



State Health Plans Shake-Up

Two of Massachusetts' largest nonprofit health insurers are bracing for a significant drop in revenues that could force at least one of them to cut jobs, after a state agency eliminated them from coverage options for tens of thousands of public workers.

The state has offered plans from Harvard Pilgrim Health Care and Tufts Health Plan for more than three decades. But beginning in July, neither of the well-known insurers will be available to public workers who buy commercial health plans.

A spokeswoman at Tufts said the insurer is still evaluating how to manage the loss of state business — and the anticipated \$25 million

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EDITORIAL

Tom Brady Continues to Amaze

Referring to Tom Brady as ‘The greatest quarterback of all time’ is becoming more common all the time among football fans, even those from other parts of the country, who are not necessarily fans of the New England Patriots superstar. Last Sunday’s playoff game against a stunned Jacksonville team proved once again that the man can be counted on to come through, even when all looks lost. The Jaguars played what many consider a near perfect

game for the first three quarters but, as was hoped for and pretty much expected, Brady, backed by a determined and talented team, came roaring back in the 4th. They are amazing.

The National Football League has lost quite a bit of support this season, much of it due to the National Anthem protests, as well as other issues facing the sport. A growing degree of anger is aimed at the NFL as an organization, particularly its leadership and those protesting players and

much of it justified. Support for the New England Patriots runs high and deep all across the region by loyal fans.

Though wildly popular in New England among the fans, ‘The Pats’ are reviled and intensely disliked by millions of football enthusiasts in other parts of the country. Of course, much of that dislike can be chalked up to jealousy and even a bit of envy. But love them or hate them, even the detractors have to admit, they truly are an incredible team.



“Today’s headlines and history’s judgment are rarely the same” – Condoleezza Rice

Welcome Justine Liff Collins!

State Representative Nick Collins and Dr. Olivia Liff Collins welcomed their first child, a beautiful baby girl Justine Liff Collins, on January 23, 2018. Justine arrived at 8:15am weighing 8lbs - .25oz and 21 inches in height. Congratulations to the Liff/Collins family.



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The Information Center



Thoughts on the Short-Lived Shutdown

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
John Ciccone

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

If last weekend's shut down accomplished anything, it was that, finally, the American people, no matter which side they were on during this brief but intense tug of war, now have positive proof that there are actually elected officials who care more about protecting the ability of illegal aliens to remain in this country than they do about the American citizens they have a sworn duty to protect and serve. It is crystal clear now and it didn't go over well this time as Nancy Pelosi and Chuck Schumer learned.

Playing politics at the expense of our nation's military and 320 million other Americans is no way to conduct business in Washington. And can there still be any doubt that the goal of the open borders crowd is to flood the land with illegal's in the effort to get more voters for the ultimate goal of taking over the government in the future. It's not compassion, it's politics.

President Trump, as part of a recent Tweet said on Monday "...Dems just want illegal immigrants to pour into this country unchecked..." He's right, everyone knows he's right and there are many in Schumer's and Pelosi's radical voter base who want that very thing. As expected, the two US Senators from Massachusetts, Markey and Warren, voted to keep the government shut down, as did many of this state's members in the House of Representatives. The Bay State has the embarrassing reputation of having some of the most left leaning, some would say radical, Members of Congress in the nation. Thankfully, our own Congressman Stephen Lynch cares more about the American people and their needs and does not dance on the strings of Pelosi. Lynch voted to reopen the government.

At the NFL playoff game last Sunday between Philly and Minnesota,

many in the crowd acted like they were at a European Soccer match. Over there, people often get so violent, they riot and try to injure the fans of the opposing teams, as well as stampede and trample other spectators, in some cases causing death. After the game, the Eagle's fans threw rocks, bottles and any other objects they could lift at the Viking's fans. Threats to shoot, stab and beat each other with bats filled the air, as police had to rush in and separate the opposing groups. As I said and as most people who follow sports can attest, this is not uncommon in Europe. But why would Americans want to emulate Europeans?

The National Hockey League (NHL) recently announced its pick of who will be singing the National Anthem at this year's big annual NHL Hockey All-Star Game. The league selected 'Kid Rock'. This choice set off howls of protest from members of the news media and leftist activists all around the country because Kid Rock is a vocal supporter of President Trump and therefore must be a racist. He is of course not a racist. But remember, to the news media and leftist activists, anyone they disagree with is a racist. The NHL, in response to the protests and anger, dug in its heels and said the decision to pick Kid Rock stands – period. Maybe with the NHL's decision, those in the media, who are so upset, might realize how angry Roger Goodell and other heads of the National Football League made millions of fans and members of America's law enforcement, when that league brought in 'Beyonce' to perform her anti-police act during the halftime show at the 2016 Super Bowl.

And finally, for this week, if you're a regular reader of this newspaper, you know that all of us here at South

Boston Today have tremendous respect for our country's military. It's a fact, that, without our armed forces, there would be no United States of America. But as magnificent as it is, even our Navy can sometimes get caught in a bind, or in this case, caught in the ice. It was reported that the Navy's newest warship, the USS Little Rock has been ice bound in the St. Lawrence Seaway near Montreal, Canada since Christmas Eve and will probably have to remain trapped there until mid-March. Navy officials say that the ice is so thick, that

an attempt to free the ship which is state of the art, fast, agile and powerful could cause it to be damaged.

A story like this always brings to memory the warning Al Gore issued 10 years ago that within 5 years, because of Global Warming, there would be little if any ice remaining in the Northern Hemisphere. Is it any wonder that few people still take anything Mr. Gore and others who warn us about the weather 5, 10, or 20 years into the future seriously when they can't even accurately predict if it will rain on Sunday?

