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Bulger Abuses Power; Connolly Found Guilty of Second Degree Murder

Cops & Courts

John Joseph Connolly, Jr., was one of Boston's former FBI agents, who grew up in the Old Harbor housing project of South Boston with former Winter Hill Gang mob boss, James 'Whitey' Bulger. He was born 1 August 1940.

During his time growing up in the projects, he became friends with William 'Billy' Bulger, the younger brother of the notorious criminal, who became a politician, while his brother rose from a small-time gangster to one of South Boston.

Before joining the FBI in 1968, he graduated Boston College with an undergraduate degree, took classes at Suffolk Law School (but did not receive a law degree), and worked as a high school teacher.

When he joined the FBI, he worked in Baltimore, San Francisco, and New York City, only transferring back to Boston after arresting the prominent Mafia figure, Frank Salemme. During this time period, the Boston division was adamant about bringing out the Mafia and in 1975, Connolly met up with Bulger to persuade him to sign up as one of the FBI's informants against the Italian Mafia.

Connolly received numerous praises after he caught members of the Patriarca family and New England Italian mob underboss Genaro Angiulo, based on the intel from Bulger and Flemmi. He retired in 1990 and began a corpo-

rate job.

"We did what we had to do to complete our mission, which was the destruction of a New England crime family, an international crime cartel. And we were successful. We destroyed the Angiulos in exchange for a gang of two, Whitey Bulger and Stevie Flemmi. Who wouldn't make that deal?" Connolly said.

Any time that someone stepped forward to provide information against Connolly's prized informant, according to *Biography.com*, Connolly would do everything he could to slam down that information and declare it false.

During Connolly's time in the FBI, Bulger kept climbing the totem pole of the Boston crime world, which should have alarmed law enforcement that, while he may have been one of their star informants, he was rising to kingpin status.

According to *Biography.com*, "At subsequent hearings in 1998, details about Connolly's dealings with Flemmi and Whitey were unveiled. A parade of witnesses — including Connolly's former supervisor, who'd been granted immunity for his own illegal actions — testified that Connolly had protected Whitey from investigations, engaged in bribery and regularly passed information to the gangster. When Connolly was called to testify, he invoked his right against self-incrimination."

By 1999, Connolly was arrested. He was convicted of racketeering, obstruction of justice, and lying to an FBI agent in 2002. He was given a 10-year sentence for those charges.

He was later indicted in 2005 for the murder of the president of World Jai-Alai John Callahan in 1982. Connolly informed Bulger that Callahan might testify against him, and so Bulger ordered a hit man to kill him. Connolly was convicted of second-degree murder and sentenced to forty years in prison. He tried to appeal his conviction, but it was overturned in 2014 because "a panel of judges ruled that even though Connolly had been wearing his service weapon when he talked to Whitey, that did not qualify his crime for firearm involvement, and therefore the statute of limitations for second-degree murder had passed," *Biography.com* said.

Bulger fled after Connolly warned him in advance. For sixteen years, he was on the run, until he was caught on 22 June 2011, in Santa Monica, California, after an anonymous tip led the FBI to his and his girlfriend Catherine Greig's apartment.

He will be spending the rest of his life in prison without parole, and Connolly is said to be released in 2039 on parole, according to *The Boston Globe*

By Isabella Balthaser

Winter Pep Rally Is A Success

School

The winter season Pep Rally was on 3 February, and it was a big success, getting students into the school spirit.

The high school students saw and were able to participate in a variety of activities and games. These included musical chairs, snowman, and tug of war.

The snowman game was where different sports teams competed to see who could cover one of the teammates head-to-toe in toilet paper in the shortest amount of time. History teachers Mr. Paul Kochanasz

and Ms. Susan Nagle at one point chipped in to help out with the wrestling team.

Musical chairs was a very intense competition.

"It's a real shame because I'm pretty sure I got the chair first," senior Justin Hawkins said.

