



Banned In Boston

The Boston Board of Health has voted to approve changes to regulations aimed at curbing vaping and tobacco use among teens and young adults. In the changes made on Monday, menthol and mint tobacco and vaping products can only be sold at verified adult-only tobacco retailers. In addition to removing the menthol exemption, the amendments strengthen retailer ID checking requirements and restrict the sale of products that attract young people.

CONTINUED ON page 6

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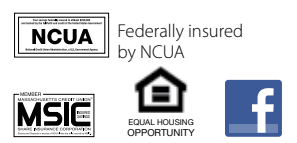
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EDITORIAL

Thanksgiving in America: So Much to be Thankful For

What can we say about Thanksgiving? It seems to be considered by many Americans as that laid back, very cool, uniquely American holiday where people kind of just kick back, relax and enjoy the official start to the holiday season. No pressure. Others feel that it's the calm before the storm as the day after, Christmas Season begins and the mad rush to shop for those special gifts, make social plans and fren-

zied decorating commences. Perhaps it's some of both. However you view it, why not make it a time to savor and cherish?

The football games, the gathering with family and close friends and of course the food – oh yes, the food and often so much of it/too much of it.

But it's also a time to reflect on the fact that in America, when you compare our situation with that of so many other places around the world, we really do have

much to give thanks for. We have our freedom and liberties that people in so many other countries can only dream about. The overall living standard is the envy of most of the world and we are not a nation that is ravaged by war. With millions all over the world clamoring to come here, we can give thanks that we ARE here. From all of us at South Boston Today to all of our readers, have a Happy Thanksgiving. We are thankful for you.



“My cooking is so bad; my kids thought Thanksgiving was to commemorate Pearl Harbor.” - Phyllis Diller

600 Bags of Donated Groceries Lined Up and Waiting for Thanksgiving

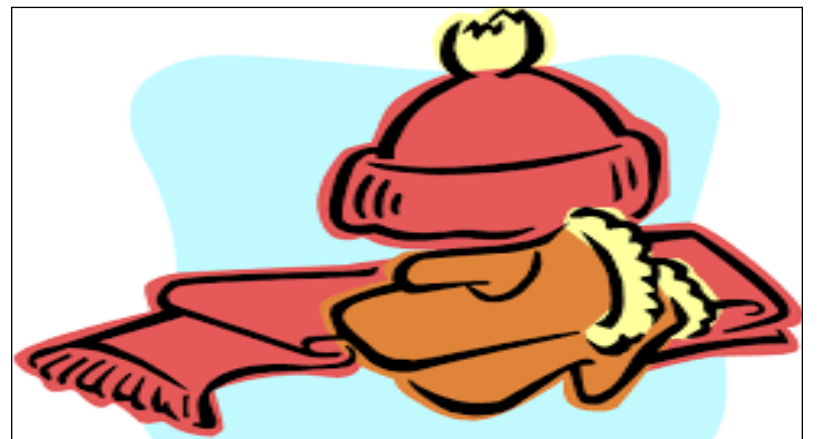
Over the past four or five weeks, The Good Samaritan's Ministry and St. Monica's Kitchen have been receiving donations of food and money. Groups such as the American Legion, the Greater Boston Food Bank, and many generous individuals have been making these donations for Thanksgiving meals. Also, generous folks have been donating turkeys. Lists have been compiled of families living in South Boston in need of a helping hand. Each family is provided with two bags of groceries. This is primarily organized by Deacon Paul Line, Susan McLeod, Ed and Jean Shifflett, and Fr. Peter DeFazio. They are working closely with Cathe Walsh, Bubba Cahill, Dan Manning, and Diane Horne who make the sit down meal on Thanksgiving Day happen. All day, people were coming in at set times to pick up their groceries.



The goal is to make sure that no one goes without a Thanksgiving meal.

Additionally, some will opt for the sit down meal at the St. Monica/St. Augustine church on Thanksgiving Day itself. Here, hundreds of people will be served the delicious home cooked traditional meal. Others who are homebound will have their meals delivered right to their doors. If you are home bound and need your meal delivered you can call 617-368-0091.

Seventh Annual Hat and Glove Drive



Let's help our community stay warm this winter. Please join “The South Boston Post Office Hat & Glove Drive” for The South Boston Neighborhood House, aka The Ollie!

Your donation of any new hats, gloves, or mittens will help our youth get through the cold weather season a little easier. Look for the box located in the lobby at the South Boston Post Office, 444 East Third Street.

SouthBostonTODAY
Online • On Your Mobile • At Your Door

PO Box 491 • South Boston, MA 02127

Publisher • John Ciccone

info@southbostontoday.com • ads@southbostontoday.com

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The Information Center



There are Still a Few Real Life Grinches Hard at Work

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY

John Ciccone

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

Thanksgiving is now upon us. It's a beautiful time of year and the picture perfect American holiday. And as we all know, it also heralds in the official start of the Christmas season which is now upon us. Even in 2019 there are still remnants of that old PC mindset that once had momentum for their efforts to take Christ out of Christmas or to put it in different words, remove 'The reason for the season'. These people came, and still do come in two main categories. One group was made up of the fanatics who hate, and the word hate fits here, anything having to do with religion, Christianity and the true meaning of Christmas. These are bigots who were and still are obsessed; though thankfully less and less successful, with their efforts to ban Nativity Scenes, stop school children from singing Christmas Carols at their pageants and pretty much anything else that would purge God from the celebration. They have even attempted to intimidate shopping mall chains into removing the traditional decorations from their stores. The ACLU among others comes to mind here.

The other group is made up of very silly people who walk on eggshells in their ridiculous efforts to make the 'holidays' a generic celebration so as not to offend anyone. This second group, some of whom are interchangeable with the first group almost goes into contortions in their silly and embarrassing efforts not to so much as utter the word Christmas. And both groups have as one of their main targets, the Christmas Tree. Yes folks, I said it – Christmas tree.

Whether these PC types and radicals like it or not, and as is stated in this space every year at this time - if it's an evergreen decorated with lights and ornaments on display in December, it's a Christmas Tree. They have always been Christmas Trees, they are Christmas Trees in 2019 and they will always be

Christmas Trees. They are not "winter solstice shrubs" as some kooky school administrator from Cambridge tried to force her students to call them one year and they are not holiday trees. The trees that will be lit on East and West Broadway are not holiday trees they are Christmas Trees. The trees at the State House and at Boston City Hall and on Boston Common are Christmas Trees. The tree that may be put up at Medal of Honor Park at M Street is not a holiday tree. It too is a Christmas tree. This battle has been won. The PC types and the anti-Christmas bigots lost this fight several years ago. It's just that some of them aren't smart enough to realize it so they persist in their childishness. It's also encouraging in 2019 to see so many more people who are no longer shy or timid about openly and enthusiastically saying "Merry Christmas" instead of the safe and soulless 'Seasons Greetings' and proudly sharing photos of their own Christmas Trees on their Facebook and other social media sites. And I personally love the fact that during the Christmas Season, President Trump himself has those words prominently displayed on his podium when he is speaking. It infuriates many in the news media, but pleases millions of Americans.

