



Is The Wu Train On The Right Track With Her FREE THE T Plan?

The second day (first full day) on the job, Michelle Wu asked the City Council for \$8 million to make three bus lines free for two years. Wu said she wants the funds to be used to make the 23, 28, and 29 bus routes free for riders starting early next year, expanding a current fare-free pilot program on the 28 bus that expires at the end of December.

“Building on the fare-free 28 bus

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EDITORIAL

Congratulations South Boston's Youth Hockey Players 2021-22 Massachusetts State Champs



South Boston has always been known as a hockey town. This relatively small community has a history of impressing youth hockey experts from other towns and states and even the Canadians too, with the undeniable skill that comes from our neighborhood. NHL scouts have heard of the South Boston Youth League, which is no surprise, since league players have gone on to play in the pros. They start young in this town and it sure shows. Our numbers may be small in comparison with much larger cities and towns but the over-the-top talent among Southie's young athletes more than makes up for the smaller population.

So, it came as not really a huge surprise that the 18 and under team from South Boston just brought home a State Championship. They beat Saugus/Lynnfield by a score of 2-1 in the final game at 'The States' to become the 2021-2022 Massachusetts Champions. A 2-1 score indicates a tough game. But Southie teams thrive and excel when the competition is tough. In fact, the tougher the better.

Every player on the Southie team should be

proud of their accomplishments. They work hard at practice and even harder during the games. And as proud as they are, their community is just as proud of them as they represent their hometown with dignity, with class and with poise. Combine all of those attributes with explosive athletic ability and determination and they have the makings of future pros themselves.

Bob McGarrell, the head coach of the team, as well as his assistants, are part of that magnificent breed of dedicated South Boston adults, who so generously volunteer their time and effort to help provide so many positive opportunities to South Boston's young people. They are role models who, if every community had caring adults of their caliber, the world would surely be a better place. South Boston has always been fortunate to have such adults, who are happy to give back to this neighborhood. Some things never change here.

So, congratulations to the Massachusetts State Champions. Every one of you, including so many supportive parents, make this town proud. You all deserve very special praise.

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The Information Center

Doing Their Best To Divide Americans

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY

John Ciccone

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

In last week's column, I named a bunch of well known 'Climate Change'/Global Warming' alarmists, who preach to and scold the rest of us for "destroying the planet", when they themselves are among the biggest polluters around. The do as we say, not as we do, crowd just does the opposite of what they demand of everyone else in everything, including their Climate Change hysterics. I named phonies like Al Gore, John Kerry, Biden, Cher and others. But I was reminded by more than a dozen readers, who took the time to write in about one of the biggest phonies of all when it comes to this topic – Barack Obama. And the readers were right to remind me, and I thank you all for it.

When it comes to Obama, as the saying goes: 'You don't buy a 12-million-dollar waterfront home on Martha's Vineyard, if you really believe the oceans are rising'.

There was an editorial cartoon going around the internet last week in response to Biden and the Democrats' plan to give 450 million dollars to illegal immigrants, who the Dems say were separated from their families by President Trump. It showed six American soldiers, battered, wounded and helping each other walk as they staggered off the battlefield in Afghanistan. The caption by these troops read "Hey Joe, we have been separated from our families too. Can WE get 450 million dollars?"

If you turn on most news channels, the talking heads who try but fail to pass for journalists seem to be obsessed with race. Everything is about racial matters: Parents fighting against

their children being indoctrinated in schools – racists, even though parents of every background are united on this. White Kyle Rittenhouse shoots three attackers, who were also white trying to kill him - He must be a 'White Supremacist'. If a white person wins an election, its racism. If a black Republican wins an election, it's also racism. Trying to heal the racial divide in this country is difficult when there are so many of those screaming about racism the loudest, in reality, really don't want it to end at all. And in fact, spend much of their energy throwing gasoline on the fire. Does anyone really think that Maxine Waters, Al Sharpton, Nancy Pelosi, or the loons at CNN or MSNBC really want to put an end to racism? What would those who run the Boston Globe, The Washington Post and the New York Times do if all of a sudden, everyone of every race all of a sudden got along? They'd probably be pretty bored and go out of business.

Check the results of the surveys and watch the interviews being done on the streets. Americans, no matter what color, are tired of the divisions being pushed by liberal politicians, the news media, the Hollywood air heads etc. The average person has become well aware that there is an organized effort to divide and categorize people, and make sure they stay that way and hate each other. It was probably said best by the newly elected Lt. Governor of Virginia Ms. Winsom Sears. After winning in a landslide in that state, she said the following: "Voters are tired of politicians who just won't let the wounds of the past heal".

