Congratulations To Mayor Elect Marty Walsh

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
Staff Report

State Rep. Martin Walsh was elected mayor of Boston on Tuesday, defeating City Councillor and fellow Democrat John Connolly in the hard-fought race to succeed longtime Mayor Thomas Menino. Unofficial results with all of the votes counted showed Walsh with 72,514 votes to Connolly’s 67,606 votes. Total ballots cast was 141,842 or 38% of the registered voters.

Walsh told supporters gathered for a victory party that he would make the city a place where “dreams come true.” “My parents had big dreams for their kids, but I’m not sure it was this big,” Walsh said. Walsh said he had received a call from President Barack Obama moments before taking the stage. He said he’d also received a call from Menino. “Together we’re going to make Boston a place where dreams come true for every child for every person in every corner of this city,” Walsh said. “For this son of immigrants, you’ve made Boston a place of comebacks and second chances and my life story’s made possible by this city.” Walsh vowed to reform the public schools, attract businesses and make the streets safer.

CONTINUED ON page 4

Last Week’s Poll On Page 2

South Boston Today

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Go to our South Boston Today page to vote on our weekly poll. Make sure you like & share

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Customized shows available, or check out who's coming:

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King of Queens + The Tonight Show
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Jackie Flynn
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Nov 14-16

Greg Proops
Whose Line is it Anyway?
Nov 22-23

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EDITORIAL  “Thank You Veterans”

Doctor Enoch Dole and Sgt. Obediah Adams may very well have the distinction and honor of being America’s first veterans. On March 9, 1776 they became the first Americans of the newly formed American Army to be killed in action, when they came to the aid of Stephen Jennings, wounded during the British bombardment of “Foster” or “Nook” Hill at B and Third Streets. Their sacrifice not only saved young Jennings life but inspired their fellow soldiers to double their efforts in fortifying the last cannon emplacements on the hill thus completing the encirclement of the British and enforcing their evacuation of Boston. From that action we grew to the America we have today.

While they believed in and served the cause of freedom and America, their actions that night were much more basic and simple, to help Stephen Jennings, to serve their fellow soldier, to help and to serve the spirit born that night carries through to this day. Every man and woman trained in the machinery of war hopes the day for that call to sacrifice never comes, but every man and woman under the colors stands ready to answer that call.

For that reason, if no other, we should all pause to remember and say thanks for all veterans, “on the 11th hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. This Veterans November coincides with the fiftieth anniversary of President Kennedy’s” death so it is fitting to paraphrase a quote from his final speech he never was able to deliver. “We are born into our destiny. We are not given a choice. As Americans our destiny is to be the watchmen on the walls of freedom”. Thank you Veterans.

“There are some who forget why we have a military. It’s not to promote war; it’s to be prepared for peace.”
- President Ronald Reagan (veteran)

Last Week’s Poll

Should State and City tax breaks be given to large corporations in exchange for:

1) A promise to invest in and boost our economy 15%
2) Performance based measures of increased employment and monetary contributions to our economy 73%
3) I don’t agree with giving large corporations tax breaks 13%

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Someone created a pretty realistic picture of what a postage stamp commemorating Obamacare should look like and sent it around the internet. It’s shaped and sized like a typical ‘Forever Stamp’, has the words ‘Obamacare 2013’ on it with a picture of a train wreck. That pretty much says it all, at least as far as the rollout of the website is going. As Jodi Miller, the anchor woman/comedian on the popular News Busted video link said, “It seems like the only computer savvy member in the federal government was Edward Snowden.” Good one.

This whole unfolding drama has finally opened the eyes of even some of the most strident liberal supporters of the Obama regime; especially the ones in shock as they receive their letters in the mail cancelling the health insurance they have and in many cases have had for years and liked it. Opened eyes to what? Lies. Not misleading statements, not falsehoods, not misunderstood comments and not exaggerated promises. In this newspaper we call them Lies. Not like your doctor, you get to keep your doctor.” “People will see a reduction in your costs for their healthcare.” Oh, and this most recent one is the cherry on top. They tried to tell us that hundreds of thousands were signing up on the first day but they would not give out the real numbers. Later in the week we learned why. A total of six -6 people actually signed up for the plan on the first day. Many Democrats in congress are now in panic mode and they want Obamacare changed or at the very least delayed. Too late. Thanks to these? “If you like your doctor, you get to keep your doctor.”

Our country. And now we learn with each passing day they are spying on our allies and even on the Pope. The Pope??!! Yes, reports out late last week revealed that even the Vatican and the Pope were having their calls monitored by NSA. Of course, the president, who becomes more like Sgt. Shultz with each scandal, continues to say he knows nothing. The Fast and Furious gun running operation, The IRS harassment of Conservative groups and Churches, The Benghazi Embassy attack and who ordered rescue teams to stand down and now of course the NSA being about the business of spying on tens of millions of law abiding American citizens. He knew nothing about any of this? Not likely. So pardon me if many of us don’t buy the line that he didn’t know it wasn’t true when he said no one would lose their health plans under Obamacare. The term lie fits so much better here after seeing this bunch in Washington in action.

I’m well aware that there are some
Grassroots 101 – East Boston Rejects Casino With Help From Caesar’s

East Boston voted on a controversial referendum that would have allowed a casino to be built at Suffolk Downs race track, which straddles the border between the two. The proposal passed in Revere, but was rejected in East Boston, which means it cannot proceed.

Clearly, the grassroots effort on both sides was intense. But the last minute dismissal of Caesar’s Entertainment as the operator due to concerns over questionable financial ties to certain individuals in Russia and others, created the opportunity for the anti-casino groups to cast a shadow of doubt on the validity of the contract signed by the mayor and the gaming entity. This appears to have been the edge they needed to turn the undecided residents on the project.

The Mayor of Revere is now asking Suffolk Downs to build the casino of the 56 acres that are located on the Revere portion of the site.

This leaves two sites still in the running for the lone Greater Boston resort casino license: a Wynn Resorts proposal in Everett and a Foxwoods proposal in Milford.

In June, Everett voted to back the casino proposal there; Milford residents are slated to vote Nov. 19. Unofficial results of the ballot question decided by East Boston residents only as part of the city’s Nov. 5, 2013, general election.

The question pertained to a gaming establishment licensed by the Massachusetts Gaming Commission to be located at Suffolk Downs in East Boston. Yes: 3363 No: 4281

CONTINUED FROM page 3 who don’t have a problem with any of this. They don’t mind being lied to and spied on by government agencies and maybe they are content to stay silent when they watch, with each passing week, the God given and Constitution guaranteed freedoms and liberties get chipped away and our personal lives regulated and controlled more and more. As long as the free stuff keeps coming in, the government can do what it wants. They may not understand that our military is slowly being purged of its great Generals and Admirals and hollowed out or maybe they don’t care. And when they are content to stay silent as our once great nation is being deliberately ‘fundamentally transformed’ by the left wing ideologues in charge now and made into something we will no longer recognize if we don’t put a stop to it, I’m guessing that some of these folks would actually have been comfortable living under Nazi rule in 20th Century Germany. Well, to each their own, but they shouldn’t be surprised that millions of us have no intention of staying quite about what’s happening. As Americans, we’re better than that.

