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POST-GAZETTE

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Boston Public Schools
Facing $53 Million Budget Gap

In response to a projected $53 million dollar budget gap for the current fiscal year (FY25-26), Boston Public Schools (BPS) has ceased hiring throughout the school district, excluding positions that provide direct service to students. "Beginning in November, the district implemented central office spending reductions and a pause on hiring while it reviewed vacancies. It has since become necessary to expand this pause on spending and hiring district-wide, unless the position supports direct service to our students," stated BPS Superintendent Mary Skipper.

BPS said the projected budget shortfall derives from a number of factors, including an estimated $17 million overage in health insurance costs, a $17 million overage in salary and other benefits, $3 million from bus monitors which stems from overtime pay, $1.5 million in per diem substitute salaries and a $13 million overage in transportation costs due to more morning and afternoon bus runs. One last factor adding to the shortfall is the $6 million in out of district special education tuition costs.

Teachers and paraprofessionals are excluded from the hiring freeze since they are considered "student facing" positions. The only positions that will be impacted are "non-student facing positions as these vacancies are not being filled."

Evidently BPS Superintendent Mary Skipper's salary isn't being impacted either as she was approved for a 15% pay increase by the School Committee this past October, upping her total compensation to $393,943 for the 2025-26 school year. This includes a base salary of $324,643, a $60,000 annuity, $7,800 for transportation costs and $1,500 for dental care.

Skipper's annual base salary is higher than the Mayor of Boston, the Governor of Massachusetts, the Vice-President of the United States, and almost even with that of the President of the U.S.

Team Healey & Driscoll
Make Re-Election Bid Official

The Massachusetts Gubernatorial Team of Maura Healey and Kim Driscoll have officially set their 2026 reelection campaign in motion. In a video declaring her campaign, Healey noted, what she perceives to be, her administration's accomplishments during the first three years of her term, including "standing up to Donald Trump."

"I ran for Governor to show up for people who need someone in their corner, to lower costs and increase opportunities, and we're getting that done. But there's more for us to do, a lot more, and that's why I am running for re-election: to lower costs, make life better, and to stand up to Donald Trump. He's raising costs, taken away our health care and is tearing families apart. We see the damage he's doing to our country, but we'll never back down. In Massachusetts, we stand together on what matters most," Healey said in her campaign video.

The governor touted her top accomplishments, which she says include opposing utility rate increases while proposing legislation to take charges off energy bills, something the administration believes will save ratepayers $13 billion. She also spoke of protecting the SNAP program in the Bay State from federal cuts, while mentioning capping health care deductibles and co-pays, turning around the MBTA, doubling funding for education, making community college free, eliminating renters fees and plans to build 100,000 new homes.

A critical issue that seems to be on everyone's mind, homeowner or renter, is the increasing utility bills in Massachusetts, which many hold her accountable for, pointing to her stoppage of two natural gas pipe lines from coming into the state while serving as Attorney General, something she has denied on numerous occasions. Recently, the Governor tried to pin the blame on President Trump's tariffs for rocketing energy costs.

The Healey/Driscoll Team is not facing any democratic opposition and do not force a primary challenge emerging. On the Republic side, Mike Kennealy, Brian Shortsleeve and Mike Minogue will square off in the Republican Primary this coming September to determine which will take on Healey during the November election.

Massachusetts State Senate Votes Down Boston Mayor Michelle Wu's Tax Plan

by Patti Sartori

Boston Mayor Michelle Wu witnessed her tax shift bill voted down last week in the Massachusetts state senate. The Senate voted 33-5 to defeat an amendment to the senate proposed alternative tax shock legislation. The amendment, filed by a Boston Democratic State Senator Michael Rush, resembles Mayor Wu's home rule petition that would transfer a higher percentage of the city's residential tax burden onto commercial property.

The mayor's proposed legislation was defeated by the state senate in late 2024, and has sat dormant again all last year. Wu has been urging the senate to approve her proposal as a method to offer relief of the projected 13% tax increase for residential homeowners that her administration claims is due to a 6% drop in commercial values as well as a 2% increase in residential values.