Now bear in mind, Ms. Sears a black woman. But because she is a Conservative Republican, a patriot and proudly served in the United State Marine Corps. and never misses an opportunity to express her love for this country, the democrats and the news media (one in the same), viciously attacked her and with vile insults. And, they say her win was because she was allied with the White Supremacists. She, however, didn't back down and went back at her critics and reiterated her American pride. Oh, and let's not forget, the At-

torney General-elect in that state was also called a White Supremacist for being a Republican. His name is Jason Miyares who is Hispanic. So spelled out clearly, anyone who holds a different view from liberal democrats, whether they are politicians, part of the news media, Hollywood celebrities or just nitwits posting on social media, must be a racist. If you choose a different favorite pizza topping from Maxine Waters, there is probably racism behind your choice. But hang in there. A year from now, they will all be looking for new jobs.

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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.

Let the final day begin

It all comes down to today for the Legislature. Wednesday marks the final day of formal legislating -- where lawmakers can take up and vote any number of bills requiring a roll call vote -- until the new year. That means there's a not-so-short list of items that may or may not make the cut once the clock strikes midnight.

Here are a few items that we're watching as legislators meet in formal sessions for the last time this year.

Top of Mind: It's what everybody has been talking about for months -- legislation spending the state's share of American Rescue Plan Act dollars and surplus revenue from FY21. In total, the state has roughly \$4.8 billion in remaining ARPA funds and \$1.5 billion in unspent taxes and both branches propose spending around \$3.8 billion on things like climate resiliency projects, environmental infrastructure, health care, economic recovery, and housing needs. The Senate passed their bill last week and lawmakers from both branches were appointed on Monday to a six-member panel tasked with negotiating differences between the House and Senate

versions. Without a deal surfacing last night, the Legislature is now up against the clock if they want to deliver a bill to Gov. Charlie Baker before Thanksgiving, or they risk moving into a period of informal sessions when just one lawmaker could block any bill.

On The Calendar: The House plans to take up a health care bill today that seeks to add oversight and restrictions on large health care providers looking to expand into new territory. Representatives had until 1 p.m. yesterday to file amendments to the bill, and as of publication, there were six amendments addressing a variety of sub-topics. Down the hall in the Senate, the plan for the day includes consideration of a mental health care access bill that, among other things, seeks to address what senators have described as an emergency department boarding crisis in the state. Both branches are also expected to take action on two bills establishing Congressional and Governor's Councilor districts.

Odds and Ends: House lawmakers passed a bill yesterday afternoon that would require public schools and districts to teach the history of genocides. It's very sim-

ilar to a version the Senate passed last month, except the House version includes additional language concerning funding. Since both bills are not too far off from each other, lawmakers may be able to send a final version to Gov. Charlie Baker. We also wonder if either branch will make a play at extending voting by mail and early voting provisions that are scheduled to expire in mid-December. Legislative leaders could always try to move forward with an extension of the rules during informal sessions later this year, but they would run the risk of facing opposition, as we described earlier.

'Cottage community:' State unveils plan to house those displaced from Mass. and Cass

From tents to cottages. State officials plan to build a "cottage community" on the grounds of Shattuck Hospital in Jamaica Plain that could provide temporary housing to as many as 30 people displaced by the city of Boston's push to clean up Mass. and Cass., the Globe's Milton J. Valencia and Amy Sokolow and Sean Phillip Cotter of the Herald report. The 18-cottage village could be ready as soon as December and

will offer a host of services meant to transition the homeless into more permanent housing.

New report criticizes House operations

This progressive group says the House centralizes power among its top ranking members and limits control among the rank-and-file. Commonwealth's Shira Schoenberg writes that a report from Progressive Democrats of Massachusetts criticizes the branch and what it says is a lack of professionalism among legislators.

More from Schoenberg: "The report says a lack of professionalism in the House -- where some lawmakers have only a single staffer and staff receive little training -- compounds the problem. If lawmakers lack expertise, the report says, that limits their ability to get things done and opens the door for special interests to hold more sway with leadership, since lobbyists can contribute expertise."

Wu's announces key staffers ahead of swearing-in

Before Mayor Michelle Wu took the oath of office Tuesday afternoon, she announced a handful of

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A Message From The Fitzgerald Post - Chelsea Soldiers Home

The Thomas J. Fitzgerald VFW Post 561, 715 East Fourth Street (behind Stop & Shop) will be accepting Christmas donations for the Chelsea Soldiers Home on Saturday, November 20th and Saturday, December 4th be-

tween 9:00AM and 1:00PM. Examples: gift cards, hats, socks, scarves, toiletries, etc.

As you all know, no-one has been hit harder by COVID-19 than our soldiers' homes. Please support the men and women who live in them.



Councilors Flynn, Mejia & Kenzie Bok Hearing on Internet Access & Digital Equity



On Monday December 6th at 11am, Boston City Councilors Ed Flynn, Julia Mejia, and Kenzie Bok will be holding a hearing order to discuss strategies to ensure internet access and digital equity in Boston. This is a refiled hearing order, as Councilors Flynn and Mejia held a hearing on the matter last year. The Councilors plan to continue working on this issue, as the internet is becoming increasingly indispensable to everyday life, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is important that we discuss ways to make sure that our residents have access to affordable internet services and digital resources. The hearing on Monday, December 6th, 11am will be conducted virtually via Zoom, and will be livestreamed on www.boston.gov/city-council-tv.

