

The Wine Guy

The Boston Wine Expo

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
 Jamie Driscoll



We’re very lucky to live in our City for a number of reasons-great neighborhoods, sports teams and events, both cultural and social. Once a year, this coming weekend, as a matter of fact, there’s going to be an event that’s both social and cultural and I like to think of it as, “learning through drinking and

eating”! We are especially lucky to live in South Boston where several of the most respected restaurants, restaurant owners, chefs, wine connoisseurs and hospitality are making their bones in the industry. The host venue is the Seaport Hotel and World Trade Center, the pride of John Drew, the original developer and Jim Carmody,

Hotel Vice President and General Manager, from South Boston and Dorchester respectively. The chefs and restaurants are marquee by South Boston native Barbara Lynch the owner of prestigious Fort Point restaurants Menton, Sportello and Drink. The Boston Wine Expo has evolved over the years, much the same way that the great Classified Growths of Bordeaux do. Each year has brought more and better wines and special events for us to enjoy and this year is certainly no exception. In addition to tasting scores of still and sparkling wines from every growing region on the planet, there will be lots of great food to sample, as well. Some of the exhibitors you don’t want to miss: *Merriam Vineyards*-Located in California’s Russian River Valley, this vineyard is justifiably famous for its reds-Cabernet Sauvignon,

CONTINUED ON page 6


This Week’s Poll On Page 2

South Boston Today




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EDITORIAL *Gate of Heaven School Building Proposal*

Last week, a member of the community wrote about the Gate of Heaven School building and the community's desire to turn it into a charter school. With close to 1000 signatures opposing the sale of the building for luxury condos with limited parking, the community sees a charter school as a win – win for both the community and the church, both financially and from a neighborhood impact perspective.

Naturally, the only vocal supporters of luxury condos are those who will profit in some way from the project. The case for a charter school was made quite simply. If you sell the building it is a one-time payment and the available parking and building value is gone. In addition, the streets will be further crowded with cars and the neighborhood negatively impacted.

The Boston Globe pointed out last week that for the over 15,000 cars that are on the streets the BRA and city of Boston has no real plan to deal with the parking problem. Maybe the city of Boston can start by making good decisions, one at a time.

In order for the developer to get the permits he needs to develop the property and make his profit, he needs several variances and a rezone of the building from school zone to residential use. Instead of selling the building, leasing the building to any one of the excellent charter schools looking for space in the area, will garner a regular stream of revenue that all of the churches in South Boston can benefit from, while having a positive impact on the community. It seems like the community has taken a stand on the issue. To weigh in yourself please take this week's poll.



“Resist this war on God, freedom of religion and freedom of speech”
-Dr. Benjamin Carson

This Week's Poll

Should the Gate of Heaven School be leased for a Charter School or sold for luxury condos?

- **Charter School**
- **Condos**

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Deadlines

396 West Broadway • 617.268.4032 • Office hours: Mon-Fri 10:00am - 2:00pm

Press Copy - Tuesday at 3:00 P.M. - Advertisements - Space Reservation - Monday at 5:00 P.M. Ad Material - Tuesday at 3:00 P.M. Camera Ready Ads - Wednesday at 9:00 A.M.

The Information Center



Another Win for the Good Guys

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
John Ciccone

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

At times this column has run what I like to call our “the bad guys win only if the good guys sit back and allow it” feature. Here’s another one for you.

The town of Ft. Collins Colorado made the news last week and it was at first, not in a good way. The students at Ft Collins High School, wishing to display their pride in their country, planned to set aside a day to honor America and affirm their patriotism. The liberals on the school board immediately stepped in and nixed the idea saying it would be ‘offensive’ to some exchange students from other countries. To some liberals, displaying pride in America is always a bad thing and must be stamped out at every opportunity. Ah, but this would not be allowed to stand for very long.

The students would not sit back and take it this time and they got welcome support from local law enforcement in the form of Sheriff Justin Smith. Sheriff Smith, like a growing number of Americans around the country, is tired of this politically correct nonsense and decided to do something about it. The morning after the school administration’s ruling to ban the patriotic celebration, he put on his dress blue uniform, took the American Flag that hung from the front of his home and stood outside the school in protest of the school’s decision. Immediately, passing cars honked their horns and as the word spread about what their sheriff was doing, other residents grabbed their flags and joined him. Then the students rallied alongside the adults.

Then as social media sites were coming alive about the controversy, condemnation of the school administrators turned into

a nationwide avalanche of protests almost immediately. Said one Ft. Collins resident: “By the idiotic actions of this PC School Administration, a sleeping giant has awakened.” Said another: “Shame on that school board for treating these American kids like second class citizens.” Well, the next day, stunned and staggered by the fierce backlash, the school board rescinded their ban and said they regretted their mistake and will allow the patriotic celebration. But we all suspect it wasn’t really because they wanted to, but they didn’t have much of a choice. Sheriff Justin Smith, the students at Ft Collins High School and all the citizens who took a stand should be commended for refusing to lie down and take it. And this shows once again, that the bad guys and the ridiculous PC types can only win if loyal Americans allow them to.

We got an email from a reader who had a good point in regard to the importance placed on people depending on their social or financial status. She mentioned the frantic hunt by officials to find out who gave or sold the heroin to Hollywood actor Phillip Seymour Hoffman who died last week allegedly from an overdose with the hideous drug. The reader noted that local kids and young people everywhere are also becoming victims to dealers and pushers, but their deaths are taken in stride and often considered not really worthy of any legitimate push to find and arrest those dealers. Why is it, she asked, does it take the death of a rich and famous celebrity to get action while the loss of so many lesser known victims is pretty much met with a shrug? Her question is more than reasonable and deserves an answer.

The city of San Francisco is pushing a plan to distribute free ‘Crack Pipes’ to any resident there who wants one. ‘Progressive’ thinking on display at every turn in San Francisco. What else would you expect from a place that keeps voting to reelect Nancy Pelosi as their Congresswoman?