For all intents and purposes, it's tough to see a path forward in the state senate, even with the Boston City Council and the Massachusetts House of Representatives previously supporting the legislation on three previous attempts. The mayor has not made an announcement on whether she plans to pursue her proposal, which requests to exceed the current 175% state limit for shifting taxes onto commercial properties in order to lower residential tax increases, over the next three years.

"In addition to having overwhelming support from the people of Boston, the city's residential tax relief legislation has had support from 12 of the 13 councilors, all 16 state Boston representatives, and now 4 of Boston's 6 state senators." A city spokesperson said in a statement. Adding, "We're grateful to Senator Rush for putting this amendment forward, and Senators Lydia Edwards, Liz Miranda, Sal DiDomenico and Patricia Jehlen who voted for this."

Sen. William Brownsberger, a Belmont Democrat and State Senator Nick Collins, a South Boston Democrat, were two Boston senators to vote in opposition to the Rush amendment, who co-led the 2024 effort to stop the mayor's tax shift bill in the senate. The senate did vote 37-1 in support of Brownsberger's alternative tax relief bill. This "tax shot" legislation, gives "cities and towns the ability to shield their most vulnerable taxpayers from the shock of an extraordinarily high tax bill" in years when residential property tax increases are expected to go over 10%. Brownsberger's bill phases in increases offering targeted tax credits in years where tax increases are expected to exceed double digits.

The senate also approved an alternative tax relief bill sponsored by Senator Nick Collins, that would provide tax rebates for low and middle-class income homeowners who already receive the residential tax exemption by using city surplus funds. Collins believes the bill allows the city to use the $552 million it has in surplus funds to issue rebates to "cancel out their tax increases."

If approved by the House, Collins bill would be applied across the state. He feels it is "unfair" for Boston to raise residential taxes by double digits for a second year in a row, while it has a large amount of reserve cash on hand.

Republicans Barely Hold Slim Majority in Congress

by Patti Sartori

With a group of moderate Republicans taking a stand last week against a number of GOP-led labor rule bills, House Republican leadership was quick to pull other bills in order to avoid an embarrassing situation. Republicans continue to deal with a slim party-line majority of between one and three votes, depending on attendance and other factors.

We've got simple bills that should be a no-brainer, and we've got several moderate Republicans that are going to kill the bill. What you're seeing here, you've got attendance issues, you've got seven Republicans voting with Democrats, you lose more than two, you're toast," Representative Greg Steube, R-FL., told *Fox News*.

In addition to attendance issues, and defectors are situations out of leaderships' control. Representative Tim Burchett, R-TN., told reporters last week, "We are one flu season away from losing the majority." While Steube doesn't believe Democrats could actually take the speakers gavel, he did admit it is a perilous situation, pointing to the sudden death of Representative Doug LaMalfa, R-CA., as an example, "You're a heart attack and a car accident away from the majority. There's people in our conference that are not young people. I mean, you saw what just happened with LaMalfa. In my opinion, he was young, 65. We have people who are much older in the conference."

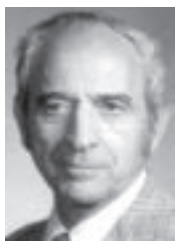
Speaker Mike Johnson, R-LA., denied there was a fight over the agenda. "We're totally in control of the House," adding that leaders are watching attendance closely, "They'd better be here. I told everybody, and not in jest, I said no adventure sports, no-risk taking, take your vitamins. Stay healthy and be here."

The uptick in concern appeared after former Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene, R-GA., unexpectedly resigned earlier this month after a public battle with President Trump. Representative Jim Baird, R-Ind., just returned, after being severely bruised in a car accident. Rep. Greg Murphy, R-NC., remains home recovering from major brain surgery, and Rep. Derrick Van Order, R-Wis., is in his home district caring for his ill wife. "These margins are really, really close, so I think it's a concern to be vigilant and prudent, and just understand that the consequences of an accident may have, you know, consequences outside of the norm," stated former Navy Seal and current Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont."

Stirpe Nostra

by Prof. Edmund Turiello

A weekly column highlighting some of the more interesting aspects of our ancestry . . . our lineage . . . our roots.



