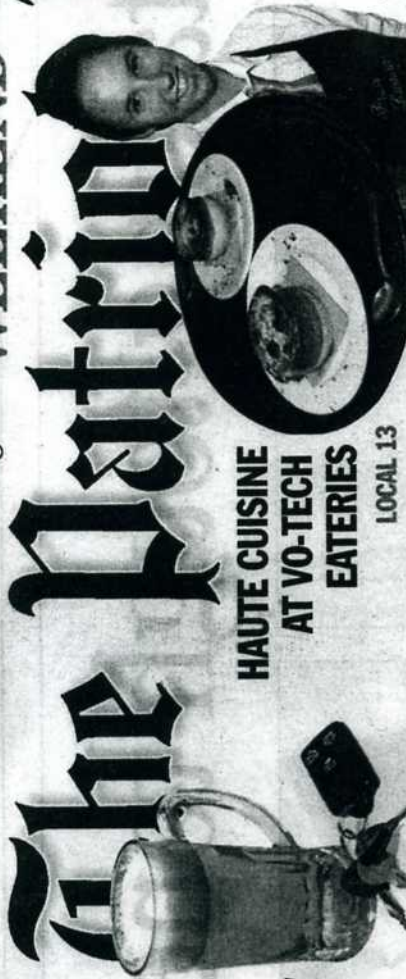


New England WEEKEND Newspaper of the Year

W E A T H E R

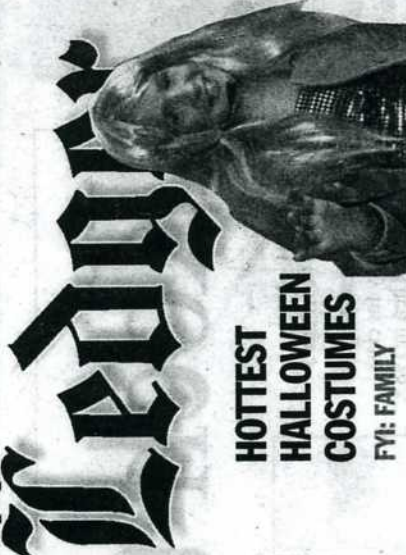
Saturday:
Breezy,
High of 68°
Sunday:
Some sun,
High of 62°
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HAUTE CUISINE
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HOTTEST
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COSTUMES

FYI: FAMILY

BRAINTREE
CANTON
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MILTON
QUINCY
RANDOLPH
SHARON
STOUGHTON
WEYMOUTH

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The Patriot Ledger

Two Quincy lawyers to get volunteer award

Pair to be honored for giving free help to Irish immigrants

By CLARA LONG
The Patriot Ledger

QUINCY — Two Quincy lawyers are among a group of nine to win the Irish Immigration Center's Solas Appreciation Award for outstanding voluntary service.

Solas awards have previously been bestowed on President Bill Clinton

and Sen. Edward Kennedy. Immigration lawyers Chris Lavery and Jane Chiang, partners at Sedna law firm in Quincy, are being honored for their volunteer work at IIC legal clinics, where for the past several years they have spent evenings giving free legal advice to immigrants in church basements, bars and health centers.

The Irish Immigration Center was founded in the late 1980s to help Irish immigrants get settled in the United States. It continues to help Irish newcomers and provides legal advice, advocacy, housing and employment to immigrants from



Jane Chiang, left, and Chris Lavery, partners at Sedna law firm in Quincy, are being honored by the Irish Immigration Center for their work.

around the globe.

"It's an award that is, frankly, long overdue," said Thomas Keown, spokesman for the IIC. "We couldn't provide legal advice services without these volunteer attorneys."

The Solas awards will be presented Nov. 7 at a Boston gathering, said Keown, with guests including Boston Mayor Thomas Menino, the consuls general of Ireland and the United Kingdom, many federal and state elected officials and Boston business leaders.

"It's nice that they are making such a big deal out of us all," said

Lavery. "Honestly, (volunteering) great fun more than anything else." Irish-born Lavery, 36, said he became an immigration lawyer because his own journey through American immigration system was so frustrating.

"I think it's pretty valuable actually," said Chiang, who is 35 years old. "A lot of times people questions can be answered pretty easily rather than going to an attorney who charges a hefty consultation fee."

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