit;
It's when things seem worst that you mustn't quit. ■



The tallest structure in the U.S. is a TV tower in North Dakota that's 2,063 feet high.

Season's Greetings from



"Serving Boston Since 1922"
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86 years in South Boston

U.S. driving drops nine straight months

(Continued from page 8)

line prices and a sluggish economy. The decline was the steepest since the 1970s, which also occurred during a period of economic and energy turmoil. Less driving, combined with the consumer shift toward

more fuel efficient vehicles, created a severe shortage this year in federal gasoline tax receipts dedicated to highway construction spending. Congress plugged an \$8 billion gap in the government trust account that funds U.S. highway projects earlier this month after transportation planners warned

it was close to running out of money. ■

Happy Holidays to All.



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26

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30 Minutes of FREE POOL

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Good until 1/31/09. Coupon may not be combined with any other offers.

27

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At Model Hardware in Allston Village, Mayor Thomas M. Menino announced the City’s new Boston Buying Power initiative, an innovative energy-buying group designed to allow small businesses to purchase energy as a large group at a long-term fixed price through access to the deregulated energy market.

Small businesses to get big break on energy costs with new city buying group

Boston has launched an innovative energy-buying group called the Boston Buying Power Initiative, that is designed to allow small businesses to purchase energy as a large group at a long-term fixed price through access to the deregulated energy market.

“Boston is committed to encouraging and supporting strong business communities,” Mayor Thomas M. Menino explained in launching the project last month at a press conference held at Model Hardware in Allston Village. “One of the ways we can

do this is by advocating for small businesses and providing resources during difficult economic times. Boston Buying Power is designed to give our hard-working small business sector the peace of mind that comes from long-term price certainty and budget stability, including access to energy efficiency programs.”

Menino first announced the initiative last summer at a small business symposium and resource fair held at the Reggie Lewis Center in response to an increasingly volatile energy

market. In August, a formal Request for Responses (RFR) was issued by the City’s Department of Neighborhood Development (DND), which called for qualified energy brokers or consultants to create an energy-buying group to work directly with businesses to monitor the energy market and procure energy supply. In late September, Taylor Consulting and Contracting, a national utility management firm based in Pennsylvania, was selected to serve as the City’s

(Continued on page 28)

"HEY WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA ... WHAT'S THIS?"

Banknotes issued by hundreds of banks were used as money in the United States during the early and mid-1800s, known as the Wildcat Period of American banking.

Season's Greetings



Warm wishes go out to you and your families for a happy and healthy new year!

Call to ask about our special New Year's Eve event

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Season's Greetings

to all Greater Boston Taxi Drivers
from the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority

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The inaugural address of J. F. Kennedy — a new exhibit

(Continued from page 5)

augural Ceremony. These items will be on display for a very limited time, from January 8 through President's Day, February 16.

Poetry and Power: The Inaugural Address of John F. Kennedy is just one of the many exciting and inspiring exhibits visitors will find in the Museum at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library. The Museum's 25 multimedia exhibits and period settings from the White House offer an exciting "you are there" experience, and create a stirring account of President Kennedy's thousand days in office. Beginning with a 17-minute film narrated by President Kennedy, visitors step back into

the recreated world of the early 1960s and witness the first televised presidential debate; accompany first lady Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy on her televised tour of the White House; sit in on press conferences with the President; relive the thrill of Col. John Glenn's first orbital mission; stroll through White House corridors; witness Cabinet meetings during the Cuban Missile Crisis, and observe the president's televised address from the Oval Office on the Civil Rights crisis.

The Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum is open daily from 9 am to 5 pm, with the exceptions of Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. The Library is located in the Dorchester section of Boston, off Morrissey Boulevard, next to the campus of the University of Massachusetts/Boston. Parking is free. There is free shuttle-service from the JFK/UMass T Stop on the Red Line. The Museum is fully handicapped accessible. For information, call (866) JFK-1960. ■

**It's school vacation time.
Please be extra careful and watch out for
the children playing in the streets.**

Giving gifts to guys, take a cue from what they do

Holiday shopping is tough in general and especially challenging when shopping for the men in your life. A good rule to follow when you're looking to do something different this year for your father, husband, grandfather or brother is to take cues from what they really like to do and where they spend their time.

Consider this: Some of the most popular spaces in the home for men-and their last domain for fun and leisure-are the garage, the deck or patio, the entertainment room or workout area. Gifts for these spaces are practical and can be enjoyed year-round and last for many years.

"My husband was so surprised to receive Gladiator(r) GarageWorks cabinets and a work surface as gifts," said Marilyn Wortman. "They suit him perfectly since he enjoys spending time in the garage and having an organized work area meets his needs perfectly."

Storing outdoor equipment

For sportsmen, gifts for the



From golf caddies to workout clothes, the perfect gift is out there. You just have to know where to look.

garage or rooms they use to store equipment in make it easier for them to do the things they enjoy. Possible gifts could include fishing pole holders, a golf caddy or a special bicycle-hanging device.

Men who enjoy entertaining and spending time out on the deck or patio would appreciate new grill tools, specialty sauces or rubs, a grilling cookbook or even- as a splurge item-

a new grill.

Gadgets are good

Men who prefer to lounge in their state-of-the-art media and entertainment rooms will appreciate the latest gadgets. Possibilities could include gifts such as a new television, speaker system or Blu-ray media player. "I got my husband a large plasma screen because he loves football," said LeeAnn Swan. "He just loved it-and definitely takes advantage of it all season long."

So is fitness equipment

Finally, if your guy enjoys working out at home, consider new fitness equipment or something as simple as workout clothes.

Once you know the type of man you're shopping for and his favorite interests, take time to research the perfect present. Gift sites dedicated to men, like Man Crib.com, can help you find the right gift and, in some cases, allow you to order directly. Remember, the perfect gift is out there; you just have to know where to look. ■

Remembering Ramon Subejano, a one man army

(Continued from page 4)

As I pulled the trigger, the bullet dropped down, hitting him in the hand. The Germans started to retreat and were running all over. When you hit one of their leaders, they will not fight."

Apparently, Subejano had wounded a high ranking General. When he made his way back to the American lines and reported his story, a patrol was sent out, with Ramon leading the way.

There, lying on the ground, were all the boys of Company A. When the body count was completed, they found that 123 German SS troops and one officer had been killed. Ranion took the Luger as a memorial to all the dead boys of his company. He marched with it in every parade.

On another occasion, when he entered the German town of Dillingen, Ramon came upon a slaughterhouse used to feed the German army. Ramon single-handedly made his way through machine gun fire and grenade explosions into the factory, where he killed five Germans, wounded six and forced the remaining 37 to surrender.

For his action, he received the Silver Star.

As the fighting continued, he was sent back to the front lines. Once, returning from a patrol, he came across General George Patton. The General asked him, "Sniper, do you know how to use that rifle?"

"Yes I do, sir," Ramon replied.

"You're doing a fine job, sniper," Patton told him. "Now get out there and kill more of the sons of bitches."

After the war, he flew to London to represent the United

States in a victory parade. There, he was presented to King George and Sir Winston Churchill. After the victory parade, he flew back to New York, where Gov. Dewey presented him the Silver Cross Medal for heroism.

While riding in the New York parade, he was asked if his picture could be taken with an up and coming movie star. The young lady's name was Marilyn Monroe. She gave him a big kiss and he saved the picture, hanging it on his apartment wall for years afterwards.

Subejano also met President John F. Kennedy and his brother, Sen Edward M. Kennedy and he marched in Boston parades for the past 30 years.

Ramon was no ordinary man. He was a living hero who gave all for his country. He loved America, and would never forget the boys that he left behind in the rows of graves that decorate the battlefields of Europe.

On Saturday, Sept. 17 at 10:30 am, at the ago of 83, Ramon Subejano died at the Veterans' Hospital in West Roxbury.

Following services in the Brighton Evangelical Congregational Church, his body was flown to Virginia where he was buried with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery. The flag from his casket was present to the American Legion Post 11 in Brookline.

Subejano was one of the most decorated soldiers in American history. He had been awarded every American military honor except the Congressional Medal of Honor.

He also received numerous awards from France, Belgium and the Netherlands. ■

Electric taxis set to "charge" into Scotland

(Continued from page 3)

Analyst Greig Altken at Brown Dolphin said that IndigoVision's sales growth slowed in the second half of the year but still showed a heady 24 percent increase, while directors continued to boost profit margins.

He is waiting to see if there has been a loss of global demand from the stricken banking sector and consumer-led businesses, and is braced for a potential downgrade to the forecasts for a further profits lift to 3.5m profits in 2009.

"We are aware that a re-rating of the shares will be difficult to achieve under current market conditions but to investors willing to rise out the storm, this is still an exciting story," he said. ■

"We are aware that a re-rating of the shares will be difficult to achieve under current market conditions but to investors willing to rise out the storm, this is still an exciting story," he said. ■

(Reprinted courtesy of the United Kingdom's biggest Taxi trade Publication www.taxi-today.com.)

The Infamous 710, from page 3



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Text messaging for the taxi industry

by MikeBeggs

Co-founded by a pair of San Diego twentysome-things who were, “frustrated from waiting on hold for cabs”, GoFastCab is one of a few electronic text message-based ordering systems to recently hit the North American market.

It works on the premise that a text message will get through when the phone lines are jammed — going right onto the reservations screen, or into the dispatch queue.

And it’s free (although standard and other charges may apply). Users pay standard text messaging and taxi rates.

The customer simply texts an address to 777222, their address is verified and validated by GoFast-Cab servers, and an order is electronically entered into the dispatch service of the appropriate affiliate. A few seconds later, the user receives a text message with their confirmation number and the name of the company servicing their order.

While they cannot give estimated times of arrival, you can text STATUS to see if your cab has been dispatched. At this time, all orders placed are strictly for immediate pickup.

GoFastCab (US patent pending, 2008) was launched with the knowledge that no less than 70 percent of Americans are already sending text messages, and 99 percent of the 270-plus million U.S. phones are capable of using this technology.

With its’ nationwide-SMS (Short Messaging Service) —

777222, or 777CAB — it enables a business person to get off a plane in a strange American city and quickly and conveniently order a cab. “They have the ability to memorize this number in their heads. They just punch it in,” relates one of the Go-Fast partners, who asked that they not be identified by name.

Maybe more to the point, the partner cites, “a huge percentage of younger people who like to hang out in bars and restaurants, that will hang up and text.”

“For that demographic, we see the potential for a large percentage of orders,” he adds. “We hope to do 5 to 15 per cent of orders through text messaging.”

Another benefit, it allows hearing impaired passengers to become more independent.

For cab operators, there’s the prospect of increased business because it: offers passengers an alternative to waiting on hold, and a more convenient way to order; can handle spikes in demand, so that frustrated fares don’t go elsewhere; and gives your brokerage a high-tech differentiation.

There’s also the promise of increased efficiency because it reduces call centre volumes, while taking more orders and trimming overhead costs. Electronic cancelling and status checks also reduce call volumes and reduce passenger no shows.

“You’re increasing your efficiency because you basically have a call taker available 24 x7 365 days a year, that can do an order a minute, and doesn’t call in sick,” he says.

What’s more it can be

launched without expensive investment in new equipment, or software. All the cab company needs is a computerized dispatch system. From there, GoFastCab offers all electronic ordering, address validation, status, cancel, seamless integration, custom options, security, and a common passenger experience.

GoFastCab went live within Yellow Cab, San Diego’s largest taxi company in November, on a trial basis. It’s going “pretty well”, and they’re in the process of trying to sign up operators in different cities across the U.S.-with Canada probably next. GoFast’s service is compatible with all major U.S. mobile operators.

It has also been in test mode at Buffalo’s Liberty Cab/Yellow Cab since November, with Mobile Knowledge handling the interface.

Liberty is going to be fully computer dispatched in January. Owner/president Bill Yunkhe cites the considerable, appeal of being able to, “take text messaging right into the reservations screen, so it bypasses human intervention in two seconds.”

“In Buffalo, we have 50,000

college students at UB and they are text savvy,” he relates. “We’re getting a lot of text orders. On New Years Eve all the companies are busy, but you can bypass the system and text right into the reservations screen.”

“I tell you, I’m excited about it,” he continues. “I think in our economy all of us are looking for new ways for our drivers to be kept busy. It is affordable. It’s 50 cents a call to the company.”

From the Toronto area, operators are taking a wait and see attitude.

Diamond Taxi GM Jim Bell observes that there have been a number of different software developers out there, “trying to come up with a multi-city marketing plan.” But in the end he suggests, “It’s just another way of ordering a taxi-cab.”

“I’m not enticed, because none of these companies have been able to guarantee how they’re going to get people into the back of your cab,” he says. “And typically, in this city the taxi cab companies are pretty good at answering the phones.”