BOSTON CITY COUNCIL HELPS HOMEOWNERS

Boston City Council President Stephen J. Murphy, along with District 2 Councilor Bill Linehan, continues to work on legislation that will provide much needed tax relief to long-term home owners.

Last quarter, many residents saw an astronomical increase in property taxes. South Boston residents have experienced this more than many other residents. This is largely due to the increase in condo buildings, luxury residences, and large apartment complexes that are being built throughout the city. High density, high priced homes are built and sold at high values. Neighboring homes, which may or may not have been renovated in years are suddenly assessed a value that does not accurately reflect the value of that particular home.

City Council offices have been inundated with calls from residents on fixed incomes who are being told to pay a property tax double or quadruple what they have paid in recent years. Murphy and Linehan held a public hearing on the matter at the beginning of the year and have since held two working sessions in an effort to come up with a solution. Council President Murphy and Councilor Linehan have re-introduced the matter as a Home Rule Petition to their colleagues in the State House. Council President Murphy hopes his colleagues at the state level support the legislation, “We worked diligently and thoroughly on this issue. Councilor Linehan and I heard testimony from residents that have been almost penalized for owning homes. I firmly believe that our residents need to be protected from skyrocketing property taxes, especially those who are above a certain age, on a fixed income, and have lived in their homes for a minimum number of years.”

The Home Rule Petition asks for a special law that will allow long-term homeowners who meet certain criteria to defer payment of their property taxes until their home is sold. The matter is in the City Council Committee on Ways & Means and a hearing will be scheduled in late November or early December.
“One Year After”

Brian R. Mahoney

The typical response would be something like “It hardly seems like a year has passed.” That wouldn’t be true because this past year has been as eventful, if not more so, than any other year in memory. For us it began with the unexpected closing of an institution, the South Boston Tribune.

John Ciccone and I, at the urging and with the support of many, determined that we would continue the work of informing the town as the Tribune had done. After all, how hard could it be? The answer, we discovered, is a lot more than we thought. Besides the actual news gathering and production, we learned that 99% support is never good enough, that the 1 percent unhappy usually makes the loudest complaint that quickly led to the realization that 100 percent will never be happy. All we can do is report the facts as we find them and let the chips fall where they may.

For instance a series we published on a development in our first month of existence, in response to residents concerns, resulted in us being sued for $2.5 million dollars. We stand by our reporting and are awaiting our day in court.

The last year has seen many, always too many, of our loved ones move on to their final reward leaving us with an empty spot and our town that much poorer.

As sad as those deaths always are, many are at the end of long, loving lives. What has been unexpected and shocking this year, was the virtually unheard of crime of murder in this town. No one is deserving of murder, but some lifestyles seem to lead down this path. This last year it struck down innocent victims, grandmothers, a young professional woman, young men.

No section of town was exempt, the Lower End, the Point, Andrew Square, Old Colony, Old Harbor and D Street. All were sites of murder. Curbside candle “shrines” were not something we ever thought we’d be reporting on.

Some subjects over the last year could almost fill their own weekly newspaper. Development is an issue we’ve tried to keep the community abreast of with “In Your Corner”. This is due, in large part, to whatever information each community group sends us. There’s just so much in every neighborhood.

There is strength in unity. It’s important to urge the leaders of each organization to reach out and let us at SBT know of any development project. We might know but it never hurts to check. Hopefully, Mayor-elect Marty Walsh’s administration will follow a policy of informing residents instead of trying to slip things by.

Remember info@southbostontoday.com is the easiest way to give us the heads up, to make sure information is public. There are still major, major proposals coming up next year that desperately need resident input and involvement.

Another subject we could write about forever is the never ending list of South Bostonians past, present and future who have and are impacting our world. “South Boston Around the Globe” is our favorite subject to write about and the readers’ most favorite articles. It seems we’ve hardly scratched the surface of a little known secret of how intertwined this town and its people are in our own nation’s and our world’s history.

Being able to bring all this in print to you for your judgment and enjoyment is a pleasant duty we embrace. The greatest pleasure however is being able to cover our youth in action. Writing and showcasing our children succeeding at sports, arts and education activities, as always, is what’s really the most important thing we can hope to accomplish. They are our hope for the future.

We take special pride in the young writers, (both in age and experience) we’ve been able to introduce in these pages. Deb Putnam and Dan McCoie have used their years of experience and explained it in such a way we’ve all become art lovers. The up and coming Dan Picard lends a “you are there” quality to his sports reporting with his one on one interview with major athletes. David Pollard on news and sports and Conor Ryan with his sports analysis have given us perspective through the eyes of youthful interpretation and have a following of their own age group of readers, as well as those of us who’ve been reading for “quite a while”.

Last year has been a learning experience for us. Generally we’re satisfied while at the same time trying to be more consistent with different aspects, particularly the physical delivery of our news. Truth be told John and myself have never been in the printing end of the business, so we’re learning on the fly.

Due to minor shoulder surgery I’m unable to write next week so the next week I will start on “injured reserve”.

So thank you all for your loyalty. It’s our pleasure and honor that you take the time to read us. We’ll make year two twice as good.

Take care till next week.

CONTINUED ON page 3
OBAMA SAYS RED SOX WELCOME AT THE WHITE HOUSE
President Barack Obama spoke with Red Sox Manager John Farrell on Monday congratulating the first-year Boston skipper on his World Series victory, and telling Farrell that he looks forward to welcoming the Red Sox to the White House to congratulate the team in person. According to the White House readout of the president’s call with Farrell, the Chicago White Sox fan specifically noted the job Farrell did managing the team in his first year back in Boston, the “incredible pitching performance” of closer Koji Uehara and congratulated slugger David Ortiz on being named the World Series most valuable player. Obama actually visited the Boston the day the Red Sox won the World Series in Game 6 against the St. Louis Cardinals, but he departed before the first pitch at Fenway Park after holding a rally in support of the Affordable Care Act at Faneuil Hall and a fundraiser in Weston. – M. Murphy/SHNS

SCORECARD TO RECOGNIZE MASS. ENERGY EFFICIENCY EFFORTS
Massachusetts again has cracked the top ten most energy efficient states, according to a scorecard that will be released on Wednesday. Gov. Deval Patrick and U.S. Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz plan to participate in a phone-based news conference Wednesday at 1 p.m. to release the 2013 edition of the scorecard from the American Council for an Energy-Efficiency Economy. – M. Norton/SHNS

DHCD COMMITTS $6M FOR 44 UNITS OF VETERAN HOUSING
The Patrick administration announced $6 million in new state financial supports on Monday for the development of 44 new units of housing for homeless veterans in Quincy, Brockton and Chelsea. Housing and Community Development Undersecretary Aaron Gornstein and Veterans’ Services Secretary Coleman Nee made the funding announcement at the North Bellingham Veterans Project in Chelsea, where money will be spent to develop 10 units of housing as part of a re-use project in the downtown area to convert a former American Legion Hall. The state bond funds will also be used for new construction projects to build 22 units in Brockton and 12 units in Quincy at East Howard Street with preferences for low-income veterans and their families. In July, DHCD dedicated $3.3 million to build 35 new units of affordable housing for homeless veterans in Shrewsbury. – M. Murphy/SHNS

Linehan Wins Decisive Victory
City Councilor Bill Linehan won a hard fought campaign with Suzanne Lee and has clearly repudiated the 97 vote margin of two years ago with a 1000 vote margin on Tuesday. “Since the beginning of my campaign, I have said ‘The future is now,’ and I look forward to embracing the future head-on over these next two years. This was a hard-fought race but I’m thrilled to be able to keep working on behalf of my constituents to ensure their needs are met on a daily basis as our great city continues to prosper”, Linehan said after his victory.