Education, businesses, work, and other services are now increasingly reliant on the internet, and with the COVID-19 pandemic, having internet access and knowing how to use digital resources is now a necessity for many. However, some areas of the city are still currently underserved in terms of internet access, and still have a lack of choices for an affordable and reliable internet service provider. As access to the internet becomes more critical, some communities are exploring the idea of

municipal broadband where local governments invest and build their own internet infrastructure. The City of Boston has also recently partnered with Verizon to expand its fiber-optic network to offer high speed broadband internet service to the entire city.

The lack of competition for internet service providers can make it difficult for families to find affordable internet service and negotiate a better rate, which can be a heavy burden for many families who have experienced financial difficulties due to job losses during COVID-19. Moreover, our working class families, immigrants, communities of color, and seniors are the most likely to have issues with lack of internet access and knowledge in digital skills. We need to ensure these residents have the resources they need to use the internet to participate in work, education, and civic life.

"The Digital Divide and lack of both reliable and affordable internet for so many of our neighbors is a critical issue of equity in our city and country, as we all become increasingly dependent on the internet in our daily life. We need to ensure that our communities of color, low income families, immigrant neighbors and our seniors have access to the internet and digital resources," said Councilor Flynn. "I want to thank Councilors Mejia and Bok for their

partnership on this issue. I look forward to continuing to work with the City of Boston, internet service providers, and civic organizations on closing the Digital Divide."

"Times are stressful enough as it is without having to worry whether your child can participate in their education or whether you'll be able to do your job," said Councilor Mejia. "Working families are competing for bandwidth and that compromises everyone's ability to go to school, work, or even enjoy some downtime. We have an obligation as City Councilors to ensure that everybody has access to a reliable internet connection. I look forward to working on this issue alongside Councilors Flynn and Bok."

"Internet is becoming for the modern city as essential a public utility as water and sewer," said Councilor Bok. "The current pandemic has left too many residents without internet access locked out of school, public meetings, critical information, and key services. I'm excited to partner with Councilors Flynn and Mejia to explore how we can increase digital equity in Boston, including through solutions like municipal broadband."

To provide testimony, please email Juan.Lopez@Boston.gov. For more information, please contact Councilor Flynn's office at 617-635-3203 and Ed.Flynn@Boston.gov.

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new staff hires. Boston Globe's Milton J. Valencia reports that Wu brought on Mike Firestone to serve as chief policy and strategic planning. Firestone currently serves as director for the Coalition to

Protect Workers' Rights, the group opposing a ballot question related to app-based workers' benefits. More from Valencia: "Wu has previously said that the picture of her complete administration will not fully come into focus until Janu-

ary, when she plans a more formal inauguration along with City Council members."

Hold your breath: Judge again suspends use of breath tests machines

As one lawyer put it: "Here we go again." The judge overseeing litiga-

tion challenging the accuracy of breath alcohol test devices ordered use of the machines by all Bay State cops to be suspended again pending a hearing about fresh complaints about them. Julie Manganis of the Salem News has the details.

Wu train continued from front page

pilot created by Mayor Janey, we will expand access to transit across our neighborhoods, connecting more people to their schools, places of worship, small businesses, and community centers — and easing congestion on our bus riders and drivers alike,” Wu said in a statement. Several city councilors spoke in favor of immediately approving the funds Wednesday, but Councilor Andrea Campbell, who represents parts of Mattapan and Dorchester, objected, saying there are unanswered questions about the 28 pilot that need to be addressed first. Campbell said she is fully supportive of making these three bus routes free, but first wants a hearing on the issue where the public can weigh in. The council’s COVID-19 recovery committee will hold a hearing on the funding, which Campbell said she would like to see happen before the next council meeting on December 1.

Michelle Wu was elected mayor of Boston. As to firsts, she’s the first person of color and the first woman to be elected to run one of the country’s oldest cities. She’s also a millennial who has been pushing Boston towards social reforms like rent control. And, given her transportation record, and her plan for streets that prioritize walking, biking, and transit — something few big cities in this country have been able to reliably deliver despite many highly publicized commitments to do so — Wu is trying to become the U.S. climate mayor.

As a city councilor since 2014, Wu has become well known for transit advocacy — her Twitter handle is @WuTrain — and she’s coming into office with her own Green New Deal, a climate-justice agenda that’s backed by the original Green New Deal’s co-author, MA Senator Ed Markey. Wu’s plan is a localized, citywide pilot for the federal proposal: doubling the number of street trees, electrifying school buses, and incentivizing building retrofits, all led by a jobs program aimed at providing a transition to a zero-emission economy that benefits as much as possible the city’s lowest-income workers. As part of her plan, Wu also proposes what she

calls “transformative” transit policy that will go a long way towards tackling housing affordability, improving public-health outcomes, and clamping down on transportation emissions, which even in dense Boston still make up 30 percent of all greenhouse-gas emissions. “To make change at scale — and at street level,” as she said in her victory speech.

