Metro

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KEVIN CULLEN

Pols evacuate the parade



If you hold a parade in Boston and no politicians march, is it still a parade?

I ask this as the evacuation of the Evacuation Day/St. Patrick's Day parade continues in earnest. The 9-4 decision by

the South Boston Allied War Veterans Council to ban a gay veterans group that has marched the last two years has led politicians far and wide to say they'll boycott the parade.

Ostensibly, the veterans group, OUT-VETS, was voted out because they violated the parade's code of conduct by carrying a banner adorned with a rainbow. Apparently, that's too gay.

Presumably, all those floats that depict rainbows leading to a leprechaun's pot of gold will be banned, too.

The council says OUTVETS didn't submit their application in time, either. But let's be honest. Whatever reason being cited for excluding OUTVETS is specious. There are members of the Allied War Veterans Council who simply don't like other veterans identifying themselves as LGBTQ; they want them back in the closet.

Those who oppose veterans identifying themselves as LGBTQ don't seem to appreciate that many members of OUT-VETS served at a time when they could not acknowledge their sexuality, that to do so meant a court martial and a dishonorable discharge. Neither do those who oppose veterans identifying themselves as LGBTQ seem to appreciate that some LGBTQ kid watching the parade might be inclined to volunteer for the military if they see role models, people like them, proudly marching as veterans.

Politicians love parades. And the annual parade in Southie is as much a political tradition as a social event. It's hard for politicians to pass up the opportunity to press the flesh with thousands. But the reaction among politicians, from Mayor Marty Walsh to Governor Charlie Baker, from Senator Ed Markey to congressmen Steve Lynch and Seth Moulton, has been uniform: If OUTVETS can't march, they won't march.

More telling is how many politicians who call Southie home, from Lynch to state Representative Nick Collins to City Councilor Mike Flaherty, are willing to

Ed Flynn, a Navy veteran, was one of four parade council members who voted to allow OUTVETS to march. He also just threw his hat in the ring to contest the City Council seat that Bill Linehan is vacating. The parade would be a great way to reach potential voters. But for Flynn, it's not a close call.

"I can't march in a parade when other veterans are excluded," he said. "To me, it's not a political issue."

That said, Flynn believes the vast majority of South Boston residents support OUTVETS, not the people who voted to exclude them.

"People in South Boston support all

veterans," he said. While it is natural to focus so much attention on the solidarity politicians are showing with OUTVETS, the veterans who don't want OUTVETS to march tend to dismiss the pols, seeing them as pan-

dering and self-serving. It's much harder to ignore the parade sponsors that are pulling out and to dismiss the stance of Dan Magoon, who resigned as parade grand marshal after the council voted to exclude OUTVETS. Magoon was respectful in his resignation,

even wishing the parade success. But he

stood firm on his principles. "The freedom that we possess to hold such an event is due to the men and women who have spilled their blood in defense of this great nation, regardless of where they come from, what they look like, and who they share relations with," Magoon said.

Dan Magoon grew up in Southie. He served three combat deployments with the Army in Iraq and Afghanistan. He is a Boston firefighter, and as executive director of Massachusetts Fallen Heroes has done so much to help Gold Star families and veterans.

If there is anyone in Boston who does more to help vets than Dan Magoon, I can't wait to meet them.

And as the parade council reconsiders its vote Friday, Dan Magoon's words should ring loudly in their ears.

Kevin Cullen is a Globe columnist. He can be reached at cullen@globe.com

'Trump and LePage are cut from the same cloth.'

PHIL BARTLETT, chairman, Maine Democratic Party

LePage's D.C. stay stokes talk of his future

Some see governor joining Trump team

> By Brian MacQuarrie GLOBE STAFF

Pugnacious and politically very incorrect, Governor Paul LePage of Maine has called himself "Donald Trump before Donald Trump" and "Baby Donald."

Like the president, LePage has declared war on the news media,

stoked fears about immigrants, and linked minorities with crime.

Now, one month into the new presidency, the Republican governor could be looking to ratchet up the bromance.

LePage was busy in Washington recently, sitting on a panel at the Conservative Political Action Conference, attending the Governors Ball at the White House, and getting face time on the president's favorite news show, "Fox and Friends."



His extended

Paul LePage

stay in the capital has sparked speculation that LeP-

age might be angling for a job in the Trump administration. The governor's staff tersely deflected ques-

tions about that possibility, but jumping to Washington would extricate him from the

roller-coaster controversies and confrontations that have marked his six years in Augusta.