Now I know, with all the problems facing the world today, some might ask does it really matter what people call a Christmas tree? Yes, I believe it does. Because it's so very important that the world never, ever lose sight of what this season means to so many. It is sacred, it's Holy and those who strive to make it fade out need to be stood up to or one day they just might be successful. Fact: Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ. It doesn't mean that everyone has to celebrate Christmas as a religious time. Not everyone is a Christian. But those who are so quick to work hard to deliberately dilute the true meaning so as not

to offend non-Christians don't seem to care in the least about offending the more than two and a half billion people around the world who are Christians. Again, to believers, this is a sacred and Holy time. Efforts to marginalize the true meaning are to the vast majority of Americans insulting, insensitive and disrespectful.

And just one more thing to that fast dwindling number of people who seem to have a problem and get offended when someone wishes them a Merry Christmas: Whether you like it or not, Christmas is also a federal holiday. It comes around each year on Decem-

ber 25th. Whether you celebrate it or not, it's still coming; get used to it. When someone thinks enough of you to make an effort to wish you a Merry Christmas, they want you to have one. It doesn't matter what your faith is. All are included and all are welcomed in the sincere greeting during this festive season. Anyone who has a problem with that really does have issues and might want to seek counselling. And now that we have set the tone for the season, may it be enjoyable to all.

Note: Talk back to John Ciccone by email at jjciccone@southbostontoday.com

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Massport Board Votes to Approve Port Director Meyran has extensive experience in the maritime industry

The Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport) Board of Directors voted today to make Michael Meyran the Authority's Port Director, overseeing all Maritime business areas. Meyran has been with Massport for more than a decade as a Deputy Port Director, and has been serving as Acting Port Director since Lisa Wieland took over as CEO in August. The search firm Shey Harding advised Massport on the recruitment for this position.

The Port of Boston is a vital economic asset for the Commonwealth, connecting more than 2,500 businesses to the global economy and supporting 9,000 direct jobs. Keeping the Port competitive to generate additional economic impact and grow jobs is an essential part of the Authority's mission. As Port Director, Meyran will lead all business planning and development, strategic initiatives, financial management, and the safety and security and day-to-day oversight of Massport's Maritime division. He will also ensure the completion of several major initiatives already in motion, such as the Boston Harbor Dredging Project, the delivery of three new ship-to-shore cranes, and

the completion of a new berth at Conley Container Terminal.

"In his time here at Massport, Mike has been instrumental in making the Port more competitive. He brought deep private sector experience in terminal management when he came to Massport 12 years ago, having worked in Europe and at the nation's top two largest ports Los Angeles and Long Beach. In his role as Deputy Port Director, Mike helped to increase productivity, drive growth in our container and cruise businesses, and foster strong relationships with both labor partners and tenants," said Massport CEO Lisa Wieland. "I am confident in Mike's ability to continue Maritime's success and I am proud to have him on my leadership team."

Before joining Massport, Mike served as Senior General Manager of Operations for APMT Corporate HQ in the Netherlands, working on global terminal development and startups. Prior to that, he held the position of General Manager of Operations at APM Terminals/ A.P. Moller-Maersk in both Los Angeles and Long Beach, CA ports. At Massport, he has served as a Deputy Port Director in charge of operations since 2007.

This past June, Massport unveiled a report by Martin Associates, which shows the Port of Boston's economic activity nearly doubled to \$8.2 billion in 2018, up from \$4.6 billion in 2012. Smart investments and partnerships throughout the Port have led to growth in jobs, business revenues, and tax contributions.

Businesses throughout the Commonwealth and New England rely on Boston's Port to connect to the global economy. Conley Terminal has seen record growth in container volume five years in a row. Last year, the terminal set a new record handling nearly 300,000 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs), boosting the Port of Boston's national profile and ranking No. 20 in the American Association of Port Authorities' Top U.S. Ports.

Flynn Cruiseport Boston continues to serve more passengers and cruise ships each year. During the 2019 cruise season, the Cruiseport welcomed over 402,000 visitors to Boston. The Massport owned facilities on the Boston Fish Pier are 100% leased, and new seafood processing facilities at the Massport Marine Terminal are under construction.

Meyran graduated from the State



University of New York Oneonta with a bachelor's degree in Business Economics. He is currently working on his MBA with UMass Amherst's Isenberg School. Meyran is a Board member of the Boston Shipping Association, and is the Chair of the American Association of Port Authorities Operations Subcommittee.

The Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport) owns and operates Boston Logan International Airport, public terminals in the Port of Boston, Hanscom Field and Worcester Regional Airport. Massport is a financially self-sustaining public authority whose premier transportation facilities generate more than \$22 billion annually, and enhance and enable economic growth and vitality in New England. For more information, please visit massport.com.

Beacon College in Lynchburg, Florida celebrated its 30th Anniversary recently and Jim Brett, President of the New England Council was the guest speaker

Beacon College is the first institution of higher education solely devoted to collegians with learning and attention issues to be accredited regionally to award baccalaureate degrees.

In the photo: Jim Brett, President, New England Council; Former United States Senator Tom Harkin of Iowa; and George Hagerty, President, Beacon College.



GIVING THANKS TOGETHER IN OUR COMMUNITY



Pictured L-R: Susan LaPaglia, South Boston Community Health Center; Alaina Coppola, Massport's Director of Community Relations & Government Affairs; Thomas Butler, Massport's Deputy Director, State Affairs & Community Relations

Throughout the upcoming holiday season, families and friends throughout the Boston area will gather to give thanks for each other, and for the food we enjoy as part of our traditions.

Most of us are fortunate enough to enjoy full tables, but the Greater Boston Food Bank reports that hunger affects one in eleven of our neighbors in Eastern Massachusetts and 34% earn too much to qualify for emergency food assistance provided by the government.

This year, Massport is pleased to provide food donations to three programs in our community: Crossroads Family Center in East Boston; Winthrop Community Food Pantry; and South Boston Community Health Center Food Pantry. These three organizations serve hundreds of people each month, and often mean the difference between paying for heat and having enough food for the family to eat.

As we enter the holiday season, we are reminded that these programs and many others provide critical assistance year-round to the most vulnerable members of our community.

South Boston Community Health Center Food Pantry

409 West Broadway
South Boston, MA 02127

617-269-7500

www.sbchc.org

Follow SBCHC on Twitter @SBHealthSeaport



MassHousing Expands Its Highly Successful Down Payment Assistance Program to Create More Opportunities for First-Time Homebuyers

DPA loans will now cover up to \$15,000, or 5 percent of a purchase price, be available to borrowers with higher incomes, and be allowed for the purchase of multi-family homes



BOSTON – MassHousing today announced that it is expanding its highly successful down payment assistance (DPA) program to create more opportunities for first-time homebuyers, by opening the program to borrowers with higher incomes, allowing DPA loans to be used for the purchase of multi-family properties, and raising the maximum size of a DPA loan to 15,000 or 5-percent of the purchase price.

