



## The Perils of Eminent Domain

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY  
Staff Report

The proposal by Celtic Recycling to build a \$10 million commercial recycling facility on an 18.5-acre property at 100 Widett Circle bordering on South Boston that has a 50,000-square-foot cold storage warehouse on it is in

jeopardy. Although a subject of some community concerns, it is not those concerns that now jeopardize it. It is the MBTA who is looking into the possibility of taking the property by eminent domain.

According to published reports, the transportation agency is considering the site as one of two dozen places to store trains. The move would be part of a DOT expansion project intended to allow for more intercity and high-speed rail service flowing in and out of South Station. Under the proposal, up to seven tracks and platforms as well as construction of a new passenger concourse and other amenities would be added. The impact of this possibility would be more significant than the recycling center’s proposed use. The proposed rail system use, contemplated by the State, would run the length of South Boston’s western border - running behind the newer residences at 9 West Broadway and the McCallum Building.

The state would acquire and demolish the 16-acre U.S. Postal Service mail

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South Boston Today



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See Last Week’s Poll on Page 2.

# Giving Thanks!

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# EDITORIAL *Going On 'Unemployment' – A Hand Not A Handout*

If businesses, large and small, are being asked to increase the minimum wage up to \$11/hour which is currently at \$8/hour and hasn't changed since 2008, then shouldn't they ask for something in return? After all, that is how the system works. Isn't it?

What Massachusetts businesses are prepared to do, according to a pronouncement made by Christopher Anderson, president of the Mass. High Tech Council, is agree to an increase in the minimum wage in return for a decrease in the length of time unemployment benefits are paid out. After all, MA unemployment benefits are part of a payroll tax system that, according to Anderson, is the second highest in the country after neighboring Rhode Island. For its part, the State had frozen unemployment insurance rates paid by employers over the past few years, but Unemployment Insurance reform is necessary according to several business groups.

Anderson's Council, representing some of the

largest employers in the State, recently teamed up with a crop of new young tech entrepreneurs and others to force the repeal of the 'tech tax', which imposed a sales tax on computer and software design services, a key economic engine for MA. That grassroots success has apparently energized the business lobby. One proposed change would lower the duration of unemployment benefits from 30 weeks to 26 weeks. The other would require workers to be employed for at least 20 weeks before being eligible for benefits, up from the current 15 weeks. Seems fair?

Faced with a mandatory ballot question in 2014, Senate President Therese Murray pushed a bill through the Senate that would raise the minimum wage in Massachusetts to \$11 by 2016, tying future increases to the Consumer Price Index for the Northeast region, and increasing earnings for tipped workers to 50 percent of that wage. The House of Representatives has not taken any action yet.

Raise Up Massachusetts, a group of community and labor workers including SEIU locals, in addition to collecting nearly 150,000 signatures to put a minimum wage increase question on the 2014 ballot that would raise the minimum wage to \$10.50 per hour in two years, collected almost as many signatures to allow minimum wage workers to have earned sick time.

It seems that compromise is the order of the day. The prospect of two major lobbying groups, both of whom want the economy to grow, want to see businesses prosper and employees paid fairly can only bring these opportunistic guarantees. The broadcast and print media will make lots of money. Interest group leaders and their consultants will also make lots of money. Then, one or more of the interest groups, which claim that they each want a vibrant economy, will suffer the consequences. But then again, ultimately, the taxpayer will suffer the consequences.

*"But see, in our open clearings, how golden the melons lie; enrich them with sweets and spices and give us the pumpkin pie." -Margaret Junkin Preston*

## Last Week's Poll

**What Type Of Affordable Housing Does South Boston Need?**

**Here's How You Answered:**

**Senior Housing 7%**

**Middle Income Family Homes 64%**

**Middle Income 1 & 2 Bedroom Homes 5%**

**Low to Moderate Income 1 & 2 Bedroom Homes 14%**

**Low to Moderate Income Family Homes 10%**

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# The Information Center



## A Decorated, Lit up Evergreen in December? It's a Christmas Tree

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY  
John Ciccone

*Note: talk back to John Ciccone by email at [jciccone@southbostontoday.com](mailto:jciccone@southbostontoday.com)*

**Note to our Readers:** This Thanksgiving Week column was originally written back in 2011 and appeared in the South Boston Tribune. Because of so many requests that I am humbled and am flattered to receive, I resubmitted it for last year's South Boston Today and will again in this edition of SBT, with a few changes for updating purposes. The subject matter is as relevant this year as it was back in 2011:

In the opinion of so many of our readers and people all across America, media hype has ruined the peace and tranquility that for generations, actually centuries has made Thanksgiving what it is supposed to be. Granted, there are many people who look forward to getting the great deals and bargains offered by stores on 'Black Friday'. To each their own. They have a right to shop when opportunities like this present themselves. But each year the stores seem to want to open earlier; now going right into Thanksgiving Day; as early in the morning as possible. Employees at some stores are told they must work which cuts into that precious time that so many want to be able to spend with family and friends. The advertising blitz that we are all bombarded by which almost commands that people need to be first in line to barge through the doors of their favorite stores like race horses at the starting gate is literally making some people crazy. Shots fired at a mall in North Carolina, multiple stabbings at a store in Chicago and the lady with the pepper spray at a California Walmart will possibly go down in history for taking the insanity up several notches. What can I say? There are many of us who are traditionalists and proud of it. The question we ask is: 'Can't we all just enjoy Thanksgiving for what it's supposed to be?' Would it be so bad to move 'Black Friday' to oh, say 'Black Saturday'?

If all the stores agreed to it, I know, fat chance of that happening, but if they did, we could all kick back and enjoy a meaningful Thanksgiving. The stores could offer their same sales and discounts and still make just as much money, employees would get to spend that cherished time with their families, and there would still be plenty of time to release our wild animal aggression on Saturday. Just a thought.

Ok, there are still remnants of that old Politically Correct mindset that once had momentum for their efforts to take Christ out of Christmas or put in different words, remove 'The reason for the season'. These people came, and still do come in two main categories. One was made up of the fanatics who hate - and the word hate fits here - anything having to do with religion, Christianity and the true meaning of Christmas. These are bigots who were and still are obsessed; though thankfully less and less successful with their efforts to ban Nativity Scenes, stop school children from singing Christmas Carols at their pageants and pretty much anything else that would purge God from the celebration. The ACLU among others comes to mind here. The other group is made up of very silly people who walk on eggshells in their ridiculous efforts to make the 'holidays' a generic celebration so as not to offend anyone. This second group, some of whom are interchangeable with the first group, almost goes into contortions in their looney effort not to so much as utter the word Christmas. And both groups have as one of their main targets, the Christmas Tree. Yes, I said it - Christmas Tree.

Whether these PC types like it or not, if it's an evergreen decorated with lights and ornaments on display

in December, it's a Christmas Tree. They are Christmas Trees in 2013 and they will always be Christmas Trees. They are not winter solstice shrubs as some kooky school administrator from Cambridge tried to force her students to call them one year and they are not holiday trees. The trees that will be lit on East and West Broadway are not holiday trees they are Christmas Trees. The trees at the State House and at Boston City Hall are Christmas Trees. The tree that may be put up at Medal of Honor Park at M Street is not a holiday

tree. It too is a Christmas Tree. This battle has been won. The PC types and the anti-Christmas radicals lost this fight several years ago. It's just that some of them aren't smart enough to realize it, so they persist in their nonsense. Even Barack Obama acknowledged last year that it was the annual Christmas Tree that was lit at the White House, not a holiday tree.

Now I know, with all the problems facing the world today, some might ask does it really matter what people

CONTINUED ON page 7



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## Rep. Nick Collins Votes on Legislation to Strengthen Anti-Fraud Laws

State Representative Nick Collins joined colleagues in the Massachusetts House of Representatives to pass comprehensive legislation that improves the state's welfare system through new initiatives and reforms and also promotes financial independence. "Supporting programs that help the poorest among us lift themselves out of poverty is fundamental to safe and secure neighborhoods", Representative Nick Collins stated. "Improving the safeguards that prevent welfare fraud and closing the loopholes that have, for some, become an incentive to stay on welfare is just as important. It's a two-pronged approach", Collins added.

The Act to Foster Economic Independence includes the following provisions:

- Expands the scope of 'prohibited' EBT transactions to include foreign transmittal agencies to prevent the use of EBT cards for international wire transfers;
- Requires the DTA to notify recipients who have not used benefits or have high balances, and subsequently requires the DTA to expunge or recoup funds;
- Codifies regulations mandating that SNAP benefits are for household use only as a means to prevent overseas food shipments;
- Requires the DTA to create a fraud detection program to analyze risk and refer cases to the Bureau of Program Integrity for investigation;
- Requires self-declarations to be signed under the penalties of perjury and prohibits self-declarations from being used as

the only verification of eligibility;

- Allows state agencies to disclose tax forms for eligibility determination;
- Reduces the time period that results in a presumption of abandonment of Massachusetts residency.

"In this bill we provide a comprehensive set of tools that will help individuals who need it the most while simultaneously taking steps to improve the economic wellbeing of Massachusetts," Speaker DeLeo said. "I believe that this bill, particularly the strong reform measures, sets our public assistance programs on a path for sustainable success that will serve the Commonwealth for years to come."

The legislation also provides funding for the High Demand Scholarship program and requires the Department of Transitional Assistance to create a financial literacy program regarding the use of benefit cards, bank accounts and savings for higher education.

