

Thank You South Boston Allied War Vets!

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
staff report

The day was cold but the sun was shining bright. The wind was blowing in at a good clip, at some point even howling, but no one seemed to be all that bothered by it as one of the biggest crowds in memory lined the streets of our neighborhood to watch the annual St. Patrick's Day/Evacuation Day Parade. This parade, organized

and run once again by the South Boston Allied War Veterans was one of the largest ever. It consisted of 135 units. And it was dedicated to 'The Men and Women of our Armed Forces', a fitting theme in honor of America's heroes. It was put on to honor the memory of St. Patrick as well as to celebrate a great American military victory.

The procession, which kicked off from Broadway Station wound through the streets on the same 5 plus mile route it's been using for years and was filled with a huge variety of marching bands, floats, color guards and had a heavy military presence, which is always a crowd pleaser to the people of South Boston and their guests. One of the most impressive things about the roster of military units is that not only are modern day units represented, but units from different periods in American History are here as well. The Army, Navy,

Marines Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard were out in force. There were WW II and Korean War soldiers, Union Troops from the Civil War and of course a brigade from the Revolutionary War of Independence with muskets at the ready; all wearing authentic uniforms of the various periods.

Seeing the line of march at any given location was an impressive vision to be sure. A sea of color; which included of course the Red White and Blue of Old Glory being

CONTINUED ON page 4

This Week's Poll

On Page 6




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Editorial “A MILLION VOTERS”

Hypocrisy is a charge associated too often with elected officials or those seeking to be elected. Not always justified, the St. Patrick's Day breakfast was a prime example. There were those who must have said a prayer to St. Patrick that they had a “legitimate” reason not to march. Too numerous to count were these who appeared, in order to gain exposure at one televised event, only to say “principle” prevented them from marching, later, in our parade.

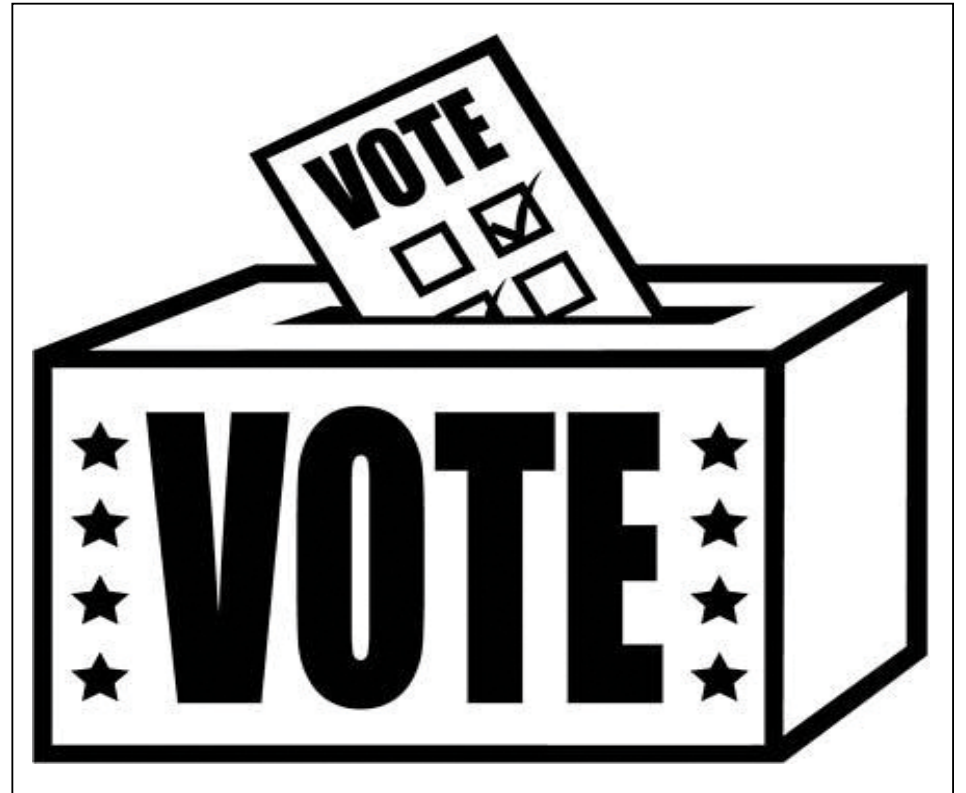
Principle? The principle of denying veterans the right of free speech? Dress it up any way you want but that's what is at the heart of their self serving flip flops. Whether all Americans have the right to speak, or only those in current political favor.

Focus, however, belongs on three aspirants who seek to be our “leader”.

John Connolly, our would-be mayor, is absolutely wrong. This pleasant fellow of Irish ancestry was a welcome sight a few years back when, after marching in our parade, he and his lovely wife would return to a house party and join in on the chorus of Irish ballads. Somehow, though, John came to feel these same folks were bigoted haters and he darkens their doorstep no more. His Irishness goes back in the closet except, of course, when he wants our vote.

Linda Dorcena-Forry is somewhat of a newcomer. A pleasant enough woman who, nevertheless, is well aware of right and wrong and she is wrong

CONTINUED On page 6



“Political correctness is tyranny with manners” -Charlton Heston

Last week's poll results:

Last Week's Poll asked our readers the following question:
City Street Sweeping begins April 1. Is it necessary to tow vehicles or simply ticket them, especially if they have a resident sticker?

Here's how they answered:

Answer	Percent
Tow All Vehicles	27%
Ticket All Vehicles	19%
Tow Only Non Resident Vehicles	15%

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Reflections On Last Sunday and Other News

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY

John Ciccone

Note: talk back to John Ciccone by email at jciccone@southbostontoday.com

This was a big week around town. We made it through another St. Patrick's

Day/Evacuation Day and winter threw in one more snow storm to slap us with on its way out. Yes, it's now springtime, but I suppose it's still possible we could get hit yet again, with sort of a 'Spring Surprise'. This season is definitely not following the rules of nature. The parade attracted by some estimates close to a million spectators. And yes, some of them were pretty darn rowdy and out of control. Message to visitors: Just because you can legally (in some cases) drink alcohol, doesn't mean you have to drink all the beers they have in the county, and then take the 'T' to South Boston. But the relatively small percentage of out of town drunks is not an accurate reflection of how the overwhelming number of people, locals and visitors alike, behaved themselves. For the most part, people were pretty good with a huge number of families with children lining our streets to watch one heck of a good parade that was put on by the South Boston Allied War Veterans. The Allied War Vets don't mess around. They do things right, they do them big and best of all, they do them on their own terms for the benefit of this community whether their whining detractors like it or not.

While the media, as is their way, focused on the negative, most was positive. The editorial in last week's South Boston Today had it right. Our parade is a celebration. Some continue to try to crash it and turn it into a protest; they say it's their right. I'm willing to bet these same people would oppose a

Pro-Life Protest by people trying to save babies lives outside an abortion clinic, claiming it's not the proper place. How would they like it if a Tea Party group or a contingent from CPAC demanded entry into their line of march? Hey, not a bad idea. If they keep up their bull, we just might see about arranging that next year.

This year, in their attempt to convince the crowd that they were actually part of the main procession, this 'Sandinista Parade' as one Boston cop deemed it, attempted to get the city to go against the court order and put the street sweepers behind their own scruffy group. The Allied War Vets sent in their lawyers and thwarted this attempt. Good for them. Message to the protestors/parade crashers, you will not wear down the resistance on this issue no matter how many local dupes you enlist to support your efforts. Not this year, not next year - not ever. Overall, a good time was had by most. Now, we patiently await the coming of Easter and the arrival of some real Spring weather.