Bell has several other concerns. “Does the phone user pay someone to use this service, a monthly service fee? Does this

outfit charge the cab company for finding the order for them,” he adds? “And if the text for a cab comes in for (a 10-minute pickup), and three minutes later a cab goes by and they hail it, does the user pay for that call or the cab company?”

Co-Op Taxi general manager Peter Zahakos was unfamiliar with the GoFastCab option.

“There’s a module in our system (though), where anyone can get on their Blackberry and directly order a cab,” he relates. “We’re looking at it”

From his vantage in Mississauga, long-time owner/operator Ed Newton cites several such conveniences coming on the market, and muses, “all these things are great when they work.”

“They’re all getting in there, but how many people are going in strange cabs,” he comments?

“Most people in Mississauga are regular customers. They know the system, they don’t need all these fancy gadgets. A good percentage of our customers are older, and they don’t have cell phones and Blackberrys.” ■

(This article reprinted with permission from TaxiNews, Toronto, Canada, Dec. 2008.)



In 1930, Vannevar Bush, an American electrical engineer, built the first reliable analog computer.

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Education News & Notes

Empowering students
to go green

From recycling to riding bikes, students across the country are finding ways to help protect the Earth.

Now a new program helps them take that activism a step further, while also teaching them the value of teamwork, community involvement and responsibility. It challenges teams of two to three middle school students to identify an environmental issue in their community, research the issue using scientific investigation and create a replicable green solution using Web-based tools and resources.

Examples of projects include reducing the amount of toxic runoff entering a community's water, building awareness of the need to reduce mercury consumption, and creating a program that encourages people to change their driving habits in Earth-friendly ways.

Called the Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge, the program-which is aligned to education standards-is meant to empower students to be agents of change in their communities. It was created by the Siemens Foundation, the National Science Teachers Association and Discovery Education, which provides scientifically proven, standards-based digital media resources and professional de-



A new challenge encourages middle school students to create green solutions for their communities.

velopment to classrooms nationwide.

Getting Involved
Students in 6th through 8th grades, under the mentorship of a teacher or adult supervisor, can register at www.wecanchange.com.


This middle school launch marks the first phase of the nationwide initiative, which will roll out to K-12 in following years.

All student teams completing the Middle School Challenge

(Continued on page 29)




The staff at *Carriage News* wishes you and yours a safe, happy and prosperous new year.



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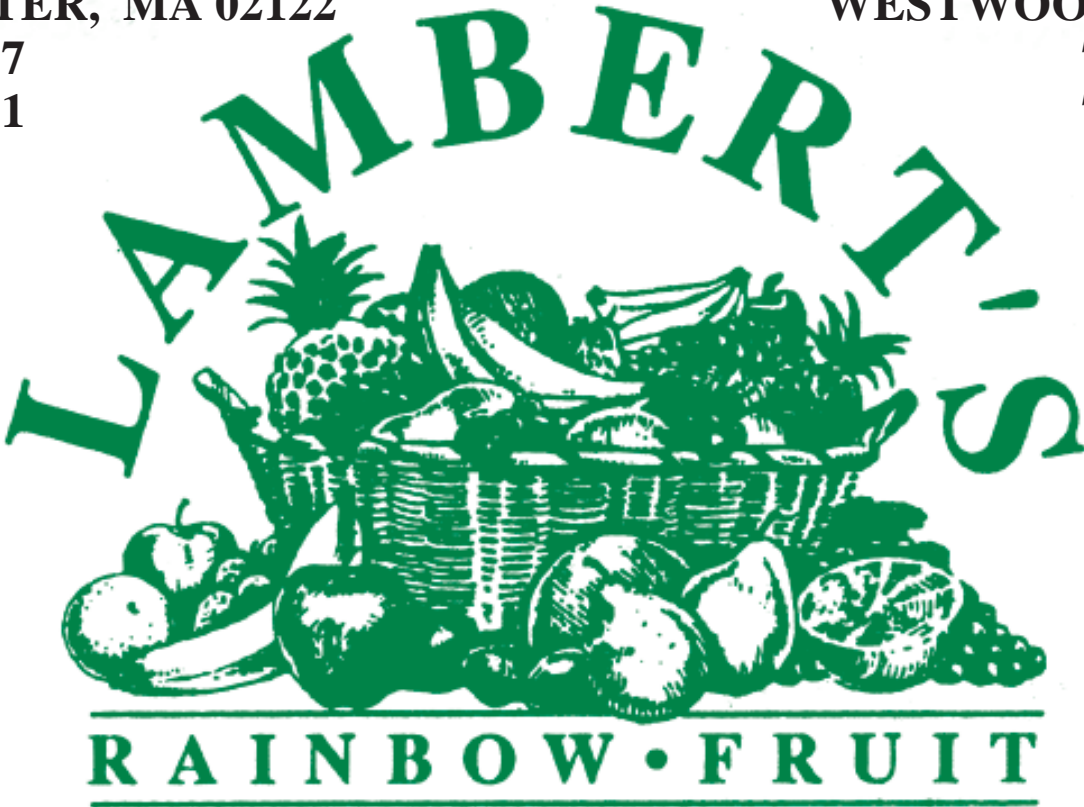
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NYC Mayor proposes using lease caps to circumvent court objection to forced greening of taxis

(Continued from page 1)

from achieving our goals. By offering incentives that will encourage more taxi fleet owners to purchase hybrids, we have found another avenue to reach our goal of greening our yellow cabs, improving our air quality, and reducing our carbon emissions. I'm pleased that Congressman Nadler and Council Member Yassky are partnering with us on the legislative front, and I want to thank them for their support."

"The recent federal court decision to block the greening of New York City's taxis is, I believe, not in keeping with the original spirit of federal environmental legislation," said Nadler. "Fuel efficient taxis don't simply represent a pie-in-the-sky futuristic luxury for New Yorkers, but a present-day necessity which will produce a meaningful reduction in our city's carbon emissions. Mayor Bloomberg's leadership on this issue warrants our support. I intend to introduce legislation in Congress to amend federal law — specifically the Clean Air Act and the Energy Policy and Conservation Act — in order to give states and localities the discretion to set stronger standards in exactly these types of circumstances. Green taxis will be a win-win scenario for everybody."

"Our goal from the beginning was to get fuel efficient taxis on the road using whatever appropriate methods required to achieve our goal," said TLC Commissioner Daus. "The new program will incentivize the purchase of cleaner vehicles,

while ensuring taxi drivers are not penalized because a taxicab owner is reluctant to make the wiser purchase of a hybrid vehicle. The 1551 hybrid taxicabs already on the road have saved their drivers lots of money, while contributing to cleaner air. This incentive package will help us take these advances to the next level, and help our city become a cleaner, healthier place."

"Greening the New York City taxi fleet is an absolute no-brainer," said Council Member Yassky. "When we announced a green taxis rule earlier this year, New York instantly became a national leader in sustainability. It is astonishing and sad that the taxi industry is still putting up roadblocks."

"Because they save drivers money, cut pollution on our sidewalks, and reduce our dependence on oil, hybrid taxis are a win-win-win for New York City," said Richard Kassel, director of the Natural Resources Defense Council's Clean Fuels and Vehicles Project. "It's time for Washington to update its rules so the City's hybrid taxi program can move forward."

Individual taxi owners have already begun to voluntarily upgrade to fuel efficient vehicles because of the substantial fuel cost savings. The new program targets the fleet owners, who do not pay fuel costs and comprise approximately 25 percent of taxicabs in New York City.

Incentives and disincentives

The purpose of the incentive and disincentive program is to

encourage fleet owners to purchase fuel efficient cars, while holding drivers harmless for the decision of the fleet owners.

The TLC regulates "lease caps," the amount a fleet or taxi owner may charge for the use of a taxicab or medallion license.

The incentive program will allow fleet owners to increase the lease cap fee charged to drivers in fuel efficient vehicles by \$3 per shift, which will offset the increased cost of purchasing a fuel efficient vehicle. The driver, while paying the increased lease cap fee, will still see significant savings due to the reduced fuel costs, which he or she pays. Taxicab drivers in fuel efficient vehicles achieve an average fuel savings of at least \$15 per shift, which adds up to about \$5000 a year.

The incentive will generate approximately \$2000 per year, per vehicle for fleet owners.

To further incentivize the use of fuel efficient taxicabs, the TLC will propose to decrease the lease cap fee an owner can charge a driver by \$12 per shift if the vehicle is a Crown Victoria or another non-fuel efficient vehicle, costing fleet owners approximately \$8500 per year, per vehicle.

The TLC will strictly enforce taxi leases to ensure drivers are not charged any additional fees by fleet owners.

The new lease caps will affect all taxicabs that are leased out for shift work, except accessible vehicles.

The new regulations will be presented for public hearing and vote at an upcoming public meet-

ing of the TLC and phase-in options will be considered.

Legislation

Congressman Nadler will sponsor legislation supported by the City that will amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to, at the very least, allow local governments to set fuel efficiency standards for the for-hire vehicles they license.

Council Member Yassky will explore City Council legislation that will examine reducing the required retirement age for Crown Victoria taxicabs [to 18 months] and increasing the required retirement age for fuel efficient vehicles to further incentivize the use of fuel efficient vehicles.

Legal strategy

The City will not appeal the

decision made last month by Judge Paul A. Crotty in the United States Southern District.

In July, the City filed an amicus brief in the appeal of *Green Mountain v. Vermont*. Later this month, the City will also file an amicus brief in *California v. EPA*. The outcome in these cases could put to rest the ability of states and localities to set more stringent standards for passenger cars on their streets. The States of California, New York, and Vermont along, with several environmental groups, are all parties in these cases.

Approximately 13,000 yellow taxicabs operate in New York City everyday, including 1551 fuel efficient taxicabs. ■

(Reprinted with permission from the *Taxi Insider*, NYC, November 2008)



The impala is a swift, graceful antelope that can leap up to 30 feet in a single bound.

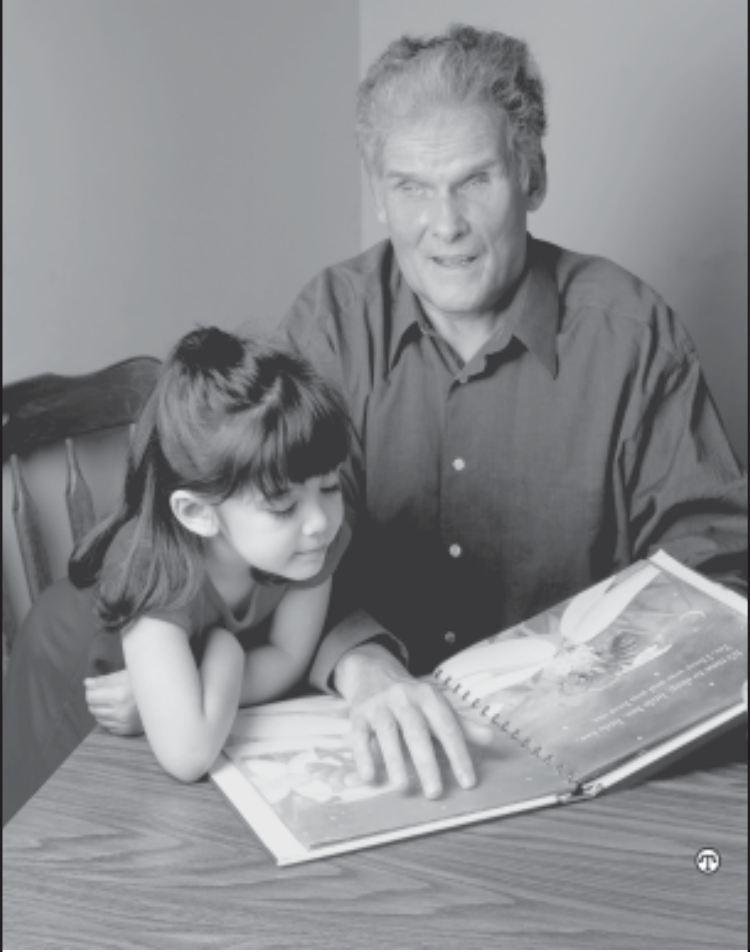
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Understanding the new Veterans Educational Assistance Act

(Continued from page 5)

days on active duty after September 10, 2001.

You may also be eligible if you were honorably discharged from active duty for a service-connected disability and you served 30 continuous days after September 10, 2001.

Q. When can I receive benefits under the Bill?

A. Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits are payable for training that begins on or after August 1, 2009. No payments can be made under this program for training pursued before that date.

Q. How much will I receive?

A. Based on your length of active-duty service, you may be entitled to a percentage of the following:

- Cost of tuition and fees, not to exceed the most expensive in-state undergraduate tuition at a public institution of higher education;

- Monthly housing allowance equal to the basic allowance for housing payable to a military E-5 with dependents. The amount of the housing allowance is based on the ZIP code of the school and is not payable to in-

dividuals training at half-time or less or attending distance learning;

- Yearly books and supplies stipend of up to \$1000 per year (paid to you); and

- A one-time payment of \$500 paid to certain individuals relocating from highly rural areas.

