

News



“Our goal is to get it done before those tolls take effect.”

Sen. Steven Baddour, speaking Thursday about passing a transportation reform bill before Turnpike tolls rise on March 29

Jakes injured in blaze

Five Worcester firefighters were injured Thursday in a massive fire at a downtown apartment building, according to published reports. The four-alarm blaze began around 2:30 p.m. in six-story complex on Pleasant Street. There was no immediate word on the cause. METRO/TL

Unemployment rate reaches 16-year high

Bay State reaches 7.4%; highest since 8% figure in 1993

The state unemployment rate soared in January to its highest mark in 16 years and was a full percentage point higher than December 2008, according to figures released Thursday by the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development.

A handful of sectors were hit particularly hard in January:

● Professional and Business

Services (includes lawyers and consultants) 3,600

● Construction 2,200

● Manufacturing 1,800

● Wholesale Trade 2,100

Not all sectors saw a decrease in January. Retail Trade added 3,300 jobs, and Trade, Transportation and Utilities saw 2,000 new hires, that sector's first increase in a year. Education and Health Services, the state's largest sector, added 1,600 jobs. TONY LEE/METRO

By the numbers

7.4% The state's unemployment rate, the highest it has been since 8 percent of workers were out of a job in January 1993.

7.6% The national unemployment rate in January.

4.6% The state's unemployment rate in January 2008.

4,900

The number of jobs lost in the state in January.

61,300

The number of jobs lost in the state since September.

Metro Moments with the Mayor



Mayor Thomas Menino
metro_moments@metro.us

Q As part of the City's cost-saving and environmental initiatives, what is the City's plan for ensuring that there is adequate recycling at this year's Boston Marathon, so hundreds of thousands of bottles, cans and newspapers do not end up getting thrown away like years past?

MARCO BALDASSARRE, Fenway

A This is a very good question and one that not many people think about, but in this day of environmental conservation this question is becoming much more prevalent for everything that we do in Boston.

As part of the many extensive green efforts and initiatives we have undertaken in recent years, the City of Boston has asked the Boston Athletic Association to ensure the Marathon is helping turn Beantown into Greentown too.

Last year, the BAA produced a comprehensive plan to accomplish that goal and enlisted the help of the Massachusetts Department of Corrections to collect several hundred bags of plastic bottles. This year, the program is being expanded to include cardboard and the Mylar blankets the athletes wear after completing the race. The materials collected are taken to a state facility in Concord and recycled. Additionally, every year hundreds of barrels to collect recyclables are placed along the marathon route from Hopkinton to Boston.

Greening all events in Boston, not just the Marathon, is very important to me, and we were successful in our efforts to green the Arts Festival over the summer in Christopher Columbus Park.

The City worked with Arts Festival organizers to not only set up an extensive clear stream recycling program but to run a carbon-neutral electrical generator, use soy-ink and recyclable paper for fliers and encourage artists to carry their belongings in reusable boxes.

In a few months Boston will host the Urban Epic Summer Triathlon. Once again we have partnered with the event organizers to green the competition. Using a state-of-the-art water "trough truck" with spouts to refill stainless steel water bottles event organizers and city officials hope to keep the need to open new individual plastic water bottles at a minimum.

As you can see, green initiatives have and always will be a major part of my administration. Over the last few years, Boston helped lead the way on environmental policies and was recently ranked the sixth most sustainable city by SustainLane.com.

These policies and our efforts to green Boston not just with public events but through citywide, year-round programs like single-stream recycling will help turn Beantown into Greentown!

Send in your questions about the city to Mayor Thomas Menino to metro_moments@metro.us.

Man charged in \$16K benefit scam

BOSTON. A Lynn man was indicted Thursday on charges he schemed to collect more than \$16,000 in unemployment benefits while still working full-time for a chauffeur service, Attorney General Martha Coakley's office announced.

Gary Gaglione, 43, allegedly applied for unemployment assistance in November 2005 after a separation from one job, but he failed to update his employment status when he was hired by the chauffeur company.

Gaglione allegedly received the benefits for 28 weeks while working.

METRO/TL

Aquarium Hungry Octopus



In a rare sight at the New England Aquarium the 7 foot, 30 pound octopus named "Truman" squeezed his entire body through a two-inch opening in a one-square-foot plexiglass cube on Thursday in an effort to retrieve food.

THE NEW ENGLAND AQUARIUM

metro Contacts

METRO BOSTON

Editor in Chief: Tony Metcalf

tony.metcalf@metro.us

National Editor: Ron Varriall

ron.varriall@metro.us

City Editor: Matthew Killorin

matthew.killorin@metro.us

Features Editor: Amber Ray

amber.ray@metro.us

Entertainment Editor: Pat Healy

pat.healy@metro.us

Sports Editor: Adam Smartschan

adam.smartschan@metro.us

Photo Editor: Nicolaus Czarnecki

nicolaus.czarnecki@metro.us

E-MAIL US: letters@metro.us

Garden gets new roof lighting

BOSTON. "Green" if by parquet, "gold" if by ice.

The TD Banknorth Garden's new roof lights will now be a beacon for sports and entertainment fans alike. The Garden has installed a new LED system that will shine a different color every night based on that night's event. The lights will glow green for home Celtics games, gold for Bruins games, red for Boston Blazers games, tie-



As the Garden glows

dye for concerts and blue for other special events.

The new lights, which will shine from dusk until

2 a.m., amount to a 60 percent reduction in kilowatt consumption than the previous lighting system.

"Our commitment to reduce our environmental footprint led us to evaluate and deploy LED lighting technology that saves energy, reduces maintenance costs and provides better light quality," John Wentzell, president of the TD Banknorth Garden, said in a statement. METRO/GS