Moving on to other topics, in the ongoing efforts to make the Sequester as painful as possible Washington has really crossed the line. They are now threatening to cut back or eliminate altogether tuition assistance for those in the military, blaming once again the Sequester cuts. But, officials have no intention of stopping the proposals for giving illegal aliens free and discounted tuition. And the breaking news as of last Tuesday is that our government plans to send millions to Pakistan for education aid in that country. Oh, can't forget the

extra \$250 million we just slipped the Muslim Brotherhood government in Egypt. This, in addition to the billions worth of fighter jets and tanks we're shipping them, all complements of the US taxpayers. Isn't it funny how Sequestration only causes education funds to be cut from American military personnel but not from illegal aliens

and people in Pakistan and the army in Egypt? The question being asked very often by Americans to their government is 'Just whose side are you on?'

How about the TSA's ruling that it's ok now to bring knives onto planes? That's got to be an all time classic move. So let's see if we have THIS one right. The

CONTINUED On page 12



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Boston's Media Falls Flat Again

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY

John Ciccone

Some things are predictable. Like the rising sun, the ebbing tides, snow in winter and heat in summer there are things we just expect because it's just nature taking its course. For example, we all knew that leading up to the St. Patrick's Day/Evacuation Day Parade and beyond, there would be the hit pieces and reptilian reporting from Boston's daily media that just had to produce insulting rants. This type of thing used to upset many South Bostonians because of the bigotry and long held prejudices that motivate so many in this city's ancient liberal press. But now, most of us just take it in stride and laugh it off. Not only does the fact that some so called reporters just can't help themselves, like toddlers kicking up dust in a sandbox, but in at least one case - well 2 actually - these publications will soon be gone.

What are we leading up to with this

intro to this years trash reporting? The Boston Globe, that dying rusted out old noise maker ran a story, with photos just prior to this year's parade telling folks how not to be a jerk when at Southie's parade. The wise remarks were accompanied by selected photos of well known alleged mobsters; which is par for the course. Where were the photos of children with their families enjoying the festivities which make up the majority of the crowd? Ya, right.

No, the others included one of a guy standing on a South Boston roof top getting ready to urinate on the crowd below. Another showed a man obviously drunk out of his head, screaming at people and holding up a T-Shirt with the words "Die Yuppie Scum" printed on front. Then there was another one where some guy holding a beer mug looking like he could be about ready to fall out of a

window. I'm guessing the writer of the story thinks of himself as quite clever. Some others have said they think of him as not funny at all and may have a problem with the ethnic neighborhood he now lives in. But again, it's ok. These people can no longer get to us because in the case of the Boston Globe, they'll soon be gone.

It used to be that the Globe came in a close second in the eyes of many for being boring and irrelevant with only the Boston Phoenix in the lead. But now, with the Phoenix going out of business, congratulations to the Globe, they have moved to number one. They should enjoy it for as long as they have left.

The Boston Herald ran a story the day after the parade; about half of which spoke of the number of arrests and disorderly people and booze and all the usual things that media trolls find fascinating and news worthy. Giving a little good PR to all the hard work by the many volunteers who gave of their time to create a fun

family day by bringing in the horses, the cartoon characters and Star Wars characters was just not to be. Mention of the proud marching soldiers and sailors carrying flags and the youthful marching bands who drilled and practiced long and hard to come here and perform for the crowd never seems to make it to the media's priority list either. Funny how that always happens. But it's ok; they can't get to us any longer. Just look at the polls and survey results. The main stream media in this country is now considered less popular than the Flu and Nancy Pelosi. When they write nasty stories and expose their true selves, folks now just smirk, shake their heads in amusement and move on. And move on is what some in the press will be doing soon. Ronald Reagan once predicted that Soviet Communism would one day be remembered as being relegated to the ash heap of history. He was right. Some predict that the time will come when the daily media in this city won't even be remembered at all.

Allied War Vets... CONTINUED FROM page 1

carried by nearly every unit and certainly heavy splashes of green to honor St.

Patrick himself was a striking sight to behold. Was it loud and noisy? It sure was, just like it's supposed to be. The sounds of fire engine sirens were nonstop, the bands playing their well rehearsed songs got people clapping their hands and the rifle and cannon shots seldom cease to startle even those who thought they were prepared for them. It was all festive to be sure. Asked what he liked best in the parade, a cold but clearly happy 6 year old Liam Gilday hesitated, but just for a second then blurted out "I like EVERYTHING!" His Dad said it was Liam's first Southie parade.

The crowds lined both sides of the streets along the entire route. In some locations 10 -15 people deep. Families were everywhere with small children in tow; bundled up against the cold but with grinning faces. The adults seemed to be enjoying themselves but the smiles on the faces of the kids; especially the little ones had to bring satisfaction to the Allied War Vets who make sure that each year they load the parade with marchers and floats and other attractions that are proven kid pleasers. The Cartoon characters, the fire trucks, troops of space suit clad soldiers from the Star Wars movies and of course, the horses - Lots of horses. This has always been and will always be a true family parade.

Elected officials loyal to South Boston, clearly at ease and having a good time meeting and greeting the crowd could be seen racing up and down and side to side to shake hands with and hug constituents and visitors alike. All of them got their exercise on this day as they resembled marathoners keeping up a good pace. This parade was so long that it was estimated that it took at least 3 hours to pass any given point along the route.

And then it was over. Things began to quiet down soon after and the 2013 St. Patrick's Day/Evacuation Day parade will go into the history books as another success. And all of it thanks again to the great work and community spirit of The South Boston Allied War Veterans who put their hearts and souls and a lot of hard work and love into bringing this event to us each year. They deserve very special praise and above all, our support.





Reading Between The Lines

“A Million Smiles”

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
Brian R. Mahoney

Note: talk back to Brian by email at bmahoney@southbostontoday.com

I only saw one beard among all the attorneys. Which was surprising because it's hard to see how any of them could look in a mirror long enough to shave. Considering the nature of their task at hand, which was dragging a legally blind lawyer and a veteran in his 80's into Federal Court in yet another attempt to break them on the wheel of politically correct justice or perhaps, more appropriately, vengeance. The reference is to South Boston Allied War Veterans attorney Chester Darling and his client John “Wacko” Hurley.

We can debate the sincerity of the motives of those who we'll describe as “plaintiffs”. What of those attorneys who allegedly defend Americans civil liberties. These were not recently discovered “concentration camp guards” but veterans trying to run a parade. A parade which the U.S. Supreme Court ruled unanimously, 9-0, is an expression of free speech a first amendment issue. No government agency, politician or court may dictate who can or cannot be in a parade. One justice offered the analogy of the Ringling Brothers Circus Parade. “Surely”, the judge intoned, “animal rights activists could not demand entry into that parade”. Another jurist said a parade is like a symphony with a beginning, middle and end and the organizers are the conductor”.

That is just how this parade has historically and traditionally been produced. The Chief Marshall starts the parade with the blast of a whistle, the bands and units come next and the parade ends with the street sweepers. How many times, over the years, have you heard or made corny jokes like, “here come the sweepers,

let's throw so and so in with the rest of the trash? Yet even though the actual court ruling says “no other parade may start until the sweepers have passed and that parade must maintain a one mile distance at all times behind the official parade”, the veterans, once again, had to defend that right. To defend it in a state and court system that seems determined to attempt every trick to circumvent the Supreme Court ruling and the free speech of all South Bostonians.

The latest attempt was a claim of “public safety” in that the sweepers “create a dust cloud” which, I guess, “scares people away”. This lends to the second part which is that “alternate marchers” have a constitutional right to the audience the first parade attracted and the street sweepers send a signal to the audience to go home. Attorney Darling pointed out the real parade organizes and fund raises for nearly a year to produce the parade. He further pointed out that perhaps the million or so people who show up do so to see a real parade and simply leave because they have no interest in seeing the disorganized free for all that follows the real parade.

In any event, it is just another attempt aided and abetted by attorneys who claim the rule of law is their master, not individual causes. Did they not understand when the Supreme Court said “the Veterans Council is the beneficiary of the first amendment, and not its victim”? Were they absent from class when the Supreme's said “the first amendment thus protects citizens from being punished for failing to endorse an ideological cause for which they have no sympathy”?

