



Bill Linehan Chosen Boston City Council President

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY Staff Report

With the support of newly elected citywide councilor Michelle Wu and district councilor Tim McCarthy along with 5 long time council colleagues, District 2 Boston City Councilor Bill Linehan was elected to the Presidency of that body by a healthy 8-5 vote this past

Monday, January 6th. His opponent in the quest for the presidency was Ayanna Pressley, who currently holds an at-large council seat. Bill Linehan will be taking over as president from Stephen Murphy. Murphy will remain on the Boston City Council in his at-large position which he was reelected to in November. South Boston Today extends its congratulations to one of this community's own for his new position and wishes him much success in the coming year.

In the recent city election for the District 2 council seat, which includes all of South Boston, China Town and the South End, Linehan defeated his opponent, Suzanne Lee by a comfortable margin garnering strong support not only from his South Boston base but also from other parts of his district. His win in the November final was credited to the hard work and attention to detail he has been showing to all constituents in every part of District 2.

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This Week's Poll On Page 2

South Boston Today



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EDITORIAL *Global Warming?*

As the snow piled so high on the outside window sill, the foot high Christmas candle become obscured. The fantasy land outdoors made it easy to put off the reality of the next day's dig out, although the recent events in Antarctica seem to show some otherwise intelligent people live in a state of denial of reality.

In order to substitute the prophecy of their GWRW, Al Gore and a group of scientists sailed to Antarctica to record the disappearance of the Ice Cap. Remember! Five years ago this past December Gore predicted the Ice Cap would have virtually

melted away due to Global Warming. As you know, the scientists' ship became trapped in ten foot thick ice. The same fate fell upon the Chinese ice breakers attempting to rescue them. Is the Flat Earth Society looking for new members?

It's reassuring for Boston's future that Mayor Walsh's first thought as he looked at the foot and a half of new snow was to appoint a snow removal honcho, not a botanist for the public gardens.

That appointment and the idea that those scientists are where they can't do any harm is enough to keep me warm even in this weather.



*“He that is good for making excuses is seldom good for anything else”
-Benjamin Franklin*

Menino Era As Defined By Political Observers

With the end of Tom Menino's reign, and the beginning of a new one in Mayor Marty Walsh, there have been many different descriptions of Tom Menino's tenure. Below are the recent words that some Boston political columnists at several major publications have used to describe Tom Menino during his time in office.

Boston Herald: micro manager (Howie Carr)

Boston Magazine: Thin skinned ruthless SOB (September 2013 cover), grudge holder, "when one man makes the rules, there are no rules" (contributing reporters)

Boston Globe: Intimidating, thin-skinned, insecure, petty, imperious (Scott Lehigh)

Vindictive tendencies (Lawrence Harmon)

This week's South Boston Today Poll asks you to vote on how you would describe Tom Menino:

Outstanding • Thin Skinned • Grudge holder • Petty • Vindictive • Fair

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Guns, Tax Dollars, Parades and Cold Waves

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
John Ciccone

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

Some commentary about a couple of Boston issues in the news that sort of got overlooked with all the storm news as of late. First, Mayor Walsh made the decision, over some police brass objections not to arm selected BPD units with AR-15 rifles. He cited several reasons for his decision; I'm guessing it was after being advised by some of the lefties who have his ear. Though I personally disagree with the decision, simply because it's not good to have the cops outgunned by gang members who illegally possess more powerful weapons than the standard issue 40 caliber handguns the city department gives them, it was his decision and only his to make and must be respected.

But if Marty will indulge me I too have a bit of advice. Speaking as someone with knowledge on this subject, I can confirm that the price tag on those proposed AR-15's was said to start at \$2500. That's too high. You can get good quality AR's starting at around \$900. Why do I bring this up? Because like most taxpayers, I want to see our hard earned tax dollars spent wisely. To be overcharged for something, anything that can be purchased for a heck of a lot less isn't a wise way to keep a good wrap on the budget and it has a direct effect on the residents of the city. And it isn't just guns or other necessary equipment purchases that should be scrutinized more carefully. It's everything. The last thing Boston residents need is more tax hikes. This is a new administration and it should shake off the bad habits from the old one. Holding out for the best price on good equipment is one way to keep costs down and prevent the

need for calls for "revenue increases and investments" with taxpayers bearing the burden.

Next issue up: The St. Patrick's Day/Evacuation Day Parade. New Year's Day had not even arrived yet and the local resident whiner, Boston Herald 'columnist' Peter Gelzinis was already baiting the mayor-elect about who should be allowed to march and how the new mayor should stand up to the South Boston Allied War Veterans who are the parade organizers. Gelzinis probably couldn't wait for Christmas to be over so he could get to work stirring up negative controversy in South Boston. It's what he does. His act is well known, it's old and it's tired.

Mayor Walsh has already indicated that he probably would not march in the parade if the radical 'Veterans for Peace' and their leftist supporters were denied a permit. That too is Marty's choice. The parade got along just fine without Mayor Menino's participation for all these years, he wasn't missed, and it will do fine with or without Mayor Walsh. But let me remind Mayor Walsh, the radicals who want so badly to crash the event and turn it into a circus and to all those in the media who play right into this tiresome game: It doesn't matter a bit what Marty Walsh, the media, myself or anyone else wants when it comes to the parade. And it certainly doesn't matter what the likes of Peter Gelzinis wants, it doesn't get any more irrelevant than that guy. It only matters what the South Boston Allied War Veterans want- period. It's their parade, it's their permit and the US Supreme Court affirmed their sole right to make all the decisions on the theme and the content of the

procession. So yes South Boston, brace yourselves for the annual onslaught of negativity that will be coming our way over the parade. They will work hard to demonize our war veterans for wanting to keep the parade a family themed event. There are those who just can't stand the fact that they haven't been able to get their way and dissolve this South Boston tradition. It's a parade that celebrates a military victory and an Irish Catholic Saint and the content of it is geared to families. It is not an anti-war protest

or an event that highlights anyone's sexual orientation. This drives some folks absolutely crazy that they cannot make it such. Everyone knows that they, the radicals, have every right in the world to have their own parades on any other day and in any location that do just that. And everyone also knows that this is not what these radicals want at all. They want to crash this parade, make their statements, get their publicity and wreck a long standing South Boston

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Congratulations to Commissioner Bill Evans.

South Boston's Own SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
Staff Report

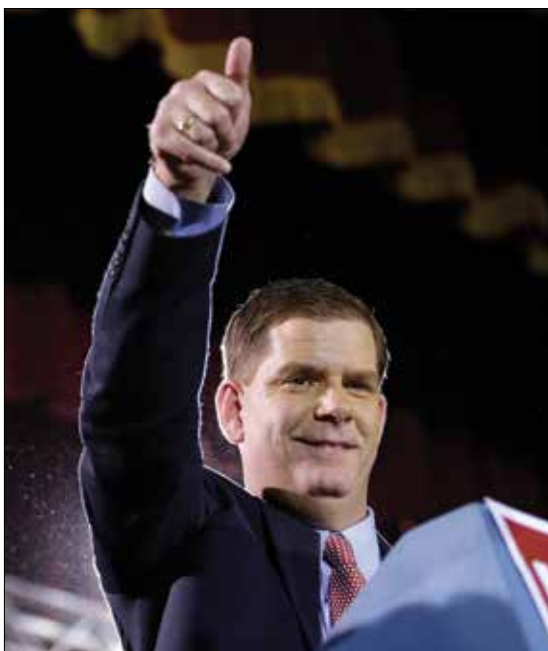
There was no nationwide search conducted to find a new permanent Boston Police Commissioner. It wasn't needed. Boston's new mayor, Marty Walsh apparently knows a good man when he sees one; at least in this case and decided to appoint Bill Evans permanently to that post.

South Boston Today spent Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning speaking with members of the BPD; current and former rank and file cops, as well as brass and what we learned confirmed what we already suspected. To a man and woman; these veteran as well as rookie law enforcement personnel have nothing but high praise for Commissioner Evans. By his experience, his achievements on the force and by the way he does his job and lives his life, he commands their respect and has their admiration. And every current police officer we spoke with said that they look forward to working for him. This is rare in any organization. But in a

large police department like Boston's it's almost unheard of. What brings so much admiration and respect from so many experienced cops? The responses we got were that he is an honest guy and can be trusted, he has an incredible work ethic, and he is fair almost to a fault among other virtues.

There is a lot to be said for a dedicated police officer who has worked his way up through the ranks. This is a man who actually started as a police 'cadet' and went all the way to Commissioner on his own merits. He has an excellent record of achievement to show for it. As most know, Bill Evans' brother Paul Evans was Boston police Commissioner from 1994 till 2003. But even brother Paul will tell you that Bill got to where he is on his own, with no help from Paul and probably got there in spite of him. With 32 years on the Boston Police Department, there is no doubt he knows his job and his track record shows he does

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Martin J. Walsh is the 48th Mayor of Boston

Welcomed by thousands of family members, relatives and friends from Ireland, friends from the neighborhoods, union brothers and sisters and nearly all campaign supporters, Marty Walsh of Taft Street Savin Hill Dorchester took the oath of office flanked by his mother Mary and partner

Lorrie Higgins. During a ceremony filled with local, state and federal dignitaries, Walsh, a son of Irish immigrants from County Galway who made their way to Boston's Dorchester neighborhood, was inaugurated as the 48th mayor of Boston on Monday at Boston College's Conte Forum.

