



Zillow Has Become A House-Hold Word

Several recent reports on Zillow and possible consumer related violations may be of interest to homeowners, lenders and appraisers. Zillow is considered an online realty marketing giant, because of its sheer number of home sale listings and its debatable “Zestimate” property valuation feature. Zillow was investigated by the federal government over ‘alleged’ violations of anti-kick-back and deceptive practices

rules. According to Zillow, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) has concluded a two-year investigation into the company’s “co-marketing” arrangements that allow mortgage lenders to pay for portions of realty agents’ monthly advertising costs on Zillow websites. In exchange for the money, lenders are presented in agents’ ads to site visitors as sources of financing, which ultimately generates “leads” and new mortgage business. Consumers likely are in the dark about the lender’s financial relationship with the realty agent, unless they know to click on a question mark icon after the promotional words “ask these lenders about financing.”

Some background: Thousands of agents across the country pay Zillow for advertising space,

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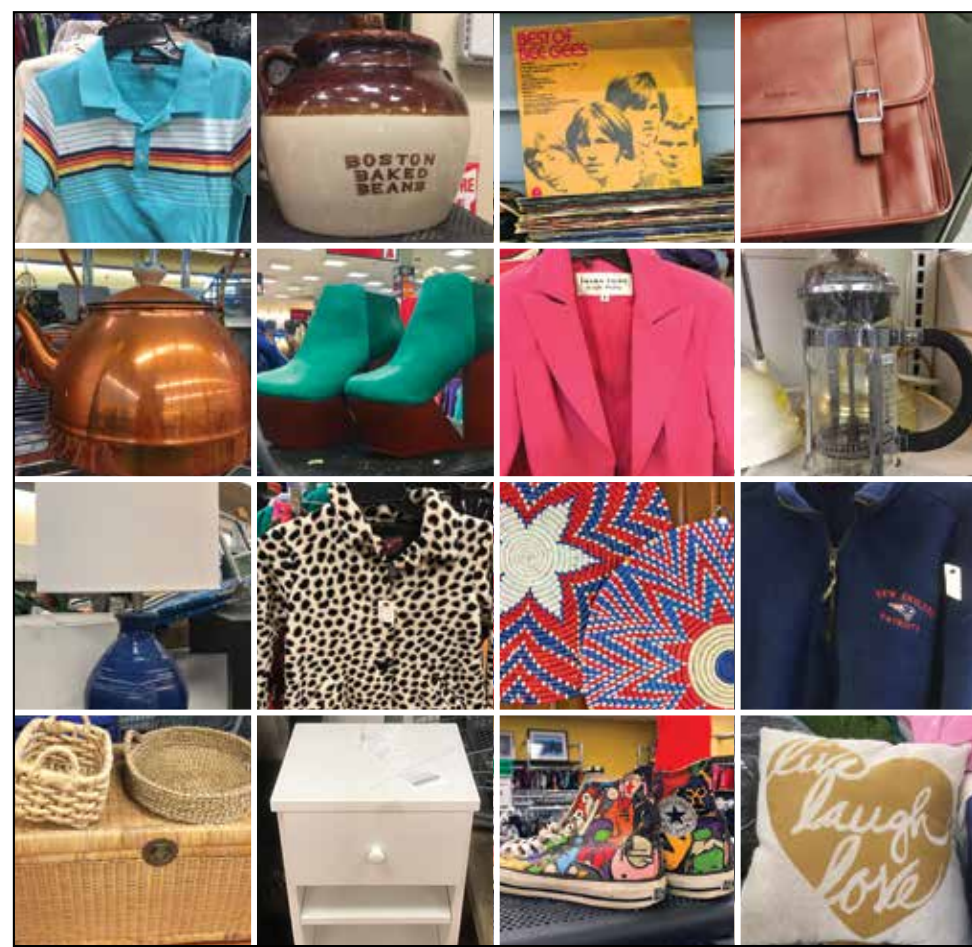
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EDITORIAL

The Message of 9-11... 16 Years Later

America observed the 16th anniversary of the 911 attacks last Monday. Approaching the two-decade mark, the feelings still run deep, as the memory of thousands of our innocent country men and women, who were killed, still cause emotions of sadness and yes anger too. But the fact that we still, as a nation, remember and honor the fallen, speaks volumes

about American pride and the loyalty to one another shared by most of us.

All across the nation, memorial services, religious ceremonies, moments of silence and the flying of Old Glory were observed by millions of Americans determined to never forget the attack that was meant to bring our country to its knees but in fact brought us to our senses with the reality

that there are enemies; both foreign and domestic that have made it their goal to destroy our freedom, our liberty and our very way of life. But they will never succeed and this must be obvious to those enemies by now. Their 'Jihad' will fail and long after the scourge of Radical, Islamist Terrorism has been wiped from the face of the Earth, America will still be standing strong and remain free.



"Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower" - Albert Camus



Letter to the Editor

Dear Neighbors,

It is with enthusiasm that I endorse the candidacy of Ed Flynn as our City Councilor for District 2. I have known Ed and the Flynn family for many years. I have every confidence in his ability and experience as a father, community activist, veteran and probation officer that he can and will represent the critical interests of the district. He is ready to take on this important undertaking on our behalf.

His attention, and willingness, to engage as a private citizen in the important issues facing the community—public safety, affordable housing and the many challenges facing our seniors are but a few of the issues that he has already proven to be a thoughtful and aggressive advocate for.

I hope you will join me in supporting his candidacy. I look forward to casting my vote for Ed on September 26th and November 7th for District City Councilor.

Sincerely,

Bill McGonagle

SouthBostonTODAY****
Online • On Your Mobile • At Your Door

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The Information Center



Sometimes You Just Have To Shake Your Head?

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
John Ciccone

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

Short takes on a few subjects again this week.

The venom from the political left is now flowing faster than Maine's Kennebec River rapids. Some of it is amusing, while some of it is pretty sick. Reading social media sites really lets Americans know just how crazy it's getting out there.