However, where Allied Veterans sympathy lies is not the issue. The parade is not about theirs or anyone

else's “sympathies”. It is a parade to honor America's first

military victory and an Irish Catholic Saint no more no less. The veterans do not require a litmus test on political ideology or positions. Only that if you wish to march in this parade you honor the parade's twin themes. The veterans recognize everyone's free speech to organize and march in their own parade with its own theme and message. The veterans ask only that their rights are also honored, respected, or at the very least protected.

But those attorneys know all this. They know that many of its own members believe if any position is taken it should be that of the South Boston veterans. These attorneys remember the Protestant German minister who wrote from a Nazi concentration camp, “when they came for the homosexuals I said nothing, for I was not a homosexual. When they came for the Catholics I said nothing, for I was not a Catholic. When they came for me there was no one left to speak”.

CONTINUED ON page 6

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The South Boston Historical Society

Invites you to a talk by

Robert Anthony

Chronologist, Boston Police Department



Behind the Badge Histories of the Boston Police

Monday, March 25
6:30 pm

Free—Open to All—Refreshments Available

South Boston Branch, Boston Public Library
646 East Broadway

Holy Week Begins This Weekend

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
staff report

This coming Sunday, March 24th is Palm Sunday. This is one of the Holiest of times on the Christian Calendar, observed by Christians worldwide. Palm Sunday marks the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, the week before his death on the Cross and

Resurrection that followed. Some churches refer to it as 'Passion Sunday'. Traditionally, Masses and Services are more solemn and subdued than during the rest of the year. Palm Sunday actually marks the beginning of Holy Week, which is the most Holy period on the Christian Calendar which all concludes on Easter Sunday. The Bible tells us that when Jesus entered Jerusalem the large crowds greeted him by waving palm branches and covering his path with palm branches, as well. All of this led up to the beginning of his journey to the Cross. Palm Sunday marks the 6th and final Sunday of Lent. It's the opportunity

for Christians to reflect on the final week before the Crucifixion and then the Resurrection which is of course marked by Easter Sunday.

In South Boston, traditionally the churches see even larger crowds in attendance than usual. Palm Sunday is the day when parishioners and members of the congregations come and receive the blessed palm branches, provided by the various churches as has been the custom for hundreds of years. These palms are often displayed in Christian homes year round and replaced by new ones the following year. They are usually hung in a family room for all to see as a reminder of Holy Week and Easter itself. Another custom practiced by some is to cut the palms into smaller sections and attach them in the shape of a cross.

For more information on Holy Week and Palm Sunday schedules for Services and Masses, you can contact local Churches in the area for days and times.

Editorial... CONTINUED FROM page 2

now in refusing to march to honor America.

Finally, there is local candidate Maureen Dahill. According to her website she has been "credited with bridging the gap between new South Bostonians and lifelong South Boston residents". Really? As a lifelong resident, how many times has she appeared at a community event or neighborhood development meeting over the last ten years? Where was her presence when Southie had a "suicide crisis"? Why is she missing at meetings calling for more drug control efforts? The issue of the parade began in 1992, over twenty years ago. What took so long to get her attention? Even 2 years ago, she marched in this parade. Now she has an online petition to "show the world"? Somehow being involved in the former issues would seem to be bridge building as opposed to the latter of getting a petition to castigate her neighbors. What changed? Could it be the chance for a political post has awakened her "social conscience"?

Thankfully people saw through the political posturing and, instead of "hundreds" signing some foolish self serving petition, over a million people showed up to refute it.

Election Day just might send a similar message to hypocrites and hypocrisy.

In Between the Lines... CONTINUED FROM page 5

Our first settlers came, not for gas prices or MTV, but for the freedom to practice their religion and speak as they wish. It is the very foundation of our country. The very speech we object to is the speech we have to protect to guarantee our freedom. The South Boston Allied Veterans will continue that protection even if no one else will.

Finally, it's sad to say, but most residents' reaction to our annual "Day of Celebration" seems to be "I'm glad it's over and there were no major incidents". The real parade, though, was wonderful. Those that did brave the crowds and weather said it was possibly the best one yet. To paraphrase Attorney Darling "over a million people can't be wrong". Take care till next week.

This Week's Poll

Should the Dept. of Public Works self perform snow plowing or continue to contract it out?



Go to our facebook page to vote on our weekly poll.
www.southbostontoday.com



Machinists & Aerospace Workers Endorse Nick Collins for State Senator

Support continues to grow for Collins in advance of Special Election on April 30th

(Boston, MA) – Representative Nick Collins, candidate for State Senate, continues to obtain endorsements and support from many local and regional labor unions, most recently including the International Machinists and Aerospace Workers Local Lodge 264. This past weekend several unions participated in the St. Patrick's Day Parade to show their support of Collins' candidacy to the State Senate.

"I am proud and humbled by the overwhelming support and confidence that I have received from labor," said Collins. "If elected to the State Senate, I will continue to fight for the working people and families of Dorchester, Hyde Park, Mattapan and South Boston."

John Burke, Secretary of the Machinists Local Lodge 264, shared that they believe Nick is "the best qualified candidate in the race to represent the views and issues concerning the working families of our Union and the First Suffolk District."

The overwhelming support for Collins by organized labor reflects his unwavering dedication to working people and families in the First Suffolk Senate District and his proven record of results on issues that matter to labor. Union leaders cited Nick Collins as the only candidate with a "demonstrated" record of accomplishment on

behalf of labor when making the endorsements.

During the first month of the campaign, Collins gained endorsements from a vast variety of unions, including:

- Boston Carmen's Union Local 589
- Boston Firefighters Local 718
- International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, Local #11
- International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers Local Lodge 264
- International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 2222
- International Brotherhood of Teamsters
- Ironworkers Local 7
- Laborers Local 223
- MA Correction Officers Federated Union
- National Association of Government Employees
- Pipefitters Local 537
- Plumbers Union Local 12
- Sprinkler Fitters Local 550
- United Steel Workers of America
- Utility Workers of American Local 369

To learn more about the Nick Collins for Senate campaign, please visit www.votennickcollins.com or call 617-268-1014.



John Connolly Rocking the Vote

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
staff report

Boston City Councilor At-Large John Connolly plans to kick off his quest to unseat long-time Mayor Thomas M. Menino with a free concert. Connolly attempts to woo young urban hipsters to his campaign team as part of his coalition to unseat the six term mayor.

Boston-based band Bad Rabbits, who have quite a following in the city, will take the stage for Connolly's event. The band will play a free show starting Thursday night at 6:30 p.m. at the Omni Parker House as part of Connolly's campaign kickoff. Dorchester rapper Akrobatik, whom Connolly has known since high school, will also perform.

Outspoken Menino critic, Greg

Selkoe, who is the CEO of the online retail giant Karmaloop, will MC the event and introduce Connolly. Selkoe is also the founder of the Future Boston Alliance, a group geared toward artists and young urban professionals. Selkoe says he is excited about Connolly's campaign and feels honored to speak at the event.

To date, Connolly is the only candidate to announce his candidacy for mayor of Boston. Mayor Menino, who at 70 years old is considering a run for an unprecedented sixth term, has served as mayor since 1993, when Mayor Raymond L. Flynn was appointed Ambassador to the Vatican, and as City Council President, Menino took over as acting mayor.



Dining Around

“Broadway’s Best”

Many claim to be but few live up to the hype. We’re talking about eateries that use the word “Best” in their name. At the end of the day, the best way to find out if the claim is true is to try it yourself. Please allow the presentation of “Broadway’s Best” for your judgement.