Since February is Black History month, we’ll close this week’s column with a quote from a true African American hero, former congressman and US Marine Corps Colonel, Allen West. In response to the news that

Iranian war ships are on their way to patrol US maritime waters; an ‘in your face’ move if there ever was one, and that the Obama Administration has quietly signed an order to ease the restrictions for foreigners with known terrorist ties who want to immigrate to the United States, Colonel West said the following: “Under Obama, our allies no longer trust us, our enemies no longer fear us and neither has respect for us. None of this would happen under any other American President’s watch.” Well said Colonel West.



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Walsh Announces City Hall salaries

The following top level salaries were released by the Walsh administration and posted by the Boston Herald:

\$175,000 for Mayor Martin J. Walsh

\$174,200 for Police Commissioner William Evans

\$152,000 for chief of staff Daniel Arrigg Koh

\$150,000 for Walsh's chief of operations and administration Joseph Rull

\$150,000 for the city's new corporation counsel Eugene O'Flaherty

\$125,000 for Policy Chief Joyce Linehan;

\$91,182 for Alejandra N. St. Guillen, interim director of the Mayor's Office of New Bostonians;

\$110,000 for Justin C. Holmes, the head of Information and Technology;

\$91,000 for Keith O. Williams, interim director of the Office of Small and Local Business Enterprise;

\$129,686 for James E. Gillooly, the new transportation commissioner;

\$110,000 for Public Works Commissioner Michael E. Dennehy;

\$123,624 for Health and Human Services head Felix G. Arroyo;

\$105,000 for Christopher Byner, chief of the Boston Center for Youth and Families; and

\$91,182 for Megan Costello, head of the Women's Commission.

According to the Boston Herald report, the payroll figures of Walsh's top-level appointments had been previously unavailable, with officials saying they were being "finalized" at the time of the hires. The mayor's office has now opened up the books. Salary ranges of Cabinet members, commissioners and department heads are set by city ordinance and take City Council approval to be changed.



City Council President Bill Linehan Forms Three New Special Committees

Boston City Council President Bill Linehan is proud to announce today the council's 2014-2015 Committee Chairs, the consolidation of committees, and the formation of three new special committees which will address the City of Boston's current and future needs.

The new committees will focus on Transportation, Public Infrastructure, Planning & Investment; Small Business, Entrepreneurship & Innovation; and Charter Reform. At this time in Boston the need for broad discussion on these matters is extremely important. The Boston City Council is positioned well to move these areas of concern forward.

"I'm excited to chair the Committee on Small Business, Entrepreneurship & Innovation and the Committee on Arts & Culture. These two committees represent a combination of issues to strengthen Boston's innovation economy, creative economy and neighborhood businesses. I look forward to working with my colleagues and the Mayor to streamline permitting, support arts and innovation and create pipelines to opportunity for all of Boston's residents," said At-Large City Councilor Michelle Wu.

President Linehan has also spent the

last several weeks meeting with his colleagues to discuss his priorities for moving the City of Boston forward, and each councilor's priorities and preferences regarding committee assignments. Through this inclusive process of healthy dialogue, several councilors maintained chairmanships they had held previously and others were given new assignments. President Linehan also expanded the roles of Committee Chairs and consolidated similar issues under the same committee.

"The Committee assignments reflect the strengths that each of my colleagues bring to the table," said President Linehan. "While we each bring expertise and insight to every issue, our past experiences give each councilor a unique skill set to shape policy and planning as well as improve service delivery to the people of Boston. Those skills and experiences weighed heavily on my assignments."

"I would like to commend President Linehan on the restructuring of the City Council Committees, which involved an inclusive process where all ideas were heard. Economic Development, Planning and Labor are huge priorities for my district, as well as the entire

City. I look forward to chairing this committee in 2014. In addition, I am happy to be the Vice Chair of City, Neighborhood Services & Veterans Affairs, as well as Environment & Parks working closely with Councilor McCarthy and Councilor O'Malley, respectively," said District 1 City Councilor Sal LaMattina.

The restructuring of committees and the creation of the three special committees reflect the City of Boston's evolving needs and challenges. The changes made by President Linehan are designed to further enhance the Council's work with more specificity and reciprocity.

Working together with Mayor Martin Walsh, the new structure of the City Council is in a good position to address the needs of those who live, work and visit Boston.

"It is an honor to serve as Chairman of the Boston City Council's Education Committee. I am looking forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that every student in the City of Boston, the education capital of the world, receives a world class education that will prepare them for higher education or a career," said District 7 City Councilor Tito Jackson.



Reading Between The Lines

"Our Rights"

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
Brian R. Mahoney

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

The 9-0 Supreme Court Decision decided the question or at least should have. After all, not only had both side's attorneys presented the case before the full court, but the decision itself became the 'most cited precedent' by gay pride organizers throughout the country in order to exclude unwanted groups or messages in their pride parades.

Not everyone believes in "the law of the land". For the first time since Governor George Wallace tried to block access to the University of Alabama, America witnessed another chief executive show defiance and contempt for the court. The fact is that Mayor Menino first tried to stop city services to the parade and, failing at that, refused to march. Truth be told, after the first time, he was never invited to march again and, in fact, was barred by parade officials.

There the situation rested until the Mayor's representatives according to unnamed sources actively recruited an "alternate" parade - which should shock no one. After all, this is the man who cried crocodile tears during the tragic days when South Boston passed through what became known as "suicide crisis". His solution was to build a teen center on Tide Street in the Marine Industrial Park. The Mayor received \$600,000 in city money to do that, but the center was never built and no one knows what happened to the money. Today Tide Street will be the new home for Suffolk Construction where the mayor's son has a job and further it is believed that a mayoral brother or cousin has a "timekeeper's" job? I digress.