There is an effort now to ban Father's Day because it might offend 'non-traditional families'. So traditional families and those fathers, who are deserving of their special day, are expected to just 'suck it up'. We can't let that happen now, can we?

Kookie Hollywood actress Jennifer Lawrence says the hurricanes that hit Texas and Florida are both the fault of President Trump. Her statement prompted Tucker Carlson

of FOX News to ask the following question: "Why is it as people get richer and more famous they sometimes get sillier and more out of touch."

Speaking of those hurricanes, I have a few comments. With all the devastation, loss of life and heartache that befell the victims, the news media focused on Melania Trump's shoes and how they were not appropriate to wear to a disaster scene. Though the First Lady rolled up her sleeves and helped bring supplies and serve hot meals to people in storm shelters, it was her choice of shoes that mattered to CNN.

The Hurricanes also brought out looters. Of course, the looting was short lived in Texas, because the local civilians there made good on their promise and now famous

motto "You loot, we shoot". But in Florida, the looters were running wild for days. Yet, those who dared condemn the looting or criticize the culprits were of course called – wait for it now – you guessed it, 'racists', which brings me to the conclusion that the list of things that are NOT racist, is much shorter than the list of things that are.

And the venom continues to flow. When Conservative commentator Eric Bolling's son was reported to have died last weekend, 'progressives' on social media exploded with glee saying they were 'glad' the younger Bolling was dead, because they hate his father and disagree with his political views. And when the Trump mansion in Florida suffered heavy storm damage a few days back, there was a literal cel-

ebration by the same people, who were happy that Bolling's son was no longer alive.

And a quick scan of more social media and celebrity tweets found that there were those actually hoping that the death toll from the hurricanes would be heavy, because if lots of people die, the more the better, it should help convince 'Climate Deniers' that Global Warming is real. Much like those gun control activists, who are ecstatic when mass shootings occur, because they believe that the bigger the body count, the better the chances are to one day get rid of the Second Amendment. Did I not say that some of this was sick?

And yet, there were some statements that made perfect sense and **continued on page 6**



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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.

Pro-charter group hit with record fine for hiding identity of donors

So now we know. A New York pro-charter group that funneled \$15 million into last year's Question 2 charter-school expansion initiative — money that was hard to trace during the ongoing battle over the referendum — has been hit with a record fine of \$426,466 by the state's Office of Campaign and Political Finance for illegally hiding the identities of its donors, reports the

Globe's Michael Levenson, the Herald's Matt Stout and SHNS's Matt Murphy at CommonWealth magazine.

So, who were some of the mystery donors? Two Baker administration officials — Paul Sagan, the chair of the state's Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, who gave \$500,000, and Mark Nunnally, Gov. Baker's newly appointed technology secretary, who gave \$275,000 — and a whole slew of millionaires and billionaires.

Did they really think they would keep these donations secret? Apparently so — or at least until after the referendum.

Charlie hits his \$10M mark

Speaking of Charlie Baker and donations: The as-yet-undeclared re-election campaign of Gov. Baker has hit its own goal of raising \$10 million, Jim O'Sullivan of the Globe reports. Various accounts—including a federal fund that allows Baker to skirt state caps on donations—raised \$1.5 mil-

lion over the summer and now have \$9.8 million in them. For comparison sake, O'Sullivan notes that all three Democrats combined have so far taken in less money than team Baker-Politio raised in a single day in August.

Did donations to Dems work against would-be U.S. Attorney?

And yet more on the subject of donations: President Trump's decision to pass over acting U.S. Attorney William Weinreb, and instead go with Andrew Lelling as Boston's new top federal prosecutor, may have stemmed in part from Weinreb's history of donating to Democrats, Christian Wade reports at the Gloucester Times. Weinreb actively sought the position and even ramped up enforcement of immigration laws

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Letter to the Editor

Dear Neighbors,

I have known Ed Flynn and his family for many years. Ed is a person I respect for his hard work and helping people throughout South Boston — whether it be as a youth sports coach, involved in the Gate of Heaven CYO basketball program for many years, or his community volunteer work assisting many charities and organizations. Ed is someone we admire for his 24 years of service in the US Navy and always advocating on behalf of our veterans and military families. Also, as a probation officer, we know that Ed is always there to help those dealing with substance abuse issues and trying to secure treatment for those in need. Ed is highly regarded in the court system for his compassion, dedication, and professionalism. Please join me on Tuesday, September 26th in voting for and supporting a good friend that will work hard and represent everyone throughout the district. - **Sincerely, Richie Linehan, South Boston**

Zillow

continued from front page

mainly because millions of consumers visit its sites to check out listings and information on more than 100 million homes, whether they are for sale or not. On homes listed for sale, frequently there is also contact information for local “premier agents” who may or may not be the actual listing agent. Premier agents pay Zillow for the promotional space and other benefits — typically hundreds of dollars per month, but sometimes well above \$1,000 — and receive leads to consumers who are actively searching for a home or plan to in the future. Premier agent monthly payments are a crucial part of Zillow's business model, amounting to nearly \$190 million during the second quarter of 2017 alone. This represented more than 70 percent of Zillow's total revenue during the quarter.

From a HousingWire report, Zillow confirmed that the CFPB has threatened it with legal action, if it does not agree to a settlement. The CFPB has not publicly detailed its

specific reasons for pursuing Zillow, but the company says the allegations involve the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act (RESPA), which prohibits kickbacks in exchange for business referrals, and a section of the Consumer Financial Protection Act that prohibits “unfair, deceptive or abusive” practices.

According to the most recent Zillow earnings release, “Based on correspondence from the CFPB in August 2017, we understand that it has concluded its investigation. The CFPB has invited us to discuss a possible settlement and indicated that it intends to pursue further action if those discussions do not result in a settlement.”