As with most successful food establishments the care and special touch needed is present when it’s a family affair. “Broadway’s Best” is exactly that. Opened over 17 years ago Max and Gulhan Yalcin

food. Everything is fresh and made on the premises including their own yogurt. Extra care is used in naming dishes. “Sweet Ireland, Texas Meat Lovers, Spinach Popeye, Ms. Naked, Mr. Barbecue, Burgerlicious are just some of the quirky, but catchy names. So many the entire review could just be about the different names. As mentioned at the beginning there is more to a name. A customer would be the best judge and a client named Jimmy simply said “The Best Steak Tips in Southie Bar None”. He



have cousins on staff as well as occasional secret homemade recipes from parents back in their birthplace of Katika, Greece. In the summer you’ll see their son’s 6,8,10 helping out. About 23 years ago Max learned the trade in Malden he was great at it and, more importantly, he loved it.

That love of craft can be seen in the extraordinary attention given to every detail.

To start at the end, every bag your food is packaged in has an individual, unique, handwritten, personalized message. Before arriving at that point, however, Max takes care to make the bread fresh and daily. There is no frozen

went on to rave about the Buffalo wings and tenders claiming he’s had them everywhere but these are “something special”.

The most apt description might be American cuisine at it’s best. From wings, tips subs to full dinners it’s impossible not to find something you’ve got to have. The atmosphere grabs you the minute you step in. From the American Flag painted on the ceiling to the warm greeting Max gives to every customer who he seems to know by name, when you add it all together “Broadway’s Best” deserves it’s name. Max invites you to come in and experience this treat, 7 days a week at 321 West Broadway.



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“Behind the Shield:” A History of the Boston Police Force”

Officer Robert Anthony
South Boston Historical Society
Monday, March 25, 6:30 pm
South Boston Library, 646 East Broadway

The South Boston Historical Society invites you to join us for a lecture by Boston Police Officer Robert Anthony, “Behind the Shield: Stories from the Boston Police.” Officer Anthony is the first “Chronologist” for the Boston Police. He will share the results of his research into Boston Police history and tradition.

Officer Anthony received the Italian-American Medal of Valor for apprehending the first domestic terrorists in Boston in 2001, and has served the citizens of Boston as a patrolman, motorcycle officer, bike patrolman, and SWAT team member. His primary research focus has been on “Our Firsts,” honoring the first Irish-American police officer (Bernard “Barney” McGinniskin), first Italian-American officer (Andrew Cuneo), and the first African-American officer (Horatio Homer). Thanks to Officer Anthony’s research, the unmarked grave of Horatio Homer, appointed to the Boston Police in 1878, was discovered, and Officer Homer and his wife were given proper honors and a memorial stone.

“I believe that heroes are the people who do what has to be done when it needs to be done, regardless of the consequence,” is Officer Anthony’s motto. He has been responsible for placing “Hero Signs” around the city to honor the seventy-six Police Officers killed in the line of duty. This is the first memorial program in the nation honoring Officers who have given their lives in the line of duty. On April 20, Officer Anthony and the Boston Police will be placing a marker at the old District 4 in honor of Detective Thomas Gill, a South Boston native who died in the line of duty in 1988. Officer Anthony is also working to

commemorate the centennial of the Boston Police motorcycle division.

After graduating from East Boston High, Officer Anthony began his career in law enforcement in the United States Army, serving as Military Police Officer and narcotics dog handler. After his honorable discharge, he was accepted to the police forces in Dallas and Miami, but he joined the United States Secret Service. He graduated from both the U.S. Secret Service Police Academy, and the Federal Law Enforcement Academy. With the Secret Service, he was on the details protecting the President of the United States and First Family along with the foreign missions in Washington, D.C., and the Vice President’s residence.

But growing up in the Orient Heights Housing Projects, and watching the Boston Mounted Police patrol East Boston, his real dream was to serve on the Boston Police Force. He left Washington to return to Boston for an opportunity to attend the Boston Police Academy and become an officer. The day his wife Jacki pinned the Silver Star on his uniform was one of the proudest of his life. In addition to his work as a police officer, and historian of the Boston Police, Robert Anthony is the head hockey coach at East Boston High School, serves on the East Boston Foundation board and the East Boston Athletic board, the Boston Police Relief Association, and for thirteen years he was a union representative for the Boston Police Patrolmen’s Union. Join us to learn more about the history of the Boston Police Force.

Contact:

Robert Allison, South Boston
 Historical Society
 617 573 8510 rallison@suffolk.edu



GEORGE MACDONALD – Cast Member of ‘In Plain View’ Actor, comedian and writer, George MacDonald is excited to be a cast member of ‘In Plain View’. A veteran of over ten thousand stand-up gigs, his television credits include MAD-TV, The Michael Richards Show, and A&E’s Comedy On The Road. Film credits include, Monument Ave. with Denis Leary, Bluff with Lenny Clarke and Ken Rogerson, Celtic Pride, When Stand-Up Stood Out, and The Mexican Dream, which won the Franklin J. Schaffner Award at The American Film Institute. George’s screenplay adaptation of his stage play, Waiting For Whitey, a darkly comic send-up of the Boston Irish underworld, was recently optioned by DeLucia Media/Films in Los Angeles. George made his own directorial debut with Why Work?, a sketch comedy show at The 2005 Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

Local Filmmaker to Shoot New Dramic Cop Web- Series in Boston

Local filmmaker Joseph A. Conforti, whose father was a Boston detective, is gearing up to produce the first Boston-based dramatic cop web-series. He’s kicking off his crowd-funding campaign with RocketHub.com, and plans to raise \$50,000 for an initial

twenty-two minute pilot, followed by twenty-four webisodes. Conforti’s cast boasts veteran actors Tom Kemp, Bobby Wahlberg, Tony V., and George MacDonald. Casting and crew-hiring is continuing in Boston.

The series called In Plain View, was inspired by the real life execution-murder of a Boston police officer. This fictional story centers on the dead cop’s former partner, ex-Boston Police detective Butchie Wells and his dangerous search for the killers. Lead actor and Milton resident, Tom Kemp is slated to play Wells.

Because of skyrocketing production costs, different viewing habits and the possible changes in the traditional syndication marketplace, a recent Variety article noted that bank rolling a new series is a bigger gamble for studios than ever before.

Conforti says that the paradigm shift taking place in how viewers today consume media is incredibly exciting. The digital world has made former distribution models obsolete. He calls it a perfect storm, with the confluence of Internet distribution, lower cost digital hardware, crowd-funding and “New Media” friendly organizations, like SAG-AFTRA, the actors’ union, all aiding filmmakers on a modest budget.

“It’s a lower budget filmmaker’s dream,” Conforti said, and he plans to fully embrace it. “For a filmmaker, without a substantial funding source--- think studio or equity investors--- producing work of this quality would have been almost unthinkable not very long ago.”

For more information on In Plain View or to schedule an interview with Conforti or any of the cast or crew contact.

Phone 855-275-0943

inplainviewseries@gmail.com Attn: Zack Brackman

<http://www.facebook.com/InPlainViewSeries>

Harpoon Helps Cupid Splash to Benefit Save the Harbor / Save the Bay

DATE: Saturday, March 23, 2013
TIME: Registration at 11 – Splash at Noon

LOCATION: Center Stage at the BCYF Curley Community Center at M Street Beach in South Boston

On Saturday, March 23, 2013, Save the Harbor / Save the Bay and the Harpoon Brewery will host the 3rd Annual Harpoon Helps Cupid Splash, a cold weather plunge

and pledge fundraiser where participants dash and splash into the icy waters of Boston Harbor for a very good cause. This year's Cupid Splash will take place at the Boston Center's for Youth and Families Curley Community Center at M Street Beach in South Boston. Last year's Cupid Splash raised more than \$30,000 to support 30 free events and programs on the region's public beaches, including sand sculpture competitions, beach parties, and family reading and movie nights.

Though the annual event is in

March, participants will sport their finest Cupid themed attire - inflatable water wings, feather boas, arrows and other outrageous costumes - to compete in a contest for a round trip JetBlue ticket... "Because everyone loves their beach - even in cold weather," said Save the Harbor's spokesman Bruce Berman. There will be hot coffee on the beach before the event and live music, and tasty treats from Tasty Burger, as well as icy cold and refreshing Harpoon beer for the Cupids and their supporters when they get out of the water.