Mike Flaherty Returns to the City Council
Michael Flaherty has returned to government and finished among the top four at-large Councilors, who will be on the 2014-2015 Boston City Council. Flaherty will join veteran Councilor Stephen Murphy, Councilor Ayanna Pressley and newcomer Michelle Wu. The field of candidates included several up and coming leaders Annisa Essaibi-George, Jeffrey Ross, Martin Keogh and Jack Kelly.
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Applications will be available during the application period of 11/14/13 through 11/22/13. In person: Visit 22 Boston Wharf Road from 12:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. Thursday 11/14/13, 10:00 A.M. until 4:00 P.M. Friday 11/15/13 and 10:00 A.M. until 2:00 P.M. on Saturday 11/16/13. To be sent email or USPS: Call 617-934-2315 or Email 381congressstreet@gmail.com.

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Equal Housing Opportunity
The date is approaching quickly for the 60th Anniversary Gala for the Manor and to celebrate the arrival of the Carmelite Sisters in Massachusetts. This will be an event to remember as preparations have been in the planning stages for quite some time. It will all take place at the beautiful Fairmont Copley Plaza at 138 Saint James Ave. right here in Boston on Thursday Evening, November 14th.

As most know, the Marian Manor has been a valued and cherished institution in South Boston that has served generations of both residents and nonresidents alike. This is a facility that has provided some of the finest care that can be found anywhere. For 60 years, families have trusted the Marian Manor with the care and wellbeing of their loved ones. The ‘Manor’ and the Carmelite Sisters, along with a professional and competent staff have provided a warm, welcoming and safe medical facility to thousands of patience over these many years. Whether it’s for temporary rehabilitation or permanent residency, The Marian Manor has been the place of choice for so many in need of quality healthcare.

The 60 year Anniversary will be one way to support this wonderful facility. The Marian Manor and the Carmelite Sisters plan to continue to serve the South Boston Community and beyond well into the future. The funds raised at the Gala will do much to enable this goal to be met.

The event will begin at 6pm on the 14th with a Cocktail Reception. This will be followed by a delicious Dinner that is sure to please all. There will be music and the program will include

60th Anniversary Gala for Marian Manor
The honorees are Sister Mark Louis M. (Superior General of the Carmelite Sisters of the Aged and Infirm for 46 years) and Sister Philip Ann O.Carm (Member of the General Council of the Congregation and has been Superior General since 2008).

The other honoree is the well-known Mary Higgins Clark whose books are worldwide bestsellers. In the US alone her books have sold over 100 million copies. Two of Mary Higgins Clark’s novels were made into feature films and many of her other works have been turned into television films.

Sister Philip Ann O.Carm. (Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm), the Administrator at Marian Manor and her enthusiastic and excellent committee have been working hard to make sure this 60th Anniversary Gala will be perfect. She welcomes all to help mark this very special anniversary. For more information on the details and for ticket information you can contact Maryellyn Brown by email at Mbrown@marianmanor.org or call her at 617-701-1329.

It’s often been said that Marian Manor is as much a part of the history and traditions of South Boston as was the high school on the hill and is Castle Island. It is a valued resource that this community is fortunate to have located here. On Thursday, November 14th, we will have the opportunity to support it which will in turn help it to continue doing God’s work for those in need.

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**Dental Health: A Word On Tooth Whitening**

**By Dr. Andrew Luccio**

Public demand for tooth whitening is rising at a record pace, and rightfully so. Tooth whitening, also known as bleaching, can serve as an easy and affordable means of enhancing appearance and improving self-confidence. New whitening systems are more efficient and effective than ever, but having the right information before you begin whitening can make the difference between achieving the smile you’ve always wanted or falling short. Here are some of the most common questions dental patients have about tooth whitening and the answers that will help you take the right steps to safely and successfully brighten your smile.

**Does tooth whitening work?** Yes! Incredibly so, in fact. Successful and long lasting tooth whitening depends on three very important factors. 1) Preparing shade rebound. What is shade rebound? Many whitening formulas dehydrate teeth, which cause teeth to appear lighter in shade without actually removing the stains that cause your teeth to darken. As soon as you stop using these systems, the teeth naturally absorb water and the whitening effect is reversed in one or two week’s time. How do you prevent the shade rebound effect? 2) Use the right system. The latest research shows that a combination of dental office treatment followed by a prescribed home bleaching course leads to the best short-term and long-term results. The in-office treatment jump starts the whitening process with a highly concentrated formula that can only be used under professional supervision. This allows formulas that remove stain AND hydrate the teeth to brighten your smile and avoid the shade rebound effect. 3) Follow the instructions! It is amazing how much time and money is wasted by patients who do not follow the directions for a given whitening system and fail to reach their whitening potential. Always read the instructions and, more importantly, consult your dentist to make sure it is the right whitening system for you.

**How long does it take?** The average whitening system will take a minimum of two weeks of daily whitening to achieve desired results, but all depends on the strength of the whitening formula. Stronger formulas will render faster results but, depending on the individual, can also cause tooth sensitivity. Your dentist can help you find a formula that will minimize bleaching time while preventing sensitivity.

**How long will the color last?** An in office treatment and home tray combination can yield results that last for 2-4 years. If you are someone who drinks coffee or tea, or smokes, a yearly “touch-up” may be necessary consisting of a week long course of home whitening trays.

**Does whitening damage my teeth?** Tooth whitening is completely safe if used according to the instructions provided by your dentist. Overuse or improper use can lead to tooth sensitivity or gum irritation, but these can be easily avoided by taking an educated approach to whitening and following the directions.

At South Boston Dental Associates, we offer a variety of whitening options that are tailored to each patient’s individual needs. Our team is always excited to answer any questions you might have regarding tooth whitening or any dental service you might be interested in.
Stepping Up and Stepping Out:

Your Guide to the Southie Scene and the “Southie Senses”

South Boston Today begins a regular series about life in South Boston and all that it has to offer. Southie is a vibrant and growing community and there are so many ways for residents to become connected and involved. Here are some of the best ways to see, hear, taste, touch and smell all that is Southie. From City Point to Fort Point to the South Boston Waterfront, there are so many opportunities to put your senses to good use!