CONTINUED FROM front page 1

facility on Dorchester Avenue adjacent to the station. Vehicle and pedestrian access to Dorchester Avenue, which is restricted today, would be restored.

Celtic Recycling founder Susie Chin apparently met with the MBTA about the possibility of the land taking and has learned that it was also news to local elected and civic leaders. The current owner of the property is Americold, an Atlanta-based temperature-controlled warehousing company which entered into a 75 year lease with Celtic Recycling.

Eminent domain, which is the power to take private property for public use by a state, municipality, or private person or corporation authorized to exercise functions of public character, following the payment of just compensation to the owner of that property. This option was recently used by the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center to expand their options to build hotels adjacent to its property.



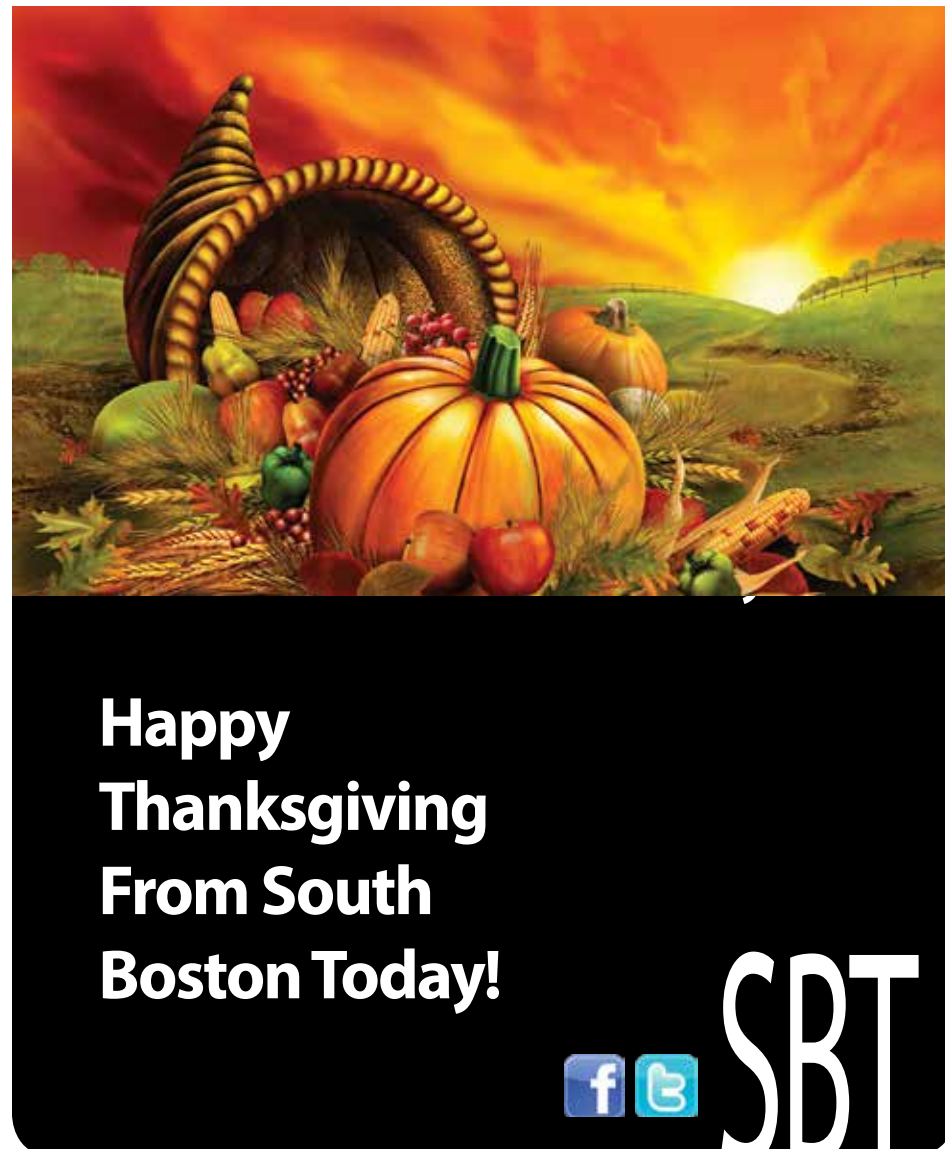
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# Reading Between The Lines

## “Thankful As Always”

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY  
Brian R. Mahoney

Note: talk back to Brian by email at [bmahoney@southbostontoday.com](mailto:bmahoney@southbostontoday.com)

First thing I’m Thankful for are the money hungry retailers forcing their employees to work on Thanksgiving. Some, perhaps want and could use the extra money but the feeling persists most would rather be at home but will be fired if they do. The rest of us, though, benefit by getting a window into the true character of many retailers. While, unscientific, my polling reveals most people feel a business so uncaring for its workers, employs that same ruthlessness toward customers. You’re more likely to find lead pant or inferior products or poor return policies from this type of retailer.

Conversely, a retailer who realizes at least once in awhile that family comes before profits is more likely to sell safe, sturdy, high quality items with a cheerful return policy. Keep that in mind when you have a choice who to give your business to.

We can be Thankful that, no matter your preference, we have a new Mayor, a new opportunity to make a better Boston and replace the same faces and stagnation that has set in. Thankful for new chance to move forward. Because that’s what Thanksgiving and perhaps all holidays should really be about. A day to put all your troubles, just for a while, on the shelf and be Thankful for whatever small joys you have.

How lucky am I? Last weekend with the friends that I’ve had since pre-teen years we got together for an overnight card game down the Cape. As you might guess, the game was secondary to the laughs and conversation. And some said “hey, we’re all retired”. It dawned on all of us to varying degrees, that here were friends we had shared a lifetime with from little kids to retirement. We have plans to do it again soon, and to even be able to think of those possible

plans is to be Thankful for.

My wife and I are particularly Thankful our son is able to get home for Thanksgiving. We’ll be especially happy if next week you’re not reading some horror story that I might write about being stuck in Western New York with this possible Tuesday or Wednesday storm. This will mean that those brave few of us, who venture out to support Southie High Football at White Stadium Thanksgiving morning, might be in a Nor’easter. Otherwise attendance may be smaller (if possible) than usual. Never the less were Thankful for those student athletes who give it their best, all the times.

No matter the weather is we are Thankful to be in the presence of those you love and who love you. At times it can be stressful but it brings to mind the old expression about “home is the one place they have to take you in when nobody else will”. Though said, mostly in jest, it basically boils down to family and friends are all we’ve really got. Maybe all that really matters.

None of this is possible without a home, country and town we can feel safe in. That will protect us and we can grow in. For all its flaws and imperfections we have that. This is truly something to be Thankful for.

For all the men and women who have served and are serving now to ensure we can have this blessed family day. We are Thankful. That Thanks extends not just to our military but to all, past and present, who have contributed and shaped our land and our lives.

South Boston Today urges our readers to please take and enjoy this brief time with dear family and friends and we are Thankful you’ve allowed us to share this special day with you.

**Take care til next week.**



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# Window Into The State House

**SOUTH BOSTON TODAY**  
Andy Metzger

Window Into The State House provides our readers a synopsis of important issues of interest, past and current, that are being proposed, debated or acted upon by the Massachusetts Legislature. Many issues that are not related to local city government services are acted upon and have a direct impact on daily life. They are tax policy, transportation infrastructure, judicial appointments, social services and health, as well as higher education.

We will excerpt reports from the gavel-to-gavel coverage of House and Senate sessions by news sources focused on this important aspect of our lives. These sources include a look ahead at the coming week in state government and summaries and analyses of the past week, re-caps of a range of state government activity, as well as links to other news.

## REPORT: MBTA UNDERFUNDED ITS RETIREMENT PLAN FOR YEARS

Continuing to sound the alarm on unfunded public employee benefits, the Pioneer Institute issued a white paper Thursday noting that MBTA wage costs increased by 55 percent from fiscal year 2001 to fiscal year 2013 while its annual pension costs more than tripled over the same period. The institute's senior fellow on finance Iliya Atanasov reported that the T has shifted to an open 30-year funding schedule to amortize the MBTA Retirement Plan's unfunded liabilities, an approach that analysts say does not include a fixed full funding deadline

and which is not allowed for any of the 105 other public employee retirement systems in Massachusetts. Those systems are generally required to fund their liabilities no later than 2040, a deadline that was recently pushed back by a state law enacted after the recession in response to plummeting investment returns. In addition to reporting that the MBTA is not paying its annual required contribution for "other post-employment benefits," which could result in higher taxes and fees, the report found the MBTA Retirement Plan in 2011 had 68 percent of the money needed to meet its pension obligations, down from 95 percent in 2006.