Q. How many months of assistance can I receive?

A. Generally, you may receive up to 36 months of benefits under the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

Q. How long am I eligible?

A. You will be eligible for benefits for 15 years from your last period of active duty of at least 90 consecutive days.

Q. Can I transfer my entitlement to my dependents?

A. If you are a member of the Armed Forces on August 1, 2009, the Department of Defense (DoD) may offer you the opportunity to transfer benefits to your spouse or dependent children. DoD and the military services will issue policy on entitlement to transferability benefit in the coming months.

For up-to-date information on this and other education benefits, visit www.gibill.va.gov. ■



Santa arrived at the Annual Cartier Holiday Party, held earlier this month at the Cartier Boutique on Newbury Street, with a very special gift — a \$511,000 diamond necklace from the Cartier Collection in New York. The annual VIP event has become a holiday tradition for more than 200 invited guests, many representing Boston cultural organizations. Guests were given the opportunity to have their photo taken sitting on Santa's lap while wearing the rare jewels. This year's selection was the "High Jewelry Diamond Cluster Necklace set in 18K Yellow Gold" consisting of nine pear shape diamonds and 380 brilliant cut diamonds with a total weight 56.83 carats. Seen here are Boston Ballet Artistic Director Mikko Nissinen, Tonya Mezrich (wearing the \$511,000. diamond necklace), Cartier Boutique Manager Cedric Tonello and the famous Cartier Santa Claus. Photo by Roger Farrington.

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Public gets to dine and dance in style at the Taj Boston Super Club

Throughout the year, The Dining Room at the Taj Boston is the exclusive setting for special private events but on a few evenings, the public is invited in to dine and dance at the new Taj Boston Supper Club.

The Dining Room décor is renowned — ornately decorated and gilded ceilings, dramatic columns, richly draped windows overlooking the Public Garden and Newbury St. and the original Czechoslovakian cobalt blue and crystal chandeliers. Inspired by the dining room of King Ludvig I of Bavaria, it creates a stunning yet intimate atmosphere.

In years past, Arthur Fiedler and members of the Boston Pops played here. Now guests socialize and are swept onto the dance floor by the music of a nine-piece orchestra. Executive Chef, Franck Steigerwald, creates a menu reflecting classic favorites and appealing surprises. The Taj Boston chefs will be present at a tempting buffet of culinary displays, including an array of specialty salads, raw seafood bar, pasta selections including shrimp risotto with parmesan, white truffle and asparagus, a carving station with prime rib of beef and the grand finale of artistic pastries and

miniature tarts.

Dates are Fridays, February 14, 28; March 13, 27 and April 3, 17. The Taj Boston Supper Club begins at 7 pm with dancing from 7 to 11 pm. The special Valentine's Supper Club includes a four-course dinner. For reservations, call 617-598-5255. Attire is evening elegance, jackets are required for the gentlemen. The Taj Boston Supper Club in The Dining Room Package encourages guests to continue the festivities into the weekend. It includes a deluxe room for two with entrance to the supper club and dinner for two. ■



Rick Hewatt, president of Atlanta Checker Cab, has been elected president of the Taxicab, Limousine and Paratransit Association.

Third-generation taxi owner elected TLPA president

Rick Hewatt, president of Atlanta Checker Cab Company, has been elected the new president of the Taxicab, Limousine and Paratransit Association (TLPA), the nation's largest and most influential trade organization representing the private, for-hire transportation industry.

Hewatt has been a member of the TLPA for 40 years, and he attended his first meeting almost 25 years ago. A member of the TLPA Board of Directors since 2001, he serves on the Board of Directors of the association's non-profit charitable foundation. Previously, he was named the TLPA's Large Fleet Operator of the Year for 2003 and he has co-chaired several technology committees.

Hewatt's grandfather, Richard F. Hewatt, Sr., started Atlanta Checker Cab in 1947 with one car. During the 50's, Hewatt's father, Richard F. Hewatt, Jr. assumed management of the company, which flourished, under his directive for over 40 years, until his semi-retirement in 2000. Rick Hewatt, born into the taxicab business in 1959, started working for the company in 1973 at the age of 14. He spent his summers and holidays pumping gas and cleaning cars. He continued working for the company part time as a mechanic and driver while attending high school and college. Hewatt graduated from Middle Georgia College in Cochran, Ga., after earning his degree in business administration. He began full time for Atlanta Checker Cab in 1982, and since then has worked in every facet of the taxicab business: call taker, dispatcher, driver, mechanic, public relations, business promotions, and administration.

When asked what distinguishes Checker Cab from other taxi services, Hewatt simply states, "Service." Adding, "The Hewatt family considers customer service our top priority so Atlanta Checker Cab provides the very best taxi service in Georgia." He defines his philosophy in running the company in one word, "Pride. Pride in your company, pride in your industry, pride in your character."

His goal for Atlanta Checker Cab is to "continue to grow with Atlanta and to maintain the Hewatt family-owned and operated status through generations to come." He enthusiastically asserts, "Atlanta Checker Cab continues to lead the way when it comes to adopting the latest technological advances for operating the company at maximum efficiency. Checker Cab was the first company in Atlanta to install computerized dispatching, in-vehicle security cameras to maximize customer and driver safety, utilize Global Positioning System (GPS), a satellite-based navigation system, and real-time credit card processing for customer convenience."

Hewatt's involvement in community and civic affairs include attendance at Atlanta Conventions & Visitors Bureau, Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, and the Atlanta City Council meetings. His membership on the Technical Committee of the Atlanta Regional Commission helps coordinate the growing needs of the city's 10 county metropolitan area. As a Board member of Team Georgia, an anti-drunk driving and driver safety coalition, and the Atlanta Taxicab Company Owners Association, Hewatt has spent more than 22 years promoting and participating in the Free Ride Home Program, providing free rides to inebriated patrons of Atlanta's Bar and Restaurant industry.

The Taxicab, Limousine, & Paratransit Association established in 1917, is an international organization representing owners and managers of taxicab, limousine, sedan, airport shuttle, paratransit, and non-emergency medical fleets. It consists of more than 1000 member companies operating more than 100,000 passenger vehicles, which transport over two million passengers each day, more than 900 million passengers annually. ■



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Consumer Corner

Tips for saving money at the pump

As the economy continues to slow down, it might pay for drivers to follow suit.

That's the advice from experts who say that driving with the cruise control set to 65 mph, rather than driving aggressively and at speeds of 75 to 85, can improve fuel economy by as much as 35 percent.

Additionally, simple things, like lightening the load in your trunk and taking luggage racks off your car to improve its aerodynamics, can improve efficiency by 21 percent.

The following ideas might help as well. They come from *Edmunds.com*, which offers tips on saving fuel, keeping your car well maintained and getting the most out of your vehicle:

- **Cut The AC:** Driving with the windows open instead of using the air conditioner can boost fuel economy by 9.5 percent.
- **Drop The Tailgate:** In a test run by the Web site, driving a pickup truck with the tailgate down (with cruise control set for 65 mph) brought a 1 percent improvement in fuel economy.
- **Don't Idle:** A car gets zero miles per gallon while motion-



Driving habits could affect your car's fuel efficiency.

less with the engine running.

- **Plan Your Trips:** Since engines don't operate at maximum efficiency until warmed up, try to map out your errands so that you drive to your farthest destination first and then make your other stops on the way home. Driving two or three miles and then stopping and letting the car cool down before making another short trip wastes fuel.
- **Stay On Top Of Maintenance:** Out-of-spec suspension alignments, clogged air filters and underinflated tires cut fuel efficiency. Be sure to bring your car in for regular maintenance, especially if the "check engine light" is on.

As a final tip, remember to follow maintenance recommendations in your car's owner's manual. Something as basic as adding heavier-weight oil, like 10W-40 rather than the auto-maker-recommended 10W-20, can affect fuel efficiency.

For more information, visit www.edmunds.com. ■

SAFETY SENSE

Protecting the lives of first responders

When police officers respond to a crime and face down an assailant, chemistry has their backs, quite literally.

Just ask Officer Kyle Russell of the Alexandria, Va., police force. Russell had pulled over a motorist for driving erratically in early September. As the officer approached the passenger



When police officers respond to a crime, the chemistry embedded in the bulletproof vest protects them.

side of the car on foot, the driver fired his handgun at point-blank range into the officer's chest.

Kyle survived because he was wearing his bullet-resistant vest constructed of aramid fibers, a class of strong, heat-resistant synthetic fibers that stretch to absorb the force of the bullet. The vest covers the chest and back of the officer, protecting the internal organs.

"The bullet went all the way to the last level of the vest," a police spokeswoman said.

(Continued on page 29)

Convention Center considers going solar

(Continued from page 13)

The project team includes member experts in the areas of architectural and structural design, mechanical engineering, financial analysis and modeling, code conformance, and construction cost estimation. The individual member firms include: Solar Design Associates of Harvard, Lemessurier Consultants, Inc. of Cambridge, RG Vanderweil Engineers of Boston, R.W. Sullivan of Boston, Keville Enterprises of Boston, Tom Lynott - A/E/C Resources of Cambridge, and Simpson, Gumpertz and Heger, Inc. of Waltham. ■

Proposed toll hikes will impact public safety

(Continued from page 11)

ing this important matter. I am committed to working toward a plan that prioritizes the public safety and economic needs of the City of Boston. As the transportation hub of the Commonwealth, Boston and its residents deserve to be fully informed and included in this ongoing process. ■

Candy — the perfect gift

As the year draws near the end, the Phillips Family of businesses would like to thank all of our suppliers and partners, and we look forward to continued business success together. We also would like you to consider giving chocolates from our Phillips Candy House, as a way to thank valued clients or recognize hardworking employees. At Phillips Candy House we offer a variety of delicious ways of saying thanks. Designed to match every taste and budget, our distinctive gifts of handmade chocolates and signature specialties make it easy to delight everyone on your list.



Truffles are a wonderful holiday delight.

Our corporate sales specialists would be pleased to work with you to customize your gift. Elegant packaging with festive ribbon designed to complement your corporate colors is just the beginning. It's also easy to use your company's logo on chocolate molds, foil squares or medallions, and ribbon to create a lasting impression.

Founded in 1925, we continue to make artisan chocolates and other confections by hand and in small batches, using only the finest and freshest ingredients. Using our original family recipes and methods, all of our chocolates are freshly made, without the use of preservatives, ensuring purity and flavors at their natural best. When you give a gift of fine chocolates from Phillips Candy House you can feel confident that it will be welcomed warmly, and reflect upon your good taste.

The holidays are rapidly approaching, so don't delay. Call the chocolate experts at Phillips Candy House at (800) 722-0905, or visit our website at www.phillipschocolate.com. We handle all gift and shipping lists large and small, work with most carriers and offer courier service.

Sincerely,
Mary Ann Nagle
3rd Generation Chocolatier
Phillips Candy House

As a business partner, you save 10 percent on all orders. Use the code BP online, or by phone.



Insulin, which diabetics use to control their blood sugar levels, was discovered at the University of Toronto.

Happy Holidays and Best Wishes to the Taxi Industry during the Holiday Season



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www.midtownhotel.com

Happy holidays, brought to you by energy

(Continued on page 6)

suming lights, appliances and gadgets have become necessities in our everyday lives, not luxuries, 365 days a year. The result is an ever-growing demand for energy. While some people see this as a problem, it's actually a tremendous sign of progress. As energy consumption increases, the standard of living in the United States also rises. We're seeing similar trends all over the world as billions of people aspire to live as well as we do. For the 1.6 billion people living without access to electricity in their homes, rising energy demand isn't a problem-it's a solution.

Meeting future needs
Nonetheless, it's important to

be mindful of our energy consumption. The good news is we've made great strides in energy efficiency and conservation here at home. For example, new LED holiday lights use 10 percent of the energy of mini lights. Similarly, through updates and standard-setting for appliances, cars and high-tech gadgets, U.S. energy intensity has fallen by a little more than half over the last 50 years. Not to mention the growth of alternative energy sources, which will also play a role in moderating demand.

The reality is that increased efficiency, conservation and alternative energy use is not enough. The U.S. government predicts that traditional sources of energy -coal, oil and natural gas-will continue to meet the

majority of our energy needs well into the future. When the holiday cheer ends and a new Congress and president turn their attention to energy, they must recognize the need for policies that promote all forms of energy and take advantage of America's vast resources.

Energy literally helps brighten our lives around the holidays and beyond.

For more information, visit www.EnergyTomorrow.org/DemandinPerspective. ■

(Wendell Cox is principal of *Demographia*, an international public policy firm, and a visiting professor at the *Conservatoire National des Arts et M•tiers in Paris*. He is currently working with the *American Petroleum Institute on energy demand trends*.)



