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Jesup & Lamont's millions in stock deal scrutinized

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A DYING CRAFT

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Metro

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EMT credits faked as favor, instructors say

By Donovan Slack and Stephen Smith
GLOBE STAFF

Details emerge with state's report on recertification scheme

Two instructors suspected of falsifying training records for more than 200 emergency medics across Massachusetts told state public health investigators that they were simply trying to help colleagues who did not have the time or money to take the medical refresher courses required to renew their licenses.

State officials reported yesterday that one of the instructors, former Trinity

Ambulance employee Leo Nault, initially said he conducted classes, but later admitted that he did not, explaining that he had informal educational conversations with EMTs before granting them credit for a refresher course.

The other instructor, Mark Culleton of Billerica, also admitted he fraudulently gave credit to EMTs without ever holding refresher courses, state officials said.

Culleton, a Lexington firefighter, said he "was just trying to help fellow EMTs who were experiencing some hardship," the officials said.

New details about the recertification cases were released yesterday by the state Department of Public Health in response to a public records request from the Globe. According to a report on its monthslong investigation of the falsified

training records, the two instructors faked records for 213 emergency medics, from basic level to advanced paramedic. The emergency medical technicians with false training credentials worked for five ambulance companies, including Armstrong, Cataldo Atlantic, and Trinity Ambulance, and a dozen communities, including Boston, Cambridge and Lexington, the report found.

State officials announced last week that the licenses of the EMTs would be suspended for up to nine months, while the instructors have been permanently banned from practicing in Massachusetts. The state turned over the results of its investigation to the attorney general, who could launch a criminal probe. It is illegal to falsify documents related to emergency medical certification.

"This is an embarrassing day, an embarrassing event for municipalities

RECERTIFICATION, Page B4



KAYANA SZYMCAK FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

SHADES OF SUMMER — Madison Robertson, 5, and Nadia Robertson, 5, enjoyed a few minutes of shelter under umbrellas while celebrating the first day of the new season yesterday at Revere Beach. Today will be slightly cooler, with a mixture of sun and clouds. Weather, **B13**.

Murder verdict is small comfort

Mother of youth killed in 2008 laments violence

By Jack Nicas
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

When Dawn Barboza was pregnant with her first son in 1991, the baby's father was shot and killed in Dorchester. She called that son "golden boy."

The day before Barboza's golden boy turned 17 in 2008, he, too, was gunned down in Dorchester. Yesterday, the grieving mother addressed her son's killer.

"Because of people like you, thieves of innocent life, I can't stand to travel the streets of Boston anymore," she told Patrick Grier, 21, moments before he was sentenced to life in prison for fatally shooting De'Andre Barboza a block from Dorchester District Court.

"The city where I was born and where I grew up brings me so much heartache," Barboza said yesterday, her eyes locked on Grier. The defendant looked down.

About 9 a.m. on Dec. 1, 2008, Grier and a 16-year-old girl skipping school were walking north on Washington Street in Dorchester Center, according to surveillance footage. As they approached Lyndhurst Street, Grier "extended his arm and fired his weapon," according to the prosecution's statement of the case. "As he reached the corner, he pointed his weapon to the ground and fired multiple times."

VERDICT, Page B13

Mass. may find US health care changes costly

As rules stand now, poorer to pay more

By Patrick Lee
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

In most states, the passage of the sprawling federal health care overhaul legislation means the poorest will have a better shot at affording health insurance. But in Massachusetts, the law

might have the opposite effect.

Senator John. F. Kerry, state leaders, and health care advocates met yesterday to discuss a new report that highlights the major differences between the federal and state health care models.

The focus of the event quickly turned to the hurdles of implementation and the need to protect the gains Massachusetts has made since 2006,

when the state embarked on a closely watched experiment to extend health insurance to virtually every resident.

The report reveals that, despite the promised increase in federal funding, some Massachusetts residents might end up facing higher premiums.

"None of us have approached this with the idea that it's a done deal, that just because we passed it, we can go home and everything's going to work

smoothly," said Kerry, a Massachusetts Democrat. "It's not."

The report, released yesterday by the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation, highlights the projected benefits and drawbacks of putting the new federal health care law into action.