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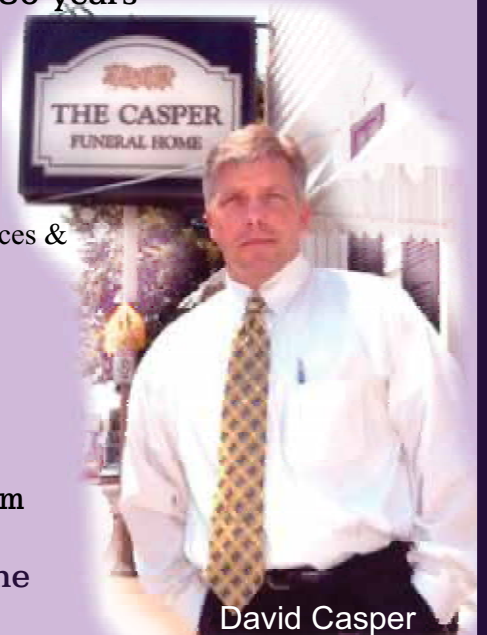
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Window Into The State House

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.

GIC taking heavy flak over health-plan changes

The Globe's Priyanka Dayal McCluskey has an update on a very unpopular decision by the state's Group Insurance Commission: "Labor unions that represent Massachusetts public employees are fuming over a stunning decision by a state commission to limit their health plan options and are lashing out against the move, which affects hundreds of thousands of people and shakes up the local insurance industry. Under the changes, which take effect in July, commercial plans from the popular insurers Tufts Health Plan, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, and Fallon Health no longer will be available."

Democrats throw in towel, shutdown ends, Guy Fawkes discredited

From Liz Goodwin at the Globe: "Senate Democrats relented to heavy pressure and joined Republicans in ending a three-day federal shutdown Monday, winning little more than a promise from Senate majority leader Mitch McConnell to conduct an immigration debate in coming weeks. The retreat, after Republicans launched a weekend barrage accusing Democrats of putting the concerns of undocumented

immigrants ahead of US troops and federal employees, ended the divisive episode as furloughs and agency closures began to take effect on the shutdown's first business day."

U.S. Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey voted against the compromise bill in the Senate, as WBUR reports, while U.S. Reps. Stephen Lynch and William Keating voted for it in the House late yesterday.

OK, enough with the tedious bill mechanics and votes. Who's to blame? Who politically won and lost? The consensus, as reported by the Washington Post and the New York Times, is that Democrats caved to save their political skins – and progressives, who pushed Democrats to the shutdown brink, are now furious. Michael Cohen at the Globe argues that the shutdown was largely the fault of Republicans but "Democrats were never completely faultless." The NYT's Paul Krugman is also ripping into Republicans and President Trump, saying they can't be trusted. But David Brooks at the NYT says the showdown was an unmitigated disaster for Democrats, who took the "Guy Fawkes option" and paid the price for thinking a shutdown would actually accomplish much.

One benefit of the shutdown:

Medical-device tax suspended

At least some folks in Cambridge are happy with the shutdown results. From Don Seiffert: "The bill to reopen the federal government expected to be signed into law (last night) by President Trump also contains a big gift for hundreds of Massachusetts companies: another two-year delay of the medical device tax. The suspension of the tax means that the 2.3 percent tax on sales of medical devices, part of the Affordable Care Act, won't take effect until 2020."

Walsh eyes opioid suit against pharmaceutical giants

The opioid crisis won't be solved by lawsuits, but pols obviously believe someone has to pay for it, literally. From Dan Atkinson at the Herald: "Mayor Martin J. Walsh is putting pharmaceutical companies 'on notice' and is looking to join cities and towns across the country in a massive lawsuit that could recoup the costs of dealing with the opioid epidemic that has killed thousands across the Bay State."

Baker expresses 'concerns' about Rosenberg probe, but Chandler stands by Senate inquiry

From Joshua Miller at the

Globe: "Governor Charlie Baker has 'concerns' about the state Senate's ethics investigation into the conduct of former Senate president Stanley C. Rosenberg, he said Monday. Baker said he is worried by reports that people who wish to tell their story are skittish about doing so because they fear their identities will be revealed. ... 'I was concerned by the story I read over the weekend that basically said that many people who would otherwise wish to be interviewed don't want to come forward because they don't believe that the investigation is going to protect their anonymity.'"

The weekend story he refers to is apparently by the Globe's Yvonne Abraham, who confirmed a prior story by WGBH's Mike Deehan, who reported how witnesses are reluctant to step forward in the case. But Acting Senate President Harriette Chandler is expressing confidence in the process, saying confidentiality is not an issue, reports SHNS's Katie Lannan at Commonwealth magazine and Mike Deehan at WGBH. The Herald's Joe Battenfeld says it's time to stick a fork in the Senate investigation and just let law enforcement officials handle the matter.

Critical Health Insurance Benefits For Surviving Spouses Of Firefighters



Representative Nick Collins recently filed H.4057, An Act Concerning Health Insurance Benefits for Surviving Spouses of Firefighters in the City of Boston. The legislation is intended to allow the surviving spouse of a Firefighter in the City of Boston to continue to access the group health insurance benefits regardless of remarriage. At the moment, a surviving spouse is no longer eligible for the group health insurance if he or

she decides to remarry. The bill is a 'Home-Rule' petition that passed the Boston City Council and was approved by the Mayor in November.

"We are thankful for the hard work of first responders in this City, and we will never stop working to ensure that they and their families have every protection" said Rep. Collins. "With each new fire or emergency, we are reminded of the tremendous sacrifices made by families of first responders.

This legislation would be one small token of gratitude to those families, ensuring they can live in dignity and health regardless of how they choose to move on with their lives."

The bill was heard by the Joint Committee on Public Service on Tuesday, where Firefighters, Legislators, and members of the public were there to hear testimony. The Committee will now deliberate the bill's future.



Mayor's Corner

How We're Making Boston a City That's World Class Because it Works for the Middle Class

By Mayor Martin J. Walsh

From around the world and across our nation, people look to Boston for hope, for opportunity, and for a chance to build a better life.

From the first immigrant who set foot on the Shawmut Peninsula to the first student from Puerto Rico who stepped into a new classroom this fall, for nearly four centuries Boston has been more than the place we share. It's the hope we bring. It's our determination to show a better way forward, lifting one another up along the way. This spirit has continued to remain in Boston.

To take our city to new heights, we must adapt the idea of Boston to new challenges, from our local streets to the global stage. We can be a city whose industry and innovation make the world a better place and provide good jobs in every neighborhood of Boston. We can be a city that heals the environment by opening our waterfront for all to enjoy. We can be the global capital of learning whose own young people know that they can change the world. And we will be that city.