Though only about 10 inches high, the Lhasa Apso was sometimes used as a watchdog!

Season's Greetings from



The Courtyard by Marriott South Boston

63 R Boston Street
Boston, MA 02125
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Fax (617) 436-0866



A retreat for families with children suffering from cancer and other life-threatening diseases.



Camp Sunshine has provided a unique psychosocial support program for over 1700 families with children suffering from life-threatening illnesses since it was founded in 1984. The program offers these emotionally exhausted families a week of support, fun and hope, all free of charge, and helps them cope with the severe stress a serious illness brings to all family members.

Camp Sunshine plays a critical role in revitalizing that are facing one of life's cruelist and most tragic challenges. It is a program that clearly works, and that fills a tremendous need for the attending families. Please call the Camp Sunshsine office ay (207) 655-3300 for further information on the many ways you can help.



RR #1, Box 712, Casco, Maine 04105

Area hotels offering special New Year's Eve Packages

(Continued from page 11)

tables for parties of six or more) and dance until 2 am. You are just steps away from your room, most with a private balcony and all with a fireplace. Go for a swim in our heated year round pool and start the New Year with a brunch buffet in Raffael's at Nantasket. Say Goodbye to 2008 in style and comfort.

Fairmont Copley Plaza
138 St. James Ave.
Boston, MA 02116
617-267-5300
www.fairmont.com/copleyplaza/

The Fairmont Copley Plaza's New Year's Eve Gala Celebration Package includes overnight accommodations in an elegant guestroom and a sumptuous five-course dinner in the award-winning Oak Room, including a champagne toast. Following dinner, enjoy the live entertainment and dancing at the Oak Bar. Dinner seatings will begin at 8:30 p.m. Guests may upgrade to Fairmont Gold, the hotel's exclusive lifestyle offering which features complimentary breakfast, evening hors d'oeuvres, an honor bar, comfortable guest lounge, private registration and its own service staff.

The Fairmont Copley Plaza, centrally located in the Back Bay neighborhood of Boston, has been a symbol of Boston's rich history and elegance since its gala opening in 1912. Now, with the completion of an extensive renovation of each of the 383 guestrooms and suites, The Fairmont Copley Plaza shines more brightly than ever before.

Heritage House Hotel
259 Main Street
Hyannis, MA 02601
508-775-7000
www.heritagehousehotel.com

The Heritage House is offering two New Year's Eve Packages this year, the Nantucket Ballroom grand buffet and the Chauncy's elegant plated dinner. Both packages include accommodations, dinner, live band, hot and cold hors d' oeuvres, champagne toast at midnight, hats and party favors, extensive breakfast buffet the next morning, late check out up to 6:00 pm.

The heritage House Hotel is Cape Cod's best location, on Hyannis Main Street, waterfront district, across from a regional transportation center and one block from JFK Museum, harbor, and ferries to Martha's Vineyard

and Nantucket.

Hotel Commonwealth
500 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, MA 02215
617-933-5000
www.hotelcommonwealth.com

Start a grand New Year's tradition with an uncommon experience. Hotel Commonwealth's New Year's Eve package includes deluxe overnight accommodations, New Year's Day brunch for two in Eastern Standard Kitchen and Drinks Restaurant, two First Night Buttons, granting admission to Boston's most celebrated party of the year, and complimentary valet overnight parking.

The 150-room Hotel Commonwealth is located in the heart of Boston's Kenmore Square, steps away from Fenway Park, Boston University, and world-renowned medical institutions. Opened in May 2003, it was named Best New Business Hotel in the World by *Forbes.com*, and has been awarded Four Diamonds by AAA consecutively. Hotel Commonwealth features oversized luxurious guestrooms, VoIP technology, complimentary wi-fi, full concierge services, exercise salon, and L'Occitane toiletries among other amenities.

Hotel Indigo
399 Grove Street
Newton, MA 02462
617-969-5300
www.newtonboutiquehotel.com

Hotel Indigo and BOKX 109 New Year's Extravaganza includes overnight room accommodations, dinner at BOKX 109 American Prime, midnight champagne toast and breakfast for two the next morning.

Hyatt Harborside at Boston's Logan Airport
101 Harborside Dr.
Boston, MA 02128
617-568-1234
www.harborside.hyatt.com

Ring in 2009 overlooking Boston's Skyline at Hyatt Harborside where Executive Chef Ary Schalick will prepare an elaborate three course plated dinner served from the edge of Boston's historic harbor in the Harborside Grill accompanied by the Groove Jazz Ensemble. After dinner, dance with the stars in the chic Skye Lounge to the tunes of DJ Joe Toto of Groove Entertainment. At midnight, guests will enjoy a champagne toast overlooking the water illuminated with an impressive fireworks display.

Discover unexpected serenity

at Hyatt Harborside located on historic Boston Harbor. With 270 newly renovated rooms including seven suites, the Hyatt Harborside offers superb amenities including: state-of-the-art fitness center, heated indoor pool upgraded with saline mineral system, Harborwalk —a picturesque 3/4 mile waterside jogging trail, — Business Center, unparalleled views of Boston from the chic new Harborside Grill and Patio, complimentary airport shuttle 24 hours a day.

Renaissance Boston Waterfront Hotel
606 Congress Street
Boston, MA 02210
617-338-4111
www.renaissancehotels.com

The Renaissance Boston Waterfront Hotel is the city's newest hotel. It reflects the surrounding vibrancy of Boston Harbor and the ocean. The hotel is one block from the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center, and within walking distance to Boston's many historic sites, museums, and the Financial District. Boston's Back Bay and Logan International Airport are just minutes away. The New Year's Package includes overnight accommodations for two, dinner for two in the 606 Congress Restaurant, breakfast for two, use of pool and health club and a late (4 pm) checkout.

The Langham, Boston
250 Franklin St.
Boston, MA 02110
617-451-1900
www.boston.langhamhotels.com

Spend the last evening of 2008 with enchanting accommodations at The Langham's New Year's Eve Rest and Rejuvenate Package then start off 2009 with a Rejuvenation Brunch. The chefs have created some extra special recipes that will prepare your body and soul for 2009. Brunch includes a lavish buffet with full carving and dessert stations with your choice of a Bloody Mary or a non-alcoholic beverage.

The Rejuvenation Brunch package includes luxury overnight accommodations, rejuvenation brunch for two on New Year's Day, valet parking, two buttons to First Night activities, bottle of Dom Perignon Champagne in room upon arrival, full use of Chuan Body + Soul facilities, including fitness studio and indoor lap swimming pool, and a late (4 pm) checkout. ■

Ambitious plans to increase college grads in city public schools

(Continued from page 2)

within six years.

To achieve the goals, Menino emphasized the need to focus on three key areas related to college success: “Getting Ready, Getting In, and Getting Through.” Partners involved in the initiative have committed to creating and expanding supports to ensure that BPS students (1) get ready: are academically prepared to succeed in college; (2) get in: apply for and gain access to higher education, including financial aid; and (3) get through: receive the supports necessary to earn a degree prepared to enter the workforce.

Getting ready

- Ensure rigorous instruction and a challenging core curriculum for every student in every Boston public school..
- Double the number of Advanced Placement (AP) classes in Boston public high schools in five years. By 2012, every Boston high school student will have taken at least one AP or Honors course.
- Double the number of students in dual enrollment courses by 2012. Begin with the creation of 8 to 10 new partnerships between Boston high schools and colleges/universities.
- Offer Boston families access to International Baccalaureate for students to engage in high-level college preparatory coursework.
- Provide year-round access to credit recovery classes to all Boston high school students.
- Expand administration of ACCUPLACER test beginning in Grade 11 to assess students’ readiness for college-level courses, and provide the necessary academic supports to reduce the need for remedial courses in the first year of college.
- Continue the commitment to providing workplace experiences for high school students to develop workplace skills, academic motivation and career aspiration

Getting in

- By 2012, achieve combined average SAT score of 1650 district-wide by increasing access to SAT preparation programs.
- Provide \$1 million in additional financial support to increase college access for BPS students.
- Redesign guidance and college counseling services to ensure access, alignment and consistency.
- Release time for SAT preparation and other college readiness activities during summer jobs experiences. (

Getting through

- Offer college students comprehensive support services, such as effective transition experiences, mentoring, financial aid counseling, and college success skills.
- Develop academic and social programs to help ensure college retention and graduation.
- Conduct proactive outreach to connect college students to programs and services, especially during the critical first year.
- Provide jobs and internships for BPS graduates attending local colleges and universities

related to their courses of study and career aspirations.

The Boston Foundation announced a commitment of \$1 million to support the initiative. Specific investments will include guidance and transition support, academic enrichment, and financial aid awareness and education. Key nonprofit partners include ACCESS, Bottom Line, The Education Resources Institute (TERI), Higher Education Resource Center, Hyde Square Task Force, Private Industry Council, and others.

Speaking on behalf of private colleges and universities, Northeastern University President Dr. Joseph E. Aoun emphasized the need for higher education to work closely with K-12 school districts to prepare students for the transition to college and to ensure their success upon enrollment. He said that during the current economic downturn, Boston’s institutions of higher education must strengthen their community engagement.

“This is not a time for retrenchment. It is a time to redouble our efforts,” said Aoun. “Creating paths to learning is both a moral obligation and a matter of economic sense. Higher education is the pipeline of intellectual capital that will help Boston and the nation recover and prosper. Northeastern’s resources have long been at the service of the community, and especially the Boston Public Schools.”

Boston is the first city to conduct such an extensive analysis of its public school graduates’ outcomes after high school. The report was prepared for the Boston Private Industry Council and the Boston Public Schools and was funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York and the Boston Foundation.

Neil Sullivan, Executive Director of the Private Industry Council, and Dr. Andrew Sum, lead researcher on the report, highlighted some of its key findings, including:

- Among the 2964 students who graduated from the Boston Public Schools in June 2000, approximately 64 percent (1904 students) enrolled in college. Boston’s college-going rate remains one of the highest in the country, including both urban and suburban districts. Among the BPS Class of 2006, 66.9 percent of graduates went on to college, compared to a national average of 64 percent.
- Of the BPS graduates from the Class of 2000 who enrolled in college (1904), 35.5 percent (675 students) earned a degree within seven years of high school graduation. An additional 14 percent (267 students) were still enrolled and working toward a degree.
- College graduation rates for black and Hispanic college enrollees from BPS are substantially lower than those for white and Asian students (28.2 percent and 23.9 percent versus 53.3 percent and 52 percent, respectively).
- Women enrollees have a higher college graduation rate than men (36.6 percent compared to 33.9 percent). The percentage of female BPS graduates who enroll in college (67.9 percent) is significantly higher than that of males (59.9 percent). ■



The thirty-fifth annual Town Fair Tire World of Wheels will fill Boston’s Bayside Expo Center with more than 300 dazzling custom vehicles of all types, celebrity appearances and special attractions the weekend of January 9 - 11.

World of Wheels rolls into Boston

More than 300 dazzling custom vehicles ranging from hot rods, to collectibles, to tuners, and personal appearances by celebrities highlight the thirty-fifth annual Town Fair Tire World of Wheels show at Boston’s Bayside Expo Center the weekend of Jan. 9-11.

The show’s color and flash definitely come from all the custom vehicles, but additional attractions also include Super Rod magazine’s “Hemi Nation,” New England’s largest automotive memorabilia show, action arena featuring trick unicycle shows

and personal appearances by celebrities who pose for pictures with spectators and sign autographs for them:

- Jason Earles, who plays Jackson on TV’s “Hannah Montana,” Saturday only, 1-4 and 7-9 pm..
- Wolf and Venom, who star on TV’s American Gladiators,” Saturday only, 1-4 and 7-9 pm.
- Chip Foose, who stars on TV’s “Overhaulin,” Saturday only, 1-4 and 7-9 pm.

Town Fair Tire World of Wheels show hours are Friday, Jan. 9, 5-10:30 pm., Saturday,

Jan. 10, 10 am.-10:30 pm., and Sunday, Jan. 11, 10 am.-7 pm.

The Town Fair Tire World of Wheels holds the weekend attendance record of more than 100,000 spectators at Boston’s Bayside Expo Center and is part of the GM Performance Parts Show Car Series sanctioned by the International Show Car Association and produced by Championship Auto Shows, Inc.

For information, call 508-238-2800 until show week, then 617-474-6000 or visit www.worldofwheels.com. ■

Win a free wedding at N. E. Marriotts

Bridal couples who book a wedding at a participating New England Marriott, Renaissance or Courtyard hotel now through April 1, can enter to win a free wedding (valued up to \$25,000), thanks to Marriott’s second annual New England Wedding Giveaway.

To enter the wedding giveaway, couples must submit a short video essay that addresses the following questions: “how did you meet?”; “how did

you get engaged?”; and “what would winning this contest mean to you?”.