If LePage did decamp, he would leave a governor's office that — perhaps more than any other in the country — reflects the bare-knuckle, bombastic style that Trump has brought to the presidency.

"Trump and LePage are cut from the same cloth," said Phil Bartlett, chairman of the Maine Democratic

LEPAGE, Page B4



ARAM BOGHOSIAN FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

Brookline High senior Haley Evans read to a student at Mather Elementary School in Dorchester at one of her volunteer gigs.

Unclaimed: a reward

Teen tracks down lost money for groups and people. Her price? A charitable gift.

BY BRIAN MACQUARRIE | GLOBE STAFF

ROOKLINE — Haley Evans is a driven, polite, academically earnest senior at Brookline High School who does volunteer charity work in her spare time — when she's not hunting for buried treasure. So far, Evans has found more than \$3 million hidden in the minutiae of unclaimed money lists compiled by state treasuries around the country. The soft-spoken 18-year-old isn't looking to enrich herself, her family, or her friends.

Instead, when Evans hunkers down at a computer, she is searching on behalf of strangers and businesses who almost always have no idea she is trying to find them money.

When Evans does hit paydirt, she doesn't ask for a fee.

Instead, she soft-sells a request that a portion of the claim go to her favorite

"I'll say, 'If you'd like to donate, please do,' " Evans said. "I found it's worked pret-

Over nearly a year, Evans has garnered \$8,500 in donations that have been divided among three beneficiaries: the Brookline letters, she said. Literacy Partnership, the nonprofit group Cradles to Cravons, and the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

That sum might seem small compared with the millions she has discovered, but Evans said it's only a start. Most people and companies whose money she has found providing proof with a screen-shot of the claim — do not respond to her e-mails and

And even if they do acknowledge her work, the collection process can drag on and on, which means donations can be de-

"It definitely takes some persistence," Evans said.

The project began after Evans heard a radio ad on a sports-talk show that invited

CHARITIES, Page B3

Sanches testified that someone in a vehicle from which shots rang out

Raychides

Gomes-

looked "just like him" that is, Aaron Hernandez. Hernandez is charged in two deaths.



Witness in Hernandez trial is grilled about shooter

By Travis Andersen

A key witness in the double murder

trial of Aaron Hernandez said Thursday that someone in the vehicle carrying the shooter looked "just like him."

The witness, Raychides Gomes-Sanches, later faced a tense cross-examination from defense attorney Jose Baez, who questioned his behavior and statements to police after the killings.

Defense lawyers also said, without the jury present, that Gomes-Sanches has possible gang ties. Suffolk Superior Court Judge Jeffrey Locke barred the defense from asking Gomes-Sanches about any alleged ties in front of the jury, ruling they had presented insufficient evidence to support the claim.

Hernandez, a former New England Patriots star, has pleaded not guilty to **HERNANDEZ, Page B4** Lawmaker seeks **Greenway funds**

Suggests use of tower project money

By Joshua Miller

A key state lawmaker wants more green for the Greenway. Or else.

Representative Aaron Michlewitz is suggesting the

state could thwart the billion-dollar The Greenway's Winthrop Square endowment, whose skyscraper project if returns help support the city of Boston the park. doesn't agree to put some of the money it *J*ver \$15m would make from the development toward maintaining

the park that snakes through

whose district encompasses

both the park and the defunct

garage that Millennium Part-

ners wants to turn into a 700-

The North End Democrat,

the Rose Fitzgerald

Kennedy Greenway,

the heart of the city.

2009.

How much the state has contributed to the **Greenway since**

tatives, which, along with the Senate, will need to approve a change to the state's law on shadows on the Boston Common if the project is to move forward. The tower would cast a big shadow and thus needs special ap-

plus-foot tower, said Boston

should give an unspecified

amount of its expected windfall

from the project for mainte-

Democratic leadership in the

Michlewitz is part of the

House of Represen-

nance of the 17-acre park.

proval. The House is run tightly, so it is unlikely Michlewitz would speak without at least a tacit OK from Speaker Robert A. DeLeo or his confidants.

Michlewitz emphasized that

GREENWAY, Page B6

B3

Wood stove sparked fire that killed mom, four children

Fire officials urge heat safety

By Andy Rosen

A wood stove sparked the Warwick fire that killed a mother and four of her children last weekend, investigators said Thursday

Lucinda Seago, 42, and four children, ages 7, 9, 12, and 15, perished in the early Saturday blaze in the small town 30 miles north of Amherst. Her husband and another child escaped. The house was engulfed in flames by the time firefighters arrived.