Wu uses public transit herself, too — for years, she navigated the system with her kids in a double stroller loaded with stuffed animals and snacks — and has challenged her fellow councilors to do the same, arguing that they need to experience what they’re funding. During her time on the city council, she even kept a transit diary for the publication ‘Curbed’ for a week, documenting how she got around the city almost exclusively via bus, train, and bike share, but also, and perhaps most important, highlighting the holes in the system that required her to use a car.

At the center of her climate mandate is “Free the T,” a plan to make no-fare transit the centerpiece of a more accessible city. She’s already brought about two successful real-world examples

of how this might work: a center-running dedicated lane to move buses faster than cars and a pilot project making congested routes free as a way to provide economic relief to transit-dependent Bostonians. She also wants to accelerate the rollout of Go Boston 2030, an ambitious plan meant to lay down networks of accessible sidewalks and safer bike infrastructure. Former Boston mayor Marty Walsh fell short on hitting goals for the several projects after backing down to neighborhood groups opposed to the safety improvements. According to advocates, this will mean diverting more funding to the plan, and as mayor, “Wu will have much more direct control over how Boston’s streets are designed and maintained.” Most U.S. mayors hold that power, yet few leverage it at the pavement level.

Recently, chief executives from the official Climate Mayor Collective met together at C40, the international city-focused climate conference that took place in Glasgow as part of the UN’s COP 26 summit. The review of some of the presentations made it clear Americans are lagging far behind

their counterparts around the globe. Many cities, including New York, have co-opted the “Green New Deal” terminology as a way to frame their own climate initiatives. But few of their mayors are willing or empowered to make big changes to their local transit systems that would most quickly and effectively benefit the people who rely the heaviest on that transit.

For example, for the eight years he’s been in office, New York Mayor Bill de Blasio has talked about climate goals, but balked at the necessary reallocations of road space to bus lanes and bike lanes, especially where it serves the city’s most marginalized communities. Anne Hidalgo, who has been mayor of Paris the same length of time, has made transformative changes that have dramatically decreased car use. Too many so-called climate mayors are unable to see the gulf between the transportation policies they propose and whom they’re serving when actually put into practice.

Mayor Wu has the opportunity, and many say the will to see her plans through, but the city council and an often-skeptical citizenry will not make it easy.



The Gettysburg Address Has Stood The Test Of Time

By John Allison

Why should we care about the Gettysburg Address? Lincoln wasn't the keynote speaker at the dedication of the National Cemetery on November 19, 1863. Edward Everett spoke for about two hours, giving a narrative of the battle, comparing the Union dead to the ancient Greek defenders of Marathon, and attacking rebel claims that secession was legal.

Southerners argued that the federal government was an agent of the states, so the states could leave the Union. Everett pointed out that the states' Constitutional Officers took an oath to the U.S. Constitution, and the federal government didn't take an oath to the states. Lincoln later wrote to Everett "The point made against the theory of the general government being only an agency...I think, is one of the best arguments for national supremacy."

Thousands attended the dedication; many came to listen to Edward Everett. Everett was a famous orator who gained renown when traveling the country in the 1850's giving a speech on "The Character of George Washington." His speaking tour raised \$70,000 to save Mount Vernon. One of Everett's 129 speeches on Washington was at the Academy of Music in New York City. The 7,000 seats weren't enough, and angry overflow crowds burst in to hear Everett speak.

Given Everett's fame, he was a natural choice to speak at the dedication. The organizers also invited Henry Longfellow, the famous poet, but he didn't attend. The cemetery commission chose November 19 as the date because that was the first date Everett was available. Once the date was set, David Wills of the cemetery commission sent a letter to Lincoln on November 2, 1863, asking Lincoln to attend and offer "a few appropriate remarks." The organizers did not want a long speech from the President. Some worried he wasn't up to the task of delivering such a solemn speech.

Lincoln wanted to attend, but the pressures of the war and preparing his Annual Message to Congress threatened to keep him in Washington. It seems he only decided to go over the weekend of November 14

and 15, likely after meeting Pennsylvania Governor Andrew Curtin at the White House on the 14th.

Despite the last-minute preparations, Lincoln later told his friend James Speed he'd written about half the speech before leaving Washington. One of the surviving drafts is written in ink on White House stationery. Lincoln edited it in Gettysburg, adding another page, but it's likely he had the speech nearly finished when he left Washington. The Nicolay Draft, which is likely the draft Lincoln spoke from at the dedication, is two pages. Page one is written in ink on White House stationery. Page two is written in pencil on plain paper. Lincoln likely wrote the second page of this draft in Gettysburg, revising the speech almost until he delivered it.

Lincoln wanted to see the battlefield. He especially wanted to see the spot where General John Reynolds, the battle's highest ranking Union casualty, died. Lincoln had offered Reynolds command of the Army of the Potomac in June of 1863. Reynolds declined and was killed leading his men into battle on McPherson Ridge on the first day of the battle. Lincoln and Secretary of State William Seward visited the spot near the Seminary early on November 19.