The tug of war was also an incredibly intense competition. Students from all grades tried their best to beat each other, but ultimately the junior class came out on top as the champions.

"The tug of war was really entertaining as always, although it's unfortunate that the juniors won," senior Dan Kramlich said.

The pep rallies are always a great way to get students amped up with school spirit.

"I just really enjoy hanging out with my friends and seeing all the games and stuff. It's a good way to get people excited about school, so that's good too," senior Josh Nasados said.

By Mason Harris

Gaston's Fugue Takes Bridgewater College

School

On 27 January, high school teacher Mr. Sean Gaston spoke at Bridgewater College for a screening of his film *Misa's Fugue* and gave a follow-up speaking presentation. Gaston has taught classes on the Holocaust for eleven years now, and he is very passionate about the subject.

"My passion and interest for Holocaust history comes from my uncle, Lawrence D. 'Rusty' Gaston, Jr. When I was in middle school, he would talk to me about the Holocaust because I would ask him questions about the WWII books he was always reading. It wasn't until my sophomore year of high school, when *Schindler's List* was released, that I really

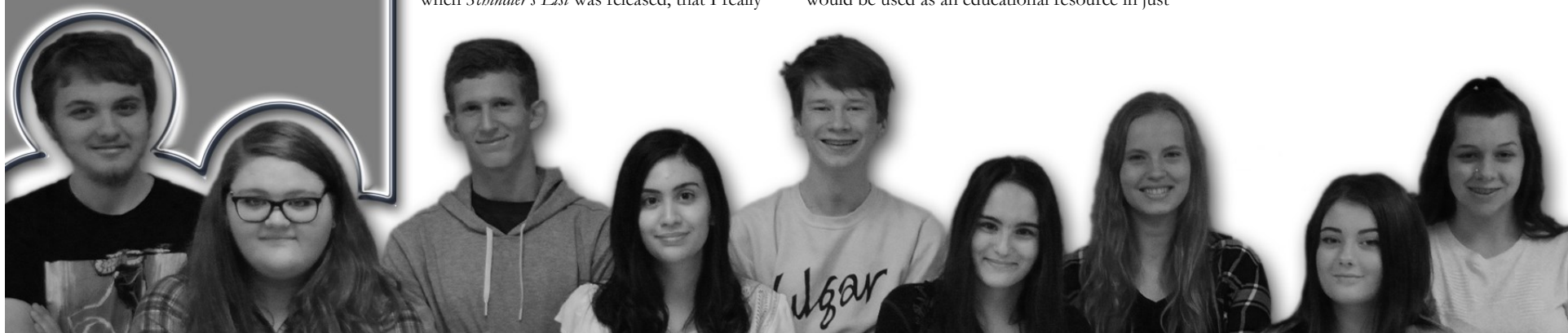
got a sense of the magnitude of the history, and I was hooked ever since," Gaston said.

This is far from Gaston's first speaking event for his film. He's been doing screenings, Q-and-A's, and presentations since 2012. Gaston's film has been used in educational ways since it first came out. It has also been recognized and praised around the world. Production started in June of 2010 upon meeting Holocaust survivor Frank Grunwald.

"I still look back on that project and can't believe that we did that. It's surreal. When we started the project, we thought we were going to make a documentary film that would be used as an educational resource in just

Pennsylvania. Little did we know, almost 6 years later, the film has been seen in over forty countries all over the world. It was nominated for, and won, many awards, including two Emmy Awards in the documentary and writing categories. If you would have told me when we started the project that we'd have to do five pressings of our DVDs and we'd end up sending out over 5,000 DVD's all of the world, I would have told you that you were crazy. It's a testament to what 21st Century education can be," Gaston said.

By Jack Pickar



Gun Control Gains Traction

Politics

Gun Control has been a controversial topic of late. However, the fight for stricter gun control has been going on for quite some time. Trends suggest that much of today's youth is calling for change in light of the recent mass shootings such as the L.A. shooting and Parkland. Many rallies and protests have gained the media's attention as well.