To achieve this, we will build on the strong foundation we've set, and go even further to continue our collective upward mobility as a city. And the good news is that we are already well on our way to achieving these goals -- we're seeing this

growth in every neighborhood of our city. The bottom line is that Boston is a city that's world-class because it works for the middle class.

This doesn't happen by accident. In Boston, we know that having a strong middle class means providing not only security for those who are already comfortable, but opportunity for all who need it.

That's why we are committed to investing in a growing middle class through strong 21st century schools; good jobs; affordable homes in safe neighborhoods; and providing every pathway we can to lead to real opportunity. A better Boston for everyone.

It begins with a guarantee that every child, whatever their starting point, gets the education they need to thrive, which is why we're investing \$1 billion in our school facilities over the next 10 years and working towards universal pre-kindergarten for all our young learners. And it includes everything from supporting the small businesses that are the backbone of our local economy, to recruiting industry leaders from around the world who will bring new jobs and economic benefits to our city. It means moving Bostonians up into middle-class careers that pay a living wage through our newly established Boston Hires campaign that will train and place 20,000 Boston residents in good jobs, and taking advantage of the tremendous untapped tal-

ent in our neighborhoods.

Together as a city, we will continue to prioritize the needs of our working people, and do everything we can to lift our middle class up to new heights. As we move forward together into 2018 and beyond, we're going to do all we can to make sure Boston remains an engine of upward mobility and middle-class security.



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MA Will Become “Age-Friendly State”

Commitment to meet AARP, WHO guidelines will help residents of all ages

By Cindy Campbell



Governor Charlie Baker announced that Massachusetts has joined the network of AARP Age-Friendly States and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age Friendly Cities and Communities. AARP praised Governor Baker for his leadership on this issue of importance to Bay State residents of all ages.

Massachusetts is only the second state in the nation to take such action after New York enrolled with AARP to become an age friendly state in 2017.

AARP's Age-Friendly Network asks for commitment from state elected leadership to work actively toward making the state a great place to live for people of all ages.

In a letter to AARP Massachusetts, Governor Baker wrote “Many of our older adults have the time, energy and talent available to start a

second or third career, volunteer in their community, become a mentor or pursue an unfulfilled passion. By enrolling in the network of Age-Friendly States, Massachusetts embraces the opportunity to promote and celebrate aging.”

Last year, Governor Baker established the Governor's Council to Address Aging in Massachusetts, which focuses on promoting healthy aging in Massachusetts and achieving the goal of making the Commonwealth the most age-friendly state for people of all ages. The Governor's Council brings together leaders from the aging, business, government, nonprofit, technology, education, transportation, housing and health care sectors to advise the Baker Administration on innovative policies and best practices to support and engage older residents.

Adults aged 60 and over are the fastest-growing segment of the U.S. population and will make up 23% of the Commonwealth's

population by 2035.

“AARP's age friendly network encourages states, counties, cities, towns and rural areas to prepare for the rapid aging of the U.S. population. The network encourages states and communities to take action and pay increased attention to the environmental, economic and social features that encourage greater age integration and diversity and create a community that supports residents from the cradle through retirement,” said Nancy LeaMond, Chief Advocacy and Engagement Officer for AARP.

“AARP enthusiastically supports Governor Baker's initiative to make Massachusetts an Age-Friendly state,” said AARP Massachusetts State Director Mike Festa. “We thank Secretary of Health and Human Services Marylou Sudders, Secretary of Elder Affairs Alice Bonner and the Governor's Council to Address Aging for their efforts in embracing the age-friendly movement in Massachusetts. We also thank our partners James Fuc-

cione, Senior Director of the Massachusetts Healthy Aging Collaborative, Nora Moreno Cargie of the Tufts Health Plan Foundation, and Dave Stevens of the Massachusetts Councils on Aging.”

The AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities helps participating states become great places by adopting such features as walkable streets, better housing and transportation options, access to key services and opportunities for residents to participate in community activities. Well-designed, livable communities help sustain economic growth and make for happier, healthier residents — of all ages. The AARP Age-Friendly Network is an affiliate of the World Health Organization's Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities, an international effort launched in 2006 to help cities prepare for their own and the world's growing population of older adults and the parallel trend of urbanization.

The eight Age-Friendly/Livable Community domains outlined by WHO and AARP are:

- Outdoor spaces and buildings
- Transportation

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MAYOR WALSH APPOINTED HOUSING CHAIR FOR UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

Mayor Walsh to lead national conversations and work on increasing access to affordable housing for working families

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Wednesday, January 24, 2018 - Mayor Martin J. Walsh was today appointed Housing Chair for the United States Conference of Mayors Community Development and Housing Committee. In his role as Chair, Mayor Walsh will lead the Conference's work on housing, and work with mayors across the country to tackle housing and community development challenges. Mayor Walsh was appointed chair during the 86th Winter Meeting of the United States Conference of Mayors (USCM) in Washington, D.C.

"Housing is a key fundamental to my goal in Boston, and our goal as a nation: to create and sustain a strong middle class," said Mayor Walsh. "I look forward to sharing the successes of Boston's hard work with my fellow cities, and look forward to learning even more from my fellow mayors about what housing strategies have worked in their cities."

Additional leadership members of the committee include Mayor Jorge O. Elorza, Providence, RI, Vice Chair; Mayor Ed Pawlowski, Allentown, PA, Vice Chair; and Mayor John Giles, Mesa, AZ, Vice Chair for Workforce Housing.

"With cities like Boston and Seattle facing many shared challenges as we work to make more affordable housing available and help our neighbors experiencing homelessness move toward permanent housing, I look forward to collaborating with Mayor

Walsh in his role as Chair of the Housing and Community Development Committee to help make our cities more affordable, inclusive, and vibrant places to live," said Seattle Mayor Jenny A. Durkan.