Video entries will be judged by a third-party panel of wedding experts, consisting of hotel vendor partners. Entries will be judged on: originality, creativity, faithfulness to theme and credibility.

To see last year’s lucky winning couple, Gail Brissenden and Paul Asiskis, visit www.newenglandmarriottweddings.com.

Participating hotels include: Boston Marriott Burlington Hotel, Boston Marriott Cambridge Hotel, Boston Marriott Copley Place Hotel, Boston Marriott Long Wharf Hotel, Boston Marriott Newton Hotel, Boston Marriott Peabody Hotel, Boston Marriott Quincy Hotel, Newport Marriott Hotel, Renaissance Boston Waterfront Hotel and the

(Continued on page 35)

Season’s Greetings from



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Small businesses to get big break on energy costs with new city buying group

(Continued from page 16)

small business energy broker and consultant.

Many of Boston's small businesses utilize major utilities such as NSTAR or National Grid for their energy supply, and pay a pre-determined cost for access to the market, as well as the cost a company charges to bring the service to the

customer's door.

Boston Buying Power participants will still pay their supplier for the delivery but will pay less for the energy itself because the partnership will access the energy market directly through experienced wholesale market negotiators. A management fee for organizing and maintaining the buying pool will be paid directly to

Boston Buying Power by the selected supplier, and this fee will be built into a business's monthly energy price.

In addition to the procurement of energy, Boston Buying Power will also allow businesses to connect to programs and services that will help with the process of reducing and managing their consumption of gas and electric, creating and increasing energy efficiency within the Boston business sector.

"Boston Buying Power will combine the purchasing power of hundreds — possibly thousands — of commercial and industrial customers across the Boston area, in order to give customers incredible benefits ranging from low pricing, to long-term rate stability, to the most advanced system of energy and utility management tools and services," explained Scott Stiner, Chief Operating Officer for Taylor. "Within twelve months, we think Boston Buying Power could be the single largest purchaser of energy in Massachusetts."

The announcement, made at Model Hardware, a participating Allston Village business, came just a day after the Boston Redevelopment Authority released the results of a survey that found that the majority of the City's small businesses are struggling to cope with rising energy costs and are interested in taking steps to reduce their environmental impacts.

More information can be found at www.bostonbuyingpower.com, or by calling 888.317.3923, or by visiting the City of Boston's website, www.cityofboston.gov. ■

Gift card tips for holiday shoppers

Before buying a gift card this holiday season, take some time to consider exactly what you're giving.

Gift cards provide convenience and flexibility for shoppers and recipients — but they also come with terms and conditions.

Experts at the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) encourage you to read disclosures so you know the terms and conditions that affect the card's value, including:

- Fees, including those that apply after the sale and reduce its value;
- Expiration date;
- What to do if a card is lost or stolen;
- What to do if there are problems with the card; and
- Where the card can be used.

If disclosures are not stated on the gift card or its packaging, check for a toll-free number or web site.

Unexpected fees and complex terms may frustrate consumers, but the top reason people lose money with gift cards is simply not using them.

In 2006, the value of unused gift cards reached an estimated \$8 billion. According to Consumer Reports, more than one in four people reported not using a card they received that year.

Not all gift cards are the same. Some cards issued by retailers can only be used at a particular store or chain. Others, such as cards issued by banks, may be used at multiple locations. Because these cards vary, their terms may also vary.

If you have a complaint about a gift card issued by a national bank and can't resolve the issue with the bank directly, contact the OCC's Customer Assistance Group by calling (800) 613-6743 or visiting www.HelpWithMyBank.gov. ■

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for a joyous holiday season
and a happy New Year.

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DECK THE HALLS — Lambert’s Rainbow Fruit, with two locations at 77 Morressey Blvd, Dorchester and 220 Providence Hgwy., Westwood, is once again decked out for the Christmas season with a full selection of holidays plants, wreaths and Christmas Trees. On the left, Nino Lambert and Danny Gomes get to take a short break from helping customers select and trim Christmas trees. The view on the right shows the huge selection of holiday greenery available to spruce up your home for the Christmas season. Photos by Bob LeBovidge.

Protecting lives of first responders

(Continued from page 26)

While the officer received a very serious bruise from the force, “the bulletproof vest definitely saved his life.”

Since 1975, aramid-containing armor, including bullet-resistant vests, flak jackets and helmets, has helped save the lives of at least 3,000 law enforcement officers and countless American service members serving in global hot spots like Iraq and Afghanistan.

“The body armor vest is as essential to police work as the gun and badge,” said Chief Michael Mastronardy, a former president of the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police.

This protective gear had its genesis in chemistry laboratories and in the imaginations of some of America’s most prized scientists.

Chemistry also protects firefighters. Firefighters wear garments made from heat-resistant textile materials. This heat- and flame-resistant plastic helps protect firefighters at temperatures up to 350 degrees Celsius, or 662 degrees Fahrenheit. Many fire departments use helmets with a lightweight, pro-

tective shell made from high-performance thermoplastic. Some face shields are made of high-performance plastic, which offers excellent impact resistance, optical clarity, ultraviolet protection and abrasion resistance.

This protective equipment is put to use on a regular basis. In 2007, there were 1,557,500 fires reported in the U.S., according to the National Fire Protection Association.

“The brave men and women of the military, law enforcement and emergency response communities deserve the best protective equipment available, and we’re developing it for them,” said Cal Dooley, president and CEO of the American Chemistry Council, which represents the nation’s major chemistry companies. “We want to help protect them with our products because they devote themselves to protecting us and our families.”

For additional information, visit www.americanchemistry.com. ■

Empowering students to go green

(Continued from page 20)

will receive prizes for their participation.

Top-performing teams, as judged by a panel of environmental experts and science educators, will earn cash, teacher education materials and unique “Discovery Experience” trips.

The grand prize-winning team will receive a prize package that includes an appearance on Planet Green, Discovery’s 24/7 eco-lifestyle network and a trip accompanied by a Discovery TV personality. For more information, visit www.wecanchange.com. ■

Carriage News

can help in your search for new business

To place your advertisement in *Carriage News*, call Carl Witten, publisher, at 617-268-8080 or 617-288-3535.



This has been a tough year for all Americans — but especially for our troops and veterans:

Wounded heroes slipping into poverty as they wait for VA benefits.
Reservists returning home to find themselves jobless and hopeless.
Military families facing foreclosures in record numbers.

This Christmas, thank our heroes for the gift of freedom with your donation to the VFW.

The demand for our programs is higher than ever. The VFW is rapidly responding to the crisis and stretching every dollar to the limit. But we can barely keep up. Your tax-deductible gift right now provides immediate help like:

- Free phone time, to keep heroes in Iraq and Afghanistan connected with loved ones.
- Emergency assistance for military families who can’t pay the rent, feed their children or cover other necessities.
- VA benefits assistance, so our disabled veterans get the benefits they need to survive.

I know the economy is having an impact on you.—.but please we can’t do it without you.

You will make a huge difference by remembering to support our veterans and troops.

Thank you for supporting our troops and remembering our veterans.

Season’s Greetings

to the Greater Boston Cab Drivers and Their Families from



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www.topofthehub.net
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We would like to thank the Greater Boston cab drivers for recommending Top of the Hub Restaurant for your dining pleasure and entertainment.

To place your ad in *Carriage News*,
call Carl Witten at 617-268-8080.

*Peace and Goodwill to all
as we celebrate our
182nd Holiday Season*


— The Milano Family

Did You Know That

- The Union Oyster House is the oldest restaurant in continuous service in the U.S.
- It is the earliest standing brick building in Boston. For more than 250 years, it has stood on Union Street as a major local landmark.
- In 1742, the building housed importer Hope Capen's fancy dress goods business, known colorfully as "At the Sign of the Cornfields."
- In 1771, from this site, printer Isaiah Thomas published his newspaper, "The Massachusetts Spy," long known as the oldest newspaper in the United States.
- In 1775, Capen's silk and dry goods store became headquarters for Ebenezer Hancock and Federal troops received their "war wages" in this official pay station.
- In 1796, the future king of France, Louis Philippe, lived on the second floor. Exiled from his country, he earned his living by teaching French to many of Boston's fashionable young ladies.
- 1826 marked the end of Capen's Dry Goods Store and the beginning of Arwood and Bacon's establishment. The new owners installed the now world renowned semi-circular Oyster Bar where Daniel Webster was a constant customer.
- The toothpick was first used in the U.S. at the Union Oyster House.
- In 2003, it was designated a National Historic Landmark.



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Spotlight On Health

Addressing a “painful”
communication gap

A nationwide survey found that a sizable gap exists between patients and healthcare professionals when it comes to understanding and discussing pain.

To address this discrepancy, a new coalition of leading pain management organizations has formed to improve how patients and healthcare professionals communicate with each other.

The Let's Talk Pain Coalition is the first of its kind to unite the perspectives of patients, caregivers and healthcare professionals to encourage people to talk more about pain, listen actively and act in ways that improve care for the millions of people who live with pain. The organizations behind Let's Talk Pain have created a new interactive Web site, www.letstalkpain.org, to provide visitors with comprehensive information and tools to help enhance the dialogue between those affected by pain and healthcare professionals.

Among other resources, the site offers videos highlighting patient and healthcare professional success stories, communication checklists and pain definitions. Here are just a few of the tips the Coalition suggests for improving the pain dialogue:

- For Patients**
- Don't be afraid to speak up. Only you know the extent of your pain.
 - Download a pain journal to record the frequency and intensity of your pain.
 - Take note of how well your treatment plan is working and what makes your pain worse or better.
 - Bring a relative or friend to your appointments for support and to help take notes and remember what was said.
 - Become familiar with pain terms and conditions and learn more about how pain is as-



An interactive new web site may help open channels of communication regarding pain.

sessed.

For Healthcare Professionals

- Developing open lines of communication with patients is critical to achieving successful treatment outcomes.

- Know that simply acknowledging a patient's pain has been shown to have profound therapeutic results.

Leading pain expert Dr. Scott Fishman, chair and president of the American Pain Foundation and chief of the Division of Pain Medicine, and professor of anesthesiology at the University of California at Davis, offers communication tips for healthcare professionals on the site, and discusses the impact of treatment side effects and different approaches to opioid therapies.

Founding members of the Let's Talk Pain Coalition are the American Pain Foundation, the American Society for Pain Management Nursing, and the American Academy of Pain Management. PriCara(tm), Division of Ortho-McNeil-Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc. is the sponsor of the Coalition.

For more information, visit www.letstalkpain.org. The site encourages visitors to share their own pain stories and provides access to the Coalition's pain experts. ■

Seasons
Greetings

TO THE
TAXI INDUSTRY
FROM



1234 Soldiers Field Road
Boston, MA
(Allston/Brighton Area,
minutes from Harvard
Square, Cambridge)
Tel: 617-254-1234

HINTS FOR HOMEOWNERS

Quick ways to cut energy bills

It seems the right storm window might help you weather high energy costs. The U.S. Department of Energy now reports that a good storm window can cut an exterior window's energy loss by as much as 50 percent. Add to that the fact that the average-size storm window costs about \$40, compared to having the same-size replacement window installed for \$400 to \$600, and you might see how savings could quickly add up.

Indeed, storm windows can pay for themselves in just three years through energy savings. It can take 20 or more years for replacement windows to do the same. Experts say that if you can read a tape measure and use a power screwdriver or drill, you can install storm windows yourself-right over your existing windows. That's not always the case with large or heavy re-

placement products. And because most styles are designed to install over "double hung" windows that open and close by moving up and down, storms generally have both glass and screens and can be left on your home year-round. Storm windows can result in a less drafty and more energy-efficient home because they provide an extra layer of insulating glass over existing win-

dows. Additionally, storm windows can work on picture windows, sliders or basement window openings-areas often overlooked for energy loss. Quality brands of storm windows can be found at all major home centers near the "mill-work" department. To find out if storm windows will work for you and to learn how to measure for them, visit StormWindowsSaveMoney.com. ■



Storm windows can pay for themselves in energy savings after just three years.



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Boston
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Solo Piano
Mon.-Fri. - 5 to 8 p.m.
Sat.. 3:00 to 7 p.m.
Sun. - Jazz Brunch 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Sun. Wed, • 8 p.m. to .1.2 a.m.
Thur.-Sat. - 9 p.m. to 12 a.m.

HYATT REGENCY BOSTON’
One Avenue de Lafayette
Boston. MA 02111
(617) 422-5679
Hyatt Regency Boston offers live music to fit everyone’s taste every Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights in the Lobby Lounge.
• Thursday, 5:30 p.m.- 9:30 p.m. - Andy Baer Jazz Quartet
• Friday, 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. - Ronan Portlet on Piano
• Saturday, 7:30 p.m. -11:30 p.m. - Leah Souza, Vocalist
Fondue, a seasonal specialty of the house, has been extended another month, The fondue menu features such dishes as Classic Cheese Fondue: Berkshire Blue Cheese Fondue: and the Ultimate Chocolate Fondue. Visit Avenue One for drinks with friends and sample the fondues created by Chef Brad Ozerdem. In a city rich with tradition, Boston has a new tradition - Hot Foudue & Cool Jazz.