Stepping Up: Hunger for Change

I don’t know how this month could top the last. October: The Red Sox won the World Series at home for the first time since 1918. Gas prices dropped. Halloween—thats’ all I have to say. Boston Mayoral Election robocalls. Pumpkin EVERYTHING. Now November has both a long weekend (thank you to all of our veterans) and Thanksgiving (which kicks off the 10 lb. holiday weight gain). It is also the beginnings of my holiday shenanigans. When the sun goes down at 3:30pm, it must be time for two things: dinner and drinks. Hey— it’s five o’clock somewhere; more specifically, Greenland. Give me a reason, and I mean any one, and out on the town I will go. Especially if it’s within a reasonable cab fare to get home. Pair that with some great cause, and I find no excuse. Top it off with a little healthy competition—irresistible. Check out a few ways you can kick it up a notch this November!

Bite Off More Than You Can Chew

The oven mitts are off in this cooking contest. Lincoln Southie is hosting the 2nd round of Share Our Strength’s Taste of the Nation “Foodie Fight” to benefit the NO KID HUNGRY campaign. Just as the operation is named, their focus and ultimate goal is to end childhood hunger in the United States. Why not help them along on their way? On Tuesday November 12th, 7-9pm, Boston restaurant authorities Tremont 647 and Belly wine bar will serve up “New England Fare” as the theme is described. Sample the food, sip a drink and submit your choice for the winner. Just don’t bite the hand that feeds you—if they win, they’re gonna need it.

Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is…

Though the soft, summer winds have been replaced with harsh, whipping and frigid airbursts, the South Boston Waterfront is still a main attraction. Just don’t ask for a table on the patio. This Sunday November 10th, the Pats will be able to rest up with a bye. But you, my friends, should join Sam’s on the Waterfront and Lovin’ Spoonfuls for their 3rd Annual “Ultimate Tailgate Party” on the lawn. Lovin’ Spoonfuls is an organization established in 2010 that distributes “second-line” perishable foods: bruised and slightly battered fruit, for example, and distributes to many shelters around Boston and to those who are “food insecure” (those who do not know where their next meal is coming from). All proceeds from the sales of the tickets go to Lovin’ Spoonfuls and all those who benefit from this amazing program. I can feed into this.

Stepping Out: Everybody’s Workin’ for the Weekend

Winter. Ok, it’s not “officially” that season yet but it sure is making its impending presence known. As I have grown older, I’ve come to enjoy and relish the seasons of New England and know that winter is a time to get a little redder, rounder and rowdier. Except for that weird period where I get too sick of the cold and convince myself that I will enjoy Lifetime movie marathons and Brigham’s out of the carton. That lasts about three week(-ends). November through the second weekend in January is full of food, friends and fun. Then comes a good ole fashioned Boston snowstorm and I cannot wait to put on my ski pants and trudge up to the Playwright. So all formalities aside—this long weekend, there are a couple of local joints where all are welcome to give cheers to the freakin’ weekend.

That’s How I Roll

Where can you have three strikes and actually BE ahead before behind? Up the alley- the South Boston Bowl-A-Rama. Saturday November 9th, from 2-5pm, the South Boston Boys & Girls Club Alumni Association invites all to be the King Pin of the day. Twenty bucks gets you pizza, shoe and lane rental. Did I mention economically priced beer? I’m bowled over. The SBBGC is a beacon of hope and support in our community of South Boston and their alumni work tirelessly to keep their amazing experience at the “Club” available still to all. That sounds right up my alley! samsatlouis.com pic.twitter.com/9pmyk1Kh3

Georgie, Porgie, Puddin’ and Pie…

What can seem structured yet a little flaky on the exterior, but is really warm and sweet on the inside? PIE: pie initiates ecstasy. On Monday 11/11, gather up your mates and get on down to the Mick Dundee Challenge III pie making contest at Lincoln. Twelve Boston chefs will battle to create the most clever and of course, tasty pie. The perfect pie is said to be all about the crust. However, the balance and texture of the filling and how it holds up in that crust is a deciding factor. Solve that equation by purchasing tickets for the event: a $40 ticket is good for 5 to grab a feed. Get that pie in your face.

lincolnsouthboston.com kocateringandpies.com eventbrite.com/event/7935686853
Southie Senses:

Things to touch, see, taste, smell and hear in Southie

Touch: Making Connections
How do you get from here to there and everything in between in a city surrounded by water?: build a bridge. November is National Bridge month and LBD is partnering up with the BSA space to give a “Family Tour: (of) Boston Bridges” in the Ft. Point Channel, Saturday November 9th, 10:30am-12:30pm. Learning by Design (LBD) is a statewide program in Massachusetts that educates and promotes architecture & design to stress the importance it has in everyday life. BSA calls the program “Novembridge”. I call it necessary.
lbdma.org • bsaspace.org

See: It’s Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas...
You’ve seen it already: the Halloween candy barely in the sales aisle and the Christmas nougats were already out at Osco’s. Granted, I have been listening to Bing Crosby Christmas since around September 1, but hey who’s counting?? This weekend November 8-10, the Seaport World Trade Center holds the 27th Annual Boston Christmas Festival. There will be holiday-themed crafts, artisanal pieces and even a gingerbread house competition that will feature many well-known Boston restaurants. The edible domiciles will be sold and profits will be given to Housing Families, which aids families and children with needed shelter. Play Santa to someone who is in need. bostonchristmasfestival.com • housingfamilies.com • seaportboston.com

taste: Where’s the Beef?
Sundays got you down? Make it a day to look forward to! Del Frisco’s on the South Boston Waterfront is offering “Prime Pair Sundays”: a Prix Fixe Menu that includes an 8oz hand cut filet, your choice of surf (crab cake/scallop/shrimp), salad and an additional side. For only $49- Sundays are looking up! Take a bite out of your WHOLE weekend! delfriscos.com/boston

Smell: Sniff Out Some Help
If you have any little ones in your life: your own kids, grandchildren, nieces/nephews, neighbors, friends, I’m sure you don’t even think about how much of an impact you have on them. My best friend once told me that they way she got her daughter to sleep was to promise I would come over in the morning with chocolate. A) It worked and B) I couldn’t disappoint, so I brought the chocolate, many more times than I would like to admit. The SB Action Center is facilitating a 13-week training run by and for father figures coined “South Boston Nurturing Fathers Program”. The first session started on November 6th, but any man who is a father figure in a young person’s life is urged to attend: dinner will be provided. Put that nose up in the air and know your worth.
sbnap.org

Hear: You’ll Want to Hear the Last of It
Sometimes, it’s not where you start but where you end up. In Fort Point Theatre Channel’s “Hidden Faces of Courage”, it is there where the aforementioned phrase comes to fruition. The women in this production all share their experiences of transitioning back into society after prison, while finding support and strength in shared experience and collaboration. I think we can all understand that in order to grow, one must be open to a challenge. From there, triumph, no matter how big or small, can occur. Ya hear what I’m saying?
fortpointtheatrechannel.org

Embrace All Of The Southie Senses:
Finding the Beauty of Nature in an Otherwise Bleak Existence

