

South Boston TODAY

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Quality School or more Condos?

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY

Special Commentary to SBT - Sean Monahan

Is South Boston in short supply of condos? Thousands have been developed over the last 17 years, mostly the 650-1000 square foot variety -

not much of any family housing during this time frame. I think we have more luxury condos and apartments than this town can handle already.

Is South Boston in short supply of high quality Charter Schools?

Absolutely! Young families have moved out to the suburbs in droves the last seventeen years in search of good, free education for their children. They can't afford high rents or mortgages and private education for their children. Little League Baseball has dropped from 16 teams to 6. Pop Warner Football couldn't find enough children to field an A or B team last year. When we see young couples with a young baby, rather than seeing hope for a revival of families in South Boston, those of us that run sports leagues joke that they'll likely be moving out within the year. But it's no joke.

At a recent public meeting a young father said he has two young children and if we don't get a good charter school in Southie, he's moving out. We know, we've heard that story

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Poll On
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South Boston Today



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EDITORIAL *Drivers Licenses for the ‘Undocumented’? Why?*

If a student from the state of Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Maine or for that matter any other state in the union, American citizens all, want to attend a Massachusetts state college, they must pay the full price – the out of state tuition cost. As most know, there is a lower rate for Massachusetts residents to attend these Bay State schools. It’s called ‘in-state tuition’. It’s one of the benefits or ‘perks’ of being a resident of Massachusetts. But, if a student is living here illegally, under the law now, thanks to Governor Deval Patrick and many members of our state legislature,

that illegal student gets a discount that American kids from outside of Massachusetts are not entitled to. Is this fair? The answer is no. By granting undocumented immigrants in state tuition rights, the governor and legislature have placed a burden on Mass residents by expanding the eligibility pool for the limited number of in state tuition seats and also opened the door to tuition aid/grants/financial assistance - essentially a free ride for some at the possible expense to legal residents as there is only so much funding to be shared.

Massachusetts will also now push to compound this injustice with yet another whack at legal residents

who follow the law. This state is now in a push to grant drivers licenses to undocumented persons, which will not only enable them to drive a vehicle within the law, but will also allow them to possess an official government ID. Will voting be next?

Let’s call this exactly what it is. This is the sanctioning, with reward, the act of breaking our nation’s laws. It’s not only unfair to American citizens who are expected to obey all laws, or be punished if they don’t, but it’s also a slap to the many immigrants who came to this country and this state the right way; by getting in line and

waiting their turn as the law says they must.

Studies report that the cost to Massachusetts taxpayers caused by illegal immigration is staggering. These same taxpayers will now be expected to shell out even more money if those, who are not even supposed to be here, are given driver’s licenses. No matter what organizations that advocate for illegal immigrants or politicians say in their arguments, the bottom line is that it falls to the taxpayers, who have had enough of bearing the financial burden of these efforts. When will voters finally rise up and say enough is enough?

*“You can’t stay mad at somebody who makes you laugh”
-Jay Leno*

This Week’s Poll

As the race for governor takes shape, who would you like to see in the corner office?

- Don Berwick
- Joe Avellone
- Attorney General Martha Coakley
- State Treasurer Steve Grossman
- Juliette Kayyem
- Charlie Baker

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SouthBostonTODAY PO Box 491 • South Boston, MA 02127
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Publisher
John Ciccone

Editor In Chief
Brian R. Mahoney

Managing Editor
Brian P. Wallace

info@southbostontoday.com • ads@southbostontoday.com

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Teens with Snow Shovels/Buck Never stops at This White House

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
John Ciccone

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

At the request of John Mullen and the other veterans from the Thomas F Fitzgerald Post regarding the World War II Memorial on the beach, we will make an appeal to all the concerned patriotic South Bostonians who have been leaving flowers at the memorial itself. The act of leaving those flowers is very much appreciated. It shows how much people in this neighborhood care about the sacrifices made by our war veterans. It is hoped that this practice will continue forever. The other part of the request comes in the form of asking that you return to the memorial to remove the flowers you left once they die or begin to wilt. Replace them with fresh flowers or even artificial plants if you like. But in some cases, the dying flowers are left to pile up and become an eye sore. Unfortunately, there is no maintenance of the memorial by state crews. All work and cleanup is done by the veterans themselves and often, especially this time of year, it's difficult for some of our local vets to get down there and remove the dead vegetation. So if you would, please return to remove the old flowers in a reasonable amount of time. This is a beautifully designed structure with great looking landscaping surrounding it. It's important that it remain attractive and inviting for viewers at all times. Thank you in advance for your cooperation. We hope you understand.

It's Tuesday as I write this column from home. In one ear I can hear family members giving me a list of house repairs I need to make. In the other ear I'm listening to the weather report telling us that we might get 2 more snow storms this week. In the middle of all this my doorbell rang. It was two local teens from down the street and one of their buddies lining up in advance,

potential jobs shoveling out cars and clearing sidewalks and stairs in case we get a big accumulation from either predicted approaching storm. These are good kids; we've known them since they were babies and they haul in a lot of money when it snows by clearing it with their shovels faster than some heavy equipment operators do it with a front end loader. Hard work does not faze them in the least. They even give senior discounts and will sometimes work for free if they see someone is disabled. Yes, they also have hearts of gold and neighborhood pride.

It occurred to me how this practice of squads of local kids; armed with their shovels making money clearing snow had been a familiar sight in South Boston for generations. I can remember my friends and me, as teens, doing it too many years ago. It seemed to fade out some time back but in recent years is apparently making a strong come back. I'm not really sure if this practice by local kids goes on in other towns but many residents, long time and new arrivals, are pretty happy that it's a tradition that has withstood the test of time in South Boston. If we do get a lot of snow this week and beyond and you don't feel you are up to shoveling yourself because of limited time or maybe a medical problem etc., you might want to consider giving the job to a local teen who rings your bell looking to make some extra money putting in a hard day's work. While some other sections of Boston are often plagued with kids who cause trouble and commit crimes, South Boston is fortunate to have many who prefer to channel their energy in more positive ways. As a community, we should be proud of them.

A new survey out last week found that confidence in the federal government

is dropping faster than a sky diver with 2 broken ripcords. Two thirds of Americans now say that the feds are becoming too big, too powerful and too intrusive into the private lives of American citizens and that people are becoming more dissatisfied with the job it's doing. And it's no longer just Republicans who feel this way. A growing number of Democrats are also becoming unhappy and Independent leaning voters by the millions are turning sour on Washington DC. A combination of growing tax burdens,

increased regulations, the NSA spying scandal, the Obama Administration's resistance to projects like the building of the Keystone Pipeline, which will bring our country much needed energy and jobs are all contributing factors in the growing disapproval of the feds. Let's not forget the debacle of Obamacare that's been forced on the public with virtually no input by those it's being pushed on. Add in scandals like Benghazi, Fast and Furious and the IRS targeting of groups it doesn't like

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Window Into The State House

Window Into The State House provides our readers a synopsis of important issues of interest, past and current, that are being proposed, debated or acted upon by the Massachusetts Legislature. Many issues that are not related to local city government services are acted upon and have a direct impact on daily life. They are tax policy, transportation infrastructure, judicial appointments, social services and health, as well as higher education. We will excerpt reports from the gavel-to-gavel coverage of House and Senate sessions by news sources focused on this important aspect of our lives. These sources include a look ahead at the coming week in state government and summaries and analyses of the past week, re-caps of a range of state government activity, as well as links to other news.

STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

COMMITTEE PLANS A FEB. 12 HEARING ON HEALTH CONNECTOR SITE WOES

Lawmakers plan to call Patrick administration officials before a committee on Feb. 12 to answer questions about the state's broken health insurance signup website. Health Care Financing Committee Co-chairman Sen. James Welch (D-West Springfield) told the News Service, "There are questions that need to be asked and answers that need to be given," adding that his main focus is on understanding how the state intends to achieve a functioning website that allows consumers to sign up for Affordable

Care Act-compliant insurance in time to meet deadlines. "I'm not sure we have that extra time to kind of focus on what happened and who's to blame. Not right now," Welch said. Asked if he had any concerns about the administration's handling of the website, which has generated sharp criticism, Welch said, "It's a unique situation."

— M. Norton/SHNS

MASS. RESTAURANTS, COLLEGES FACE FOOD WASTE BAN IN OCTOBER

Patrick administration officials on Friday announced final rules as part of a commercial food waste disposal ban aimed at helping the state reach its goal of reducing the

waste stream by 30 percent by 2020 and 80 percent by 2050. The disposal ban regulations will be regulated by the Department of Environmental Protection and are scheduled to take effect on Oct. 1.

Under the ban, any entity that disposes of at least one ton of organic material per week must "donate or re-purpose" the useable food and the remaining food waste will be shipped to an anaerobic digestion facility. Officials expect that food waste to be converted to energy or sent to composting or animal-feed operations. According to the state, food materials and organics account for 25 percent of the current waste stream. The ban does not apply to residential food materials or food waste from small businesses, and is expected to affect about 1,700 entities, including supermarkets, colleges, hotels, hospitals, nursing homes and restaurants.

— M. Norton/SHNS

GUN REPORT DRAWS MIXED REACTION, DeLEO SEES BILL REACHING GOVERNOR

By Andy Metzger

A task force report recommending 44 ways to lessen gun violence in Massachusetts drew a mixed reaction from the gun owners lobby and the enthusiastic endorsement of a gun control group. "I think that the committee's 44 unanimous recommendations are thoughtful and balanced, and I am most pleased," said Stop Handgun Violence founder John Rosenthal, who noted he is a gun owner.

Gun Owners Action League greeted the report with general consternation, though Executive Director Jim Wallace found some satisfaction in the recommendation to do away with Class B licenses, which allow people to carry unconcealed handguns and are much less popular than concealed carry permits. "The

Class B issue is something we're very happy with. Get rid of that because that's very confusing," said Wallace, who was disappointed overall and said GOAL was "all but left out of the process."