During the call, Kathleen Philips, Zillow chief financial officer, answered a question on the exact timing of the decision, saying, “We expect things to move quickly.” Philips added that she is actually about to head to Washington, D.C. in order to work with the bureau on a settlement and thinks that it will be a fast process.

Despite the CFPB's conclusions in the in-

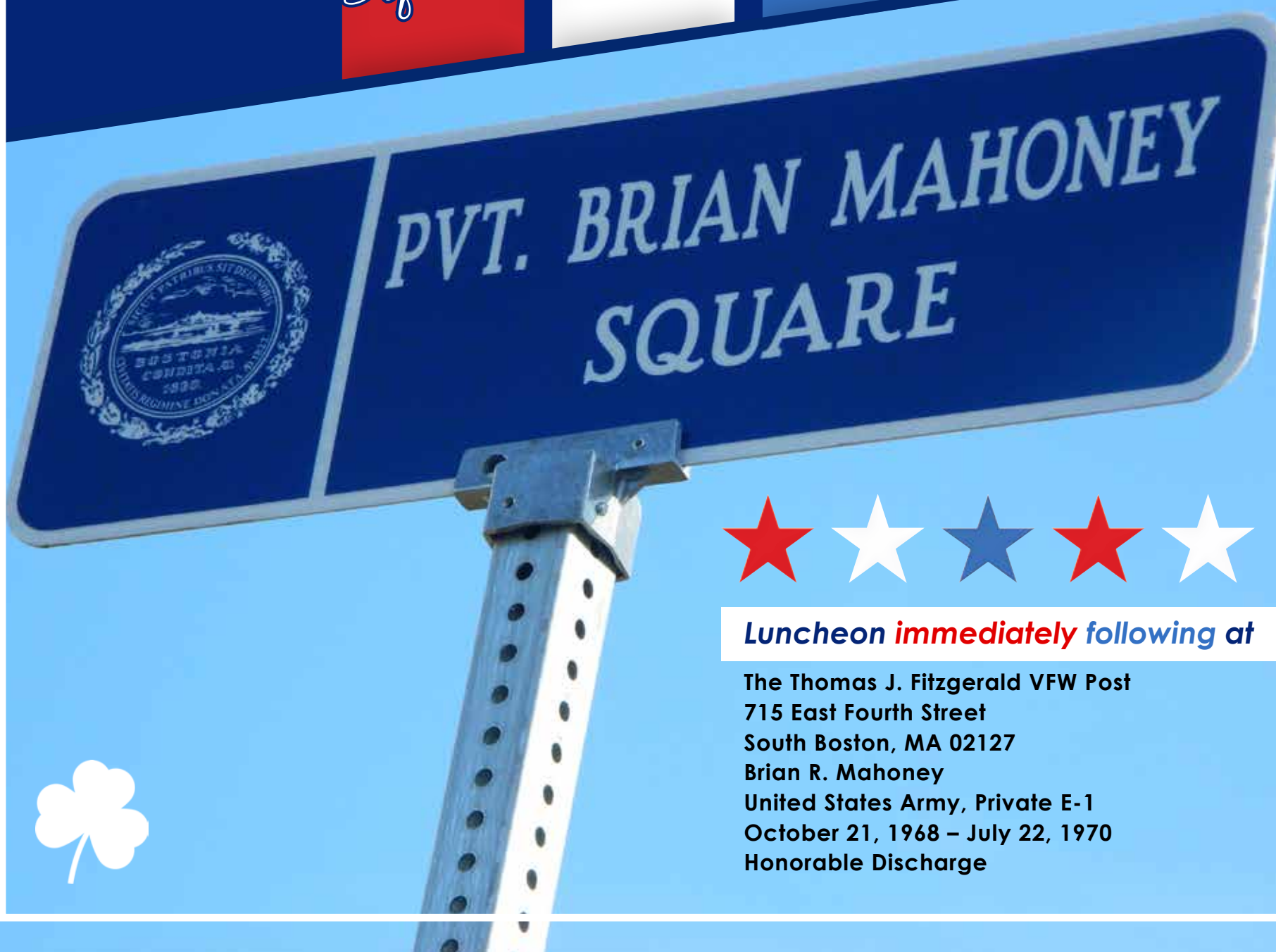
vestigation, Zillow still stands by its real estate practices. As noted in its first-quarter earnings call, Zillow said, “We continue to believe that our acts and practices are lawful and that our co-marketing program allows lenders and agents to comply with RESPA, and we will vigorously defend against any allegations to the contrary.” Since that announcement, it appears that the investigation has caused some investors to plan lawsuits because of the resulting stock price drop, upset that the company did not advise them of their questionable business practice.

The sticky legal question here is whether the lenders or loan officers are paying for referrals of business — banned by RESPA — or whether they are simply jointly advertising their wares and paying fair market value for the exposure. Where's this all headed? Only lawyers at Zillow and the CFPB know whether the case is destined for litigation or a settlement. Meanwhile, now you know how agents and lenders end up on Zillow pages: They pay. Or co-pay.

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Letter to the Editor



It was a sweltering day during the second week of June. The elderly residents of 376 West Fourth Street were sitting outside of their building. The thermostats in their apartments were reading 96 to 99 degrees. The management company never turns on the air Conditioning until June 15th regardless of the temperature.

When we saw Ed Flynn walk by, we called him over as we all know how Ed has a reputation for always being willing to help out his neighbors and community.

Ed immediately realized that it was a serious public health issue and started making phone calls. He called South Boston politicians and Inspectional Services. Ed over the

next several days, along with his father and brother, delivered multiple cases of water to the tenants while working tirelessly to get the air condition turned on before June 15th. Ed was successful and for the first time in 10 years, the tenants had air conditioning before June 15th.

Ed also assisted the residents in forming a task force. We elected officers to run the task force to better deal with other problems that may arise in the building in the future. The residents were very impressed with Ed Flynn and we sincerely hope he gets elected to the City Council as he genuinely cares about people.

Elections Day is September 26. We ask that you vote for our candidate Ed Flynn.