Lincoln's speech was well received at the cemetery. Isaak Allen, a Lincoln supporter and future Consul to Hong Kong, heard the speech. While not necessarily an impartial observer, Allen remembered standing next to a soldier, "the empty sleeve of his coat indicating that he had stood where death was reveling." When Lincoln delivered the powerful line "The world will little note, nor long remember, what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here," Allen remembered the soldier breaking down in tears. Allen then remembered the soldier looking up at the sky and exclaiming "God Almighty bless Abraham Lincoln!"

The Philadelphia Public Ledger reported "the short, modest, fitting address of the President of the United States produced tears at times, and at times every other emotion as only the highest eloquence can." Certainly,

Lincoln's words didn't get many compliments from the Democratic newspapers, but the speech wasn't a flop in 1863.

Major Azor Nickerson, who fought at Gettysburg, recalled decades later that the speech was "the whole matter in a nutshell." Later, Senator Charles Sumner shared a letter from Elizabeth Granville, the Duchess of Argyll. In it she said, "the speech at the Gettysburg Cemetery must live." Lincoln cherished the compliment, saving a copy of the letter.

Lincoln did what he wanted to do at Gettysburg, and he did it under very difficult circumstances. He balanced a delicate political situation, the demands of governing in wartime, and he likely already felt ill with smallpox. Lincoln felt tired and had a headache at Gettysburg. He was sick with smallpox. On returning to Washington, he was sick in bed for over a week. William Johnson, Lincoln's assistant, died of smallpox after the dedication.

The Gettysburg Address resonates because it honors the dead by speaking to the living. Lincoln challenged his audience to re-dedicate themselves to the war effort. He reminded his listeners of the lofty ideals in the Declaration of Independence and Constitution.

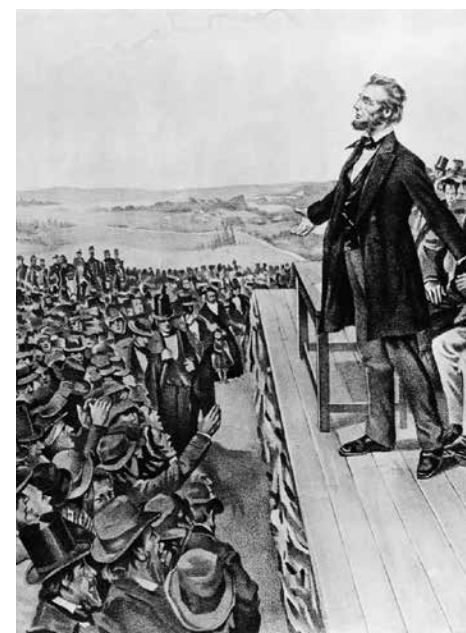
Lincoln's speech calls on every generation to continue the work of previous generations. The nation the founders brought forth was not perfect. Neither was the union Lincoln's generation saved. Lincoln calls on each generation to continue the work of previous generations, and to honor those who have gone before by striving to form a more perfect union.

The Gettysburg Address

There are several copies of the Gettysburg Address in Lincoln's handwriting. Each is slightly different. The Bliss Copy, presented below, is the most commonly used version and is featured on the Lincoln Memorial.

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that na-



tion, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate -- we cannot consecrate -- we cannot hallow -- this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us -- that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion -- that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain -- that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom -- and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

This article was originally written for The Pursuit of History, a nonprofit that engages adults in conversation about history. More information is available at www.ThePursuitOfHistory.org.

The Wine Guy

Value All Around!

Since we're now in the "home stretch" of the fall, I thought it might be helpful to start looking at some great reds to reach for as the weather starts to get colder. These wines are not only great-tasting and versatile with food, but they are also not going to dent your budget!

The Purple Wine Company, located in the Napa Valley, makes a number of great wines under the very capable management of its Senior Winemaker, Antonio Trevino. One of his best, for both flavor and value, is *Avalon Cabernet Sauvignon, California, 2020 (\$10.99)*. The wine is made each year by blending grapes from three of California's best areas:

- Lodi: Adds the Yum Factor represented in wines from warm

growing regions. Lodi's East Side vineyards' red soil and Mediterranean climate produce rich wines with plush tannins.

- Paso Robles: Their Paso Robles vineyard selections add powerful elegance as well as dark fruit flavors and deep crimson color.

- Monterey County: Monterey's cooler climate adds bright red fruit and light herbal tones as well as acidity.

This cab is versatile; you can have it with everything from burgers to pasta with red sauce, to Mexican or BBQ. If you're going to a party, bring an extra bottle! And if it's a special occasion, they also make a 100% Napa Cab for around \$18.00 a bottle and, believe me, it tastes a lot more expensive than it costs!