The Walsh Administration has been a leader in ambitious and innovative work to build, sustain, and promote affordable housing for its Boston residents. Housing a Changing City: Boston 2030 is the Walsh Administration's comprehensive housing plan. Under this plan, Boston will create 53,000 new units of housing at a variety of income levels throughout Boston, including 44,000 units of housing for the workforce; 5,000 units of housing for senior citizens; and 4,000 units to stabilize the market and bring rents and housing prices under control. During his second inaugural address earlier this month, Mayor Walsh also pledged to increase Boston's targets for low-income homes, moderate-income homes, senior housing, and overall units.

Since the 2014 implementation of Housing a Changing City, 13,551 new units of housing have been completed. With an additional 8,412 units currently under construction, the City has secured housing for an estimated 25,000 residents, making significant progress in meeting Boston's rapid population growth. The City remains on target to meet the production goals. To date, the Walsh Administration has committed more



than \$100 million in funding to the creation and preservation of affordable housing.

As part of the Administration's work to stabilize housing in the City of Boston, it has taken an innovative approach to addressing housing: Mayor Walsh launched both the Office of Housing Stability, responsible for programs that assist Boston residents in a housing crisis -- whether due to eviction, landlord-tenant disputes, rent escalations, unplanned loss of housing, or any other rental housing emergency -- as well as the Housing Innovation Lab, which pioneers ideas to bring down the cost to build, buy and own homes in the City of Boston.

The Office of Housing Stability develops programs like Boston's tenants' rights guide, which works to prevent displacement. The Housing Lab pilots programs like Boston's Intergenerational Homeshare Pilot, which matches older residents who have a spare bedroom with students seeking an affordable place to stay.

Earlier this week, Mayor Walsh also filed a citywide ordinance establishing guidelines and regulations to better track and regulate short-term rentals in the City of Boston. The new regulations put forth in the ordinance aim to capture the growth of Boston's growing home-share industry,

while including deterrents to help prevent operators from monopolizing Boston's housing market with short-term rentals. The overall goal of the ordinance is to responsibly incorporate the growth of the home-share industry into Boston's work to create affordable housing for all.

In addition to Boston's work to build and maintain housing, Mayor Walsh has also pledged to end chronic homelessness in the City of Boston. Boston has already ended chronic veterans homelessness in Boston. As of October 31, 2017, 413 chronically homeless individuals have been housed in the City of Boston. Boston's Way Home, the City's action plan to end chronic homelessness, focuses on a housing-first model. Rather than counting on shelter as the solution to the issue, the housing-first model means an individual's entrance into the shelter system is also their entrance to a path toward permanent, stable housing.

In his 2018 inauguration speech, Mayor Walsh also announced the launch of Boston's Way Home Fund, which will raise \$10 million over the course of four years. These privately-raised funds will be used to create 200 new units of supportive, sustainable, long-term housing for chronically homeless men and women.

Age Friendly State
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- Housing
- Social participation
- Respect and social inclusion
- Work and civic engagement
- Communication and information, and

- Community and health services.

AARP's participation in the age-friendly network advances the Association's efforts to help people live easily and comfortably in their homes and communities as they age. AARP surveys show that

nearly 90% of the 50+ population want to stay in their homes and communities as they age, where they have strong social networks and a sense of familiarity.

AARP encourages older adults to take an active role in their com-

munities' plans and ensures that their voices are heard. Related initiatives focus on areas such as housing, caregiving, community engagement, volunteering, social inclusion and combating isolation among older people.

The Wine Guy



Quick Sips

I thought I'd just put out some wines this week that have been favorites for a number of year. They're dependable, delicious and affordable.

In Argentina's Mendoza region, the Cuyo area, though relatively small, produces some of the country's ripest, most intense wines.

Tikal Patriota, Mendoza, Cuyo, 2012, (\$19.99), is the embodiment of all that makes this place special. It's not only a Wine Spectator "Top 100 Wines" selection; it's been given 91 points by Robert Parker-no small feat! It presents a deep

reddish purple with aromas of bright berry/cherry fruit and gives the impression of swallowing a whole bowl of mixed ripe berries at once. Big body, yet very balanced, with luscious layers of raspberry, cherry, and cocoa flavors. Just a hint of baking spice at the end brings it all together. This one is a natural with Prime Rib, bone-in, some yorkshire pudding and your favorite roasted vegetables.

The Russian River Valley AVA, in California's Sonoma County, is a growing area to some of the best Cabernet Sauvignon, Pinot Noir and Chardonnay wines in world. Like the neighboring Napa Valley, it's "bathed" each evening by the "Pacific mist", which coats the grapes with cool Pacific fog that burns off late each morning. This allows a slow, full growth and a long hang time, which creates full, rich flavors in the grapes.

One of the best-known vineyards in this area is Picket Fence. Their 2014

Pinot Noir, Russian River Valley, (\$19.99), is a classic Sonoma Pinot; Winemaker Alison Crowe describes it as "a wine with rich aromas of raspberry jam and brandy- macerated cherries. Its luxurious density and beautiful structure are hallmarks of this Russian River Pinot Noir. Round flavors and balanced tannins finish with nuances of vanilla and star anise." Pinot Noir is one of the

more versatile red wines as far as food goes, so you might want to try this one with game meats, sweetbreads or a lamb dish.

Even though it's summer time there now, people in Australia love their Cabernets all year round; one of the latest to come to our market is Jim Barry Cover Drive Cabernet Sauvignon 2014

Cabernet Sauvignon, Coonawarra, Limestone Coast, Australia, (\$17.99). This wine shows a brooding dark red color in the glass. The nose boasts of aromatic blackberry and blue fruits with refined hints of bay leaves and mint. A great line of acidity drives through the wine supporting talcly ripe tannins. Flavors of blackberry and mulberry shine from the medium bodied composition. Great with some Black Angus sliders and fried sweet potato fries.

Last but not least, you have to throw a good all-around white into an assortment like this, so why not have a glass of Decoy Sauvignon Blanc 2016, Sonoma County, California, (\$18.99). This enticing wine offers vivid flavors of grapefruit and apricot, as well as lovely notes of honeydew and lemongrass. On the palate, refreshing acidity mingles with a subtle sweetness that carries through to a fresh, lively finish.