The Elderly Residents of 376 West Fourth Street
Support Ed Flynn For Boston City Council, District

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Vote
ED FLYNN
on September 26, 2017



AARP MA. FRAUD WATCH UPDATE

Part 2

Did you know that someone's identity gets stolen every two seconds? The AARP Fraud Watch Network provides you with tips and resources to help you spot and avoid identity theft and fraud so you can protect yourself and your family. Our watchdog alerts will keep you up to date on con artists' latest tricks. It's free of charge for everyone: AARP members, non-members, and people of all ages.

The AARP Fraud Watch Network is:

- An Educator: Get real-time alerts about the latest scams, tips on how to spot them, and the inside scoop on how con artists think so you can outsmart them before they strike.

- A Watchdog: Our nationwide scam tracking map gives you access to a network of people who've spotted scams and the opportunity to pass along your own experiences, so together we can beat con artists at their own game.

- A Resource: Get connected to a real live person trained in how to avoid fraud and advise you if you or a loved one has been scammed by calling our fraud hotline or attending a forum in your community.

- Free for Everyone: Anyone, of any age, can access our resources at no cost.

SCAM ALERT #3:

Look out for fake genealogy sites on the Internet. These scam sites pull information from public databases to make it look like they

have lots of information about you and your lineage. They lure you into signing up so they can steal your personal information – and your identity.

It's a good idea to research the site before you sign up. Do an internet search on the site name with "reviews" and "scams" and see what comes up.

Be a fraud fighter! If you can spot a scam, you can stop a scam.

Report scams to local law enforcement. Contact the AARP Fraud Watch Network at www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork for more information on fraud prevention.

SCAM ALERT #4:

Tired of illegal robocalls? Report them to the Federal Trade Commission, which is doing something about them. The agency is posting a list of numbers it gets complaints about daily, along with the general subject matter. Then telecommunications carriers and other industry partners can use this information as they work on call blocking solutions, because those solutions rely on phone numbers that have been reported. The next time you get an unwanted robocall, report it at www.donotcall.gov.

Be a fraud fighter! If you can spot a scam, you can stop a scam.

Report scams to local law enforcement. Contact the AARP Fraud Watch Network at www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork for more information on fraud prevention.

John Ciccone

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caused many Americans to reflect on certain major topics. A discussion on Talk Radio stations earlier this week noted how the cost to help millions of our citizens recover from the storm damage was going to be enormous. And wouldn't it have been nice to be able to use

the 200 billion dollars Obama gave to the Iranians, to help our fellow countrymen and women, rather than pay extortion to a country that wants to one day wipe us out.

And to repeat the question being asked repeatedly all across our nation: "Did that really happen or did you see it on CNN?"

Old Harbor Reunion Sept. 24th at Florian Hall

By Brian P. Wallace

I wasn't born in Old Harbor, but I certainly grew up there in Old Harbor. My best friend in the world, at the time, EJ Flynn told me he was moving from E Street to a single on O'Callaghan Way, and it broke my heart. I was 13 years old, and I figured I would never see EJ again. Just the opposite was true. Two days later EJ called me and told me that I had to come down to "The Courts." "Brian you would love this place, they have the best basketball players in the city, and they play all day. That certainly intrigued me. So off I went to follow EJ, again. I watched a couple of games, and I had seen some of the older guys play for the Club varsity. One of them

was Paul Flynn, who had the purest set shot I had ever seen.

"Hey, Mr. Basketball are you just going to stand there or are you going to teach us how to play," as everyone laughed. I didn't. The guy who said it was a huge man/child named Maury. He stood about 6'5" and weighed well over 230 pounds. "I'm in the next game," I yelled back. I wasn't really sure how I would do against that giant or John Joyce, who grabbed rebound after rebound and was well over 6'3" or Paul Flynn, Franny Joyce and all the guys I looked up to at the Club.

"OK hotshot you're up," Maury yelled over at me again. The court was lined with onlookers a couple deep, and they knew their ball. At the time I was rated #2 player in the city for my age, but these kids weren't my age. Rick Calnan got the tip and threw it to me. I faked my man and had a clear lane to the basket. I was saying to my self, this is easy, as I went to lay the ball in. All I saw was a huge shadow who blocked my shot into the next court. "How do you like that Mr. All American," Maury shouted at me.

I didn't. He extended his hand.

"I'm Maury, and nobody drives on me in Old Harbor. Lesson well taken. He extended his hand, "but that was a good move," he laughed. That was my first day, and my first game at Old Harbor and I never left. Maury and I became one of my closest and dearest friends until the day he died. He made me promise that I would do his eulogy, which was one of the hardest things I have ever done. The next day he and EJ introduced me around.

"This is Moslem, Crazy Boy Calnan, Boob, Weed, Jolly, Fraz, Jaz, Laz, Waz, Taz, JL, BL, DL, JD, Joe Azubay, Zutch, Inches, Hokey, Harzey, Lappa, Bunka, Dorsey, The Flame, Hooker, Audey, Peaches, Chumpy, Broadway Buddy, Biffa, Hacka, Snipe, Big Back, Papa Tee, Nardo, Sniffa, Cully, Howie, Ace and Joe The Terror." My head was spinning.

"This is a joke on the new kid right," I said, looking around at some of the people I had just met. It wasn't, and there were many more. One family the Joyces had four boys Dukie, Duba, Jabber, and Sleepy. Over time,

I became friends with all of them, and I never left.

If I missed a few, I am sorry. I am doing this from memory. I hope to get a chance to meet many of my old friends, who will probably disavow those old nicknames. Some first names, honest to God, I really don't know. They are tearing down Old Harbor soon, and this is kind of a 'last hurrah' for all the Old Harbor people from the Bulgers to the Flahertys and everyone in between.

