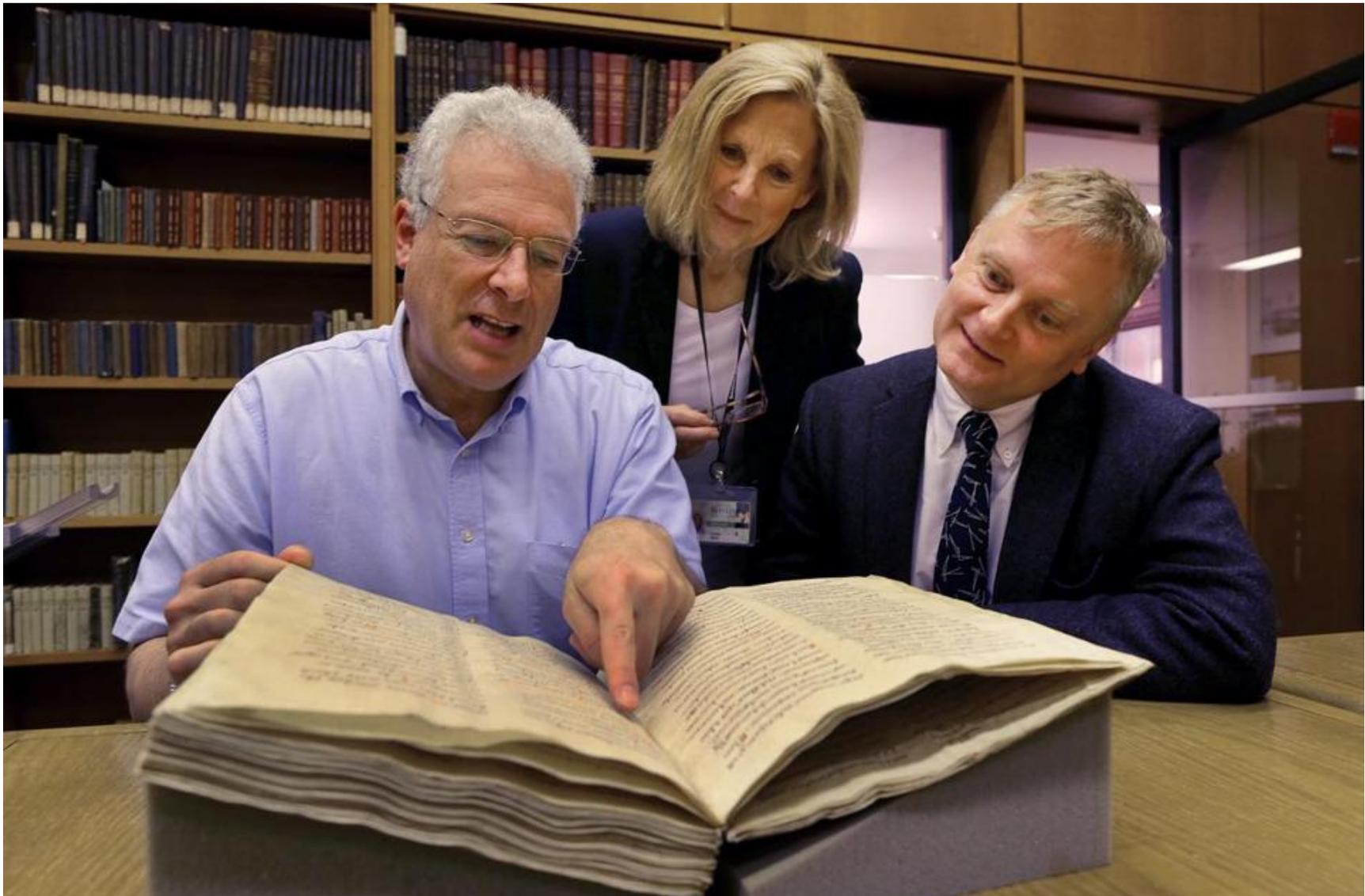




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Museums team up to display rare medieval manuscripts



From left: Jeffrey Hamburger, Vivian Spiro, and David Leonard hailed the collaborative exhibition.