Thankfully he's gone, but, the evil men do sometimes out lives

them. For the past four or five years this alternate parade, which is no parade of celebration, but a crew of America-haters who come not to praise, but to bury. Sadly, to give their bankrupt position cover, they have tried to disguise their motives by incorporating gay rights into the message, much like the politician who tells you it's "for the children", to disguise their schemes. There will never be a place for them.

True veterans for peace march with us every year. They are the veterans who believe in 'peace through strength', or even better 'peace through superior fire power'.

Year after year, this column has always maintained that there is a solution and it will be the good people of South Boston, striving to build a better community, who will find that solution and not some cub reporter trying to make a name, or a politician looking for a headline.

This year offers the prime example. A reporter, who received a preliminary parade application by a politician who had (and has) not one single thing to do with the parade, misquoted, twisted, and tried to manufacture some "historic" event. The truth is that it was a group simply trying to show pride in their community and the day's events. Another group, when asked by the reporter if it was a gay group, and being told no, nevertheless was labeled a "front" group or "Trojan Horse".

The Boston Globe is not the first organization to try and single out one group or race for special attention. It was tried in Europe by making certain people wear pink or yellow stars.

This might be a good time for those

advocating such a position to look deeply in the mirror. Is this really your philosophy? Do you really believe the Allied War Veterans, who literally and figuratively fought for the very right employed by parades throughout the country, do not have the benefit of that right?

I was shocked to read one local reporter who, while I rarely agree with him, knows better when it comes to these Allied Veterans to refer to some of them as being "vintage" Korean Veterans and having their "ticket punched" by

the court. Does the valor and sacrifice diminish over time? Is all they lost as young men and women lessened because they have grown older?

When they exercise their most basic rights and freedoms, will you scorn those rights as "ticket punching" because it is "vintage veterans" and not the politically correct crowd who cite them? Be careful where you tread for the ice becomes very thin at this point and we can all fall through it.

Take care till next week.

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Attorneys General From 28 States Ask FDA to Stop Zohydro

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
By Brian P. Wallace

Last week I talked about the FDA ruling to legalize a new powerful painkiller called Zohydro, over an 11-2 vote against the drug by the FDA Advisory Board. The FDA Advisory Board is made up of 13 MD's who rule on a number of points that the drug is forced to meet before being approved. One of the most important factors is the dangerous factor and the ability for abuse and addiction. Even though the 11 Doctors felt compelled to make the case to the FDA about the dangerous aspect and addictive properties of Zohydro, the FDA disregarded their advice and their lopsided vote against the drug.

There is outrage and fear all across the country as Zohydro is about to hit the streets next month. Twenty Eight attorneys general's plus the US territory of Guam all signed a letter to the FDA asking them to reconsider the legalization of Zohydro. It is an accident waiting to happen. The AGs say that this drug could start another epidemic of addiction, once it hits the street next month.

Kentucky Attorney General Jack Conway said his state has been devastated by the abuse of prescription drugs, especially oxycontin, and he feared even greater abuse from Zohydro. "The approval of this very potent drug is so troubling because unlike extended release opioids containing abuse deterrent properties, there is nothing that would prevent someone from easily crushing or injecting Zohydro," stated AG Conway.

Conway has joined attorney generals from 27 other states and the US territory of Guam in signing a letter to the FDA Commissioner Margaret Hamburg asking that the approval of Zohydro be reconsidered or that Zohydro be reformulated with chemical deterrents to prevent abuse. The attorneys generals do not want to see a repeat of the oxycontin fiasco. "Oxycontin caught us all by surprise. It entered the market without any abuse deterrent, guidelines, or how they should be prescribed," Conway stated.

Zohydro is five to ten times more potent than standard hydrocodone painkillers. The use of oxycontin became so widespread that Perdue Pharma, the makers of oxycontin, were forced to change the formula in 2010 so that the drug could not be crushed or compromised as it had been in the early 2000's. "I am glad that we are prepared this time and that some AG's across the country have sprung into action and have asked the maker of Zohydro to either take it off the market or reformulate the drug to be tamper proof," the Attorney General said.

"If Zohydro is allowed to hit the streets next month without any change made to the drug, we are going to see death, destruction and a change in the culture. You might not know the name Zohydro now, but you will in a few months if we are not successful in stopping it or changing it," Wallace stated. At least we are ahead of the curve this time and are acting rather than reacting to deaths and suicides. The FDA should be ashamed of themselves. Why have an Advisory Board of Doctors in the first place if you are not going to listen to their advice?

During the drug's trial, which every drug must undergo, two people committed suicide before and after the trial was concluded. If that doesn't tell the FDA something, then shame on them. They should be implicated in every death and every suicide. Is the FDA accountable to anyone? We know what is going to happen if we go down this same road again. Has money, once again, proven more important than lives?" Wallace asked.