All ages are expected and will hopefully show up on Sunday, September 24th at 1:00 PM – 5:00PM. at Florian Hall. Told you we were getting old. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at the door or by sending a check to Tom Finnerty 161 Granite Ave, Dorchester 02124. If you have any old photos, please send them to Susan Connolly at oldharborreunion@gmail.com. All items will be returned. Please bring any Old Harbor memorabilia with you.

If South Boston is the nickname capital of the world, then Old Harbor is definitely the nickname capital of Southie. We will see you on September 24th.

Window into the State House continued from 4

while running the office but his past donations to the likes of Hillary Clinton and Elizabeth Warren may have doomed him, the story says.

State House question of the day: How much will DeLeo et gang add back to budget?

The House is poised to take up budget veto overrides tomorrow at the State House. But the question of the day is: How much of Gov. Charlie Baker's \$320 million in spending cuts will the House try to restore? House Speaker Robert DeLeo isn't saying much, according to reports by Shira Schoenberg at MassLive and Andy Metzger at SHNS (pay wall). But DeLeo did say: "I feel good that the amount we'll be taking up Wednesday will be well within where we are in terms of a balanced budget."

In an editorial, the Herald expresses hope that DeLeo and new House Ways and Means chair Jeffrey Sanchez put the brakes on many add-back requests, though the paper doesn't sound too confident that will happen.

DeLeo eyes criminal-justice reform votes later this year

Speaking of the speaker, from Katie Lannan at SHNS (pay wall): "While a consensus bill has not emerged eight months into the session, House Speaker Robert DeLeo said Monday he wants to see a criminal justice reform package pass both branches of the Legislature by the end of the year, including both widely agreed-upon proposals aimed at lowering recidivism as well as unspecified other measures." DeLeo confirmed it would be a two-bill package.

So who will Stan Rosenberg meet up with on his European trip? Tom Finneran

As the House gears up to override budget vetoes, SHNS's Michael Norton at Wicked Local has the details on Senate President Stan Rosenberg's rather quiet all-expenses-paid trip to Austria and the Czech Republic this week (quiet until Michael started asking questions, that is). So what's Stan doing over there? Attending various governmental meetings and, starting today, attending the Senate Presidents' Forum in Prague, where, we sort of assume, he'll probably run into Thomas Finneran, the former speaker of the Massachusetts House who's on the Senate Presidents' Forum staff and who's scheduled to run sessions at the forum.



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The Wine Guy What's For Dessert?



Since just about all of these columns have been about wines that go well both before and during a meal, I thought it might be a good change of pace to look at some suggestions for the other end of things, dessert.

To find out more about a dessert wine that's one of the fastest-growing in this category

world-wide, we'll start in an unlikely area-Canada and upper New York state- the "Finger Lakes" region to be exact. These areas are producing some of the finest "Ice Wines" in the world. The term, "Ice Wine" comes from Eiswein, a German dessert wine, made from grapes that are picked literally when the first frost or, "ice" is on them. This type of white wine is very sweet and usually syrupy and is especially good in cooler weather with warm desserts like apple cobbler or strudel. The grapes must be picked by hand and the whole process is very labor-intensive, so, as you might guess, this type of wine is not cheap; however, if you're looking for a special treat, you should try some.

Inniskillin, Canada's first estate winery, began in 1984 and has vineyards in both the eastern and western parts of the country. Their 2015 Inniskillin Riesling Ice Wine, (\$45.00, 200ml.) is a classic. Layers of fruit notes,

especially mango and peach, are enhanced by a naturally high acidity. Don't be put off by the smaller size of the bottle, by the way; the concentration of these wines is in a category of its own! In addition to warm desserts mentioned earlier, cold fruit tarts are also well-paired with this one.

Just south of the Canadian border, the Finger Lakes region offers its own version, made from not only the Riesling grape, but the popular French-American hybrid, Vidal. A great (and relatively inexpensive) example is made by Knapp Vineyards, using an artificially-induced freezing method. The Knapp 2014 Vidal Blanc Iced Wine, (\$19.99, 200ml.), is honey-like in both color and texture, with fruit and a slight nuttiness on the finish. This one is especially good with chocolate-dipped fruits and mousse.

Going back to where it all began, in the vineyards of Germany and Austria, there are

Eiswein sections in almost every vineyard, but the vast majority produce only enough for domestic consumption. Makers that distribute globally include Dr. Loosen vineyards, one of the country's largest. Their 2012 Riesling Eiswein, (\$40.00, 187ml.). Is intense in both its concentration and finish, with notes of apricot and pear on a long finish, due to the brisk acidity of the thick juice.

Further east, in Austria's Kremstal region, on the upper Danube, the Nigl 2015 Gruner Veltliner Eiswein, (\$49.00, 375 ml.) offers a more citrus-based wine. Notes of orange and lemon peel on the nose give way to a slightly kiwifruit-based palate and a long finish that a bit salty at the end, which is typical of the grape style.

So, the next time someone says, "what's for dessert?" at your table, make a move from the ordinary and serve one of these!

Ask the Wine Guy at jdris8888@gmail.com



Please Join

Boston City Council District 2 Candidate

Ed Flynn

for a special

COUNTDOWN TO ELECTION DAY FUNDRAISER!

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ED FLYNN HOSTING COUNTDOWN TO ELECTION RALLY

Eight days before the Preliminary Election for District 2 City Council, Ed Flynn will hold a Countdown to Election Day Rally. The event will take place from 5:30-8:30pm at Lincoln Tavern, located at 425 Broadway in South Boston. All are welcome to attend.

In recent weeks, Flynn's campaign has gained momentum with prominent endorsements from across the entire district, including the Mass Nurses Association, Boston Fire Fighters Local 718, Iron Workers Local 7, Chinese Progressive Political Action, and Boston's Unite Here Local 26.

Flynn also has the support of several notable elected officials representing District 2, including Congressman Stephen F. Lynch, State Representative Nick Collins, City Councilor At-Large

Michael Flaherty, South Boston resident and Suffolk County Clerk of Courts Michael Donovan, and Suffolk County SJC Clerk Maura Doyle.