LANGHAM HOTEL
250 Franklin Street
Boston
(617)451-1900
Cafe Fleuri- 11am - 2 pm
Sunday Jazz Brunch featuring a Jazz Trio
Julien Lounge - Monday through Saturday Jeffrey Moore will entertain, from 5 pm to 12 am with various artists on piano
Sunday from 5:30 to 9 pm

FAIRMONT COPLEY PLAZA HOTEL
138 St. James Avenue
Boston - (617) 267-5300
Entertainment in the Oak Bar
The award-winning Oak Bar at the Fairmont Copley Plaza will welcome summer with a new music line-up.
On Tuesdays and Wednesdays. pianist Rebecca Cline will perform and on Thursdays, pianist Steve Heck will perform. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights live entertainment will be offered from 7:30 pm until 10:30 pm.
On Friday and Saturday evenings, the Bill Laughlin Quartet will perform from 8:15 pm to 12:1.5 am.
Reservations are not accepted. There is no cover charge. The full menu is available at the bar. For information, call (617-267-5300).

DICK’S LAST RESORT
Quincy Market At
Faneuil Hall Marketplace
(617) 267-S080
Dec. 11 - Brain Locher
Dec. 12 - The Remix
Dec. 13 - Sweep the Leg
Dec. 14, 15 - Jonno
Dec. 16 - Ryan Fitzsimmons
Dec. 17 - Nate Watkins
Dec. 18 - Brian Locher
Dec. 19 - The Spinz
Dec. 20 - Superband
Dec. 21 - Jonno
Dec. 22 - Paul Fudin
Dec. 23 - Ryan Fitzsimmons
Dec. 26 - The Remix
Dec. 27 - The Spinz
Dec. 28 - Jonno
Dec. 29 - Keith Lewis
Dec. 30 - Ryan Fitzsimmons
Dec. 31 - New Year’s Eve Party
Jan. 2 - Jonno
Jan. 3 - Classic Trax
Jan. 7 - Nate Watkins
Jan. 8 - Elvis Birthday Bash
Jan. 9 - The Remix
Jan. 10 - Super Band
Jan. 13 - Ryan Fitzsimmons
Jan. 14 - Nate Watkins
Jan. 15 - BRian Locher
Jan. 16- The Spinz
Jan. 17 - Pi Alley
Jan. 20 - Ryan Fitzsimmons
Jan. 21 - Nate Watkins

Jan. 22 - Brian Locher
Jan. 23 -The Remix
Jan. 24 - Sweep the Leg

BOSTON MARRIOTT & COPLEY PLACE
110 Huntington Ave.
Boston
(617) 236-5800
The Terrace Lounge offers a wide range of cocktails, along with a new menu featuring appetizers and light dining. Entertainment Wed. through Sun. evenings on the 2nd floor of the Boston Marriott Copley Place • Sun. from 2 p.m. to midnight - Mon-Thurs from 3 pm to midnight on Fridays and Saturdays.

THE BOSTON PARK PLAZA HOTEL
64 Arlington St., Boston
Dining & Entertainment
“Boston’s address for the Haute-est Cuisine and Hottest Nightlife”
• Renovated Swan’s Court Lobby Restaurant & Bar, with pianist, Barry Silverman Thurs.-Sat.
• M. J. O’Connors, Irish Bar
• McCormick & Schmick. nationally acclaimed seafood restaurant
• Whiskey Park, hip new bar by Rande Gerber

DOUBLETREE
GUEST SUITES HOTEL
400 Soldiers Field Road
Boston, MA
(617) 783-0090
Scullers •Jazz Club
Jan. 7 - April Hall
Jan. 8 - Bettye Lavette
Jan. 9, 10 - James Carter Organ Trio
Jan. 13 - Follen Angels
Jan. 14 - Bellevue Cadillac
Jan. 15 - Strunz & Farah
Jan. 16, 17 - Harold Melvin’s Blue Notes
Jan. 21 - Gabrielle Goodman
Jan. 22 - Kenny Rankin
Jan. 23, 24 - Pat Martino
Jan. 28 - Maggie Scott

THE MILLENNIUM BOSTONIAN HOTEL
North Street
Boston - (617) 523-3600
That’s Entertainment
The Bert Seager Jazz Trio, often Pianist and Composer Bert Seager. Come see for yourself why Bert has received critical acclaim from jazz critics around the country. Performing Friday and Saturday evenings in the Atrium from 9 p.m. to midnight.

TOP OF THE HUB PRUDENTIAL CENTER
(617) 536-1775
Dec. 16-20- Chris Taylor
Dec. 22 - Marty Ballou Trio
Dec. 23, 24 - Chris Taylor Trio
Dec. 26, 27 - Chris Taylor Group
Dec. 28 - Lee Childs Group & Paul Briadnax Trio
Dec. 29 - Mary Ballou Trio
Dec. 30 - Bob Nieske Trio
Dec. 31 - New Year’s Eve Gala
Celabration: Vocalist Maggie Galloway with the Bob Nieske Group

LIBRARY GRILL at HAMPSHIRE HOUSE
86 Beacon Street, Boston
(617) 227-9600
The Library Grill offers an exquisite Sunday Jazz Brunch - 11am to 2:30 pm.

Bollywood Nights at the Taj
Enjoy the lure of India in the Lounge at the Taj Boston on Jan. 21, Feb. 25 and March 25.



Vocalist Maggie Calloway will be performing with the Bob Nieske Group at the Gala New Year’s Eve Celebration at Boston’s Top of the Hub Restaurant at the Prudential Center from 8:30 pm to 1 am.

Celebrate the holidays at the Fairmont Copley Plaza

Jingle all the way to the Oak Room at TheFairmont Copley Plaza this Christmas.
Celebrate the holiday with a variety of delectable and festive holiday menus. The three-course Christmas Day Brunch at the Oak Room will feature a variety of holiday favorites from the regular menu and a variety of specials starting with organic green salad with Mandarin oranges and a tarragon orange vinaigrette or wild mushroom chowder. Entree choices include herb crusted prime rib or roasted Cornish game hen with apricot cranberry combread stuffing. Brunch concludes with a lavish dessert buffet in the Oak Bar. The brunch also includes a baker’s basket. Brunch seatings start at 11:30 am, and the cost is \$35.
Christmas Dinner is in the Oak Room is always a spectacular affair The Oak Room will be offering Christmas entree specials, including herb crusted prime rib roasted fingerling potatoes, caramelized baby carrots and roasted Brussels sprouts with pancetta bacon, and roasted Cornish game hen with apricot cranberry combread stuffing, in addition to the regular a la carte menu. Christmas Dinner reservations start at 5:45 pm.
Christmas Eve dinner at the Oak Room will feature the award-winning a la carte menu and an early seating starting at 5 pm. For more information or to make reservation, call (617) 267-5300. ■

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The Al Vega Trio, plus vocalists

Every Sunday - 8:00 p.m.

The Al Vega Trio plus Mark Mahar • Alex MacDougall

BOSTON BRIEFS ■

by Susan Mulford

“GIVE THE GIFT OF CHOCOLATE”
Old Town Trolley’s One & Only BOSTON CHOCOLATE TOUR returns on January 10! Gift certificates are now available to provide that special chocoholic with a truly sweet gift for this holiday season or any occasion. This fully-narrated, three hour journey is filled with decadent desserts and fun facts about chocolate. Tours will run every Saturday through April 25. The tour takes guests to the famous Top of the Hub Restaurant on the 52nd floor of the Prudential Building, to the historic Omni Parker House Hotel and to The Langham, Boston and their famous, all you can eat, chocolate buffet. In addition, there are a number of delicious surprises on board. The exciting experience has been featured on “Phantom Gourmet,” “Chronicle” and “TV Diner.” The Chocolate Tour departs from the Trolley Stop Store at the corner of Boylston and South Charles Streets every Saturday at 11am and 12:15pm. Advance reservations are required and may be made by calling 617-269-7010. For information visit www.trolleytours.com/boston.

“UPSTAIRS AT THE CALDERWOOD”
The Huntington Theatre Company’s December/January new cabaret series will fill the Calderwood Pavilion (at the Boston Center for the Arts, 527 Tremont St.) with the sounds of Broadway, jazz and contemporary groove. An eclectic array of performers from Tony Award-nominated artists to the emerging voices of tomorrow will offer thrilling nights of music in an intimate setting. Artistic Director, Peter DuBois states, “Upstairs at the Calderwood” is an to Bostonians to come in from the cold, have a drink, and indulge in some of the hottest musical acts that New York and Boston have to offer.” For tickets go online at www.huntingt-theatre.org, call 617-266-0800 or visit the Calderwood Box Office or the B.U. Theatre Box Office at 264 Huntington Ave.



Award winning performer, Harry Connick, Jr. brings “A Holidaiy Celebration” to The Colonial Theatre December 19-21.

DEC. 19-21:” HARRY CONNICK, JR -A HOLIDAY CELEBRATION”
The Colonial Theatre at 106 Boylston St. will host Grammy-winning, multi-platinum musician, Harry Connick, Jr. His performance takes audiences back to their childhoods, reminding them of the joys experienced by family and friends during the holiday season. Music from his triple-platinum “When My Heart Finds Christmas” through to “Harry and the Holidays,” brings vitality and unmatched musicality to the concert.. For tickets call Ticketmaster at 617-931-2787, visit a Ticketmaster outlet, go online at BroadwayAcrossAmerica.com or go directly to The Colonial Theatre Box Office.

DEC. 26 – 31: “MOMMY QUEEREST”
Hilarious, stand-up comedian Judy Gold returns to the Huntington Theatre Company. Boasting a list of appearances on Comedy Central and HBO, plus receiving an Emmy Award for her work on “The Rosie O’Donnell Show” and a featured performance in the hit film “The Aristocrats,” Judy brings an all new show to the Wimberly Theatre at the Calderwood Pavilion in the Boston Center for the Arts, 527 Tremont St. in the South End. After “25 Questions for a Jewish Mom,” where Judy recalled the trials and tribulations of being raised by a Jewish mother, she commiserates with her kids because they have two Jewish mothers. Wielding her electric humor and outlandish opinions, she divulges all the comic highs and lows of being a Jewish lesbian, working mom raising two boys in New York City. Tickets may be purchased at the BCA Box Office, by calling 617-266-0800, or online at www.huntingtontheatre.org.

DEC. 27 & 28: “JIM BRICKMAN HOLIDAY HOMECOMING TOUR”
The Cutler Majestic Theatre at Emerson College, 219 Tremont St. in Boston’s Theatre District, will host Jim Brickman in concert.

Compared to a homecoming with good friends and family, this event resonates with the spirit of Christmas. For over 10 years, these special holiday concerts have been anticipated by fans of this dynamic composer, recording artist, radio personality and concert headliner, while new fans discover the magic of Brickman’s piano artistry and the warm and intimate way he captures the sprit of the season. Tickets may be purchased directly at the Cutler Majestic Theatre Box Office, by calling Telecharge at 800-233-3123 or visiting online at Telecharge.com.

THROUGH DEC. 14: “IT’S CHRISTMAS TIME”
Guest soloist Sarah Pfisterer, Broadway star of “Phantom of the Opera” and “Show Boat” along with a full orchestra and a cast of hundreds, will perform a holiday extravaganza. Reminiscent of the Radio City Music Hall Christmas show, this production consists of two exciting hours of seasonal vignettes include the living nativity, Parade of the Wooden Soldiers, A Victorian Christmas on Boston Public Garden, precision dancing, classic bell ringing and so much more. For tickets to Waltham’s Reagle Players 26th Christmas spectacular at the Robinson Theater, 670 Lexington St. in Waltham call 781-891-5600 or visit www.reagleplayers.com.

THROUGH DEC. 14: “CHICAGO”
This winner of six Tony Awards is currently celebrating ten years of record breaking success. Chicago, during the 1920’s, was full of flappers and bath tub gin along with a rash of sexy women with a pension for crimes of passion. Roxie Hart and Velma Kelly are two such hot dames who compete for the services of one of the slickest crime lawyers, Billy Flynn, played by Tony nominated Tom Wopat in this spectacular production. Filled with award-wining choreography by the incomparable Bob Foss, tickets for this Broadway blockbuster at The Colonial Theatre, 106 Boylston St. may be obtained directly at the box office, by calling Ticketmaster at 617-931-2787, at Ticketmaster Outlets or online at www.broadwayacross-america.com/Boston.