While gun law changes have fared poorly in Massachusetts in recent years, DeLeo said the anticipated legislation will "have probably a little bit more momentum" than in previous sessions and said the task force's appointment reflected his level of seriousness about the issue.

The task force achieved unanimity in its recommendations, which included bringing the state into compliance with a federal database law and giving police chiefs the ability to determine the "suitability" for someone seeking a firearm identification card — which allows people to own rifles and shotguns. Wallace said that recommendation is not supported by research, and both he and Rep. George Peterson, a Grafton Republican and gun owner, criticized the proposal for the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police and the Gun Control Advisory Board to develop statewide standards for "suitability" to be a licensed gun owner.

Wallace took a dim view of the task force's work. "Apparently with some of the things they talked about they still don't understand the gun laws," said Wallace. He also said it was "very disturbing" that the report didn't mention the "abject failure" of gun laws to decrease crime.

Wallace said since 1998's gun reform, gun crime has increased 300 percent, while lawful gun licenses decreased by more than 80 percent.

McDevitt said that the illegal gun markets are "small" compared to the illicit drug market, and illegal gun dealers bring in one or two dozen guns at a time for sale on the street. **[Matt Murphy contributed reporting]**

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Reading Between The Lines

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
Brian R. Mahoney

“A Little History”

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

First, an apology for last week's absence. In nearly 17 years of weekly columns this was my first miss. Right about now I make “Dallas Buyer's Club” Matthew McConaghey look like a weight lifter. One morning I woke and my rings had simply slid off my fingers. Some serious thought to a “flu shot” is in order next year. I couldn't have picked a worse time because the “silly season” is upon us, the nuts are chirping and we haven't even reached poor Valentine's Day yet. Does anyone believe in love anymore?

Having full access to our newspaper and, coincidentally, having the honor of being the 2014 Chief Marshal of the parade, perhaps it's time for a little factual history. Might not change your opinion, but at least you'll have the facts.

Some time in the late 70's, a white supremacist group with KKK ties sought to march. They were banned. A short time later this group opened an office on E and Broadway in the morning one day. Before 3:00 in the afternoon police had to form a protective shield, while they fled from an angry group of Southie residents gathered outside. In and out in less than a day. The Boston Globe must have missed that story, which is unusual since (ahem) the Globe never gets it wrong - except for that little matter of losing over a billion dollars of asset value over the last couple of years.

Historically, traditionally and culturally, South Boston supported Irish Northern Aid, earning the nickname “Ireland's 33rd county”. Pro-life sentiments are also part of that history, as is its well known fierce and continued opposition to forced busing. Yet, all of those units representing those sentiments were prohibited from marching because we are not running a protest or demonstration event, but a celebration.

Apparently the Globe's and others'

outrage depends on who is being excluded. For instance, a good friend and neighbor, who owns a place in P'town, told me that when the annual “Carnival in Summer” occurs, if there were some group demanding entry pushing a theme contrary to organizer's theme, they would not be permitted. End of story. Sounds rational and reasonable.

In 1992, a group formed a few months earlier for the specific purpose of our parade and arguably to crash it applied only weeks before the actual parade. They were named gay-lesbian, Irish, bisexuals or G.L.I.B. They were refused. Immediately, the War Council was cast as the ‘bad guys’. John “Wacko” Hurley instantly and instinctively responded. “We have always had gay marchers in our parade”.

Any units in the parade have to be either honoring the memory of the military victory, the lives lost during it and since. The second theme is an Irish Catholic Saint honoring his death and his tribulations while spreading that faith. Needless to say that wasn't good enough, so the parade was dragged into court. G.L.I.B. then marched, surrounded by riot police with another squad following in a truck. As usual, the 30-35 thousand Southie population swelled to almost one million. Fruitcakes from both sides were screaming and holding signs. Naturally, it was presented in the media as though all one million must be Southie residents.

The simplest way to view it is that a parade is like renting a hall for a wedding. It is a private event. I don't have to invite someone who desires to make the statement that the bride is a drunk and the groom is stupid and lazy. One could stand outside church or hall and yell that and you can do the same thing along the parade route. We only seek to protect our private venue, the

street and the speech we are allowing. You also get to pick the wedding singer and band.

Unfortunately no one agreed. In this bastion of free speech every single court and jurist in freedom's birthplace disagreed with that right. Well actually the great Chief Justice Nolan of the Mass. Supreme Court was overruled 4-1. Other than that, a clean sweep from top to bottom of our justice system.

The choice was easy. From the day we threw out the British we decided then no one forces or pushes us around. In 1994 the War Council, commanded

to submit, instead defied and cancelled the parade.

The U.S. Supreme Court must have missed the memo, because they agreed to hear the case resulting from the War Council's appeal. If you go back and look at the nine members and how diverse they were, it was the Liberal judges whose questions of the G.L.I.B. attorneys underscored the lack of a case. If ever a case had an easy and obvious verdict it was this and the court ruled unanimously in the War Council's favor 9-0.

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Would-Be Johns Charged after Online Stings One Defendant Allegedly “Bargained” Officers Down to \$45

operations executed by the Boston Police Human Trafficking Unit and district detectives. The first, undertaken downtown on Jan. 24, netted the following defendants, all charged with seeking sex for a fee:

1. ARLEN FOX (D.O.B. 8/28/68) of Braintree, also charged with possession of a Class E substance with intent to distribute;
2. MICHAEL HARPIN (D.O.B. 6/19/63) of Millville;
3. EUGENE IM (D.O.B. 12/16/91) of Chestnut Hill;
4. CHRISTOPHER MULLEN (D.O.B. 4/30/72) of Newton, also charged with resisting arrest;
5. CHRISTOPHER M. MUDRY (D.O.B. 9/22/62) of Lexington;
6. STEVEN PELLETIER (D.O.B. 9/28/61) of the South End;
7. JAMES PLYANT (D.O.B. 5/20/74) of Plymouth; and
8. JEFFREY SHYU (D.O.B. 8/22/80) of Brighton.

Most defendants agreed to pay \$200 or more for sex when they contacted Boston Police online, but Fox allegedly offered to pay with Gabapentin, a prescription medication sometimes used as a tranquilizer, and Im allegedly negotiated a price of just \$45.

Mullen was arraigned in the Boston Municipal Court on Jan. 28, and the remainder on Jan. 29. Mudry, Pelletier, and Shyu – who had no criminal records – resolved their cases on that date by paying \$1,000 fines and watching a video from Project TRUST about the risks associated with prostitution. Conley’s office and the state’s Interagency Human Trafficking Policy Task Force have called for a first-offender program or “john school” like those used in other states, but such a program has yet to be implemented in Massachusetts.

The remaining BMC defendants were released on their own recognizance and are due back in court on various dates between Feb. 21 and May 5.

The second operation targeted individuals seeking to trade illicit drugs for sex and was undertaken in South Boston on Jan. 31, when the following defendants were arrested for seeking sex for a fee:

VIEWED ON LEFT

1. GURU CHANDRA-SEKARAN (D.O.B. 9/17/83) of Brighton;
2. SEAN DELANEY (D.O.B. 6/7/84) of Dorchester, also charged with possession of a Class B substance for Percocet recovered at his arrest;
3. MARK FARRIS (D.O.B. 1/21/89) of Dorchester, also charged with possession of a Class B substance with intent to distribute for cocaine recovered at his arrest;
4. MICHAEL LABOSKY (D.O.B. 10/17/66) of Stowe;
5. HAROLD E. MacFARLAND, Jr. (D.O.B.

5/17/70) of Middleton, also charged with possession of a Class E substance with intent to distribute for Adderall recovered at his arrest;

6. MICHAEL J. MARINARO (D.O.B. 10/11/87) of Chelmsford, also charged with three counts of possession of a Class B substance with intent to distribute for cocaine, ecstasy, and Percocet recovered at his arrest;

7. SEAN B. MURPHY (D.O.B. 9/10/81) of Brookline, also charged with possession of a Class B substance with intent to distribute for cocaine found at his arrest;

8. JAMIE D. ROMANAK (D.O.B. 8/18/80) of Stoughton; and

9. JOHN SCANZILLO (D.O.B. 5/24/76) of South Boston, also charged with possession of a Class B substance with intent to distribute for cocaine recovered at his arrest.

Each of these defendants was arraigned Feb. 3 in South Boston Municipal Court, where all nine are due back on various dates throughout March and April.

“Research consistently shows prostitution to be linked with violence, coercion, sexual assault, and drug addiction,” Conley said. “The average age of entry into the sex trade is in the young teens. Our diversion programs for exploitation victims are nationally-recognized, but the other side of that strategy is reducing demand through stings like this one. If the physical and emotional risks associated with prostitution don’t cause would-be johns to re-think their actions, here’s another reason: the person who placed that online ad could be a Boston Police detective.”

In recent years, Boston Police have shifted from a model targeting those working as prostitutes to one that seeks to drive down demand by targeting johns. Under Conley’s leadership, Suffolk prosecutors are using the same tactic by seeking penalties that are stronger for those who buy or seek to buy sex than those with similar criminal histories who sell or seek to sell it.

In a landmark 2006 policy shift, Conley voluntarily adopted a “safe harbor” policy for prostituted youth, treating them as victims of exploitation rather than offenders; that voluntary policy was later expanded statewide in Massachusetts’ 2011 human trafficking legislation, to which Conley and Attorney General Martha Coakley contributed key language. Members of Conley’s staff also direct the Support to End Exploitation Now program, a multi-agency task force that connects young exploitation victims with a wide array of services and has twice been named a Top 50 Innovative Government Program by a Harvard University think tank.

All defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

Seven Boston men and another 11 from the suburbs have been charged with seeking sex for a fee from Boston Police detectives in an online prostitution sting, including a Boston College student who thought he bargained a woman down to \$45 and several who hoped to pay with prescription and illicit drugs, Suffolk County District Attorney Daniel F. Conley said.