Flynn said, "It's hard to believe it, but Preliminary Election Day is right around the corner. When we kicked off our campaign, there was a foot of snow on the ground. Since then, we've campaigned hard across the entire district, and I'm so grateful for the incredible support we've received. We're all in this together and, as your City Councilor, I will be a vocal advocate for the issues that matter to residents in each and every community in District 2 – making sure that our streets are safe, improving our Boston Public Schools for all families, supporting equal pay for equal work, and expanding paid family medical leave."

Recent South Boston Real Estate Sales


Property/Type	Price	Sale Date	Rooms	Baths	Sq Ft
36 Thomas Park Three Family	\$1,355,000	7/6/17	7/6/17	2.4	3418
904 East Fourth Street Single Family	\$1,000,000	7/7/17	7/7/17	2.5	2700
714 East Fourth St UNIT 1 Condo	\$855,000	7/7/17	7/7/17	2	1566
624 East Eighth St UNIT 2 Condo	\$763,000	7/7/17	7/7/17	2	1274
881 East First St UNIT403 Condo	\$695,000	7/5/17	7/5/17	1	1051
256 Athens St UNIT 3 Condo	\$687,000	7/6/17	7/6/17	1	916
141 Dorchester Ave UNIT 603 Condo	\$622,500	7/7/17	7/7/17	1	725
6 Vinton St UNIT 2 Condo	\$490,000	7/7/17	7/7/17	1	712
493 East Fourth St UNIT 3 Condo	\$455,000	7/6/17	7/6/17	1	620
140-142 West eventh St UNIT 1 Condo	\$430,000	7/7/17	7/7/17	1	533
802 East Third St UNIT 1 Condo	\$399,000	7/3/17	7/3/17	1	609


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- Batteries

- Canned Food
- First Aid Items
- Pillows or Blankets
- Hand Sanitizer
- Gift Cards



All donations will be going to the victims
affected by Hurricanes Harvey & Irma.



SB Vietnam Memorial: Love, Loyalty and Pride on Display

South Boston Today – Staff Report

36 years and the crowds still turn out en masse. The dedicated committee members still work hard and with great passion to make sure their fallen comrades are never forgotten and that every detail of the event is set to perfection. The dignitaries still travel to the neighborhood from far and wide to be part of this solemn, yet uplifting, ceremony and the weather, perhaps with assistance from Heaven above, always seems to cooperate and provide the most beautiful day. And it all happened yet again last Sunday at Medal of Honor Park for the rededication of the South Boston Vietnam Memorial.

The annual rededication is a true test of love, loyalty and pride. These are things that South Bostonians, whether current or former have always had in abundance. Just witnessing how the enthusiasm of last Sunday's gathering is just as strong now as it was 36 years ago, as the neighborhood stood shoulder to shoulder with its Vietnam Vets and their families to honor its 25 fallen sons, is a confirmation that yes, very special people indeed reside here.

As is tradition, the day started off with the Memorial Mass at St. Brigid Church. After the Mass, the

crowd moved across to the park for the ceremony. South Boston Vietnam Memorial Committee Chairman Tom Lyons opened the schedule of events followed by the playing of the National Anthem; where everyone stood in silence and respectful attention and then came the opening prayer by Father Casey. South Boston's elected officials were joined by Governor Baker and Mayor Marty Walsh; who shared words spoken from the heart praising the Vietnam Veterans who came home safely as well as those 25 whose name are on the monument and were being remembered on this day. The beautiful pomp and ceremony as it always does, added a special feeling confirming just how important this rededication is and how much it means to so many. With flags flying in the pleasant breeze carried by military color guards, the pipes and drums brought a rush of pride to the attentive crowd. Congressman Stephen Lynch, Boston City Councilor Michael Flaherty and Clerk of Court Mike Donovan joined special guest speaker General George Kelly in also giving impassioned speeches that touched the hearts of those in the large gathering.

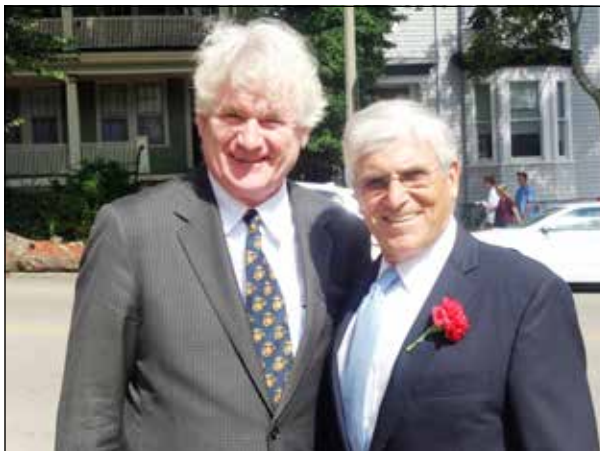
This year's rededication was highlighted by the three Medal of Honor recipients from South Boston, all of whom have long since passed on and recognized their surviving family members, who

were invited to the event. Those recipients were PVT. George H. Nee, PVT. Frank O. Walker and PFC. Michael J. Perkins. Also, present and recognized were honored guests and Medal of Honor recipients Tom Kelley and Ryan Pitts.

The traditional calling of the names of the 25 fallen South Bostonians named on the Vietnam Monument then began. As each name was called out, a family member placed a memorial wreath at the site. And then Taps was played in what is always one of the most emotional parts of the ceremony.

As the rededication came to an end, some in the crowd started to leave, many stayed to talk and reflect on the day; shaking the hands of the many Vietnam Veterans in the crowd and thanking them for their service. But whether they left or lingered, it was clear that all who attended this memorial, which has become such an important tradition for so many, felt that they were a part of something very special on this warm September Sunday and they truly were.

Congratulations are once again in order for the members of the South Boston Vietnam Memorial Committee for who they are and what they have done and still do and to the people who continue to turn out in such large numbers each and every year to support them and to honor the 25 fallen heroes.