An MBTA spokesman declined comment, saying the retirement plan is managed independently of the authority. Unfunded pension and health care liabilities are a major fiscal threat not just at the MBTA, but throughout state and local government in Massachusetts, according to numerous reports. M. Norton/SHNS

## MASS. RETAILERS SEE "STRONG" 3.5 PERCENT INCREASE IN HOLIDAY SALES

Massachusetts retailers are predicting a fourth consecutive year of increased holiday season sales. The Retailers Association of Massachusetts, citing a survey of its 3,500 members, on Thursday morning predicted a 3.5 percent increase in sales compared to the 2012 holiday season. The National Retail Federation has projected a 3.9 percent increase in sales nationwide. Massachusetts holiday sales rose 2.8 percent in 2012, compared to the holiday shopping period in 2011. Retailers are in the throes of continuing debates on Beacon Hill over the affordability of health insurance for small businesses and efforts to raise the minimum wage from \$8 to \$11 an hour. - M. Norton/SHNS

## HIGH TECH OFFICIAL PITCHES UI REFORMS TO DeLEO

Massachusetts High Tech Council President Chris Anderson reported a "great" meeting with Speaker Robert DeLeo Monday morning, telling the News Service afterwards that he can't see a minimum wage hike or unemployment system reforms passing individually, but believes policy changes on both issues can advance if paired

together. Anderson said he did not think House members would want to "deviate" from DeLeo's preference to address the minimum wage and unemployment system reforms in one bill, predicting an eventual House bill would reflect a more "balanced" economic development strategy. More than 67 percent of Anderson's surveyed members supported an increase in the minimum wage to \$10 an hour if the wage were not indexed to inflation, as the Senate recommended, and if unemployment benefit and eligibility requirements in Massachusetts were realigned to match those in place in most states, an idea lawmakers have rejected in the past citing concerns for jobless individuals. Senate President Therese Murray indicated last week a desire to take up unemployment insurance reforms next year. - M. Norton/SHNS

## RMV RESTARTING LICENSE RENEWAL REMINDERS IN DECEMBER

Starting with Massachusetts drivers who have birthdays in December, the Registry of Motor Vehicles will begin sending birthday postcards in the mail to remind people that their licenses are expiring. The notifications had ended five years ago due to cost-cutting. Each reminder will inform the driver whether they are eligible to renew their license online, or if they must appear in person at a registry branch. Licenses expire every five years, but drivers must only appear in person once every 10 years to have a new photograph taken. - M. Murphy/SHNS

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## Thanksgiving Then and Now - Some Change, Some Tradition

Most adults today read about the first Thanksgiving while still in elementary school. It's a story of hardship being overcome by success that finally led to the first Thanksgiving feast. A feast where the Pilgrims gave thanks to God for the bountiful food that was finally available and that enabled them to survive.

The Pilgrims were seeking freedom from the religious persecution they had suffered in England and courageously set sail for the new world. Packing all the belongings they could carry onto what would now be considered a tiny ship, they made the perilous journey and landed on the east coast of what is now America. This is history; we all know this from our lessons at school.

But what many may have forgotten was that this was not the beginning of what is today a uniquely American holiday. The first Thanksgiving, celebrated in the autumn of 1621 was not observed in the years following. It became an official holiday in 1863, when President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed it to be so and it has been a tradition ever since.

Today, Americans often sit down to sumptuous turkey dinners with all the fixins' and still give thanks to God for all that we have in our country. This of course is sometimes preceded or followed by watching football games and taking part in other holiday activities, one of which for some could simply be an after dinner nap while waiting for dessert and coffee. Historians still aren't positive

that turkey was part of the first Thanksgiving feast. However they do seem pretty sure that sumptuous main courses like wild duck, goose, venison and even clams and lobster were high at the top of the menu followed by fruits such as plums and boiled pumpkin. No pumpkin pie. But happily, turkeys today are plentiful and if cooked just right, delicious.

Though tradition still reigns on Thanksgiving Day, much has changed since that first feast in 1621. The 46 surviving Pilgrims, were joined and helped by 91 American Indians. Together they worked hard and in cooperation at making sure that from then on, food and shelter; two of the most important things that were a must for survival in those days in such a harsh environment, would follow and endure well into the future.

Today, what often follows in the days after a relaxing Thanksgiving holiday spent with friends and family is frenzied shopping sprees and a head long rush into the Christmas Season and all the hustle and bustle that comes with it. Times change for sure, but the good thing about this very special holiday is that even though in this modern age, nearly four centuries since the first Thanksgiving feast was enjoyed, where things are so much different with new customs and habits, most Americans still hold on to part of that tradition. It's what caused this Thanksgiving holiday to begin way back when the Mayflower first landed at Plymouth Rock. And that is an appreciation of family, good friends, and neighbors and helping neighbors, and slowing down, even if it's just for a day to give thanks for all that we have.

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call a Christmas Tree. Well yes, I believe it does. Because it's so very important that the world never, ever lose sight of what this season means to so many. It is sacred, it is holy and those who strive to make it fade out need to be stood up to or one day they just might be successful. It doesn't mean that everyone has to celebrate Christmas as a religious time. Not everyone is a Christian. But those who are so quick to work hard to deliberately dilute the true meaning so as not to offend non-Christians don't seem to care in the least about offending the more than two and a half billion people around the world who are Christians. Again, to believers, this is a sacred and Holy time. Efforts to marginalize the true meaning are to the vast majority of Americans insulting, insensitive and disrespectful.

And just one more thing to that fast dwindling number of people who seem to have a problem and get offended when someone wishes them a Merry Christmas: Whether you like it or not, Christmas is also a federal holiday. It comes around each year on December 25th. Whether you celebrate it or not, it's still coming; get used to it. When someone makes an effort to wish you a Merry Christmas, they want you to have one. Anyone who has a problem with that really does have issues and might want to seek counselling. We wonder if these same people get upset when they are wished a happy Memorial Day or Labor Day. Somehow I doubt it. And now that we have set the tone for the season, may it be enjoyable to all.

Wishing Everyone  
a  
Safe & Wonderful  
Thanksgiving!

**City Councilor BILL LINEHAN**

Have a Happy  
Thanksgiving!

NICK COLLINS

STATE REPRESENTATIVE



## “Two Special People”

There are many non-profit organizations in South Boston. Too many, to be able to know them all. There is one special organization that everyone knows. Julie's Family Learning Program or simply “Julie's”. This special quality seems, in a large part, due to those who perform the work there. Here are two examples of dedication to be Thankful for this season. Theresa Finn Dever and Sr. Eleanor Clancy SND will be honored at Julie's Learning Center Annual Event on December 5 from 6:00pm to 8:30pm at Florian Hall.

Theresa Finn Dever

A South Boston native, Theresa attended Boston Latin Academy and Harvard College. At Harvard, she received a prestigious Truman Scholarship for her commitment to public and community service. In 1988, while in college, in she started a tutoring program for the moms at Julie's Family Learning Program and then launched South Boston Outreach, a summer camp for children in South

Boston through Phillips Brooks House, the public service organization at Harvard. Twenty five years later, South Boston outreach has served hundreds of South Boston youth. She met with the New England Region head of V.I.S.T.A (Volunteers in Service to America, the predecessor to AmeriCorps) and requested that Julie's be a host location. In 1989, Theresa then became the first VISTA volunteer to work at Julie's.

After her VISTA service, Theresa earned her J.D. from Suffolk University Law School. In her practice, Ms. Finn Dever focuses on civil litigation primarily in the area of labor and employment.

After serving as a VISTA volunteer at Julie's, Theresa remained active as a volunteer providing legal seminars to the women and providing pro bono legal services to its families. She served on Julie's Family Learning Program's first advisory council. Her pro bono work for Julie's has included incorporating Julie's as a separate and independent non profit corporation and obtaining



tax exempt status for Julie's from the Internal Revenue Service. Theresa also helped negotiate the construction contract for the renovation of Julie's existing space. She has served as a member of the Board of Directors for ten years and now serves as Chair of the Board of Directors.

For the past fourteen years, Theresa has lived in Marblehead, Massachusetts with her husband Joe and children Margaret, 16, Joseph, 14, Eleanor, 12, and Patrick, 8. She is expecting her fifth child this winter. She has been active in Marblehead teaching religious education at Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish for ten years. In 2012, she coled a successful proposition 2 ½ ballot override for the construction of the new Glover Elementary School.

Theresa stated, “Families matter. That is why I believe in the mission of Julie's. I was fortunate to grow up in a strong South Boston family with parents who showed their commitment to community service by example.” “My dad was the President of the St. Vincent DePaul Society at Gate of Heaven Church for many years; my mother always helped neighbors in need. This was part of their lives; it was not something they did for attention or credit. The moment I walked into Julie's I knew it was unique. As a program that educates both women and children simultaneously in a safe and nurturing environment, it works. Julie's breaks the cycle of poverty by immersing the entire family in its intensive and life changing program. I feel privileged to have helped Julie's achieve its mission in any small way and feel honored to receive its Angel Award.

To give as true a picture of the good nature of theses deserving recipients, we'll use Sr. Eleanor Clancy SND, in her own words to describe her work

SR. Eleanor Clancy SND

“Inspired by the Sisters of Notre Dame whom I loved and admired, and who were my teachers for twelve years at Saint Charles in Woburn, I chose to enter with them on September 1957, after just recently graduating. Presuming I'd be a teacher, my dream was to be a teacher of young children, preferably first grade. My studies included obtaining a B.A. from Emmanuel College and a Master's Degree in Early Childhood from Lesley University.

For 50 years, my dream of teaching young children was happily fulfilled teaching kindergarten and second grade, the remaining years were spent teaching grade one, my first love. Actually, half of my 50 years of teaching have been in Southie.

Aside from all that, I do believe there is a time for everything. Four years ago, I felt that I'd like to start a different chapter in my life. Although leaving formal classroom teaching, there was no intention of retiring completely. September 2010, I went to Julie's to offer my services – one of the best things I have ever done. Without a doubt, it is hard to put into words what my experience has been. Even though I give of my time, what is received back is priceless. When people ask, “How do you like your job?” my response is “Julie's is not a job – it's a joy.”