Beginning in 2014, Massachusetts is expected to start receiving at least \$425 million a year in federal money to help

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'He knows the city, he knows City Hall, he knows the people . . . it should be of no surprise he could pull this thing off.'

FORMER MAYOR RAYMOND L. FLYNN, on Felix G. Arroyo's role in resolving the firefighters' contract dispute

A new Arroyo blazes own path on council

By Andrew Ryan
GLOBE STAFF

Felix G. Arroyo beamed with a boyish grin, blushing as older colleagues heaped praise on the youngest elected official in the room, a 31-year-old freshman with just five months on the Boston City Council.

The council had just secured its most significant victory in recent memory, settling a seemingly intractable contract standoff between the mayor and the firefighters' union. Arroyo used his know-how as a former union organizer to help push both sides back to the table.

"Councilor Arroyo, for one of the newest members of this body, you've shown tremendous leadership," Council President Michael P. Ross said June

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JODI HILTON FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

Felix G. Arroyo (left), chatting with fellow Councilor Mark Ciommo, has established himself as a significant presence on the City Council.

Fall River lighthouse back on the block after deal sours

Auction expected to start this month

By Alex Katz
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

After nearly 130 years of guiding ships and sailors to safety at the mouth of the Taunton River in Fall River, the Borden Flats Lighthouse was on the verge of taking on an additional role: that of a New England microbrewery.

At least that was the stated goal of Michael Gabriel, an attorney from Carson City, Nev., whose \$55,000 bid was the highest in a 2008 government auction for the historic and still functioning lighthouse.

However, Gabriel defaulted on the closing and the lighthouse is once again for sale, said Paula Santangelo, a spokeswoman for the US General Services

LIGHTHOUSE, Page B2



JEREMY D'ENTREMENT

The Borden Flats Lighthouse has guided ships through the mouth of the Taunton River for nearly 130 years.



YOON S. BYUN/GLOBE STAFF

TEAMWORK — Rob Sistare and Katrina McGuire of Cambridge rented a canoe to partake of some urban canoeing yesterday on the Charles River.

Details emerge on faked EMT training credits

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and private agencies,” Dennis Cataldo, with Cataldo Atlantic Ambulance Service in Salem, said in an interview yesterday. “This is certainly not an accurate reflection of the work performed by the majority of the 23,000 EMTs and paramedics in the Commonwealth.”

Cataldo, like most of the other private companies reached yesterday, plans to fire the EMTs named by the state.

Some of the communities who employ the EMTs, including Boston and Lexington, said yesterday that they are conducting investigations before taking disciplinary action.

Nault could not be reached for comment last night. Culleton did not return messages. Culleton’s lawyer, Richard Kendall of North

Reading, said last week that he is appealing the license revocation, which could take nine months to a year.

State officials began investigating Nault after his employer, Trinity Ambulance in Lowell, reported to the health agency that several of its EMTs had paid Nault for refresher courses and advanced cardiac life support cards without ever attending a course. Public health investigators began calling everyone listed on attendance rosters for nine courses in question and determined that 170 EMTs signed up and received credit for fictitious classes taught by Nault, the state report says.

In an interview with state investigators, Nault admitted the scheme and said he collected between \$50 and \$125 each for most of the fraudulent creden-

tials, although “those EMTs who were having financial hardships did not pay any money,” officials wrote. In addition, four other EMTs helped Nault collect money and signatures on phony attendance rosters.

Arlington-based Armstrong Ambulance Service employees Victor Valdez and Charles White, Haverhill firefighter and paramedic Jeff Given, and Atlantic Ambulance paramedic Tonia Schofield all admitted collecting signatures and money for Nault, state officials wrote.

Schofield did not return messages left last night seeking comment. Given, White, and Valdez could not be reached.

In Culleton’s case, the Public Health Department received a tip that an employee at Atlantic Ambulance got credit for advanced cardiac life-support train-

ing without going to class. Public health officials then reviewed rosters and conducted interviews before determining that 43 EMTs and paramedics received credit without attending training. In some cases, Culleton said he made up fake test scores, the report states.

Scott Moore, chief executive of Armstrong Ambulance, said his company, like municipalities and others who employ EMTs, depend upon the state to properly regulate recertification.