THROUGH DEC. 14: ‘EINSTEIN’S DREAMS”
This wild, provocative, funny and intellectually stimulating play is about Albert Einstein’s obsessive pursuit to understand time. The production introduces the audience to a unique and intimate view of Einstein. While just a modest patent clerk, struggling to make ends meet and in a new marriage the boy genius re-conceives time and completes his Theory of Relativity. There are also glimpses of the poignant and painful side of genius cleverly revealed by cast members. The Underground Railway Theatre is located at the new community Central Square Theater, 450 Massachusetts Ave. in Cambridge. For tickets call 866-811-4111, visit www.centralsquaretheater.org, or go directly to the Central Square Theater box office. Student rush tickets can be purchased the day of the show by calling 617-576-9278 extension 213.

Happy Holidays to all.

THROUGH DEC. 21: “IT’S A WONDERFUL LIFE”
Adapted from the 1946 movie starring Jimmy Stewart, The Stoneham Theatre located at 395 Main St., Stoneham presents this heart warming holiday story. When money mysteriously disappears from the Savings and Loan, George Bailey is driven to desperation and wishes he had never been born. His novice guardian angel, Clarence, quickly seizes the opportunity to save George’s life and ultimately earn his angel wings. The story focuses on how our lives touch others and what is truly important in life. The Stoneham Theatre is located on Route 28 (Main Street) just a short distance from Boston off either I-93 or I-95 and is surrounded by ample free parking and excellent dining options. Tickets may be purchased directly at the theater’s box office, by calling 781-279-2200 or online at www.stoneham-theatre.org.

THROUGH DEC. 21: “URBAN NUTCRACKER”
Tchaikovsky, as well as Duke Ellington, are part of the mix in this colorful and exciting re-imagining of the traditional Nutcracker. This richly diverse production filled with a cast of multi-racial and ethnic professional along with pre-professional dancers versed in ballet, tap, hip-hop, and other dance styles appeals to all ages. Tony Williams presents his 8th annual production of the URBAN NUTCRACKER at John Hancock Hall in Boston. For performance information as well as tickets log on to balletrox.org. Discounted parking is available at the Garage at 100 Clarendon St.

THROUGH -DEC. 28: “HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS: THE MUSICAL”
Dr. Seuss’s classic rhyming tales have engaged children for generations. Now, his whimsical world of Whoville is brought to life on stage as the nefarious Mr. Grinch, born with a “heart two sizes too small,” attempts to steal Christmas. Grinch’s dog, Max, narrates this memorable tale which includes all the favorite songs from the movie including “You’re a Mean One Mr. Grinch” and “Welcome Christmas”. The Citi Performing Arts Center, Wang Theatre at 270 Tremont St. presents this exciting new family holiday tradition. Tickets for this exceptional holiday gift for children five to 105 are available at the Citi Performing Arts Center, Wang Theatre box office, by calling 866-348-9738, or visiting online at www.citicenter.org.

THROUGH DEC. 28: “ALICE’SADVENTURES UNDERGROUND”
Lewis Carroll’s classic work has been adapted by the Underground Railway Theatre at the Central Square Theater, 450 Massachusetts Ave. Audiences become caught up in the fantasy world of Alice as she spirals down the rabbit hole and steps through mirrors into worlds best seen upside down. Alice pursues the key to the garden while uncontrollably growing and shrinking. An outrageous and fun cast of puppets provides a delightful holiday production for the whole family. For tickets call 866-811-4111, visit online at www.centralsquaretheater.org, or go to the Central Square Theater box office.

THROUGH DEC. 28: THE NUTCRACKER
The Opera House at 539 Washington St. in Boston will host this exciting holiday tradition. Featuring the entire ballet company and more than 250 children from Boston Ballet School, the complete Tchaikovsky score will be performed live by the Boston Ballet Orchestra. All the memorable and magical scenes will take place accompanied by spectacular costumes, magnificent special affects and award winning dancing by the Boston Ballet Company. From the Sugar Plum Fairy to the Nutcracker prince, intermingled with battling mice and toy soldiers, dancing bears, angels and snow falling, all the components are there to make this performance an enduring memory for the whole family. Tickets can be purchased for this 41st production of The Nutcracker by the Boston Ballet by calling Ticketmaster at 617-931-2787 or by visiting www.ticketmaster.com.

DEC. 31: “NEW YEARS EVE WITH BENNY GOODMAN”
The Stoneham Theatre, 395 Main St., Stoneham invites you to celebrate New Year’s Eve with a tribute to Benny Goodman and Peggy Lee. The Everett Longstreth Orchesrta, along with vocalist Amanda Carr and a champagne toast, will set the mood for a Happy New Year. Start your evening’s festivities with the 7pm show or ring in the New Year with the 10pm curtin. For tickets call 781-279-2200 or buy online at www.-stonehamtheatre.org.

DEC. 31: “FIRSTNIGHT AT FANEUILHALL MARKETPLACE”
The shops, restaurants and venues at Faneuil Hall Marketplace will be open all day and night along with the street performers to entertain. A number of ice sculptures will be on view and Glen “Big Baby” Davis of the Boston Celtics will conduct a Kids Basketball Shot Contest. Visit www.firstnight.org or www.faneuilhallmarketplace.com for more information.

JAN. 8-25: “LATE NITE CATECHISM – LESSON # 3”
Sister returns to Stoneham Theatre located at 395 Main St. to hold her latest class in this sinfully funny series. After teaching countless students all about the saints, venial sins, guilt, limbo and more, Sister is now offering lessons on the Sacraments of Marriage and the Last Rites. “Til’ Death Do Us Part!” is her mantra and classes include her personal wacky version of The Newlywed Game. For tickets, call the Stoneham Theatre Box Office at 781-279-2200 or visit online at www.stonehamtheatre.org.

JAN. 9 – FEB. 8: “THE CORN IS GREEN”
The stage, screen and television actress, Kate Burton, returns to the Huntington Theatre Company at 264 Huntington Ave. in Boston and brings her son, actor Morgan Ritchie to perform with her. The story takes place in a Welch coal mining town where Miss Moffat (Kate Burton) is a bold teacher that overcomes prejudice and ignorance by creating the town’s first school. Tickets are available by calling 617-266-0800, online at www.-huntingtontheatre.org or visiting the Box Office. ■

New Year's Celebrations

Celebrate at Taj Boston on Arlington Street

Enjoy the luxury of time spent together during the holidays at these grand celebrations. The legendary 1927 building at Arlington and Newbury Streets is permanently *en fête*, but holiday season is especially magical.

Taj Boston chefs are preparing feasts and frosting an enchanted gingerbread house in the lobby, costumed carolers will sing, bell ringers will delight and decorations abound. Traditions are the heart of Taj Boston and treasured childhood memories continue to be made here. Families, friends and business colleagues gather together at holiday parties, feasts and opulent buffets in The Grand Ballroom under the sparkling chandeliers.

Taj Boston's Executive Chef Franck Steigerwald has created new menus reflecting classic favorites and appealing surprises throughout the hotel. The fresh New England flavors are accented by subtle blendings of Italian and French influences.

CHRISTMAS EVE : Wednesday, Dec. 24

The Café offers a three-course menu and an à la carte menu from 5 pm to 11pm A children's menu is also available. \$80 per person.

CHRISTMAS DAY: Thursday, Dec. 25

The Grand Ballroom Christmas Buffet features Taj Boston chefs at extravagant displays and a jazz trio. Seatings are at 11 am and 1 pm \$98 for adults and \$50 for children.

The Café will serve a three-course menu and an à la carte menu from noon until 9:00 pm A children's menu is also available. Three-course prix fixe menu, \$80 per person.

NEW YEAR'S EVE: Wednesday, Dec. 31

The Café rings in the New Year with a luscious four-course menu and an à la carte menu. A children's menu is also available. The Café is open from 5 pm until 11 pm \$120 per person.

NEW YEAR'S DAY: Thursday, Jan. 1

The Café offers A La Carte Brunch Menu from 7:30 am to 2:30 pm The Café and The Bar will celebrate the New Year by adding festive cocktails throughout the day for toasting. Special menus will also be served throughout the day in The Lounge, where guests can enjoy the day's football games on a plasma screen television from 9 am to 1 pm.

HOLIDAY AFTERNOON TEAS: December

The Lounge serves Afternoon Tea for holiday gatherings, accompanied by a harpist daily through the season. It is a tradition that is enhanced with "T," the finest loose leaf teas and herbals from throughout the world, custom-blended for Taj Boston. Seatings are at 2 pm and 4 pm daily, and on Saturday and Sunday at noon, 2 pm and 4 pm.

Reservations are required for all dining events. For Restaurant Reservations please call (617) 598-5255. All pricing is exclusive of tax and gratuity. Children's pricing is for guests 12 years and under. Visit www.tajhotels.com/boston. ■



Face the New Year with a “Survival Kit” from Dick’s Last Resort

As Boston knows, the fun is non-stop at Dick's Last Resort at Faneuil Hall Marketplace, and New Year's Eve is no exception.

Early “First Night-ers” are encouraged to stop by Dick's for dinner between 4 and 8 pm and partake of the merry-making before headin' out to enjoy their night of revelry, performances and celebration.

Then, starting at 8 pm, there'll be a Celebration Cover Charge of \$10 per person. All party folk

will receive one of Dick's highly-coveted 2008/2009 Survival Kits, plus there'll be a fizzy Champagne Toast for everyone at Midnight.

To test your memory, there'll be a New Year's Eve Trivia Contest. Entertainment from Super Band will keep the joint jumpin' 'til the wee hours. And to end the year on an always delicious note, Dick's full menu of great grub will be available to order, including Chowda, Ride'M Cow-

boy Rib Eye, Chicken Fried Chicken, Bourbon-Glazed Salmon, Livin' Large Lobster, Pork Bonerz, Fried Shrimp, Brew-Battered Fish N' Chips, Dick's Rib & Wing Combo, King Crab Legs and lots more.

There's discounted parking at the Garage at 75 State Street ! Just bring your parking ticket to the front desk to be dealt with by one of Dick's always accommodating, slightly irreverent staffers. ■

Ring in the New Year at the Lenox

The Lenox
61 Exeter Street
at Boylston
Boston, MA 02116
617-536-5300
www.lenoxhotel.com
New Years Eve Package

The Lenox, located in the center of it all, is the perfect place to stay while celebrating New Year's Eve in Boston.

To begin, your well-appointed accommodations for two nights include a bottle of champagne

and chocolates delivered to your room. Also included is breakfast for two and two “First Night” buttons so you can gain admittance to all of Boston's “First Night” activities.

If you would like dinner reservations in Azure or outside of the hotel, we highly recommend contacting our concierge well in advance.

The New Year's Eve package includes:

- Accommodations for one

night,

- Champagne upon arrival,
- Nightly turndown,
- Two “First Night” buttons,
- Full American Breakfast for two from In-Room Dining or Azure, and
- Guaranteed late check-out.

From \$299.00 per room based on double occupancy.

Available December 26, 2008 through January 4, 2009

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Greet the New Year from Boston’s Top of the Hub

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Top Of The Hub Restaurant will welcome the New Year with a special evening-long celebration on Wednesday, December 31, beginning with a Cocktail Reception at 7:30 p.m., followed by a Six Course Dinner at 8:30 p.m. and a dazzling Champagne Toast at Midnight. (Guests will have two menus from which to select, one of them vegetarian.)

Live jazz entertainment will be provided throughout the evening by The Bob Nieske Group featuring vocalist Maggie Galloway.

Top Of The Hub's New Year's Eve Celebration is priced at \$250 per person (tax and gratuity included). Tickets for the

evening are pre-paid and non-refundable. The event is a 21+ event and reservations can be made by calling 617-536-1775.

General Manager Raphael Oliver commented, “New Year's Eve always stands out at one of the most spectacular nights of the year at Top of the Hub. It provides a chance for friends and families to come together and reflect for a moment on the many good things in our lives. Add a great menu, live jazz and panoramic views and you've got an evening to remember.”

Celebrating more than 40 years of service to Boston's discerning dining community, Top of the Hub remains a destination

for all seasons. The restaurant is the proud recipient of multiple Awards of Excellence from Distinguished Restaurants of North America and *Wine Spectator* magazine in addition to being described as one of the most romantic dining destinations in the world by The Travel Channel.

Discounted parking is available just steps away in The Prudential Center Garage.

New Year's Eve at Top of the Hub, 800 Boylston Street On the 52nd floor of the Prudential Building. \$250 per person (tax and gratuity included).

For reservations, call 6 1 7 - 5 3 6 - 1 7 7 5. ■

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WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 31, 2008

Best wishes for a healthy, successful and safe 2009 from the editors and staff at Carriage News.

People with diabetes: Eating right when money’s tight

(Continued from page 7)

at home without salt.