I firmly believe in its mission and the wonders and miracles that take place each day there. Our foundress, Saint Julie Billiart, had a special preference for the poor and neglected, particularly women and children. Receiving the Angel Award for me is a very humbling experience. I feel as though I've not done anything very special at all. Teaching young children for so many years – and now being here at Julie's is what I always loved doing with all my heart.

Therefore, I never expected to receive a reward for doing what I loved. Nothing more need be said other than please continue to support Julies and the work of people such as these.”

Please join the Julie's Learning Family at its Gala at Florian Hall from 6:00pm to 8:30pm on December 5. Tickets are \$40 and available by visiting web site at [www.juliesfamily.org](http://www.juliesfamily.org) or calling: Bob Monahan at 617-269-6663 ext. 11 or Jeanne Felch at 617-269-6663 ext. 10

# Please Join Us

December 5, 2013 6-8:30 PM



This year we are honoring two long-time professionals, Sr. Eleanor Clancy, SND, legendary elementary school teacher and Theresa Finn Dever, long time volunteer and current Chair of the Board at Julie's.

There will be dozens of raffle baskets, a silent auction and dinner.

Tickets are \$40

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For ticket reservations: Visit our web site at [www.juliesfamily.org](http://www.juliesfamily.org) or call: Bob Monahan at 617-269-6663 ext. 11 or Jeanne Felich at 617-269-6663 ext. 10

**Julie's** Family Learning Program  
At Julie's, Families Matter.



# Southie Reunion This Saturday to Benefit Youth Hockey

## Teddy Cunniff to Be Honored

Enthusiasts and those considered experts in Boston and well beyond when it comes to the creation, building and running of youth sports leagues have often commented over the years about the unique and high quality of these organizations that exist in South Boston. This relatively small, working class neighborhood produces some of the most impressive young athletes that can be found anywhere in the world. And they are absolutely correct. To say this isn't bragging, it's not a boast, it's just the way it is. South Boston's youthful stars often come with natural ability. It's just true. But just about all of them have that ability further developed into finely tuned skills because they are fortunate to be able to benefit from this community's organized and highly structured leagues run by our many local volunteers and dedicated coaches.

The South Boston Youth Hockey League is definitely one of the many organizations that have made this town proud for decades. The house league teams offer some of the best hockey that can be seen anywhere. Here, neighborhood kids play hard and with a lot of heart and learn not only how to play the game, but both boys and girls are taught to play the right way and develop the discipline needed that will help them succeed in whatever they strive for in their adult lives. The travelling teams that SBYHL sends to play in some of the most prestigious tournaments in this country and in others seldom fail to impress. And South Boston has, as we all know, sent more than its share of players to the NHL itself. Yet with all the SBYHL teaches its players and all the hard work required on the ice, it doesn't hinder or diminish in any way what most parents who sign their kids up to play really want for them. And that's to have fun. Because if a kid is having fun on the ice, all the other benefits that do so much in the development of young bodies and minds; exercise, stamina, coordination, team spirit and a sense of fair play come right along with it. And if you have ever had the pleasure to watch a game at Murphy Rink, there is no doubt there is a lot of fun being had.

This coming Saturday, November

30th, The Southie Reunion to benefit the South Boston Youth Hockey League will do just that. It will benefit one of the finest youth sports organizations in the world. Again, that's not a boast. It's just a fact. Saturday's reunion, which will be held at Carson Place (AKA the Boston Teacher's Union Hall, doors open at 7pm) will be a good way to show support for this great program and help it to continue for current and future generations of local young athletes. There are few causes better. But while helping ensure that the SBYHL stays a fantastic program you also are pretty much guaranteed to have a heck of a good night out. Past and present members of the program, friends and family members as well as current and former South Bostonians will all come together to enjoy themselves and reunite while helping out the kids.

Music will be provided by the great 'Thomas Park Band' and there will be a live and silent auction with some fantastic raffle prizes as well as a chance to win a \$10,000 door prize.

One of the big highlights of the night will be a special tribute to the great Teddy Cunniff that you won't want to miss. Ted is of course well known for his incredible hockey skills. He was and some say still is one of the best. But Teddy Cunniff has another talent as well. He has the ability not just to be one of the greatest coaches of young players anywhere, he also has a way about him that has inspired youthful players for well over thirty years as he has worked hard and dedicated much of his time to the South Boston Youth Hockey League. Born and raised here in South Boston, he grew up playing hockey and has played a major role in keeping this community a true hockey town. He sets a good example that others want to follow and it's easy to see he enjoys what he does. If ever there was a positive role model for young people to look to, Teddy Cunniff fits that description to a T. And it's for these reasons that Teddy Cunniff will be honored at the Southie Reunion to benefit the South Boston Youth Hockey League.

Remember, it's this Saturday, November 30th at Carson Place starting at 7pm. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$35 at the door.



**Southie**  
**REUNION**  
To benefit  
**South Boston Youth Hockey**

Honoring **Edward "Teddy" Cunniff**  
**Saturday, November 30th**  
**Carson Place - 7-Midnight**

Music by . . . **THOMAS**  
**PARK**

**Live and Silent Auctions**  
**Raffles – Great Prizes**  
**\$5.00 50/50 Raffles and MUCH, MUCH more...**

**\$10,000 GRAND PRIZE RAFFLE**  
**\$100 EACH** (only 200 tickets sold)

**\$25**  
\$35 at the door

for tickets please contact:

Thomas McGrath 857-204-5825  
Teddy Cunniff 617-269-2617  
John Picariello 617-733-8227  
Ryan Burkart 917-913-9784  
John Gilmartin 617-733-8227  
Joe Hamilton 617-959-7403  
Kathy Lafferty 617-828-8712  
Amy Matthews 617-596-2350  
Sarah McGarrell 617-732-2348  
Patty Orton 617-596-1200

Nancy Mimuci 617-512-5053  
Tim Murphy 617-851-2492  
Dana Soere 617-312-9424  
Sean Connor 617-584-233  
John "Chico" Silva 617-721-6322  
Kelly Pittman 617-943-5088  
Michelle Hynes 617-697-2858  
Jill Kennedy 617-324-4305  
Leanne Burke 781-502-5634  
Shannon Maloney 617-792-8898





# Stepping Up and Stepping Out:

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

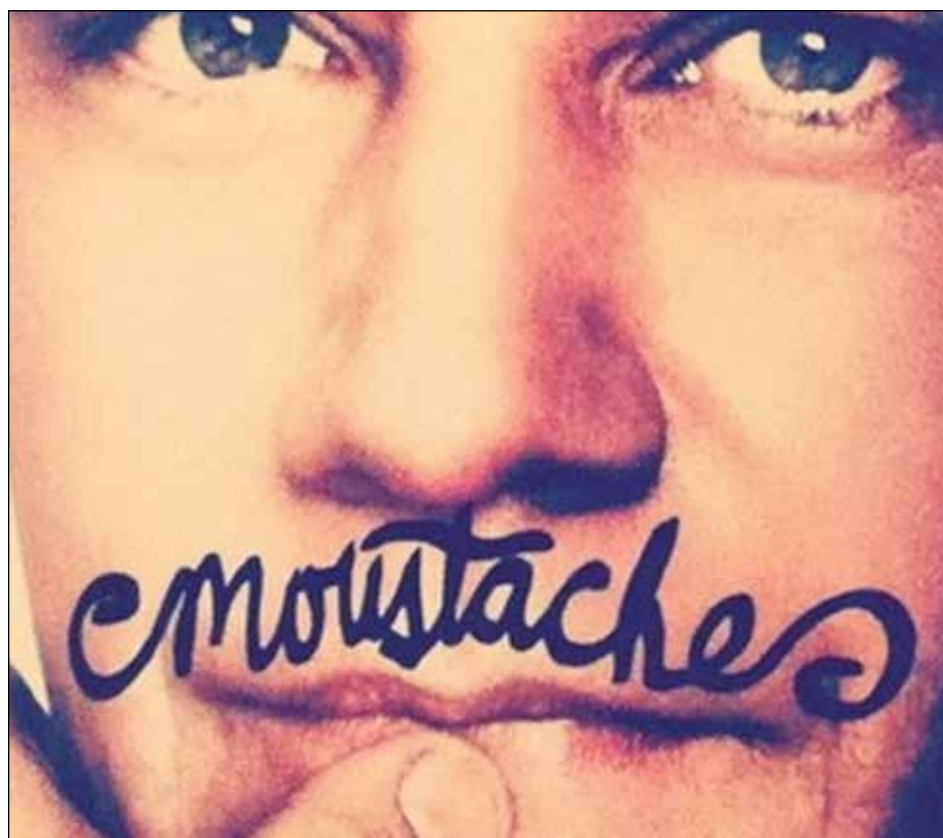
*South Boston Today begins a regular series about life in South Boston and all that it has to offer. Southie is a vibrant and growing community and there are so many ways for residents to become connected and involved. Here are some of the best ways to see, hear, taste, touch and smell all that is Southie. 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: *I'd Love to Stay But I*

They are everywhere. On scarves, t-shirts, drinking straws and temporary tattoos. Facial hair hasn't had this big a following since the Burt Reynolds Bandit. Now the trend of the 'stache is going beyond growing a mo' as a conversation piece. Hey- even the Red Sox got us to Fear the Beard. Movember, a movement to gain support and raise awareness for men's health concerns like cancer and mental health, started in 2003 with 30 men from Australia and last year's total clocked in at 1,127,152 upper lip aficionados. Through their website, Movember's international movement encourages men to participate in No Shave November and engage and educate others about men's health issues that sometimes go overlooked, while fundraising to spread the message. As the month winds down and all the Mo Bros are lining up at Rite Aid to pick up some Barbasol,

Local 149 has decided to host a Stache Bash with a \$400 cash prize going to the most polished philtrum. On Saturday November 30th, each \$5 entry fee will be donated to help Men's Prostate and Testicular Cancer research and Local will match the collected amount 100%. There will be free passed apps from 10pm-12am, \$5 drink special, music, with the party to end at 1am. The fully follicled will be observed throughout the partay and with a final judgment given at the stroke of midnight. South Boston is so full of good people doing even greater things for their neighbors and community, and Local 149 has fallen right in with that fashion. The question I mustache, and cannot shave for later, is what is better than doing good while having fun? The answer: nothing. Make sure you Shave the Date.