The defendants were arrested during two



The More We Learn, The Less We Learn

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
By Brian P. Wallace

Late last month the US Food and Drug Administration, over the objection of its own medical advisory board, approved a drug called Zohydro. This may be the first time you have heard the word Zohydro but I can guarantee you it won't be the last. Zohydro, which is being manufactured by Zogenix is a brand new drug which is scheduled to be released in March, is five to ten times stronger than the heroin like hydrocodone. The FDA Advisory Board voted 11 to 2 against releasing Zohydro, and told the FDA, "If you approve this pill, which they did, you will surely be signing a death sentence for thousands and thousands of people, especially young kids." Avi Israel, a member of the Advisory Board who voted against the pill's release, told the FDA, "My son was 20 years old when he committed suicide after being addicted to doctor prescribed hydrocodone."

Zohydro contains a stronger

dose of its main opiod ingredient undiluted by acetaminophen which could and will lead to higher rates of abuse, which was one of the main objections from the Advisory Board. The Board also felt that the drug's manufacturer Zogenix disregarded their recommendations that opiod painkillers include a gel like plastic preventing the pills from being crushed and snorted. Two of the test subjects on Zohydro study actually committed suicide during and after the testing.

The FDA agreed that making pain killers less likely to be abused is a "Public Health Priority" One such abuse deterrent, now standard in oxycontin, involves injecting the pills with a gel so they can't be crushed or snorted. Zohydro has no such safety measures. In 2003 Rep Marty Walsh, Senator Steve Tolman and I asked Perdue Pharma, who produced oxycontin, why they couldn't produce a pill with a gel like substance to prohibit it being compromised. We never got our answer, "Wallace stated.

"The bottom line then as it is now is money, not lives. We weren't prepared fifteen years ago for the havoc that oxycontin would wreak on so many families and communities. We better be prepared now," Wallace stated.

"This is a colossal mistake on the FDA's part," stated David Jurrlink, a scientist with Sunnybrook Research Institute in Toronto. "Because Zohydro isn't tamper resistant like oxycontin is now, there is a real concern that they will be preferentially sought by people who want to abuse them. It boggles the mind how the FDA could approve this pill after seeing what oxycontin did to families and communities all across the country." The FDA later confirmed that Zohydro does not include a tamper proof component.

Zohydro is being marketed the exact same way that oxycontin was marketed to Doctors in the late 90's. Sales representatives who are pedaling Zohydro will be compensated based on the number of units they sell, as they were with

oxycontin. "Instead of learning from the failures and tragedies of the past, we are repeating them," Wallace stated. One of the 11 Doctors who voted against the release of Zohydro, stated. "I live in the real world and I certainly feel there will be quite a bit of morbidity and mortality that will result when this drug hits the streets in a few months."

This is the first 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.

New Hubway Stations Coming To South Boston's Waterfront District

The Boston Globe is reporting that South Boston's Marine Industrial Park will welcome two new Hubway stations this spring. Jamestown Properties is sponsoring the construction of two Hubway stations to be placed on Drydock Avenue near the Black Falcon Terminal. Some suggest the word 'welcome' is a misnomer.

The move comes as the debate over the city's bike program will likely resurface under Mayor Martin Walsh. Mayor Menino's

bike program garnered a great deal of criticism. Under Menino's program, bike lanes were forced onto mainly dense and high traffic roads, which resulted in some shocking deaths, since the program began. Toward the end of Menino's reign, the city's bike program, although in its infancy, was in need for some serious re-assessment.

The BMIP has its own traffic management issues with 18 wheelers and delivery trucks of all types maneuvering through

its roads and alleyways. Public safety concerns are always high on the list. Having to navigate this area with the likes of wide-eyed and often oblivious tourists and novice bike riders adds just that much more burden to the overall management of the properties and the ancillary amenities expected by the tenants. Something tells us, inexperienced bike riders are not a welcome addition, despite its 'green' connotation.

Founded in 2011, with the

advocacy of several of Menino allies, this for-profit entity has grown in many neighborhoods and locations in Boston. It has also secured locations in Brookline, Somerville and Cambridge. For now, though, it seems that there are some areas that can utilize this seasonal mode of transportation. While the South Boston waterfront district waits for upgraded public transportation options, some business owners believe the seasonal bike program will benefit the area, others do not..

CONTINUED FROM page 3

and it's plain to see why the opinions of so many more Americans are shifting to the negative.

The interview with Barack Obama with Bill O'Reilly last Super Bowl Sunday spoke volumes about the unwillingness to take responsibility. As O'Reilly pressed him on the issues of all the scandals swirling around the White House and the lack of serious action to rectify them, rather than take that responsibility and admit that mistakes


were made, Obama preferred to blame FOX News for reporting them. Our American history is filled with great US Presidents who were man enough to stand up and take the blame when they or their administrations made mistakes or made a mess of something. But this is 2014 and that noble attitude of 'The buck stops here' is certainly not on display in this White House. Instead, its blame FOX or Bush or Limbaugh or the TEA Party – anyone but Obama. Not much of a role model.

CONTINUED FROM page 5

On this matter we will continue with the rest of the facts next week. In the meantime, there were two ironies at the time of the 1995 court decision. The gay pride parade in Boston had permitted a group of about 50 gay pro-life supporters to march, however due to other participants and spectators shouting and throwing objects at them police had to surround and escort them from Boylston Street. The second irony is really the whole case in a

nutshell. A gay pride parade in Florida had a Christian group demanding to March, pray and pass out literature condemning a gay lifestyle. The gay organizers went to court and to support their decision they cited "Hurley vs. G.L.I.B" as the legal basis to exclude an unwanted group. By design or not, the veterans did what veterans always do. They fought, not just for their rights, but for your rights too.

We'll talk on this again, but Happy Valentine's Day and take care till next week.



**The Suffolk County
Sheriff's Department presents
- A town forum -**

**"DYS, DA's Office,
Probation, and Parole"**

**February, 12, 2014
6:00-8:00 PM**

**R.C.C. Media Arts Center
1234 Columbus Avenue
Roxbury Crossing, MA 02120**

Panelists include: Suffolk County DA Dan Conley,
DYS Commissioner Peter Forbes, Probation Commissioner
Ed Dolan, and Parole Board Chairman Josh Wall.

**This forum will provide insight into the roles of
DYS, the DA's Office, Probation, and Parole
in the justice system.**

Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins



All Welcome

Meat Raffle

*Saturday, February 8, 2014
at 1:00 PM*

**Martin F. McDonough Post #368
Ladie's Auxiliary
329A West Broadway
South Boston, MA**

Consolation prizes, food, money raffles, and lots of fun



Two Opticians: South Boston's State of the Art Eye Care Location

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
SBT Staff Report

It's a fact of life that most people, if not everyone, has to take some time out of their busy schedules for the purpose of their own physical maintenance. Whether it's for a medical ailment, dental work or a healthy tune-up at the gym, we need to take care of ourselves. It's the same with what's considered one of the most important parts of the human body – our eyes. You may not think that going to an optician's office could be a pleasant experience; unless of course you've been to 'Two Opticians' right here in South Boston.

If you demand professional service but on a personal level in a welcoming atmosphere, and you need some new glasses and you haven't already met the owners of Two Opticians, you are in for a nice surprise. Jim Barnes and Bernie Nania; two born and raised South Bostonians put customers at ease the minute they walk through the door at 394 W. Broadway. Whether you are a long time client or in for the first time to make a purchase, get some advice or just to browse you are greeted with a sincere and welcoming approach from these two top experts in the field that instantly make you feel comfortable because they make it plain, they are glad to see you and are there to help. This they do with absolutely no pressure. One thing they emphasize is they are not salesmen. They only want to provide you with what you need and what you want it.

A trip to Two Opticians is also an education. Any questions you have about your eyes, how best to care for them and what the best products for your particular needs are is given in an easily understood presentation. And if you want proof of the satisfaction customers get from a visit; get on the internet and go on the YELP Business site and read the glowing reviews from all the happy customers who were more than just satisfied – they were very impressed.

Now if having 2 experts in their field like Bernie Nania and Jim Barnes isn't enough to make it worth the trip to their office they are thrilled to have Dr. Rae R. Huang O.D. on site at the office as well. Dr. Rae is considered one of the best eye doctors that can be found anywhere. She too is considered to be among the top in her field, she graduated at the top of her class and helps make Two Opticians such a popular destination for the eye care needs of so many. Need an eye exam? Dr. Huang is who you'll be glad you saw.

Jim Barnes and Bernie Nania have been operating Two Opticians in South Boston for nearly 10 years. But their experience goes much farther back than that. They both worked for Gopen Optical in down town Boston, one of the best known Optical companies in the country for a combined total of over 48 years. Jim was there 30 years, Bernie for 18. They set out on their own when Gopen Optical finally shut its doors when the owner retired. It was no surprise that many of Gopen's

customers and clients followed them to South Boston. Taking from what they learned from being part of Gopen, they knew that to succeed with their own business they would need to provide the best possible service and the finest products. Their service is almost legendary. They can often make a new pair of glasses for you in a half hour or less. All glasses are made right there on site with a huge number of frames to pick from; styles to please all tastes. This is a true computerized and state of the art operation and with affordable prices.

Asked what about having their business in South Boston was most appealing, Both Jim Barnes and Bernie Nania agreed. It's like being and working at home. They are part of the neighborhood where they grew up; they work to get to know all their customers on a personal level and feel comfortable with the people;

both longtime residents as well as new arrivals. They work closely and in cooperation with the South Boston Community Health Center's eye clinic; which is right next door and even help tutor the students who train at the clinic. To say that both Barnes and Nania enjoy what they do would be an understatement. Watching them work for just a few minutes it's clear that what they do is a labor of love.