Paso Robles county is, in my humble opinion, one of the great value spots in California today. Overshadowed by Napa and Sonoma counties, it's been shining over the last few years, with big and bold reds and lots of good value.

One in particular, is *Straphanger Cabernet Sauvignon. The 2019 vintage (\$12.99)* is typical PR: great, deep color, structure and a finish you'd expect at a higher price point; a perfect match for grilled shrimp, veal parm or many kinds of Tapas dishes.

Further north, in Washington State's Columbia Valley, there are Merlots be-



ing made that are a value for a simple reason: they've been overshadowed by the area's Cabernets. One great example is the *2020 Waterbrook Merlot*,

Columbia Valley, (\$14.99). In this one, you get cherry blossom aromas with bright acidity, bringing forward fresh flavors of red delicious apple and sweet pomegranate. A subtle finish of mixed red fruits rounds out this full-bodied wine. If you're thinking about a late summer prime rib or salmon on the grille, this wine is a great complement.

Finally, going all the way down the Pacific Coast, Chile's Colchagua Valley is one of the most prolific wine-growing regions in the Western Hemisphere. One of the oldest names in the area, Los Vascos, has been a collaboration between two of the most famous families in the wine and spirits business—the Rothschilds, of wine and finance fame and the LaPostolle family, owners of Grand Marnier.

In addition to the Los Vascos main brand, they make a Cabernet Grand Reserve; the blend is similar to their much more expensive Bordeaux wines—85% Cabernet, 5% each of Syrah, Carmenere and Malbec. This wine, currently available from the 2019 vintage, is drinking really well right now, but it's a big, big cab; open it an hour or so before drinking. At around \$17.99 a bottle, it's a tremendous value for the money.

Talk To The Wine Guy at jdris8888@gmail.com

Post Offices closed in observance of Thanksgiving

Peak Season Means Extra Mail and Package Volumes

There will be no regular mail delivery or retail services available on Thursday, Nov. 25, as postal employees across the commonwealth celebrate Thanksgiving. But our carriers will still be delivering Priority Express and other guaranteed next day services.

This holiday, the Postal Service is reminding customers to shop and ship early. Our online store is open 24/7 at usps.com and boasts plenty of gift-giving ideas from T-shirts to framed prints, toys and tote bags.

The 2020 holiday season was a record-setting year for the Postal Service. Specifically, 13 billion letters, cards and packages were processed

and delivered under some of the most difficult circumstances we've faced in the past century.

For the 2021 peak season — the period between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day — the Postal Service will deliver more mail and packages to homes than any other shipper. It's anticipated that between 850 million and 950 million packages will be delivered for the holidays. The total number of letters, cards and packages processed and delivered is estimated to be more than 12 billion.

The Postal Service will expand Sunday delivery, beginning Nov. 28, to locations with high package volumes. USPS already delivers pack-

ages on Sundays in most major cities and expects to deliver more than 9.7 million packages each Sunday throughout the holiday season. Mail carriers will also deliver packages for an additional fee on Christmas Day in select locations.

The Postal Service plans all year for the peak holiday season. This year's preparations include leasing 7.5 million square feet of additional space across more than 40 annexes to handle the increase in the number of packages being mailed. The Postal Service is also currently hiring for more than 40,000 seasonal positions to help process and deliver the mail.


Since April, the Postal Service



has installed 97 of 112 new package sorting machines, reflecting the Postmaster General's "Delivering for America" plan's \$40 billion of planned investment over 10 years. Additionally, more than 50 machines that can sort large packages are expected to be up and running prior to December. The new machinery gives the Postal Service the capacity to process an additional 4.5 million packages each day.


Msgr. Thomas J McDonnell and Frank Kelley

Thanksgiving Dinner




Please call **617-586-5824** if you would like a meal delivered to your home. Meals will be delivered on November 25th between 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. (City of Boston Covid-19 protocols in place). We will not be able to gather at the hall to enjoy a meal together. Volunteers and delivery drivers should meet at St. Monica's @ 9 a.m. on November 25th. Any questions email: manning.danielr@gmail.com

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South Boston Catholic Academy News Honoring all our Veterans

Quoting our 4th Grade Teacher, Mrs. Kellie Defelice ...“On Wednesday, November 10th, 2021, SSG Marco Defelice, a veteran, came to speak to South Boston Catholic Academy students in grades 3-6. He told them his background and let them ask him questions. He has been in the MA National Guard for 15 years and has done three tours, two deployments to Iraq and one to Afghanistan. The students enjoyed asking him questions. They asked him things like, “what inspired you to join the Mili-

tary?” and his response was to give back to the country that gave him so much when he immigrated here from Scotland. The students even gave him a box of Halloween candy they collected for the Military and First Responders to share with his unit. He has reported back that he ate too many peanut butter cups!”

We all want to say a Special Thank you to Staff Sergeant Marco Defelice for visiting our school in honor of Veteran's Day, to Mrs. Defelice for making this very special event possible for the students at SBCA and Thank you

to our students for the kindness and respect they showed SSG Defelice by giving him a standing ovation and for their great questions. The students in grades 4 and 5, also, had an opportunity to interact and ask questions with a Veteran Marine via Zoom in their classrooms thanks to the Travis Manion Foundation.