Vietnam Memorial rededication ceremonies at Medal of Honor Park were (from left to right) Mayor Martin Walsh, Hon. Ray Flynn, Tommy Lyons, Ed Flynn, and Governor Charles Baker.

Rededication An Emotional Event

By Kevin Devlin

On Sunday, September 10, under a beautiful blue sky dotted with fluffy, white clouds, the 36th anniversary of the South Boston Vietnam Memorial was held at the Medal of Honor Park located within M Street Park. Well-known veteran's affairs activist, Tommy Lyons, was the master-of-ceremonies. Elected officials in attendance were Governor Charles Baker, Congressman Stephen Lynch, Mayor Martin Walsh, Boston City Councilor Michael Flaherty, and Suffolk County Superior Court Clerk for Civil Business, Michael Donovan. The keynote speaker was General George Casey, Jr. USA. Medal of Honor recipients present were Tom Kelley, United States Navy, and Ryan Pitts, United States Army.

As eloquently stated by Tommy Lyons, General Casey, Ryan Pitts, and our elected leaders, during the rededication, we must remember and never forget those who made the ultimate sacrifice for us and this country. We must remember and never

forget to respect and honor them. We must remember and never forget that we are indebted to them for their unselfish service, for their dedication and ideals. We must remember and never forget that we "wouldn't be who we are today" without their sacrifices; allowing us to experience our todays and our tomorrows. We must remember and never forget because if we do they would have died in vain. And we can't allow that to ever happen.

South Boston native Ed Flynn, US Navy (retired) was honored to be amongst fellow veterans. "I am proud of the South Boston Vietnam Veterans for their brave service to our country," Flynn said. "I am also proud of their commitment to remember and honor their fallen South Boston brothers who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country."

At the conclusion of the rededication ceremony, celebrated Irish tenor, John McDermott, sang America the Beautiful. It was a beautiful moment which sent shivers throughout my being. My eyes watered but I held back the tears. As I listened to him singing, and others in the crowd join along, I could only

look at the flag and feel how proud, how fortunate I was to be an American. The song also brought me back to the Vietnam Era. Those who gave their lives were mere babies with their entire lives in front of them. Sadly they didn't get to enjoy life to the fullest like they should have been able to do; like many of us have done since then.

They didn't return to live and love their family and friends. They didn't get married, raise a family, become parents and grandparents. They didn't get to attend family barbecues, birthday parties, or weddings. They didn't get to feel the warmth of the sun on their faces on a summer's day or build a snowman in their backyards for their children. Instead, they paid the ultimate sacrifice to ensure that we lived our lives to the fullest, and that we were able to continue to enjoy life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

We must always recognize and appreciate how much our veterans have sacrificed, and through our remembrance, appreciate "their act of grace, generosity and patriotism" as so aptly stated by General Casey.



Lobstah! Was On The Menu

The spirit of community was alive and well at 120 L Street South Boston and was on display on the faces of the joyful and welcoming residents, who make the Monsignor Powers apartments their home.

On Monday, September 11, the residents of the Monsignor Powers Apartments were treated to a gourmet 'end of the summer' luncheon celebration, with Lobstah on the menu complemented by sausages, chicken, hot dogs, potato salad, macaroni salad and fresh green salads and libation.

Thanks go to the hard-working organizers led by Michelle Gage, Kelly McDermott, Chris "The Dog Man" Gregorio, Billy McGurr, and Billy Shaughnessy, BHA's jack of all trades.

Special thanks to donors and sponsors including Representative Nick Collins and Ed Flynn. Salads were supplied courtesy of Bell's Market and the much-needed ice courtesy of Al's Liquors. The delicious chocolate chip cookies were baked with a touch of love by The Cookie Lady.



BCYF TYNAN HAPPENINGS

Now that school has resumed the Tynan staff is ready to get our Fall Gym Programs up and running. I hope everyone had an enjoyable and productive summer and we are looking forward to seeing you soon. Registration for the

following programs will be held on Monday, September 18th, 3-9 p.m. in the gym.

TOTS AND JUNIOR GYM

The Tots gym is for boys and girls ages 4-6. Junior gym is for boys and girls ages 7-11. Classes will be held on Mon-

day and Thursday afternoon 3:30-5:00pm. The children will enjoy free time followed by recreational games, meeting new friends and most importantly having FUN.

FLAG FOOTBALL

Our infamous Flag Football

League will begin by the end of October. We will be providing instructional clinics beginning October 10th through October 24th from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. The league is for boys and girls ages 7-11 and games will be played on Tuesday afternoons.



First Responders Support Neighborhood House in Honor of Joseph “Dodo” Nee

In honor of Joseph “Dodo” Nee, a lifelong supporter of the South Boston community and an inspiration to so many, Boston’s First Responders came together on

September 5th to present the South Boston Neighborhood House with a check donation of \$7,500. The generous donation will provide back to school supplies and clothing to

local students in the community.

This donation was made possible by members of the Boston Firefighters Credit Union, Boston Fire Department, Boston Police Department & Massachusetts Fallen Heroes/Veterans Edge to uphold the incredible legacy and efforts in which their friend, veteran, and fellow firefighter, Joseph Nee did for the South Boston community. City of Boston Mayor Marty Walsh attended the event in South Boston to say a few words about the Nee family and the importance of coming together to support our local communities.

“Assisting the South Boston Neighborhood House was a seamless decision between the Boston Firefighters

Credit Union, Boston Police, Boston Fire, Mass Fallen Heroes and the Nee family to engage in an effort that would make Dodo very proud,” said Bernie Winne, CEO of the Boston Firefighters Credit Union.

About Massachusetts Fallen Heroes

Established in 2010 by Boston firefighters, local Veterans, Gold Star Families, Police Officers and other patriotic citizens, Massachusetts Fallen Heroes’ mission is to memorialize our Fallen by creating a permanent public tribute, and to provide advocacy services for local Veterans and families of the fallen who have served in the Global War on Terrorism since 2001. For more information or to donate, please visit: www.massfallenheroes.org.