CUPID AND PSYCHE

Psyche was a maiden who personified the human soul. Her story was beautifully told back in the second century A.D. by Lucius Apuleius, more commonly known as Apuleius. He was born in Africa, into a wealthy family, and this permitted him to travel to Athens where he spent a considerable amount of time studying the work of Plato. Apuleius also lived in Rome for many years following his classical studies and became actively engaged as an advocate. He returned to Africa fairly early in his career and married a wealthy older woman. After he was charged with using magic to win the rich widow's hand, he replied with much wit in an oration called "Apologia," which has since become quite famous. Subsequently, he traveled throughout Africa delivering lectures and orations. His most famous literary work was *The Golden Ass*, a book which tells the story of a man named Lucius, who was transformed into an ass; thus providing him ample opportunity to observe the ridiculous doings of mankind, including the activities of Cupid and Psyche. Throughout this story, the moral conditions of the time were also depicted with much humor.

***Psyche and Amor*, also known as *Psyche Receiving Cupid's First Kiss* (1798), by François Gérard: a symbolic butterfly hovers over Psyche in a moment of innocence poised before sexual awakening.**

The story tells us that Psyche, the youngest of a king's three daughters was so beautiful that even Venus was envious and jealous. Because of this jealousy, Venus ordered Cupid to inspire Psyche with great love for a most contemptible man. After setting his eyes on Psyche, and unknown to her, Cupid was stricken with her beauty and fell deeply in love. Under cover of darkness, he carried her to a beautiful spot, where unseen and unknown, he visited her every night and left just before dawn. Cupid warned Psyche not to endanger their happiness by attempting to look at him in the light or to inquire who he was. It was her jealous sisters, however, who caused her to believe that she was embracing a hideous monster in the darkness of night. Consequently, one evening while Cupid slept she went close to him with a lamp, and was amazed to behold the most handsome of the gods. In the excitement of joy and fear that followed, a drop of the lamp's hot oil fell upon Cupid. He quickly awakened, censured her for her action, and disappeared.

Her happiness now gone, Psyche wandered from temple to temple inquiring about her lover, eventually arriving at the palace of Venus. Her misery really began when Venus retained her, treated her as a slave, and imposed the most difficult and humiliating labors upon her. It is said that Psyche could have not have continued to exist under her suffering, had not Cupid, who still secretly loved her, invisibly comforted and assisted her in those toils. With this aid, Psyche finally succeeded in overcoming the hatred of Venus. Through the intervention of the gods, Psyche was granted immortality, and was united with Cupid forever.

In works of art, Psyche is shown as a beautiful maiden with the wings of a butterfly. Various scenes show her with Cupid in different situations that are implied in the foregoing story or as is visualized by any particular artist.

NEXT WEEK: *Giulio Romano vs. Raphael*

The 10 Hottest Housing Markets in the U.S. 2026

How Does Boston Fare?

A large portion of the U.S. has become a buyers' market over the past year or so, yet certain higher demand markets may still provide sellers with a stronger advantage in the coming year. According to Zillow, these markets, mainly concentrated in the Northeast and California's Bay Area, have suffered deep drops in inventory since 2018-2019. Markets that have larger inventories for sale than in the days leading up to the pandemic, are less likely to require buyers to be competitive.

While those buyers markets, where potential homeowners can be choosier and more relaxed, hopeful homeowners in the "buyer areas" should expect competitive bidding and competition. Yet buyers who successfully negotiate in these types of competitive markets typically see their efforts rewarded with properties that traditionally increase in value, resulting in stronger equity gains. The markets that are expected to be hot in the upcoming year should also expect to see prices increase, even with a flat market overall.

Zillow has identified the 10 hottest "fast-moving markets" by analyzing the 50 largest metro areas in the U.S., concentrating on the growth of home prices, in terms of what has already occurred and what is forecast. Determining factors include how quickly homes in the area are being sold, what proportion of sellers have to drop their asking price and the percentage of sales that were over asking price. The following are the top cities and their expected growth in 2026.