Florida lawmakers proposed new regulations on gun control. One regulation is raising the age that a citizen can purchase a rifle (18 to 21). Arming teachers with firearms is also another proposed bill.

"The legislation, which passed the State Senate on Monday and now heads to the governor, would raise the minimum age to purchase any firearm to 21 from 18; impose a three-day waiting period on gun purchases; fund school police officers and mental health counselors; and allow local school districts and sheriffs to arm certain school personnel," the *New York Times* said.

This bill however, caused a significant divide between voters because educators could possibly discriminate against certain students.

"I support more funding towards mental health facilities and more background checks in order to buy a gun," junior Melissa Deida said.

The NRA (National Rifle Association) has also been under much scrutiny.

"The NRA has become a 'Terrorist Organization,'" the Connecticut Governor said.

"The NRA spent \$54 million in the presidential and congressional races, nearly \$20 million of which went to attacking Democrat Hillary Clinton and more than \$11 million to support Republican Donald Trump," *ABC News* said.

By Morgan Althouse

MS-13 Gang Murders Two

Cops & Courts

On 13 September 2016, two teenage girls were murdered in a residential neighborhood near an Elementary school.

The two girls, sixteen-year-old Kayla Cuevas, and fifteen-year-old Nisa Mickens were best friends from Brentwood, New York.

The MS-13 gang was started by Central American immigrants from El Salvador in Los Angeles in the 1980s. The gang is believed to be responsible for 25 killings in New York over the past two years.

Enrique Portillo, Alexi Saenz, and Jairo Saenz (members of the MS-13 gang) laughed and joked around with each other as prosecutors in New York said they were waiting to hear from the U.S. Justice Department if they will receive the death penalty.

Mickens was killed the day right before her 16th birthday.

Mickens' body was found on a street in Brentwood, while Cuevas body was found beaten up in a wooded backyard a day later. Friends and family of the girls say that they were lifelong friends who shared an interest in basketball.

"The Saenz brothers wanted to kill Cuevas after she called the gang out at school and on a social media sites," U.S. attorney Robert L. Capers said.

Officials say that Mickens was just in the wrong place at the wrong time and that the girls were beaten with a baseball bat and hacked to death with a machete.

"I've never even heard of the MS-13 gang, but they do scare me. A border wall will not curb the gang because of social media. They would still be able to thrive and recruit people," English teacher Mrs. Sarah Wilkinson said.

"I have heard of the MS-13 gang, and they would scare me if I lived in Reading. They are evil. A border wall would not curb the gang because they will find a way to get in anyway because they are determined," English teacher Ms. Debra Mahnk-en said.

By Elyse Essick



Members of the MS-13 gang in court © 2017



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Fairgrounds Square to See Makeover

Community

Anyone who has been to the Fairgrounds Square Mall in recent years knows that it has been very empty. There are very few stores still open for business. Recently, the owners have been talking about reconstructing the mall.

"Hull Property Group officials have personally visited with township, school board, and county officials on five different occasions in the last year and a half, in addition to numerous phone calls with township manager Jamal Abodalo," Hull's vice president of government relations John Mulherin said.

According to WFMZ, "Hull Property Group has been frank with township officials. The Fairgrounds Square Mall is a failed property and it failed many years prior to our purchase. Hull, headquartered in Augusta, Georgia, paid \$1.16 million to purchase the 750,000-square-foot Fairgrounds Square Mall in 2016."

The "new" mall will have townhomes around it as well as a new restaurant. Michael Malinowski, who is the township

commissioner had this to say: "We have a lot of good stuff going on in our community, so I would ask that if [Hull Management Group is] not interested in engaging us that I would hope they would do what is appropriate and allow others that want to engage with our community to do so," Malinowski said.

