

# **Boston consumer prices rise 3.6% over past year**

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## **THE REGION**

Consumer prices in Boston rose 3.6 percent over the past year, boosted by higher energy and housing costs, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported. Boston prices, however, advanced at a slower pace than the nation's 4.1 percent increase. Utility costs jumped 18 percent here, compared with 10 percent nationally, the bureau said. Housing costs rose nearly 3 percent in Boston, primarily due to energy costs, said BLS Regional Commissioner Denis McSweeney. Medical costs rose 5 percent over the past year, compared with 4 percent nationally, while food prices increased nearly 4 percent, compared with about 2 percent nationwide. On the other hand, rents rose less than 1 percent in Boston, compared with 3.5 percent nationally, while clothing prices, unchanged nationally, fell nearly 2 percent in Boston. (Robert Gavin)

## **Rum company giving away Gillette Stadium tickets**

A Bermuda rum company will host a sweepstakes to give away a 2007 season pass to New England Patriots games, New England Revolution games, and concerts and other events at Gillette Stadium. Gosling's Rums "Unbefeakin'lievable Sweepstakes," and its advertising focuses on the lengths that Patriots fans will go to get tickets. Patriots fans 21 and older can enter by filling out a form at a participating retailer in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island. The sweepstakes runs Aug. 14 through Dec. 14. (Sasha Talcott)