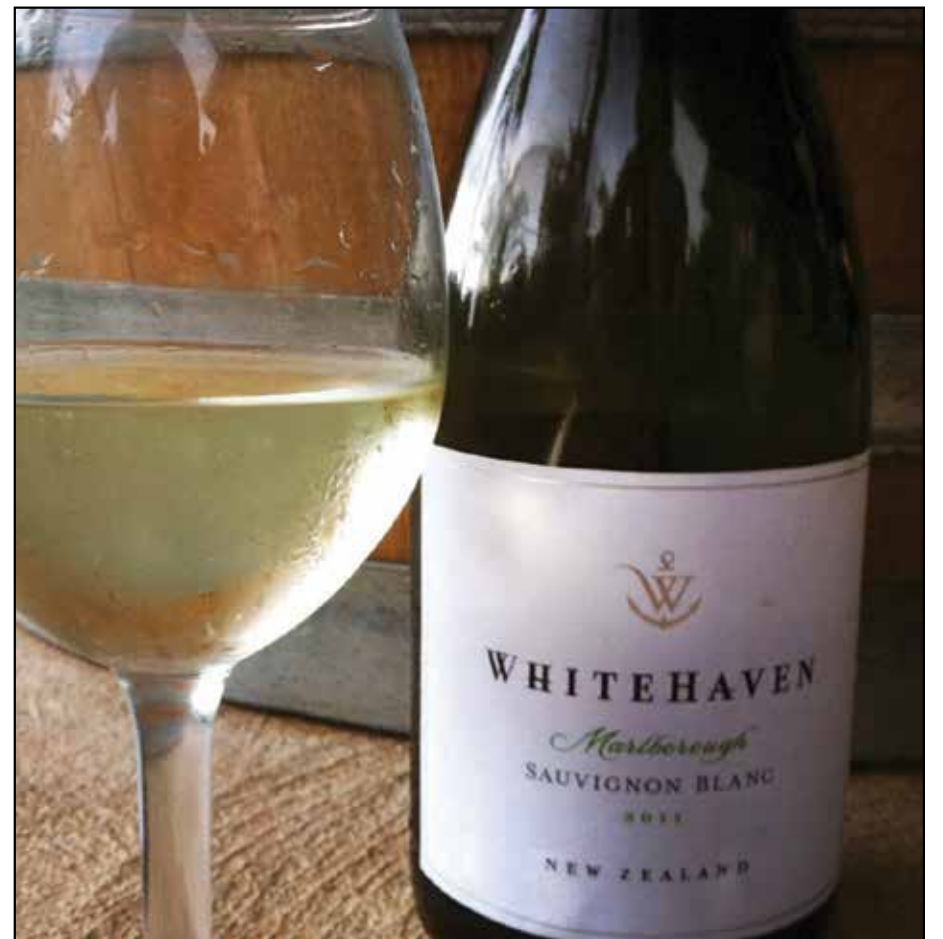
This is the second in a series of articles Brian Wallace will write to update the public on Zohydro. Brian Wallace was a four term state representative and served for four years on the Joint Committee of Substance Abuse and Mental Health. He also testified before a Congressional Committee on the effects of Oxycontin and was a member of a Blue Ribbon Commission appointed by Speaker DeLeo to hear testimony across the state on how oxycontin and heroin have affected families and communities. He has spoken all over the state on the effects of oxycontin and heroin

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE 1

Merlot and Cabernet Franc. The Merriam family are not just the owners, they and their children are all winemakers as well and I can tell you that, year in and year out, the quality, character and complexity of their wines really comes through. Try one of each and get there early.

Rioja Wines/Padilla CRT- Spain's oldest and most prominent wine region, Rioja is part of the elite group valued as the great red wine-

the realization of the White family's vision to create a respected and critically acclaimed winery. Sailing the Pacific, they set a new course for the Marlborough Sounds, dropped anchor and launched a wine label; there's usually a few members of the family to take you through their tremendous Sauvignon Blancs. Other featured restaurants owners and chefs from the greater Boston area include: Jamie Bissonnette, Toro, NYC & Boston; Tim & Nancy Cushman, O Ya, Boston, Louis



producing regions of the world. With more than 160 wineries available in the United States today, Rioja is one of only two regions in Spain to have the prized DOCa designation -- the country's highest and most stringent level of quality control and denomination of origin. You're going to taste some of the finest wine this country has to offer, possibly along with some tapas! **Whitehaven Vineyards, Marlborough, New Zealand-**Every bottle of WHITEHAVEN wine proudly carries the anchor insignia, the distinctive quality marque of one of New Zealand's most respected family wine companies. Established in 1994 in the heart of the internationally renowned Marlborough region, Whitehaven is

DiBiccari, Tavern Road, Boston, Tiffani Faison, Sweet Cheeks, Boston, Scott Jones, No.9 Park, Boston, Kristen Kish, Menton, Boston, Stephen Oxaal, B&G Oysters, Boston, Carla & Christine Pallotta, Nebo, Boston, Chris Parsons, Steel & Rye, Milton, Ana Sortun, Oleana, Cambridge Also, please take a look at the Seminars that are taking place on both days. You'll learn a lot for a reasonable price and have fun doing it; by the way, the Charity Recipient this year is the Floating Hospital for Children at Tufts Medical Center **Send your questions, comments and wine news to Jamie at WineGuy@SouthBostonToday.com**

Recent South Boston Real Estate Sales

	Price	Sale Date	Rooms	Baths	Sq Ft
945 East Broadway Land	\$3,000,000	01/17/14			
428 West Fourth St UNIT 42B Condo	\$699,000	01/31/14	5	2.5	1809
904 East Fourth Street Single Family	\$695,000	01/31/14	9	2.5	1936
615 East Sixth St UNIT 3 Condo	\$660,000	01/27/14	5	2	1300
622 East Second Street Single Family	\$631,000	01/27/14	6	3	2000
9 West Broadway UNIT 401 Condo	\$615,000	01/15/14	5	2	1130
252 West Broadway UNIT PH Condo	\$575,000	01/31/14	4	2	1650
496-498 East Third St UNIT 1 Condo	\$509,000	01/15/14	5	2.5	1600
410 East Third St UNIT 2 Condo	\$503,000	01/31/14	5	1.5	906
12 Mohawk St UNIT 1 Condo	\$495,000	01/31/14	4	2	1355
45 Vinton St UNIT 6 Condo	\$482,000	01/30/14	4	2	1207
5 Norcross Place UNIT 2 Condo	\$460,000	01/27/14	4	1	915
7 Tuckerman UNIT 2 Condo	\$460,000	01/28/14	4	2	1198
496-498 East Third St UNIT 2 Condo	\$459,000	01/15/14	4	2	950
881 East First St UNIT 101 Condo	\$421,500	01/17/14	3	1	1067
15 Swallow Street Single Family	\$390,000	01/17/14	4	1.5	1222
366 K St UNIT 2 Condo	\$360,000	01/27/14	4	1	700
64 O St UNIT 3 Condo	\$324,000	01/31/14	3	1	670
11 Dixfield St UNIT 2 Condo	\$307,500	01/30/14	3	1	500
151 G St UNIT 1 Condo	\$299,000	02/03/14	1	1	590
549 East Fourth St UNIT C-2 Condo	\$220,000	01/25/14	2	1	410