1. Hartford Connecticut +3.9%, **2.** Buffalo, NY +2.5%, **3.** New York, NY +1.5%, **4.** Providence, RI +3%, **5.** San Jose, CA +1.2%, **6.** Philadelphia, PA +1.7%, **7.** Boston, MA +1.5%, **8.** Los Angeles, CA +1.1%, **9.** Richmond, VA +2.1% and **10.** Milwaukee, WI +2.1%.

To prepare, buyers should provide pre-approvals, be realistic about your home buying budget and be sure to include closing costs in that figure, consider an escalation clause that increases your offer if competitive bids come in higher, have a firm walk away price and be disciplined about it, be ready to act fast, research the market ahead of time and know the comparable property prices, partner with a real-estate agency that is familiar with the local market and be flexible on closing dates.

Sellers in hot markets should be strategic in their approach by pricing competitively, market the property as strongly and widely as possible, stage the property accordingly as first impressions matter, look beyond price for other factors that may work best for you like closing dates, and be prepared for things to move quickly.

North End Waterfront Residents Association (NEWRA)

Kicks Off 2026 with a Heated Exchange!

The first NEWRA meeting of 2026 picked up where the final meeting of 2025 left off, with a heated exchange between a zoning applicant and abutters. Otherwise, it was a fairly basic, typically well attended monthly meeting.

The first announcement informed the group that the association's new website was up and running. Each of the neighborhood liaison's, Maria Perez from Mayor Wu's office and Samantha Perracchi from Councilor Coletta Zapata's office were both in attendance and encouraged all members to reach out to their respective offices for guidance or assistance with any concern or feedback.

Boston Police Community Service Officer Michael Mustacchio provided an overview of crime statistics in the neighborhood. The North End/Waterfront continues to be one of the safest areas of the city, with violent crime down 36% overall from 2024 to 2025. There was a 16% uptick in quality-of-life crime, including package theft, loud parties or disturbing the peace, motor vehicular larceny and other lower-level types of issues

Kiyan Williams, an artist from New Jersey and based in New York City, discussed his new sculpture set to be installed on Copp's Hill Terrace, in mid-April, to commemorate the legacy of Phillis Wheatley Peters, the first black woman to publish a book of poetry and who is believed to be buried in an unmarked grave in Copp's Hill Burying Ground.

Also on the agenda were three restaurants filing for application, in accordance with 2025 legislation, to upgrade from liquor licenses to full all-alcoholic beverage licenses. Wicked Craft Company, 54 Salem Street; Rocco's Cucina & Bar, 450 Commercial Street; and Pizzeria Regina, 11 Thatcher Street all received support from the NEWRA members.

The final agenda item, a proposed new six-story building consisting of 6 units and elevator at 133-135 North Washington Street, proved to be more controversial than many expected. The applicant, local developer Michael Beaujean was represented by Attorney Michael Ross, Architect Buddy Christopher and Stephen Passacantilli.

There will be one 1,00 square foot unit per floor, all 3 bedrooms with a private elevator for each floor. The proposed height of the rear portion is 50' while the front portion of the building is 60', higher than the allowed 55'. There will also be a 12' rear set back from abutters on Endicott Street.

The applicant had previously held an abutter meeting December 3, attended a December 9 NEWRA Zoning Committee meeting, and a follow up abutter's meeting on December 18, 2025, before appearing before a full NEWRA membership meeting for a vote in support or opposition.

Abutters from 186-190 Endicott Street, spoke in opposition to the project expressing concern over the limited air and light this would cause along with the minimal 12' rear setback. It was suggested that the parties go back and meet again to see if an agreement could be reached and hold off on a formal vote by NEWRA but it seemed the abutters at 186-190 Endicott Street were not budging on their opposition to the proposal in the current form and the applicant was sticking firm on its design.

At the request of the applicant's attorney a vote was taken by all NEWRA members present at the meeting and in good standing. The final result was 5 members in support, and 11 in opposition. The applicant will now move forward with a Zoning Board of Appeal Hearing and NEWRA will forward a letter in opposition.