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At the swearing in ceremony and after the vote for council president took place, Linehan addressed the crowd in attendance and then went on to thank his supporters and his fellow councilors for their confidence in him and for the work they have done on his behalf and on behalf of the entire City of Boston; especially the residents of District 2. President Linehan's told South Boston Today the following after winning the vote: "It's an honor to be elected to the presidency of the Boston City Council. I want to thank my colleagues for their support and show of confidence. I also want to thank my family, friends and supporters both from my district and from the entire city. I look forward to partnering with our new mayor, Marty Walsh and his administration to continue to improve our city together. I will conduct an open, transparent and inclusive process regarding committee assignments and those same principles will guide my decisions and priorities as president over the next two years."

Supporting his quest for the Council presidency, Linehan received the votes of the following councilors: Michael Flaherty, who was recently returned to the council with a strong vote for an at-large position, Frank Baker, Mark Ciommo, Sal LaMattina, Tim McCarthy, Stephen Murphy, and Michelle Wu and Bill Linehan himself. Opposing Linehan's presidency were Matt O'Malley, Josh Zakim, Charles Yancey, Tito Jackson and Ayanna Pressley.

It was noted in last week's SBT publication that Councilor Michelle Wu withstood outrageous verbal attacks from the far left progressive wing of the democratic party for supporting Linehan, who is a councilor she has worked with before being elected and trusted for his fairness and dedication.

During his five terms on the City Council, Linehan has been working on a number of issues important to the people of Boston as a whole and in District 2 in particular. High among those issues are direct constituent services. Whether you live in South Boston, the South End or Chinatown, parking, clean streets that are properly paved and well plowed after a snow storm are important to all. Making sure there are enough street lights and in good repair is also important. Safe neighborhoods, where people can feel free to walk day and night without worrying about being victims of crime has also been an issue that Councilor Linehan has been active in pursuing.

There still are the hot topics of over-development, education and attracting good job creating businesses to the city that are so important Boston's future. Having a South Bostonian and a District 2 City Councilor as the council president is a positive thing that should bode well for this neighborhood and with a good relationship with the new mayor get down to work on behalf of the city.



Reading Between The Lines

“We Need It”

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
Brian R. Mahoney

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

Have you ever seen the cops and robber movie “Heat” with DeNiro and Pacino? There’s a wild shootout in downtown LA between machine gun toting robbers and LA Police. That scene is based on an actual LA event you may have also seen in a cop documentary. In the actual event, two robbers in head to toe body armor armed with multiple machine guns hold off hundreds of LA cops. They actually attempted to walk away and almost made it. Finally after about an hour, members of LA SWAT arrived with their own automatic weapons and ended it. During the fire fight the original responding patrol officers had to resort to commandeering a nearby sporting goods store and appropriate rifles and shotguns from the store in an attempt to counter the bad guys fire power.

It was after this incident LA began equipping certain patrol officers with AR-15 automatic weapons. The experience showed heavy weapons teams of officers couldn’t always respond in a timely manner. The LA Sheriff’s Department already carried such weapons with certain officers due to a similar episode. Again, heavily armed bank robbers in a suburban bank were able to shoot their way out of police encirclement and make their way to the footlight of a national forest. The Sheriff’s deputies were held at bay until provided with rifles by local inhabitants of a hunting lodge.

Boston is neither of these places. Nor is it Mumbai, India or Nairobi where machine gun armed terrorists had to be forced from shopping malls by armed troops, when they had been killing shoppers. It also isn’t Russia where Chechen Terrorists just blew up bombs downtown. On the last score, Russia’s sorrow is our recent

history. It can and has happened here. We have seen too many of our own acts of domestic insanity to dismiss the reality of heavy armored mad men on lengthy killing sprees, while local authorities are forced to defer response to “specialists” coming from too long a distance.

I’ve been to some countries where the police all walk around with machine guns on slings. It makes you appreciate home a little more. That, however, is not what’s being proposed in Boston. A unit, known only to the police, would have AR-15’s and the police trained in their use. Otherwise they would be completely the same as any other patrol officers with the same duties. They only would be activated with the heavy weapons on already mentioned incidents and where time is of the essence. Many false arguments such as, “a bullet from these weapons can travel as far as two miles and kill”, have been raised to emphasize the danger of an errant shot. Don’t those hit by an “errant” pistol shot at only a half-mile matter?

The point is neither is likely to happen. These are trained officers - rigorously trained. In a split second, any police officer weighs the danger to the public, the victim, themselves, what kind of background there is, in case they should miss - even the danger to the suspect. If anything, officers trained in these heavy weapons would have much more time to decide on an action. They would never be in a position where they would have to draw these weapons cold and shoot. They are not deployed until authorized.

Citizens have a right to be concerned by overbearing police. They also have a right to be safe. The best efforts should be made to provide

both. Adequately arming the police is not radical or revolutionary. It is the normal advancement we’ve always followed. Look no further than the switch, twenty years ago, from six shot revolvers to 15 shot automatic hand guns. The reason was the same

then, as now. We were playing catch up with the bad guys, who had been using them for 20 years prior.

The whole argument can be summed up in the expression “it is better to have it and not need it, than need it and not have it”.

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Mayor Walsh Promises Department Audits Including the BRA

As reported in the Boston Business Journal, Thomas Grillo's article comments on Mayor Marty

Walsh's commitment to audit the Boston Redevelopment Authority. Although light on the particulars about who and how

the audit will be conducted, focus will be on the system and guidelines for awarding tax credits, the commitment to offer affordable units on-site and not off-site and a legitimate voice regarding concerns of the neighborhoods being affected by development decisions.

Quoting from the article, 'Walsh has been silent on who will be named to replace former BRA chief Peter Meade. John Barros, a former mayoral candidate who later endorsed Walsh and sits on the mayor's transition team, has been rumored as a possible candidate, as has former candidate Charlotte Golar Richie, who is also on the transition team.'

Mayor Walsh stated, "If tax credits work to spark development, but in some developments people get tax credits while other people don't get tax credits, there has to be consistency there." He added, "Developers have to know predictability when they walk in. Just like on the other side with the community. Neighborhoods have to understand that if someone is going to come in and do a development in their neighborhood and there are supposed to be 15 percent affordable on-site, then that means 15 percent on-site, not built in someone else's neighborhood. There's no consistency."

With the appointment of Bill Evans as Police Commissioner, Mayor Walsh has signaled that the plan for public safety is 'keep a steady hand'. The call for a nationwide search for a Superintendent of the Boston Public Schools suggests that a major shake-up is on the way. With the call for a BRA audit, it appears that Walsh intends to be cautious, making it unclear when or if Walsh intends to follow through with dismantling the BRA. He is getting advice from every corner, but time will tell.

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it well. It's not difficult to see why Mayor Walsh chose Evans to lead the force. An excellent decision.

As Superintendent, Bill Evans is said to have conducted his work day with "military like discipline". He is up each morning at 4:30 am and goes for a run; a long run. He has finished many Boston Marathons and has the medals to show for it. In fact, he is a familiar face to any local South Bostonian up early enough to see him run along Pleasure Bay and Carson Beach. He arrives at his job no later than 6:30 am and does not stop until late in the day or well into the night; depending on what problems arise. As commissioner he will no doubt be spending even more time guarding the city and will of course, still be on call 24 hours a day like he has been for so many years already. During his time as superintendent and captain before that, Evans has worked to create good working relations with every community in the city and has a reputation of being responsive and accessible which has won him the praise of many neighborhood leaders throughout Boston. Bringing in a new Commissioner who is already a respected and accepted entity is definitely an advantage.

It would be safe to say that most South Bostonians are proud that one of their own is once again Boston's police commissioner. With the elevating to City Council President of Bill Linehan, the return of another son of Southie to the council Mike Flaherty, the congressional seat held by fellow resident Stephen Lynch, the state rep's seat held by Nick Collins and another South Bostonian Mike Donovan in the Clerk of Court's office, the future is in good hands for all residents of South Boston as well as all of Boston.

And now we have another South Bostonian, Bill Evans as our police commissioner. It's all very encouraging. And though Bill Evans is the commissioner for ALL of Boston, it's still nice to know that one of our neighbors will be the 'top cop'. Congratulations to you Commissioner Evans and the best of luck at your new job. You have certainly earned it.

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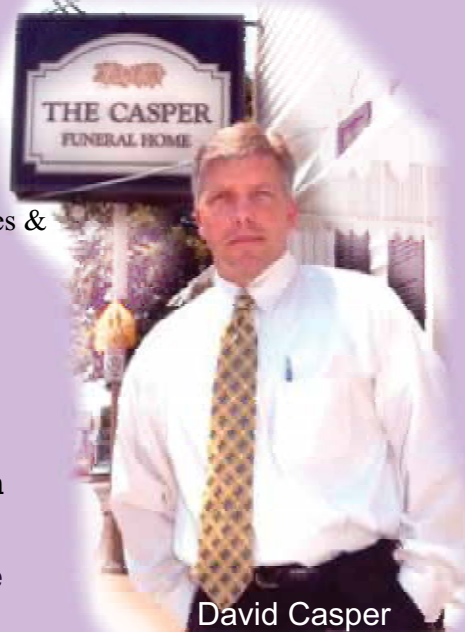
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Rep Nick Collins 2013 Legislative Wrap Up

State Representative Nick Collins joined his colleagues in the Massachusetts House of Representatives in reviewing recent session accomplishments as the Legislature prepares for the 2014 session. As of December, 2013, the House passed major legislation pertaining to economic development, transportation, education, welfare and compounding pharmacies.