**local149.com • movember.com/us**



### Stepping Out: *Shopping Spree*

Black Friday- the American tradition that seems to take precedence over Rudolph, Punxsutawney Phil and the Tooth Fairy. A day that celebrates everything being an over consumer represents: people, fresh off the Thanksgiving table, starting Friday on Thursday night, buying completely unnecessary and barely discounted and available merchandise. Nothing in particular, everything in general. All you end up with is complete and utter exhaustion. Listen, I love a bargain as much as the next super-couper. Paying full price for an item that is unessential is against my personal religion. But I can hardly function after being fully induced in a tryptophanic state, hardly able to go out into public and battle for a Supercalafragalistic flat-screen

TV. My suggestion- Small Business Saturday. The U.S. Small Business Association in conjunction with American Express has created this day to urge neighborhoods and their residents to shop local. And with the holidays and gift giving seasons getting into full swing, they are promoting efforts to buy from your favorite takeout place, boutiques and wine shops for those special ones receiving more than the present of your presence. Small business is what this country was found upon: people with a desire to provide a service and establish a social and physical space where life essentials can be purchased but moreover, where relationships are formed and a friendly harmony created. Spend Black Friday working off the turkey bloat and save your

energy for Small Business Saturday. Hit the streets, walk the beat, meet and greet, spend local.  
**shopsallnow.americanexpress.com**(check the website for more participating locations)

#### **Shopping:**

Calnan's  
Habit  
South Boston Running Emporium  
The Spot Clothing  
Louis  
Closet Connection  
Ku De Ta  
Dew Luxe

#### **Dining:**

Café Mamtaz  
Moko  
Paramount

Tasty Burger  
Boston Beer Garden  
Brew/District/Gather  
City Bar

#### **Entertainment & Specialty Services:**

Urban Art Bar  
Regan's Motivated Fitness  
Shag  
Sarra  
LAUGH Boston  
South Boston Candlepin  
Spa Christine



Go to our facebook page to vote on our weekly poll.

[www.southbostontoday.com](http://www.southbostontoday.com)





# Southie Senses:

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



## **Touch:** *If You Build It, They Will Come*

The South Boston Arts Association along with the South Boston Branch of the Boston Public Library and Toys for Tots is hosting the 1st Annual Gingerbread House Contest on Thursday 12/05, 6-7:45pm. Applications should be in by 12/01 to make sure you get a spot and submissions need to be brought to the Library between 4-6pm. And contestants are asked to bring a new, unwrapped toy. Age limit is 10 yrs. and entire house must be edible. [southbostonartsassoc.org/gingerbread.htm](http://southbostonartsassoc.org/gingerbread.htm)



## **See:** *Bright Lights, Clear Nights*

Like the North Star, the lights on the tree at West Broadway will guide you and the holiday spirit. Mayor Menino will be lighting up the evergreen for the last time this year so be sure to get down there and see the sight. Tall, green and a sight to be seen.



## **Taste:** *: Eat Up and Down the Street*

On Thursday 12/05, the kick off day to the SB Christmas Stroll Weekend, many Southie hot spots will be offering delicious drinks and delicacies to give us a taste of holiday cheer. Grab some friends, gobble up some goodies and get ready to be in good spirits. Happy happy, joy joy.



## **Smell:** *: Come Out Smelling Like Roses*

Some SBAA artisans will be hosting a pop-up shop where you can grab some gifts for your loved ones (and maybe a little something for yourself?). The space where the shop is being held is the old South Boston Opticians storefront, located at 666 East Broadway. Tommy Cherry, Norman Crump and daughter, Joe Kebartis, Deb Putnam, and Charyl Weissbach will all be displaying their works at the gallery. When it comes to gift giving, I smell a winner! [southbostonartsassoc.org](http://southbostonartsassoc.org)



## **Hear:** *"The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear."*

It's coming- my favorite day of the year. It also happens to be host to and coincide with my least favorite tradition (Black Friday), but it doesn't take me off track: Christmas music on the radio. Though I am sad of the passing of 103.3 for more than just their seasoned ear for the best Christmas hits, holiday hits loves is still riding the radio waves. This Thursday there will be some caroling along Broadway and I will certainly be tapping my toes and trying not to sing along too loud. "I'm singing/I'm in a store/and I'm siiiiiingiiiiing!/I'm in a store/and I'm siiiiiingiiiiing!"



## Embrace All Of The Southie Senses:



My usual commentary contains a balance of witty quips and sincere language. Sure I could talk about being thankful that stretchy pants (leggings for you youngins) are back in style, for bad reality TV that makes me feel better about my life or the excitement I have that my parents have been considerate enough to keep childhood bedrooms somewhat intact when escaping the holiday madness becomes necessary. But, in all honesty, I am one lucky gal. I have a family that I

love and cherish and the crazy is really embraced because it is part of our identity. Sure, I could complain that I wish I were 5lbs thinner, my hair was wash and go gorgeous, or that I have to wait until a really good reason to go on a shopping spree. I have clothes on my back, a great job, fun-loving friends, a roof over my head and food in my belly. How dare I think my first world problems could and should even be mentioned out loud where someone may be able to hear? Yes we are

allowed to feel and have regret about our individual situations. For one day though, I will constantly remind myself that my life is pretty awesome. I can reach out and touch my fam, hugging them tight; many are alone in this world. I can see the love we have for each other, even when we are fighting over the clicker. I can eat delicious, indulgent food and know how much better it tastes when you are grateful for it. I can smell the fire roaring, my father's pipe and my sister's pumpkin

cheesecake. And I can hear the sweet sounds of laughter as we reminisce about the time we had to go to Boston Market and buy out all their potatoes because someone dropped the whole contents of the saltshaker in our batch. This Thanksgiving, no matter where you are or whom you are with, take a minute to set back and see what life is really about. And let it be a driving force in pushing you towards doing it for more than one day. Happy Thanksgiving.





Southhill Children's fund  
Limerick Ireland

**Please Help Support  
This  
Irish Children's  
Program**

Thursday December 5, 2013  
6:30 PM  
Shenanigans Irish Pub  
332 West Broadway  
South Boston, Ma 02127

\$20.00 Pay at the door  
For Information Call Billy Higgins  
617-201-6077  
www.southhillchildrensfund.com

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49378

**CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT  
OF CONSERVATOR OR OTHER PROTECTIVE ORDER PURSUANT  
TO G.L.c. 190B, S5-304 & S5-405**

Docket No. SU13P2739PM  
**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court**

**In the matter of: Vincent J. Furlong**      **RESPONDENT**  
**Of: Boston, MA**      (Person to be Protected/Minor)

Suffolk Probate and Family Court  
24 New Chardon Street  
Boston, MA. 02114

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by

Massachusetts General Hospital of Boston, MA  
Cathleen H Summers R.N. of Acton, MA

In the above captioned matter alleging that **Vincent J Furlong** is in need of a Conservator or other protective order and requesting that

Cathleen H. Summers, R.N. of Acton, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Conservator to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is disabled, that a protective order or appointment of a Conservator is necessary, and that the proposed conservator is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court.

**You have the right to object to this proceeding.** If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **12/12/2013**. This day is not a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

**The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.**

**Witness, Hon. Joan P Armstrong, First Justice of this Court.**

November 12, 2013

Patricia M Campetelli Register of Probate

November 27, 2013



**Happy Thanksgiving From  
South Boston Today!**



**SBT**



# Recent South Boston Real Estate Sales

	Price	Sale Date	Rooms	Baths	Sq Ft
610 East Sixth St UNIT 3 Condo	\$825,000	11/13/13	5	2.5	1836
11 Linden Street Two Family	\$801,000	11/4/13	10	3	2228
402-404 East Third St UNIT1 Condo	\$725,500	11/15/13	6	2.5	2376
794 East Seventh St UNIT C Condo	\$720,000	11/4/13	7	2.5	1501
49 Old Harbor Street Single Family	\$679,000	11/15/13	9	2	2369
653-659 East Second St UNIT 208 Condo	\$670,000	11/15/13	6	2	1658
653-659 East Second St UNIT 108 Condo	\$645,000	11/12/13	6	2	1654
160 M Street Single Family	\$604,000	11/15/13	7	1.5	1410
18 Carpenter Street Two Family	\$599,000	11/15/13	9	2	2908
518 East Sixth St UNIT 2 Condo	\$569,000	11/8/13	4	2	1243
4 Jason Terrace Single Family	\$518,000	11/5/13	4	2	1008
86 O St UNIT 1 Condo	\$511,000	11/15/13	5	2	1345
12 Carpenter St UNIT 6 Condo	\$510,000	11/15/13	4	2	1100
318 K St UNIT 2 Condo	\$500,000	11/14/13	4	1	996
47 Ward Street Single Family	\$475,000	11/15/13	7	2.5	1301
881 East First St UNIT 203 Condo	\$450,000	11/1/13	2	1	1053
45 West Broadway UNIT 108 Condo	\$385,000	11/06/13	3	1	801
177 West Fifth St UNIT 3 Condo	\$365,000	11/15/13	3	1	710
62 O St UNIT 3 Condo	\$345,000	11/1/13	3	1	670
135 I St UNIT A Condo	\$335,000	11/1/13	3	1	790
14 Mercer St UNIT 3 Condo	\$315,000	11/8/13	3	1	650
64 O St UNIT 2 Condo	\$241,000	11/15/13	3	1	567

Happy  
Thanksgiving  
From  
MCM  
PROPERTIES



MCM PROPERTIES

917 East Broadway,  
South Boston  
617-268-5181





The K2 class visits the Mayflower II.



