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According to the National Law Enforcement Memorial Fund annual report, the total number of law enforcement fatalities in 2016 was at its highest level in five years, in large part because of a spate of ambush-style killings of police officers, the deadliest tally in more than two decades. Shootings claimed the lives of 64 officers, 21 of them killed in ambush-style attacks. The total of 135 officers lost in the line of duty pales in comparison to the period in the

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EDITORIAL

Editorial: Big Changes: Locally and Beyond

2017 and it's a new world out there. It seems like most everything people thought was going to become the norm in America, whether we liked it or not, has been turned upside down and this has left many people in shock: some happily in shock and others – well, not so much.

The political landscape of the country has been altered for at least the next 4 years and possibly well beyond. In addition,

the cultural and legal developments that will most assuredly be coming America's way; much due to the shake up that will take place in the federal and state court systems all across this nation. These decisions will be with us for decades to come and surveys show the majority of Americans are ok with that. In many cases folks are celebrating those coming changes.

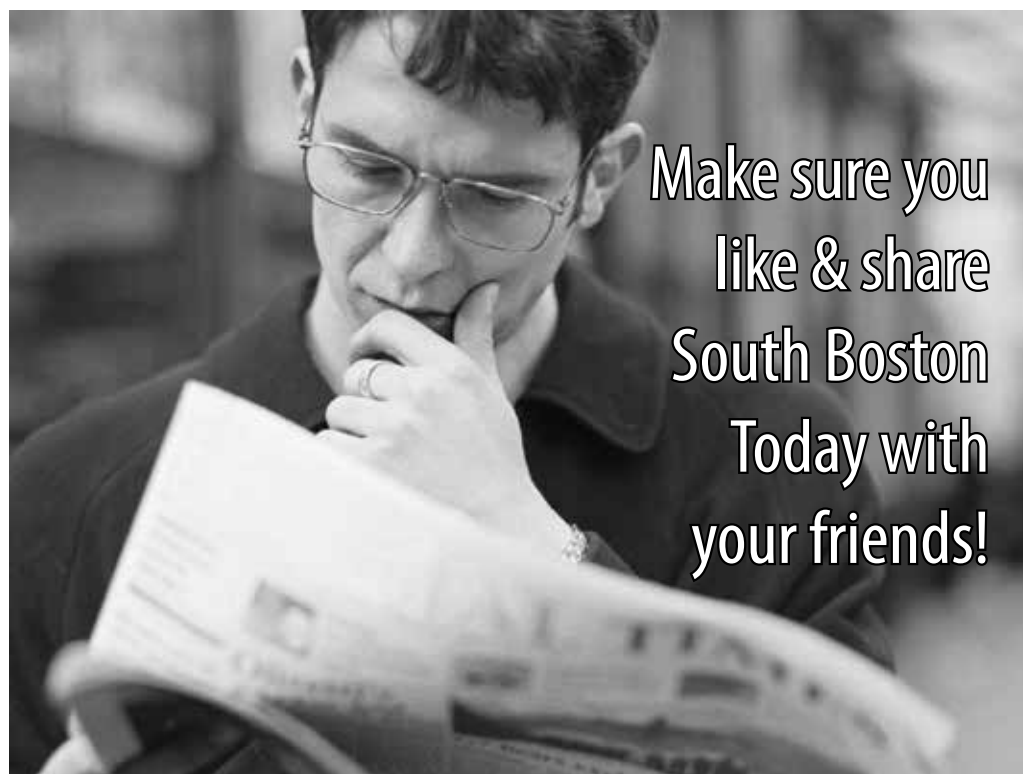
Here in South Boston, 2017 could bring more of the same in the form of new development and

construction at a frantic pace. This, along with other changes that do not sit well with the longtime residents that love this neighborhood and would like to be able to continue to call Southie their home town, is unnerving. Yet, if all of us, new arrivals and long timers alike, stick together and demand to have our concerns heard in any and all decisions regarding the future of our community, we just might be ok in the New Year and beyond.


Hopefully, 2017 be a great year for all.



For the New Year 2017: "Ring out the false, ring in the true" - Alfred Lord Tennyson



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The Information Center



Some 'Champions of Tolerance' are Anything But

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
John Ciccone

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

Tolerance'. This is a word that is tossed around like a football constantly. Say the wrong thing to the wrong person, disagree politically with someone, or even about what your favorite sport is with some of the super sensitive souls, and you are intolerant. And of course, you're a racist, a bigot and the whole long list of other labels thrown at the perceived 'intolerant.'

But since the recent election, most of the country realizes now, what many of us here in South Boston have always known. And that is, the people who demand tolerance the most and the loudest, and I'm speaking about those on the left side of the political spectrum are the least tolerant of all. With many of them, the only views allowed are their views. Need some examples?