“MassHousing’s down payment assistance program has successfully helped more than 1,800 Massachu-

setts households purchase their own home and these new enhancements we are announcing today will make sustainable homeownership possible for more homebuyers, in more communities, across Massachusetts,” **said MassHousing Executive Director Chrystal Kornegay.** “DPA has been a powerful tool in addressing the state’s racial homeownership gap, and this program expansion will further enhance MassHousing’s ability to make sustainable homeownership possible for families across Massachusetts.”

MassHousing launched down payment assistance in March 2018, because the Agency saw first-time homebuyers struggling to attain homeownership while navigating

high rents, student loan debt, and a tight housing market. The DPA program allows eligible first-time homebuyers to finance some or all of their down payment with a 15-year fixed-interest rate second mortgage.

In the program’s first 18 months, MassHousing DPA allowed 1,877 households to purchase their first home. One-third of DPA loans were used by buyers of color – a rate that is more than twice the statewide average for minority home purchase lending. The 1,877 DPA loans represent \$13.8 million in down payment financing. Overall, MassHousing DPA has generated \$439.7 million in first mortgage lending to first-time homebuyers in Massachusetts.

Down payment assistance loans will now cover up to \$15,000, or 5 percent of a purchase price – an increase from the previous limit of \$12,000 or 3 percent of the purchase price. Combining a 5-percent down payment assistance loan with a first mortgage covering 95 percent of the purchase price will give consumers greater buying power and lower mortgage insurance rates.

The Agency is also raising income eligibility to 135 percent of the area median income (AMI) for purchases in the city of Boston, and in Gate-

way Cities. Households making up to \$147,420 can now access down payment assistance when purchasing a home in eastern Massachusetts cities like Everett, Lowell, Salem, Revere, Lynn and Brockton. In Worcester, a household can now earn up to \$128,655 and still qualify for down payment assistance. Outside of Boston and the 26 Gateway Cities, income eligibility remains at 100 percent of AMI.

MassHousing is also expanding down payment assistance to more property types, including two-, three- and four-family homes.

“In a market characterized by high home prices and low inventory of homes for sale, we are succeeding in connecting buyers to homeownership opportunities and creating wealth, in every region of the Commonwealth,” **said Mounzer Aylouche, MassHousing’s Vice President of Homeownership Programs.** “Still, we know the current environment is challenging to many first-time homebuyers. That is why we are working to significantly boost the buying power of middle-income, first-time homebuyers because we understand the importance of sustainable homeownership to the buyers we serve.”

Banned In Boston continued from front page

Proposed in Sept. 2019, Mayor Marty Walsh and the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) introduced legislation that would limit the sale of flavored tobacco and vaping products, claiming they target teenagers and young adults. In November, a public hearing was held where city officials received feedback from the community. Convenience store owners voiced their concerns and said they oppose the ban because they fear they’ll lose a lot of business without menthol tobacco products. However, city leaders say this change will be worth it in the long run.

Boston has taken the lead at the local level to restrict youth access to tobacco and other nicotine products such as e-cigarettes, vapes and “e-juice,” making it among the first jurisdictions in the United States to regulate e-cigarettes and other nicotine products on equal

footing with tobacco. In 2015, the Board of Health increased the sales age for nicotine and tobacco products to 21 and restricted the sale of the majority of flavored tobacco and nicotine products to adult-only tobacco retail locations. After Board’s flavoring restrictions were implemented, Boston public high school current vaping rate decreased from 14.5 percent in 2015 to 5.7 percent in 2017. Most recent national data showed that youth vaping rates have continued to increase with more than 27 percent of youth report current vaping.

Earlier this month, Convenience Store owners across Massachusetts closed for the day, as store owners protest proposed regulations that would take menthol cigarettes off their shelves. One owner, Frank Marte, closed, temporarily, all five of the stores he owns, including Caballeros Market in Dorchester. He said any ban would be catastrophic

for his business. Menthol cigarettes make up roughly 30% of his sales. “It’s going to hurt convenience stores, our community, the city and the entire state,” Marte said.

Marte and other convenience store owners argue the vaping crisis should not be an excuse to ban products that have nothing to do with it. But public health advocates say all tobacco use, not just vaping, is hurting young people and needs to be addressed.

“What we are seeing now with the explosive expansion of vaping products risks reversing decades of gains in reducing youth tobacco use,” said Boston Board of Health Chair Manny Lopes. “When it comes to local tobacco control, data shows strong policies work. I believe today’s actions take important steps to prevent Boston’s youth from entering into a lifetime of nicotine and tobacco dependency.” The regulatory amendments also seek to address

long-standing disparities in tobacco use patterns and associated mortality from diseases such as heart disease, cancer and stroke.

“I believe that now is the time to act, and I applaud the Board of Health for taking action to ensure Boston has some of the strongest regulations in the country to protect our young people,” said Mayor Walsh. “Teen vaping is an epidemic that is particularly alarming because we know that nicotine use at a young age can have the power to lead to a lifelong dependency. The data is undeniable in showing that these amendments would save lives.”

The proposed amendments were presented at the Board of Health meeting in September. It was followed by a public comment period, which ran from September 18, 2019 through November 8, 2019. Retailers have until Jan. 1, 2020 to implement these changes.

November Holiday Flavors

Gingerbread or Eggnog
(Iced or Hot)

*Home of
the Bucket!*



Happy Thanksgiving!