"We are excited to support our friends at Save the Harbor Save the Bay. We have been brewing on Boston's waterfront for more than 25 years, and we believe in their mission," said Charlie Storey, Senior VP of the Harpoon Brewery, whose philanthropic

program, Harpoon Helps, is co-producing this year's Splash in South Boston. "The Cupid Splash is a great way to spend the first Saturday of spring; a quick dip into

the icy water to get the blood

flowing, followed by a cold Harpoon with your friends - all to support a great cause!"

This year there will be four ways to win a round trip ticket from JetBlue Airways. The person who raises the most money and the person with the best Cupid costume will both win a round-trip ticket on JetBlue Airways to any non-stop destination from Logan Airport. Additionally, all registered participants who raise \$100 or more will be entered into a raffle and any pledge or donor will also have a chance to win a round trip ticket from JetBlue Airways as well as great gifts from Harpoon.

Online registration is free and easy. Simply visit www.cupidsplash.com to sign up and make a pledge. The website has tools that make it easy for participants to register, donate, create a team, and contact their friends to encourage them to give, and to track pledges. The funds raised will support Save the Harbor / Save the Bay and free events and programs on the region's great public beaches.

For more details about the Cupid

Splash, visit www.cupidsplash.com or contact Sue Woods at woods@savetheharbor.org

About Save the Harbor/Save the Bay

For more information about Save the Harbor / Save the Bay, please visit www.savetheharbor.org, or contact Save the Harbor/Save the Bay's Director of Strategy, Communications, and Programs Bruce Berman at bruce@bostonharbor.com or call him at 617-451-2860.

About Harpoon Helps

Harpoon Helps is the philanthropic arm of the Harpoon Brewery. Its mission is to support local charities throughout New England with donations of fresh Harpoon beer and volunteer hours. Each year Harpoon donates thousands of dollars in merchandise and many barrels of beer to New England charities, and every month we invite Friends of Harpoon and Harpoon staff members to participate in Harpoon Helps missions.

For more information about Harpoon Helps, visit www.harpoonhelps.com

Big Brother/Big Sister Clothing Drive This Saturday

This coming Saturday, March 23rd from 10am till 2pm, The Big Brother Big Sister Foundation will be hosting a clothing collection at the Engine 2 Fire Station at the corner of K St. and E. Fourth St. (700 E. Fourth St).

The clothing drive will be a fun destination for people out and about this Saturday. The Easter Bunny will be on hand to give out candy and take photos with the kids and there will be free raffles and local vendor give-aways. All slightly used clothing and small household items will be accepted. What better way is there to pass on your slightly used clothes and household items than to give them to this worthy cause which helps those in need? And it's all types of clothing that is needed. Clothes for men, women and children and for every season will be accepted and greatly appreciated.

Everything collected this Saturday will benefit local Big Brother, Big Sister mentoring programs.

For more information, you can call 1-800-483-5503 or log onto the Big brother, Big Sister website at www.bbbsfoundation.org. Remember, it's this Saturday at the Fire House at K and Fourth Sts. - 10am till 2pm



Big Brother
Big Sister
Foundation



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Ciccione... CONTINUED FROM page 3

liberals in Congress would like nothing better than to be able to stop law abiding Americans from owning firearms for the protection of their homes and families, but carrying knives onto planes - not a problem?

And finally for this week. Many of you have been watching the History Channel's miniseries called 'The Bible'. This is a relatively low budget movie series and

wasn't expected to do all that well with TV viewers but 'WOW', it has turned into a mega success with over 13 million viewers just the first night. Hollywood, which under its new secular management, really does not like anything having to do with Religion; especially Judaism and Christianity, is shocked and not very happy that 'The Bible' series is so popular. Hollywood big wigs are even more upset at this than they are about the new show called 'Duck Dynasty' which is breaking records for the number of viewers.

But what really has the libs in 'Tinsel Town' upset about 'The Bible' series came the other night. The Devil made his first appearance in the story. He is a sinister hooded character, played by an actor who has a striking resemblance to Barak Obama. If you saw the actor playing the Devil standing next to Obama, you would think they were one in the same. I'll make no further comment on this.

	Price	Sale date	Rooms	Baths	Sq Ft
600 East Sixth St Two Family	\$589,000	3/1/13	8	3	2040
9 West Broadway UNIT 306 Condo	\$587,500	3/1/13	4	2	1129
104 I St UNIT A Condo	\$579,000	3/1/13	6	2	1310
9 West Broadway UNIT 310 Condo	\$550,000	3/1/13	3	2	1167
248 West Fifth St UNIT 2 Condo	\$525,000	3/4/13	5	1.5	1269
346 Congress St UNIT 108 Condo	\$525,000	3/7/13	2	1	938
141 Dorchester Ave UNIT 313 Condo	\$465,000	3/1/13	3	1	797
346 Congress St UNIT 410 Condo	\$460,000	3/1/13	1	1	660
149 G St UNIT 1 Condo	\$457,000	3/12/13	6	2	1050
711 East Broadway UNIT 3 Condo	\$440,000	3/1/13	4	2	1136
517 East Sixth St UNIT 1 Condo	\$430,500	3/1/13	5	2	1114
61 G St Single Family	\$419,000	3/8/13	8	1.5	1868
11-A Swallow St UNIT 3 Condo	\$396,000	3/13/13	5	1	827
444 East Eighth St UNIT 2 Condo	\$392,000	3/4/13	4	1	800
149 G St UNIT 3 Condo	\$385,000	3/10/13	4	1	800
149 G St UNIT 2 Condo	\$335,000	3/8/13	3	1	675
184 I St UNIT 3 Condo	\$325,000	3/8/13	3	1	635
138-142 West Ninth St Unit 4 Condo	\$304,000	3/1/13	3	1	675
138 West Ninth St UNIT 2 Condo	\$265,500	3/4/13	3	1	715
171 West Eighth St UNIT 2 Condo	\$244,000	3/1/13	3	1	598
376 West Broadway UNIT R Commercial/Industrial	\$235,000	3/12/13			
132 Emerson St UNIT 23 Condo	\$179,000	3/8/13	3	1	560



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www.southbostontoday.com

BCEC Hotels Meeting Held

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
staff report

The Monday March 18 meeting at the Convention Center was attended by approximately 75 residents and development officials. Once again community liaison Bob O'Shea was lauded for his efforts in securing shuttle service for local attendees. By way of background, some 2 years ago, the BCEC announced a need for more contiguous hotel rooms in order to compete with convention centers nationwide. The BCEC has about 1,690 hotel rooms compared to competitors who average approximately 7,584.

The original legislation, chapter 152, contained a provision prohibiting hotel/motels on the community side of Summer Street. In public community meetings the South Boston Community supported the removal of the legal prohibition and the construction of 4-6 hotel/motels to be built between the Haul Road and First Street with a second Headquarters Hotel built next to the Westin hotel.

However, three-deckers or hotels require public community meetings to discuss design, impact on the community as well as benefits. To start with community benefits, the proponents cited the activation of D Street, the creation of 500 construction jobs and an internship program. The actual design is still being created but, already, existing examples of ALOFT style mid-size hotels were shown. The hotel closest to Summer Street is proposed at a maximum of 160 Feet. In answer to a question on residential preference and union hiring, the proponents replied it would be union hiring and fifty percent Boston residence preference on construction and permanent jobs. One resident made the observation that the proponents, Connors LTC and Starwood Hotels, had been involved in previous projects in South Boston that have

resulted in at least 200 jobs for South Boston residents.

Some troubling concerns to residents that continue to surface are the future of the entire zone to the Reserve Channel, the status of the State maintenance facility and garage, (which has been rumored to be moving to "B" and First Streets) and the operation of a 1,350 space parking garage that would be used to service both the hotels and replace Convention Center spaces that would be lost if the BCEC, in fact, receives the \$2 billion needed for expansion.