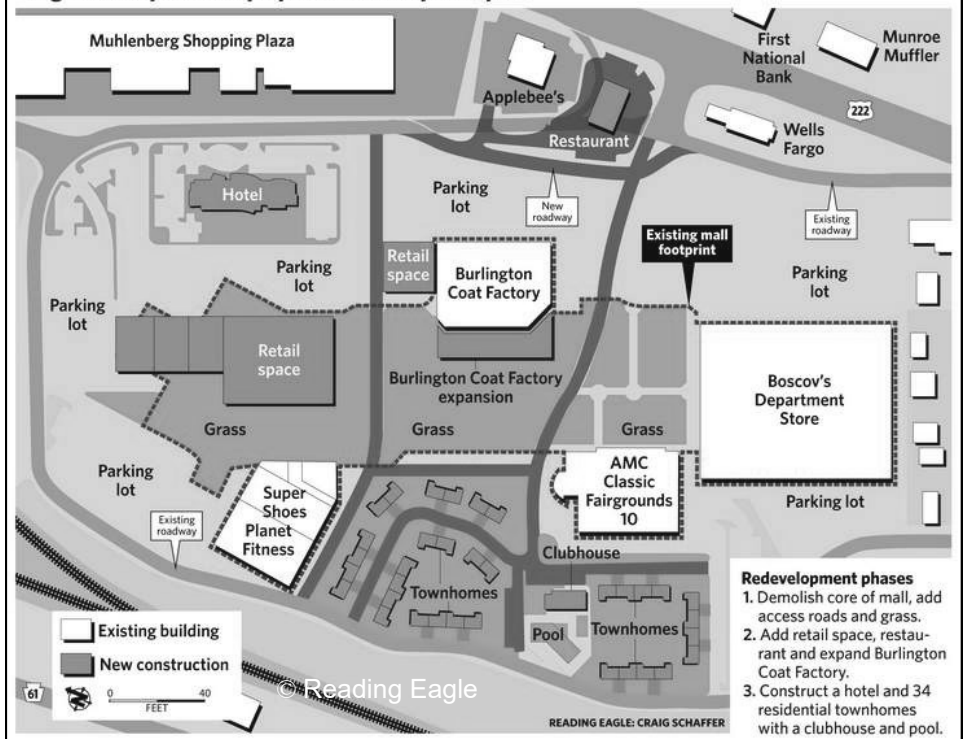
"It's time to put up or shut up, and we'll apply as much pressure as we can for our residents to increase our tax base and develop this corridor," WFMZ said.

In the next few years or so, the mall might look very different. With new town homes and restaurants, the plans for the new and improved mall could potentially get more business. So there will be some major changes to the Fairgrounds Square Mall to look for.

According to the Reading Eagle, "Bosco's, which has occupied its spot since 1965, would remain, as would the Burlington Coat Factory, Planet Fitness, Super Shoes and AMC Classic theaters."

By Amber Weiss

Fairgrounds Square Mall proposed redevelopment plan



Royal Wedding Will Not Be A Bank Holiday

Entertainment & Arts

Mark your calendars for 19 May 2018. The British Royal Family will be celebrating the union of Prince Harry and his fiancée, Meghan Markle. She will be the first woman of color and the first American to be married to a living heir to the British throne.

After meeting on a blind date two years ago, Prince Harry allegedly proposed to Meghan in a cottage inside Kensington Palace. The palace confirmed on Twitter that the wedding will be held on 19 May 2018.

The marriage of Prince Harry and Markle will take place in St George's Chapel at Windsor Castle at 12:00 p.m. The Queen has also granted permission for the ceremony to be held in the place of worship, which seats approximately 800, and core aspects of wedding, including the service, music, flowers, decorations, and reception, will be paid for by the royal family.

Although the public were given a day off to celebrate the weddings of Prince Charles to Diana Spencer in 1981, Prince William to Catherine Middleton in 2011, and Princess Anne to Mark Phillips in 1973, Prince Harry and his fiancée's choice to wed on 19 May avoids the issue of whether or not the royal wedding should be a bank holiday.

day.