Hollywood liberals are among the biggest offenders of all: It's not enough that many of them have vowed, loudly and publically not to attend or perform at Trump's inauguration. They hate the guy. They make that plain enough. But now they have even resorted to threatening with loss of careers, any other performer that agrees to perform. Even 16 year old singer Jacquelyn Evancho, a young rising star was told that if she dares sing at the Inauguration, she will be black listed for future career opportunities. Just a note on this one. Jacquelyn says she will sing at the event anyway and the public responded by buying millions of her CD's and downloads.

Then there is the drug addled and raging drunk Charlie Sheen. Ok, his now cancelled show '2 and a half

men' was funny. But he ceases to be, especially when he announced that he will 'ask God to kill Donald Trump'. How about the crummy film maker Michael Moore, he of questionable hygiene? This Jabba the Hutt look alike is urging violent disruptions of the Inauguration because he doesn't like Trump's policies.

But it's not just Hollywood. Other bastions of progressive thought are as bad or worse, particularly college campuses. There was the 'oh so tolerant' and loving Drexel University professor who tweeted that his Christmas gift wish was for "White Genocide". Wiping out all the white people on the planet really shows his tolerant side. Other professors and students at other campuses ostracize and threaten to penalize the grades of Conservative leaning classmates

because of their views. There was the Propane Fuel dealer and distributor in Maine who cut off fuel deliveries to all Trump supporters during freezing weather last month and 'Café 8 1/2' in Hawaii put up a sign that Trump voters were barred from entering.

Trump spokeswoman Kelly Ann Conway's young children are not being admitted to private schools in Washington DC because of who their mom is. But the one that angered Americans the most was when Trump's daughter and her 2 young children were harassed on a flight by two ignoramuses who don't like Republicans. It was nice to see the airline step in and remove the two from the flight. And these examples are just a minuscule number of these types of things. And these are

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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.

Democrats' zero-sum fears of courting whites

Democrats lost a majority of the majority – both male and female whites – and thus lost the White House to Donald Trump. But some Democrats, particularly members of the Congressional Black Caucus, are still reluctant to reach out to working-class whites, who used to form the bedrock of the Democratic Party, reports the Globe's Astead Herndon. Their fear? That the black caucus and others members of the "diverse constituency" might lose clout within the party. In other words, they view it as a zero-sum game: Their gain is our loss. But is anyone really saying that Dems should

"abandon" minorities and that courting working-class whites should be the "primary" focus of Dems? We haven't heard that. But that's apparently the zero-sum fear.

GOP Congress seek to dismantle Dem programs dating back to FDR

As Democrats play king of the hill within the narrow confines of their own party, David Weigel of the Washington Post reports how the new GOP-controlled Congress, which gets sworn in this week, is now "eyeing the most ambitious conservative policy agenda since the 1920s. And rather than a Democratic president standing in the way, a soon-to-be-inaugurated Donald Trump seems ready to sign

much of it into law."

Brianna Wu goes after working-class Lynch

As noted, some Dems appear to be more concerned about who's the king of the Democratic hill than preserving the legacy of Democratic presidents dating back to FDR. So they'll probably be cheering the decision by Brianna Wu, a Democrat and software engineer made famous for taking on the Gamergate crowd, to run against U.S. Rep. Stephen Lynch, the South Boston Democrat, former steel worker and union representative who's angered many liberals for being too "conservative," according to an AP report at NBC Boston. Onward, Democrats! **Howie's daughter asks Trump for White House internship – and gets it**

The New York Times appears to confirm what Howie Carr writes in his Herald column this morning: Howie's daughter asked President-elect Donald Trump at a New Year's Eve bash, held at Trump's swanky Mar-a-Lago Club in Palm Beach, for a White House internship – and Trump personally granted it. Howie's other daughter is also in line for a White House gig, Howie brags.

Advocates decry planned \$13.7M cut in long-term elder care

From Kathleen McKiernan at the Herald: "Home health care agencies may take a hit under a Baker administration proposal to save \$13.7 million by cutting back on MassHealth funding that pays for long-term at-home care — a change advocates are decrying as harmful to poor elders." The move, outlined in public hearing notice published late last week (just prior to the long holiday weekend, of course), includes a 6.75 percent rate reduction for skilled nursing services.

Metrowest lawmakers outline their '17 priorities

State Sens. Jamie Eldridge, Ryan Fattman, Richard Ross and Karen Spilka and state Reps.

David Linsky, Danielle Gregoire, Jeff Roy and Chris Walsh outline their political priorities for 2017, as reported by Brian Benson of the MetroWest Daily News at Wicked Local. Among the issues they're eyeing are criminal justice reform, the state budget, marijuana legalization, human trafficking, expansion of the housing court, "electronic backpacks" for foster children, financial literacy and other diverse issues.