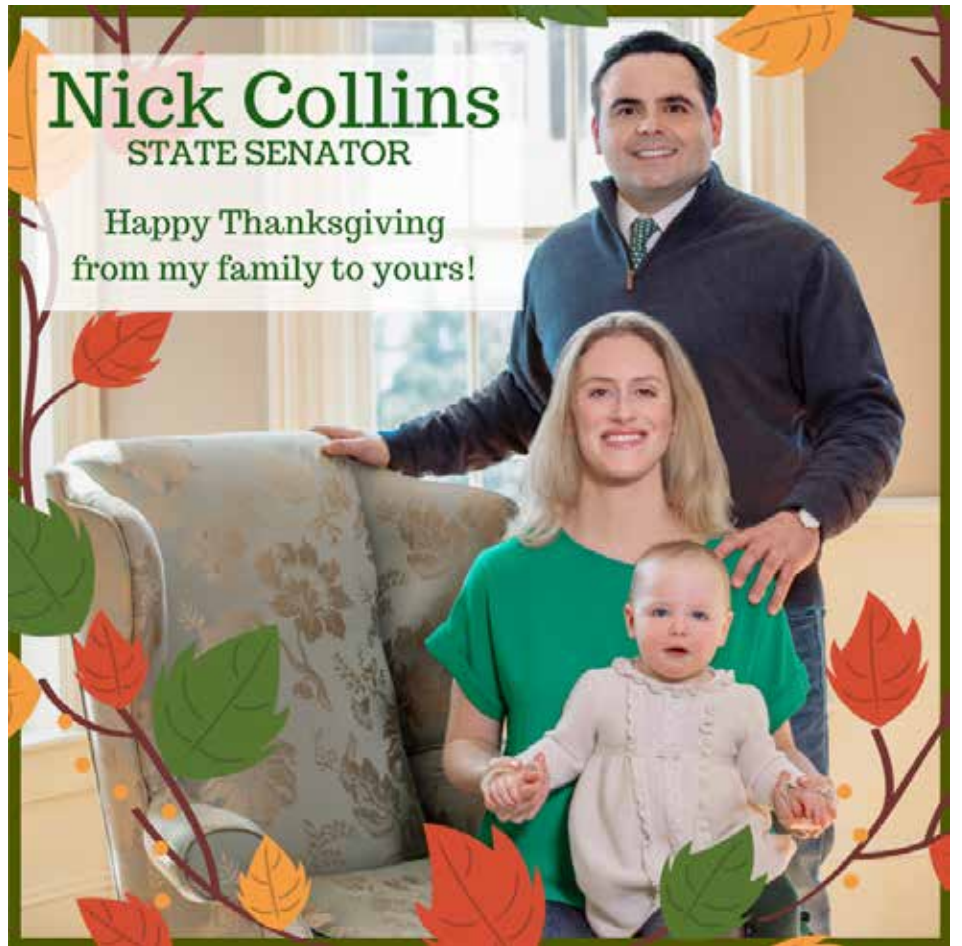
3 Locations

106 Dorchester Street, South Boston

4252 Washington Street, Roslindale

10 Commercial Street, Braintree

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Nick Collins
STATE SENATOR

Happy Thanksgiving
from my family to yours!

Giving Thanks On This Special Day



David Biele
State Representative



(paid for by the David Biele Committee)



District Two **Boston City Councilor** Ed Flynn & Family

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

From Our Home To Yours

(paid for by the Friends of Ed Flynn Committee)

Make sure you like & share South Boston Today with your friends!

The Wine Guy

Argentina's Red Standard

One of today's fastest-growing wines, as anyone who drinks red wine might guess, is Malbec. As well, if you drink it, chances are that most of you that do have only had it from one country- Argentina. Arguably, that's understandable, as Malbec represents over 30% of the country's annual wine production. What you might not know is that it's not a wine that's native to Argentina, not even to South America and that, for hundreds of years, it wasn't even made to be had by itself.

Today, I'd like to give you a broader picture of this great red's origins, all the places it comes from today and where you might see it in the future.

The grape is French in origin and today, can still be found in both the Bordeaux region, where it has been a "workhorse" or, blending grape, used in small amounts to "top off" wine

from many of the region's world-famous wines. It's also grown in the Cahors region in France's southwest and until recently, was consumed almost entirely within the country.

In the 1850's a group of Argentinian winemakers came to Europe, looking to increase plantings in the Mendoza region, located in the foothills of the Andes. A local consultant suggested Malbec and it was brought back to the country. The hotter, drier climate, along with the higher elevation, caused the grape to thrive far more than it did in France and for over 100 years, it was the wine of choice for both Argentina and many other South American regions. Then, in the early 2000s, economies around the world began to see trouble, which caused prices to rise, including the price of wine made in Europe and the U.S. Many Americans started seeking an affordable, delicious alternative and thus, it's time had arrived.

One of the most popular Malbecs in the US market today is **Bodega Norton Malbec Reserva, 2015, Argentina, (\$14.99)**, a perennial crowd-pleaser, this particular Malbec shows mesmerizing inky blues and purples in the glass, with loads of dark fruit and cigar box spice on the nose. Ready to roll with red cherry, black plum, and serious spice swirled with earthy, herbal character and well-integrated tannins, this Malbec offers considerable interest for the money. Try it with any roasted or grilled red meat, as well as Lamb or Beef bourguignon.

Another popular and available wine is **Kaiken Ultra Malbec, 2015 Argentina, (\$18.99)**. This full-



throttle Malbec from the heart of Mendoza's winemaking epicenter, is made by famous Chilean winemaker, Aurelio Montes of Montes Wines. Black fruit, dark chocolate, and espresso aromas all combine on the nose, while blackberry, blueberry, and vanilla notes dance on the palate. Full-bodied, full-throttle and a big, juicy finish make this a Malbec to track down for sipping now or cellaring a few years.

Getting back to France, the Cahors region was given new life in the 1990's, when many of the top names from Bordeaux bought up many of the region's vineyards and transformed them. One of the best examples of this "new generation" of Malbec is **Chateau Lamartine, Cahors, 2014, (\$19.99)**. Made of 90% Malbec, with a soupçon of Merlot for finesse, this French version is definitely more structured. Deep, rich and bold, its black fruit, tobacco, graphite and earth tones give it a distinctively different nose than the Argentinian variety, while subtle oak notes, soft tannins and suitable grip will hold your interest.

This French-accented Malbec offers a different tone that you'll surely remember-devilish, more mysterious, and really pleasing to the curious palate.

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. Enjoy!

NEXT WEEK: What's For Dessert? Talk To The Wine Guy at jdris8888@gmail.com

WISHING YOU A
HAPPY THANKSGIVING

The Castle Island Association (C.I.A.)

Wishing
You A Happy
& Blessed
Thanksgiving

James T. Brett
President and CEO
The New England Council

Recent South Boston Real Estate Sales

Property/Type	Price	Sale Date	Rooms	Baths	Sq Ft
22 Liberty Drive UNIT 11D Condo	\$4,699,000	8/19,2019	5	2.5	2,129
22 Liberty Drive UNIT 8G Condo	\$2,100,000	8/20/19	4	2	1,452
148 West Ninth St UNIT 7 Condo	\$1,200,000	8/20/19	5	2	1,359
613 East Sixth St UNIT 1 Condo	\$1,199,000	8/20/19	4	3	2,359
38 Dorchester St UNIT 3B Condo	\$1,040,000	8/20/19	5	2	1,581
211 West Eighth St UNIT 3 Condo	\$775,000	8/22/19	6	2	1,154
45 West Third St UNIT 506 Condo	\$772,500	8/20/19	4	1	774
45 Vinton St UNIT 9 Condo	\$765,000	8/20/19	4	2	1,207
556 Dorchester Ave UNIT 2 Condo	\$720,000	8/22/19	4	2.5	1,181
525 East Second St UNIT 6 Condo	\$699,000	8/22/19	4	2	1,153
415 East Eighth St UNIT 1 Condo	\$690,000	8/19/19	5	1.5	1,031
8 Douglas St UNIT 1 Condo	\$669,999	8/22/19	4	1.5	872
691 East Eighth St UNIT 1 Condo	\$634,000	8/20/19	4	2	880
152 Old Colony Ave UNIT 23 Condo	\$565,000	8/22/19	3	1	772
68 Middle St UNIT 1 Condo	\$501,000	8/21/19	3	1	615
805 East Fourth St UNIT 3 Condo	\$450,000	8/19/19	3	1	604
300 Pier 4 Blvd UNIT 8C Condo	\$8,184,000	8/27/19	6	4.5	2,728
47 Marine Road UNIT 2 Condo	\$1,600,000	8/23/19	6	2.5	1,900
1486 Columbia Road Single Family	\$1,257,500	8/28/19	6	2.5	2,063
35 Swallow Street Condo	\$1,250,000	8/28/19	8	4	2,160
109 Tudor Street Condo	\$1,171,000	8/28/19	5	3.5	2,070
265 West Second St UNIT 2 Condo	\$1,130,000	8/26/19	4	2.5	1,507
825 East Fourth St UNIT 7 Condo	\$1,050,000	8/9/19	4	2	1,600
232 Old Colony Ave UNIT 55 Condo	\$900,000	8/21/19	5	2	1,135