By Brian MacQuarrie | GLOBE STAFF AUGUST 01, 2016

Art historian Jeffrey Hamburger slowly turns the animal-skin pages of a fragile religious book, his eyes riveted to bold script that chronicles the lives of the early saints. The craftsmanship is spectacular, the presentation vivid and compelling — even though the work is more than 1,000 years old.

The Harvard professor handles the book with awed reverence: It is a priceless illuminated manuscript written by a superbly skilled scribe, probably at a Benedictine abbey in central France no later than the year 935. Today, it resides in the well-protected recesses of the Boston Public Library.

“It’s a piece of buried treasure,” Hamburger said, and one of the oldest books in New England.

Viewed in the past mostly by scholars and researchers, the book soon will be presented

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manuscripts from the Middle Ages and Renaissance. It's also the culmination of a nearly two-decade quest by Hamburger to showcase Boston's world-class holdings of the manuscripts, which played a critical role in the preservation and development of Western thought and culture.

The exhibition of about 250 pieces, to be held in September, "will easily be the most ambitious exhibition of illuminated manuscripts ever held in North America," Hamburger said.

"The word 'unprecedented' has come to mind," added David Leonard, president of the Boston Public Library.

The term "illuminated manuscripts" broadly refers to medieval and Renaissance books with significant decoration, but particularly those with colored pigment or gold leaf. The finest of these in the Boston area, long scattered among academic and cultural institutions, now will be displayed together.

"Many of them are in fantastic condition," Hamburger said.

The effort received an important boost from the Associates of the Boston Public Library
an independent organization dedicated to conserving the library's special and rare

collections— which encouraged these institutions to come together to highlight the best of their holdings.



JOHN TLUMACKI/GLOBE STAFF

A drawing of Saint Jerome dating to the 15th century is part of the exhibition.

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The exhibition will be mounted under differing themes at Houghton Library at Harvard University, the McMullen Museum of Art at Boston College, and the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum — all of which are loaning parts of their collections. Items also will come from 15 other local institutions, ranging from the Boston Athenaeum to the Armenian Library and Museum of America.

The Houghton Library and the Boston Public Library are the two largest contributors, with 164 and 36 pieces, respectively.

Vivian Spiro, chairwoman of the Associates of the Boston Public Library, said the collaboration will redisplay the manuscripts in much the same spirit that the library acquired its items more than a century ago.

“Such inclusive, eclectic, citywide participation underscores the . . . reason for purchasing these exquisite materials in 1901,” Spiro said. “Namely, to show the world that Boston was a center of culture and learning on a par with New York, able to provide its citizens with free access to the most beautiful, historically and artistically important manuscripts available at that time.”

That rivalry with New York — even on a playing field where the prize was cultural —

Selecting the exhibits, chosen from about 3,000 works in the Boston area, was a labor of scholarly love that included Hamburger and William Stoneman, curator of early books and manuscripts at the Houghton Library. In the process, objects were uncovered that many researchers might not have known existed.

“It was like an iceberg coming up,” Hamburger said.

One treasure is an early 12th-century gospel book that has been kept at the Armenian museum in Watertown. Another is a 13th-century psalter, or psalm book, from Flanders, embellished with miniatures in spectacular condition.

There also is a large antiphonal book from 15th-century Italy, bound in heavy wooden boards covered with calf’s skin, that was used by monks as they chanted at prayer.

“There are a lot of dead animals in that book,” said Stoneman, who added that it would have been a “huge, expensive project” for the time.