Minimum wage may not stop at \$11, if activists have their way

As of yesterday, the minimum wage rose to \$11 an hour in Massachusetts, the highest among states in the country, reports WBUR. But it may not stop there, as unions push for a \$15 minimum wage in Massachusetts and elsewhere, the Globe reports, noting that workers are happy but that some local businesses are groaning under the wage pressure. The Wall Street Journal (pay wall) also takes a look at the state's latest minimum-wage hike.

Baker signs pot-delay bill amid small protest

This wasn't a surprise. From SHNS's Katie Lannan at the Newburport Daily News: "Gov. Charlie Baker on Friday signed a law pushing back the schedule for retail marijuana operations in Massachusetts by six months, a move announced as about a dozen protesters gathered outside the State House to condemn the delay." From Baker spokeswoman Lizzy Guyto: "The Baker-Polito Administration has been clear that it shares the Legislature's desire to thoroughly prepare for launching an entirely new industry distributing a controlled substance and is committed to adhering to the will of the voters by implementing the new law as effectively and responsibly as possible."

Eleven issues to watch on Beacon Hill in 2017-2018

Continued on page 5

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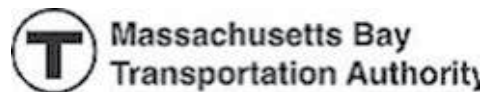
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MBTA and Boston Carmen's Union Local 589 Reach Milestone Agreement

Pact will save MBTA more than \$750 million over next 25 years Union accepts work rule changes that will reduce costs and improve productivity



After months of negotiations, the MBTA and Boston Carmen's Union Local 589 have agreed to a new collective bargaining agreement that will save the MBTA \$80 million over the next four years and more than \$750 million over the next 25 years while also fundamentally reforming overtime and other long-standing work rules to lower MBTA costs and improve productivity. The agreement was ratified at a Local 589 membership meeting Sunday and approved by the MBTA Fiscal and Management Control Board today.

The agreement, which runs from January 1, 2017 through June 30, 2021, protects certain elements of core work currently performed by Local 589 members, such as operating buses and subway vehicles. The MBTA retains the right to reduce costs and innovate through flexible contracting in other areas, including possible new late night bus service and new bus routes, in-station customer service delivery, and the adoption of lifecycle maintenance programs for new vehicles.

"Change is never easy, but this agreement marks a new day in the relationship between T man-

agement and its largest union," said MBTA Acting GM Brian Shortsleeve, noted that this is the first time in more than a half century that a contract between the MBTA and the Carmen's Union has been opened early. "We are pleased that the MBTA and Local 589 were able to find common ground on a game plan that will improve the MBTA's cost structure by altering the status quo in a way that will improve service for riders, fiscal accountability for taxpayers, and provide stability to our employees."

While the agreement will significantly lower the projected rate of annual wage growth over the next four years for existing employees, it does not reduce their current wage rates. New bus and rail operators will start at lower wage rates but will still be able to achieve the top wage rates in their classifications though over a longer period of time.

Work rule changes in the agreement mean Local 589 members will be eligible for overtime pay only after completing 40 hours of regularly scheduled weekly work. This will encourage employees to adhere to their regular work schedules, which will further build upon the T's recent progress in reduc-

ing overtime costs and unscheduled absences, which lead to dropped trips and inconvenience for riders.

In addition, Local 589 and the MBTA have agreed to a pilot program for a four-day work week for bus and rail operators, which will offer some operators an option to work their scheduled 40-hour week through four 10-hour days, rather than five eight-hour days. This pilot program, which is already in effect at several locations, will help improve the quality of life for these operators while saving the T millions of dollars over the life of the contract due to more efficient work scheduling.

Local 589 also agreed to adopt

the use of modern software for the electronic scheduling of operator routes, replacing the current paper-based system. Under the agreement, bereavement leave for Local 589 members expands from three to five days. And the T will increase its contributions to the Health and Welfare Trust by \$400 per year, per subscriber beginning in July 2017 while eliminating Medicare Part B supplemental payments to upper income earners.

"This agreement is the result of a commitment by both parties to work together to bring greater value to our riders while creating a better and more productive environment for our employees," said FMCB Chairman Joseph Aiello.

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WINDOW INTO THE STATE HOUSE Continued from page 4

With the next two-year session starting soon on Beacon Hill, the folks at State House News Service have put together a terrific preview of what to expect in 2017-2018. We'll save the analysis and details for them to explain, but here's the SHNS list of items to watch for, via WWLP: criminal justice reform, health care, energy, institutional rivalries, ethics reform, full-time budgeting, income

inequality, pot politics, taxes, education funding/reform, and online gambling and lottery woes.

Doctors group eyes the once taboo 'physician-assisted suicide'

Though still deeply divided on the emotional issue, the Massachusetts Medical Society has voted to endorse and fund a survey of its members' attitudes towards physician-assisted suicide, a possible sign the group could relent on its longstanding opposition, Patricia Wen of the Globe reports.