bpda | Public Meeting

15 Necco Street

Monday, December 2 | **300 A Street**
 6:00 PM | 1st Floor
 Boston, MA 02210

Project Description:
 BPDA-hosted Article 80 Public Meeting to discuss the proposed Notice of Project Change and Fifth Amendment to the Master Plan for Planned Development Area No. 69, South Boston/The 100 Acres for the 5 and 15 Necco Street Project, which comprises an approximately 2.7-acre site in the Fort Point neighborhood of Boston, and for which the General Electric (GE) Headquarters Project was previously slated for construction.

mail to: **Aisling Kerr**
 Boston Planning & Development Agency
 One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
 Boston, MA 02201
 phone: 617.918.4212
 email: aisling.kerr@boston.gov

Close of Comment Period:
 12/20/2019

BostonPlans.org | @BostonPlans
 Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

MCM Properties | www.mcmproperties.com
 917 East Broadway, South Boston 617-268-5181

Sunday, December 8, 2019
1:00 p.m.
Medal of Honor Park,
South Boston

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Be Grateful For What We Have

By Kevin Devlin

Thanksgiving Day has arrived once again as we gather with family and friends giving thanks for our good fortune in life. We'll overeat and watch football games or holiday movies on TV. We'll laugh at jokes and retell stories of the past we hold dear to our hearts. We'll remember loved ones no longer amongst us and toast our undying love for them. We'll reflect upon our yesteryears and take stock of what is important to us at this juncture in our lives. And we should be grateful.

On what was then known as the Plymouth Plantation, the first Thanksgiving was celebrated by early settlers after their first harvest in 1621. One year prior to this, in search of a new life and freedom from religious persecution, about 102 Pilgrims endured a sixty-six day voyage from England across the Atlantic Ocean, on the now-famous ship, the Mayflower. The inaugural feast lasted three days and was attended by ninety Native Americans, and fifty-three of the Pilgrims who traveled from the Old World to



the New World, the other half sadly succumbing to untimely deaths.

After Congress requested a proclamation by President George Washington, Thanksgiving, originally known as the harvest festival, has been celebrated nationally on and off since 1789. On October 3, 1863, our greatest president, Abraham Lincoln, announced that (on the last Thursday in November) Thanksgiving would be an official holiday in the country. He proclaimed it as a day of "Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens."

Thanksgiving affords us the time to slow down and reflect. Daily life can be hectic, grueling. That's why it's important we pause and enjoy life's blessings. Enjoy and be thankful for our good fortune because "The unthankful heart... discovers no mercies; but let the thankful heart sweep

through the day and, as the magnet finds the iron, so will it find, in every hour, some heavenly blessings!"

Today, more than at any other time in recent history, our nation is divided. Those on opposite sides of the political spectrum refuse to yield an inch to bridge the gap. Moderation and Compromise are orphans. Reason has been abandoned. We look down one road and ignore the other roadways as irrelevant, the wrong direction in which to travel. We ignore the sign posts as if we shouldn't adhere to them. They don't count, weren't meant for us. But I have faith in our resiliency. Faith in our resolve to restore reason and successfully combat divisiveness so a new dawn (a time for new beginnings) can glow brightly like the sun; guiding us down a loftier path towards solidarity and peace of mind.

Our problems pale in comparison to those suffered by people in other countries, and notwithstanding our problems, we are fortunate to be Americans, because America is still the greatest country in the world; and democracy the "best of the worse" without a scintilla of doubt. Remember that "It is literally true, as the thankless say, that they have nothing to be thankful for. He who sits by the fire, thankless for the fire, is just as if he had no fire. Nothing is possessed save in appreciation, of which thankfulness is the indispensable ingredient. But a thankful heart hath a continual feast."

So, appreciate Thanksgiving and good fortune. Embrace the fulfillment of life, happiness, security, and safety. And sneak a snack before bed - just for the hell of it - and once again give thanks for all that we have.

Councilors Flynn & Flaherty, DND to Host Informational Meeting on Senior Programs Dec. 7

Boston City Councilor Ed Flynn & Councilor At-Large Michael Flaherty, in partnership with Department of Neighborhood Development (DND) and the Boston Home Center, will be holding an informational meeting on senior home repair programs offered by the city. The meeting will be held on December 7 at 11 a.m. in the South Boston Library. This event will serve as an opportunity for residents to learn more about programs such as Seniors

Save and the Senior Home Repair. These programs are for eligible seniors who can obtain 0% interest loans to replace aging heating systems, or to make repairs on their homes. The Boston Home Center and Boston Department of Neighborhood Development will discuss the application process and provide information on these programs to interested residents.

"Seniors Save and Senior Home Repair are valuable programs offered by the city to help our



seniors stay safely and comfortably in their homes," said the Councilors in a joint statement. "Thank you to the Department of Neighborhood Development and the Boston Home Center for your commitment to our seniors and your partnership. I will continue to work closely with our city

departments and residents to raise awareness about available resources and programs."

For more information, please contact Councilor Flynn's office at 617-635-3203 and Ed.Flynn@Boston.gov, or Councilor Flaherty at 617-635-4205 and Michael.Flaherty@boston.gov.

Councilor Flynn Update on Pedestrian Safety & TNC (Uber/Lyft) Hearings

Last week, Boston City Councilor Ed Flynn held two hearings at the Council; one aimed at pedestrian crossing signals and traffic calming, and another on transportation network companies (TNCs), such as Uber and Lyft, operating in Boston. These hearings brought together city officials, advocates and residents to discuss matters relating to public safety, enforcement, infrastructure, congestion and our transportation system.