You can learn more about Two Opticians by logging on to their website at www.twoopticians.com or calling them at 617-268-9999 or by stopping in at their location at 394 W. Broadway in South Boston.

They have also partnered with the 'Southie Shuttle' to make it even more convenient to get there. Since they signed up with the 'Shuttle', the motto is "The Free Ride to good vision is at your door!" Check them out. You'll be glad you did.

The FREE ride to good vision is at your door!

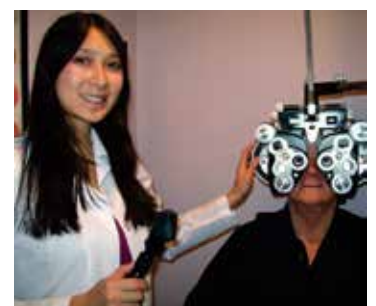
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Introducing
Dr. Rae R. Huang O.D.





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!

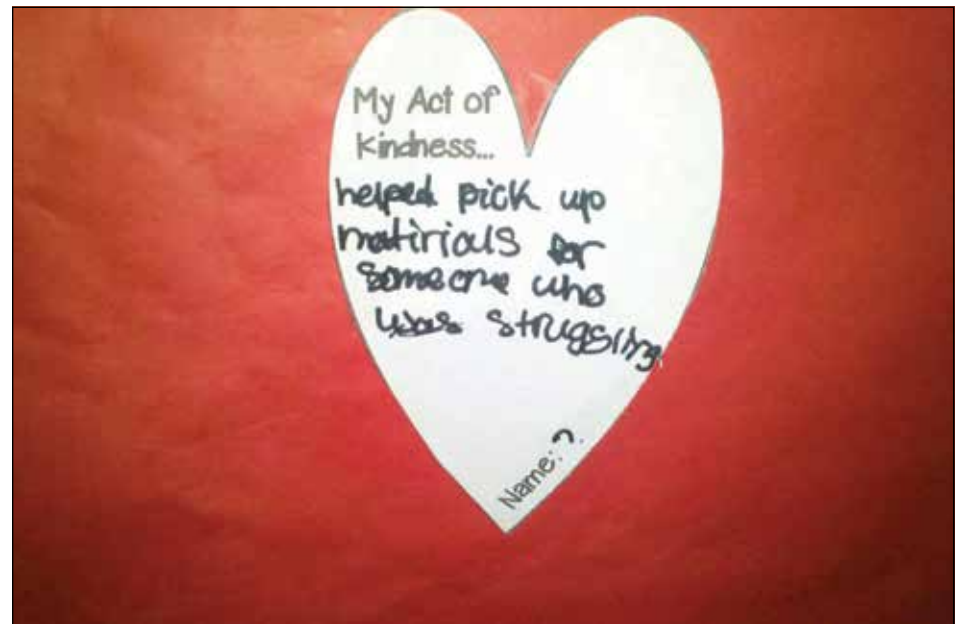
Stepping Up: Start Looking Up

February: so close, yet so far. Sure we are inching, and I mean inching (especially if you count all the snow) closer to spring. Sure Punxsutawny Phil and Ms. G saw their shadows, which indicates there are still 6 more weeks of winter, and technically that is no surprise. For many, the real truth comes on parade day: it could be a balmy 65, a hail filled windstorm or a frigid but sunny day. But this month is so hard on the psyche. January was filled with spillover from the December holidays; I celebrated with a few groups who were not able to squeeze in the kind of fun we like to have in 2013. February is much like what I call “Icky-Tuesday”, the day after the day after an “XXXday Funday”. Many times the daylight hours following a big night (or afternoon-to-night out) are better than to be expected; you have had your coconut water and ibuprofen cocktail before retiring for the evening and hit the Alka-Seltzer and water hard first thing in the am. You owned what could have been a hangover-from-hell. And then the next day hits and all that was gained will be lost. For such a short month, it can feel like forever. Ok, the sun is out for a little longer, but this hard weather is here to stay for a bit and it can keep people in the homes and going a little stir crazy. One way to channel your

energies and conjure up a sunnier disposition is to do for others. Check out a few ways you can get up, out and moving and kick those winter blues to the curb!

Drive Out the Doldrums

They say if you want something done and done right, you have to do it yourself. Writing this column has me searching for events and programs where South Boston residents can and are doing something for others, just because. But there are times when I think, probably like many of you, and see a need for something and wish someone would get it done. Well- you can. More Than Words, a program where at-risk youth are employed and engaged in running their own business to participate in community and learn valuable life skills, could use your help. They are tasked with running a café, community space and a book selling business. Their warehouse is located where West 4th St. turns into Berkley with their café in Waltham. Ways to help- donate monetarily online, gift them books that are within the guidelines of what is accepted or volunteer to work with the youth. Even better idea: hold a book drive on a weeknight at local bar. Books and beer- what's better than that? Hey, it's for a good cause right?! Give these kids a chance and do the same for you. mtwyouth.org



Heart's Afire

We could all use a little sumpthin to warm us up and not from layers we pile on ourselves these days. South Boston's Youth Ambassadors program is starting up again for the new year and one of their first tasks at hand is kicking off Random Acts of Kindness week, which is February 10-16. The SB Youth Ambassadors is a collection of SB teens, 12-15, who participate in programs that promote art, community and well-being. The impact that these young people have on our neighborhood is great and their worth is invaluable. In collaboration with South

Boston non-profit agencies, the SBYA have created a tree full of hearts; each heart contains a note inscribed with an act of kindness the author committed. The SB young adults are the very center and core of South Boston, the “heart” one might say, and their beat is felt through their dedication and diligence to the people of South Boston. If these young'uns don't motivate you to get off your couch and do something, I don't know what will! Be inspired by this event and perform some random acts of kindness for others. Who knows, maybe someone will return the favor. ihcsb.org

Stepping Out: Where's the Love?

The Hallmark Holiday is upon us. For some, it is just that; a made-up event to create commerce and tooth aches. For others, V-Day is the be-all, end-all, the apex of romance, dedication and love. For me, it's just another excuse to eat a whole bag of Hershey Kisses with Almonds because it has a holiday wrapper, so it must be consumed. Whichever way you sway, there is nothing wrong with taking the time to tell someone you love that you care for them, just not their waistline. Giving is the most rewarding feeling and the

reaction that one can get from doing so is an even greater sensation. My mom still gives us Valentine's Day cards and treats; when I open up the brown paper lunch bag, and slow myself down from eating through the wrapper of the Reese's heart, the warmth and love that comes over me is overwhelming. And no, it's not a sugar rush, it's that my mom has taken the time out of her impossibly hectic day to let me know how much I mean to her. Yes, the idea of gifting someone a card, chocolates, jewelry, dinner and/or flowers seems

so contrived. But if you choose to participate in the day of lurve, put an effort-filled and personal twist on the classic suggestions. The consideration alone should get you major points, not that anyone's keeping score. Remember: it's the thought that counts.

Cards: Find your inner Martha Stewart. Go to Ride Aid or CVS, get some glitter glue pens, colored paper, markers, etc. and get to work. Then head to the liquor store for a bottle or two. Invite a couple of

friend over and get to work. In all honesty, Martha's got some great ideas and suggestions for you whip something up for your grams, S.O. or nieces and nephews. If you live with your lovah, home make a sign sharing your adoration and proudly display it where the receiver will be able to admire it so. Grab a pic of you and the giftee and write a loving quote on the back. The person on the other end of your worship will be enamored not only with you but your efforts as well.

Chocolate: Listen, bikini season is upon us. I want tears of joy from all the sweat and sacrifice I have endured during the cold winter months when I shed my winter duds for something less. But I cannot always pass on chocolate; I just wish there was something that tasted good and is good for you. Wait- there is. Perfect Fuel Chocolate is made with raw and organic cacao and ginseng. Delicious and nutritious- who woulda thunk? It is thoughtful and considerate way to have your cake and eat it too, so to speak. And your sweetheart will love you for it! perfectfuelchocolate.com

Jewelry: Yes diamonds are a girl's best friend, well really anybody's bff. But what's personal and interesting

about a Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman open-heart necklace? Southie has some killer shops that sell great and eclectic pieces anyone would love. Habit carries gorgeous statement necklaces in bright and warming jewel tones as well as some semi-precious handmade goodies. If that special someone likes more traditional stuff, Ku De Ta has beautiful earrings and necklaces in classic shapes like hearts, stars and anchors. They also sell bracelets that you can assemble with inspirational sayings for a more personal touch. Covet has some Tiffany's baubles for sale at amazing prices. Murphy's Jewelers and Calnan's sell classic claddagh adornments for women and men. And Pretty Reckless shows some pride

with a rad State of Massachusetts necklace. Most important thing is taking the time to observe and consider the person and their style; how could you go wrong?