Sure, South Boston claims beautiful beaches, successful restaurants, a thriving community, brick townhouses and amazing views. But mixed in between all those lovely sights are big, pallid looking buildings that obstruct those views and can suck some of the life out of all the other amazing things Southie has to offer. There are however a couple of groups who are trying to change that face and beautify it in the most natural way: gardens. The Higher Ground Farm, which is atop the Boston Design Center has been harvesting the last of their crops; many of those seasonal veggies were sold to local markets and eateries. They now ask for the community to help in their clean up and planting of garlic for the spring. HGF also has a larger building for a more incorporated and sustainable environment where even some poultry will be raised. South Boston Grows has been hard at work tending to their gardens and even hosting 3 community dinners with the fruits (and veggies) of their labor. More importantly, the group engages the youth of South Boston in a healthy and positive way; exciting news: there has been a new garden scheduled to be built in Old Colony Housing! Also, all are invited to take a tour of their gardens; email them with any questions. Hope springs eternal! bostongrows.org
highergroundfarm.com
November 7, 2013

Honoring Our Veterans

Next Monday is Veteran’s Day. An official federal holiday; it is celebrated all across America with memorials, parades, religious services and family gatherings. Its purpose is of course to remember and honor all of our nation’s military personnel.

A brief history of the day shows us that Veteran’s Day, once called Armistice Day was first celebrated in 1919. This followed the previous year, 1918 when the Armistice Treaty to end World War I was signed. Initially, it was only to honor and remember veterans who fought in that war but later was expanded to honor all of America’s veterans from the founding of our country, up to the present day and into the future.

Here in South Boston, it has always been and still is a strong tradition to pay tribute to all of this community’s many veterans. It can be said that nowhere are veterans and military personnel held in higher esteem than in this town. We have active and thriving veteran’s organizations, posts and monuments that neighborhood people worked diligently to create and maintain.

All of them are a source of great pride to residents here. Many locals will visit cemeteries where family members who served are buried and lay wreaths and flowers. Often families will gather for dinner with the many veterans of all ages who are with us today.

Since Veteran’s Day is one of the nation’s most cherished holidays, government buildings, schools and banks will be closed. Restaurants, stores and other business will remain open; depending on the owners. This is also considered a good day to shop as Veteran’s Day sales and discounts are usually pretty tempting.

But here in South Boston the shopping, sale, discounts and all the other entertainment that might come with is fine but has always taken a back seat to the real priority for South Bostonians which of course is honoring our veterans and showing them they are appreciated because they make us all proud as they put their lives on the line to preserve America’s freedom and way of life.

From the entire South Boston Today Team - Happy Veteran’s Day to all.
Veteran’s Day 2013 and the Wounded Warrior Project

As we all know, next Tuesday is Veterans Day. As it fast approaches, many South Bostonians and Americans all across the country reflect on the great sacrifices these true heroes have made for all of us throughout this nation’s great and rich history. Here in South Boston, we have a large number of corners, squares, memorials and monuments dedicated to many of this community’s Soldiers, Sailors (including Navy and Coast Guard), Marines and Air Force personnel who dutifully served over so many years and in any number of conflicts.

South Boston has always held our veterans in high esteem and never fails to pay tribute and honor them; both those who have since passed as well as the men and women we are still so fortunate to have here among us. This neighborhood also has quite a few members of the military in uniform serving today. Some are deployed to foreign countries fighting in defense of our freedom. Some are stationed on Homeland soil but all are doing their part to preserve the American way of life for the present as well as the future.

Americans can be proud of the fact that organizations are in place to assist our veterans. The government run Veteran’s Administration has of course been in place for generations. Then there is the USO which caters to America’s heroes and has been doing great work for many years as well. And now there is a relatively new organization that operates on private funds and donations that works to assist those vets who return home from war with battle scares of every kind; including physical as well as emotional. The Name of that group is The Wounded Warrior Project. You may have seen the TV spots by Country Music singer Trace Adkins promoting the effort.

To quote the groups own literature: “The Wounded Warrior Project is a veteran’s service organization that offers a variety of programs, services and events for wounded veterans of the military actions following the events of 9/11. It operates as a nonprofit 501 organization with a mission ‘to honor and empower Wounded Warriors’ of the United States Armed Forces as well as provide services and programs for the family members of its registered “alumni” as its registered veterans are called.”

The Wounded Warrior Project is a magnificent organization that does much needed work on behalf of this country’s military heroes. They provide a growing number of services to these brave men and women, as well as to give support to their families. It is organized, staffed and run by fellow Americans who truly care about these returning vets, respect and appreciate the sacrifices they have made and want to help. They are always seeking contributions and volunteers and the response by thousands of people has been tremendous. But it’s a program that does not have an end date. Though the wars and the conflicts may not be in the news as often as they once were the need to help these ‘Wounded Warriors goes on. To learn more about this wonderful organization and how you can help; either by making a financial donation or by volunteering your time you can log onto www.woundedwarriorproject.org. If you’d rather call them by phone, that number is 877-832-6997.

South Bostonians, like so many other patriotic Americans have never needed the coming of Veterans Day to remind them about how much this country’s military members over the years have done on behalf of everyone in the cause of freedom. But perhaps a donation of money and/or time on this holiday to assisting groups like the Wounded Warrior Project would be a positive way to reinforce it and send a message to these injured American heroes that their grateful country men and women really do care and appreciate them.

Fitzgerald Post’s 62nd Annual Memorial Day Service

The Thomas F Fitzgerald Post, Number 561, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States will hold its 62nd Annual Veteran’s Day Memorial Service this coming Monday, November 11th, Veterans Day. All are invited. Post Commander John Mullen has given South Boston Today the order of events. They are as follows: There will be an assembly at the Post at 9:15am, which is located at 715 East Fourth Street, which is directly across the street from the Stop & Shop parking lot. From there, at 9:30am, the procession will march up to St Brigid’s Church Chapel on East Broadway where the Memorial Mass will begin at 10am.

This is a long standing tradition to honor all veterans and as always, this event will take place rain or shine. Everyone is welcomed and encouraged to attend and to be part of the morning’s activities; whether veterans or not to show support.
Halloween In Southie!
SOUTH BOSTON YOUTH SOCCER

This weekend is the last weekend of the regular season and then it’s on to the playoffs for the Under 10, 12 & 18 Divisions. Before we get started with a recap of the games just a few reminders:

COACHES: A reminder that when playing soccer, players cannot touch the ball with their hands. The only player to touch the ball is the goalie. Remember it is important to turn in score sheets. If you do not pass one in there will not be any write up for your team and that is not fair to the children who show up week after week or the Sponsors. Remember all score sheets must be turned in by Monday morning at the latest. Also please fill all score sheets out correctly. For the coaches who have the last game in the Under 8 Division on Sunday, please remember to put the equipment away. Also make sure there are no parents or children (that are not playing the game) near the nets during the game. It is a distraction for the goalies.

