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Thursday, April 7, 2016 metro.us | t: MetroBOS | f: MetroBoston



D'OH! – AND DRAMA

How 'The Simpsons' family inspired this new stage show. 12

Is Janet Jackson suddenly with child? 9

Bruins with season on the line tonight. 18

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A poster for "Riverdance 20" featuring a group of performers in traditional Irish dress dancing on a stage with a blue background.

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A photograph of two large, white, skeletal figures (resembling the "Skeletoons" from the TV show "The Simpsons") standing on a roof. They are leaning against a chain-link fence with barbed wire. The background shows some trees and a clear sky.

NO HIGH VOLTAGE
UNDER OUR STREET
MAKE NO BONES ABOUT IT

Some residents of an Eastie neighborhood are not too thrilled with a planned electrical project. 2

DEREK KOYOUNIJIAN

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FACEBOOK, EYEING TV, BOLSTERS LIVE VIDEO

1 Facebook Inc. on Wednesday rolled out new features for its live video product, a major challenge to Twitter Inc.'s Periscope live-streaming service, and Snapchat's video features. Facebook Live, which offers streaming video, added a host of features to make it easier for users to find and share clips from friends, celebrities and media companies, marking its biggest push yet into real-time video.

REUTERS



FERGUSON REJECTS PROPERTY TAX TO FUND JUSTICE DEPARTMENT DEAL

2 Voters in Ferguson, Missouri, rejected a property tax increase that would have helped fund changes to its police department required by the U.S. Justice Department after the city erupted in violence following the shooting of a black teenager in 2014. A new sales tax did pass, but the city will still be left with a financial shortfall as the property tax proposal did not meet the required two-thirds threshold to be enacted. The city may try to put the proposal on the ballot again in August. "There is still a deficit," Ferguson Mayor James Knowles said on Wednesday, the day after the vote. "There is still a gap." The fatal shooting of unarmed Michael Brown, 18, by Ferguson police officer Darren Wilson, who is white, exposed friction between the city government and the largely black community. Ferguson erupted into violent protests after a grand jury chose not to indict the officer. A U.S. investigation released in 2015 found systemic racial bias by police targeted blacks and created a "toxic environment" in Ferguson.

REUTERS

NO PRISON FOR GULF SPILL, FINAL DEFENDANT GETS PROBATION

3 A former BP rig supervisor who pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge in the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill was sentenced to 10 months of probation on Wednesday, concluding a federal criminal case in which no one received prison time over the disaster. Donald Vidrine, 68, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Stanwood Duval in New Orleans, in accordance with a plea agreement in which the defendant admitted to the negligent discharge of oil, a Clean Water Act violation. Vidrine and another supervisor aboard the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig had been accused by the U.S. Department of Justice of failing to properly conduct necessary pressure tests before the April 20, 2010 blowout of BP's Macondo oil well. The blowout caused the deaths of 11 workers and the largest U.S. offshore oil spill.

REUTERS



A morbid display calculated to shock an audience. DEREK KOYOUMJIAN

Group has bone to pick with electrical project

Group's protest artwork featuring a family of plastic skeletons spooks neighbors.

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An unusual light-up display has been turning heads in a quiet corner of East Boston over the past few weeks.

Surrounded by signs protesting a planned electrical project, it's a massive box filled with tubes and blue and red lights. On top — until very recently — sat a family of plastic skeletons on a park bench: two grown-up-size dead people, a dead baby and a dead dog.

Not everyone is amused.

"Plastic skeletons of puppies and babies and families — that is not sitting well with the residents of Eagle Hill," said State Rep. Adrian Madaro, a lifelong resident of the neighborhood who said he's been driving by the thing twice a day for the past month.

He said he's taken in several complaints from his constituents.

"That doesn't de-legitimize their concerns," he added. "I just, I don't know. I guess everyone

has their own method of doing things."

A group called Empower Eagle Square is behind the attention-grabbing artwork. Donato Berardi, who identified himself as the group's lawyer, said they are opposed to utility company Eversource's plans to install an electrical substation and high-powered electrical cables underground in the area.

Berardi said opponents believe the station will have negative health impacts on neighbors — which Eversource disputes — hence the skeletons.

He said he's glad the installation is getting attention.

"We needed something that was going to depict a situation where these cables are nasty," said Berardi, who also represents Channel Fish, a seafood processing company near the project site. The light-up artwork is in a lot Berardi said was owned by a private company he didn't name. He said he wasn't sure who

built it.

The group has also bought ads in the East Boston Times-Free Press and circulated fliers and petitions. One petition, on Change.org, had 263 signatures on Wednesday evening.

The snow-dusted skeleton family was there overlooking Eagle Square on Monday night, but it was gone the next day.

Berardi didn't respond to an email inquiring about its disappearance.

But before they left their perch, complaints about the spooky protest art were ricocheting around the historic neighborhood.

"I know they were trying to be tongue-in-cheek, but it's not Halloween," said Ernani DeAraujo, VP of the local civic association. "I think it's in very poor taste and I think the backlash against them is warranted."

There have been other guerrilla awareness campaigns in the neighborhood that DeAraujo could get behind, but not this

one. And he wasn't alone.

"I thought it was insulting that they're over there trying to scare the people of East Boston, saying that this substation is going to kill people in my neighborhood," said City Councilor Sal LaMatta, who represents Eastie.

DeAraujo and LaMatta said they both support the construction of the substation, which they believe is needed to boost electrical service in the neighborhood.

At the request of local lawmakers, the state's Energy Facilities Siting Board is considering neighbors' concerns about the substation's impacts on health, the environment, property values and businesses.

Madaro said he'd wait to make up his mind on the project until that board comes to a decision.

Meanwhile, many residents who oppose the Eversource project welcomed the creepiness of Empower Eagle Square's efforts.

"These days people think that this intimidation, this scare factor, is not effective. But I disagree," said Danubia Camargos Silva, a 35-year-old Eagle Hill resident. "What they did is great because they brought attention to an issue that we otherwise wouldn't know."

"If you think that display is ugly, what's going to happen when the substation is built? It's really going to be unsightly."

Berardi