The hearing on crossing signals and traffic calming was held November 18th and chaired by Councilor Michelle Wu. Councilor Flynn discussed

continued work with the Boston Transportation Dept. on infrastructure improvements such as speed humps, raised crosswalks, road diets and rapid flash beacons as ways to ensure pedestrian safety. Councilor Flynn highlighted the need for slower speeds and enforcement from the Boston Police Dept. He also called attention to resident concerns about pedestrian signals that allow for crossing the street at the same time that vehicles have a signal to turn at an intersection, which could potentially be unsafe for pedestrians. Other councilors, residents, and advocates all spoke about these issues, as well as the urgency to implement measures that would help keep pedestrians safe.

The hearing on Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) (Uber/Lyft) took place on November 19th, co-sponsored by Councilor O'Malley and also chaired by Councilor Wu. Data from the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) show that there were more than 42 million rides in Boston in 2018, or over

115,000 rides per day. This additional traffic exacerbates congestion, creates safety issues related to speeding and double parking, as well as environmental concerns. Administration officials testified in regards to pilot programs on pick-up/drop-off spots, as well as pending legislation at the State House that would raise fees on TNC rides to allow the city to utilize funds for infrastructure improvements. Issues around accessibility of pick-up/drop-off spots for TNC rides for persons with disabilities was also discussed, as well as the need for better data sharing between TNC companies and the City of Boston.

"Pedestrian safety and traffic congestion are two of the most important issues that affect the everyday lives of our residents," said Councilor Flynn. "Thank you to the panelists, officials, and residents who testified at these hearings. It is critical for our city to remain focused on traffic calming through infrastructure improvements, slower speeds and



enforcement. It is clear that we also need better data sharing with TNCs so that we can implement policies to address concerns regarding traffic, public safety, the environment, and consumer protection."

For more information, please contact Councilor Flynn's office at 617-635-3203 or Ed.Flynn@Boston.gov.



Thursday, December 5th

South Boston Christmas Stroll

One night of incredible savings at nearly 40 local retailers, restaurants, salons, and more!

- East Broadway Tree Lighting Festivities begin at 4 pm at the Library with live entertainment, FREE hot chocolate & holiday treats
- Magic Show at 4:00 pm at Bringing Up Baby, 663 East Broadway
- Santa arrives at 5 pm for the Tree Lighting Countdown at 5:30 pm
- Photo op with Santa inside of the Library • Xfinity photo booth on W. Broadway
- Dickens Carolers will be strolling along E. and W. Broadway from 4-8 pm
- FREE Pedi Cabs will whisk attendees to and from E. and W. Broadway from 6-8 pm



details at: sbndc.org/christmas-stroll



MAYOR WALSH LIGHTS BOSTON COMMON CHRISTMAS TREE DECEMBER 5

Watch the annual celebration live on WCVB Channel 5

Mayor Martin J. Walsh and guests from the Province of Nova Scotia will celebrate the 78th Annual Tree Lighting on Boston Common on Thursday, December 5, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The celebration is presented by the Boston Parks and Recreation Department, title sponsor The Province of Nova Scotia, signature sponsor Encore Boston Harbor, Jumbotron sponsor Geico Local Office, presenting sponsors Exelon and the Coca-Cola Company, and media sponsors WCVB Channel 5, Magic 106.7 FM, and the Boston Globe. The holiday lights throughout both parks will light up in sequence shortly before 8 p.m. when Mayor Walsh is joined onstage by members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Santa Claus, Rudolph, and Frosty. The show will close with a pyrotechnic display by

Atlas PyroVision.

The holiday decorations throughout Boston Common and the Public Garden include the City of Boston's official 2019 Christmas tree, a 45-foot white spruce tree donated by Desmond Waithe and Corina Saunders of Chance Harbour, Pictou County, Nova Scotia.

WCVB Channel 5's Anthony Everett and Shayna Seymour will once again host Channel 5's live broadcast of the event beginning at 7 p.m. featuring multi-platinum singer-songwriter and Lexington native Matt Nathanson,

award-winning Nova Scotian alt-pop stars Neon Dreams, Nova Scotian R&B singer-songwriter Zamani, performances by cast members from the new musical "Dolly Parton's Smoky Mountain Christmas Carol" and "Irving Berlin's White

Christmas: The Musical," as well as Dorchester's Holy Tabernacle Church Choir.

The lighting of the trees on the Common is made possible through the generosity of the Lynch Foundation, the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority, the Herb Chambers Companies, and contributions from other individuals and institutions. The annual holiday display includes the official Christmas tree from Nova Scotia and trees throughout Boston Common. Refreshments and additional support will be provided by promotional sponsors Dunkin', Capital One, Xfinity, H.P. Hood LLC, Power Crunch Bars, Drake's Cakes, perfectly free fruit bites, and Nature's Path Foods.

This is the 48th year that Nova Scotia has given a tree to the people of Boston as thanks for relief efforts



following the December 6, 1917, explosion of a munitions ship in Halifax Harbor. Within 24 hours of the disaster a train loaded with supplies and emergency personnel was making its way from Boston to Nova Scotia. For more information please call (617) 635-4505 or go to www.boston.gov/parks. For Boston Common parking information go to www.massconvention.com/bcg.html.

South Boston Catholic Academy News

This year we are excited to welcome our new Learning Support Teacher, Ms. Angel Burley to our South Boston Catholic Academy Family!

From Ms. Burley... "I truly enjoy teaching the children of South Boston Catholic Academy who may need additional support in the form of small group differentiated instruction in order to create an opportunity for a successful learning experience. This may include a wide-array of accommodations:

- a- small group instruction
- b- one to one instruction
- c- differentiated instruction
- d- read to or scribed for during testing
- e- frequent structured breaks
- f- extra time to process
- g- modeled expected outcomes
- h- word study to enable grade level text success
- i- reader and writer workshop model to facilitate ELA
- j- specific mini lessons to bridge

the gap between the student's background knowledge to what the student is expected to know according to the MA Curriculum Frameworks.

In my LST class I help students in all of their core subjects; that may require a unique prescribed teaching style that is tailored to the way the child learns best. As a Special Needs Educator, my focus is not on what the child can't do. I focus my energy and objective on the student's strength. I am always reflecting on; What can I do as this child's teacher to scaffold and provide opportunities for success? I know with the LLI training I just received; the children who need my support will make significant progress toward their educational goals."

Boston Catholic Academy (www.SBCatholicAcademy.org) is currently accepting applications for all classes PreSchool-Grade 6. We have Before School and After School



Programs available and high acceptance rate to Parochial, Private, and Boston Exam Schools. Please contact: Mrs. Jamie Brown, our

Vice Principal, with any questions or for a tour of the school at j.brown@sbcatholicacademy.org or phone 617-268-2326 for more information.

The Thanksgiving Tradition Endures

SBT Staff Report

It's safe to say that nearly every American knows the story of how the Thanksgiving holiday came to be. It's a story of hardship being overcome by success that finally led to the first Thanksgiving feast where the Pilgrims gave thanks to the local natives and of course to God for the bountiful food that was finally available which enabled them to survive.