Local officials were represented by Jake Bombard of Rep. Collins office and Sean Regan of the Mayors Office of Neighborhood Services. Chairman of the BCEC Design Advisory Committee (DAC) Father Joe White of St. Vinny's and other DAC members were present. The meeting ended with a reminder that April 8th is the deadline to comment on these proposals. Stay tuned to South Boston Today for updates.

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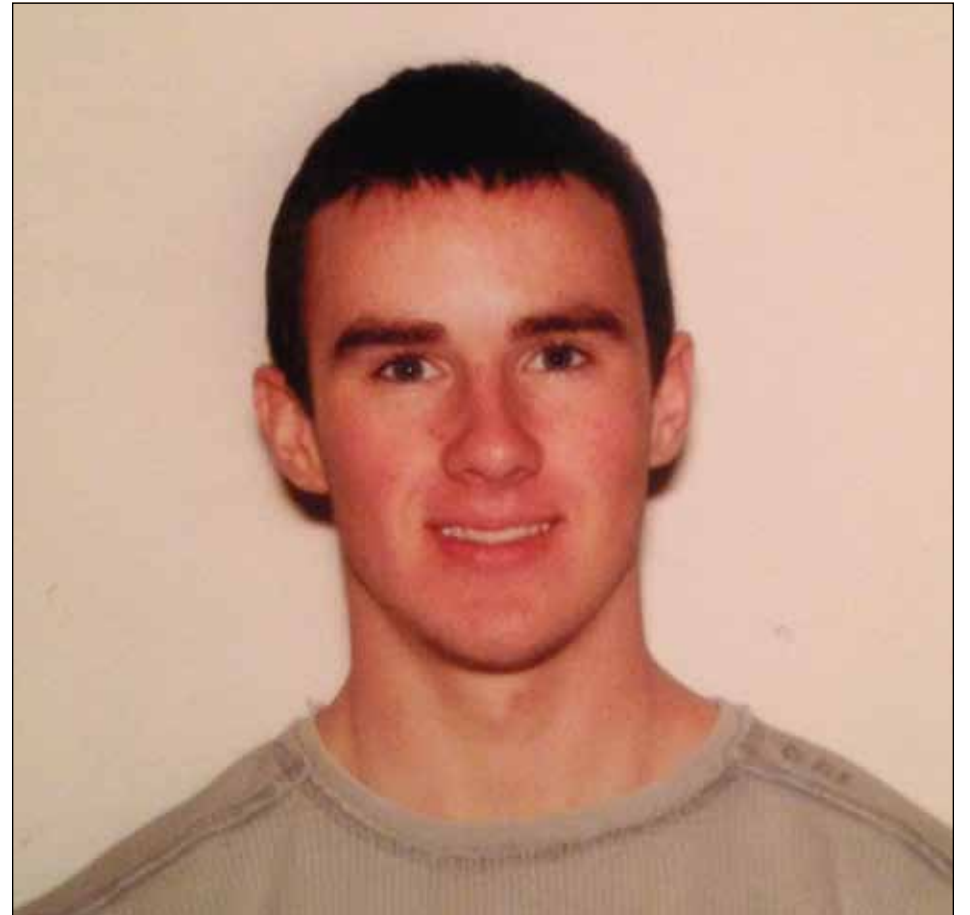
Cong. Lynch Nominates Devin Brock to the U.S. Military Academy

Congressman Stephen F. Lynch recently announced that he has nominated Devin Brock for appointment to the United States Military Academy. Devin, the son of James and Anne Brock, is a senior at William J. Ostiguy High School. As part of his annual Congressional responsibilities, Congressman Lynch nominates exemplary candidates to the service academies. "Since September 11, 2001, the quality of applicants has steadily improved every year, and this year was no exception. These candidates are the best of the best, and I am proud of their desire to serve our country."

"Devin was highly recommended by his teachers at Ostiguy High School. He is a remarkable young man, and we are fortunate that young people like Devin are willing to serve our nation," said Congressman Lynch.

Congressman Lynch and his Congressional Liaison for Military Affairs, Bob Fowkes, examined each candidate's record of academic, athletic, and service achievements, as well as letters of recommendation. After an extensive review process and a personal interview, Devin was selected as someone whose scholastic record and community contributions elevated him to the top of a list of well-qualified candidates.

Congressman Lynch said, "There were many impressive candidates this year for the U.S. Military Academy. Devin stood out as a young man of keen intelligence and strong character. He is a wonderful reflection of his parents, James and Anne. The



Brock family, South Boston and the entire state should be proud of Devin in this achievement."

Students interested in attending one of the United States Service Academies should contact Mr. Robert Fowkes in Congressman Lynch's Boston office at 617-428-2000.

Councilor Linehan: Thank You!



Another Saint Patrick's Day weekend has come and gone. The parade was a great success and I enjoyed seeing so many family, friends and neighbors along the route. This year I also had the distinct honor of hosting the St. Patrick's Day Breakfast and want to pass along my most sincere thanks to all who helped make it a success. I couldn't have done it without the support of my family, friends, volunteers, neighbors, staff and sponsors.

Thank you to my family for their support during the sometimes stressful weeks of preparation. Special thanks to all the volunteers who put in many hours of their own time to provide a first class experience for all the guests. Thank you to my staff for their hard work in preparing for the Breakfast while continuing to handle constituent issues and meetings. Thanks to my neighbors and friends who provided encouragement before, during and after the festivities. Thank you to the staff at the BCEC for

the professional service provided to guests of the Breakfast.

I'd also like to thank Jack Hart and his staff for providing their time, expertise and experience to make the transition as easy as possible. Thank You to the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, Local 11. Thank you to Celtic Woman for performing at the Breakfast in the midst of their national tour. Thank you to the Woods School of Irish Dance for providing another great performance. Thank you to my colleagues in government for their comical and musical contributions to this years' Breakfast.

I've had many roles in the St. Patrick's Day Breakfast. I first attended it as a kid; I've worked the event, holding doors for guests. The year I first ran for office I snuck in the back, and now I've had the experience of hosting it. The whole experience was a blast, but I couldn't have done it without the generous support of an entire community. Thank You!



Members of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department Correction Officer Training Academy Class 12-02.

Sheriff Tompkins Welcomes 24 New Officers

A group of 24 officer candidates were sworn to service by Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins during a graduation ceremony held recently at the Boston Sheraton Hotel on Dalton Street. Speaking before a crowded ballroom that included Department training staff and members of his Executive Team, Sheriff Tompkins addressed the many family members and friends in attendance for the graduates of Correction Officer Training Academy Class 12-02 (COTA 12-02). "I cannot emphasize enough how much your support has contributed to the achievement of these officers," said Sheriff Tompkins. "I would like to applaud you for seeing them through this rigorous process. It means a lot to us and it's meant a lot to them."

To serve as an officer in the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department, candidates must successfully complete a twelve-week training academy that requires intensive

instruction in a host of practical and classroom subjects that include: ethics and professionalism, suicide prevention, use of force continuum, firearm safety and handling, inmate education and programming, contraband control, courtroom testimony, CORI and inmate rights and responsibilities, fire safety, CPR, sexual harassment, cross-gender supervision and report writing.

Among a host of issues that he will seek to address as the new Sheriff of Suffolk County is providing the services necessary for the successful reentry of ex-offenders ranks as one of the more immediate points of focus for Sheriff Tompkins. "The primary responsibility for correction officers is the care and custody of inmates and detainees within our facilities while exuding the highest levels of respect, courtesy and professionalism," Sheriff Tompkins stated. "Over the years, the role of the correction officer

has expanded, and our mission is also to ensure that the people in our custody leave to return to their communities better than they were when they were sentenced."

Before administration of the Correction Officer's Oath and the ceremonial pinning of badges to end the night, COTA Class 12-02 President Joshua Spitaleri took to the podium to speak to the assembly. "I would like to thank Sheriff Tompkins for this opportunity and also the training staff for preparing us for this moment," said Officer Spitaleri. "We should be proud of ourselves and of this accomplishment. We were individuals who came together as a team, and now that team has become family. Congratulations, COTA Class 12-02 – I know that we're prepared for the next step."