Talk to the Wine Guy at jdris8888@gmail.com

State Health Plans... continued from front page

hit on revenue — but she said some job cuts are

likely. Harvard Pilgrim and Tufts are each set to lose 90,000 members. That's about 8 percent of Tufts' total membership, and about 7 percent of Harvard Pilgrim's total.

Fallon Health, a smaller Worcester-based insurer, is slated to lose about 20,000 members.

The fallout results from a surprise move on Jan. 18 by the state's Group Insurance Commission, which manages public health benefits, to stop offering commercial coverage from the three insurers. (Tufts will still offer Medicare plans to public-sector retirees.)

The commission whittled the options for public employees down to three lesser-known insurers. Harvard Pilgrim said Tuesday that no staffing changes are currently planned, but the Wellesley company will "continue to evaluate the needs of the business and will staff accordingly."

The Boston Globe quoted an email from spokeswoman Kimberley Winn, "GIC has been a

major account for Harvard Pilgrim Health Care for many years. We would have liked to continue to serve GIC and would be happy to do so again in the future."

Collectively, the insurers employ thousands of people in Massachusetts. It's unclear how many jobs might be affected by the GIC's decision. The state commission's move has come under fire from public employee unions and some politicians, who say the changes were made with little public notice or debate. The commission is holding public hearings this week. State senators said Tuesday that they will hold a public oversight hearing on Jan. 31 to discuss the "abrupt" changes.

Attorney General Maura Healey told the Globe that her office has been getting calls from state employees and urged the commission to reconsider. "This was a situation that was seriously mishandled," Healey said in an appearance on WGBH radio.

Officials at the state commission defended their decision and the process that led to it. They said they evaluated several factors before choosing which health

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CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304		Docket No. SU18P0049GD	Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court
In the matter of: Andy Valentin Guerrero Of: Boston, MA		RESPONDENT Alleged Incapacitated Person.	
To the name(s) Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by: Angela R Guerrero of Boston, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Andy V Guerrero is in need of a Guardian and requesting that Angela R Guerrero of Boston, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve Without Surety on the bond.		Suffolk Probate and Family Court 24 New Chardon Street Boston MA, 02114 FILED JAN 16 2018 SUFFOLK PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT 	
The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.			
You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 03/01/2018. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.			
IMPORTANT NOTICE The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.			
WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: <u>January 10, 2018</u>			
ORDER OF NOTICE It is ORDERED that a copy of this citation be: Served, with a copy of the petition, in hand to Andy V Guerrero by a disinterested person at least <u>Fourteen (14)</u> days prior to the return date; and Served on the Department of Developmental Services and/or the United States Department of Veterans' Affairs, if interested, and served on all other interested persons as defined in G.L. c. 190B, §5-304, at least <u>Fourteen (14)</u> days prior to the return date by delivering in hand or by mailing by certified, registered, or first-class mail as described in G.L. c. 190B, §1-401; or by publishing a copy of the citation once in <u>South Boston Today</u> <u>Boston</u> , publication to be at least <u>Seven (7)</u> days prior to the return date. (Newspaper) (Newspaper city/town)			
See Standing Order 03-09: Notice in Guardianship of Incapacitated Persons and Conservatorship Matters.			
WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: <u>January 10, 2018</u>			

Recent South Boston Real Estate Sales

Property/Type	Price	Sale Date	Rooms	Baths	Sq Ft
621 East First St UNIT 81 Condo	\$1,515,000	11/20/17	5	2	2221
202 L Street Three Family	\$1,510,000	11/30/17	18	3	3510
175F K St UNIT F Condo	\$1,500,000	11/30/17	8	4.5	3054
442 West Second St UNIT 1 Condo	\$1,430,000	11/29/17	6	3f 2h	2400
35 Channell Center St UNIT 211 Condo	\$1,300,000	11/10/17	2	1.5	1353
25 Channel Center St UNIT PH204 Condo	\$1,259,000	11/21/17	7	2.5	1528
621 East First St UNIT 101 Condo	\$1,150,000	11/20/17	3	2	1772
341 E St UNIT 1 Condo	\$1,130,000	11/29/17	8	3	1721
205 E St UNIT 6-S Condo	\$1,092,000	11/29/17	4	2.5	1413
205 E St UNIT 20-S Condo	\$1,051,484	11/17/17	5	2.5	1327
637 East First St UNIT 301 Condo	\$1,025,000	11/20/17	4	2	1424
141 West Sixth St UNIT 3 Condo	\$1,017,000	11/30/17	5	2.5	1996
48 Thomas Park UNIT 2 Condo	\$930,000	11/21/17	5	2.5	1554
205 E St UNIT 17-S Condo	\$893,425	11/17/17	4	2	1098
205 E St UNIT UNIT 2-N Condo	\$883,500	11/30/17	4	2	1130
205 E St UNIT 6-N Condo	\$883,500	11/30/17	4	2	1115
205 E St UNIT 10-N Condo	\$882,895	11/17/17	4	2	1082
205 E St UNIT 10-S Condo	\$873,425	11/17/17	4	2	1127
205 E St UNIT 3-S Condo	\$873,425	11/30/17	4	2	1127
205 E St UNIT 8-S Condo	\$860,250	11/17/17	4	2	1110
23 Vinton St UNIT 2 Condo	\$849,000	11/30/17	8	2	1639
205 E St UNIT 7-N Condo	\$813,750	11/17/17	4	2	10050
205 E St UNIT 3-N Condo	\$813,750	11/17/17	4	2	1093
205 E St UNIT 9-N Condo	\$812,000	11/17/17	4	2	1017



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Mayor Walsh Takes On Short-Term Rentals aka AIRBNB



Mayor Martin J. Walsh filed a citywide ordinance establishing guidelines and regulations to better track and regulate short-term rentals in the City of Boston. As a new global industry that has a strong presence in Boston, short-term rentals provide both economic opportunities for residents and alternative temporary accommodation options for visitors.

The new regulations put forth in the ordinance aim to capture the growth of Boston's growing home-share industry, while including deterrents to help prevent operators from monopolizing Boston's housing market with short-term rentals. In addition, the regulations provide a standardized framework for regulating these units that both meet the evolving needs of the industry, provide protections for occupants and minimize the impact on surrounding neighbors of these units.