Why are there fewer Pigeons in Southie? Look to the Sky

By Jessica Grande/SBT

Those who have lived in the city of Boston; South Boston included for a generation or two or more can remember a time when the streets and the air here were filled with huge flocks of pigeons. Their numbers were massive. Sometimes referred to as ‘winged rodents’, these birds were everywhere. From streets and sidewalks, to rooftops and car hoods and very often on the window sills of practically every building, they would be in numbers

so large that the low key sounds they would make could drown out the sound of passing cars. Were they messy? Oh yes!

But times have changed and some people have taken notice that the number of pigeons has diminished to the point where at times, they have become a rarity. Yes, places like Boston Common and other large parks still have pigeons in fairly big numbers, but not so in the streets of South Boston and other residential neighborhoods. Though there may be other reasons for the decline in the

pigeon population in the city, wildlife experts tell us that if you want to see what one of the biggest contributing factors in this phenomenon is – look up. That’s right, if you look skyward and focus, the odds are that you will eventually see birds of prey; specifically several varieties of hawks gracefully circling on high looking for their next meal.

Red Tailed and Cooper’s Hawks are two of the most common types of hawks that have taken up residence in larger numbers than noticed if you’re not specifically looking for them because they know the food supply is or at least was plentiful with the one time abundance of pigeons. These speedy and very agile predators are skilled hunters and smart enough not to get too close to humans as they cruise high above the city in search of food. Once they set their sights on a target the odds that that target will escape are slim to none – these hawks are that fast.

As people go about their business, they seldom look upwards; instead paying attention to where they are going and what is taking place on the ground and of course, staring at their smart phone screens. But if people were to direct their attention upwards, they will often spot an

ariel chase of amazing acrobatic proportions as the predator dive bombs and chases its prey and this scenario takes place more often than one might think.

Humans have virtually nothing to worry about. We are not on the menu of hawks. However, small animals; even pets such as cats and small dogs certainly are. Though the hawk would prefer to take out a pigeon and even the occasional seagull while in flight, if they get hungry enough they just might swoop down and attempt to sample a four legged critter. This is something pet owners may want to be aware of; especially if you let your furry friends out in the backyard by themselves.

As most people are aware, the city; including South Boston has seen an influx of wildlife over recent years. Raccoons, possums, skunks and now even coyotes are here among us city dwellers. Sometimes hundreds of Canadian Geese and even some swans gather at Moakley Park. And now, we have more hawks circling above than ever before. But one thing we don’t have is as many pigeons as we once had. And now we know one of the reasons why. It’s just nature taking its course.

PUBLIC SAFETY Continued from front page

1970s which saw a high of 280, but the trend is causing concern among officials in major cities.

Since the Seventies, the advent of community policing and major efforts by police departments to engage the communities they protect coupled with tougher laws and harsher sentences have had an effect in many neighborhoods. Adding to the law enforcement dilemma, is the escalating murder rate across the country. As of mid-December, numbers compiled by the Wall Street Journal already showed increases in homicides in 16 of the 20 largest police departments. Boston, which boasted a record low 38 murders in 2015 was up to 47 at year’s end — but nothing like the free-fire zone that Chicago has become, where murders topped 750 this year.

And for those looking for a correlation between diminished respect

for law enforcement and rising crime rates look no further than Chicago. Boston is more fortunate. Commissioner William Evans and his department know that it takes work to develop a rapport with the communities of Boston and earn respect.

Boston reports that although homicides were up slightly this year, overall crime dropped, police officials said on Friday. That follows 2015 in which the homicide rate was the lowest in 15 years. Problematically, sexual assaults were up, reaching 235, compared to 224 incidents in 2015, according to police. Overall, major crime in the city was down 7 percent and that includes a 4 percent drop in violent crime, a 2 percent decline in robberies and a 17 percent decrease in residential burglaries. Police officials said the drop in residential burglaries follows an educational campaign the department launched reminding residents “to lock their doors and safeguard their property.”

According to the Commissioner, the department is working hard to further reduce violent crime by focusing on the city’s hotspots and getting help for at-risk youth. Evans further stated that arrests are down 25 percent since 2014, and that “underscores the department’s commitment to community policing”, and that the downward trend in arrests correlates with the drop in the city’s overall crime.

Excessive-force complaints were down 30 percent since 2014, according to the statistics, and Evans said that was “not by accident. “My officers are well trained and smart,” Evans said. “They know how to talk to people, reason with people, and treat people with respect.”

A Boston Globe review last year of police records found that overall complaints against Boston police officers were down, including use-of-force complaints, and that most complaints allege disrespectful treatment.

CICCONE Continued from page 3

the people who call Donald Trump intolerant?