Elon Musk

Makes Bold Prediction

If Elon Musk is to be believed, smartphones will soon become a thing of the past. Musk continues to predict the end of technology, as we know it, arguing the smartphone era will soon be extinct. Musk believes instead of tapping on phone screens, people will instead interact with artificial intelligence that anticipates needs, responds to thoughts, and blurs the line between devices and the human brain.

Musk has been focused on a single message: the rectangular slab in your pocket is on borrowed time. In multiple social media posts, he has said that in approximately 5 years, people will no longer rely on traditional phones or familiar apps, because AI systems will handle most digital interactions as AI will become the primary interface. If his thoughts become reality, the familiar icons for messaging, maps and streaming will transition to a single, persistent intelligence that chooses what you need without actually searching or tapping manually, rather AI will anticipate what you want.

Musk's prediction is premised on a future where communication will occur directly through the brain, totally bypassing keyboards and touchscreens, and intimating this type of technology is not science fiction and is actually being built right now. Musk's design looks similar to a wearable or implant that will serve as a connection to a single, powerful AI.

Musk is not alone in his thinking. Meta's top AI executive has publicly noted that smartphones will be obsolete in 10 years, longer than Musk's five-year prediction. Meanwhile Nokia CEO Pekka Lundmark has said around 2030, with the arrival of 6G, the concept of smartphones could become obsolete. While most tech experts feel Musk may be taking an unusually aggressive stand, all agree his conviction that AI progress is coming faster than most people realize.

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James V. Donnaruma 1896 to 1953 *Caesar L. Donnaruma 1953 to 1971* *Phyllis F. Donnaruma 1971 to 1990*

Vol. 131 - No. 4 **Friday, January 23, 2026**

OUR POLICY: ***To help preserve the ideals and sacred traditions of this our adopted country the United States of America: To revere its laws and inspire others to respect and obey them: To strive unceasingly to quicken the public's sense of civic duty: In all ways to aid in making this country greater and better than we found it.***

Letter to the Editor

Battle of the Buildings

If you lived in Boston long enough you know this riddle "steady blue; clear view, flashing blue; cloudy view, steady red; rain ahead, flashing red; snow ahead." That is our not so reliable weather forecast from the John Hancock building. Now I live in view of both the Verizon and State Street Bank buildings and I don't know if it's a battle but it sure is a competition. I do my nebulizer every night with both buildings in view. State Street was the first to start lighting the sign using LED. It was no brainer for home games Celtics, Patriots and Bruins (although the Bruins color was orange not gold or yellow). Several times I had to google the significance of the color scheme to see what the color represented. So, it makes perfect sense that the Verizon building wanted in on advertising for sports etc.

From this writer's perspective State Street so far wins hands down. For the Patriot Playoff game, the words were a blaring red, white and blue. Verizon, however, had their floors lit somewhat red and somewhat white but I didn't see any blue. I poked the bear and I think it bares looking up on Sunday and seeing who does it best.

Oh and by the way GO PATS!!!

Rita Pagliuca
North End, Boston

Loretta B. (Parziale) Daley

Loretta B. (Parziale) Daley of Boston's North End, passed away on January 14, 2026.

Beloved daughter of the late Angelo and Beatrice (Russo) Parziale. Loving wife of the late John "Jack" Daley. Treasured mother of John A. Daley and his wife Joanna. Cherished grandmother of John A. "Jack" Daley. Dear sister of Sandra Caso and her husband Anthony, Augustine and his wife Denise Parziale, the late Anne "Babe" DeMarco and her husband George, and Ferdinand Parziale and his surviving wife Nancy. Also survived by loving nieces and nephews.

The family received visitors on Tuesday, January 20, 2026 in St. Leonard Church, 320 Hanover St., Boston with a Mass of Christian Burial. Services concluded with interment in Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett, MA.

In lieu of flowers, make donations in Loretta's memory to St. Leonard Church.

For online condolences, please visit: *www.watermanboston.com*

LETTERS POLICY

The Post-Gazette invites its readers to submit Letters to the Editor.

- Letters should be typed, double-spaced and must include the writer's name, address and telephone number. Anonymous letters are not accepted for publication.
- Due to space considerations, we request that letters not exceed two double-spaced, type-written pages.
- This newspaper reserves the right to edit letters for style, grammar and taste and to limit the number of letters published from any one person or organization.
- Deadline for submission is 12:00 noon on the Monday prior to the Friday on which the writer wishes to have the material published. Submission by the deadline does not guarantee publication.