The students ask questions of a member of the Wampanoag.



Grade 1 on the Mayflower II.



Molly poses with a pilgrim.



Thomas &amp; Liam pose with the cannon.

## St. Peter Academy Visits Plimoth Plantation

**J**ust in time for Thanksgiving, Grades K2, 1 & 2 traveled to the site of the first Thanksgiving in Plimoth. Their first stop was 17th century Plimoth Plantation, where they watched a movie about the history of Plimoth

and its people. They visited the Wampanoag Homesite to learn how the Native Americans lived, from the homes that they built and lived in to how they got their food, cooked and made boats. They enjoyed playing with Native

American toys. Next the students went to the English Village where they learned about the life of the Pilgrims. Townspeople dressed in period clothing answered the childrens' questions about their lives in Plymouth Colony. They

also visited the Craft Center and Nye barn where the livestock were kept. The last stop on the trip was to see the famous Plimoth Rock and Mayflower II, a replica of the original ship on which the Pilgrims traveled.





Saoirse and Jamee lead the way into Plimoth Plantation.



The children ask questions of a villager.



Tess visits a wetu on the Wompanoag Homesite.



Grade 2 learns how to build a boat called a mishoon.



The students pose under the Plimouth Rock sign.





## Religious Education News Happy Thanksgiving to all!

**T**hose of us in the Gate of Heaven, St. Brigid, St. Monica and St. Augustine Religious Education Program hope and pray that everyone one has a Happy Thanksgiving!

The students in the Kindergarten class built and decorated a Sukkot Tent "Giving Thanks for Food". When Jesus was a boy he and his family celebrated the harvest festival, Sukkot (pronounced sue coat). They constructed tents to remind themselves of the years of wandering in the desert and decorated the tents with the harvest bounty. They gave thanks to God for all they had been given. The students said a special Thanksgiving prayer and also talked about the first Thanksgiving in America and how the Pilgrims gave thanks to God for their harvest food.

Our religious education students, teachers and families joined the students, teachers and families at South Boston Catholic Academy along with the local churches and collected canned goods, boxed goods and non-perishable items during the month of November for the local food pantries and shelters that help feed the needy families in our community throughout the year in hopes that everyone has a Happy Thanksgiving. Many thanks to all who have contributed to this food drive to try and help make it a Happy Thanksgiving for all.

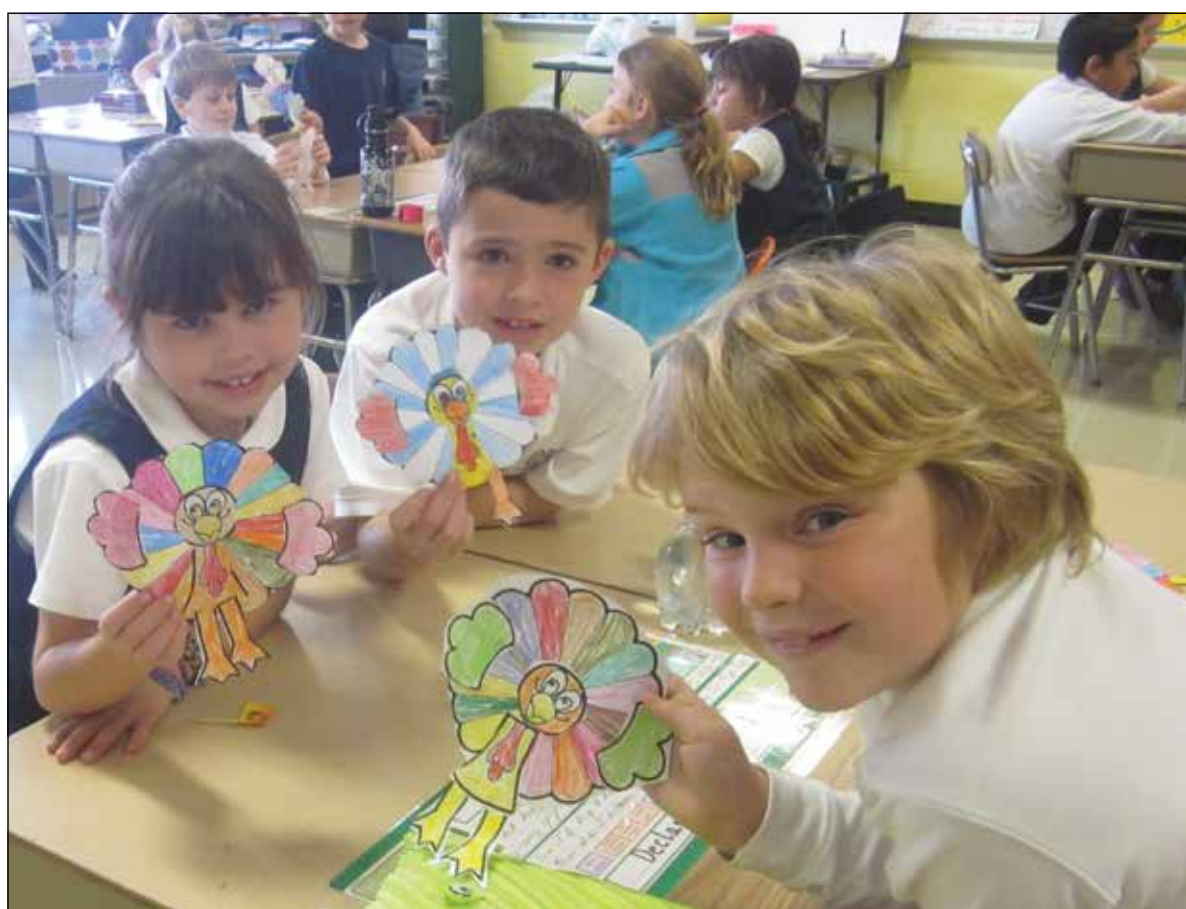
If you have any questions regarding the Religious Education Program, Kindergarten through Sixth Grade, please contact the Religious Ed Director, Jim Fowkes at [jimfinsouthie@aol.com](mailto:jimfinsouthie@aol.com).



SBT

HAPPY THANKSGIVING FROM SOUTH BOSTON TODAY!





## South Boston Catholic Academy Third Grade News

The Third Grade class at South Boston Catholic Academy have been busy getting into the Thanksgiving spirit! Miss Lawton's students are creating turkey characters and writing detailed descriptions about what makes their turkey unique. Third grade has been focusing on exploring story elements through their reading curriculum. By creating their own turkey characters students have been able to better understand the importance of character personalities and character traits in a story! Some turkeys that were created by students

include: Pizza the turkey, Harry the turkey, and even Ebenezer Scrooge the turkey. Most of these turkeys will be hiding on Thanksgiving so they don't get eaten! Happy Thanksgiving to all!







## South Boston Community Health Center's Annual Thanksgiving Turkey Distribution

**P**artners HealthCare and Foodie's Market recently made a visit to South Boston Community Health Center for the Food Pantry's annual Thanksgiving turkey distribution. Partners HealthCare and Foodie's have been great supporters of the South Boston Community Health Center's Food

Pantry and the Health Center's efforts to help local families in need.

This holiday season, Partners is helping to address the hunger issue by providing mini grants to community health centers to ensure that their patients have a little more food on their tables.

"We are so thrilled to have these

grants, as it allows us to provide assistance to more families during one of our busiest times of year. We know that the right quantity and quality of food is essential for the health of our patients," said Susan LaPaglia of South Boston Community Health Center.

Foodie's Urban Market has been

a wonderful addition to the South Boston business community and jumped at the opportunity to help local families during the holiday season. They have donated over 100 turkeys to the Health Center's food pantry over the past two years to feed families in need of a little help.



www.southbostontoday.com

SBT







## South Boston Girls Softball League Notice

This year James Menjin, along with Jack Schievink (coach of the Charlestown team) are going to be the Commissioners of the U10 and U8 divisions.

Jack and James will work together in the upcoming 2014 season. They will ensure that your daughter(s) are provided an all around good experience in softball.

The first step is to get all players registered. You must register online ([www.southbostongirlssoftball.com](http://www.southbostongirlssoftball.com)) by December 31, 2013. No payment is necessary at this time, but just a registration of your daughter(s). This registration will help the program in

estimating the number of players, teams and coaches needed for the 2014 season. Payment must be received no later than March 1, 2014, to secure a spot on a team's roster.