“In the 2013 session, my colleagues and I in the Legislature worked hard to pass common sense policies that create economic growth and expand economic opportunities to residents across the Commonwealth,” said Rep. Collins. “By investing in our state’s transportation and education infrastructure, affordable and public housing and in our veterans, 2013 was a year we invested in our state’s future. By passing reforms to the Commonwealth’s welfare system, oversight for compounding pharmacies and reforming how we perform background checks on those educating and caring for children, we have made our state safer and more accountable. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the

Legislature in 2014 as we continue to push policies that create jobs, increase public safety and support our society’s most vulnerable.”

This past session the House passed two major finance bills, the FY14 budget and the transportation finance bill, both of which are designed to stimulate economic growth. The FY14 budget, a \$34 billion plan, allocates essential funds to advance the growth of the local economy and support the Commonwealth’s essential services and programs, including local aid, education, housing and health and human services.

Additionally, the budget prioritizes education-related items by bolstering funding for state universities and community colleges, including a \$478.9 million allocation for the University of Massachusetts that will prevent tuition and fee increases in the upcoming school year.

The budget also provides funding and resources for programs enacted under the 2012 economic development legislation in order to foster job creation for employees of all skill levels across numerous industries. The House also created another August

sales tax holiday in an effort to boost sales for local businesses.

The transportation finance bill is designed to solve long-standing financial problems through continued reforms and a future, stable funding source without placing too great a burden on working families. The bill continues on the promise of the 2009 transportation reform law by supporting necessary infrastructure, providing revenue to initiate economic growth and enhancing efficiency and accountability.

Following the 2012 meningitis outbreak linked to contaminated drugs, Massachusetts became the first state to pass comprehensive legislation on compounding pharmacies. The House unanimously voted on a bill that will help the Commonwealth better regulate the industry by improving oversight, licensing and quality standards, addressing a previous lack of consistent standards.

Regarding welfare, the Economic Independence Act enhances the efficacy of the state’s welfare system through new initiatives and reforms, including the Pathways to Self-Sufficiency program which provides resources to help recipients achieve financial independence. The bill also increases resources for the Department of Transitional Assistance and expands the scope of prohibited actions to include foreign transmittal agencies in order to better safeguard the integrity of the welfare system. These measures follow the electronic benefit card reforms made in the FY13 budget and two subsequent supplementary budgets.

The House also passed legislation and enacted numerous provisions to help residents secure safe and stable housing, including a \$1.4 billion housing bond bill which modernizes public housing and allows for home modification for elderly or disabled homeowners. In the midst of the federal government shutdown, the October finance legislation allocated additional and immediate funds for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

This fall the House passed two bills related to the military and veterans. The 2013 VALOR Act provides increased property tax relief and enhances employment, educational and healthcare support services for veterans. The House also passed a military bond bill which funds projects at military installations around the state.

Other session accomplishments include:

- Increasing the maximum penalty for corporate manslaughter from \$1,000 to \$250,000;
- Passing legislation to ensure that students with disabilities have Individualized Education Plans (IEP) that include short-term objectives and benchmarks, the inclusion of which is important in measuring the impact of special education instruction and services; and
- Expanded efforts to require national background checks through fingerprinting of teachers, daycare providers, and persons living or working on facility premises. The new law, which stemmed from the Federal Bureau of Investigation recommendations, also requires address-based sex offender checks of early education and care facilities.

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Mayor Walsh Makes Key Appointments To His Administration

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
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Following his earlier appointments of Daniel Arrigg Koh, a former Menino adviser and assistant to Arianna Huffington as his Chief of Staff, as well as Felix Arroyo, former Boston mayoral candidate and former Boston city councilor, to head a newly-created Boston Department of Health and Human Services, Mayor Marty Walsh filled several key positions in his new administration on Tuesday at a press conference at City Hall.

To the high profile position of Police Commissioner, Walsh appointed Superintendent Bill Evans, who was interim commissioner elevated by Mayor Tom Menino upon the departure of Ed Davis.

Walsh named two former key campaign advisors to critical roles: Dorchester's Joyce Linehan and Norwell's Joe Rull, to chief of policy and chief of operations, respectively. Linehan's position will revolve around the implementation of the 42 policy papers she primarily authored during the course of Walsh's mayoral campaign. She currently runs Ashmont Media, a public relations company. Rull, a former director of labor in the Deval Patrick administration, is moving from Norwell to Boston to join Walsh's city hall team. Rull worked in former Mayor Thomas M. Menino's office as a special assistant for eight years

in the 2000s.

Walsh appointed current Assistant Director of Neighborhood Services Keith Williams to the position of interim director of the Office of Small & Local Business Enterprise and Alejandra St. Guillen, the leader of the Latino advocacy group Oiste, as Interim Director of the Mayor's Office of New Bostonians. Current Chelsea State Representative Eugene L. O'Flaherty is leaving his post as chairman of the House Judiciary Committee to join Walsh's administration as the corporation counsel, the chief legal counsel. O'Flaherty's district includes portion of Charlestown and is long time friend of Walsh's. He is planning

on moving to Boston in the near future.

Trinh Nguyen is leaving her position as chief of staff in the Boston Housing Authority and moving to interim director of the Office of Jobs and Community Service in the Walsh administration.

Walsh said that he is looking to appoint an interim director to the Boston Redevelopment Authority sometime in the near future. Walsh needs to make permanent appointments to open positions of school superintendent and fire commissioner.

The new mayor is balancing new appointments with some holdovers from the past administration to insure a smooth transition.



Johnson's injuries have been reported as being not too serious or life threatening. He was shaken up quite a bit and emotionally upset. He said he could not understand why anyone would attack him for no reason. Johnson indicated he was not only angry with his assailant, but also with



the fact that there were bystanders who witnessed the attack and did not make any attempt to stop it or intervene. It seems no one even bothered to call police.

Transit Police Superintendent in Chief Joseph O'Connor stated at this time he is not sure what people nearby saw of the attack and stated that if people feel uncomfortable about getting involved personally, he would at least hope that they would report an incident like this to the police. Law enforcement officials urge the public to immediately call 911 no matter what the location whenever they witness a crime of this nature.

Suspect Arraigned For Andrew Sq. 'T' Station Attack

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
Staff Report

In what has been described as a 'senseless and unprovoked attack on Chris Johnson, age 44 who is disabled, an arrest was made and the suspected assailant, Miguel Valesquez, age 20 was arraigned in South Boston District Court on Wednesday. The alleged attack took place at

the Andrew MBTA Station last Saturday at about 11pm. Video surveillance cameras seem to show Johnson standing at the station having his cane ripped from his grasp and then showed his assailant swing the cane like a baseball bat hitting Johnson in the chest. Johnson suffers from cerebral palsy.

The video of the assault was shown on FOX 25 news and viewers called police with tips about where the alleged assailant could be found. 'T' Police, following those tips were able to locate and arrest Valesquez on Tuesday in Watertown. Valesquez is a Dorchester resident.



The Red and the White of it.

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY

By Jamie Driscoll, the Wine Guy

Over the last decade, one of the great success stories has been the “discovery” and growth in popularity of two great wine varieties- Malbec and Chenin Blanc. Both have had to make a journey far from where they originated in order to re-established and really re-invented by their new home soils and climates, in order to become the popular wines they are today.

Malbec, known to most American consumers as a wine that comes from Argentina, got its start as a “workhorse” grape- one that was used primarily as a blending grape –in the Cahors region of Southwest France. For centuries, it was one of only six grapes that could be used in the making of the famous Clarets of the Bordeaux region and is still used today, along with Cabernet

Franc, to make those fantastic wines.

That, along with being blended with other local grapes of its region, was pretty much its role in the scheme of things, until the 1860s, when a Frenchman, an Agricultural Engineer named Michel Pouget, brought plantings to his new home in Argentina. The grapes really took to their new home and today, the Malbec wines of Argentina produce elegant wines, with soft tannins, deep, inky-purple color and a range of flavors and tones. If you like Malbec, here are some that I would suggest:

Durigutti Malbec, 2011, Mendoza, (~\$12.00) -This wine is a nice expression of everything that’s attractive about a good Malbec-here’s what the International Wine Cellar said about it in its 90-point award:

“Bright dark red. Perfumed aromas

of blackberry, currant, violet, licorice and menthol lifted by hints of herbs and pepper. Supple, ripe and nicely concentrated, with mid-palate sweetness restrained by vigorous, harmonious acidity. Finishes thicker than the 2010 cabernet, with fine-grained tannins and lovely lingering fruits and herbs.”

There’s nothing else that needs to be said, except that it’s a great wine for this time of the year, along with a nice beef stew, hanger steak, or a Santa Fe Black Bean burger from The Paramount on East Broadway.

Whether you’re an adamant white wine drinker, or you’d just like a change from the cold weather/red wine pattern, one varietal you might take a look at is Chenin Blanc, because there’s a lot more to look at than there used to be.

Chenin Blanc is a grape that got its start in France’s Loire Valley, where it was made by itself in both still and sparkling versions and was also blended with other regional whites for centuries. About 100 years ago, it found its way to various growing regions in the country that is today’s South Africa and in the last 20 years, since the end of

Apartheid rule and its re-emergence as an exporter of fine wines, tremendous progress in grape quality and wine-making technique offer consumers a great array of tasty choices:

-Ken Forrester, Old Vine Reserve Chenin Blanc, Stellenbosch, (~\$9.99) is a rich and refreshing example of the exotic flavors that are derived from Southern Hemisphere terroir - citrus, honey, pineapple and notes of vanilla combine to offer real enjoyment with any white meat, smoked cheeses or your favorite spicy Thai dish. Best had very cold. (Shouldn’t be a problem with the current weather.)