Here’s a message to all the self-proclaimed champions of tolerance on the left. You are anything but. Disagree with and protest President elect Trump and Conservatives all you want. But when you claim to be the tolerant side and attempt to label the opposition as intolerant, oh and of course call them Nazis, you prove yourself to be even dumber and more ignorant than most people thought you were before. As the saying goes, “Those on the left who claim to be tolerant of other views react with anger, hatred and shock when they realize that there actually ARE other views”. And one more thing to remember as we go into 2017: Your views are NOT the only views allowed. Better get used to it.



MBTA Prepares for Youth Pass Launch

The MBTA's Fiscal and Management Control Board on Monday reviewed preparations for the scheduled February launch of the MBTA's Youth Pass program, which will help provide affordable transit access for low-

income young people. The Youth Pass is a card that holders can use at MBTA Fare Vending Machines or at retail sales terminals to purchase a reduced-price LinkPass for \$30 a month. It can also be used by

holders to add stored value onto the card and ride the T's bus and subway systems at the reduced fare rate. However, the Youth Pass does not provide a reduced fare on the Commuter Rail.

"The Youth Pass will enable young people to access jobs, school, and the civic opportunities available to them in the Commonwealth," said MassDOT Secretary and CEO Stephanie Pollack. "This will strengthen the connection between transit and opportunity." "Extending the Youth Pass program to this cohort of our ridership can make a huge difference in the lives of young people who rely heavily on public transportation to get to school or extracurricular activities or jobs," said MBTA General Manager Brian Shortsleeve.

In order to qualify, one must:

- Not be enrolled in middle or high school (these students may receive a Student CharlieCard through their school — contact your school for more information)
- Be born after November 1, 1991
- If you were born after November 1, 1991, but before

November 1, 1997, you must also show that you are enrolled in one of the MBTA's accepted GED or job training programs or state/federal income based benefit program

- Live in a participating city or town (currently Boston, Chelsea, Malden, or Somerville)

The Youth Pass card is distributed through the MBTA's municipal and community partners. To join the Youth Pass program, once a year young people will have to fill out an application and bring it along with required documentation to their city for verification. All Youth Pass cards expire on November 1 and require re-enrollment. The program was initially tested as a year-long pilot that provided monthly passes to 1,500 youth between the ages of 12 and 21 in the cities of Boston, Somerville, Chelsea, and Malden. The pilot collected data to evaluate the benefits to youth, costs, and the feasibility of having partners administer reduced fare products.

For more information about how to enroll, please contact the participating city partner. Boston 617-635-1389 youthline@boston.gov



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The Red and the White of it

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY - By Jamie Driscoll, the Wine Guy

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

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

That, along with being blended with other local grapes of its

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

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

“Bright dark red. Perfumed aromas of blackberry, currant, violet, licorice and menthol lifted by hints of herbs and pepper. Supple, ripe and nicely concentrated, with mid-palate sweetness restrained by vigorous, harmonious acidity. Finishes

thicker than the 2010 cabernet, with fine-grained tannins and lovely lingering fruits and herbs.”

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

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

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

fine wines, tremendous progress in grape quality and wine-making technique offer consumers a great array of tasty choices:

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

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

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28 Woodward St UNIT 2 Condo	\$910,000	11/30/16	4	2.5	1587
125 B St UNIT 2C Condo	\$799,000	11/28/16	5	2	1058
156 L St UNIT 2 Condo	\$699,000	11/22/16	5	2	1279
20 Knowlton St UNIT 2 Condo	\$625,000	11/30/16	5	2.5	1543
542 Dorchester Ave UNIT 203 Condo	\$604,000	11/23/16	4	2	1100
1306 Columbia Road UNIT 2C Condo	\$584,000	11/23/16	3	2	1162
9 Grimes Street Single Family	\$540,000	11/23/16	5	1	1146
12 Peters St UNIT 3 Condo	\$535,000	11/23/16	5	1	1044
826 East Fifth St UNIT 3 Condo	\$535,000	11/30/16	4	1	797
17 I St UNIT 2 Condo	\$401,000	11/22/16	4	1	595
19 Burrill Pl UNIT 1 Condo	\$341,000	11/23/16	3	1	385

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CONSULTATION SESSION

Massport will host an information session on the Boston Logan International Airport 2015 Environmental Data Report (2015 EDR). A representative from the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) Office will be on hand.

WHEN: Wednesday, January 11, 2017
6:00 PM

WHERE: Noddle Island Community Room
Logan Airport's Rental Car Center*
15 Transportation Way, East Boston, MA 02128

Please note that an electronic copy of the 2015 EDR is available on Massport's website at <http://www.massport.com/environment/environmental-reporting>. Additional copies of the 2015 EDR may be obtained by calling Mike Gove at (617) 568-1040 or emailing mgove@massport.com during the public comment period.

A 30-day public comment period for the 2015 EDR began on **December 21, 2016**, the publication date of the MEPA Environmental Monitor, and will end on **January 20, 2017**.