Measuring about 2 by 3 feet when fully opened, the book is decorated so vividly and precisely that its painting of St. Jerome seems strikingly fresh five centuries later. There is gold leaf, too, as well as smaller, meticulously crafted pictures along the margins.

age in which everyone can design their own documents on his or her computer, we can still draw inspiration from these masterpieces of design and illustration.”



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Boston Public Library's research room.

Comments

The exhibitions open Sept. 12 at the Houghton Library and the McMullen Museum and Sept. 22 at the Gardner Museum. Brian MacQuarrie can be reached at brian.macquarrie@globe.com.

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Father charged in killing of daughter, 19, in New Bedford

Walter DaSilva, charged with murdering Sabrina DaSilva, has a history of violent threats against his estranged family. [MORE...](#)



Jogger killed in Princeton was visiting family

Vanessa Marcotte, a BU graduate, worked at Google in New York and was found dead near her mother's home. [MORE...](#)



Special tip line launched in jogger's slaying

The killing of a BU graduate visiting family in Princeton is the first murder in the community in 30 years. [MORE...](#)



Madison Park headmaster had his own attendance problem

Shawn Shackelford was cited for improperly taking sick days, which has caused frustrations on campus. [MORE...](#)



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David Sargent, who left the school in 2010, criticized the board for being overly involved in daily university business over the years. [MORE...](#)

Malden High staffer allegedly raped disabled student

The employee is also accused of threatening to kill the victim's mother if the victim did not comply. [MORE...](#)



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Purple Heart recipient raises money in Trump's name, but not to help Trump

Cameron Kerr has raised more than \$50,000 in Donald Trump's name in just five days. It's money Trump will never see. [MORE...](#)



For Jared Remy, leniency was the rule until one lethal night

The trail of alleged victims runs back to his teen years. So does the line of judges who somehow saw fit, time and again, to give him one more chance. [MORE...](#)



S. Boston fire started with oily rags stored in plastic bags

The rags were stored in an unventilated area and ignited the blaze, which caused about \$1 million in damage. [MORE...](#)

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Mayor Walsh says cargo shorts are ‘the most comfortable things ever’

Some people couldn’t get over his wardrobe on Sunday — but Martin Walsh saw nothing wrong with wearing the shorts. [MORE...](#)



JFK: 50 YEARS LATER

Robert F. Kennedy saw conspiracy in JFK’s assassination

Robert F. Kennedy took on some of the Kennedy Administration’s hardest tasks, ones that created dangerous foes, and after the assassination, RFK wondered if one of them had done it. [MORE...](#)

Doggie paddle gone wrong: Ferry captain helps rescue fallen pup

The pooch apparently is a big fan of water but didn’t realize how far out it was from land. [MORE...](#)



Father eyed in connection with daughter’s killing

Walter DaSilva, 45, was arrested last week in Connecticut on separate charges. [MORE...](#)



Lowell native said to be playing ‘Pokemon Go’ is killed in San Francisco

A former Lowell resident who was fatally shot was remembered by his college baseball coach as “a fun-loving teammate.” [MORE...](#)

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A hiker who died in 2013 after going off the Appalachian Trail in Maine kept a journal and apparently survived for at least 26 days. [MORE...](#)

Man charged with sexually assaulting elderly woman in her Hingham home

The 65-year-old Boston man allegedly broke into the woman's home and attacked her on July 28.

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SPOTLIGHT REPORT

Private schools, painful secrets

More than 200 victims. At least 90 legal claims. At least 67 private schools in New England.

This is the story of hundreds of students sexually abused by staffers, and emerging from decades of silence today. [MORE...](#)

Tuesday will be last nice weather day of the work week

Enjoy sunny skies, low humidity, and temperatures in the 80s and 90s. [MORE...](#)



What do Boston colleges pay for city services?