Las Perdices, Malbec, Agrelo (Mendoza), Argentina, (~\$13.00) is a wine that is aged in French and American oak for eight months, with the taste of plumb, blackberry and some cocoa on the palate. Soft tannins and nice acidity make for a very pleasant finish in a wine which will pair very nicely with Bolognese, Wild Mushroom ravioli or Beef Tenderloin with a bourbon reduction demi.

Send comments and questions for Jamie to wineguy@southbostontoday.com



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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: #GoGreen2014

Resolutions. Even the most put-together, eco-friendly and centered of us have the occasional snag in the fabric of our lives that can turn into a tear with very little time passing. Sure, some of our decrees seem superficial; the most common and repetitive declarations made before the clock strikes midnight on 12/31 consist of losing weight/getting fit, cutting down on vices like drinking/smoking/caffeine and saving some dough. Remember though, there is nothing wrong with wanting to be the best me I can be. Over the next first month of our new year, *Stepping Up and Stepping Out* will show how you can follow through with determination and give a little guidance on how to achieve some of our promises, with some merriment and humor sprinkled throughout. I am a self-proclaimed recycling fanatic. Some nights I wake in a cold sweat, ripping me out of my slumber,

flashbacks of sea birds choking on plastic six-pack rings I didn't split and covered in sludge from some sort of toxic cleaner I didn't dispose of properly. Since reduce/reuse/recycle came on the scene, I have salvaged anything that could possibly, maybe be utilized in another way. I covet my Camelbak and Sigg water bottle line-up with the same vigor that some women have for their shoe collection and have almost passed out from dehydration due to the refusal of consuming H2O via plastic bottle. That being said, I am over-the-dumpster-happy about how South Bostonians keep their neighborhood clean and continue to move toward the future. Here are some events that will give you an insider's look into where the future of a greener and cleaner Southie is going. **Green, Lean and on the Scene...** The Design Museum of Boston is introducing Fort Point as Boston's

leading sustainable community, with a focus on minimalist living, environmentally efficient energy usage and sustenance sourced locally. Many restaurants, buildings (both residential and commercial) and residents do their part to participate in this practice. On January 16th, 5:30-8:30pm, DMS is holding the opening reception for Green Patriot Posters, serving food provided by Blue Dragon, with the event held at 315 on A. The event is free for members so sign up today and get access to witness firsthand all the amazing advances Southie is making. eventbrite.com/e/green-patriot-posters-member-opening-reception-tickets-9985963285, designmuseumboston.org This isn't Small Change It's no secret that South Boston is one of, if not the most desirable place to live in the City of Boston. With its amazing views, quick access to the city and warm, neighborly feel, no one can

question why. But how do we strike a balance of continuing to welcome new people here and not forcing the OFS out with high prices and quick sales? The emergent workforce in a place like the South Boston Waterfront where businesses are building and buying land to grow their companies upon also wants to have access to these conveniences as well. The answer: micro-housing. On January 16th at 5:30pm, join the IFMA (International Facilities Management Association) at District Hall for a forum discussing this very topic and how it helps with the environment: urban, neighborly and globally, respectively. Three guest speakers will introduce the wide spectrum of concerns and questions pertaining to this subject; ask away. The only way to find out is to ask. eventbrite.com/e/micro-housing-who-needs-it-and-who-will-use-it-tickets-10023852613 ifmaboston.org



Stepping Out: Cheap Thrills

Markdown Matisse

The Urban Art Bar located on Old Colony Ave is chock full of fun painting parties this month, just check out their calendar of events. And for a few more days, UAB is offering a discounted voucher on Groupon.com and Travelzoo.com. It's also B.Y.O.B. so don't worry about others judging you and your magnum-sized Barefoot Sauvignon Blanc. PaintNite is also holding sessions at the Stadium and Salvatore's on the Waterfront; check their website for dates and times.

Salvatore's is offering a special menu to compliment the event. Check out Groupon.com too: a PaintNite Groupon is available for a limited time. Get 'em both. You will be the newest Picasso on the block. theurbanartbar.com, groupon.com, paintnite.com

Ladies Who Lunch

There are plenty of delicious and fancy places that serve lunch. It's an alternative to a more expensive dinner, and a little earlier in the day, but hey, it's five o'clock

somewhere. Sam's at Louis, Del Frisco's, Morton's, Legal Harborside, Sportello and Strega on the Waterfront all dish up smaller, but just-as-delish, versions of their dinner menu. Mmm mmm good! delfriscos.com, mortons.com, samsatlouis.com, legalseafood.com, sportelloboston.com, stregawaterfront.com

Dine on a Dime

If noontime is a little too early for you, give some local joints a try on the weekdays. Monday nights Empire

Lounge and Blue Dragon both host an industry night and offer special menus at a great price; industry night usually caters to those in the restaurant biz because Monday is typically their Friday night, but ALL are welcome. Want to warm up this cold January? Grab some Mexican delights at Salsa's; \$2 Taco Tuesdays and \$19 margarita pitchers are on the menu. Barlow's also offers up a great \$2 Taco Tuesday and \$1 oysters. The price makes it taste that much better! barlowsrestaurant.com, salsasmexican.com



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www.southbostontoday.com



Southie Senses:

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



Touch: *Get Caught in the Act*

Calling all thespians. The Fort Point Theatre Channel is holding auditions for its 2014 productions on January 12th, 3-7pm and January 14th, 7-10pm. There are three shows looking for actors; send an email along with your resume and headshot and a description of the part you would like give a try. Read between your lines.

fortpointtheatrechannel.org/2014-auditions



See: *Be the Change You Want to See*

Create with care. The Urban Art Bar has dedicated yet another of their painting events to be partnered up with a charity. On Saturday January 11th, 12-3pm, \$10 of each ticket sold to the event will be donated towards the Avon Walk. Use your talents to transform the canvas and the future of others.

theurbanartbar.com/event/avon-walk-fundraiser-12-pm/



Taste: *Drink It All In*

These aren't small town sips. The Paramount South Boston is kicking down the doors of 2014. They have revamped their Twitter account (@ParamountSouth), are delivering and hosting our hometown beer heroes, Harpoon, for a 5 course pairing dinner on January 14th. The cost is \$40 and you just need to give the Paramount Southie a call to save a seat.

I'd say that's palatable.

paramountboston.com 617-269-9999



Smell: *Eager Beakers*

Change is in the air. Don't let this cold weather keep you and the kids cooped up. This month at the BSA Space, their family day addresses the evolution of mobility in our city and urges you to use recyclables to concoct your own versions of future style transportation. Contact BSA Space to reserve your spot to participate in the event. Get the kids out and blow the stink off them.

bsaspace.org/events/family-design-day-lets-go/



Hear: *"Why? Why? Why?" - Nancy Kerrigan*

"The whack heard 'round the world." Twenty years ago, an unfortunate and unfair attack during the U.S. Figure Skating Championship in Detroit 1994, of Nancy Kerrigan, put her career on hold and Tonya Harding in jail. On a much more positive note, some events of the U.S. Figure Skating Championship being held in Boston are going on at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center, January 9th & 10th. Check out the event, grab a bite to eat at one of the Westin Waterfront's spots or make a weekend out of it: you won't be skating on thin ice.

boston2014.com westinwaterfront.com mjoconnors.com citybarboston.com
laughboston.com



Who is Laela?

Born and raised in this town, Laela believes that contributing to your neighborhood through volunteer work and socializing within the community are inborn in the people of South Boston. Those innate characteristics are interwoven into every fiber of a South Bostonian's being. Continuing the traditions that the South Boston community has always practiced, the features Stepping Up and Stepping Out are two ways in which old AND new residents can find opportunities to do what Southie has always done: give back. Both "born and raised" and the new Southie generation will be able to carry on these practices.

2014 To Break MCCA Record for Economic Impact and Hotel Room Nights

New Year packed with groundbreaking meetings and conventions in Boston

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Convention Center Authority is predicted to break two major records in 2014, hosting events generating more hotel room nights and more economic impact than ever before in the city's history, according to MCCA Executive Director James E. Rooney.

2014's meetings and conventions are projected to generate a total of 629,000 hotel room nights throughout Boston and the region, and \$680 million in economic activity, the most since the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center (BCEC) opened in 2004. The New Year is expected to break 2006's record of 616,000 hotel room nights and 2012's economic impact record of \$656 million.

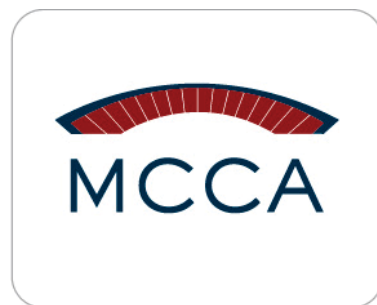
Split between Boston's two convention centers, 2014 will generate 390,000 room nights from BCEC events and 239,000 room nights from events at the Hynes Convention Center.

“Breaking these records in 2014 is more proof that Boston has arrived as a premiere convention destination in the world,” said Rooney. “This record number of hotel room nights will generate another record in new taxes and revenue that benefit Boston and the Commonwealth, as well as record opportunities for our events to connect with the engines that drive our economy. These are not just heads on beds. These are people and businesses from around the world looking to connect and do business in Boston and Massachusetts.”