Written comments may be submitted by January 20, 2017 to the following address:
The Honorable Matthew Beaton, Secretary
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
Attn: MEPA Office EEA #3247
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900, Boston, Massachusetts 02114

*The Noddle Island Community Room is located on the lower level of the Rental Car Center (RCC) Facility at Boston Logan International Airport. The RCC is accessible by the MBTA via Airport Station or the Silver Line and then by a Massport Shuttle Bus. Please allow additional travel time if using the MBTA. Parking for the RCC is available at the loading dock area on Porter Street and in the visitor spaces in front of the RCC.

massport.com



L St. Brownies Continue the Tradition with 114th New Year's Polar Plunge

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY - By Staff

PHOTO CREDIT - Doug Shoop Photography

Long standing traditions abound in South Boston. It's one of the many things that make this town so unique. Well, the terms colorful, original and just plain fun come to mind whenever mention is made of the Annual L Street Brownies New Year's Day Swim. And kicking off 2017; which makes it the 114th consecutive year for the swim was

no exception as what was possibly a record crowd of swimmers and spectators made their way down to the shore to be part of a very special experience.

As one crowd gathered on Day Blvd and on the shoreline, another crowd was assembling at Woody's L Street Tavern. This group, led by Kevin Conroy, and there to support the Scleroderma

Foundation, proceeded down the middle of L Street. Conroy; playing his famous bagpipes and wearing what has become his trademark blue checkered bathrobe, was joined by Pipes and Drum players from a variety of organizations; all of whom have clearly mastered their instruments because they sounded great. They merged with the other crowd which combined, now

swelled to what some police on hand estimated to be at least two thousand people. The air temperature was mild for January 1st; a balmy and breezy 30ish, with brilliant sunshine but the water, as usual, was brain freezing which makes it all the more of a challenge.

Prior to the official start, groups of strangely clad 'polar plungers' sprinted in and out of the water and many loud and ear splitting shrieks could be heard as they got the shock of a lifetime. It's safe to say that many hangovers were cured on this day thanks to taking that dunk in the chilly Atlantic. For the official start, like race



horses lined up at the starting gate, the exuberant crowd awaited the sound of the starter horn and then the stampede began. It was wild pandemonium and it was “awesome” as one spectator said through chattering teeth.

The Annual L Street Brownies swim is an event where people wear anything they feel like wearing. All sorts of crazy and creative costumes can be seen which makes it an even more festive gathering.

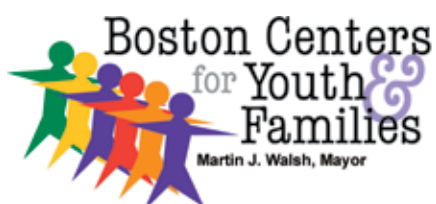
This annual swim is sponsored by the BCYF Curley Recreation Center and the staff seems to do a better job at it with each passing year. The L Street Brownies use the event to raise money to support the South Boston Sports Hall of Fame Scholarship Fund. Several other groups also participate and raise funds for other worthy causes. And of course, a major part of this event is that it also

brings in many spectators and participants who want to help raise funds for another worthy cause – the Scleroderma Foundation of New England. As was stated earlier, these are the participants who gather at Woody’s L Street tavern and march, by the hundreds down L Street to the swim. Kevin Conroy spearheads this effort on this day each year and has brought a large increase in awareness for this effort and worthwhile charity. For those who want more information on how to help with this cause log onto newengland@scleroderma.org

As the event came to an end, hearing the excited voices and laughter that permeated the still chilly winter air, it was clear that everyone; swimmers and spectators alike had a good time. And why wouldn’t they? The order of the day was fun and fun it certainly was.



BCYF Tynan Happenings



On December 22nd the Tynan Council held its annual children's Christmas party. The kids started out making their own personal ornaments to bring home to hang on the tree. Music and dancing along with refreshments were in order until Santa arrived. One by one, over 50 kids sat with Santa and received a wrapped gift thanks to the Tynan Council and donations made by our community,

especially the Dedham Savings bank. It was a busy week here as the staff and council were able to give out close to 100 presents to our kids here in the community.

The BCYF Tynan and the Tierney Learning Center after school programs held a holiday party together in the Tynan cafeteria on December 16th. Allison Baker arrived from the Tierney with a van full of kids to enjoy the holidays with youth worker Katie O'Connell and many of her after school kids. They participated in arts & crafts by making individual Christmas stocking full of holiday candies. They were served juice and cookies

and had a wonderful time. We hope to have them back soon!

The final planning stages for our new Teen Activities Room have taken place over the last couple of weeks. The Teen membership along with the Administrative Coordinator, John Lydon and BCYF "Out of School time" Manager, Joan Lanigan have come up with a fully equipped (i.e. flat screen tv, furniture, play station 4, laptops, all in one printer/copier machine for home work, board games and much more.) Teen room for our Community and Center that was very much in need of this space.