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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: Age Ain't Nuthin' But a Number

It's said that with age comes wisdom. And I couldn't agree more. As I earn each year in the progression of my life, what I learn and experience tells me more and more about how I knew nothing at an age when I thought I knew it all. In a society that currently places so much value on everything young (especially the way one looks and acts), while there is still much personal respect and reverence given to older generations, there is also a devaluation of the worthiness and worldliness of those that came up before us. And this is such a travesty, because while it can be said that youth is wasted on the young, the children are our future. But the only way to forge ahead and pave a way for oneself in this existence is to get a little help from people of different experiences. There are so many 20-somethings that give their free time to those in need because they can, want to and are encouraged to as they are seen as the obvious choice not being too far removed in years from their subjects. But there are so many 50-somethings in this community that have a wealth of knowledge AND time to share. And their age-category is just as desirable; these women and men would-be-volunteers have an empty nest and have retired. Many of the kids who need help are looking for someone older in their life not to replace/take place of but to facilitate and guide them through their educational and social needs. So no need to “act your age”: get out there and show them what you are made of!

Senior Moment

This time of the year is still new for many of us. We are only in the second full week of February and the possibilities are endless. Sure to elementary and secondary school students they're 2/3 of the way through their school

year but their need for help is ongoing, and doesn't have a start and an end date. So the call for aid can be answered. The South Boston Boys and Girls Club, located at 230 West 6th Street, is participating in a program called “Generations Incorporated” and is currently looking for help from adults 50+ years old to guide in the development of literacy abilities and strategies in young children up to the 3rd grade. “Generations Incorporated” is a branch of the “Experience Corps” which is a volunteer outlet through AARP that encourages intergenerational engagement, with its main focus on education assistance through the older age group. You are in your prime and it's prime time you give some of your best to the rest! bgcb.org/our-location/south-boston-club generationsincorporated.org aarp.org/experience-corps

Spring Chicken

With Spring “technically” only 4+ weeks away, the chance for new beginnings starts again. But why wait to feel enthusiastic about life when this weather is getting us all down? Nothing makes one feel better than giving to others because if there is anything that will help make your day a little warmer and sunnier, it's sharing what you can with those that will appreciate it. The Paraclete Academy is an after-school-hours developmental program that gives grade school into high school students help in a variety of subjects and activities. What's required of you is an open and honest respect for all who enter the center, a willingness to work with other volunteers and instructors in the advancement of the pupils and a patient and sincere work ethic. So now that you are over the hill, walk down it to the Paraclete located on E Street and sign yourself up! paraclete.org



Stepping Out: *Love Bites*



Listen, it would be anomalous of me to not write about this upcoming “holiday” that is second only to Halloween in selling the most chocolate in one week, approximately 45 million pounds. That also sums up about how much weight I think I gain as a result of eating anything in sight shaped like a heart, that has the name heart in it or coincides with the day itself (let’s be honest, any excuse is a good excuse to me). In last week’s column I made some suggestions as to where to go with the traditional ideas of V-Day gifts, and I am sure that many of you have paper cuts and sore feet as a result. I applaud your efforts, so in honor of your hard-work, how about some alternative suggestions to celebrating the hallowed day d’amour? We all need a little love too, and who better to know what to fill that void with than ourselves? And this special day is one not only to be shared with your S.O./girl/man piece but a celebration of all those who have a part of your heart. Don’t think of this as an anti-Valentine’s day piece rather a shout-out to other events that have

occurred on the 14th of February and how to celebrate them and with whom you should commemorate.

Sister Love

Life sure ain’t easy, but it has been made a little more so by those that have come before us, paving the way for women in particular to live life with a lighter load. In 1920, The League of Women Voters was established in Chicago, as a group to ensure the right of women to vote and promote more involvement in civic duties and experiences. As time progressed the mission was extended to making sure ALL persons had those same rights that the league was initially campaigning solely for women. This privilege is often taken for granted and so in honor of those before us who worked, fought and lived for others, we should do the same. Take the 14th as a day to honor the women close to you who have made sacrifices for your/others well-being and let them know how much you appreciate all they have done. In this crazy and busy world, it’s hard to take care of ourselves and our

health. Buy your mom or auntie a gift certificate for a skin treatment at Nurture and make sure they take a few minutes to themselves; they are also offering some great discounts on their services. Or get together for brunch at Franklin, catch up and rehash, but more importantly make it known how much you value each other and where you are because of that support. See if you can “borrow” your next-door neighbors or nieces and nephews or both (depending on how brave you are) and give the ‘rents a break while spending time with some little ones who make you want to strive for the best; head on up to South Boston Bowlarama and hit the pins while enjoying a pint or two of some delicious draft beer. Hey, we need a little sumpthin’-sumpthin’ too.
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Beauty is in the Eye of the Beholder

These harsh winter months have done a number on us, both inside and out. And for all the sexes, our largest organ (skin) has been

almost as exposed as our favorite (liver, duh) these past weeks. In honor of the late, great Kevin Aucoin who can claim 02/14 the date of his birth, bring out the beautiful. Check out Sarra, located where L Street turns into Summer, for some brow shaping as a way to brighten the face. Get a massage at Awaken Massage on Dorchester Street, and throw in a Reiki treatment for good measure. Schedule a body scrub at Spa Christine and bring the baby back to your skin. Take a yoga class at Radiant Yoga or a meditation session at SB Yoga. Pick up a fresh pressed juice at Bees Knees or a smoothie at Nourish Your Soul. But most importantly, remember, “Life is too short to spend hoping that the perfectly arched eyebrow or hottest new lip shade will mask an ugly heart.” –Kevin Aucoin
sarradesign.com spachristine.com beeskneessupply.com southbostonyoga.net radiantyogaboston.com nourishyoursoul.com Awaken Massage Therapy, 75 Dorchester Street