SOUTH BOSTON YOUTH SOCCER

It’s hard to believe we have begun another year of Soccer. What a great weekend! Just a couple of reminders; before we begin a recap of last week’s games that coached turned in.

COACHES: Remember it is important to turn in score sheets. If you would rather send me an email with the information, you can send it to soccernana54@gmail.com

If you do not pass one in there will not be any write up for your team and that is not fair to the children who show up week after week or the Sponsors. Remember all score sheets must be turned in by Monday afternoon at 1 p.m. at the latest. Also, please fill all score sheets out correctly.

If a coach is having a parent help them out every week, then that person must fill out a CORI form. For the coaches who have the last game in the Under 8 Division on Sunday, please remember to put the equipment away. Also make sure there is no parent or children (that are not playing the game) near the nets during the game. It is a distraction for the goalie.

PARENTS: Remember all chil-

dren need to wear shin guards. If your child does not have them, they can not play. No hats, or jewelry can be worn while playing – this is for the safety of the children.

NO SMOKING IN THE STADIUM. IF YOU FEEL YOU NEED TO HAVE A CIGARETTE FOR THE HOUR YOU ARE THERE, YOU NEED TO BE AWAY FROM THE FIELD.

Also, if you have any problems at the field, please see one of the officers of the league and we will take care of all concerns immediately. All parents should be on one side of the field and the players on the opposite side.

SNACK BAR: Please patronize the snack bar. All monies that are brought in at the snack bar go right back to the local sports teams that use the park, which helps defray some of the expenses to the league.

We also would like to take this time to thank our sponsors and ask that you patronize them. Because of their generosity we get to keep this league going.

Recap of this week’s game will be posted next week. We only had four score sheets turned in.

Old Harbor Reunion

Let's raise the roof before they raze the Old Harbor!

Sunday

September 24, 2017

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Florian Hall
55 Hallett Street, Dorchester
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Entertainment and light refreshments

RSVP to oldharborreunion@gmail.com

Youth Soccer Parade Of Champions



Billy Baker Sr. still has South Boston Youth Soccer in his heart and soul. The 2017 Parade of Champions was as inspiring as ever as the teams with their sponsor names and game jerseys paraded around the field.



*This week,
Danny gave
"Pic's Picks"
for Week 2 in
the NFL:*

TENNESSEE TITANS (-2) over Jacksonville Jaguars

-I'm not going to lie. When I saw the two-point spread here, my eyes lit up. This is the first game I picked. And I haven't thought twice about it. Tennessee is coming off a Week 1 loss at home to the Oakland Raiders, but that's not really anything the Titans should hand their heads about. Oakland is a legit contender in the AFC, and Tennessee knows that. The Titans also know that the Jacksonville Jaguars are certainly not the Raiders. Jacksonville went into Houston and beat the Texans in Week 1, but it came at a price. Wide receiver Allen Robinson tore his ACL and will miss the rest of the season. Blake Bortles and the Jaguars can't afford to take any more hits like that. But even if they don't, they still don't have enough to contend this season, I don't care how good Leonard Fournette is. I picked the Titans to win this division, and their loss to the Raiders doesn't change that. This game is in Jacksonville Sunday at 1 p.m. I expect Tennessee to be hungry enough to hand the Jaguars their first of many losses

this season. And they'll do it by more than two points.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS

(-6.5) over Minnesota Vikings

-The Steelers return home after defeating the Browns in Cleveland by only three points. They'll have a much tougher opponent in the Vikings, who had no problem with the New Orleans Saints on Monday Night Football. But some home-cooking for Pittsburgh should help Le'Veon Bell put together a better performance than his 32 rush yards in Week 1. I'm also giving the Steelers an edge here because of Minnesota's short week after playing on Monday night. Between that and the home field, I'm taking the Steelers to win and just barely cover.

OAKLAND RAIDERS (-14)

over New York Jets

-The spread here is very high, but for good reason. Normally, I would stay away from a spread this high, but an East Coast team is already at a disadvantage having to travel to the West Coast, never mind that team being the lowly Jets, who are traveling to Oakland. I have the Raiders taking the AFC West crown with 12 wins this season. So you know

how I feel about them. They just have too many weapons for the Jets to keep up in this one. Oakland should use this game as an opportunity to pile on if they have the chance. And something's telling me they will most definitely have that chance. Raiders by 20.

WASHINGTON REDSKINS

(+3) over Los Angeles Rams

-Speaking of an East Coast team heading to the West Coast, the Redskins will make their way to LA looking to bounce back from a 13-point loss to the Philadelphia Eagles in Week 1 in D.C. I picked the Eagles to win the NFC East, so I don't necessarily think that's a terrible loss for Washington to begin the season. But there's something about the Rams' Week 1 win over the Indianapolis Colts that makes me believe Los Angeles might be somewhat vulnerable in Week 2. The Rams whooped the Colts 46-9 on Sunday in LA. But without Andrew Luck, the Colts have no shot to do anything this year. So now, the Rams will look to take advantage of having back-to-back home games to begin the season. But I have some news for

them: Kirk Cousins is not Scott Tolzien. Cousins will provide a much more difficult test for LA's defense in Week 2. So much so, that I'm picking the Redskins to win by a touchdown.

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS (-13.5) over San Francisco 49ers

-Another high spread, but another high spread for good reason. The Seahawks are coming off a 17-9 loss to the Packers in Green Bay. The only thing better than going home to play in Seattle, for the Seahawks, is that the 49ers are coming to town. San Francisco only scored three points at home in a 23-3 loss to the Carolina Panthers in Week 1. Going to Seattle in Week 2 is absolutely not the answer to San Fran's offensive problems. So I'm predicting a blowout. My only question would be with the Seahawks' offense. Still, their defense should be able to turn this into a turnover party. To that, I'd say, this isn't going to end well for the 49ers.

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