The office of State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskev announced that his office and local authorities determined that the fire began in a first-floor kitchen, where the wood stove ignited other items nearby.

"This is a small community of neighbors helping neighbors and our hearts are heavy with the loss the Seago family has suffered," Warwick Fire Chief Ronald P. Gates said in a state-

Ostroskey's office noted that the freezing temperatures and the location of the home complicated the response to the fire. The house was on a narrow dirt road, on which fire trucks could not pass each other. Firefighters had to shuttle

water in from a nearby pond in a trip that went over the New Hampshire border and took about 45 minutes.

"I know the men and women of the Warwick Fire Department and the mutual aid companies fought this fire with everything they had," Gates said.



The Warwick, Mass., house was engulfed in flames by the time firefighters arrived.

Ostroskey noted that the Warwick fire was one of two fatal incidents involving heating equipment in recent days. A Milton fire, which killed 91year-old developer Kenneth Guscott and his 87-year-old father-in-law, Leroy Whitmore, overloaded a power strip.

started when a space heater "It will be cold again this weekend, and I urge everyone to keep safety in mind while trying to keep warm," the fire

marshal said.

A funeral Mass will be said for Lucinda Seago and the children Saturday at 10 a.m. at Our Lady of Czestochowa Church in Turners Falls.

Andy Rosen can be reached at and rew. rosen@globe.com.Follow him on Twitter at @andyrosen.

'Codfather' agrees to enter guilty plea in fish labeling case

By Milton J. Valencia GLOBE STAFF

A commercial fishing mogul from the South Coast who is known as "The Codfather" by locals has agreed to plead guilty to charges that he mislabeled fish to boost profits.

Carlos Rafael, 65, of Dartmouth, is scheduled to appear before US District Judge William G. Young on March 16. Lawyers have not said whether Rafael has made an agreement with prosecutors. His attorney, William H. Kettlewell, could not be reached for comment.

Rafael was indicted in February 2016 on more than 20 charges including conspiracy to commit a crime, false labeling, falsifying federal records, and smuggling bulk cash. He has been free on bail.

After several delays, the case was scheduled to go to trial in

Prosecutors allege that Rafael, owner of Carlos Seafood Inc. in New Bedford, falsely claimed to have netted haddock or another common species when he was really harvesting cod, sole, or other fish restricted by quotas. His company would buy the fish — from boats that he owns – at the lower price of haddock, but then sell the more lucrative fish for higher market prices to buvers in New York. He was also accused of smuggling cash to Portugal through Logan International Airport.

Federal investigators said they uncovered the alleged scheme by pretending to be or-

Carlos Rafael was indicted in February 2016 on more than 20 charges including conspiracy.

ganized crime figures interested in buying his business.

One of Rafael's bookkeepers, Debra Messier, was also charged in the case, but prosecutors later dismissed the charges without explanation.

In May 2016, prosecutors also indicted a Bristol County sheriff's deputy, Antonio M. Freitas, on charges of smuggling thousands of dollars to Portugal on behalf of Rafael. He allegedly used his security clearance at Logan, as a member of a Homeland Security task force, to sneak cash overseas.

Young agreed to hold separate trials for Rafael and Freitas after Rafael complained that Freitas allegedly made incriminating statements to authorities that would unfairly implicate him. The case against Freitas, 46, is still pending, with a trial scheduled for May. He has been suspended without pay from his \$57,000-a-year job at the sheriff's office.

Milton J. Valencia can be reached at milton.valencia@globe.com. Follow him on Twitter @miltonvalencia.

WIND TUNNEL — The wind whipped over a pedestrian walkway by Paris Street in East Boston on Thursday.

Mass. and Conn. free of extreme drought

Much of region still unusually dry

By Andy Rosen GLOBE STAFF

Dry conditions continue to recede in New England, researchers said Thursday, announcing that Massachusetts and Connecticut are both free of extreme drought.

The US Drought Monitor, a collaboration of federal and academic researchers, said much of the region remains unusually dry, with swaths still under the slightly less bleak designation of severe drought. But condi-

tions have been on the ebb and ter weather. The Quabbin Res-

state is in severe drought, mostly in Central and Western Massachusetts. Most of the rest of the state is in moderate drought.