PARENTS: The weather is beginning to change and it is getting chillier at the field. Please dress kids accordingly. Maybe put a sweatshirt, long sleeve jersey or sweater under their soccer shirts. I know they stay pretty warm when running around, however, when they are on the sidelines they are cold. Remember all children need to wear shin guards. If your child does not have them, they cannot play. No hats, or jewelry can be worn while playing – this is for the safety of the children. Also, if you have any problems at the field, please see one of the officers of the league and we will take care of all concerns immediately. And remember to stay away from the goalie while they are playing as it is a distraction. All parents should be on one side of the field and the players on the opposite side.

If you have not turned in a concussion certificate, please do so as soon as possible. In order to receive your certificate you can logon to: http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/headup/training/headupconcussion.html. For children ages 3 to 10 years old you can access another site http://brain101.orecasic/5000.com. It is a cartoon site and should hold their attention. After you have gone through this info you can go to the other site (see above) and fill out the info saying you and your child have completed this class. These are not the rules of the South Boston Youth Soccer League. It is mandatory for any youth who are involved in activities on City of Boston properties to take the class. So please make sure you go to this website.

SNACK BAR: Please patronize the snack bar. All monies that are brought in at the snack bar go right back to the local sports teams that use the park, which helps defray some of the expenses to the league.

NEW SOCCER BANQUET DATES & TIMES: The Banquet will be held on Saturday, November 23rd at the South Boston Boys & Girls Club, 230 W. 6th Street, South Boston. Parents are asked to bring desserts. See times and age groups below:

UNDER 4: 12 noon
UNDER 6 & UNDER 8: 10:00 p.m.
UNDER 12 & UNDER 18: 3:00 p.m.

And now on to a recap of the games:

UNDER 4 DIVISION:

HAPPY MONSTERS

The Happy Monsters sponsored by FNISports beat out their opponent by one goal with Jake Greeley scoring a pair of goals and single goals by Nicholas Sherburne and Cameron Holyoke. Stella Walsh and Evelyn Rainsczyk played a great game. The Small Fries sponsored by Sullivan’s just came up short with a hatrick by Zion Sequeira. Grant Sullivan, Lily Somers, Sean O’Keefe and John Olevitz were the MVP’s for their team. At the time of print no score sheets were available for the Green Lightning sponsored by Congressman Stephen Lynch, the Wolfpack sponsored by John Hancock Insurance. The Green Ninjas sponsored by Councilor Linehan, Scoops sponsored by South Boston Today and the team sponsored by PAL.

UNDER 6 DIVISION:

HEAT

The Heat sponsored by Metro Energy kept up their winning ways with Aiden scoring four goals assisted by Benjamin, Jack, Vasi and Piercee. Clara, Michael, Aaron, Robbie and Mia showed great teamwork. Dimitri and Griffin did a fabulous job sharing the goalkeeping duties. The Dolphins sponsored by Marian Manor just fell short with goals by Jack Daley, Evan Pierce and Ryan Alexander. Jackson Ballard, Cole Rattican and Isabelle Sheppeck showed some great defensive plays.

ROCKETS

The Rockets sponsored by Massport soared to a victory today. All the players did a super job. The Moose sponsored by the McDonough Post Ladies Auxiliary played a tough opponent and just came up short with goals by Aiden Kelly with a powerful kick and Harry Minnucci who followed with a skillful goal on net. Excellent work Moose! Deacon Evrirvades had some huge saves in net. Rocco Blasi, Michael Clark and Ryan Collins did an awesome job moving the ball down our opponents end. Tessa Joyce and Katie Kelly showed lots of heart and had some nice kicks. Ryan McGarrell and James McFarland played with high energy and had lots of big saves. Great job once again.

UNDER 8 DIVISION:

NINJAS

HOT SHOTS

The Ninjas sponsored by Donahue & Associates played a great game. All the players did an awesome job and by scoring the only goal of the game came out winners. The Hot Shots sponsored by Boston Home Inspectors did not score but it was not from lack of trying. Chloe McLaughlin, Mya Donovan and Sophia Holley played turned in a stellar performance.

BLUE DEVILS

THE GANG

The Blue Devils sponsored by Joe Pace & Sons just beat out their opponent with single goals by Devin Dunlap and Mario Blasi. Nolan and Katherine Baskiewicz were great on defense. Nolan Young played an all-around great game.

SILVER HAWKS

FLYERS

The Silver Hawks sponsored by O’Connell Insurance when on a scoring spree with goals by Riley Joyce, Ryan Shields, Joseph Greene, Jahloni George, Marguerite Greene and Maeve Applegate. Kayleigh O’Connor did a great job manning the net. Grainne Conlon and William Mullins did a great job bringing the ball up and down the field. At the time of print no score sheet was available from the Massport Flyers.

UNDER 10 DIVISION:

HORNETS 2

FLAMES 1

The Hornets sponsored by Jeffrey Chubb Associates just beat out their opponent for the win. Jack Harrison and Brandon Clarke both scored goals. Diego Alvarez and Thomas Conlon shared the goalkeeping duties and made some nice saves. Patrick Steele and Michael Lentini were great at midfield and Pablo Alvarez was super on defense. The Flames sponsored by the Boston Firefighters Credit Union kept the game within reach. The team showed some great teamwork. At the time of print no score sheets were available for the Kickers sponsored by the Jim Cahill Club, the Mt. Washington Bank Shamrocks, The Southie Strong sponsored by Stapleton Florist and the Massport Lightning.

UNDER 12 DIVISION:

JETS 5

LIONS 1

The Jets sponsored by the Michael J. Perkins A.L. Post #67 went on a scoring spree with two goals by James O’Brien and single goals by John Goodine, Fernando Correia and McNeil Sommers. Abigail Gwynn, Sophie Long and Alison McGough played an awesome game. The Lions sponsored by O’Brien Funeral Home had a goal kicked in off the foot of Patrick Gjoka. Ronan O’Connell, Andrew Markarian, Tari Pecivich, Elizabeth Power, Walter Steele, Kaleigh Flaherty, Abigail Seero and Linda Stefanov did a good job against a tough opponent. At the time of print no score sheets were available for the Massport Hot Totties and Eastern Bank Monsters.

UNDER 18 DIVISION:

At the time of print no score sheets were available for the teams sponsored by Massport, Deco Leasing, Yankee Bus Line and Iron Workers Local #7.
Ortiz deserves spot as one of the greatest Red Sox ever

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
By Conor Ryan

When it comes down to determining and deciding the impact and legacy of certain athletes, the “Mt. Rushmore” routine is one of the most accepted (if not clichéd) methods in sports.

For a city with a rich history of sports like Boston, the process of narrowing an entire franchise down to just four players is certainly a daunting task.

For the Sox, Bruins, Patriots, and Celtics, there’s obviously the given players that aren’t even up for debate as to whether they deserve a spot on this list: Teddy Ballgame with the Sox, Bird and Magic with the Celtics, Orr with the B’s and Brady with the Pats.

However, when it comes down to choosing the three remaining members of this exclusive fraternity of legends, it gets much more difficult, especially with the Sox.