"Preserving Boston's affordability is key to keeping our communities stable and ensuring every person and family who wants to live here can afford to do so," said Mayor Walsh. "This ordinance is an important step towards our goal of reducing hous-

ing costs by creating disincentives to taking units off the market for use as short-term rentals. It also allows for the continued use of short-term rentals in scenarios that are non-disruptive to our neighborhoods and support our tourism industry. Boston is a great place to live and visit, and we look forward to responsibly incorporating the growth of the home-share industry into our work to create affordable housing for all."

In addition to classifying and registering the short-term rental units, the regulations include provisions that restrict the number of nights a unit can be booked per year, and require that each unit register with the City of Boston and pay an annual license fee.

The ordinance takes a three-tiered approach to classifying short-term rental units:

1. Limited Share Unit: consists of a private bedroom or shared space in the operator's primary residence, in which the operator is present during the rental. The fee associated with this classification is \$25 per year.

2. Home Share Unit: consists of a whole unit available for a short-term rental at the primary residence of

the operator (unit in which operator resides for at least nine months out of a 12-month period). The fee associated with this classification is \$100 per year.

3. Investor Unit: consists of an entire unit available for a short-term rental in a whole dwelling that is non-owner and non-tenant occupied. The fee associated with this classification is \$500 per year.

The regulations also provide protections for the occupants of the short-term rental unit by prohibiting any property with outstanding housing, sanitary, building, fire or zoning-code violations from being listed. To assist with the enforcement of regulations, booking platforms will be required to provide the City with monthly data and information relative to the short-term rental listings that detail the location and occupancy numbers.

This announcement builds on Mayor Walsh's commitment to addressing the housing demands in Boston. In April 2017, Mayor Walsh signed an executive order that laid out a roadmap for the collection of information on short-term rental units in Boston and directed city agencies to coordinate efforts in addressing the commercialization of short-term rental housing operations in the City of Boston.

Data shows that the availability of short-term rental units has a direct correlation to housing costs. A 2016 study by UMass Boston found a 0.4% increase in rent prices due to increases in AirBNB listings, and a nationwide UCLA student also found a 0.42% increase.

In addition to rent increases, the commercialization of short-term rentals in residential dwellings and

residential neighborhoods has the potential to reduce availability of long-term housing for owners and tenants alike, and is contrary to the Administration's goal of adding 53,000 units of housing across a variety of income levels by 2030.

To date, the Walsh Administration has committed more than \$100 million in funding to the creation and preservation of affordable housing. Today's announcement builds on the City's preservation and anti-displacement goals, outlined in Housing a Changing City: Boston 2030, Mayor Walsh's housing plan, and the housing goals laid out in Imagine Boston 2030, Boston's first citywide plan in 50 years. As part of both plans, Boston has prioritized increasing the overall housing supply, with a focus on creating and preserving affordable housing.

Since the launch of the housing plan, 24,454 new units have been permitted. When complete, these developments will be enough to house 48,600 new residents, and begin to relieve pressure on rents in existing housing. Of these, 4,649 new income-restricted units have been permitted, of which 2,234 are targeted to low income households. There are an additional 4,240 deed-restricted units in the City's development pipeline.

In addition to creating new housing, the Walsh Administration is focused on protecting the tenancies of Boston's residents, launching the nation's first Office of Housing Stability in 2016. In addition, Mayor Walsh has filed an anti-displacement legislative package at the State House, and strengthened tenants' access to information by creating the city's first online guide to the eviction process.

State Health Plans... continued from page 8

plans to keep and which to eliminate. They expect their changes to save about \$20.8 million in the first year of the rollout, while allowing almost all public employees and retirees to keep their doctors.

The commission manages benefits for about 442,000

employees, retirees, and their families and is the largest purchaser of health insurance in the state. The commission has yet to detail how much employees and retirees will pay for their health

plans next year. Those figures are expected next month.

Three other insurers are poised to gain thousands of new members

— and new revenues — following the state commission's move. The three companies slated to benefit are Neighborhood Health Plan, a subsidiary of Boston-based Partners HealthCare; Health New England, which is owned by Springfield-based Baystate Health; and UniCare, a division of Anthem, a publicly traded insurance company headquartered

in Indianapolis.

Public employees will be able to choose their own health plans, but state projections show

UniCare is likely to see the highest gain in commercial members. UniCare has an office in Andover that employs about 200 people. Its network includes all Massachusetts doctors, company officials said.

St. Peter Academy Gives Back

Beyond rigorous academics, students at St. Peter Academy also learn the importance of giving back to the community. This is sometimes a gift of time, like our visits to Marion Manor, but can also be gifts of resources to help those in need. In November, students held a food drive to support St. Vincent/St. Augustin Food Pantry and in December new toys were donated to be distributed at St. Peter Church.

This week members of the Student Council delivered towels and blankets to the Animal Rescue League. “We always have a need for blankets, linens and sheets. To have so many of them come in all at once is wonderful and I can’t thank you enough. You are generous and kindhearted kids,” said Alissa Newton of the Animal Rescue League.

While these projects often directly support the local South Boston

community, the St. Peter community also looks beyond the immediate neighborhood, raising money for hurricane relief in Puerto Rico and towards fighting breast cancer.

As Jamee, one of our grade six student leaders says, “Community service is important because it’s important to help other people. It helps the world be a nicer place.” I think we can all agree on that!

St. Peter Academy in an independent, community-based private

school and serves students from ages 15 months through grade 6. SPA is currently accepting applications for the limited spaces available in the year-round toddler program (beginning at age 15 months) and for students in Pre-K, Kindergarten and grades 1-6. Appointments for individual tours can be made by contacting the Main Office at 617-268-0750 or by emailing SPA@StPeterAcademy.com. Join us!





Billy-Jo's Girls!