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Huge Crowd Turns Out to Wish Bill Bulger a Happy 80th

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
By John Ciccone

The 'Seapoint' last Sunday was so crowded that it was reminiscent of the days when it was called the Bayside Club and Senate President William Bulger used to host the St. Patrick's Day Breakfast there. Well, Bill Bulger was still the main attraction

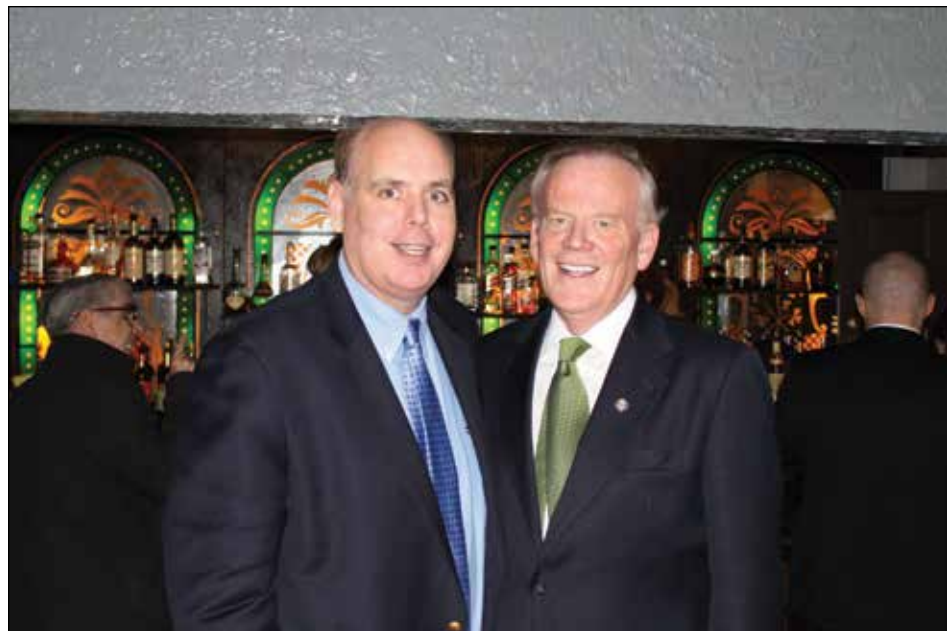
last week but this time it was to celebrate his 80th Birthday. Surrounded by his wife Mary, his children, his grandchildren and throngs of friends, neighbors and supporters of every age, the hall was jammed to capacity as a steady, nonstop flow of well-wishers and celebrants kept pouring in through the doors for four solid hours. At

several times during the party, you would have almost needed a shoe horn to fit anyone else in the room it was so crowded.

Bulger showed no sign of slowing his pace as he told jokes, greeted everyone in attendance, sang songs and moved from table to table with speed, grace and nonstop energy. He was clearly enjoying himself and it

was apparent that guests were also having a great time. The sounds of happy people laughing and truly enjoying each other's company mixed in just right with the live Irish music to make this a true celebration with a very festive atmosphere.

Bill Bulger has been on the public/political scene for many years and has an impressive number



of notable accomplishments. A veteran of the United States Army, a successful attorney, a State Rep who later moved to State Senator and then on to be Senate President and then to President of the University of Massachusetts and a professor at Boston College, he has worked hard all of his life in an official capacity. He has also been a fierce defender of the South Boston community. South Boston Today spoke with Ed Phillips at Sunday's party who not only knows Bulger by working with him during his life in public service but also as a friend and neighbor. When SBT asked Ed why he thought there was such a huge outpouring of support

for this celebration he said the following: "Bill Bulger did great things while in public office and helped many individuals and entire families alike; but there is also the other side of Bulger; the private citizen. He's a great husband, father, grandfather, brother, friend and neighbor. This is a good man and the large turnout today is one way people wanted to show their appreciation for all he has done and continues to do for so many".

Ed seems to have hit the target in his assessment of the reasons for the large crowd. Sunday was a cold winter's day. The driving was tough, mounds of snow were piled everywhere and there was little to no

parking to be had. This was the type of Sunday that most would usually stay home, keep warm and perhaps watch a game or a good movie on TV. Yet despite the conditions, the crowds trekked to the Bayside Club by car, by bus, by taxi, by Southie Shuttle and by foot; walking many blocks to join their good friend and neighbor in celebrating his birthday and to show their appreciation for all he does. Said another fan of Bill Bulger: "This was such a success, this should be an annual event for all of Bill's birthdays every year from now on. "That just might happen. By the enthusiasm of Sunday's crowd, it's plain to see that 'the music still lasts'.



South Boston to Say Farewell to Sister Evelyn

On March 25th, South Boston will be bidding farewell to Sister Evelyn; who has been serving the school children in our community for 60 years. Sister Evelyn, who marks her 80th year as a Sister of Charity of Nazareth will turn 99 years of age on March 7th and will be retiring to her 'Motherhouse' in the beautiful state of Kentucky. Sister Evelyn has taught

at the old Nazareth and St. Brigid's Schools on E. Broadway. She will be honored at a dinner reception at the South Boston Catholic Academy on March 25th. Sister Evelyn is pictured above with former Senate President and University of Massachusetts President William Bulger and Former Mayor and Ambassador to the Vatican Raymond Flynn.

Marian Manor 'Rightsizing' And Will Continue Its Great Work. Publisher's Comment

The Marian Manor, one of South Boston's oldest and most cherished institutions has been providing top quality healthcare for over 60 years. With a reduction in available Medicare funding, the 'Manor', like any other such facility, finds itself in need of making some adjustments to its operation. However, it will remain a viable healthcare provider by making these changes and still offer its 5 Star rated, top of the line nursing home care with one of the finest reputations in the nation.