Instructions: Brown meat in large skillet with half of vegetable oil. Add water. Simmer covered for 1 hour until meat is tender. Heat remaining vegetable oil in second skillet. Add garlic and onion, and cook over low heat until onion is softened. Add flour and cook for 2 minutes. Add garlic-onion-flour mixture to cooked meat. Then add remaining ingredients to meat mixture. Simmer for 30 minutes. Serve chili with a mixed green salad with toma-

atoes, cucumbers and peppers topped with low-fat or fat-free salad dressing. Enjoy!

Nutrition Information Per Serving for Chili: Serving size 8 oz, calories 284, total fat 10 g, saturated fat 2 g, cholesterol 76 mg, sodium 162 mg, total fiber 4 g, protein 33 g, carbohydrates 16 g, potassium 769 mg.

To get additional free resources to help manage diabetes, contact the National Diabetes Education Program at www.YourDiabetesInfo.org or call (888) 693-NDEP (6337), TTY: (866) 569-1162. For more ways to save time and money

when preparing meals at home, visit the Weight-control Information Network at www.win-niddk.nih.gov.

For more healthy, low-cost recipes, search online for “Keep the Beat: Heart Healthy Recipes” developed by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ National Diabetes Education Program is jointly sponsored by the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) with the support of more than 200 partner organizations. ■

Roaming Around

by Pat Russell

Boston had the notorious “Brinks Job” in 1950. Boston in 1990 has the “Gardner Grab.” the “Heist of the Century.”

At 1:15 am, last March 18, two men were admitted to the Gardner Museum at 280 The Fenway. The men were dressed as cops. They were actually art thieves. They tied-up the security guards and stole thirteen pieces of art worth \$200 million — the largest art heist in history!

Isabella Stewart Gardner must be turning in her grave in Mount Auburn Cemetery. Isabella was a brash outsider who shocked staid Bostonians a century ago. She smoked in public, preferred beer over tea, went to Symphony with a Red Sox banner on her hat, attended boxing matches, was a friend of John L. Sullivan, the heavy-weight champion, had a boxer strip and flex his muscle before her and her lady friends, invited numerous young writers and artists to trysts in her boudoir, received guests in her home while perched on a branch of a mimosa tree, told risqué jokes, and took a pet lion, Rex, for walks on the street.

Isabella was born in New York in 1840 to the wealthy Stewart family. In 1840, she married a very proper Bostonian John Lowell Gardner, Jr., son of the last East India merchant-prince. Gardner made his own fortune as a developer, which included 71 to 87 Marlboro Street. The newlyweds moved into 152 Beacon Street. They later bought the adjacent 150 Beacon and combined the two houses. Isabella lived there until 1902 when she moved to her new home on the Fenway. 150-152 Beacon came down in 1904 to make way for the present building. But Isabella had the last word “152” Beacon Street will never be used again!

Proper Bostonians in the era of Isabella were conservative with a “dislike for ostentation and hostility to publicity.” Isabella loved both. When told that Bostonians did not flout their wealth with their clothing, she proceeded spend fortunes on Paris fashions. Bostonians kept their jewels in safe-deposit boxes. Isabella had her two largest jewels mounted on the ends of two gold wires which were fixed to her hair so that the jewels were six inches above her head and looked like the antennae of an insect. When told that many Bostonians were Unitarians, Isabella became a Buddhist and then an Episcopalian. When told that Bostonians belonged to clubs, Isabella found one of her own. the “It” Club. Bostoniana made do with one coachman, Isabella rode out in style with a coachman and two footmen.

Among her close friends were Henry James, John Singer Sargent, Oliver Wendell Holmes,,James McNeill Whistle and Mayor James Michael Curley. She was “at the height of her feud with the Brahmin snobocracy when I knew her,” said Curley. “The social desolation of Boston.” wrote James in 1882.. was broken by “Mrs. Jack Gardner’s flirtation with F. Marion Crawford.”

Oscar Wilde, the notorious homosexual, was Isabella’s guest. This really set off the proper Bostonians.

There was a flap when Sargent painted Isabella with naked arms and more cleavage and breast than staid Boston had ever seen. Her husband. Jack, took the painting to his club. the St. Botolph Club (now at 199 Comm. Ave.). There the old fogies were aghast, gossiped viciously, and one was said to ask Jack. “Mr. Gardner, can’t you afford to clothe your wife any more?” Jack blew his cool. took down the painting, and vowed never to show it again as long as he lived. He kept his vow! It was said that Isabella “is the idol of the men and the envy of the women.” She purged herself of her sins every Lent by scrubbing the steps of the Church of the Advent on Brimmer Street on her knees

Isabella never held a job. but she was never short of money. She inherited \$2.75 million when her father died in 1891 and many more millions when her husband died in 1898. She was both frugal and extravagant. Guests would leave her table still hungry, but she thought nothing of paying \$3000 to Paderewski to play at tea for herself and a friend.

Isabella spent a fortune on her art collection. Her agent scouring Europe for art was the renowned connoisseur Barnard Berenson, who Isabella found in the slums of the West End and became his patron. Some items were smuggled out of Europe, and renowned paintings were even painted over with removable paint to get past Customs officers. To house her vast art collection, Isabella decided to build a Venetian-style mansion on the Fenway. She called it Fenway Court. Boston made it a palace in 1961 when it renamed a nearby street Palace Road.

Isabella drove the workmen nuts during the building of her mansion. She climbed scaffolds, mixed paint, used an axe to show how to hew a beam, bossed every detail of the construction, always followed by a trumpeter. One toot on the horn meant she wanted the architect, two toots the plumber, etc “To dominate others, wrote a biographer, “gave Mrs. Gardner such pleasure that she must have regretted the passing of slavery.”

The grand opening of Fenway Court was on January 1.1903 The cream of Boston society was invited as were the art hippies of the era. The curtain rose at 10:30 and the guests were required to pay homage to Isabella. She stood at the top of a horseshoe staircase. The guests climbed one aide of the stairs, greeted Isabella and descended the other side. Fifty members of the Boston Symphony provided the music. The guests could hardly believe their eyes. Here were 2000 art objects, including works by Botticelli, Rembrandt, Whistler, Sargent, Degas, Raphael, Van Dyck, Rubens, Vermeet, and Titian. And there were oddballs — a lock of Robert Browning’s hair and a chandelier made from antlers.

Isabella died in 1924 at age 85. Her will perpetuated her quirks. Her heirs are to attend Mass on her birthday, and all the art objects are to be displayed exactly as “at my death.” A Guide-book reads: “If so much as an ashtray is re-arranged, the land, building and all of its contents are to be sold and the money donated to Harvard.” ■

(Reprinted from the Carriage News Archives, 1991.)

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Military Order Of The Purple Heart elects new national commander

Jeff Roy of Longmont, CO, has been elected National Commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH).

Roy enlisted in the Army as a helicopter mechanic in August 1963; in June 1966, he completed the Army's Warrant Officer Candidate Helicopter Course. In December 1967, Roy received a direct commission to 2LT and, after serving 30 years, he retired from the 94th Army Reserve Command in 1994 at the rank of Colonel.

A distinguished helicopter mechanic and pilot, Roy deployed to South Vietnam with the 187th Army Helicopter Company in February 1967, flying air missions out of Tay Ninh Province, Republic of Vietnam; a region west of Saigon and adjacent to the Cambodian border. He was wounded during a nighttime mortar and rocket attack on his base camp during the fierce fighting in conjunction with the North Vietnamese 1968 Tet offensive.

Roy's goals during his tenure as Commander include focusing on programs that directly aid veterans seeking employment through conducting job fairs and chapter assistance to members, aid in identifying and bringing homeless veterans back into the mainstream of society and, recruitment of volunteers to assist veterans in VA hospitals, homes and community-based retirement homes where veterans are domiciled.

While serving in the Army Reserves, Roy concurrently worked for the Army as a civilian pilot until 1980, when he transferred to the Federal Aviation Administration. After serving as a safety inspector and manager, he retired from the FAA and federal service in January 2002 following 39 years of government service.

Roy's military decorations include the Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Air Medal (25 awards-two for valor), the Army Commendation Medal with five Oak Leaf Clusters and numerous service medals and engagement ribbons.

Roy served in a number of capacities in the Military Order of the Purple Heart, from community-based chapter commander, state and regional leadership positions and, ultimately, national offices leading to his election as National Commander.

Action plan
As National Commander, Roy seeks to return to the basic pre-



Jeff Roy of Longmont, CO, has been elected National Commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

cepts and objectives of the Order-those being "educational, fraternal, historical and patriotic, perpetuating the principles of liberty and justice, which have created the United States of America."

Additionally, Roy and the organization will:

Focus on the business of the Order by being more open to the membership with finances and business and being accountable to the membership and the Foundation with grant requests and expenditures;

Develop internal policies and procedures to meet these areas as well as compliance with applicable IRS regulations and Sarbanes-Oxley recommendations for nonprofit organizations; and

Seek to improve support to veterans by increasing volunteer service hours and improving VAVS grant administration and the Service Program.

Roy's additional goals and

objectives in meeting these focus areas include:

- Increasing VAVS volunteer hours by 15 percent, nationally;
- Conducting four MOPH-sponsored Job Fairs with the sub-goal of finding employment for 1,000 veterans;
- Initiating a Homeless Veteran Program by appointing a National Homeless Veteran Program Coordinator;
- Partnering with the Cell Phones for Soldiers organization and developing a nationwide donation program;
- Increasing the responsibilities of the Region Commanders in the areas of membership recruitment and VAVS administration; and
- Improving legislative support at the Department level by taking national positions in support of local veterans issues.

To learn more about the Military Order of the Purple Heart and its programs, visit the Web site at www.purpleheart.org. ■

Where you can find Carriage News

Here is a listing of hotels in the Greater Boston area where you can pick up your copy of *Carriage News*

— the Editor

- Back Bay Hilton, 40 Dalton Street, Boston
Best Western Adams Inn, 29 Hancock Street, Quincy
Best Western Hotel, 477 Totten Pond Road, Waltham
Boston Harbor Hotel, 70 Rowes Wharf, Boston
Boston Park Plaza Hotel, 64 Arlington Street, Boston
Bullfinch Hotel, 107 Merrimac Street, Boston
Millennium Bostonian Hotel, Faneuil Hall Market Place, Boston
Candlewood Suites, 235 Wood Road, Braintree
Chandler Inn, 26 Chandler Street, Boston
Charles Hotel, One Bennett Street, Cambridge
Colonnade Hotel, 120 Huntington Avenue, Boston
Comfort Inn Hotel, 85 American Legion Highway, Revere
Comfort Inn Boston/Wobum, 14 Hill Street, Woburn
Courtyard By Marriott, 275 Tremont Street, Boston
Courtyard by Marriott, 777 Memorial Drive, Cambridge
Courtyard By Marriott, 225 LeLellan Hgwy., East Boston
Courtyard By Marriott, 100 Morris Street, Revere
Courtyard By Marriott, 200 Technology Center Drive, Stoughton
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Hilton At Dedham Place, 1 Allied Drive, Dedham
Hilton Boston Logan Airport, 85 Terminal Rd., Boston
Hilton Financial District, 89 Broad Street, Boston
Holiday Inn Select, 5 Blossom Street, Boston
Holiday Inn Express, 250 Monsignor O'Brien Hgwy, Cambridge
Holiday Inn Hotel, 55 Ariadne Road, Dedham
Holiday Inn Express, 69 Boston Street, Boston
Holiday Inn Hotel, 1374 North Main Street, Randolph
Holiday Inn Hotel, 30 Washington Street, Somerville
Home Suite Inn, 455 Totten Pond Road, Waltham
Hotel Indigo, 399 Grove Sreet,, Newton
Howard Johnson Hotel, 1271 Boylston Street, Boston
Hyatt Harborside, 101 Harborside Drive, Boston
Hyatt Regency Hotel, 575 Memorial Drive, Cambridge
The Inn at Longwood Medical, 342 Longwood Avenue, Boston
Hyatt Regency Hotel Boston, One Avenue de Lafayette, Boston
Inter-Continental Hotel, 510 Atlantic Avenue, Boston
Jurys Hotel, 350 Stuart Street, Boston
La Quinta Inn, 23 Cummings Street, Somerville
Langham Boston Hotel, 250 Franklin Street, Boston
Le Meridian Hotel, 20 Sidney Street, Cambridge
Lenox Hotel, 710 Boylston Street, Boston
Marriott Residence Inn, 44 Charles River Avenue, Charlestown
Hotel Marlowe, 25 Edwin Land Blvd., Cambridge
Boston Marriott Quincy, 100 Marriott Drive, Quincy
Marriott Hotel, Copley Place, 110 Huntington Avenue, Boston
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Marriott Hotel, Newton, 2345 Commonwealth Ave., Newton
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Milner Hotel, Charles and Stuart Streets, Boston
Nine Zero Hotel, 90 Tremont Street, Boston
Omni Parker House Hotel, 60 School Street, Boston
Onyx Hotel, 155 Portland Street, Boston
Quality Inn, 440 Bedford Street, Lexington
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