"This wedding, like all weddings, will be a moment of fun and joy that will reflect the characters of the bride and groom. The couple of course want the day to be a special, celebratory moment for their friends and family. They also want the day to be shaped so as to allow members of the public to feel part of the celebrations too," Jason Knauf, Prince Harry's communications secretary, said.

Prince George and Princess Charlotte are likely to be page boy and flower girl, but Markle is also expected to choose bridesmaids from her close set of friends. Actress Priyanka Chopra, tennis champion Serena Williams, designer Misha Nonoo, and stylist Jessica Mulroney are all names that have been suggested; however, now that Markle has deleted her Instagram account, it is more difficult to track her friendships.

Rumors also flew high suggesting Ed Sheeran will perform. Melanie Brown (Scary Spice from the famous Spice Girls) has suggested that the Spice Girls could be performing as well, but she failed to confirm or deny a performance.

By Jayra Chavarria

Trophy Ban Lifted

Politics

On 1 March, previous rulings in favor of banning the trophies of elephants being brought into the USA were overturned. This change directly differs from President Donald Trump's previous stance on the issue. This change occurred with an unusual lack of publicity, despite the subject being a hot topic.

The reversal of this ban leads to detrimental effects on the affected areas.

"The agency said it will withdraw earlier agency rulings related to importing trophies of dead elephants from South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, Botswana and Namibia, as well as those related to importing trophies of dead lions and bonteboks from South Africa," *NBC News* said.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service plans to allow the import of the trophies on a case-by-case basis. This statement, however, is to be taken with a grain of salt. The lack of transparency with the public on the

issue is concerning to many wildlife conservationists.

Elephants are an endangered species. By allowing the import of their trophies, this increases the amount of elephants being shot and killed for sport. This results in a decline in the elephant population.

"I think that an endangered species should not be allowed to be hunted," senior Kyra Lea said.

This reversal ends an Obama-era ban.

"The population of African elephants, the world's largest land mammal, has declined from 5 million to 400,000 over the past century. That's why they've been protected under the Endangered Species Act since 1979," *The Washington Post* said.

By Morgan Althouse

Student Abducted from Allentown School Discovered in Mexico

Cops & Courts

A forty-five-year-old man named Kevin Esterly signed sixteen-year-old Amy Yu out of her school, Lehigh Valley Academy, ten times between the months of November and February, and recently, both persons were reported missing.

Allentown police issued a missing persons report on for Amy Yu and Kevin Esterly. Besides this current incident, Esterly already had a warrant out for his arrest concerning him interfering with the custody of children.

Officials say that Yu and Esterly had a very secretive relationship. Yu's family reported her missing on February 9th to the police station and told them that Esterly had absolutely no permission to take Yu out of Lehigh Valley Academy.

The schools CEO, Susan Mauser, told *Morning Call* that a student should only be picked up by one emergency contact. Kevin and Amy last saw each other on a Monday and most likely were traveling in a 1999 red Honda Accord.

Yu's mother ended up calling police again to Esterly's house and told him and his

wife to stay away from their family.

The day before the two went missing, Esterly's wife said that he had taken personal documents from their house and \$4,000 from her bank account.

"Yes, the school could have prevented this from happening because they should have identification and be listed on the emergency record," junior Lydia Santiago said.

"Schools should be safer in general. He is definitely preying on a younger girl who has not developed the skills to see what is actually going on," art teacher Diane Chisdak said.

Amy Yu actually changed the school paperwork in order to have Kevin Esterly on the emergency contact list.

"There is no way the school could have prevented this; they can only do so much. There is a balance between security and freedom. Obviously, they are having a serious, sexual relationship, or else none of this would have happened," English teacher Mrs. Manhken said.

By Elhse Essick



Hipp And Miller Named March Student of the Month

School

For the month of March, Fleetwood has picked two involved and respected students for students of the month; those students are Nicole Hipp and Ryan Miller.