This will provide our kids with a safe and healthy environment to learn, to spend time making friends and to stay off the streets! In the planning process for our new teen space many people stepped up for our children including our friend and neighbor Mayor, Martin J. Walsh, the BCYF Leadership Team, South Boston Community Development Foundation, Boston Police Athletic League and our Council here at the Tynan.



WHEN WINTER STORMS HIT, TURFMUTT URGES EVERYONE TO ‘BONE UP’ ON WISE WEATHER PRACTICES

Keep Pets Safe With These TurfMutt Tips

As snow and ice storms hit this winter, environmental superhero and real-life rescue dog, TurfMutt, urges everyone to “bone up” on wise wintertime practices to keep everyone safe during snow and ice removal and times of falling temperatures.

First, when Old Man Winter comes calling, TurfMutt reminds everyone that pets feel the cold as easily as humans despite their fur coats. Reduce outdoor activities when temperatures dip low and keep them inside during severe weather.

Remember in Boston, homeowners are required to clear public sidewalks and walkways in the event of a snowstorm. When using a snowthrower to clear driveways and sidewalks, keep kids and pets away from the equipment. But TurfMutt and his pet friends thank you for remembering to make a path to your pet’s bathroom area.

“Snowthrowers make quick work of an arduous task so everyone can go about ‘their business,’” says Kris Kiser, president and CEO of the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute and TurfMutt’s guardian and rescuer. “But remember never to put your hand in the chute or auger to clear a blockage. Always use a clean-out tool.”

Once sidewalks, driveways and

other outdoor areas are cleared and useful again, remember that pets require special care in freezing temperatures.

TurfMutt’s Pet-Friendly, Wise Winter Tips:

- *Forgo pet haircuts and let winter coats protect them against the elements.*
- *Check ears, paws and tails for signs of frostbite or getting raw from ice and snow.*
- *Wipe down your pet’s belly, legs and paws to remove ice-melting chemicals, which can irritate and cause serious illness if licked or swallowed.*
- *Change your antifreeze. Due to the sweet smell and taste, pets will lick or drink antifreeze if found puddled on sidewalks or garage floors. But anti-freeze is toxic to cats and dogs. Clean up spills and consider using a brand made from propylene glycol instead.*
- *Keep the water flowing. Dry winter weather can be dehydrating, not to mention freezing. Break up ice in your pet’s water bowl and be sure they have regular access to clean, fresh water.*

“After I rescued Lucky, a.k.a TurfMutt, from an Indiana highway years ago, he donned his superhero cape and has worked hard to ‘paw it forward’ by issuing seasonal tips regularly,” Kiser says. “Every pet

can be a TurfMutt hero, but only if we keep them safe and happy during all kinds of weather.”

The TurfMutt environmental education and stewardship program was created by the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute’s (OPEI) Research and Education Foundation and has reached more than 62 million children, educators and families since 2009. Through classroom materials developed with Scholastic, TurfMutt teaches students and teachers how to “save the planet, one yard at a time.”

In 2017, TurfMutt will once again appear on the Lucky Dog show, and TurfMutt’s personal, home habitat will be featured in the 2017 Wildlife Habitat Council calendar. The TurfMutt program will debut the first-ever National TurfMutt Teacher Award this spring and send one lucky teacher to the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) annual conference. An elementary school will win a \$10,000 grant in the annual “Be a Backyard Superhero” contest, and thousands of children in grades K-5 will learn science and how to take care of the environment.

TurfMutt is an education resource at the U.S. Department of Education’s Green Ribbon Schools, the U.S. Department of Energy,

the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Green Apple, the Center for Green Schools, the Outdoors Alliance for Kids, the National Energy Education Development (NEED) project, Climate Change Live, Petfinder and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

About OPEI

The Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI) is an international trade association representing more than 100 power equipment, engine and utility vehicle manufacturers and suppliers. OPEI is the advocacy voice of the industry, and a recognized Standards Development Organization for the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and active internationally through the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) in the development of safety and performance standards. OPEI is managing partner of GIE+EXPO, the industry’s annual international trade show, and the creative force behind the environmental education program, TurfMutt.com. OPEI-Canada represents members on a host of issues, including recycling, emissions and other regulatory developments across the Canadian provinces. For more information, visit www.OPEI.org.



Gate of Heaven CYO League Standings

Boys Cadet League			Travel Teams		
	Won	Loss		Won	Loss
Jack McDonough Club	3	0	Boys		
Nick Collins Club	2	1			
Metro Energy	1	2	3rd & 4th Grade	2	2
PS Deli	2	2	5th & 6th Grade – Massport	1	3
Boston Home Inspectors	0	3	8th Grade	0	5
Boys Midget League	Won	Loss	9th Grade–O’Brien’s Funeral Home	3	2
Iron Worker Local #7	4	0	10th & 11th Grade	5	0
Joe Evans Club	3	1	12th Grade	2	2
East Boston Savings Bank	2	2	18 & Under	5	1
Blasi’s Café	1	3			
Ryan Club	0	4	Girls	Won	Loss
Girls Cadet League	Won	Loss	5th & 6th Grade	3	2
Hoop Dee Doo	1	0	7th & 8th Grade	3	1
Kelly Collins Club	1	0	High School	3	0
Sister Pat Club	0	1			
Barbara Caputo Club	0	1			
J.R. Solutions	0	0			



This week, Danny gave his NFL Playoff predictions:

Before I made my playoff picks, I had to go back to look at my preseason predictions. And if it plays out the way I now think it will play out, then my preseason final four is looking pretty good.