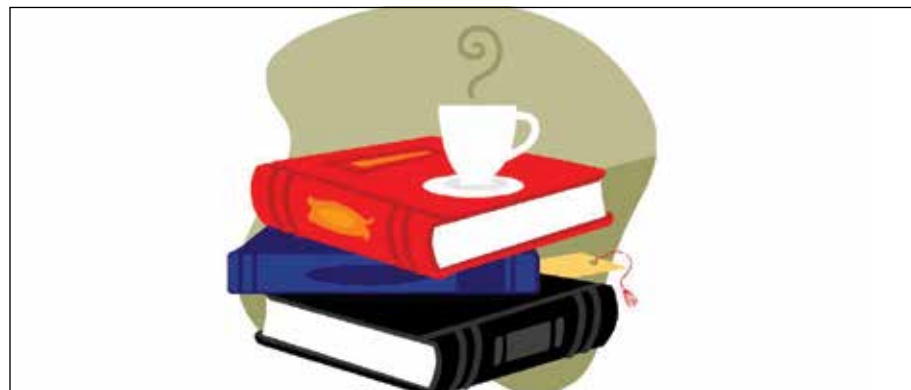
Jack and James with the help of some coaches, plan on conducting indoor clinics at the Walsh/PAL gym for the U10 and U8 divisions. The indoor clinics will be held in the months of January, February and March 2014. The exact dates and times of the clinics will be announced at a later time. But for now, please register your daughter(s) online.

Happy Thanksgiving To All  
James E. Menjin



## South Boston Natives at Many Paquiao's Boxing Match In Macau China

South Boston natives Matthew Mullen, Martin Mullen and Eric Castagna were invited by Manny Pasquiao to attend his boxing match in Macau China this past Saturday. Manny won the match and the Southie boys celebrated his amazing victory.



## Big Book Sale & Coat Drive at the Library

**B**ook lovers, please note: We are pleased to announce that the Friends of the South Boston Branch Library are holding a Big Book Sale on Saturday, November 30 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the South Boston Branch Library, 646 East Broadway, South Boston. The Book Sale will be held rain or shine, and will feature all types of hardcover and paperback books as well as audiovisual materials, including books on audiocassette, available for purchase at the lowest prices in town. As always, all

proceeds from the Book Sale benefit the South Boston Branch Library.

A Coat Drive will accompany the Book Sale from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Please donate your new or gently used coats for adults and children and help keep someone warm this winter. All coats donated will go to Family Aid Boston, helping to prevent and end homelessness. For more information, please call the Library at 617-268-0180. We hope to see you on the 30th!

**Francie Francis**  
**Branch Librarian**  
**South Boston Branch Library**





## Pat's Overcome 24-point Deficit, Inch Closer to Postseason

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY

by David Pollard

Talk back to David at [DPollard@SouthBostonToday.com](mailto:DPollard@SouthBostonToday.com)

It was a tale of two halves on Sunday night in frigid Gillette Stadium where the New England Patriots took on the high flying Denver Broncos and the best offense in the NFL.

This was the game that many had circled on their NFL schedules prior to the start of the season, and for the two teams, their seasons have been quite different from one another. The Broncos came into the game at 9-1, coming off a big victory against the Kansas City Chiefs; the Patriots were coming off a tough loss to the Carolina Panthers and had dropped to 7-3. Many fans were writing this off as a two week skid for the Pats before they took the field - that sentiment did not change at half time.

The Broncos came out flying, Knowshon Moreno and the Denver offense took advantage of the cold weather, running the football effectively (in a way that you don't see running backs run if Vince Wilfork is healthy). The story of the first half for the Patriots was bad turnovers. Stephen Ridley had his 4th fumble of the season in the first quarter - he did not get back on the field for the remainder of the game. Tom Brady fumbled the football in the process of a throw, and Ridley's replacement Lagarrette Blount fumbled on a big hit crossing a first down marker. All three first quarter turnover lead to scores for the Denver Broncos - and before you knew it the Pats were down 17-0.



The Broncos would make it 24-0 by half time, at which point plenty of New Englanders switched to some other Sunday night programming - it was a blowout.

Nonetheless, two more quarters were still to be played - even NBC's commentators were talking about this game in the past tense as the half started. But the Pats knew they just had

to chip away, and give their defense a breather. On the opening three drives of the 2nd half, the Patriots would score touchdowns.

Julien Edleman and Rob Gronkowski provided the clutch performances needed to match the level at which Tom Brady had started playing. For a game that was coined as "Brady vs. Manning XIV", the first half was almost everything but the

QB's contributing.

However, down 24, in Gillette, with the wind whipping and the temperature freezing, Tom Brady looked comfortable. He began picking apart the very average secondary of the Denver Broncos, and executed time after time in the Red Zone.

On the other side of the football, suddenly it was the Denver Broncos having a difficult time holding on to the football. Two fumbles and a Peyton Manning interception led to several quick strikes for the Patriots, who scored 21 points in the 3rd quarter, pulling to within a field goal of Denver.

In the 4th, both teams dialed in. Julien Edleman took a sideways pass from Tom Brady and after several jukes, dove head first through two defenders and into the end zone, to the disbelief of many - putting the Patriots in the lead for the first time on the night.

With the scored 28-24 Patriots, the Pats would add another 3 points with a field goal before Peyton Manning stormed back to the field - tying the game late with a touchdown to make it 31-31. Regulation would finish in a tie, and the game would head to overtime.

The Patriots won the coin toss, but elected to select field position due to the hard blowing winds. This was a call Pats fans were concerned with, until they saw Peyton Manning unable to put anything in the air with an accurate touch into the wind. Both teams had a shot to score,

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&  
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they could not.

After some back and forth overtime action, the Denver Broncos were poised to receive the football off a Patriots punt. As the punt came towards the playing field, old friend Wes Welker signaled for a fair catch - but did it a split second too late for his blockers to pick up on. As Welker was waving off the catch - the football landed in front of a blocker and contacted his leg, the live football was then recovered by the Patriots - putting them within field goal distance for the win.

Two plays later, Stephen Gostowski iced it - and the mighty Denver Broncos had fallen to a Patriots team that was an underdog in Gillette Stadium for the first time in nearly a decade.

Depending on what side you were on, this game was highly telling. For the Pats fan - you are elated with your teams effort and the ability to focus on chipping away when down by a large margin to a very tough team to beat in a shootout. For the Broncos fan - you don't look at your team very differently, you can say they took their foot off the gas pedal and allowed Tom Brady to smell life. It is a bigger win for the Pats than it is a loss for the Broncos - as this game was a true measuring stick when you talk about the teams to beat in the AFC.

The implications of this game will be felt soon. Denver is now 9-2, Kansas City is 9-2, and the Patriots are 8-3. The good news for the Pats, their schedule is not so demanding the rest of the way - while Kansas City and Denver each have to play each other one more time. It might sound odd with the way this season began for the Patriots, but they have an opportunity to be the number 1 seed if they can win out. At the very least, the Patriots have put the pressure on those top two seeds with the big win on Sunday.



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*\*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 at 9 a.m. on BlogTalkRadio, with every show available on iTunes. He can also be heard hosting "The Danny Picard Show" weekends on WEEI-93.7 FM.*

*This week, Danny talked Patriots with Comcast SportsNet's Mike Giardi:*

**DANNY PICARD:** Let's go to the first half [against the Denver Broncos] on Sunday night, and I guess, what you do moving forward with Stevan Ridley. Do you stick with this kid, or, what can you even do? That was as bad a fumble as it gets. We saw in the Carolina game that the Patriots went back to him. That's not something they did on Sunday night. But what do you do moving forward here? There is still a lot of football to be played. We know Ridley's talent level. Do you stick with him? How do you handle Ridley moving forward?

**MIKE GIARDI:** Look, I still think he's a talented kid, but at this point, he's proven that he can't be trusted. And that's obviously, ball security, if it's not the most important thing in Foxboro, it's one of them. [Bill] Belichick harps on it all the time. I think, this week, I would not be surprised if he wanted to healthy scratch him. I think you have to gauge his mindset here, but I think if his mindset is OK, I think you kind of put him on the pine and let him sit and watch for a week. And then when he comes back, I think it's a gradual process of, you've got to earn it back. And by earning it back, maybe it's just a handful of snaps a couple weeks from now. And if he can handle that, maybe it's 12 snaps three weeks from now, and so on and so forth, until you get him back to where you feel comfortable that he's taking the right approach and he's protecting the football better. Because I think, look, for all his faults -- and I'm not putting him as one of the top 10

running backs in the National Football League -- he's still a talented kid who can help you win football games. And they just need to get him right. And I think that's probably the best way to go about it at this point.

**DP:** What were you thinking at halftime?

**MG:** You couldn't play any worse than you did. In a sense that, actually, [the Patriots] moved the ball a couple times, so it wasn't as if they were completely inept. And my feeling was, again, I've seen it too often. The San Francisco game being a prime example, just from last year. But even this year, the Miami game -- and I know this is a different quality of opponent -- but they did it against San Francisco when San Francisco was one of the best teams in the league. I think the Patriots just have that capability, and my thought was, "If you get the ball first, if you can do something with it there and get a touchdown, we got a ballgame." And I know that maybe a lot of the people on the outside looking in didn't feel that way, but I just think that when Tom [Brady] starts to get into that rhythm, and when teams foolishly back off, which is kind of what happened again, I think that Denver went into a "let's get this game over with" mentality a little bit sooner than they could afford to against this team. This is what happens. And we saw it against San Francisco. We saw it against Miami. And we saw it again [Sunday against Denver].