“This isn’t an Armstrong issue. This isn’t a Trinity issue. This isn’t a Cataldo issue,” he said. “We rely on the oversight agency.”

Globe correspondent Sara Brown contributed to this report. Donovan Slack can be reached at dslack@globe.com.

On public payroll

The state has identified 213 emergency responders who received credit for classes they never attended, including 74 employed by a dozen cities and towns:

Belmont — 3 dispatchers for 911 calls.
Billerica — 1 police officer.
Boston — 21 firefighters.
Cambridge — 4 firefighters, 1 police officer.
Cohasset — 1 firefighter.
Essex — 1 firefighter.
Haverhill — 30 firefighters.
Lexington — 7 firefighters.
Lynn — 1 firefighter.
Somerville — 1 firefighter.
Townsend — 2 EMTs.
Winchendon — 1 firefighter.

A new Arroyo blazes his own path on City Council

► **ARROYO**
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9, moments before the final vote. “You should be commended for that.”

The grin remained on Arroyo’s face the next day as he tried unsuccessfully to hang a framed picture in his new City Hall office. His cellphone chirped with the “Knight Rider” theme song, a ringtone the councilor joked could only belong to a child of the 1980s. But Arroyo’s age and youthful affectations belie the breadth of his experience, informed by a political education that began in grade school when his father worked at City Hall.

Those early civics lessons have given Arroyo the acumen to quickly establish himself as a significant presence. Not only was he integral to the resolution of the firefighters’ contract dispute, he has been a vocal critic of a city plan to close libraries, he has promoted jobs and opportunity for youth, and he even managed to make himself a lightning rod in the national debate over illegal immigration.

The highly publicized battle over the firefighters’ contract, in particular, helped established Arroyo’s identity in his own right, a difficult task for the son of a trailblazing father with the same name, former councilor Felix D. Arroyo.

Before his father became the first Latino elected to the City Council, the younger Arroyo started working full time at City Hall when he was not old enough to join fellow staffers for a drink, becoming Councilor Chuck Turner’s director of constituent services at age 20. Even then, Arroyo knew his way around the building. As a boy, he tagged along with his father, who served as an education adviser and personnel director for Mayor Raymond L. Flynn, whose office young Arroyo would waltz into with a thousand questions.

“It would be a mistake to say

this was his first baptism by fire,” Flynn said of the firefighters’ deal. “He knows the city, he knows City Hall, he knows the people . . . it should be of no surprise he could pull this thing off.”

Arroyo and two other councilors personally mediated a breakthrough bargaining session between the Menino administration and the firefighters’ union. The two other councilors — Ross and Salvatore LaMattina — had never done this before. Both worried that negotiations were breaking down, because the two sides spent long periods away from each other, holed up in separate rooms.

“I was trying to tell my colleagues that this is a good thing,” Arroyo said. “Because it’s within those private conversations sometimes when the deal happens.”

“It was a back-to-home experience for me,” he said.

Home was the headquarters of SEIU Local 615 on West Street, the secret location where the city and the firefighters hammered out the deal. Arroyo picked the spot because he worked four years as political director of Local 615, which represents janitors and security guards. The same room hosted Arroyo’s campaign kickoff in June 2009, when he launched his successful push for an at-large council seat, a bid strongly backed and partially financed by organized labor.

Arroyo hails from a family of public school teachers and politicians. His parents moved from Puerto Rico to Boston to attend Harvard University, and he was born in the South End in 1979, the second of five children.

Growing up in Hyde Park, Arroyo graduated from Another Course to College, a Boston public high school where he returned June 14 as commencement speaker.

One of Arroyo’s regrets is not fully applying himself in school. He studied finance and labor at the University of Massachusetts



JODI HILTON FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

Since taking the oath in January, Felix G. Arroyo, 31, has jumped into office with the exuberance of a rookie councilor.

Boston but never earned a degree. His attention wandered as he held three jobs, including stints as a busboy at Somsie restaurant on Newbury Street and as a security guard at Brigham and Women’s Hospital. He did, however, earn a master’s degree in community economic development from Southern New Hampshire University after the school waived the requirement for an undergraduate degree.

He met his wife, Jasmine, when she volunteered for one of his father’s failed bids for office.