I took the Patriots over the Steelers in the AFC Championship, and the Packers over the Seahawks in the NFC Championship, with the Patriots defeating the Packers in Super Bowl LI.

Well, now that we've watched the regular season play out, here are my updated NFL Playoff predictions, which aren't that much different than my preseason predictions:

AFC WILD CARD ROUND

(3) Pittsburgh Steelers over (6) Miami Dolphins

The 11-5 Steelers enter the playoffs on a seven-game win streak. Meanwhile, the 10-6 Dolphins won nine of their last 11 after beginning the season 1-4. Miami defeated Pittsburgh 30-15 back in mid-October, but that was also the game in which Ben Roethlisberger tore his meniscus. The Dolphins just got humbled by the Patriots in Week 17, and whether it's backup quarterback Matt Moore or the return of Ryan Tannehill in this game, I just don't think Miami has enough to go into Pittsburgh and knock off a red-hot Steelers team.

(4) Houston Texans over (5)

Oakland Raiders

Brock Osweiler will be getting his job back in this one. I'm not the biggest Osweiler fan and I think his contract is absurd. But it's in the best interest of the Texans to make him their quarterback in the playoffs. With Derek Carr out injured for Oakland, this is a winnable game for the Texans at home. And if Pittsburgh defeats Miami, Houston will go to New England for the Divisional Round. And Osweiler gives Houston the best chance to make that game competitive.

NFC WILD CARD ROUND

(3) Seattle Seahawks over (6) Detroit Lions

All you need to know is that this game is in Seattle. The 9-7 Lions enter the playoffs on a three-game losing skid. They only got into the tournament because the Washington Redskins lost to the New York Giants in Week 17. Seattle wasn't great down the stretch either, but the Seahawks aren't losing at home to the Lions.

(4) Green Bay Packers over (5) New York Giants

The Packers have won six straight, and they ended up winning their division because of it. They are one of the hottest teams in football. Unfortunately for them, they'll play a Giants team that has a better record and has won three of their last four. New York has one of the best defenses in the NFL. They've

already lost at Lambeau once this year, but I'm betting on them to go into Green Bay and stop Aaron Rodgers in his tracks.

AFC DIVISIONAL ROUND

(1) New England Patriots over (4) Houston Texans

The Patriots have already beaten the Texans this season, shutting them out 27-0. And that was without Tom Brady, who was serving his four-game Deflategate suspension. This one might not be another shutout, but Brady's revenge tour isn't ending at the hands of Bill O'Brien and Brock Osweiler. Patriots by 20.

(2) Kansas City Chiefs over (3)

Pittsburgh Steelers

The Chiefs got whooped in Pittsburgh early in the season, and I'm taking them to bounce back because they're at home. Kansas City is usually one of the toughest places to play in the league. And it should be a rowdy crowd for a playoff game. Chiefs find a way to win at home.

NFC DIVISIONAL ROUND

(5) New York Giants over (1) Dallas Cowboys

The Giants defeated the Cowboys twice this year, which was no small feat, considering Dallas lost just three games all season long. This won't be a popular pick, but I just like the Giants' chances once again against the Cowboys, even in Dallas.

(3) Seattle Seahawks over (2)

Atlanta Falcons

The Seahawks beat the Falcons by two points in mid-October, and if there's a defense that can slow down Atlanta's high-powered offense in the playoffs, it's Seattle's. The Falcons put up huge numbers at home, but I expect the Seahawks to go into Atlanta and steal one.

AFC CHAMPIONSHIP

(1) New England Patriots over (2) Kansas City Chiefs

This is a rematch of last year's Divisional Round playoff game at Gillette Stadium. The Patriots won that game by seven, and I don't see why things would be any different this time around.

NFC CHAMPIONSHIP

(3) Seattle Seahawks over (5) New York Giants

I actually hope the Giants win this game, because I want to see the Patriots get a chance to beat them in the Super Bowl. But I don't think New York can go into Seattle and win a playoff game.

SUPER BOWL LI

-New England Patriots over Seattle Seahawks

Brady's revenge tour will end with Roger Goodell handing him the Lombardi Trophy, and the Super Bowl MVP.

Listen to "The Danny Picard Show" at dannypicard.com and on WEEI 93.7 FM.

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