Nicole Hipp is very involved in activities around Fleetwood; she's a part of the swim team, track and field, book club, yearbook, student council, FBLA, Rho Kappa, NHS, and Relay for Life. She also helps around her community by giving swimming lessons, participating in photography projects, tutoring middle schoolers, and coaching the summer and winter swim teams of TRVY.

After high school, Hipp plans to attend Penn State University to study Political Science with a concentration in Pre-Law. Someone Hipp looks up to in life is her Grandmother because she was always there for her and gave her the best advice. Hipp views senior year as her most difficult because of her course load, but she enjoys seeing everything come together and to a

close.

March's second student of the month is Ryan Miller. Miller is a member of both the basketball and baseball teams. Miller has been playing sports since he was four-years-old. Earlier this school year, Miller had the opportunity to pitch in a chance to impress college coaches. His favorite time of year at Fleetwood is homecoming.

"My favorite teacher is definitely Mr Coassolo. He's a funny guy, and he and I have a good relationship," Miller said.

Miller will be attending NC Central after high school and playing on their baseball team. He enjoys hanging out with his friends and playing sports. Miller's role models have always been his parents. Miller describes his senior year as more relaxed and enjoyable, and he tells future seniors to enjoy the year, as it goes by fast.

By Jack Pickar



New Tech Plan Affects Incoming Freshmen

School

New plans are in the works for a technology remodel within the middle school and high school. Next year, Chromebooks will be given to the incoming freshman. These students will carry their devices around with them full time, unlike the current process of classroom sets in designated rooms.

Each core subject will have class sets, (Math, Science, and Social Studies).

Over time, the Chromebooks will be implemented throughout the school grade-by-grade during subsequent years.

By utilizing the Chromebooks, students will receive better access to technology while faculty receives professional development through Discovery education.

"Even though the plan won't affect me, I'm glad that the chromebooks will be used for the betterment of education," junior

Kyley Agostinelli said.

By using these Chromebooks, the ability to perform more diligently with the improved access provides a good starting point to implement newer technology into the school. Personal sets will be given to the incoming freshman. Class sets will be given to each subsequent year's freshman until all high school students are in charge of their own Chromebook.

"Chromebooks are cloud-based, constructed to run exclusively by browser, with no installations on the computer. This unique design allows zero accessible networks to be attacked. Chromebooks do not require active firewalls, or antivirus and anti-malware software. Filesystem encryption is not necessary as only identified users can view files," coolheadtech.com said.

By Morgan Althouse

Random Cheese

If you didn't have to sleep, what would you spend the extra time doing?

"Text people or watch Netflix," sophomore Owen Magers said.



"Play video games," junior Grace Hess said.



"Probably binge watch Netflix and avoid all of my responsibilities," senior Katie Keiser



"Do the schoolwork that I didn't do that day," junior Justin Kramer said.



"Playing guitar or reading," sophomore Owen Long



By Ripley Price

The Tiger Times is a high school news journal that is produced using funds from The Fleetwood Area School District as well as club fundraisers. All subjects and topics appearing within The Tiger Times are self-selected by student reporters themselves; however, article suggestions are accepted from all students, staff, administration, and community members. Opinions and viewpoints stated in The Tiger Times are not necessarily the opinions and viewpoints of The Fleetwood Area School District, its administration, its faculty, the club advisor, or even the entirety of The Tiger Times staff. The Tiger Times is a public forum, the primary goal of which is to provide an outlet for student expression to The Fleetwood Area School District and its constituent communities. Viewpoints and opinions that are contrary to those appearing in The Tiger Times are welcomed, but they are not guaranteed publication except by approval from the student editors. Students who are not matriculated in the journalism course or who are not among the club's roster are still eligible to submit content for the periodical. All articles and letters selected for publication may be subject to editing for length and language consistent with the style established by student editors of The Tiger Times.