For the fourth year in a row, the majority of colleges have failed to pay the city the full amounts it requested to help cover the cost of municipal services. [MORE...](#)

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Wrong-way driver killed in Mass. Pike head-on crash

It was not immediately clear why the 28-year-old Rutland man was driving in the wrong direction on the Massachusetts Turnpike. [MORE...](#)



Weld delivers signatures to get Libertarians on Mass. ballot

The former governor appeared in person at the secretary of state's office. He felt, he said, like Santa Claus. [MORE...](#)



What those gantries on the Pike are secretly doing

The devices will replace tollbooths on the roadway as the state makes the transition to all-electronic tolling. [MORE...](#)



Fast Forward: US gymnasts chase gold, Alex Rodriguez returns to Fenway

A new morning report to help you get ready for the day. [MORE...](#)



How Charlie Baker charmed Beacon Hill

The GOP governor has found a way to work with Democrats in the Legislature and get most of what he wanted. [MORE...](#)

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In Boston, some areas bear brunt of opioid overdoses

Data provides a snapshot of an apparently growing problem in Boston, despite an expanding government response to the crisis. [MORE...](#)



More than 100 displaced Boston teachers still lack classroom assignments

Some teachers were displaced because of budget cuts, declining enrollment, or a principal's desire to hire someone else. [MORE...](#)



Harvard-acquired Pentecostal collection offers up 'gold mine'

Bishop Carlton Pearson's media archive will offer scholars a rare glimpse inside the closely guarded world of evangelical religious broadcasting. [MORE...](#)



4-alarm fire tears through under-renovation Southie home

An undetermined number of neighborhood residents were displaced, officials said. [MORE...](#)



Quick facts about Princeton

Police are investigating after a 27-year-old jogger was found dead about a half-mile from her mother's home in Princeton Sunday. [MORE...](#)

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In Colo., a look at life after marijuana legalization

In November, Massachusetts voters are likely to consider a ballot question legalizing recreational marijuana. [MORE...](#)



Rubin's may not have served its last knish

Reports that Rubin's Kosher Delicatessen in Brookline has served its last hot pastrami sandwich may be premature. [MORE...](#)



Business leaders want decision on South Coast commuter rail

The state has to decide whether to move forward with the project, and what routing it will use. [MORE...](#)



What's ahead for Suffolk University?

The Boston school is preparing to search for what will be its seventh president since 2010.

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Something new in the chill, salt air: Hope

The demise of the Grand Banks fishery left tens of thousands out of work, desperate, and

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LePage, environmental lobbyists weigh future of solar policy

At issue are credits to owners of solar energy systems for the retail value of their excess energy. [MORE...](#)



At Harvard Law, Tim Kaine was driven by faith

When Kaine arrived in Cambridge in 1979, he wasn't in his natural element. [MORE...](#)



PRIVATE SCHOOLS, PAINFUL SECRETS

The unexpected price of reporting abuse: retaliation

The Globe found 15 instances of retaliation at New England private schools against students or employees who raised concerns about sexual abuse by staffers. [MORE...](#)

Hiker airlifted from N.H. mountain after falling 50 feet

A Boston hiker was airlifted off a mountain in Lincoln, N.H., on Saturday after a 50-foot fall left him with serious head injuries. [MORE...](#)



West Bridgewater blaze victim was devoted to family

Robert Murphy, 54, died Monday after after a fire raced through Matfield Street home. [MORE...](#)

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Woman charged with biting off part of police officer's ear

Emma Wiley, 19, of Marblehead, pleaded not guilty in Salem District Court Monday to various charges. [MORE...](#)

Fred Tomlinson, 88, singer who led 'Monty Python' vocal troupe

Mr. Tomlinson's group sang loudly about topics like canned meat and lumberjacks. [MORE...](#)



Mayor Walsh rejects idea of Boston police carrying long guns

Mayor Martin J. Walsh joined a chorus of voices skeptical of the demands in a strident letter sent to the city by the leadership of the Boston police unions. [MORE...](#)