Events generating the largest hotel room nights next year include:

- 38,358 American College of Rheumatology (Nov. 16-19 @BCEC)
- 35,475 American Society of Cataract & Refractive Surgery (April 26-29 @BCEC)
- 33,450 International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans (Oct. 12-15 @BCEC)
- 32,850 American Bar Association (Aug. 8-12 @Hynes)
- 27,780 National Science Teachers Association Annual Convention (April 3-5 @BCEC)
- 23,325 American Academy of Physician Assistants (May 27-28 @BCEC)
- 23,220 Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SIBOS) (Sept. 29-Oct. 3 @BCEC)

June of 2014 will mark the 10-year anniversary of the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center, around the same time the center is expected to generate its 1 millionth taxi trip from the front door of the BCEC on Summer Street. “One million taxi trips means about \$30 million has been spent transporting people to and from the BCEC by our taxi industry, economic activity that would have



**MASSACHUSETTS
CONVENTION CENTER
AUTHORITY**

occurred in another city if not for our public investment in the BCEC,” said Rooney.

2014 kicks off in a major way in January as Boston hosts the Prudential US Figure Skating Championships Jan. 5-10 at the BCEC, where a full-size competitive skating rink will be constructed, followed by the Professional Convention Management Association (PCMA) Jan. 12-15, a group representing more than 6,000 meeting industry leaders and decision makers from around the world – a “marketing home-game” for Boston.

In addition, 2014 marks the debut of two Boston events that will be co-owned by the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority, a first for the MCCA and Massachusetts. On June 10, the MCCA and Intelligence Summits LLC will launch the Culinary Intelligence Summit, a conference at the Hynes focused on managing food allergens for large-scale food service operators. September 23-24, the MCCA and Sitarian Corporation will launch the Advanced Audio + Applications Exchange (A3E) at the Hynes, an international trade show, conference and social network exchange focused on new technologies that are transforming the music industry.

Annual events in Boston continue to thrive in 2014, including the amazing PAX East (April 11-13 @BCEC), which sold out in November. Yankee Dental Congress brings 26,000 attendees (January 30 – Feb. 1 @BCEC), and the International Boston Seafood Show (March 16-18 @BCEC) and Anime Boston (March 21-23 @Hynes) are both expected to draw 18,000 attendees each. New England Grows takes place Feb. 5-7 at the BCEC, the largest and most popular horticultural and green industry event in the Northeast with nearly 13,000 attendees. The New England International Auto Show arrives Jan. 16-20 at the BCEC with an estimated 32,000 attendees, and the Progressive New England Boat Show runs Feb. 22 to March 2 at the BCEC with an estimated 41,500 attendees. Finally, HubSpot's wildly popular Inbound 2014 conference moves from the Hynes to the BCEC from Sept. 15-18 with 12,000 attendees.

Continuing our efforts to attract multicultural conventions, Boston will also see a significant number of diversity-based events in 2014, including Sigma Pi Phi Beat Boule (1,300 attendees), the National Association of Black Journalists (2,400 attendees), and the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Eastern Regional Conference (2,400 attendees).

International rotating events – events that choose one American city to visit during their worldwide annual rotation – coming to Boston in 2014 include the World Congress on Biomechanics (2,500 attendees), the World Congress on Treatment and Research in Multiple Sclerosis (5,000 attendees), the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications (SIBOS) (8,000 attendees) and the International Society for Computational Biology (2,000 attendees). These knowledge-based global events bring thought leaders and scientists from around the world to Boston.

“The record 2014 for hotel room nights in Boston and all of our other robust activity points to the growing need to expand our capacity in the meetings and convention industry and secure our future role,” said Michelle A. Shell, chair of the MCCA Board of Directors. “With the hopeful passage of legislation next year to expand the BCEC without the need for new fees and taxes, and the push to build more hotel space around the BCEC, we're on firm ground to break even more records in the coming years.”

About the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority (MCCA)

The Massachusetts Convention Center Authority owns and oversees the operations of the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center, the John B. Hynes Veterans Memorial Convention Center, the MassMutual Center in Springfield, MA and the Boston Common Parking Garage. The BCEC and Hynes have earned a rare gold standard from the International Association of Congress Centres (AIPC), making Boston only the fourth city in North America and the 12th worldwide to have been awarded this top standard, the highest certification level a convention facility can achieve under strict AIPC guidelines.

In 2013, the MCCA hosted 254 events at the BCEC and Hynes with 770,000 attendees, generating 462,000 hotel room nights and \$620 million in economic impact. The MCCA is currently in the midst of its Top 5 campaign to launch Boston into the top five convention destinations in North America. For more information, go to www.massconvention.com.

Recent South Boston Real Estate Sales

	Price	Sale Date	Rooms	Baths	Sq Ft
734 East Eighth Street Single Family	\$1,210,000	12/20/13	4	3	2760
342-346 Dorchester Street Two Family	\$950,000	12/20/13	22	4	5191
615 East Sixth St UNIT 6 Condo	\$781,500	12/23/13	5	2	1400
9 M St UNIT 1 Condo	\$735,000	12/20/13	6	3	2100
9 M St UNIT 2 Condo	\$735,000	12/23/13	6	2.5	2100
9 M St UNIT 5 Condo	\$715,000	12/20/13	5	2	1143
125 F Street Two Family	\$650,000	12/23/13	12	4	2401
610 East Sixth St UNIT 2 Condo	\$615,000	12/19/13	5	2.5	1262
12 Mohawk St UNIT 6 Condo	\$560,000	12/20/13	4	2	1262
157 West Third St UNIT 1 Condo	\$535,000	12/19/13	4	2.5	1321
629 East Sixth St UNIT 2 Condo	\$470,250	12/19/13	4	2	935
270 Bowen St UNIT 2 Condo	\$434,000	12/20/13	4	1.5	912
58 Story St UNIT 1 Condo	\$422,500	12/20/13	6	2	820
17 Winfield St UNIT 2 Condo	\$392,000	12/23/13	5	2	970
761 East Sixth St UNIT 14 Condo	\$385,000	12/20/13	4	1	905
21 Sanger St UNIT 1 Condo	\$385,000	12/23/13	4	1	785
30 Story St UNIT 2 Condo	\$359,000	12/20/13	4	1	782
137-139 D St UNIT 6 Condo	\$332,500	12/20/13	3	1	615

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LEGAL NOTICES

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.
PROBATE COURT
SUFFOLK, SS
CASE NO. SU13P2160EA**

To all persons interested in the estate of **Evelyn M. Wagner** late of Boston, in said County, deceased in testate. A petition has been presented to said Court for license to sell – private sale – private – certain real estate of deceased. – and that the petitioner may become the purchaser of said real estate. If you desire to object thereto you or your attorney should file a written appearance in said Court at Boston before ten o'clock in the forenoon on the **23rd day of January, 2014**, the return day of this citation.

Witness, **Joan P. Armstrong, Esquire**, First Judge of said Court, this **23rd day of December, 2013**. Patricia M. Campatelli, Register.

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court Department
Division Suffolk Docket No. SU13P2160EA
SALE OF REAL ESTATE ADMINISTRATOR**

Name of Deceased **Evelyn M. Wagner**. Date of Death **September 22, 2004**. Domicile at Death **159 Gold Street, South Boston, 02127**
TO THE HONORABLE JUSTICES OF THE PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

RESPECTFULLY represents **Holly A. Wagner** administrator/trix of the estate of **Evelyn M. Wagner** that she gave bond for the faithful performance of her duties on **September 6, 2013**; that the deceased was at the time of her death the owner of certain real estate situated in **South Boston, 02127** in the County of **Suffolk** bounded and described as follows: **SOUTHWESTERLY** by said **Gold Street**, **twenty nine and 60/100 (29.60) feet**; **SOUTHEASTERLY** by a **passageway** as shown on said plan, **twenty-five and 75/100 (25.75) feet**; **NORTHEASTERLY** by a lot **five(5)** on said plan, **twenty-nine and 60/100 (29.60) feet**; and **NORTHWESTERLY** by lot **three (3)** on said plan, **twenty-five and 75/100 (25.75) feet**. Containing **762 square feet of land**, according to said plan. Being the same premises conveyed to **Evelyn M. Wagner** by deed dated **August 11, 1970** and recorded with the **Suffolk Registry of Deeds Book 8382, Page 743** the same being part of the real estate of the deceased.

That it is for the advantage of all parties interested that the same be sold; that an advantageous offer for the purchase of this real estate has been made to the petitioner(s) in the sum of **123,000.00 dollars**.

Petitioner(s), named in a petition dated **December 16, 2013** and on file in this County, requesting authority to sell certain real estate belonging to the estate of the deceased and therein described, certify/ies under the penalties of perjury that the names of all persons known to me/us as having or claiming any interest in this real estate derived from any deed or conveyance or mortgage, through or under any of the heirs or devisees of the deceased are as follows:

I certify that the estate of the deceased does exceed \$1,000 in value. Moreover, the petitioner(s) certify/ies that **MassHealth** is not an interested party in this matter due to: Notice of this petition has been sent to **MassHealth, P.O. Box 15205, Worcester, Massachusetts 01615-0205**

January 9, 2014

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.
PROBATE COURT
SUFFOLK, SS
CASE NO. SU13P2160EA**

To all persons interested in the estate of **Evelyn M. Wagner** late of Boston, in said County, deceased in testate. A petition has been presented to said Court for license to sell – private sale – private – certain real estate of deceased. – and that the petitioner may become the purchaser of said real estate. If you desire to object thereto you or your attorney should file a written appearance in said Court at Boston before ten o'clock in the forenoon on the **23rd day of January, 2014**, the return day of this citation. Witness, **Joan P. Armstrong, Esquire**, First Judge of said Court, this **23rd day of December, 2013**. Patricia M. Campatelli, Register.