"Long-term conditions are still very dry, but the region has seen a response from the impact of melting snow and rain," researchers said, adding that New England has a good chance for above average precipitation in coming days.

Despite the incremental improvements, many in Massachusetts are still hoping for wet-

may continue to diminish. ervoir remains at 81 percent of More than a third of the its capacity, and it has hovered from recent precipitation, Lasaround that level for months. Frederick A. Laskey, execu-

> tive director of the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, said in an interview that the size of the reservoir, one of the largest in the nation, makes it less responsive to weather changes.

"The Quabbin is so large that it goes down very slowly and it comes back very slowly," he said, "We're holding our own. We're waiting for some late winter heavy storms or some spring heavy rains."

Some communities' smaller key said, but he noted that those also lost a greater percentage of their water during the stubborn dry spell.

Also frustrating to the authority has been a bit of bad luck in the specific weather patterns around the massive reser-

"It's been raining and snowing all around Quabbin, and it's almost like there's a force field," Laskey said.

Andy Rosen can be reached at andrew.rosen@globe.com.

The Boston Globe

News

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First or last 3 \$504 Any 2 digits \$43 Any 1 digit ANY ORDER All 4 digits \$300 First 3 \$84

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Last 3

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▶CHARITIES Retail Othe Continued from Page B1 City \$20.00 20.00 20.00 listeners to check for un-8.00

claimed money among \$2.4 billion held by the Treasurer's office in Massachusetts. "I was just in my kitchen

with my dad," Evans said. Since then, she has reached out to about 80 individuals and companies. A total of \$6,000

was reclaimed for a friend of her father's, Dr. Lishan Aklog, who donated the entire amount to Evans's charities. She found about \$3,000 in Texas for Boston Volvo Village,

which donated half of her discovery. Headsets.com, a California company, gave \$1,000 after Evans located \$9,000 of its unclaimed money.

"It's been really good to know the money is going somewhere," she said.

Aklog, who roomed with Evans's father at Harvard College,

sees big potential in the effort. "This program is a testament to Haley's ingenuity and dedication to public service," Aklog said. "I am certain she will be able to scale this effort

dramatically and tap into the

billions of dollars of unclaimed

funds held by states to benefit

'She's really into service and is one of the most selfless individuals I've ever met. She's always thinking about others. MATTHEW BOCCUZZI, of Cradles to Crayons, on Haley Evans

In pursuit of unclaimed money, teen finds joy

important work in our communities." Bob Bickford corresponded

controller at Boston Volvo Village, and the high school student impressed him beyond her years.

"She was continuously following up on leads, telling me not to get discouraged," said

Bickford, who now works for the company's Audi and Porsche dealerships in Norwell. "I thought Texas was an extreme reach. It took a couple of months for that particular

\$224,000 find in Texas and has

York financial company, which

located \$129,000 for a New

piece of the puzzle to come together." Evans remains on the hunt. She has alerted Xerox to a

charitable organizations doing is expected to make a donation. It's all for the greater good of causes she cares about. When

Evans is not at school or workwith Evans when he worked as ing on the project, she volunteers for the Brookline Literacy Partnership, in which Brookline High students tutor elementary pupils at the Mather School in Dorchester.

She also donates time as a teen leader at Cradles to Crayons, which collects and distributes school supplies, toys, clothing, and other items to

needy children. "The best part for me is being able to bring the checks to

the organizations. That's always worth it," Evans said.

The feeling is mutual. "I was blown away," said Matthew Boccuzzi, family phi-

lanthropy coordinator at Cra-

dles to Crayons, which is based

is surprised by Evans's energy and enterprise. "She's really into service and

in Brighton. Not that Boccuzzi

is one of the most selfless individuals I've ever met. She's always thinking about others," Boccuzzi said. "Everything she does, you can tell she's doing it from the heart." Bickford, the auto-dealer-

ship controller, added more praise. "She's got a lot going for her

at a young age," Bickford said. "She's got her act together, and I can see her going far. Too bad the world doesn't have more people like her." Despite the long hours, the

successes, and the frustrations, Evans seems to have kept her project on a need-to-know basis. Only a small number of

classmates are aware of her digital, continent-spanning "I haven't told too many of them," Evans said with a small

smile. "It doesn't come up in conversation."

Brian MacQuarrie can be reached at brian.macquarrie@globe.com.