At school all the students did various projects in their classrooms to honor our Veterans...Our Art Teacher, Ms. Valarie Szmurlo, had the students draw, color and make their very own poppies and they proudly wore the poppies they made to honor all our Veterans. Poppies are the red flowers used as a symbol around the world to remember those who died

in military service. ... However, the poppies are also worn on veterans' lapels and often placed individually at a gravesite to represent honoring and respecting those who sacrificed their lives in military conflict. Our Spanish Teacher, Ms. Taylor Avery, had the students make cards and write letters in Spanish thanking our Veterans. **Gracias por su servicio! Thank you to all our Veterans for your service to defend our nation and freedom! May God Bless and protect all our Veterans!**

New families are welcome to email Mrs. Jamie Brown at j.brown@sbcatholicacademy.org to learn more about South Boston Catholic Academy.





This week, Danny gave "Pic's Picks" for Week 11 in the NFL:

I went 2-3 against the spread in Week 10. That brings my record to 26-24 on the season.

Only two teams have a bye in Week 11: Denver and the Los Angeles Rams. Week 11 begins with the Falcons hosting the Patriots on Thursday Night Football. It ends with the Buccaneers hosting the Giants on Monday Night Football.

The Sunday Night Football game of the week is the Chargers hosting the Steelers. The real "game of the week" though is probably Kansas City hosting Dallas, which will be at 4:25 p.m. on FOX. Playoff races are heating up, and certainly that will factor into my picks for the rest of the season. Hard to believe there's only eight weeks left before the playoffs begin.

I'm due for a big week. So, let's get to it. Here are my picks for Week 11:

CAROLINA PANTHERS (-3.5)
over Washington

-In case you didn't hear him in the end zone on Sunday, Cam Newton is "baaaack." He returned to the Panthers last week under a new one-year contract, and while he wasn't the starting quarterback in their Week 10 win over Arizona, Newton did run for a touchdown

and throw for a touchdown in the few red zone snaps that he received. Reports suggest that Newton will be ready to be Carolina's starter on at home on Sunday at 1 p.m. The Panthers are 5-5, and if the playoffs began after Week 10, they'd be in the final Wild Card spot as the No. 7 seed. Their opponent in Week 11 is a 3-6 Washington team that somehow beat the Buccaneers on Sunday. I don't know how they did it, but it happened. Washington's defense still remains one of the worst in the league, statistically. I expect Washington to be riding a little too high after upsetting the defending Super Bowl champs. Give me Carolina to win big at home.

BALTIMORE RAVENS (-6)
over Chicago Bears

-The 6-3 Ravens have extra time to prepare for this one, after playing in the Thursday night game in Week 10. Baltimore will also be playing angry, as they lost to the lowly Dolphins in that Thursday night game. Now they go to Chicago to take on the 3-6 Bears on Sunday at 1. Chicago has lost four straight and is coming off the bye. I just don't see how Baltimore loses this one. But

will they cover? I'm betting on a big bounce-back win on the road. Give me the Ravens by 10.

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS (+2.5)
over Arizona Cardinals

-Russell Wilson is back from his finger injury, but it resulted in zero points in his return on Sunday in Green Bay. The Seahawks lost to the Packers 17-0. Now, Seattle heads home to take on the 8-2 Cardinals on Sunday at 4:25. Arizona has been without their star quarterback Kyler Murray the last few weeks, but he's expected to return for this one. Still, the time is now for the 3-6 Seahawks to make a playoff push. They're on the outside looking in at a Wild Card spot in the NFC, but it's still realistic that they could get in if they make a little run here in the second half, now that Wilson is back under center. It will have to start by beating the Cardinals though. This won't be a popular pick, but I'm taking the Seahawks to surprise some people with a big win that'll get the media to take them seriously once again. So I'll take the points.

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS (-2.5)
over Dallas Cowboys

-Are the Chiefs back? Maybe. They've now won three straight

and are coming off a 41-14 win over the Raiders on Sunday night. If the playoffs began after Week 10, Kansas City would be the No. 4 seed in the AFC. This Sunday at 4:25, they host the 7-2 Cowboys who are coming off a 43-3 win over the Falcons. Dallas is currently the No. 3 seed in the NFC playoff picture. I think this one ultimately will come down to home field. Which means I'm taking the Chiefs to win and cover in a back-and-forth battle.

LOCK OF THE WEEK:
GREEN BAY PACKERS (-2.5)
over Minnesota Vikings

-Aaron Rodgers is back and survived all the media backlash he faced because of his vaccine status. The 8-2 Packers are the No. 1 seed in the NFC. They travel to Minnesota on Sunday at 1 to take on the 4-5 Vikings, who are coming off a win over the Chargers in LA. Rodgers wasn't great in his return from the COVID list in Sunday's win over Seattle. I expect him to be better against Minnesota. Spread is too low here, even for a divisional game. Give me Green Bay by a touchdown.