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court Department
Division Suffolk Docket No. SU13P2160EA
SALE OF REAL ESTATE ADMINISTRATOR**

Name of Deceased **Evelyn M. Wagner**. Date of Death **September 22, 2004** Domicile at Death **159 Gold Street, South Boston, 02127**
TO THE HONORABLE JUSTICES OF THE PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

RESPECTFULLY represents **Holly A. Wagner** administrator/trix of the estate of **Evelyn M. Wagner** that she gave bond for the faithful performance of her duties on **September 6, 2013**; that the deceased was at the time of her death the owner of certain real estate situated in **South Boston** in the County of **Suffolk** bounded and described as follows: **Land, with the buildings thereon, on the northeasterly side of Gold Street, numbered one hundred seventy-four(174) in the numbering of said Gold Street, between an estate now or formerly of Lawrence G. Berry and another (numbered 176) and an estate now or formerly of Martin F. Smith (numbered 168) and supposed to contain about seven hundred forty- nine (749) square feet**. Said land is situated in **Block 71, in the South Boston District shown on the Board of Assessors' Plans of said City, filed in the office of the Board of Assessors. For title to the City of Boston see Land Court #33756 T.L. foreclosing May 27, 1954, all rights of redemption. Being the same premises conveyed to Evelyn Wagner by a deed dated November 22, 1972 and recorded With the Suffolk Registry of Deeds Book 8584 Page 156** the same being part of the real estate of the deceased.

That it is for the advantage of all parties interested that the same be sold; that an advantageous offer for the purchase of this real estate has been made to the petitioner(s) in the sum of **40,000.00 dollars**.

Petitioner(s), named in a petition dated **December 16, 2013** and on file in this County, requesting authority to sell certain real estate belonging to the estate of the deceased and therein described, certify/ies under the penalties of perjury that the names of all persons known to me/us as having or claiming any interest in this real estate derived from any deed or conveyance or mortgage, through or under any of the heirs or devisees of the deceased are as follows:

I certify that the estate of the deceased does exceed \$1,000 in value. Moreover, the petitioner(s) certify/ies that **MassHealth** is not an interested party in this matter due to: Notice of this petition has been sent to **MassHealth, P.O. Box 15205, Worcester, Massachusetts 01615-0205**

January 9, 2014



L Street Brownies New Year's Day Polar Plunge Draws Huge Crowd

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
Staff Report

Think it was cold on New Year's Day while in the warm confines of your home? Maybe you ventured out to the store on this holiday after a night out to get a newspaper, a coffee or pick up a few items at a local corner store. Or maybe, just maybe you were one of the several hundred brave and hearty souls who actually went swimming – in the ocean, in the frigid Atlantic Ocean water off the L Street Bath House/Curley Community Center Beach. Just the mention of doing this on the first day of January would make most people shiver. But not if you want to feel what it's like to get a total brain freeze while having a blast with your neighbors and visitors alike.

Yes, this amazing tradition called the L Street Brownies New Year's Day Polar Plunge, organized by the great staff at the Curley Community Center/L Street Bath House continues each and every January 1st to the delight of so many who would not miss this for anything in the world. Fred Ahern, director at the Curley Center said that

this year, the crowd was as big or maybe even bigger than it's ever been with over 1000 swimmers and spectators and more than 600 who actually went into the water. And what an ideal and perfect day to have such an event said Fred Ahern: "The air was icy, the water was icy; all of it just right to make it not only fun, but also a challenge."

Included in the festivities was of course the fundraiser for the Scleroderma Foundation; a disease that victimized quite a few South Bostonians over the years. Kevin Conroy, the local organizer for the fundraiser not only plays the bagpipes but also plays a major role getting the word out about this affliction on this day and has made this fundraiser a major component of this New Year's Day celebration. He has many of the participants gather at Woody's L Street Tavern and march to the beach led by the Boston Fire Fighters Bagpipe and Drum Unit, after some, possibly tossing back a beverage or two for good measure and of course to help stay warm.

Once the massive crowd gathered at the beach and made ready for the plunge at the shoreline the signal horn let out

a blast and into the water the crowd charged. Some turned and bolted back to shore as soon as they felt the frigid water, while others actually stayed in for a while and swam around like the numbing water really had no effect on them at all. Cold as the weather and water was, it was plain to see that everyone, whether they jumped in or not was having a great time and loving the fun atmosphere that was in the air along with quite a bit of excitement. To quote one local enthusiast shivering in the wind "Yes I'm freezing but it's all good."

After the plunge into the water, many returned to Woody's L Street Tavern to have a bite to eat, indulge in a few more beverages and pretty much hang out for a while to savor what is always one of the most unique social events of the year. Is this a great way to start each New Year or what? And to make it even better, funds were raised for good causes. As Fred Ahern told South Boston Today: "Over the years, we've welcomed many charitable organizations to participate and use the day to raise funds. Groups like the Scleroderma Foundation, The

Joey Fund and others all do great work and their participation is welcome and encouraged."

The fundraising part of the event holds special meaning to Kevin Conroy as his sister; Liz Lombard has been suffering with Scleroderma for many years. Liz is a wonderful person and a loyal South Bostonian and one of the nicest people you could ever hope to meet. It would be an understatement to say that Kevin was especially pleased at the great turnout and support.

In all, New Year's Day 2014 was another great success for the L Street Brownies New Year's Day Polar Plunge; a longtime South Boston tradition which by the ever growing turnout and enthusiasm of the participants, will most likely go on forever. Great job by all. See you next year.

(Note: If you would like to contribute to what is truly a worthy cause and charity, the Scleroderma Foundation, you can send those checks to Kevin Conroy, 169 W. 8th Street, South Boston, MA 02127. You can also view the Foundation's website at www.scleroderma.org)

St. Peter Academy News

Happy New Year from St. Peter Academy. The St. Peter Academy Student Council collected brand new toys for St. Vincent's Parish for Christmas. The students are



now starting their "Warm up for Winter" clothing drive. From January 6 – January 31, gently used warm winter clothing for adults and children can be dropped off at the school from 8 – 2 on Monday – Friday. If you know of any family who may need winter clothing please call 617-268-0750 or email spacademy2004@yahoo.com. Looking forward, the Student Council will be collecting new items for babies in February as well as old towels, blankets and sheets for the animal shelter!

Toys – Student Council members donated close to 100 toys to St. Vincent's Parish. Pictured with some of the donated toys are Sarah, Madison, Henry, Zach, Terry, Molly, Saoirse, Declan and Peter.

CONTINUED FROM page 3

tradition. Again, only the Allied War Vets can make the decision on who participates. And our vets should get the unwavering backing of this neighborhood. They went to war to protect our country; we should stand with them when exercising their constitutional rights.

Now a quick comment on the weather. Still no statement from Al Gore; Planet Earth's Global Warming guru. He's still among the

missing. Record cold temperatures everywhere; ships are even getting stuck in the ice in Antarctica and its summertime down there. Gore and other so called experts who cannot predict if it will rain on Friday told us twenty years ago that by this time, the climate would be so warm that our coastal cities would be under a foot of water. I'm guessing a couple of more cold waves like we had last weekend and people would be glad to have a climate that's a bit warmer.



Has Jasper returned?

Several years ago, a Harbor Seal swam up on the sand at Carson Beach and stayed for a week. Local kids named him 'Jasper' and he became quite the attraction during his stay in South Boston. Last weekend, a local resident spotted what looked to be Jasper sunning himself once again on the cold sands of Carson. Could this be Jasper come back for another vacation stop or perhaps a cousin who heard about Southie's fine beaches? Whatever the case, the seal just stayed a few hours and decided to head back out to sea.

CONTINUED FROM page 4

The inauguration capped a fascinating rise for Walsh who, at one time, battled alcoholism and cancer, rising through the ranks of Boston's rough and tumble union world all the way to the State House. As one of Dorchester's state representatives in 1997, he beat current Attorney General Martha Coakley among others in a seven way race.

After serving in the legislature for 17 years, Walsh announced his campaign for mayor not long after former Mayor Thomas M. Menino announced he would

not seek an unprecedented sixth term. In September, Walsh finished first in a 12-person field in the preliminary election before going on to defeat former At-Large City Councilor John Connolly in November.

In his prepared remarks during the inauguration, Walsh touted Boston's achievements, past mayors, and resilience in the wake of the Marathon bombings. Filled with a pledge to "listen...learn...and lead" the city, Walsh said his priorities are clear: grow the economy, create jobs, and make the city a safer place.



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Religious Education News

On the 4th Sunday of Advent, the children in the Gate of Heaven, St. Brigid, St. Monica and St. Augustine Religious Education Program took part in the 10:30 AM Family Liturgy at St. Brigid Church. All were welcome to come.

Father Eric Bennett was the celebrant of the Liturgy. The children participated as greeters, altar servers, readers and gift bearers. They also sang a beautiful song about baby Jesus in the Manger. A reception was held in Cushing Hall after the Liturgy to celebrate Jesus' Birthday!