There will be some 'rightsizing', but this action will serve to strengthen Marian Manor's position to enable it to continue to give excellent long and short term care. Below is a letter from Sister M Phillip Ann, the administrator at Marian Manor that will explain what changes may be necessary moving forward. Sister Phillip Ann stresses that Marian Manor will continue in its work in the community as it always has; serving patients and their families by providing them with the best of care.

February 7, 2014

Dear Editor:

The Mission of the Carmelite Sisters and Marian Manor fosters the healing ministry of Christ in Catholic health care by proclaiming the value and dignity of the Aged and Infirm and providing collaborative ways to meet the needs of today's elderly. Marian Manor is dealing with the changing landscape of Long Term Care and the financial consequences of those changes. Healthcare providers are facing multiple challenges to balance the demand for quality care, cost of providing services and dwindling resources to pay for this care. Our commitment to providing the highest quality of care to our residents as well as our commitment to our employees and the overall community of South Boston remains constant. However, due to significant reductions in healthcare



reimbursement and the new pattern of healthcare referrals to networked providers, our existing cost structure is challenged. Because of a decrease in resident census and the difficulty of operating the Home with reduced Medicaid reimbursement, we have had to make the decision to consolidate floors. We fully intend to continue to operate Marian Manor as a Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) 5 Star Rated Nursing Home. This change will simply be to relocate some of our residents to other resident rooms within our building to help improve operational efficiency and to maintain the quality of our services.

Although it is difficult for us to contemplate any change to our operation, we are committed to our position within the City of Boston as a long standing provider of health care and as a major employer in the City. We take this responsibility very seriously and any changes we make at Marian Manor will be to protect our mission of serving frail elders with the highest quality possible while providing a warm, loving work environment for our staff. We look forward to serving the needs of those in need throughout the coming years. Should you have any questions regarding this letter or if you would like to come visit our home, please feel free to contact me at 617-701-1330.

Sincerely in Carmel,
Sr. M. Philip Ann
Administrator

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Bruins Hit the Olympic Break

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY

by David Pollard

Talk back to David at DPollard@SouthBostonToday.com



The Bruins have reached the Olympic break, and after 57 games, the black and gold are right where one might expect them to be; a 37-16-4 record good for 78 points and second place in the Eastern Conference. The Bruins are 5 points behind the Pittsburgh Penguins for top spot in the East, but within the Atlantic Division, the Bruins hold a commanding 7 point lead over the second place Tampa Bay Lightning. The core of this Bruins team is still intact from last year's run to the Cup Finals. The last time the Bruins went to a Stanley Cup was the victory over the Canucks in 2011; the following season they were ousted after seven games by the Washington Capitals in round one. Whether the short run in the 2012 season was fatigue or a lack of focus due to "Cup hangover", the Bruins will need a remedy for this season.

In the offseason, following the loss to the Chicago Blackhawks in the Cup Finals, the Bruins went out and got

Jarome Iginla and Loui Eriksson. Iginla is a player with an outstanding and lengthy career with just about every statistic and accolade a hockey player could wish for, with the exception of one piece of hardware - Lord Stanley. Loui Eriksson has been cooped up in a Dallas market that doesn't live and breathe hockey the way New Englanders do. The idea behind the acquisition of the two star wingers was to bring in players that would be hungry for a championship. The message was delivered by GM Peter Chiarelli and President Cam Neely: a loss in the Finals is not a satisfactory result; it's Cup, or bust.

To this point in the season the Bruins have looked like the hard playing, hard hitting, and depth squad that fans have grown accustomed to seeing on the ice. They look poised to enter the playoffs with home-ice advantage, where the Bruins have dominated (22-6-2 at home). As always, the Bruins

have played stingy defense - they have surrendered the fewest goals in the league with 125. Their penalty kill has not been consistent since the loss of Dennis Seidenberg (out for the season with a torn MCL). On the year, the Bruins have killed 83.2% of their shorthanded situations, which is good for 10th best in the league.

The pleasant surprise this year has been the Bruins offensive production, particularly on the power play, which has always been a soft spot in their game. With the addition of Reilly Smith, Carl Soderberg, Jarome Iginla, and Loui Eriksson, the B's have a highly dynamic power play that can put the puck in the net in a variety of ways. Defensemen Torey Krug and Zdeno Chara are packing howitzers from the point, but where Chara is doing the most damage on the PP is in front of the net. Defenders cannot move the giant Slovakian, goaltenders cannot see around him, and there is not a player in

the league that can out-muscle Chara in a battle for a rebound.

With set-up guys like David Krejci, Carl Soderberg, and Patrice Bergeron setting up finishers like Krug, Chara, Iginla, Marchand and Smith - while big bodies like Zdeno Chara and Milan Lucic wreak havoc in the goal crease - it's no wonder the Bruins power play scores one out of every five times they hit the ice. The 20.2% power play conversion is 7th best in the NHL. Of course, even the best team can only go as far as their goaltender will take them. Tuukka Rask has developed into an elite goalie in the NHL, but 2014 is his first full stint in the starting role. Through the 2012 season Rask had split the net with Tim Thomas, and though he was the number one guy last season, due to a lockout, the B's only played 48 games.

Rask's numbers speak for themselves; he ranks in the top five in wins (25-13-4 on the season), top five in save percentage (.928), top 10 in goals against average (2.11), and tops in the league in shutouts (5). Rask has been tested lately, and his fatigue has come into question. He's one of five Bruins players who will not be resting over the Olympic break (the others: Chara, Bergeron, Eriksson, Krejci). This may not help the B's net-minder if fatigue does play a role. However, if Rask can elevate his game to the level he reached during last year's postseason run, we may see the black and gold back at the big dance come summer time.

The Bruins are a team built for the postseason, a team that rolls out four lines that can score goals, and a stingy defense with room for one more veteran player to support Zdeno Chara. It will be a fast and furious race to the finish for the Bruins who don't return to action as a team until February 26th against Buffalo. When the season recommences, the B's will play 24 games in 43 days - then it's time for playoff hockey in Boston for a seventh straight season.