DAY-TRIPPERS

Communing with nature's gifts on Plum Island

A day trip to Newburyport and Plum Island should start in solitude on an empty beach, and end in the line for ice cream downtown. But watch out for the greenhead flies. [MORE...](#)



Newbury Street closes to cars for a day

Baby strollers, Adirondack chairs, and games of cornhole replaced the usual rush of traffic

across seven blocks

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After 30 years, court marks Boston harbor cleanup

The oldest active case in the federal court system in Mass. is coming to an end, and it seems all parties are celebrating. [MORE...](#)

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The life and times of Strider Wolf

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ON THE MOVE

These golfers really fling it

An entertaining hybrid of golf and lacrosse is being marketed this year in the Boston area. [MORE...](#)



Site of The Station nightclub fire now a Pokemon Go stop

Relatives of 100 people killed in the 2003 fire and survivors are upset that the site is a stop in the game. [MORE...](#)

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Mainers defend Somali neighbors against Trump

Donald Trump's incendiary charge linking Somali refugees to crime and terrorism was denounced by a chorus of protesters. [MORE...](#)



Opioid overdose deaths by Mass. town in 2015

The opioid crisis has hit Massachusetts hard, particularly in some communities. [MORE...](#)



Brookline officials spar over 'institutional racism' claim

Selectman Bernard Greene called the diversity commission's statement an "embarrassment" that hurt the town's reputation. [MORE...](#)



Animals to be moved from squalid Westport farm

A team from the ASPCA has been on site for a week, feeding and treating about 1,000 neglected animals as local, state, and federal authorities investigate. [MORE...](#)



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The boom is the result of easier accessibility, lower pricing, and a wider embrace of digital audio storytelling. [MORE...](#)

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I'm so sorry, Mitt Romney

I've been tough on you over the years, and I feel awful about it. Because now I see how bad bad can be. [MORE...](#)



As paid leave dragged on, former headmaster collected \$375,000

The Boston school system quietly cleared Queon Jackson to return to work on May 9 and gave him a desk job. [MORE...](#)

Phillips Exeter Academy under fire again for its handling of sexual misconduct allegations

When Michaela Henry told Phillips Exeter officials she had been sexually assaulted, officials didn't contact police. Instead, they offered baked goods. [MORE...](#)



Video shows great whites feasting on dead whale off Cape Cod

Researchers from the Center for Coastal Studies in Provincetown on Friday shared a video of the sharks dining. [MORE...](#)



Former student forces R.I. prep school to confront its past

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she demanded action — and others are now coming forward. [MORE...](#)

Man drowns in N.H. saving dog that jumped into Pemigewasset River

Divers recovered the body of 54-year-old Jacques C. Savoie Monday morning. [MORE...](#)



IndyCar ticket buyers will get refunds for cancelled Boston race

Organizers of the cancelled Labor Day race said that ticket refunds would begin Monday.

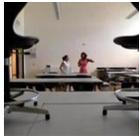
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THE ARGUMENT

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High school student decline a strain for Boston

Public high school enrollment is on the slide, leaving nearly 3,000 seats empty and raising questions about possible school closures. [MORE...](#)

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City Council votes to oppose charter school ballot measure

City Council President Michelle Wu said she opposed lifting the cap immediately without specific new funding legislation. [MORE...](#)



AMATEUR GOLF

Amateur golfers get a crack at 'The Monster'

Peter French, Jake Shuman, and Matt Organisak will tee it up in Bloomfield Hills, Mich., at the 116th US Amateur Championship. [MORE...](#)



Protesters call for abolishing prison systems

More than 100 people marched Sunday from Copley Square to Hynes Convention Center. [MORE...](#)



Walsh appoints special chronic homelessness adviser

Laila Bernstein has focused on homeless issues for the city for nearly two years and now says she plans to “scale up” efforts. [MORE...](#)

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City may have to force police to wear cameras

Boston police are having trouble finding volunteers to wear body cameras for a pilot program. [MORE...](#)



WGBH 'disappointed' in explicit 'Arthur' memes

WGBH is disappointed that social media users are combining images from the children's show "Arthur" with explicit situations and language. [MORE...](#)



Boston's charter schools show striking gains

Students outperformed those at traditional schools and at charter schools elsewhere over a six-year span, a study found. [MORE...](#)

Search the Globe's database of criminals

Find out if a criminal was released by immigration officials in the US between 2008 and 2014 because the person was not deported. [MORE...](#)

ADRIAN WALKER



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What kind of neighborhood is downtown downtown on the verge of becoming?