As is custom for each graduating class of officers, a chosen few are singled out with special recognition for carrying their efforts above and beyond the

call of duty during their time in the Academy. Award recipients for COTA Class 12-02 were: James McNamara, who won the Academic Excellence award with a Grade Point Average of 98.52; Marlon Juba, who was presented with the award for Physical Training; taking the award for Defensive Tactical Training was James Grant; winning the award for Top Gun was Scott Drinkwater; receiving the Unit Citation award was Joshua Spitaleri; and taking home the Drill Instructor's award was Thanh Tran.

Members of COTA Class 12-02 also included Donnell Bailey, Jasmany Beato, Christopher Bonadies, Jamaal Brooks, Michael Clark, Stephen Cournoyer, Marci Ferry, Courtney Hall, John Hughes, Edward Johnson, Christopher Kelley, Renaldy Marcellin, Leanne Martel, Jeremy McCurdy, Christopher McDonough, Robert Morales, Joseph Simonson and Ryan Walsh.



**Happy
St. Patrick's
Day from
South Boston
Today!**









South Boston Little League Registration

We are now holding registration this month for the 2013 season. ALL children must re-register each year regardless of whether or not he/she played the 2012 season or not. All children must be registered in order to have everyone insured every year to participate in any Tryouts, Clinics, Leagues or winter gym activities. Registration for the 2013 season is open to all players born between May 1, 2000-April 30, 2009, 4-12 yr olds for all divisions (Tee Ball ,Rookie Ball, “A”, “AA”, “AAA” and Major League)

Registration Locations & Dates:		
Boys & Girls Club	4:30 pm–5:30 pm	March. 19th, 21st, 26th & 28th
Tynan School	6:00 pm-7:00 pm	March. 19th, 21st, 26th & 28th

The fee schedule for the 2013 SBLL season shall be: \$55 for the first child; \$40 for the 2nd child; and, family maximum of \$125.00. An additional fee will also be required for participation on all travel teams, summer leagues, fall leagues and tournament teams. These fees will be determined at a later date by the Board of Directors .If you can’t make a registration on any of the above dates, you may print a form from the “Forms & Info” link on our website at www.southbostonlittleleague.com. Kindly return your registration form, appropriate fee(s) by April 5th, 2013, in order to guarantee your child a roster spot for a team in 2013. Any registrations received after April 5th, 2013, may require your child to be placed on a waiting list. You may mail your registration, fee and copy of birth certificate to South Boston Little League, P.O. Box 143, South Boston, MA 02127-0143

Please note try-out dates and times for Major Leagues stated below:
Any child that has not submitted a completed registration form along with payment will not be eligible to tryout.

Major Leagues- born between May 1, 2000 & April 30, 2003(10-12 year olds)		
DATE	TIME	FIELD
Sat. 4/6	12:00p.m. - 2p.m.	Diamond 2
Sun. 4/7	12:00 p.m. - 2p.m.	Diamond 2

Bruins Suffer 3-1 Loss to the Winnipeg Jets

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
staff report

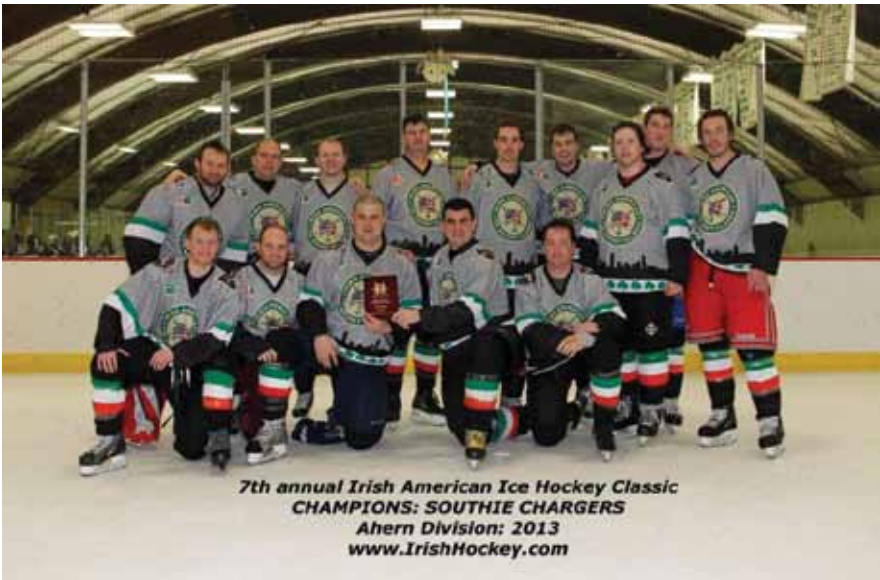
The Boston Bruins lost their second straight game, when they lost 3-1 Tuesday night to the Winnipeg Jets. Former Bruin Blake Wheeler scored two of the three Winnipeg goals – one with an empty net.

Tight defense and checking was the story in the first period, with neither team able to score, even though the Bruins had two power-play opportunities. Brad Marchand scored the only Bruins goal in the contest in the second period.

At 12:41 of the third period, Winnipeg’s Grant Clitsome buried the go ahead goal on a rebound shot. Wheeler put home an empty-net goal with less than a minute left.

Both goaltenders put together two solid efforts with Jets goalie, OndrejPavelec, finishing with 27 saves, while Bruins goalie Tuukka Rask stopped 22.

Some additional bad news from last night’s game will force the front office to make some personnel decisions. Bruins defenseman Adam McQuaid left the game in the first period with an upper-body injury. Stay tuned on McQuaid’s health. Having a balanced line-up is critical down the home stretch.



Congratulations to the Southie Chargers on winning the 2013 Irish American Hockey Tournament over Saint Patrick’s Day Weekend. And big thank you to team sponsors: L Street Tavern, Iron Workers District Council, Iron Workers Local 7, the MCCA, and Boston City Councilor Stephen Murphy.

Team Members: Henry Breslin, Paul Marks, Charlie Levin, Paul Noonan, Joe Zappala, Mike Carthas, Dan McGoff, Arthur Fritch, Kenny Roche, Danny Picard, Chris McEvoy, Bryan McGrath, Brian Carthas, and James Baker.



Pats Let Welker and Woodhead Go

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY

Brian P. Wallace

Now anyone who has read my articles on the Patriots over the years knows that my two favorite Patriots are Wes Welker and Danny Woodhead. They are both little guys with huge heart and ability. They are a joy to watch darting in and out between the giant linemen and linebackers. Wes Welker has set the standard for receivers since coming to the Patriots from Miami with 672 receptions for 8,580 yards and 38 touchdowns. Welker has been named First Team All Pro twice and has been named to the Pro Bowl on five occasions. He is the consummate receiver and the consummate teammate and yet the Patriots let him go like last week's trash.

While they were at it they let go a Welker clone name Danny Woodhead who did everything and more than he was asked to do. They are two reasons why I watch the Patriots. I happen to be partial to the little guy who can go over the middle, get croaked and get back up laughing. I happen to be partial to the little guy who keeps defying the odds year after year and producing in the face of those odds. I am partial to both Danny Woodhead and especially Wes Welker and I am getting a little bit sick of this 'Whatever Belichick wants is fine with us because he's a genius' routine.

In case anyone hasn't looked lately, the last time the Patriots won a Super Bowl was in 2005. I am not as impressed as I once was with Belichick. A player like Wes Welker comes along once in a while and to offer him ten million dollars for two years while they offer his replacement Danny Amendola thirty one million for five years is an insult to Welker, who did nothing but produce for Kraft and Company.