In their 112-year history, the Red Sox have seen many incredible players take the field at Fenway: Yaz, Pedro, Rice, Clemens, Boggs. While each of these players can make the argument that they deserve a spot on the Sox’ “Mt. Rushmore”, it is a player that is still on the roster that has already secured himself as one of the best to ever don the Boston uniform.

With a third ring in Boston and a 2013 World Series MVP to his name, David Ortiz has cemented himself as one of the top-four Red Sox players of all time.

The numbers and accolades speak for themselves: Nine All-Star Appearances, three titles, 2013 World Series MVP, 2004 ALCS MVP and 373 home runs and a .962 OPS with the Sox.

While his stats are certainly impressive, it has been Ortiz’s postseason track record that has truly defined Ortiz’s tenure in Boston.

Signed as free agent before the 2003 season after being cast off by the Minnesota Twins, Ortiz immediately made his presence felt in Beantown, slugging 31 home runs and hitting 101 in his first season while helping Boston make it all the way to Game 7 of the 2003 ALCS.

Ortiz would have one hell of an encore in 2004, leading the team with 139 RBIs on the year while single-handedly rescuing Boston from a 3-0 deficit against the hated Yankees in the 2004 ALCS with two clutch walk-off hits in Games 4 and 5 of the series.

The Dominican slugger would then hit .308 with 4 RBIs in the ’04 Fall Classic, helping the Sox win their first championship in 86 years.

If someone had to make a list of Ortiz’s top ten moments with the Sox, more than half would have been from October. Simply put, Ortiz has been the greatest postseason hitter in Red Sox history, if not the greatest postseason hitter of all time.

A career .295 hitter with 17 home runs and 60 RBIs in the playoffs, Ortiz has come up big multiple times in October. Aside from his ’04 heroics, there’s also his clutch, game-tying grand slam in Game 2 of the 2013 ALCS and his incredible performance in this year’s World Series, where the 37-year-old Ortiz hit .688 with 6 RBIs in six games.

Ortiz’s numbers during his three appearances in the World Series are historic, as his line of .465 BA/.556 OBP/.814 SLG in 14 Fall Classic games is one of the best of any hitter in MLB history.

It also cannot be understated how significant it is that Ortiz has amassed three championships with Boston. Unless you’ve been a member of the Yankees, it’s been rare for any baseball player to secure multiple titles with one franchise. Before Ortiz, the last non-Yankee to capture three World Series championships with one team was Baltimore pitcher Jim Palmer in ’66, ’70 and ’83.

When looking at his career in retrospect, Ortiz truly has done it all. Great regular season numbers, a historic track record in the postseason, multiple rings and the admiration of every Sox fan in the nation.

Yes, Ortiz can’t hold a candle to Williams, but then again, few can. But if there’s anyone that deserves a spot next to the Splendid Splinter as the greatest Sox players of all time, Ortiz has to be the top choice.
October is over, and another long season of baseball has just concluded. The offseason is up next and it’s time to start thinking about the 2014 MLB season. There’s going to be some vital changes to how the game is played next year, as the MLB will be expanding video review process starting in the 2014 season. This will give managers an opportunity to challenge calls and potentially overturn an incorrect call made by an umpire.

One of the main concerns with this new addition to the sport is the amount of time it might add to an already lengthy game. Here’s how it will work:

Managers will get one challenge over the first six innings of a game. They will also be allowed two more challenges from the seventh inning until the end of the match (extra innings included). If a manager challenges a play correctly, he gets to retain the challenge. The single challenge from the first six innings does not carry over if the manager has retained it past the end of the sixth. There is no ruling on what happens if an incorrect call is made on the field if a manager has exhausted all challenges.

When a manager feels a play was called incorrectly, he can issue his challenge to the home plate umpire. A call is then placed to the MLB Headquarters in New York City, where a review crew will issue the final call to the crew chief at the ballpark. All calls from the MLB Headquarters are final and cannot be argued any further.

Reviewable calls can range from the home run review the league has been using, to a close play at first base. No more “tie goes to the runner” calls, those will likely be challenged. No more center fielders trapping balls under there glove on a diving catch, no more close calls on hard shots down the third base line, no more runners sliding “around” or “underneath” tags on big plays at the plate or while stealing bases in an attempt to sneak past the umpires line of sight. Everything can and will be reviewed.

Managers will have to pick and choose when to use their challenge in the first six innings, but getting two more for the remainder of the reviewable play can still be argued by a manager in order to have the umpires conference to see if anyone saw the play differently, similar to the play that occurred on an exchange at 2nd base in game 1 of the World Series (a play that will likely be reviewable under the expansion plan).

There has been no final determination as to what plays are reviewable. For the most part, everything is reviewable it seems. In a press conference in Cooperstown in August of this year, Braves president John Schuerholz stated that “reviewable plays will cover 89 percent of those incorrect calls that were made in the past... The 11 percent remaining are in the non-reviewable category, which can still be argued by the manager.”

It’s certainly not set in stone, but by the sounds of it, baseball games are about to get a little bit longer. An example of a non-reviewable play might be a dispute over a hit batsman, or a strikeout call. Managers can still argue these issues but on balls and strikes nothing will be overturned, as it’s non-reviewable and a home plate umpire will always have the best view of the strike zone.

Talk back to David at DPollard@SouthBostonToday.com
There are plenty of mixed opinions about the expanding review process in baseball, but one thing is for sure, it’s going to alter the way the game is played and managed for good. Major League Baseball plans to finalize it’s plan November 13th and 14th in Orlando, Florida, where owners, who have widely agreed to the implementation, will vote on implementing the expanded review process, requiring 75% of the vote to adopt the plan.

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grace the rosin bag, staring down the batters... games drag on almost as much as this sentence.

In an article in the Washington Post James Wagner reported that 40 years ago, baseball games were completed at an average clip of 2 hours and 30 minutes. In 2013 games take an average of 2 hours and 57 minutes.

Everyone who watches baseball has sat through games that last well over 4 hours. Will having the ability to challenge plays make this average time increase? Undoubtedly. But perhaps it won’t be too bad, for the most part umpires do their jobs quite well, and it’s likely most plays will not be challenge. The question is whether or not managers feel compelled to utilize all challenges in a game, if so we would see a minimum of 6 challenges in a given match. Plus, the most important thing truly is that the correct call be made, which is why the plan will pass when put to a vote.

ESPN.com reported that Commissioner Bud Selig is confident that the direct line of communication between the MLB Headquarters and major league ballparks should keep replay determinations under 1 minute and 15 seconds.

While Bud Selig’s confidence is nice, he has nothing to base that estimate on, currently reviewing home runs has taken an average of three minutes, the difference now being the inclusion of the MLB Headquarters staff in New York. If Selig’s estimates are correct, that’s a pretty quick turnaround, but there is no way of knowing because plans are not final and it is not game tested. The only true test of how long these reviews will take will be when it finally happens in game.