The third graders sold hot chocolate and raised \$45.00 at this celebration. The money is going to the Philippines Relief Fund. The third graders look forward to this fundraiser and last

year they raised money for Sydney. The children enjoy reaching out to the community and helping those in need. Congratulations to all the students who did such a wonderful job participating in this Family Liturgy and to the third graders efforts to help others.

Thank you to all teachers and aides who worked so hard to put this Liturgy together, as well as, the parents, guardians, grandparents and all the families who brought refreshments that were enjoyed by all in attendance. A Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year to all from all of us in the Gate of Heaven, St. Brigid, St. Monica and St. Augustine Religious Education Program.

Jim Fowkes,
Director of Religious Education.

Gate of Heaven CYO League Standings

Boys Cadet League	Won	Loss
Jack McDonough Club	4	3
P.S. Deli	4	3
Metro Energy	4	3
Nick Collins Club	2	5

Boys Midget League	Won	Loss
Dennis Donovan Club	3	1
Mt. Washington Bank	3	1
John Connolly Club	1	3
Blasi's Café	1	3
Ryan Club	1	3

Girls Cadet League	Won	Loss
Hoop Dee Doo	5	1
Doubleparkedfilms.com	3	3
Olson/Caputo Club	2	4
Kelly Collins Club	2	4

Travel Teams

Boys	Won	Loss
3rd Grade – Sister Pat Club	0	6
4th Grade – Boston Home Inspectors	2	6
5th Grade – Massport	2	5
6th Grade – Seaport Realty Group	4	2
7th Grade – Joey Evans Club	0	5
8th Grade – Bill Linehan Club	4	2
9th Grade – Iron Worker Local #7	5	0
10th Grade – O'Brien's Funeral Home	4	2
9th & 10th Grade	0	6
11th & 12th Grade	3	4
18 & Under	1	5

Girls	Won	Loss
5th & 6th Grade	2	3
7th & 8th Grade	3	2
High School	3	2

SOUTH BOSTON BOYS & GIRLS LACROSSE REGISTRATION

South Boston Lacrosse will be holding registration for the 2014 season for the Boys & Girls teams at the following location, date and time.

Date Saturday January 11th at the Murphy Hockey Rink 8:00am – 10:00am

Date Saturday January 18th at the Murphy Hockey Rink 8:00am – 10:00am

Date Saturday January 25th at the Murphy Hockey Rink 8:00am – 10:00am

There will be 5 Boys & 3 Girls teams this year.

- 15 and under - Boys - U15 Player is Under 15 years of age as of January 1st prior to start of season.
- 13 and under - Boys & Girls - U13 - Player is Under 13 years of age as of January 1st prior to start of season.
- 11 and under - Boys & Girls - U11 - Player is Under 11 years of age as of January 1st prior to start of season
- 9 and under - Boys & Girls - U9 - Player is Under 9 years of age as of January 1st prior to start of season.
- 7 and under instructional Boys team - U7 - Player is Under 7 years of age as of January 1st prior to start of season

We will be charging the following fees for the 2014 season. Boy's U15, U13, U11 - \$150.00 and U9 - \$75.00. U7 instructional - \$50.00, The U7 instructional will be a house league team, no travel, practice and games on Saturdays. Girl's U13, U11 - \$100.00, U9 - \$75.00. The fee will pay for uniforms, insurance and the cost of the officials for the season. You will need to make the full payment at the time of registration to hold a spot on the roster. Each team's roster will have a maximum of 22 players per team, after the 22nd player you will be put on a waiting list. The deadline for registration is **February 1, 2013**. If you are paying by check make the check payable to **South Boston Lacrosse**. The program is still in need of coaches for both the Girls and Boys teams. If you have any questions you can contact Pete Lisiecki at p.s.lisiecki@gmail.com.

South Boston Youth Hockey League News

On Friday, December 27, 2013, SBYHL President Tom McGrath along with VP Teddy Cunniff, Treasurer John Picariello and four members of the program presented a framed SBYHL jersey to Mayor Menino. #20 was framed and presented as a gift from the league to thank Mayor Menino for his years of service to the city and his commitment to the youth hockey programs. A special guest, Shawn Thornton of the Boston Bruins, was also in attendance.





Smith Quickly Becoming Major Factor for Black and Gold

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY

By Conor Ryan



July 4, 2013: A date that could potentially impact the future of the Boston Bruins for the next 10 years. On that day, the Bruins GM Peter Chiarelli traded 21-year old Tyler Seguin, the second-overall pick of the 2010 NHL Draft, along with Rich Peverly and prospect Ryan Button, to the Dallas Stars in exchange for Loui Eriksson and prospects Reilly Smith, Matt Fraser and Joe Morrow.

It was a major gamble for the Bruins, as Seguin was one of the most talented young players in the league with a near-limitless ceiling on offense. However, while Seguin showed flashes of brilliance in Beantown, including winning a Stanley Cup in 2011 and leading the team in scoring (67 points) during the 2011-12 season at just 20 years old, concerns regarding Seguin's maturity both on and off the ice helped lead to the promising forward's departure.

Now, over three months into the 2013-14 NHL season, it seems like both franchises are benefiting

from the move. Seguin has been one of the most dynamic scorers in the league, recording 41 points over the first 39 games of the year, while both Eriksson and Smith have helped the Bruins to a 28-12-2 record, good for first place in the Atlantic Division, as of Jan. 6. Eriksson, who had averaged 72 points over his last three seasons in Dallas, was viewed as the major chip going to Boston in the deal. He has been limited to just 24 games while battling concussion issues. He has unfortunately been sidelined for most of the year.

Smith, considered just a throw-in during the July deal, has been a revelation for the Black and Gold in 2013-14. Drafted 69th overall in the 2009 NHL Draft by the Stars, Smith had a successful three-year run with Miami University, Ohio, in which the winger scored 122 points in 121 games. Smith finally made it to the NHL level during the 2012-13 season, scoring three goals in 37 games. Needless to say, while Smith had shown potential in his

career, it seemed like few people believed that the Mimico, Ontario native could be a top-six forward.

Originally starting the season on the third line, Smith has slotted into the second line with Brad Marchand and Patrice Bergeron after the Eriksson injury and has been a game-changer. In 42 games played this season, Smith has recorded 31 points, second on the team, while leading the club with 15 goals. Smith's scoring output has been even more impressive considering the fact that the 22-year-old forward is not even in the top-five on the team in shots. "I don't think he was ever looked upon as just a throw in because if you look back at his college years, he was a pretty good player," said Bruins coach Claude Julien on Dec.

27. "So he's come in here and he's been given an opportunity to play on a regular basis in the NHL and he's starting to showcase what he's capable of doing."

Perhaps Smith's biggest contribution to the team has been his help on the man advantage, as his four power-play goals rank second on the team and is part of a unit that is currently sixth in the NHL in power-play percentage. With Smith continuing to surprise many in Boston and Seguin establishing himself as one of the top scorers in the league down in Dallas, it seems like, just as it was with the Phil Kessel deal to Toronto in 2009, both teams seem to have gotten considerable benefits from a massive, franchise-changing deal.

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Pats Score First Round Bye in Postseason

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY

by David Pollard

Talk back to David at DPollard@SouthBostonToday.com

The 2013 New England Patriots overcame a multitude of obstacles and have now secured a first round bye in the NFL postseason. This Patriots unit seemed doomed from the get-go losing vital pieces of their roster for one reason or another, but still managed to end their season with a 12-4 record, and the number 2 seed in the AFC.

Turn the page back to last season when the Patriots were still a developing defense, perhaps a year away from being a true top-ten defense in the NFL - Tom Brady had real weapons on the field in Wes Welker, Aaron Hernandez, Rob Gronkowski, you can throw in Brandon Lloyd and Danny Woodhead as well.

During the offseason the Patriots could not come to agreeable terms with Brady's number one target in Wes Welker, who has become a part of Peyton Manning's arsenal in Denver. To replace Welker's slot presence, the Pats brought in Danny Amendola, who entered with a history of injuries.

The Patriots knew they would be playing for some time without tight end Rob Gronkowski due to back surgery he underwent in the summer, but did not worry about getting production from that position with Aaron Hernandez returning for his third year as a Patriot. Then Hernandez became the subject of a murder investigation which swept the football world and captivated Patriots fans at the season's onset.

The Pats went from having two Pro Bowl caliber tight ends to none, leaving Tom Brady with a group of rookies to throw to, led by Aaron Dobson and Kenbrell Thompkins. The scheme for the Pats would have to become more balanced. Stephen Ridley would need to emerge as a go-to back

on 1st and 2nd downs, and Shane Vereen looked to be a great 3rd down target coming out of the backfield for Brady.

As the season started, the good news for a Patriots team lacking offense - was that the defense looked as though it had become a top-ten unit. A litany of injuries would change what may have been an elite defense in the NFL.

The injury bug hit right away. In week 1, Danny Amendola had a terrific game, it was perhaps his best performance of the season against the Buffalo Bills - he would tear his groin in the game and miss the next three weeks. To deplete the offense further, Shane Vereen suffered a broken wrist and was placed on short term IR, missing 8 games. In week 2, Matthew Slater would go down with a broken wrist and miss 4 weeks of play.

It wasn't until week 4 that the defense caught the injury bug - a defense that was the main reason the Pats got off to a 5-0 start this year. DL Vince Wilfork sustained a torn achilles against the Atlanta Falcons and was placed on IR, he would miss the remainder of the season. The loss of their defensive leader was a big blow - but more pieces would fall in subsequent weeks.