*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 talked Celtics with Comcast SportsNet columnist Rich Levine:



DANNY PICARD: The NBA trade deadline is Feb. 20, so what happens now with Jeff Green. I had someone on this show the other day, and they pointed out that Green averages 15-16 points per game, and for a guy that averages those numbers, you look around the league, and he said that \$9 million a year for the next two years isn't that bad of a deal. But I don't look at it like that. I say that paying Jeff Green \$9 million a year for the next two years is \$9 million that you could spend elsewhere.

This is a good thing that the Celtics are looking to move him.

RICH LEVINE: Of course. I think the bigger issue is whether they're going to find someone that wants to take him. But yeah, in general, anytime you have a situation like Jeff -- you look at him, and for all you can say about his talent and what he is and what he isn't, I do not see him as part of a championship puzzle, in any sort of capacity. So that alone is enough to say, "Okay, we should probably start to draw up

a future that doesn't involve him." And if you can get something for him now that's worth it, then that's a move that you do.

DP: There was a rumor that maybe the Atlanta Hawks are interested. Is that something that intrigues you? I mean, when we bring up Jeff Green and the word "trade", are you looking to package Green with something else? Maybe with a draft pick? What would you be looking to do with Jeff Green, if you were Danny Ainge? Are you just looking to free up that salary after this year? What do you think is going to happen with him?

RL: Knowing Danny [Ainge], he'll never settle for anything but whatever he deems to be top dollar. And I think that's going to be the biggest issue in trading Rondo, especially when it comes to the Knicks. I know that rumor [Rondo to the Knicks] isn't going to go away because the Knicks don't want it to go away, but realistically, I just do not see what the Knicks could possibly offer that would please any GM, nevermind Danny Ainge. But in terms of Green, personally, I'm at the point right now where -- there's just something about him, and I don't want to compare him to Josh Beckett, but he's always so upset. And if you ever look at his instagram feed, and I know it's his own personal thing, but it's all real sad quotes about haters, and there was some Bob Marley stuff on there. he just seems like a downer. I don't feel like he's a guy who's going to come into the locker room and really inspire everyone to get better. Any GM that's willing to take a chance on Jeff Green right now -- I'm not going to flip him for just a second-round pick, but if you can

get another decent player and free up some money, I would definitely do it.

DP: To the Rondo deal, and that whole rumor that won't go away with the New York Knicks, I completely agree. There is nothing that the Knicks could give me, if I'm Danny Ainge, that would make me want to give them Rajon Rondo.

RL: No, and I guess they think that, by getting Rondo, they could potentially convince Carmelo Anthony to stick around. But I think if you're Carmelo Anthony, even if they bring in Rondo on that team, I don't know how he could possibly have any faith in that organization anymore that they would do what it would take, beyond adding Rajon Rondo, for the Knicks to compete. I think Carmelo's gone, and the Knicks are just scrambling to do anything they can to sort of temporarily keep him happy and make it seem like there's a chance that they could bring in some real talent. But at the end of the day, I really don't see that being the case. And to get back to Green, maybe look at that Houston trade again. I know Omer Asik, his contract is not great either, but he's a legitimate 7-footer. He's maybe a guy you can build around. It's fair to say that he'll be a chip next year too, and the Celtics would have that expiring deal [Asik is a free agent after next season]. The Celtics and Rockets obviously have a great relationship, and maybe they want to help each other out in some capacity. But it's going to be an exciting two weeks, that's for sure.

DP: Anytime I hear the rumors of Rondo to the Knicks, anytime I hear Knicks and Celtics in any trade rumor now, I'm going to



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think of your column a couple weeks ago, which was, don't trade Rajon Rondo to the Knicks, trade Carmelo Anthony to the Celtics. I'm all about that type of move. Because the question we have with this Celtics team every single day is, "How are they going to rebuild? How are they going to take the next step?" Everybody watched Jabari Parker play against BC last week. their mouths are watering, their eyes are lighting up. There's that, or, is there potential for this Celtics team to trade a guy like Jeff Green in a package deal with some picks, and bring in a guy like 'Melo?

RL: You present it as an "either or" situation. But they have the draft picks where they could potentially still land, this year, with a top-three pick, and then still have the assets

to make a move for a guy like Anthony. If you were going to make a trade with the Knicks, I think that the Celtics have the assets to keep Rajon Rondo, make a trade for Carmelo, and still finish with a top-three pick in this upcoming draft. So that's another reason to potentially look into Carmelo. Embiid and 'Melo [with Rondo]. That would be a decent start.

DP: Would you draft [Oklahoma State's] Marcus Smart, if you had the opportunity, or does that situation the other night with him pushing a fan, would that turn you off?

RL: That particular incident, no, I don't care. I think if you would have taken him with the third overall pick before that, you'd still take him after. If anything, I think it will make him a stronger guy and a complete,

sort of, human. Not that you can tell everything about someone from a scripted press conference, but, you get the sense that he's a good kid who just made a mistake, and I don't think that's going to be an issue.

DP: You came on this show in the past and you were really praising [Kansas center] Joel Embiid. And I think out of everybody that I've watched, the more I watch both Embiid and [Kansas guard] Andrew Wiggins, and I've seen them a handful of times now, I think I would be taking Embiid if I had the No. 1 overall pick.

RL: Oh yeah, I would too. And the fact that he's only been playing for a couple years. He has the raw skill of, and people have compared him to Hakeem Olajuwon a little bit. That seems insane, but if you

watch him and you look at the side-by-side highlights that they show of him and Olajuwon. Hakeem came up as a soccer goalie and the attributes that he used to benefit him in the game. And Embiid was a volleyball player, and you see the way he moves on the court, and his understanding of the game is just on another level, especially for a kid who has only played for two years, who is 7-feet tall, who has the touch and the finish. I think that you talk about the ceiling for him, especially in a league where you can pick the big men who are on the verge of going extinct, and I think that if you can get a great one, then you are in a great position. He's definitely the guy that I would go with.

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