Brady went to a different place. And Brady goes to a different place, no lead, really, is out of bounds.

**DP:** And when you saw Brady went to a different place, I take a step back and say, well, I think that's just the place that he should always be at, because he's that good, and this offense should be that good. I look at a guy like Julian Edelman, and I really thought he was going to have a huge year. Now there have been times in the middle of this season where I haven't even noticed him out there. And then he has that big second half against the Broncos. Why doesn't someone like Edelman, why isn't he able to have those big games every week?

**MG:** Because the offensive coordinator has a lot of different things on his plate. And I think at times he spins the wheel a little bit too much, instead of going with what works. And I also think there's another issue here. And it's strange to criticize somebody for it, but Brady is so smart pre-snap, that a lot of times he thinks -- and a lot of times he has had it figured out before the ball is snapped. And he determines, in his head, look at the third-down play late in the game, the bomb to Edelman, where you're saying to yourself, "Really? That's the call you drew up." Well, Brady saw the coverage and Brady decided that that was the best place to go with the football. It doesn't matter that they guy's running 40 yards down field and you only need five [yards]. That's what he decided, and Edelman

actually was open. Tom threw it in an uncatchable place out of bounds. But I think, sometimes, that pre-snap read, he determines where he's going. Meanwhile, [Rob] Gronkowski was double-covered on that play, but he passed through the double-coverage, and was open. So if Tom had held it for a split-second longer, he had Gronk underneath running an out-cut for a first down, which would have been the smarter, safer throw. But he read it, he read it right, he's just willing to take a chance there, instead of pounding the guy that's open and the guy that can't be covered. I think sometimes that's part of the problem.

**DP:** You mention getting away from what works. When that stuff happens, when the Patriots offense gets away from what works, who is ultimately at fault for that?

**MG:** I think it's more [offensive coordinator Josh] McDaniels than anything. Sometimes they're so caught up in that, "We're a gameplan team, and we're going to do what works each week, and we'll change things from week-to-week based on what you give us." And obviously that's a good thing. You want to attack parts of the defense that you feel are susceptible to what you're able to do, but, when you have Rob Gronkowski, and now a healthy Shane Vereen, and you have Edelman in the slot. And basically, from Week 2 on, Edelman has been your best slot receiver. And I know Amendola was hurt for a period there, but Amendola hasn't been anywhere close to the



player that we thought he was going to be. You got him in Week 1, and he had the big game against Pittsburgh when Pittsburgh has those two coverages to let him run 20 yards free. That doesn't happen very often in the National Football League. I just think they have so many pieces there, that sometimes he says, "Hey, we can do this now, or we can do this now," when you could just say, "You can't stop Gronk" or "You can't stop Vereen from doing this" or "You can't stop Edelman in the slot, so we're just going to keep pounding it." It's almost like they're trying to prove to everybody, "Oh no, no, no. We got this, we can do that, we can dial this thing up." You want that diversity, but in critical spots when you start to go stagnant, don't spin the wheel and try to find something else. Spin the wheel back to what you know works, and I think maybe that's Josh's biggest problem as a play-caller, is almost outsmarting himself and trying to outsmart the defense, whereas if you have someone like Gronk, you can't cover him. Who can cover him? Nobody can. So, get him the ball when you need it the most.

**DP:** Tom Brady is getting a lot of credit for what he did in the second half against the Broncos. But the only way to also win that game, the other side of it is, you can't let Peyton Manning come into the second half and put points up on the board. Manning had one big drive, that touchdown to Thomas in the left side of the end zone. But other than that, I mean, Bill Belichick deserves a lot of credit for putting a defensive scheme together in the second half, that tried to confuse Peyton Manning. They were blitzing up the middle. One time Chandler Jones was dropping back into coverage. Another time Rob Ninkovich would fake like he was rushing and then would drop back. I thought they were really confusing Manning in the second half, to the point where, I don't think Peyton Manning really knew what anybody at the line was doing. Especially when you had Jamie Collins or Dane Fletcher sneaking in. And I credit those two guys too. The defensive scheme needs to get a lot of credit for what happened in that second half.

**MG:** Oh absolutely, and they stayed in Nickel the entire game. They didn't



go to base, I don't think, once. They didn't go to Dime. They just stayed in the 4-2-5 Nickel, and Hightower got yanked and they put Fletcher in. Although, there's some question as to if Hightower got hurt or not, but whatever, he wasn't performing. Fletcher comes in, gives you some energy. Collins, by far and away his best game. You saw the reasons why they drafted him, the ability to play in space a little bit more. He runs very well for a man his size. The scheme, or staying in that same defense, the look was still different almost every play. And we talked a lot going into the week about whether you blitz Manning. The numbers blitzing him this year are sick. He's crushed blitzes. He had thrown just one interception and 12 touchdowns, hadn't been sacked once, he was completing about 70 percent of his passes. But the Patriots weren't afraid to blitz him. You saw the corner blitz from Kyle Arrington, when Logan Ryan had the interception. That's what happens. You send a blitz and he didn't expect it. Arrington's in his face. He gets the happy feet. And an inaccurate throw. There's one other thing here too. They dared him to throw outside the numbers, dared him. They said, "We're going to take away your crossing stuff, we're going to take away that short-option route stuff." And, in these conditions, with his arm strength diminished because of the nerve damage from two years ago, because of the high-ankle sprain and not being able to push off, they dared him to make throws to the outside. And he made a few. Obviously the touchdown pass to Thomas. There were some good throws in that arm still. But, anytime they tried to push Manning to the outside of the field, the Patriots had some good success there, defending that stuff. And they really did an awesome job of taking away that stuff coming across. And it was man at times, and it was zone at times. Same look, but then the actual result of the play, in terms of how you developed it

and what you called, defensively, was completely different. And yeah, they fooled the quarterback who doesn't get fooled very often.

**DP:** I look at that second half, and I say, this is vintage Patriots versus Peyton Manning. Tom Brady, making big throws down the field and putting the ball in the end zone, and the Patriots defense, regardless of who you have out there, and regardless of what the initial look is, you're confusing Peyton Manning. And I know, going into the game, all the talk was about Brady and Manning. But whenever I think back of Peyton Manning not having success against the Patriots, and the Patriots being able to beat those Colts teams, it was Peyton Manning not knowing what was coming next, and if he did think something was happening, the complete opposite would be coming his way. And I thought the Patriots got back to that in the second half. That is really how you beat this guy. You make him think one things, and all of a sudden you bring another.

**MG:** Absolutely, and look, I'll stress it again, his arm is not what it was. They've got these weapons, but as we get to this point of the year, where weather does play a factor, it's going to impact him. Because I've seen him do it in good weather, where the ball doesn't come out of his hand the right way. And every quarterback goes through stuff, but you saw Brady in the teeth of that wind, with the velocity that he puts on the football, he cut through that wind better than I thought he could in that game because the conditions were so bad. And Manning can't do it right now. That high ankle sprain is not going to get better. His arm is probably what it is at this point. That's going to be a major factor for them going forward, because you can -- if you devote a lot to it and you're willing to trust your outside corners -- you can take away the middle of the field. You can jam that thing up and make him make the perfect throw every time, and he's not going to. And then say, "Go ahead, try to go outside the numbers, and see what happens." Belichick praised his cornerbacks afterwards, and I'm praising them as well. They did a phenomenal job.

**DP:** Looking big picture now, Denver goes to Kansas City, and after

that, the Broncos should be able to win their next four games after that, and seeing what San Diego just did to Kansas City, maybe Denver will be able to go in and win that one against the Chiefs. The Patriots though, they can definitely win out, I think. Maybe that Baltimore game, at Baltimore on Dec. 22 is the one I look at, if Baltimore is still in a playoff race by then. But with the Patriots as he No. 2 seed in the AFC at 8-3, and the Broncos at No. 1 at 9-2, do you see the Patriots having a shot to get that No. 1 seed, or do you think the road through the AFC will still go through Denver?

**MG:** I still think there's a shot. The Patriots could absolutely run the table. There will probably be a game in there, going to Miami in the middle of December is not always easy, but they found a way in the last few years to erase that stigma that they couldn't win down there. Miami is going to be in the middle of their own playoff race in the bottom of the AFC where every team is 5-6 trying to get into the playoffs. Cleveland has shown at times that they can be frisky, but you've got them at Gillette, so you figure you've got that taken care of. And Baltimore is Baltimore. They'll be up for you. They're probably going to be in that hunt of teams sub-.500 fighting for a playoff spot. The Patriots will have a couple tests, but they're better than all those teams. And they should run the table there. Denver's real challenge is, can they go into Kansas City and win. I think Denver is a better football team, but Denver is beat up to. Moreno is in a walking boot, on crutches. Vickerson, who was so low to block, he has a dislocated hip and probably done for the year. So they took a beating on Sunday night as well. So maybe Kansas City, based on the emotion and the physicality of that football game, maybe Kansas City can slide by. And I guess that's what you're hoping for, if you're a Pats fan. Because if you get that and if you don't really trust Kansas City to continue to hold form, yeah, that one seed is very much on the table. And boy it would be a lot nicer to have the road to the AFC Championship game go through Foxboro, than to have to go to Denver or Kansas City.

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