Flowers: Yes, there will be plenty of peeps hawking beautiful bouquets of red and pink carnations by the Iron Workers Hall and the Old Colony Ave rotary next week and if that's your bag, go for it. But if you stop by Stapleton's or Claire Ann's Flower Shop, the lovely florists will be more than willing to guide you on your botanical journey. Describe the recipient and they can whip together a sweet and special spray or suggest a plant. Bunches of buds are sure to get you bunches of love-

bites. claireannsflowershop.com
stapleton-floral.com

Dinner: Do something outside-of-the-pasta-box. Take the Southie Shuttle to Foodie's, stock up on some great seasonal veggies, scoot over to Social Wines and grab a bottle of bubbly, and swing back by American Provisions for some meat and cheese. Have a Parisian picnic in ya parlor. Craving days of yonder for some sun, sand and surf? Book a Valentine's Day dinner cruise on the Odyssey; dinner Friday or Saturday nights or a brunch on Saturday. Put on some shades and wear summery colors, sip a rum cocktail and pretend you are somewhere else. Either way- you'll be together. odysseycruises.com



Southie Senses:

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



Touch: *Snap Happy*

The Barking Crab on the South Boston Waterfront is smack-dab in the middle some crazy construction so they decided to some reconstructing themselves. A new chef with great menu additions and a new manager, ready to tantalize your taste buds with tuna Bolognese and crabby deviled eggs. Check them out and ring in their 20th anniversary together. barkingcrab.com



See: *Presence*

This weekend is your last chance to see Scott Caan's Two Wrongs at the Brown Box Theater in Fort Point, located at 290 Congress Street. An interesting story about love and life, it may give some insight into where you can go right, wrong or indifferent. brownboxtheatre.org/2wrongs



Taste: *Nothing Tastes Better Than Free*

The Stadium is having a Sam Adams promotion this Friday 02/07 from 9-10:30pm, with free samples and some SA loot. They are even selling \$2 Jell-O shots; what?!?!? Or head on down to Barlow's on A Street and check out their Mount Gay Rum's Black Barrel promotion with giveaways. Light on the lips and the wallet. barlowsrestaurant.com. stadiumbars.com



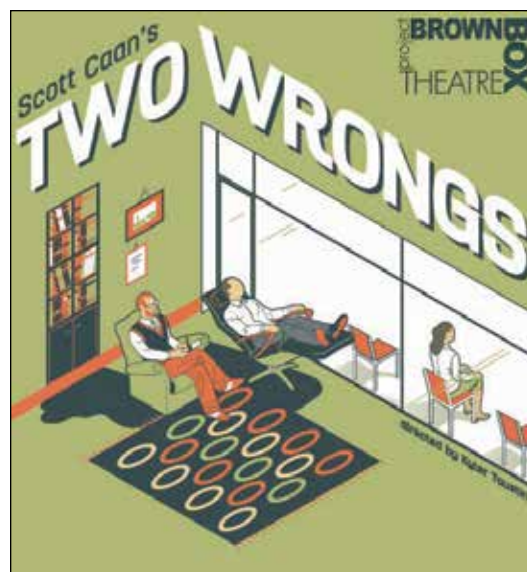
Smell: *Rotten Eggs*

This Saturday February 8th is Family Design Day at the BSA Space on Congress Street. The theme: Boston Egg Drop. For \$8 a person, groups are encouraged to build a structure to keep their egg safe from a 12-foot drop. This is to encourage people to work side-by-side, teamwork and learning about the fundamentals of design. Don't put all your eggs in one basket. architects.org



Hear: *The Roar of the Ocean and the Plane Engine A Revvin'*

This weekend is the Boston Globe Travel Show at the Seaport World Trade Center, Friday 02/07 through Sunday 02/09. Forget the travel show and great deals. there are plenty of other activities. Shows, things to do for the kiddies, culinary demos, a craft beer showcase, you name it. Even if you don't book something, at least you can escape for a little while. bostonglobetravelshow.com





Pictured from L to R: Massport CEO Tom Glynn, Rep. Nick Collins, Mayor Martin Walsh, John Drew, City Council President Bill Linehan, Sen. Linda Dorcea-Forry.

South Boston Waterside Place Grand Opening

Area leaders joined John Drew and the Drew Company last week for the grand opening and ribbon-cutting for its newest Hub-based rental residence, Waterside Place. The 500,000 square foot mixed-use

building is located at the intersection of Summer, D and Congress streets and features 236 residential units, 20 stories, 140 parking spaces and will include a 7,000sf innovation center and 10,000sf of retail space.



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Recent South Boston Real Estate Sales

| | Price | Sale Date | Rooms | Baths | Sq Ft |
|---|-------------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|
| 945 East Broadway Land | \$3,000,000 | 01/17/14 | | | 29185 |
| 69-73 Telegraph St UNIT 401 Condo | \$887,500 | 01/14/14 | 4 | 2 | 1575 |
| 428 West Fourth St UNIT 428 Condo | \$699,000 | 01/31/14 | 5 | 2.5 | 1809 |
| 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 |
| 496-498 East Third St UNIT 1 Condo | \$509,000 | 01/15/14 | 5 | 2.5 | 1600 |
| 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 |
| 45 Vinton St UNIT 6 Condo | \$428,000 | 01/30/14 | 4 | 2 | 1207 |
| 881 East First 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 |
| 11 Dixfield St UNIT 2 Condo | \$307,500 | 01/30/14 | 3 | 1 | 500 |
| 549 East Fourth St UNIT C-2 Condo | \$220,000 | 01/25/14 | 2 | 1 | 410 |

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Sunday

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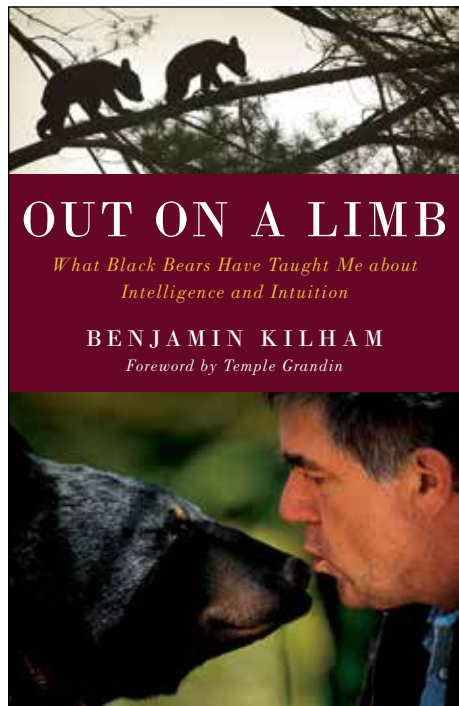
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Book Review



‘Out on a Limb’ *‘What Black Bears have taught me about Intelligence and Intuition’* -By Benjamin Kilham

As most of our readers know, SouthBostonToday, as part of our ‘Arts and Entertainment’ coverage will occasionally include a book review, when we think there is one or more that truly stands out and would make interesting reading for most people. This week, we are happy to review ‘OUT ON A LIMB’ by author BENJAMIN KILHAM. If you like true wildlife adventure and enjoy learning new things about animals and their relationships with humans, in this case Black Bears, SBT strongly recommends this book. We doubt you’ll be disappointed.

When many Americans, especially those who were born and raised in cities, think of bears, they tend to put them into the same category as some of the most ferocious carnivores and predators on the planet. Lions, tigers, bears - they are all pretty much the same. If in their territory, they might stalk, kill and eat humans as part of their natural routine. But that’s not the case at all; especially when talking about the north east black bears that inhabit the forests of Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont in large numbers.

Author Benjamin Kilham, with his latest book ‘Out on a Limb’ takes his readers on an adventure into the lives of these bears, where he shows us that these magnificent creatures, though large and powerful, are actually quite gentle and intelligent

and would much rather avoid human contact and are not threatening.

Kilham is a noted wildlife expert, who lives and works in the area of Lyme, New Hampshire close to the area of the White Mountains, where the black bear population is thriving. He is a state licensed bear researcher. His vast knowledge and experience about bears and other wildlife is so well known and respected that New Hampshire state wildlife officials actually bring abandoned bear cubs to him for the purposes of not just studying them, but also to do a type of rehab, where he actually prepares these young cubs to reenter the wild with the ability to survive. In short, Benjamin Kilham teaches these young bears to be bears in the absence of the mothers that abandoned them. As any animal expert will confirm, this is no easy task.

In *Out on a Limb*, Mr. Kilham shares with his readers the experiences he has with many such bears and how he has actually been accepted by ‘bear society’. He can approach wild bears he has acquainted himself with and walk among them as a friend. They don’t fear him, they are not hostile to him; in fact, it’s almost like the more they get to know him, the more he is actually treated like he is family. They enjoy his company. And not only does he spend time with them in their own environment; in the woods, but he also has young cubs stay in his

home with him and family members in a specially set aside area.

Bear society was mentioned above. Kilham’s book shows us that bears are a lot like humans in the sense that, according to his research and experience he says “ they form alliances with strangers, they make calculations about relative costs and benefits, and they lay down rules and punish those who break them. They communicate using equal parts emotion, intention and dependence on context – a combination that is essential for communication between strangers and in fact forms the basis for language.”

Out on a Limb is so well written that as you turn the pages, you seem like you are walking with the author deep in the woods and you are standing right there with him as he interacts with bears of all sizes and ages. You can almost hear the sounds and smell the scents and see the beauty of the forest. You can pretty much feel and experience the bond he shares with them as they exchange gestures and verbal greetings. You get to know the characteristics of the individual bears as well as the names that Kilham has given to them. Each bear has its own distinct personality and you soon become almost as familiar with them as Kilham himself. And the best part is, this is no Disney story of fable. This is true life as

lived by the author and it goes on each and every day.

Elizabeth Marshall Thomas, another renowned author said of *Out on a Limb*, “This book is surely the most insightful book about animals written in the last one hundred years. Kilham’s observations of black bears is the best ever done, his data are flawless, and these attributes have created a landmark of science that as far as I know has not been equaled with any other species. And if that’s not enough, it’s also a page turner and a must read. It left me breathless.”

Out On A Limb is a book that has already received much praise from other reviewers, publishers and authors, as well as the many readers who have enjoyed getting lost within its pages. It’s that good. Along with the written pages themselves, there is excellent color photography by Mary Holland and Lauren Gesswien. Among some of the fine locations this book is on sale at are Porter Sq. Books in Cambridge, The Concord Book Shop in Concord and at the Harvard Book Store. They can also be ordered online at www.benkilham.com.

Whether getting one for yourself or as a gift for someone special, anyone who enjoys getting lost in a book about the great outdoors for an adventure, and learning some fascinating facts about these beautiful black bears, SBT is pretty sure this will be a book that will be a perfect fit.

The Wine Guy

REACH FOR SOME VALUE SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
Jamie Driscoll



Well, the presents have been opened (and some returned), the New Years' toasts have been and some resolutions have been broken already; the bills are coming in and with them, the realization that it's February-and a lot of us are looking for values.