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Strict opioids laws hit chronic pain sufferers hard

“I feel so trapped when I look at my bottle and see six pills left,” said Jon Rodis, 57, who has a painful genetic condition. [MORE...](#)

Ogunquit town manager on leave after theft allegation

Tom Fortier is accused of illegally charging for parking at a free municipal lot during Ogunquit’s Fourth of July fireworks. [MORE...](#)

Man allegedly ODs on heroin while driving, hits parked car

Police said they arrived at the crash in Arlington and administered Narcan. [MORE...](#)



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Schools struggle to cope with rising mental health needs

And with the state experiencing a shortage of child psychologists and psychiatrists, there are long waiting lists for care. [MORE...](#)



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Nonprofits have questionable dealings with the Pam family

Valuable properties owned by a pair of charities were peddled to the Roxbury family's businesses under highly favorable terms. [MORE...](#)

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Boston's struggle with income segregation

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Nonprofit calls for permanent swimming area on the Charles

The Charles River Conservancy has pinpointed a spot where it envisions a permanent swimming facility. [MORE...](#)



A Boston first: medical marijuana for sale

The city's first marijuana dispensary opens its doors Wednesday in the heart of downtown. [MORE...](#)



Northborough woman indecently assaulted while jogging, police say

Northborough police are looking for a man they believe assaulted a woman while she was jogging Thursday morning. [MORE...](#)



SPOTLIGHT

Concurrent surgeries come under new scrutiny

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A new low for Jill Stein

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Activists protest nuclear weapons on anniversary of bombings

The Arlington event was one of many planned across to remember the bombings on Aug. 6 and 9, 1945, that killed about 200,000 people. [MORE...](#)



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It's time to talk about better police preparation

This is a conversation among cops that has been going on locally since the Marathon bombings. [MORE...](#)

Representative says nominee's statements make her unfit for SJC

Superior Court Judge Kimberly Budd's "ideological statements" have "no place on the Supreme Judicial Court and render her unfit to serve as a justice," according to state Representative Shaunna O'Connell. [MORE...](#)



Revenue up, tickets down after city introduces parking app

The introduction of ParkBoston sparked a civic triumph not quite as grand as a sports championship but certainly more durable. [MORE...](#)

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5 Boston schools recommended for closing

Two schools in Hyde Park, and schools in West Roxbury, South Boston, and Jamaica Plain face the ax under the School Department's plan. [MORE...](#)



Want a summer internship in politics? Get a job first.

Many college students can't afford to spend the summer unemployed, so they carve up the week into days of paid and unpaid work. [MORE...](#)



STARTS & STOPS

Route 128 widening still has a way to go

An announcement last month about new travel lanes may have left a faulty impression, suggesting the Route 128 "Add-a-Lane" project was nearly done. [MORE...](#)



At HUBweek forum, ideas collide on machines, morality

The week-long ideas festival's marquee event, which included Yo-Yo Ma and Arianna Huffington, was a philosophical think-off. [MORE...](#)



Joseph Silverstein, 83; renowned violinist, BSO concertmaster

Mr. Silverstein was concertmaster of the Boston Symphony Orchestra for 20 years.

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City Council president, mayor at odds on marijuana referendum

Michelle Wu plans to endorse the state ballot push, a referendum Marty Walsh opposes. [MORE...](#)

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