The Gatey Girls Instructional League named in memory of Billie Jo Rogers Ryan, a former Gatey basketball star, pose with Billie Jo's family

Pictured are her parents, Donna and Gary Bolle, her daughter, Isabella Ryan and Billie Jo's brother, Gary. The league teaches first and second graders the fundamentals of basketball. The league is run by Allison Baker and Marie Laundry, along with volunteers Jacqueline Beggan, Lauren Woods, Emily Harris, Mary Kate Hart, Emily Hart, Allison McGough, and Julia Casper.



BCYF Condon Community Center & The Boston Housing Authority
in partnership with

Boston Youth Lacrosse Association

are hosting a 6 week "Introduction to Lacrosse" Program
for any child in the City of Boston beginning
Saturday, February 3rd.

Saturdays, 3:30-4:30pm

Condon Community Center Gym 200 D Street, South Boston

BYL will be providing all equipment. There is no cost.

The youth will be grouped as:

1st - 4th Graders

5th - 8th Graders

"All that is needed is a good attitude
and a willingness to learn this
exciting sport."

Coaches Needed

For more information please email Bob Ferrara at rwferrara@gmail.com



Saint Vincent's CYO Hoop



By Kevin Devlin

The Saint Vincent's CYO basketball program currently has three teams competing in the local CYO hoop circuit. The 5th/6th grade team is coached by George Benner, the 7th/8th grade team is coached by Roger Roberts, and the 9th/10th grade team is coached by Billy "All World" Allen and Joe "Coach" Kelly. Coach Roberts' team is 7-2 and the 9th/10th

grade team's record is currently 6-4.

Pictured at the McDonough gym located within the Walsh Center is the Saint Vincent's CYO 9th/10th grade team waiting to play against their local hoop rival, Gate of Heaven. The Saint Vincent players are: Wellington Arias, A.J. Mansaray, Carlos Baez, Gaston Esnal, Johendry Gonzalez, Qalid Hassan, Felipe Remy, and Edilson Pinto. Also pictured with the team are Luis Rodriquez and Joey Curran.

John “Injun” Horan Memorial League

By Kevin Devlin

The Gate of Heaven CYO girls’ basketball house league is named in honor of the late John “Injun” Horan, who coached baseball, football, and basketball for

decades in the South Boston community. Injun, as he was affectionately known to friends, also refereed hoop games for many years. He was a proud member of IAABO (the International Association of Approved Basketball Officials) and famous

for his three seconds-call. Injun was indeed a great guy who gave much of his time, energy, and goodwill to the youth of the neighborhood. The Horan League games are played on Saturday mornings at the McDonough gym which is located

inside the Walsh Community Center. Marie Laundry is the league commissioner and does a terrific job with the youngsters. The dedicated coaches are Allison Baker, Mary Kate Hart, Margaret Keaveny, Jean Nee, and Christina McDonough.



Pictured at the McDonough gym is the Sister Pat Club coached by Margaret Keaveny



Pictured at the McDonough gym is the Barbara Caputo Kelly Club coached by Allison Baker and Mary Kate Hart



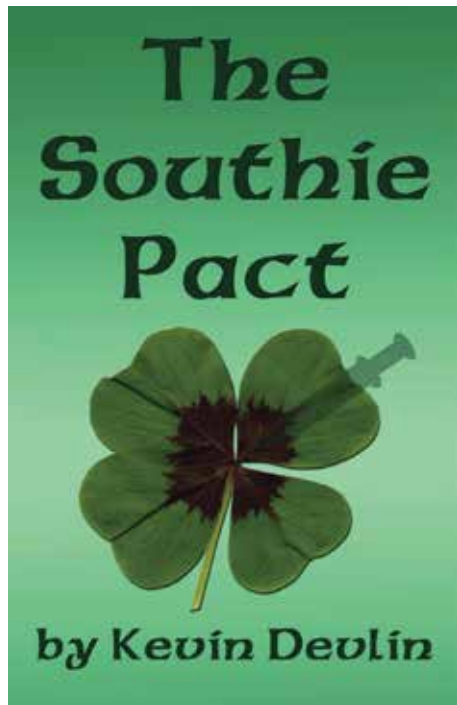
Pictured at the McDonough gym is the Kelly Collins Club coached by Christina McDonough



Pictured at the McDonough gym is the O'Brien & Son's Funeral Home Club coached by Jean Nee

“The Southie Pact”

A Review by Brian P. Wallace



It's funny. Kevin Devlin, who wrote “The Southie Pact,” and I have been friends for a long

time. We went to High School together. We played basketball at Southie High together. We went to Boston State College together. We both wrote columns for South Boston newspapers. Now, we have both written books. I finished Kevin's book recently, and it was enlightening, alarming, at times too real, but it had to be written, and it had to be written by someone who was there and who knew the behind the scenes stories.

“The Southie Pact” is about a group of close friends, complete with Southie nicknames, who grew up playing hockey at the Murphy Rink, getting their coffees at the Java House and their meals at a small Italian restaurant on L Street. They work out together at the L and play Little League together at Moakley Park. Life changes, however,

after one of the friend's overdoses on a drug. They all make a pact that none of them will follow him to the grave. They also find out that talk is cheap and, one by one, the scourge that has infected an entire community and killed their friend also breaks their pact. It is hard hitting, but it all happened. The OD's, the cluster suicides, the broken dreams, the broken families, the shattered community that had no idea what to do or who to turn to for help.

It seems like overnight a once thriving, close knit community, is burying their children at a prodigious rate. Friends turn on friends as they escalate from percs to OC's to heroin. What allows one former user to break free from the poison while his, or her, best friend is being waked at O'Briens? That is the overriding question, and only someone like Kevin could even ask the question in a caring manner, which walks the line between so many issues. Unlike all the Southie gangster books which glamorize their kind of life, this book does no

such thing. This book hits home. It is well written and suspenseful all in one. There is a nice twist at the end, which I didn't see coming.

Kevin's characters are people we all know. His use of Southie landmarks like the Sugarbowl, the Heights, the churches, M Street Park, and much more give the book a realistic feel, especially if you are from Southie. He also accurately describes the changing face of South Boston, due to overdevelopment and gentrification, which creates friction in the town. It is on point and totally up to date. I congratulate my friend on a solid book that had to be written and is written by a person who cares, who has written about it and has seen many of the kids he wrote about lost to the street. It is available on Amazon and is a must read.