So, for today's column, I want to offer you a list of nice wines at great prices; I'm not going to go into details about characteristics, but instead, recommend some wines that I think will lift your spirits without lifting any credit card balances too much more:

2011 Bliss Cabernet Sauvignon, Mendocino, - (~\$13.00)- Nice balance, good body and finish, great wine for the money.

2012 Ventana Chardonnay, Monterey, (~\$14.00)-The fruit and floral notes will pleasantly surprise you, as will the overall structure of this little gem from

Monterey, California's Arroyo Seco area.

2010 Jade Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon, (~\$12.00)- This is definitely a lot of wine for a little money! Based in Napa, it's a blend of 67% Napa and 33% Lake County cab juice and it really delivers great tastes and aromas, especially when paired with red meats, strong cheese or friends and family!

2010 Casa Do Santar, Vinho Tinto, (~\$13.00)- This red wine, crafted from Portugal's predominant red grape, Touriga Nacional, is one of the big reasons why this country is rapidly becoming the top value spot in Europe. Big, big wine for the money, you can really enjoy it with a Sunday roast or some Stuffed Mushrooms and Stilton cheese.

2011 Leese-Fitch Pinot Noir, California, (~\$12.00)- Crafted by members of the famed

Sebastiani family, this Pinot Noir has the balance, structure and finish you'd expect from a more expensive wine. Mia and August Sebastiani have used their extensive network of growers to blend a great wine at an even greater price. Try it with Lamb or hot Turkey sandwiches.

2012 Charles Smith Riesling, Kung Fu Girl, Washington, (~\$12.00)-Green apples and lime/citrus flavors give this wine a nice finish and a pleasant acidity. As the name suggests, it's great with Chinese/Thai food and Pork dishes.

Well, hopefully, this will give you some options to pleasantly (and frugally) get you through the short days and long winter nights.

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





CONTINUED FROM front page 1

a thousand times from our friends who now live in Milton, Braintree and Quincy. Families have moved out, replaced by young, single professionals.

So why does the Archdiocese insist on changing the zoning in one of their buildings from a school to more condos, despite being against their own best financial interest? Despite being against the best interest (and wishes) of most of their neighbors, the parish and the City? The Archdiocese wants Gate of Heaven to be the latest Southie school converted to luxury residences along with St. Peter School, the Choate Burnham, the Hart, the Benjamin Dean, the Tuckerman, Cardinal Cushing, Saint Augustine and the Bigelow.

Relief from zoning: Most property owners petition to

change the zoning of their property to make it more valuable. The Boston Archdiocese has been adamant in greatly reducing the value of the Gate of Heaven School, which has a great value and demand as a school—not so much as a residential building. The historic designation of the school limits what a developer can do. It makes it expensive to develop, therefore, less valuable. There is however, a great demand for school buildings, so much so that the Church can net far more leasing the building for 10 years rather than selling it outright. The recent, failed bid of the last bidder was only 5.2 million, the current developer-to-be was not at liberty to say how much his offer was, but it doesn't make sense that they would bid higher or even the same—the church is obviously, not in a good bargaining position.

Charter School Options: The Boston Green Academy (currently in the South Boston Education Complex) would have loved to stay in South Boston adding a middle school to the current high school. With their agreement with Vertex Pharmaceuticals for use of their labs, internships and partnerships with students on their science fairs exhibitions, along with other partnerships with businesses on the waterfront, it made sense to stay in South Boston and were willing the last two years to lease that building. The church could have collected well over \$1 million leasing to the Green Academy the last two years. The Archdiocese does not have a middle school or high school in South Boston. Unable to wait any longer to open their middle school, the Green Academy will open their new middle school along with their high school two blocks down from the old Mount Saint Joseph's Girls High School, now St. Joseph Preparatory High School—the results of the merger of two of the few remaining Catholic High Schools in Boston. So the Catholic Church turned down millions, not to lease to a school that in no way competed with one of their own schools. Now the Green Academy must be seen as a threat to St. Joseph's, just a 4 minute walk away, free tuition and starts in the 6th grade. That's a lose-lose situation for the Archdiocese.


The Conservatory Lab Charter School: The latest charter school in immediate need for space and interested in the Gate of Heaven building, is the Conservatory Lab Charter School. Check out their website or talk to parents or uncles of their students and tell me you wouldn't love to have your child go to a great school like that and not pay a dime for tuition. They need a building ASAP and would love to lease Gatey. If that young father at that community meeting got his kids in this school, he would stay, and so would many other families.

Church doesn't sell or lease


to public schools: The Boston Archdiocese, unlike all the other Archdioceses in the state, has a policy that they will not sell or lease to charter or public schools with the thought that they'll compete with their schools. As we've seen with the Boston Green Academy, that policy has no effect in stopping these charter schools from existing or growing. But is it even true? It turns out that the Conservatory Lab is currently renting from St. Columbkille's in Brighton. Saint Anne's in Quincy is now a public school. Cristo Rey Boston High School is in the old Saint Williams School. Prospect Hill Academy Charter School in Cambridge pays rent to Saint Mary's. So why not in Southie?

The Good Neighbor: In regards to developing the school, the church has said that they want to be a good neighbor and they want to put the Gate of Heaven parish in a financial position to celebrate its 200th birthday in 2112. They have proven to be a poor neighbor and insist of ridding the parish of its only hope for a steady, substantial revenue stream that can provide funds to maintain that tremendous building for decades. A group of us, along with our elected officials went out to Braintree to plead with the Chancellor. There have been 4 public meetings on the subject of zoning, one by the mayor's office, two by the Gate of Heaven Civic Association and one by the BRA—the church has not sent a representative to any of them, despite asking (or demanding) for a zoning change that would drastically effect the neighborhood. They would have heard the overwhelming support for a school and against more condos. In the last two years, we have sent them a petition with their neighbor's signatures, a letter from the civic group and a letter to the editor. The church has not responded in close to two years. I called the Cardinal's secretary and asked if they intended to respond at all. He

CONTINUED ON page 18



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Math Olympics off to a Successful Start

On Tuesday February 4th, the South Boston Leadership Initiative and instructor Patrick O'Brien held their first informational session for the Math Olympics Program. "We are looking forward to getting the program up and running, as there is a collective eagerness to get started. The participants are going to be exposed to the type of advanced Math problems that they wouldn't normally get in school, especially in a fun team environment. The Math Olympics promotes students to work on Math problems from a different angle,

and is intended not to imitate a regular classroom setting."

The Math Olympians were introduced to the schedule, the competition, and the type of critical thinking that we will lead to success within the program.

The Math Olympics still has some openings, although space is limited. The program is free and open to all South Boston residents in grades 4-8.

To sign up or find out more information, please go to the South Boston Leadership Initiative's website at: www.southbostonleadership.org.



St. Peter Academy News

Thanks in part to a grant from the South Boston Neighborhood Development Corporation, last Friday's art class was not the typical art class. Our art teacher, Jocelyn Brown, and her dad worked with the middle school students to build a moveable partition separating the art area from

the rest of the cafeteria. By building this wall, students in the art area can focus more on their artwork without being distracted by the hustle and bustle of the cafeteria. The partition will also be used to display artwork that the students create.

Mr. Brown, a carpenter by trade,

1. Lukas learns the tricks of the trade from Mr. Brown. 2. Kaliegh and Nathan, carpenters in the making.

came to school equipped with drills, safety glasses and other materials needed to complete the project. The students enjoyed working with their hands in a different way. They learned how to measure and place the hinges and to drill and hammer holes into the doors. The doors were then

hinged together and anchored to the wall. In the upcoming weeks the students in Grades 4 & 5 will prime and paint the partition to match the cafeteria walls. A big thanks goes out to Mr. Brown for taking time out of his day to help the students at St. Peter Academy with this project.

Ed Flynn Guest Speaker on Veteran's Issues



Recently retired U.S. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Edward Flynn discussed veteran's issues and concerns at the Foley Apartments in South Boston on Tuesday. "When a veteran serves on active duty, their family also serves," said Flynn. "These military families had to make sacrifices when their loved ones were serving overseas.

The American people and our leaders must know the unique challenges facing our veterans and to support them and their families. We also need to know that these programs are available to veterans, especially those veterans that are experiencing physical and mental health related issues."

Flynn served 25 years in the

U.S. Navy and is now the Junior Vice Commander of the Thomas J. Fitzgerald Post VFW #561 of South Boston and a member of the Disabled American Veterans. Flynn was invited by the task force to their monthly meeting and assisted the residents with specific concerns and issues relating to veterans programs and concerns.



Brigadier General (RET) Jack Hammond, Executive Director of Home Base; Megan Sievers, Director of Veterans United Foundation; and Jim Brett, President of the New England Council and Advisory Board Member of Home Base.

Helping Our Veterans

The largest nationwide lender of veteran home loans, Veterans United Home Loans, presented a \$100,000 gift to the Boston Red Sox Foundation and Massachusetts General Hospital Home Base Program in support of the organization's work to help returning Iraq and Afghanistan veterans and their families recover from post-traumatic stress and traumatic brain injury – the invisible wounds of war.

CONTINUED FROM page 16

sent a letter acknowledging that he received our letter. Thanks, but not very neighborly. As Howie Carr would say, when the phone didn't ring, I knew it was the Archdiocese.

Enough is enough: The church sold the rectory and hall to developers that have built 15 units in the rectory site and are now adding another 24 units where the hall was. They then asked to change the school zoning for Assisted Living and the neighbors and civic group supported that. The financing fell through and then another developer came along and wanted to make it residential and the neighbors rejected it. The neighbors have been more than reasonable to the church, but when neighbors heard, there was an option to lease the building as a school where the church would retain the parking at nights and weekends and the parish would thrive on the income for both the school and parking revenue indefinitely, there was near unanimous support to leave it zoned as a school. The latest developer wants 30-32 units in the school-so that's 69 units added in one quarter of one city block-that's too much to ask of the neighbors.