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SPORTS TODAY

PATRIOTS LOOK TO WIN FIVE STRAIGHT ON TNF IN ATLANTA

SBT Staff

It's a short week for the New England Patriots, as they take on the Falcons in Atlanta for Thursday Night Football.

The Pats enter the game with four straight wins after stomping the Cleveland Browns at Gillette Stadium last Sunday, 45-7. Rookie quarterback Mac Jones was feeling it, and threw for 198 yards with three touchdowns on 19-of-23 passing.

Tight end Hunter Henry had two touchdown receptions, while running back Rhamondre Stevenson ran for 100 yards on 20 carries with two rushing touchdowns.

With the win, New England improved to 6-4 on the season, but still enters Week 11 in second place in the AFC East behind the first-place Buffalo Bills at 6-3. Buffalo beat the Jets in Week 10, by a score of 45-17.

While the Patriots and Bills have the same amount of wins, their place in the standings is pivotal at the moment. If the NFL Playoffs began after Week 10, the Bills would be the No. 2 seed in the AFC and would host the No. 7 seed Chargers in the Wild Card round. The Patriots would be the No. 6 seed and would have to go to Baltimore to take on the No. 3 seed Ravens in the Wild Card round.

Buffalo hosts the 5-5 Indianapolis Colts on Sunday at 1 p.m.

For the Patriots, they're a 6.5-point favorite in Atlanta on Thursday night against the 4-5 Falcons.

Tweet of the Week

Red Sox @RedSox
A long line of sluggers.



RED SOX NOTES: BOGAERTS, DEVERS WIN SILVER SLUGGER AWARDS

SBT Staff

Boston Red Sox shortstop Xander Bogaerts and third baseman Rafael Devers have won the 2021 American League Silver Slugger Awards.

The Silver Slugger Award is given to the best offensive player at each position in both the American League and National League, selected by Major League coaches and managers.

It's the fourth Silver Slugger Award for Bogaerts. He becomes the fourth Red Sox player to win the Silver Slugger Award at least four times, joining David Ortiz (7), Wade Boggs (6), and Manny Ramirez (6).

and the first for Devers. Bogaerts and Devers are the fourth pair of American League teammates to win the Silver Slugger Award at shortstop and third base in the same season, joining Fran-

cisco Lindor and Jose Ramirez with the Cleveland Indians, Derek Jeter and Alex Rodriguez with the New York Yankees, and Miguel Tejada and Melvin Mora with the Baltimore Orioles.

The Red Sox have been represented on the AL Silver Slugger Team in 17 of the last 21 seasons. In the award's 42 years of existence, Red Sox players have won 48 Silver Sluggers, including 10 in the last six years.

Around the rest of the league, the World Series champion Atlanta Braves had the most Silver Sluggers in 2021 with four winners, which is tied for the second most by any team in a single season, behind the 1980 St. Louis Cardinals, who had five.

—Free agent starter Eduardo Rodriguez rejected the Red Sox' qualifying offer and has signed a five-year, \$77 million deal with the Detroit Tigers.

Boston offered Rodriguez a one-year, \$18.4 million deal. Because Rodriguez took the longer offer from another team, the Red Sox will receive an additional draft pick in next year's amateur draft.

Rodriguez, who turns 29 in April, spent the last six seasons with Boston, going 64-39 with a 4.16 ERA in 159 games, which includes 153 starts.

WHAT TO WATCH

NFL THURSDAY, NOV. 18
New England (-6.5) at Atlanta
8:20 P.M. FOX/NFLN

SUNDAY, NOV. 21
Indianapolis at Buffalo (-7)
1 P.M. CBS

Dallas at Kansas City (-2.5)
4:25 P.M. FOX

Pittsburgh at LA Chargers (-5.5)
8:20 P.M. NBC

MONDAY, NOV. 22
NY Giants at Tampa Bay (-10.5)
8:15 P.M. ESPN

NBA FRIDAY, NOV. 19
LA Lakers at Boston
7:30 P.M. ESPN

NHL SATURDAY, NOV. 20
Boston at Philadelphia
7 P.M. NESN/ESPN+

In three postseasons, Rodriguez won a World Series with the Red Sox in 2018, and went 1-1 with a 3.76 ERA in 11 postseason games, which includes four postseason starts.

—Former Red Sox shortstop Julio Lugo passed away earlier this week at the age of 45. The cause of death is presumed to be a heart attack.

Lugo was Boston's shortstop during the 2007 World Series championship season. He played 12 seasons in Major League Baseball, with Tampa Bay, Houston, Boston, the Dodgers, Atlanta, Baltimore, and St. Louis.

In parts of three seasons with the Red Sox from 2007-2009, Lugo hit .251 with 10 home runs and 103 RBI in 266 regular season games. He hit .385 in a World Series sweep of Colorado in 2007.