They also released Brandon Lloyd who also had a great year and who was not looking to break the bank. Not one receiver under contract to the Patriots today ever caught a pass in a Patriot uniform last season. What is even worse about this scenario is that the Patriots gave their best receiver to none other than Peyton Manning, who has to be looking for nice Christmas gifts to get Kraft and Belichick.

I have to tell you, this "I know more than you" Belichick routine is growing a little thin. When you don't support the players who made you a winning coach and you haven't won a Super Bowl in eight years. Watch out behind you Bill, because everything runs down hill and you better watch out when you see the Broncos next year. I think Wes Welker will have something to say about the outcome of that game.





**Every week, we will run an interview from Danny Picard's daily sports-talk show "I'm Just Sayin", which can be heard LIVE every weekday from 8-10 a.m. on 1510 NBC Sports Radio Boston, and BlogTalkRadio, with every show available on iTunes. He can also be read on Comcast SportsNet.*

This week, Danny talked to Barstool Sports' Jerry Thornton:

DANNY PICARD: What did you think of Robert Kraft's comments [on Monday] about Wes Welker?

JERRY THORNTON: Kraft is looking big picture. And I think the biggest miscalculation in all of this, wasn't on the Patriots' side. It was on Welker's people's side. And I just want to preface, everything I say here, none of it is a criticism of Wes Welker. I think the whole world knows that I've got a card in my wallet that says, "Donate my organs, but only to Wes Welker." No one else gets them. If he doesn't want them, then I want them to be worm food. I take a backseat to no man, in my appreciation of what Welker has done. But the Patriots, criticize them if you want, but they have nailed what the market is for these guys. They made a business decision on what guys are going to be worth, and they've been spot on. We were all stunned that the best offer Welker could get was two-years at \$12 million. But the Patriots weren't, they knew that. And Welker's agents came in saying, "three-years for \$24 million." It's the equivalent of, you live in a neighborhood with a bunch of \$250,000 houses, and you put yours out on the market for \$450,000. Well don't be shocked when the price goes down, and no one's coming to buy. Again, that's not a criticism of Welker. It's his people thought he was getting three [years] at \$24 [million], and they were living in a

fantasy world. So the Patriots go into this and the deadline's approaching, and they're saying, "Well, [Welker's camp] isn't moving off that number. They're way out of whack with what we think the market is going to offer him. So let's go to our backup plan." Which was Amendola. And now, here's where we stand.

DP: And I think Kraft says it. He says, "Their incentive, they don't care about the New England Patriots. They care about getting the best financial deal for their client that they can get." Kraft says, "I understand that." I understand that, too. Then Welker's agent comes out after this and says, "The Patriots gave us a take-it or leave-it offer." Well, when you're talking before free agency begins, that Tuesday at 4 p.m. and the Patriots say, "Here's our offer." And Welker's camp says, "We're going to go out and look for something else." I don't blame his agent for doing that, because that's his job. And I don't blame Welker if he wants his agent to do that. But I also don't blame the Patriots if they say, "Well, no, no, no, this is take-it or leave-it, let's talk right now." But people want to blame a side, Jerry, and I don't know that I want to do that.

JT: I'm the same way. The Red Sox have a long, storied tradition of badmouthing somebody on the way out the door. You've always had certain guys who are friendly to them

in the press . . . the certain writers who the Sox could always trust to badmouth whoever's contract was up, and paint them like a bad guy. This isn't the situation here. That's not what this is. They just didn't agree upon a number. The Patriots' way, call it cruel and call it heartless if you want -- I know you're not. But they just set a price on a guy. And when it goes above that they just say, "Alright, well, no." You said it a couple minutes ago, they might have moved on their number, but there was a market for Amendola.

DP: And Welker's agent was doing his job.

JT: Exactly, that is his job. Adam Smith, the father of modern economics, once said, "We don't get bread because the baker cares whether we're hungry or not. We get bread because he wants to make a profit." And that's a good thing. Welker's agent was trying to do what was best for his client. Sometimes that's maxing out on money. Some guys don't want that. Some guys, it's more of a quality of life thing. I don't know what Welker's motivation was, but the Patriots had to make a choice. And they couldn't let Amendola go, then keep on working with Welker, and then have Welker walk. Then they've got nothing. And by the way, what they've done with Wes Welker,

is exactly what they did with Wes Welker, when they had him replace Troy Brown. And Troy Brown is Mr. Patriot. There's no one more beloved than him. I had a guy get up in my grill [Monday] just ripping them for what they did with Welker, and ripping them saying, "Why do they let these guys go? They let go of Mike Vrabel, and what they did to Seymour." And it's like, so, are you saying they should still have Steve Grogan on the roster? You've got to stay young. Last year was the youngest team that Belichick has had in his era. Well, we all saw the 2009 team that just kind of got old all of a sudden, and weren't good enough to compete. And it's a cruel business. The way you stay competitive is, you've got to know when to let go of older guys. And if Amendola plays all five years, he's going to be the age Wes Welker is standing right here, right now, today. So, it's a calculated move. And it's how the Patriots are in the hunt every year.

DP: During Kraft's comments, it might have looked like he was kicking Amendola on the way in, because he said that Welker was their primary guy, Amendola was their secondary guy. But again, I think he was just telling the truth. I don't think he was trying to hide from the truth with that. And guess what? We talk about the Patriot Way. If Amendola doesn't like that, and doesn't like



getting a five-year, \$31 million deal as a secondary guy, he can pack his bags, he can leave, and they'll find somebody else to replace him. That's the Patriot Way, right?

JT: That's right. And to be clear, Danny, neither you nor I are suggesting that Amendola would be hurt about this. But if he were, then I wouldn't want a guy like that anyway. You can't get too worked up over a guy who, in five of his six years here, had over 100 catches and over 1,000 yards. If Amendola's feeling upset that the owner says that the other guy was a bigger priority than me, then he's a baby, and you don't want a guy like that on your team. I know the NBA is filled with guys like that. Where, everyone's primary concern is, "Who's the leader of the team?" And "Who's the star?" And "Who do we defer to on that?" But that doesn't fly in Foxboro. And I loved Kraft

throwing in that, it was not a dig at Brady, it was just him being blunt, when he said, "I don't take orders from Tom Brady."

DP: I was going to bring that up. Kraft said, "I don't answer to Tom Brady." And I think people want to make that a headline. I don't. I mean, he's the owner of the team. He doesn't answer to Tom Brady!

JT: Kraft is the guy who looked at the worst stadium in pro sports and bought the thing. This is a guy who put up \$170 million to get a team that nobody wanted, including his wife. And then he had the grapes to stare a Hall-of-Fame football coach in the eye and tell him to go fry ice, and then replace him with somebody who was better. So what does he have to be intimidated about with anything? This guy's a titan in the industry. He doesn't get

intimidated by what people think. He intimidates others. He was just talking like a boss.

DP: When we talk about the whole Welker situation and how quickly they moved onto Amendola. Kraft also brings up the point that, "We brought in Amendola, but we have a defense to fix too." Kraft made that point [on Monday]. And it's a point I've been making since this Amendola thing happened. Because when Welker was gone, it took me probably five minutes to get over it. And it didn't take the Patriots long to get over it, because they brought in Amendola right way. That tells me they didn't want to spend too much time adding that slot receiver. Don't waste too much time on that. What you need to do is start bringing in defensive veteran guys. Use some of this money to fix this defense. They've done that.

Adrian Wilson, then they bring back Aqib Talib, an absolute steal of a one-year deal. I don't even care for how much it's for, but the fact that it's only for \$5 million is even a bigger steal than I would've ever imagined. Bring him in on a one-year deal, get him motivated in another contract year. I think what the Patriots have done defensively is just a more important storyline for this team, than the Welker/Amendola situation.

JT: Yeah, you're 100 percent correct. And again, Welker was an asset. Welker was part of the solution, not part of the problem, we get that. But the focus has to be the defense. It's about having an adequate offense that holds onto the ball, and it's about a defense that can shut people down. They're still a few players away from that, and that's what they're trying to address.

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