Tommy Kelly went down with a knee injury against the Bengals in week 5, he would miss the rest of the season. The following week against the Saints, the Pats lost LB Jerod Mayo for the year and CB Aqib Talib for 3 weeks. The following game against the Dolphins, RT Sebastian Vollmer suffered a broken leg, he was placed on IR, and would miss the rest of the season.

The Pats scheme flipped as Rob Gronkowski returned to add some offensive firepower to a team that now was in need of more points as the defense was now prone to

surrender more to their opponents. The difference in the Pats offensive prowess with and without Gronk was staggering. Without Gronk they were a middle of the pack offense at best, with a Red Zone efficiency just above 40%. With Gronk, the Pats were the best offense in the league, and had the highest Red Zone efficiency, close to 70%.

The Pats would lose some players here and there over the next few weeks, Steve Gregory and Alfonzo Dennard both went down against the Steelers, Michael Hoomanawanui was injured against the Panthers, Aaron Dobson, Marcus Cannon, and Kenbrell Thompkins all missed time before week 14 against the Browns.

Week 14 is significant because Rob Gronkowski took a hard hit to the knee against Cleveland which tore is ACL and MCL, ending his season and potentially threatening his playtime in the 2014 season.

Some injuries are more apparent than others, such as the loss of Rob Gronkowski or Vince Wilfork. Others become more apparent as more players go down. Some have impacted the way the player performs upon returning - as was true in the case of Aqib Talib.

With so many losses one might think they were reading about a team who struggled to win games this season. While at times it was indeed a struggle, the Patriots were one of the league's most consistent teams this season - and have positioned themselves to host a playoff game in Gillette Stadium in round 2 of the playoffs.

This was made possible by Bill Belichick and Tom Brady. It's no secret to New Englanders that Bill Belichick is a terrific football coach and a brilliant football mind. He instilled a focus in this team that allowed them to persevere through all the adversity they faced. When players went down,

others were properly prepared to enter seamlessly into a very complicated system - and many of them were able to thrive.

For one, Julian Edelman emerged as Wes Welker's true replacement, catching 105 passes for 1,056 yards this season. He stepped up when Danny Amendola was not producing. Shane Vereen made his mark as a go to 3rd down back, and the combination of Stephen Ridley and Laguarrette Blount had its ups and downs, but was overall a steady running combo that provided the Pats offense with much needed balance.

Of course, at the helm is Tom Brady, who didn't have the statistics this year, just 4,343 yards, 25 TDs, 11 interceptions, and a rating of 87.3. But he was a huge part of the reason the younger players on the offense were able to develop as quickly as they did.

The Patriots will go as far as Tom Brady will take them in the playoffs, but if there is one intangible the Pats may have over every other postseason contender, it's their mental stability in tight games. The Pats pulled off a number of come from behind victories even early in the season. They also had a string of three straight weeks coming back from 24-0 down against the Denver Broncos, coming back twice in the 4th quarter against the Houston Texans to win 34-31, and coming back from 12 points down with just under 2 minutes left against the Cleveland Browns.

In the final two weeks, the Pats clinched a postseason berth against the feared Baltimore Ravens - when the Pats went down to Baltimore and spanked the Ravens 41-7. They then locked up home-field advantage in week 17 against the Buffalo Bills with a 34-20 victory.

Now the Patriots look forward



to this Saturday when the Indianapolis Colts will visit Gillette Stadium after pulling off an unlikely comeback of their own against the Kansas City Chiefs.

The road to the postseason has

been bumpy, although it has been for every team in the NFL this year - but the Patriots have put themselves in a great position to succeed, and despite their losses and roster gaps, they're right back

where you expect them to be every year, hosting a playoff game in Foxboro. Wild Card week in the AFC will see the Kansas City Chiefs face the Indianapolis Colts, and the San Diego Chargers will

play the Cincinnati Bengals. The Patriots will relax, and await the results of those to games which will determine their opponent when they play Sunday January 19th at Gillette.



**Every week, we will run part of an interview from Danny Picard's daily sports-talk show "I'm Just Sayin'", which can be heard LIVE every weekday Noon-2pm on the new DigRadio at DigBoston.com, and on the TuneIn app, 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 gave his NFL Playoff predictions:

Before the season began, I picked the New England Patriots over the San Francisco 49ers in Super Bowl XLVIII. Knowing what we know now -- 17 weeks later -- my NFL Playoff predictions are a little different. But one thing remains the same:

AFC WILD CARD ROUND:

(3) Cincinnati Bengals over (6) San Diego Chargers

--At 11-5, the Bengals are better than I thought they'd be, entering the season. And while the Chargers have big wins over Kansas City and Denver, I'm still saying Cincinnati wins it in their own building. San Diego is just one of those teams that can't get over the hump. And I can't get over the fact that the Chargers lost to teams like Houston, Oakland, and Washington in the regular season. I'll give Philip Rivers a shot in this one, but if you're asking me to put my money on him, I just can't do it.

(5) Kansas City Chiefs over (4) Indianapolis Colts

--Alex Smith is one of the more underrated quarterbacks in the league. And at 11-5, Kansas City is no joke. Indianapolis boasts the same record, but the Chiefs rested a lot of their key players in Week 17, knowing that they had secured the fifth seed. So KC will be fresh, fresh enough to send Indy home early.

NFC WILD CARD ROUND:

(6) New Orleans Saints over (3)

Philadelphia Eagles

--The Saints are about as tough a Wild Card opponent as you'll get if you're a division winner and a No. 3 seed in the NFL playoffs. And while the Eagles have won seven of their last eight entering the game, Drew Brees and the Saints are a better team, and are only a No. 6 seed because the Carolina Panthers won the division as one of the best teams in the league. Philly's magic will run out in the first round.

(5) San Francisco 49ers over (4) Green Bay Packers

--Aaron Rodgers is back, but the 49ers enter the playoffs winning six straight, including a win over the top-seeded Seattle Seahawks. San Fran might not get back to the Super Bowl, as I had originally predicted, but they are too good to be out in the first round, against a Packers team that isn't a powerhouse.

AFC DIVISIONAL ROUND:

(1) Denver Broncos over (5) Kansas City Chiefs

--If this was in Kansas City, maybe it would be a different story. But Peyton Manning will show up Alex Smith in a shootout. The Broncos are just too good to not advance to the AFC Championship. And being at home in the Divisional Round is something that will benefit Denver.

(2) New England Patriots over (3) Cincinnati Bengals

--The Bengals got their playoff win against San Diego. But the Patriots

-- as banged up as they are -- will take full advantage of the bye week, and will take care of Cincy at Gillette Stadium. The Patriots will not lose to the Bengals, at home, in the playoffs. It just won't happen. Not while Tom Brady is the quarterback and Bill Belichick is coaching.

NFC DIVISIONAL ROUND:

(1) Seattle Seahawks over (6) New Orleans Saints

--Consider me to be absolutely wrong about Russell Wilson and the Seahawks. The kid is a legitimate star quarterback, and should get some MVP votes. And I never thought I'd say that about him. At times, he seems unstoppable, as does the entire Seattle team in their own building. The question has been asked many times this season. We can go into CenturyLink Field and win in the playoffs. The answer is not the New Orleans Saints.

(2) Carolina Panthers over (5) San Francisco 49ers

--The Panthers are a title contender. Cam Newton has turned into the big-game quarterback and leader that I never thought he'd become. And the Panthers defense? Maybe the most dangerous in the playoffs. The Panthers may be the only team that has a shot to win a playoff game in Seattle. They'll have a shot to do so after they beat San Fran.

AFC CHAMPIONSHIP:

(2) New England Patriots over (1)

Denver Broncos

--I've said it for weeks, if the Pats can get to Denver for the AFC Championship, they'll advance to the Super Bowl. Not just because I'm from New England, but because it's just a fact: Bill Belichick owns Peyton Manning. Belichick will come up with a defensive gameplan -- regardless of personnel -- that will confuse Manning at the line of scrimmage and force him to turn the ball over. If New England doesn't fumble early on like they did a few weeks back against the Broncos, Tom Brady and the Patriots will be going to MetLife Stadium on Feb. 2.

NFC CHAMPIONSHIP:

(2) Carolina Panthers over (1) Seattle Seahawks

--The Panthers' defense is the only thing that puts them over the top with this pick. Will I be surprised if Seattle wins this game? No. But I'm putting my money on Carolina making some noise with a game-winning touchdown drive that will silence Seahawks fans. Cam Newton will lead the way in a 17-14 win. And he may even do it with his legs.

**SUPER BOWL XLVIII:
NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS
over Carolina Panthers**

--When this happens, all the "experts" will ask, "Who would have thought the Patriots would even be here, with all the injuries they've had this season?" You can tell them I thought so. It's not a



homer pick. It's reality. When Rob Gronkowski went down for the season, people hung their heads. When they then lost to Miami, they lost even more faith in the Patriots. All the while, I told you that the mistakes in the Miami game were correctable. You saw that when they went on to defeat Baltimore and Buffalo and capture a first-round bye. My overall message to those in New England who lost all hope

when Gronk went down: When are you going to learn? "Next man up" isn't just a philosophy in Foxboro. It's reality. Guys step up, and under Belichick's defensive gameplan, they execute. And oh yeah, Tom Brady is still the quarterback. Rob Ninkovich will have a fumble recover and an interception, but Shane Vereen will win MVP for his three touchdown receptions.

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