This is a work of fiction based on fact
(Note: ‘The Southie Pact’, written by Kevin Devlin can be purchased on Amazon and at local on-line book stores.)

Mayor Walsh Exploring Litigation To Attack Opioid Crisis

Building on his commitment to support those in recovery and those suffering from substance use disorders in Boston and across the country, Mayor Martin J. Walsh today announced that he is exploring mass tort litigation against several pharmaceutical companies that irresponsibly saturated the market with opiates, knowingly putting consumers at risk for addiction.

To formally start this process, Mayor Walsh will be issuing a Request for Information (RFI) on Monday, February 5 seeking information from law firms, researchers and other interested parties that would inform the city's approach to potential opioid litigation. Over the past few months, the City of Boston has been meeting with various law firms and collecting relevant information in preparation for potential litigation.

“I strongly believe that the pharmaceutical industry is the

main offender and sustainer of the opioid crisis,” said Mayor Walsh. “Their distribution and marketing of narcotics is unforgivingly reckless, causing irreversible devastation to our families and significant damages to cities nationwide. In Boston, we are addressing the opioid crisis from every angle, from creating the first municipal recovery office to investing in more services and building a state-of-the-art recovery facility on Long Island. Now is the time to finally hold the pharmaceutical industry responsible.”

Having been in recovery for over 20 years, Mayor Walsh understands firsthand how easily addiction can take hold and how difficult it can be to recover. In his first term, Mayor Walsh made expanding access to recovery services in Boston a priority by creating the Office of Recovery Services to study substance use in Boston and lead the city's strategy around



substance use disorders, addiction and recovery. This is the first and only municipal recovery office in the nation.

In addition, Mayor Walsh mandated the life-saving medication naloxone (Narcan) be carried in every public safety vehicle in the city in his first two weeks in office and launched a new 24/7 hotline through 311 to help people struggling with addiction access all levels of recovery services.

Continuing these efforts into

his second term, Mayor Walsh announced in his inaugural speech earlier this month that his Administration will rebuild the Long Island Bridge and invest in a comprehensive, long-term recovery facility on Long Island. These new services will offer a continuum of care, from harm reduction, to detox, to residential treatment, to transitional housing and ongoing peer support, and equip people with the opportunity to rebuild a life.



THIS WEEK, DANNY LOOKED AT SOME EARLY SUPER BOWL STORYLINES:

I certainly hope you didn't expect me to give "Pic's Picks" for the Pro Bowl this Sunday. I don't even know who's playing in it. Nor do I care. But if you're into that sort of thing, the NFC is a 3.5-point favorite and the over/under is 46.

There's also no DraftKings "Gotta Have Em" play of the week coming from me on Thursday's podcast. But you should still use promo code "PIC" to play for free with your first deposit.

For now, here's an early look at Super Bowl LII. That's Super Bowl 52 for those of you who don't do Roman numerals. It's in Minnesota on Sunday, Feb. 4. Kickoff is at 6:30 on NBC. And the New England Patriots are 5.5-point favorites over the Philadelphia Eagles.

Both the Patriots and Eagles were the No. 1 seeds in their respective conferences during the playoffs. There's a distinct difference between the two though. One team is currently led by its backup quarterback, and the other one isn't.

Philadelphia was forced to turn to Nick Foles in Week 14 after Carson Wentz suffered a season-ending knee injury. Meanwhile, Tom Brady is still running the show for New England, even after

an injury scare to his throwing hand last week at practice.

Those are just a few of the many storylines leading into this rematch of Super Bowl XXXIX. The word "rematch" here is strong, considering it was over 10 years ago. But it will be one of the storylines nonetheless.

Here are a few more:

Rob Gronkowski's health

-Gronk was knocked out of the AFC Championship in the first half after being the recipient of a helmet-to-helmet hit. He was clearly woozy as he tried to get back up to his feet, and at that point, it was pretty clear that he would not be returning to the game. What isn't clear, is if Gronkowski will be cleared to play in the Super Bowl. Much like with Brady's hand, it's a good thing that they'll have the extra week in between games, because right now, time is their best friend. Brady's hand will heal, for sure. But who knows if Gronkowski's concussion symptoms will subside. All concussions are different, so as are their timetables. I'd put my money on Gronkowski being ready to go, but if he's not, and the Patriots find a way to win, it would be the second straight Super Bowl that the Patriots

won without him. Gronkowski missed last year's Super Bowl after having back surgery, but his absence would be even more devastating this year because of Julian Edelman's absence. By the time you read this, Gronkowski could already have been cleared to return to practice. If that's not the case, it will be one of the biggest storylines entering Super Bowl week.

Bill Belichick and Brady going for No. 6

-It wasn't too long ago that ESPN's Seth Wickersham reported that the Patriots were crumbling from within. He had sources telling him this could be the last year of Belichick in New England. Well, here they are, Belichick and Brady, one win away from their sixth Super Bowl ring. I find it hard to believe that Belichick would call it quits before taking a shot at winning three straight. And the Patriots are already the favorite to win next year's Super Bowl LIII in Atlanta. They have to win this one first, obviously. But the point remains, New England's continued success proves that ESPN and Wickersham exaggerated the impact of a little internal conflict. Because, whatever is going on behind the scenes, it certainly doesn't look like this

Patriots team is affected by it.

Eagles already providing bulletin board material

-It truly amazes me just how stupid the rest of the NFL is. The Philadelphia Eagles weren't even 24 hours removed from their NFC Championship win over the Minnesota Vikings, and they had players predicting Super Bowl wins and talking about "dethroning" Brady. How dumb can you be? For the next week-and-a-half, all you'll hear from the Patriots is praise for the Eagles. Instead of following the Patriots' lead, the Eagles will hear it, nod their heads and say, "They're right, we are the best, and we're going to win the Super Bowl." The last time the Patriots and Eagles collided in the Super Bowl, Belichick read off the Eagles' championship parade route that had already been released before the game was even played. Nobody uses bulletin board material better than the Patriots. And it'll be interesting to see just how much more of it the Eagles will give them before Feb. 4.

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