The Archdiocese's Point of View: It's hard to tell what the Archdiocese's position is. There's nothing in the weekly bulletin about the property and nothing on the website. Only a select few parishioners were called at the last minute and

invited to the latest zoning meeting from the parish. Financial reports are few and far between. They're asking a lot from their neighbors but will not meet with them, will not respond to our elected officials or civic group and they keep their parishioners in the dark about their own parish property. The Cardinal's call for transparency has yet to reach Gate of Heaven.

I'd like to hear from the Archdiocese. Maybe they can explain to their parishioners why it's in their best interest to let go of its next to last asset at a fraction of its worth, and have no income stream to maintain that beautiful church. They might be able to explain to their neighbors that despite their refusal to meet with them or hear their concerns, that is not a sign of disrespect. That the 39 new units the neighbors have absorbed on their block is not enough and they ought to let the Church add another 30 and somehow this will not negatively affect their way of life. Maybe they can convince us that having an outstanding, free charter school in the middle of South Boston is not what we need to stem the flight of families with young children away from Southie. Maybe we shouldn't care if that young man with the two young children moves to the South Shore. Maybe we're better off with more expensive condos. Convince me.

I wait to hear from the Archdiocese, but when the phone doesn't ring.....



Mayor Walsh joined Ken Casey of the Dropkick Murphys to visit the Cushing House and present a \$15,000 check to the Gavin Foundation, on behalf of The Claddagh Fund.

Mayor Martin Walsh, Ken Casey and Gavin Foundation and CEO John McGahan



What Does ‘South Boston Grows’ Have That Al Gore Doesn’t? CREDIBILITY!

This winter, like many of the last few, has been consistently cold and with consistent amounts of snow. If Al Gore was successful in his since discredited propaganda about the future of our planet and the imminent impact of climate change, he would have us believing that the entire South Boston Waterfront district would be under water, if not now, shortly. On the contrary, investors are pumping millions of dollars into the SB Waterfront, despite Gore’s prophecy.

Often referred to as a carbon billionaire, Gore has made a fortune from his advocacy of a global warming

crisis. While Gore hasn’t been around much lately, since he sold his television network, Current TV to Al Jazeera, the Qatar State –owned news network owned by the emir of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani. (Incidentally, isn’t there something a bit troubling about a former US Vice President selling a news network to a country in the Middle East that is a member of OPEC and considered the largest supplier of oil in the world? My country ‘tis of thee...)

Regardless, and more to the point, while Gore’s toxic persona has clouded the debate on climate change issues, the great thing about our

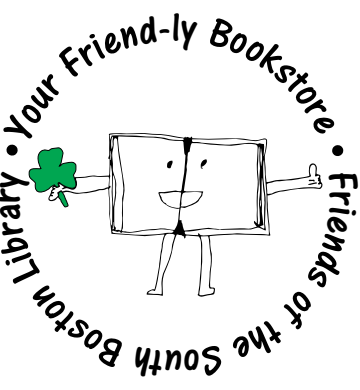
small community of South Boston is that rather than get overwhelmed by the ideology of it all, we are lucky enough to have active, conscientious and credible people, who actually get things done because it is a good idea and has direct benefit to an appreciative neighborhood. In this case it is South Boston Grows.

The mission of this organization is “to improve community green space and to increase knowledge of growing edible plants with the long term goal of increasing access and exposure to and intake of fresh fruits, vegetables and herbs in South Boston.” <http://www.bostongrows.org/>

While political, scientific, economic and spiritual leaders debate the elements of a sustainable world and try to balance the economic impact of carbon credits, clean energy, ozone depletion and the like, isn’t it nice to know that watching what we eat and changing our behavior is just as important to sustaining life as the unresolved issues that have on the agenda of the World Economic Forum in Davos for who knows how many years now.

South Boston Grows – Eat Right and Live Longer – in spite of Al Gore.

Learn more about South Boston Grows at <https://www.facebook.com/southboston.grows>



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The occasion of an ECAC Division 2 Women's Ice Hockey League game between UMass-Boston and Saint Michaels College presents the opportunity to recognize the Youth Hockey programs of both South Boston and Dorchester. The 2013-2014 Captains of both the Men's and Women's Ice Hockey Teams of St. Michael's College in Colechester Vermont are Kevin "Buddy" Lampron and Olivia Collins respectively, both products of local youth hockey programs.

Buddy Lampron, who played Dorchester Youth Hockey and has family active in South Boston sports, played high school hockey at Catholic Memorial High School, playing for legendary coach and South Boston native Bill Hanson and graduating in 2009. Buddy then went on to play junior hockey for the Bridgewater Bandits of the Eastern Junior Hockey League before attending Saint Mikes. Buddy is majoring in Business Administration.

Olivia Collins, a South Boston Youth Hockey alumna, attended the Boston Latin School where she played under the tutelage of coaches and South Boston natives Marty McDonough, Mary Balaconis and fellow BLS alumna Catherine Foley. At BLS, she was elected captain of the hockey team and senior class vice president, graduating in 2010. She also played for the East Coast Wizards and Charles River Select Programs. Olivia is majoring in Economics with a minor in Accounting.

The St. Mikes Men's program is a member of the Northeast-10 Conference with a schedule of teams including Skidmore, Amherst, Babson, Middlebury, Southern Maine and Castleton. The Women's program is a member of the ECAC and includes a schedule of teams including St. Anselm's, Manhattanville, Holy Cross, Sacred Heart, Norwich and Nichols.

Although the UMass women prevailed on January 25, the rivalry has been very competitive over the years. South Boston and Dorchester Youth Hockey programs can take pride in not only their development of skilled hockey players, but also their development of outstanding young leaders, who will go on to become productive and involved citizens.

Gate of Heaven CYO League Standings

C
Y
O

| Boys Cadet League | Won | Loss |
|---------------------|-----|------|
| Jack McDonough Club | 8 | 3 |
| Metro Energy | 7 | 4 |
| P.S. Deli | 5 | 6 |
| Nick Collins Club | 2 | 9 |

| Boys Midget League | Won | Loss |
|---------------------|-----|------|
| Mt. Washington Bank | 6 | 1 |
| Dennis Donovan Club | 6 | 2 |
| Ryan Club | 2 | 5 |
| Blasi's Café | 2 | 5 |
| John Connolly Club | 1 | 6 |

| Girls Cadet League | Won | Loss |
|-----------------------|-----|------|
| Hoop Dee Doo | 8 | 1 |
| Doubleparkedfilms.com | 4 | 5 |
| Olson/Caputo Club | 4 | 5 |
| Kelly Collins Club | 2 | 7 |

Travel Teams -

| Boys | Won | Loss |
|-------------------------------------|-----|------|
| 3rd Grade – Sister Pat Club | 0 | 13 |
| 4th Grade – Boston Home Inspectors | 4 | 10 |
| 5th Grade – Massport | 4 | 8 |
| 6th Grade – Seaport Realty Group | 7 | 3 |
| 7th Grade – Joey Evans Club | 2 | 10 |
| 8th Grade – Bill Linehan Club | 7 | 5 |
| 9th Grade – Iron Worker Local #7 | 9 | 0 |
| 10th Grade – O'Brien's Funeral Home | 10 | 2 |
| 9th & 10th Grade | 0 | 12 |
| 11th & 12th Grade | 6 | 8 |
| 18 & Under | 2 | 9 |

| Girls | Won | Loss |
|-----------------|-----|------|
| 5th & 6th Grade | 3 | 6 |
| 7th & 8th Grade | 5 | 6 |
| High School | 7 | 4 |



Not So Super Bowl for Denver

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY

by David Pollard

Talk back to David at DPollard@SouthBostonToday.com

For two weeks prior to Sunday's Super Bowl match between the Denver Broncos and the Seattle Seahawks, the hype was focused on the best offense facing off against the best defense in the NFL. What was set to be a tight match pinning strength against strength turned ugly in a hurry for the Broncos. The first drive of the game resulted in a botched snap over Peyton Manning's head for a Seattle safety. Though it happened less than one minute into the game, it set the tone for what would be an abysmal performance by the AFC's number one seed.

Following the safety, the Denver offense took one hit after another. Peyton Manning would throw two interceptions, one for a pick-six, and Denver would turn the ball over four times in total. The Broncos special teams would allow Percy Harvin to return a kickoff to open up the 2nd half. The Broncos defense could not produce a turnover and Russell Wilson would throw two touchdowns and no interceptions.

It comes down to coaching, and preparation for the big moment. From the very get-go, the Seattle Seahawks smothered the Broncos receivers. Peyton Manning, usually able to release the ball faster than any other quarterback, was forced to hold on to the football longer than he wanted in the pocket - this forced the two interceptions he threw to Kam Chancellor and Super Bowl MVP Malcolm Smith. Denver was down 22-0 at halftime - following Harvin's kickoff return for a touchdown, the Broncos seemed to realize their Super Bowl hopes had ended. Though the game ended 43-8, the game was over when Harvin returned that kickoff, if not sooner.