The Pilgrims were seeking freedom from the religious persecution they had suffered in England and courageously set sail for the new world. Packing all the belongings they could carry onto what would now be considered a tiny, unsafe and very fragile ship; they made the perilous journey and landed on the east coast of what is now America. This is history; most of us know this from our lessons at school. But what many may have forgotten was that this was not the beginning of what is today a uniquely American holiday. The first Thanksgiving, celebrated in the autumn of 1620 was not observed in the years following. It became an official holiday in 1863, when President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed it

to be so and it has been an American tradition ever since.

Today, Americans often sit down to sumptuous turkey dinners with all the 'fixins' and still give thanks to God for all that we have in our country. This is often followed by watching football games and taking part in other holiday activities; one of which for some could simply be an after dinner nap while waiting for dessert and coffee. Historians still aren't positive that turkey was part of the first Thanksgiving feast. However they do seem pretty sure that sumptuous main courses like wild duck, goose, venison and even clams and lobster were high at the top of the menu followed by fruits such as plums and boiled pumpkin. No pumpkin pie. But happily, turkeys today are plentiful and if cooked just right, delicious and now cooked by several different methods.

Though tradition still reigns on Thanksgiving Day, much has changed since that first feast in 1621. The 46 surviving Pilgrims, were joined and helped by 91 American Indians and together they worked hard and in cooperation at making sure that from then on, food



and shelter; two things that were certainly a must for survival in those days in such a harsh environment, would follow and endure well into the future. Today, what often follows a relaxing Thanksgiving holiday spent with friends and family is frenzied shopping sprees and a head long rush into the Christmas Season and all the hustle and bustle that comes with it. And this is something that millions of Americans also look forward to. Times change for sure, but the good thing about this very special holiday is that even though

in this modern age; nearly four centuries since the first Thanksgiving feast was enjoyed, where things are so much different with new customs and habits, most Americans still hold on to part of that tradition. It's what caused this Thanksgiving holiday of 2019, to begin the same way back when the Mayflower first landed at Plymouth Rock. And that is an appreciation of family, good friends and neighbors helping neighbors and slowing down, even if it's just for a day to give thanks for all that we have in America.

ALL ARE WELCOME

Msgr. Thomas J McDonnell and Frank Kelley Thanksgiving Dinner

**Mass at
9AM**



Dinner

11:30AM – 1:30PM

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Parish Hall**

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If you are unable to get out and would like a meal delivered to your home please call 617-368-0091 After Wednesday, November 27th please call 617-590-9922

Hosted by: The South Boston Catholic Parishes and the Elected Officials representing South Boston

MAYOR WALSH AWARDS \$4.7 MILLION TO CREATE 157 HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR HOMELESS YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS IN BOSTON AS FIRST ACTION ITEM SUPPORTING NEWLY RELEASED PLAN

Building on his commitment to ending homelessness in Boston, Mayor Martin J. Walsh today joined members of the City's Youth Action Board, the United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley and community partners at Bridge Over Troubled Waters to release a new action plan, Rising to the Challenge, to prevent and end youth and young adult homelessness in Boston. The plan is the collective result of input from the Youth Action Board, the City's advisory group of youth and young adults, who have experienced homelessness or housing instability, together with 240 community members representing more than 110 public and private organizations across Boston. As an immediate action item towards implementing the plan, Mayor Walsh awarded \$4.7 million in grant funds to create 157 new housing opportunities dedicated to serving homeless youth and young adults.

"In Boston, it's imperative that we make sure that every young person has a safe stable place to call home," said Mayor Walsh. "I am proud that together we are Rising to the Challenge by putting forth a plan that will guide us as we take critical next steps

towards ending youth and young adult homelessness in Boston. I want to thank the Youth Action Board members and all of the partners for contributing to the creation of this plan, and I look forward to our important work ahead."

The new Rising to the Challenge plan focuses on gathering data on homeless youth, understanding the current system's capacity, identifying unmet needs of youth and young adults, and designing a plan to address gaps in the emergency assistance system. Youth and young adults are defined as a person age 24 years and younger. In some cases, youth and young adults may be under the care and custody of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

To prevent and end youth homelessness, the plan prioritizes ensuring that every youth individual at-risk of or experiencing homelessness is identified and immediately linked to the resources that will address their needs; and offering safe and stable housing that supports their needs; focusing on each individual's health and well-being; providing resources to meet their educational and employment goals; and making permanent connections so that each



individual is able to build a support network that improves their ability to thrive, while providing a social safety net to prevent future homelessness.

To achieve these goals, the plan will implement four key strategies to make homelessness among youth and young adults rare, brief, and non-repeating. Strategies include:

- Develop a collaborative system that reorganizes the way that the City and various agencies work together and make decisions, with the goal of forming a clear, comprehensive and youth-specific system to end youth and young adult homelessness. Using national and local best practices, Boston has transformed its homelessness services into a coordinated and integrated system based on Housing First principles. Building on this success, the City and its partners are now turning their focus to tackling the prevalence of homelessness among unaccompanied youth and young adults.

- Improve early identification and

outreach to connect with youth who are at-risk of becoming homeless, or who are currently homeless. Current gaps in identification create a challenge in connecting individuals with housing and other needed services, such as employment, education, recovery and more.

- Increase access to and effectiveness of existing resources by streamlining cross sector referrals and strengthening training for youth-serving agencies and homelessness services providers to better serve youth and young adults experiencing homelessness.

- Invest in new housing and services resources in order to house all ages 18-24 unaccompanied youth who are experiencing homelessness. The report shows that within the next three years, the City will need to add 285 new housing opportunities dedicated to this population.

For more information on the City's efforts to assist youth and young adults experiencing homelessness, please visit boston.gov/youth-homelessness.

Gate of Heaven and St. Brigid Parish with St. Augustine Chapel Religious Education Program News

Happy Thanksgiving To All!

All of us in the Gate of Heaven and St. Brigid Parish with St. Augustine Chapel Religious Education Program want to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving! This past Sunday the students in Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd Grade had fun making special Thanksgiving cards for their families that included a delicious Cranberry Recipe to make at home and share with their family and friends on Thanksgiving Day.

Here is the recipe, just in case you want to make it for your family and friends, too:

1 ½ Cups of Cranberry's
½ Cup of Sugar
½ Cup of Water
(¼ Cup of Orange Juice or a Table Spoon of Orange Zest, Optional)

Put all the ingredients together in a pan and boil gently for 5-10 minutes, until berries pop.

Mix well. The sauce will thicken as it cools. Enjoy!





SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS (+6) over Baltimore Ravens

-This game is Sunday at 1 p.m. in Baltimore and could very easily be called the "game of the week." The 9-2 Ravens are the talk of the NFL right now, seeing they have the longest active win streak in the league with seven straight wins. Baltimore is coming off a win over the Rams in Los Angeles on Monday night, as Lamar Jackson threw for five touchdowns and ran for 95 yards. Jackson is the MVP so far this season. That's not even up for debate. But as good as he's been, the 10-1 49ers have to feel disrespected by being a six-point dog in this one. San Francisco is currently the No. 1 seed in the NFC and is coming off a 37-8 win over a very good Green Bay Packers team. And defensively, the 49ers rank second in the league, allowing just 14 points per game. Will they be able to slow Jackson down? There's a difference between "slow him down" and "cover the spread." I'm picking the 49ers to cover the six-point spread and keep it close. Give me San Fran as a feisty, disrespected dog on Sunday.

