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Metro


# Smoky fire causes Allston apartment building to evacuate; trolley service disruption

By **Matt Rocheleau** | GLOBE CORRESPONDENT NOVEMBER 28, 2011

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Around 150 people inside a five-story apartment building in Allston were evacuated for about a half-hour, and nearby Green Line trolley service was temporarily rerouted to buses, after a smoky fire started in a third-floor kitchen stove tonight, officials said.

The fire inside 1079 Commonwealth Ave. at the busy Packard's Corner intersection was confined to the kitchen where it started and extinguished "pretty quickly" after firefighters responded at about 9:30 p.m., said Boston Fire Department spokesman Steve MacDonald.

But, because of heavy smoke on the upper floors, the entire building, which features some first-floor retail

and commercial space, had to be evacuated, he said.


No injuries were reported, fire officials said. The fire caused an estimated \$30,000 in damage.

Firefighters set up “smoke ejector” fans to ventilate the building. Fire officials reported that after about 30 minutes, the smoke had cleared and residents were being allowed back inside.

The MBTA’s Green Line B branch trolley, which runs outside the apartment building along Commonwealth Avenue, was temporarily shut down and substituted with buses between Packard’s Corner and Washington Street in Brighton, according to an update on the T’s website. Regular trolley service had resumed by around 10:30 p.m., but with between 15- and 20-minute delays expected, the website said.

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## Firefighters evacuate Chinatown building due to structural integrity concerns

Boston firefighters who responded to a false alarm at a 5-story brick apartment building in Chinatown today evacuated at least 20 residents after finding issues with the structure’s integrity. Fire crews arrived at 25 Harrison Ave. around 3:25 p.m. but found no fire in the building, fire department spokesman Steve MacDonald said. While investigating the call, some firefighters raised concerns about “structural issues” with beams and framing, he said. Floors one and two were vacant, but fire personnel evacuated between 20 and 30 residents from the third, fourth and fifth floors, MacDonald said.

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## Ex-Newton teacher charged with assaulting girl he babysat

**A former elementary teacher who is already facing child pornography charges is now being charged with sexually assaulting a child he was hired to babysit.**

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## **Woburn man charged with luring boys over Skype**

A Woburn Little League coach allegedly contacted teenaged boys over the Internet and then engaged in mutual sexual activity using a webcam.

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## **DeLeo rejects Patrick's tax proposals**

House Speaker Robert A. DeLeo will not support Governor Deval Patrick's proposal to raise \$260 million with various taxes and fees, including a tax on candy and soda.

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## **Woburn man faces attempted murder charge after arrest in Wakefield**

A Woburn man was arrested in Wakefield after he fled from the scene of an assault on Elm Street in Woburn. Thomas Ponte, 41, will face charges of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, attempted murder, and kidnapping while armed. Just after 4 p.m. Tuesday, Woburn police issued a "be on the lookout" alert for the suspect's car after receiving a call from a woman who said she was assaulted by the suspect. "We received information regarding a car the suspect may be in and a possible location he may be heading to," Woburn detective Ralph Coakley said.

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## **Wayward dolphin rescued on Wellfleet beach; stranding total**

## **rises to 147**

On the 28th day of the largest single-species stranding event on record in the northeastern United States, the International Fund for Animal Welfare said one more dolphin stranded itself in Wellfleet, bringing the total to 147 common dolphins. Michael Booth, spokesman for the animal welfare organization, said crews rescued the dolphin from the banks of Herring River in Wellfleet this morning. Two others were seen swimming in the area and workers tried to herd them out of the area.

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## **Scott Brown pushes Irish immigration bill**

US Senator Scott Brown, who hopes to garner reelection support from the state's large Irish-American population, has become a central player in a battle to allow more Irish workers to come to America. Brown's efforts to break a logjam in the Senate over a bill that would allow an additional 10,500 skilled Irish workers to gain work visas every year have attracted significant attention in the Irish press and are being watched closely by activists around the US.

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## **Boston officer credited with breaking fall of woman who fell headfirst from Dorchester rooftop**

A Boston police officer is winning praise for breaking the fall of a woman who fell headfirst from a rooftop in Dorchester early this morning, police said. Officers responded to a report at 3:45 a.m. of a distraught female threatening to jump from the roof of a Wilbert Road residence, police said in a statement.

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## **No say for some who would be casinos' neighbors**

The new casino bill gives tremendous power to local residents to decide if a casino will be built in their community, but residents in neighboring towns are not so fortunate.

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## Longfellow Bridge loses outbound car lane in new design

As part of a new design, the rebuilt Longfellow Bridge will shrink to a single lane bound for Cambridge and gain wider bike lanes and sidewalks.

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## Senator seeks Chelsea inquiry

Charles Grassley of Iowa wants an explanation for why the Chelsea Housing Authority permits managers to live in public housing almost rent-free.

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## Giving voice to slain social worker

Stephanie Moulton's parents have been ensnared in a labyrinth of legal procedure and government bureaucracy in the year since a mental health patient killed their daughter.

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## Proposal would set standards for dementia care

A proposed law would require the Massachusetts Department of Public Health to establish minimum standards for facilities with dementia care units.

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## 2 ex-state workers get probation in pool fatality

Two former state workers who oversaw a Fall River pool where a woman drowned last year were sentenced yesterday to a year of probation.

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## Residents turn to towns for help battling coyotes

In Brookline, Newton, and Belmont, where coyote sightings have become more frequent, residents are urging town officials to take steps to control the population.

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