There are plenty of mixed opinions about the expanding review process in baseball, but one thing is for sure, it’s going to alter the way the game is played and managed for good. Major League Baseball plans to finalize it’s plan November 13th and 14th in Orlando, Florida, where owners, who have widely agreed to the implementation, will vote on implementing the expanded review process, requiring 75% of the vote to adopt the plan.
DANNY PICARD: The Bruins have a big game against the Dallas Stars, and Tyler Seguin comes back to Boston to face his old team. As he jumps onto the TD Garden ice, do you think he has some regrets about how things ended and maybe about how he handled himself towards the end of the year last year?

REAR ADMIRAL: I’m not sure if he’s there on a maturity level where he kind of has that perspective to say, “Well, I do regret things.” I think he’s probably in that mode where you just kind of make an obligatory mention and be excited for the change. I think it’s something where, when he gets the perspective of a few more years, he might say, “I definitely could have handled things different, and it didn’t have to be that way.” But he’s probably already accepted [the trade]. It’s a major thing that’s happened in his career, and he’s already moved on. But yeah, I think when he gains the perspective and some years of wisdom, I think he’ll probably look back on it and say, “Yeah, I screwed up. I could have handled things differently.” Because, you know, the Bruins, they gave him three years to straighten his act out, and he didn’t. And they basically said, “Screw it, we’re not going to spend almost $6 million on this kid if we’re not his number one commitment.” So they cut bait.

DP: And those who defend Tyler Seguin, and those who defended him during the trade, if they didn’t want to see that trade, they’ll look at it going into this game and tell you that Seguin has six goals and nine assists, for 15 points on the season with the Dallas Stars. They’ll tell you that f he was on the Bruins, he’d lead the team in points and be tied for first in goals with Milan Lucic, with the six goals. They’ll look at it and tell you this is a Bruins team that is looking for a little spark the last couple games in which they looked like a .500 club. These people will say that the Bruins should have never traded this kid, pointing to the goals he has and the season he’s having. But to me, the Bruins knew that Seguin was going to go somewhere else and be a good player. They didn’t think that Seguin was done as a hockey player. It’s just, they got somebody in return in Loui Eriksson, and they were also able to sign Iginla. They were able to improve that trade. But it did give them some salary cap flexibility. It allowed them to sign Tuukka, and they were able to trade Peverley for a draft pick. That’s not a knock on his game. That’s just to dump his salary. But sure, they knew they were getting rid of a good player. And you mention Eriksson, but also, Reilly Smith has made the team out of camp, and you’re talking about two other guys in Joe Morrow, who’s maybe a couple years away, and the kid [Matt] Fraser, who is maybe a year or two away himself. So you talk about the bounty that the Bruins got, and they really got a hell of a bounty for Seguin, Peverly, and Ryan Button, who tends to get forgotten in that trade. But Loui Eriksson, I said going into the season he’s probably a more complete player than Seguin at the NHL level, and he probably still is, despite Seguin’s hot start. And it’s too bad that Loui was just kind of, I thought, getting some good chemistry with Bergeron, finally starting to look comfortable and making some plays, and then he took that awful elbow from John Scott, the dirty hit that put him out of the lineup. I think you’ll probably see him get back to where he was. I don’t think fans got to see the full monty with Loui. I think once they do, they’ll be pretty satisfied with him.

RA: No, it’s too early, too small of a sample size. Again, you’re talking about a team that’s added one-third of their forwards. Jordan Caron wasn’t a regular on the team last year. Nor was Eriksson or Iginla or Smith. So you’re talking one-third of your forwards weren’t in the regular rotation. You’re adding a couple of young defensemen into the rotation as well. So there is a familiarity, but a lot of these guys haven’t played together, and I think it takes a little bit to get everybody on the same page, kind of find that cohesion. And we certainly haven’t seen that yet. The Bruins also haven’t been giving their best effort [last week]. So, I don’t think everything’s kind of come together yet. I certainly don’t think they’re full stride, by any stretch of the imagination.

DP: With Eriksson in the lineup, he’s on a line with Patrice Bergeron. On the other wing has been both Brad Marchand and Reilly Smith. But isn’t this Bruins team at their best when Marchand is with Bergeron on that line? I mean, Marchand hasn’t looked
like the same player. He’s shown flashes of it this season. But really, isn’t this Bruins team at their best when Bergeron and Marchand are together, clicking?

RA: Yeah, not just when they’re together, but like you said, when they’re clicking. And I don’t think they were clicking too much. Marchand seems to be missing that kind of -- I don’t know if “snarl” is the right word -- but kind of that mischievous way he plays the game. We really haven’t been seeing that a whole lot. He just hasn’t been the same player. So, I don’t know if him and Bergeron haven’t got on the same page or whatever, but they haven’t had that chemistry they’ve always had. I don’t know if that’s because of the linemate situation, where they brought in Eriksson, and then they busted Marchand down to the third line. So that’s going to be tougher for them to get chemistry going. But we haven’t seen those two working their magic, to to speak, like we’re used to, and if Claude doesn’t play them together, then it’s not going to come. Marchand is having a weird start. He’s not playing that game we’re used to seeing him play. And I don’t know, it looks like he might be struggling with his confidence right now, because he’s certainly not the same player we’ve been used to the last few years.

DP: This isn’t the first time I’m going to mention this this season, and it isn’t the first season that I’ve mentioned this, but you look at the game last Saturday in New York against the Islanders, and you look at a couple games before that where they came out flat and almost didn’t even have a shot on net -- and I still don’t think they had a shot on net in that first period against the Ducks. But this is, I think, to me at least, signs of a team that was two wins away from a Stanley Cup, that knows with this core group, you get into the playoffs and you know that you can win with this group. That maybe regular season games on Saturday nights on Long Island are not must-win games. And when they’re not must-win games, and when they’re not playoff games, we don’t see the best out of this team, defensively. And when they don’t all buy in defensively, they’re an average team. Do you get the same feeling, that that’s really what’s been going on lately? When this team has looked average and they do come out flat, that this is sort of a human nature thing. That, this isn’t the playoffs, and this team knows that when they do get to the playoffs, they’re at their best. But this isn’t the playoffs so it’s tough to really get up for some of these games. That’s my take on it. What’s your take?

RA: I think that has actually been a characteristic of this team for the last several years. They tend to play up or down to their competition. Like you said, Saturday night on Long Island, I mean, the Islanders are a playoff team, and they certainly were last year. [The Islanders] are still not an upper-echelon team by any means, and the Bruins kind of come in as if merely showing up is going to lead to a victory. And they kind of play down to the competition. And conversely, they did lose versus Pittsburgh, but did show up, they had a great game, and kind of lost a tough one on the third period. But yeah, it is kind of a characteristic of this team, to sort of play down or up to the competition. It’s kind of a weird characteristic, but at the same time, I don’t worry about them. The team knows how to win. They’re still kind of finding their way, as this current iteration of this team right now. I wish there was more consistency and that they did kind of approach every game the same. I saw someone noted on twitter, it’s almost like they’re having their annual January slump right now, because the team tends to go in a funk every winter. It just seems like they’re playing that way [entering Tuesday’s game against Dallas]. But I think it’s just early-season cobwebs and adding new guys to the lineup, and they’re just trying to get that cohesion together. Because they definitely haven’t played their best. But at the same time, I’m confident they will get there soon.
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