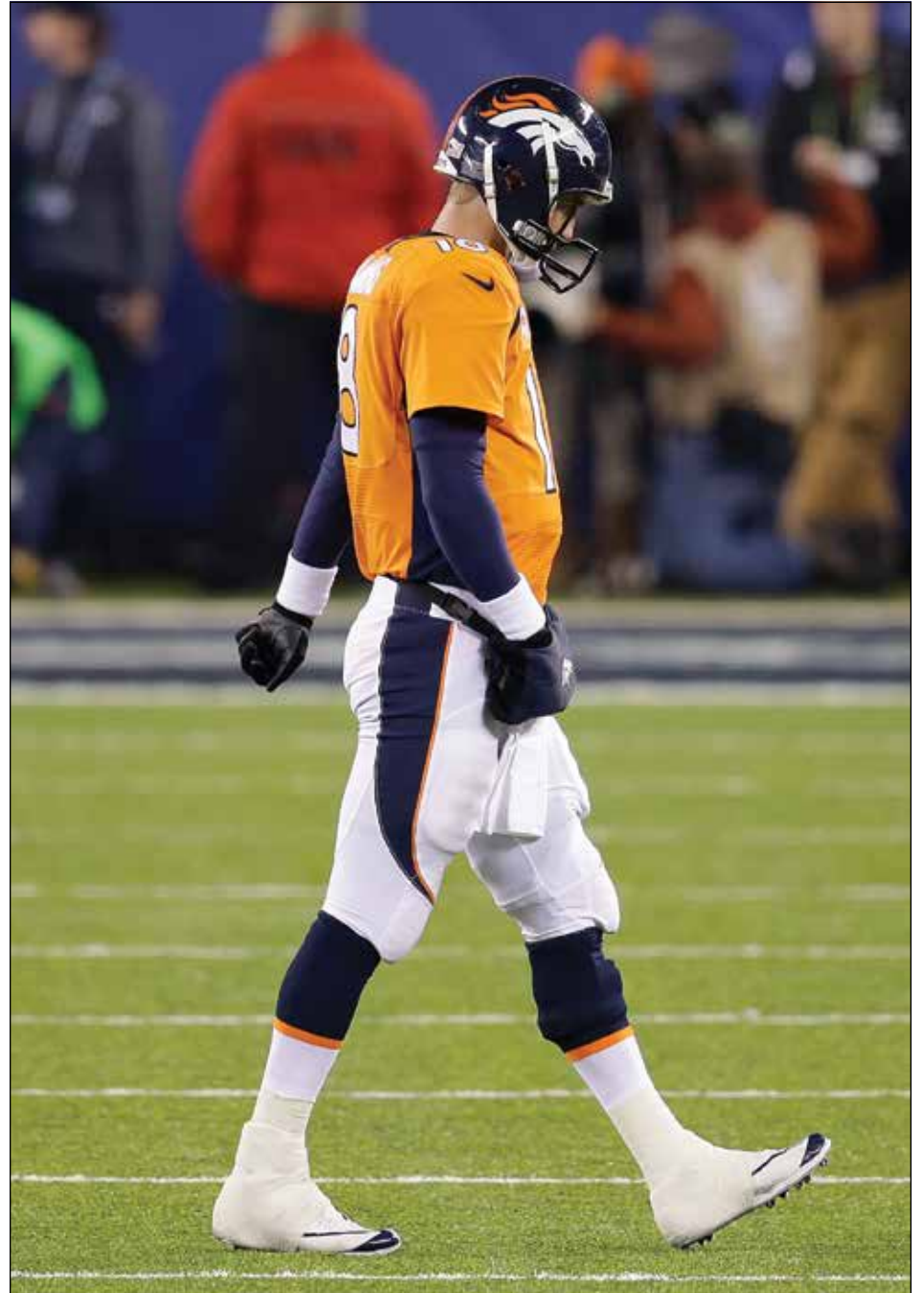
For the Seahawks, it was a remarkable display of game plan execution. Pete Carroll's defense had been turned loose all season - and they were at it again in the Super Bowl. The hard hitting defense has an uncanny ability to read and react to their opponent's offense, when they hit they hit hard and they stay

within the rules. Fair to say the Seattle defense knew how to walk the line.

Seattle came ready, hungry for a victory, and Denver could not match the intensity. This is a result of the coaching advantage the Seattle Seahawks own over the Broncos, as Pete Carroll's team walked all over John Fox's in all three phases of the game. Much was made about the legacy of Peyton Manning following Super Bowl XLVIII. Many thought it would solidify Manning's place in NFL history as the best quarterback of all time had he achieved victory, not much was said about how a loss could damage his legacy.

The performance was an embarrassment, not just for Manning, but for his entire team. Now, Manning is 1-2 in his career in Super Bowls, and despite his record breaking season - what will now be remembered is the championship game where his number one ranked offense could only muster a meager eight points. On the flip side, a legacy begins now for Russell Wilson and the Seattle Seahawks. Their no nonsense defense opened a lot of eyes, particularly the eyes of those who deem the NFL to be a high flying, offense-first league. The fact still remains, defense wins championships, and the Seahawks proved that again on Sunday. As for the young QB Russell Wilson, he's now added a Super Bowl to his resume in just his second NFL season, and the future remains very bright for him and his team.

Perhaps it wasn't the most entertaining Super Bowl and it certainly was not a nail-biter. But maybe teams around the league will begin to understand, in order to be competitive enough to win championships, you need balance. You need a strong defense, and an offense that can execute through the air and on the ground without turning the ball over. Lastly you need a team that buys into to a given system, and plays with a high level of intensity. The Seahawks had these attributes show in spades in on Sunday, and for that reason they can now call themselves Super Bowl Champions.



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*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 recapped the Super Bowl with Barstool Sports' Jerry Thornton:



DANNY PICARD: In the Super Bowl, I thought the interceptions that Peyton Manning threw, he felt the pressure. He knew it was coming, get rid of the football. And when you look back at the AFC Championship and some things that the Patriots couldn't do to the Broncos that Seattle did, and one of those things was put pressure on Manning. He wasn't sacked too many times in the Super Bowl, but the pressure was on him a lot more

than the Patriots put it on him.

JERRY THORNTON: Exactly. And the cliché in this stuff, Danny, is, "They have to get him off his spot. You have to blitz. You have to send extra guys." I had a guy tell me the other day, that, in the AFC Championship game, he just wanted to see the Patriots rush 11. And I'm like, "That just comes from pure ignorance. That's a play in Madden football, and not knowing how real football works." Because what

Seattle was doing was, they weren't sending extra guys. That's suicide against Peyton Manning. They were winning the one-on-one matchups, and the Patriots lost their one-on-one matchups. In fact, a lot of times, the Seahawks were dropping eight into coverage, and Manning just had nowhere to look. And when he dumped it off to somebody underneath, they had eight guys back there, so the Seahawks were on him like stick on a monkey. Guys were

making catches two yards deep, and they were getting hammered. And after a while, that's just going to simply wear an offense down. And that's what happens. So it wasn't with any elaborate schemes, it was just having talented guys up front who were making plays.

DP: We can talk a lot about Seattle's defense in winning the Super Bowl, but I thought that Russell Wilson -- even though his only two touchdown passes were, I guess you could say,



in garbage time -- the way he was able to keep Peyton Manning off the field in the first half, and move the chains with some big-time third-down throws, he executed early in this game and made the throws to keep Seattle's offense on the field and move the chains more than Tom Brady could in the first half of the AFC Championship. And I thought Russell Wilson was brilliant in the first half of this game.

JT: He won't be "underrated" anymore, I mean, because, when you win a Super Bowl, the hype follows you. And as well it should. But, he is a remarkably efficient quarterback. First of all, he was like in the top five in passer rating. He doesn't light up the stat line on your cumulative stats. You know, your attempts, and your yards, and that kind of stuff. But it's better to be efficient with the ball and to take care of it. You don't necessarily have to fall in love with the fantasy stats and a guy who's going to throw for 350 yards every other week, like so many people do, to respect a guy who doesn't make stupid plays and keeps drives alive. And like you said, Denver was winning one-on-one matchups in the trenches on the

defensive side of the ball as well, and they were getting to Wilson on third down. But Wilson has the ability to roll out of the pocket and keep his eyes up-field. And yeah, you and I point out the same plays and say that what he was doing on third down when he was getting flushed out of the pocket, it was tremendous. He's a smart kid who's well-coached, and obviously was a steal in the third round of the draft.

DP: So the Seahawks are champs, which means that the other quarterback, Peyton Manning, still only has one Super Bowl ring. What changes, with Peyton Manning, in your mind, about his legacy? How do you feel about him today?

JT: I'm going to go with what Troy Aikman said, which is, "This is not going to at all affect how he's remembered." Oh, really, Troy? It won't? He threw more touchdown passes than any other team in football scored touchdowns, and he gets into the biggest game of the year and he coughs up an eight-spot? So, absolutely, this affects how he'll be remembered. Had he won it, people would have made the case that if he's not the greatest of all time, he's better than Brady.

And it would have been really hard to argue, but that topic is dead. This was a legacy game, Danny. And his legacy in these big games is not good. Again, I've said it before, January and February continue to be Peyton Manning loose bowel awareness months. I'm going to be wearing brown ribbons at this time next year, in honor of this. You can spin it anyway you want, and people are already starting to, and saying that nobody could have done it against that Seattle defense. No. It's on him. There's a track record here of him not playing big when it matters most.

DP: We know here in New England, you can have the best offense in the history of the league, like the Patriots had in 2007, and like Denver had this year, and you might get to the Super Bowl with that, but it doesn't guarantee you a championship. I'm not coming out and saying that this Patriots organization doesn't need to provide or shouldn't provide Tom Brady with weapons, because I think they do. But, what I think this Super Bowl does show you is that the Patriots need to make their priority, this offseason, signing Aqib Talib.

JT: Yes, I agree wholeheartedly. This argument about getting a quarterback weapons, I mean, this goes back as far as I can remember. I'll state the obvious. This is what we said throughout the whole Drew Bledsoe era. Which is how we ended up with Terry Glenn instead of other people who would have given a long career where they played their heart out, guys like Bill Parcells wanted. Glenn put up a big rookie season, and after that, he did nothing in his career. In fact, he basically brought the team down. So, beware of falling in love with a receiver. Yes, Talib, to me, is the top priority. Because you see the importance of a physical corner who can jam people, who has the technique to get his hands on somebody but not pick up the penalty for it. And Seattle built their defense around guys who can do that. At the moment, Talib is the only real physical defensive back that the Patriots have. They've got sound tacklers, they've got some decent slot guys. But he's the straw that stirs the drink back there. And I would rather keep him than fall in love with some shiny ornament receiver that they can pick up somewhere.

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