“I tell my dad, ‘You lost, but I won,’” Arroyo said. His wife, a first-grade teacher in Boston, brought her own political pedigree to the marriage: Her father is Héctor Luis Acevedo, the former mayor of San Juan.

Arroyo began running for office not long after his father lost his reelection bid after five years

on the council. His father had been popular but came under fire during his last campaign for skipping council meetings.

“He has his own vision of the world,” Felix D. Arroyo, 62, said of his son. “I was more of an activist. He has been an organizer, and that gives you a different perspective.”

Arroyo speaks highly of his father and his time in office but notes that they were shaped by very different life experiences: He is a born and bred Bostonian, for instance, while his father spent his formative years in Puerto Rico.

“The rule of his thumb is that I get half of his friends and all of his enemies,” the younger Arroyo said.

Since taking the oath in January, Arroyo has jumped into office with the exuberance of a rookie councilor. He has pushed the city to deposit its money in financial institutions that invest in the community. And he has tried to carve out a niche with the youth agenda.

But outside the firefighters’ contract dispute, Arroyo has received the most notoriety for a resolution he sponsored with Ross calling on the city to consider canceling contracts with firms based in Arizona after the state enacted a strict new immigration law.

Arroyo said at the time that the crackdown promoted “racial profiling,” but his efforts drew the ire of talk radio across the country, eliciting so many faxes in protest that it broke the City Council’s fax machine.

“He put this resolution out, and suddenly the whole country knew Felix Arroyo,” LaMattina said. “I think he put himself out there and wasn’t prepared for the backlash.”

“But he’s a quick learner,” LaMattina continued. “There’s a bright future for young Felix Arroyo in this city.”

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Health care plan may hurt state poor

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pay for health insurance. About a third of that will be used to subsidize premiums for consumers who do not qualify for Medicaid and make less than \$43,000 a year.

The state’s Commonwealth Care program, which aids low-income adults who do not have insurance through their job, currently provides more generous subsidies than the federal program would, but it covers fewer people, only those with an annual income at or below \$30,000.

Without a commitment from the state to maintain current subsidy levels, the poorest in the state would, in four years, face significant increases in average annual health care costs.

Under the Massachusetts program, people who earn about \$15,000 annually incur health care expenses that average \$295 a year, the report said. Under the federal program, these same individuals would have to spend about \$626 a year, more than double the cost.

“Some of them would manage to stay covered even with a lower subsidy,” said Robert Seifert, coauthor of the report. “But there have got to be people who are sort of on the edge now, and if their subsidy shrinks, they wouldn’t be able to afford coverage.”

A 2009 survey, also commissioned by the foundation, found that individuals who make \$30,000 a year or less, that is, those who would be most affected by the lower federal insurance subsidies in 2014, are about 40 percent of the state’s adults under age 65.

Seifert emphasized that the outcome of federal health care changes in Massachusetts largely depends on state-level negotiations on how to spend the funds freed up by increased federal support.

Given the large number of issues left to be tackled by future federal and state regulations, observers of the health care bill’s implementation insist that Massachusetts must take a lead role in the process.

Robert Blendon, a health policy analyst at the Harvard School of Public Health, has conducted several polls tracking national public opinion on health care.

His polling has found national support for health care changes to be substantially weaker, about 45 percent, than the backing the Massachusetts plan received when it was passed in 2006, when support exceeded 60 percent.

Blendon said public opinion will hinge on showing that health care costs can be contained even while coverage expands.

Much also rests, he said, on the political will of national and state legislators to find new solutions to keep up with implementation.

“The leadership community on this issue in this state, for the last 30 years, has been 50 years ahead of the rest of the country,” Blendon said. “But if [in] four years we cannot reach agreement within the state, it’s going to undermine the implementation of the bill nationally.”

Regardless of what public sentiment looks like in 2014, the state will have to meet the timeline for health care changes.

Glen Shor — executive director of the Commonwealth Health Insurance Connector Authority, which oversees the Commonwealth Care program — said state leaders will have to “put a new stake in the ground” in redefining what qualifies as affordable coverage in light of the new national plans for insurance subsidies.

Only then, he said, can the state decide how to respond to the expanded but less generous federal tax credits that will replace at least part of the subsidy currently provided by Commonwealth Care.

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