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES (-9.5) over Miami Dolphins

-If you're the 5-6 Eagles, your only

shot of making the playoffs is to win the NFC East. Fortunately for Philly, that's still very realistic, seeing that the first-place Dallas Cowboys are 6-5. The Eagles are coming off back-to-back losses to two of the best teams in the NFL: the Patriots and Seahawks. What's the perfect bounce-back recipe in the NFL in 2019? That's right, a game against the Miami Dolphins. This game is in Miami Sunday at 1. The Dolphins are 2-9 and have lost two straight, to the Bills and Browns. I do believe the Eagles are better than their record shows, and they should be able to handle the Dolphins. Like I said, I'm betting on a bounce-back win for Philly. I took Cleveland to cover a 10.5-point spread last week against Miami, and they did. This week, I'm taking the Eagles to win by at least 10.

OAKLAND RAIDERS (+9.5) over Kansas City Chiefs

-Are the Raiders serious? After winning three straight games and positioning themselves for a playoff push, they go out and lose to the New York Jets, 34-3. It's unbelievable. So instead of entering Week 13 with the same 7-4 record as the Chiefs — who had the bye last week — Oakland enters this

game in Kansas City as a 6-5 team that's on the outside looking in at the AFC playoff picture. The Chiefs' last game was a win over the Chargers in Week 11. And with KC making a trip to New England next week, in Week 14, this one has trap-game potential written all over it. I'm not sure the Chiefs are going to lose this game, but I do expect the Raiders to respond the right way to last week's wake-up call against the Jets. Oakland might not win, but they'll cover in a close game.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS (-3) over Houston Texans

-The 10-1 Patriots are the No. 1 seed in the AFC, though, you might not know it if you listen to all the love the No. 2 seed Baltimore Ravens are getting. The Pats have won two straight since their Week 10 bye, and now they head to Houston for the Sunday Night Football "Game of the Week." I was more nervous about this game five weeks ago. The 7-4 Texans are the No. 3 seed in the AFC, and are coming off an important win over the Indianapolis Colts last week, but they still look human. The matchup to watch will be Stephon Gilmore vs DeAndre Hopkins. New England's

defense is its greatest strength right now. The problem with that is, some are using that as a way to describe Tom Brady's offense as "weak." When will they learn? Brady and Edelman have a night for themselves and the Patriots win by two touchdowns.

LOCK OF THE WEEK: GREEN BAY PACKERS (-6.5) over New York Giants

-Green Bay will not lose this game. The only question is if they cover the spread. It's at MetLife on Sunday at 1, but the location of this game doesn't matter. Green Bay just got embarrassed by the 49ers on Sunday Night Football. Aaron Rodgers is out to make someone pay. He'll do just that against a 2-9 Giants team that's lost seven straight. That's right, seven straight. I forgot they Giants were even in the league, they've been so irrelevant this season. The No. 3-seed Packers should roll in this one. Give me Green Bay by 20.

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SPORTS TODAY

PATRIOTS LOOK FOR THIRD STRAIGHT WIN ON SUNDAY IN HOUSTON

SBT Staff

The 10-1 Patriots enter their Week 13 game against the Texans as the No. 1 seed in the AFC. You wouldn't believe it if you watch or listen to NFL analysis, but it's true.

No, the 9-2 Baltimore Ravens have not dethroned the Patriots just yet. Lamar Jackson had another special night on Monday in a win over the struggling Los Angeles Rams, and the No. 2 seed Ravens have won seven straight. But as of now, the AFC is still New England's conference.

The Pats will look to win their third straight on Sunday, as they head to Houston to take on the 7-4 Texans, who currently hold the No. 3 seed in the AFC. If the playoffs began after Week 12, Houston would host the No. 6 seed Pittsburgh Steelers in the Wild Card Round. The Patriots, of course, would have a first-round bye.

New England is coming off a 13-9 win over the Dallas Cowboys. Houston is coming off a 20-17 win over the Indianapolis Colts.

The highlighted matchup to watch in this Week 13 game on Sunday Night Football is Patriots cornerback Stephon Gilmore covering Texans wide receiver DeAndre Hopkins, who ranks second in the NFL with 81 receptions this season, behind only New Orleans' Michael Thomas, who has 104 receptions.

Gilmore will have his hands full with Hopkins, but at the same time, Hopkins will have his hands full with Gilmore, who has proven to be the NFL's best 1-on-1 shutdown cornerback. The latest example of that came last Sunday, as Gilmore held Cowboys wide receiver Amari Cooper to zero catches.

The Patriots are a three-point favorite on Sunday night.



Keal

@NkealHarry15

I won't allow myself to be even a lil bit satisfied. I'm hungrier now more than ever. ¹⁰⁰

Tweet of the Week



NBA SEEKING DRAMATIC CHANGES WITH LATEST PROPOSAL

SBT Staff

According to an ESPN report this week, the NBA is in "serious discussions" with the NBA Players Association and its broadcast partners to make significant changes to the league calendar for the 2021-22 season.

The changes include a playoff re-seeding for the four teams in the conference finals, play-in rounds to determine the Nos. 7 and 8 playoff seeds in each conference, a shortening of the regular-season schedule from 82 games down to 78 games, and a 30-team in-season holiday tournament.

An in-season tournament would see each division participate in a round-robin format that would be part of the regular-season schedule. Eight teams from the round-robin stage will advance to a single-elimination round of quarterfinals, followed by semifinals and finals, which will not count as part of the regular-season schedule. This tournament would most likely take place between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

The play-in rounds to determine the Nos. 7 and 8 playoff seeds in each conference will begin with the No. 7 seed hosting the No. 8 seed, and the No. 9 seed hosting the No. 10 seed. The winner of 7 vs 8 will be the official No. 7 seed. The loser of 7 vs 8 will play the winner of 9 vs 10 to determine the official No. 8 seed.

WHAT TO WATCH

NFL Week 13
SUNDAY, DEC. 1
San Francisco at Baltimore (-6)
1 P.M. FOX

New England (-3) at Houston
8:20 P.M. NBC

MONDAY, DEC. 2
Minnesota at Seattle (-3)
8:15 P.M. ESPN

NBA
FRIDAY, NOV. 29
Boston at Brooklyn
12 p.m. NBCSB

NHL
FRIDAY, NOV. 29
NY Rangers at Boston
1 P.M. NBC

WHAT: CHRISTMAS BOWL II

WHEN: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21

WHERE: SOUTHIE BOWL

ENTER: DANNYPICARD.COM/CHRISTMASBOWL2

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