Send letter to: Pamela Donnaruma, Editor,
The Post-Gazette, P.O. Box 135, Boston, MA 02113

Patricia "Patty" Raffa

Patricia "Patty" Raffa entered into eternal rest on January 14, 2026, at the age of 85, surrounded by her loving family.

Born and raised in the North End of Boston, Patty was the beloved daughter of the late Joseph Raffa and Nicolena (Fabiano) Raffa. She was the loving mother of Emily Santangelo of Winthrop and Patricia Durkin of Medford. Patty was the adored Nana of Nicholas of Charlotte, North Carolina, Jade of Winthrop, Nicole of Saugus, and Christopher of Medford.

She was the devoted sister of Joan, Leonard, and Catherine Raffa of the North End; Maryanne Bono of Saugus; and the late Carl Raffa. Patty was a cherished aunt to Michael Bono of Saugus; Matthew Bono and his partner Jess of Derry, New Hampshire; and Gabrielle and her husband Greg Petto of Wakefield. She was also the great aunt to Luca, Gigi, and Bella of Wakefield. Patty is additionally survived by many cousins and dear friends who will miss her greatly.

Patty was truly one of a kind. She was deeply loving and a devoted matriarch who held her family together. Known for her humbleness, she always put others before herself. She will be remembered for her uniqueness, unconditional love, and selfless heart.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Saturday, January 24, 2026, at 10 am, in St. Leonard Church, 320 Hanover Street, Boston, MA. Services will conclude with interment in Holy Cross Cemetery, Malden

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Patty's memory to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

NEW Health

Hosts Strategic Planning Meeting

(L to R): New Health Board President Jason Aluia, Chief of Staff for NEW Health Nancy Meredith, Public Affairs Coordinator at NEW Health Danny Coakley, and CEO of NEW Health Vincenzo Scibelli at the start of the recent NEW Health Strategic Planning Meeting.

Since 1971, NEW Health has been committed to improving the quality of health and life for the residents of Boston's North End, Waterfront and more recently Charlestown, by providing high-quality health care that is consumer oriented, culturally appropriate, neighborhood-based, affordable and produces positive outcomes.

Last week , New Health hosted two community meetings with residents of the North End and Charlestown, at the Nazzaro Center in the North End and its 15 Tufts Street location in Charlestown. The meetings were very well-attended, providing an opportunity to gather ideas, feedback, and priorities that will help shape the future of the health center.

Community members offered thoughtful input on a wide range of topics, from the direction of services and programs to opportunities for improving day-to-day operations. NEW Health is deeply grateful to everyone who took the time to participate in this important conversation, helping to strengthen both the health center and the neighborhoods it serves.

North End Residents and patients of NEW Health brainstorm during the recent strategic planning meeting.

Representatives of various North End agencies and organizations provide feedback on community needs.

(L to R): Rita Pagliuca, President of NEW Health Jason Aluia, Michael Bonetti, Joe Mantone, Angela Mantone, Head of St. John School Annmarie Quezada, and Bobby Venuti gather to offer suggestions and input at the recent NEW Health strategic planning meeting.

L'Anno Bello: A Year in Italian Folklore

Welcoming Spring's Light

by Ally Di Censo Symynkywicz

(Image by Freepik)

January is going by quicker than a windswept snowdrift. It seems that just a short while ago, I was cheering the start of a New Year and packing away the last Christmas decorations. This past month has been a mixture of bitter cold spells followed by mild weather, of furiously falling snowflakes and pleasant days filled with the scent of newly-turned soil. I can sense the dueling seasons of winter and spring dancing around me, struggling to maintain their individual grip over these transitional, changeable months. However, February will soon arrive with its bevvy of festivals that decidedly welcome the spring. St. Valentine's Day cuts through the snowy monotony in bursts of red and pink, ushering in the season of rebirth through images of hearts and flowers and Cupids. The revelry of Carnival, replete with mysterious masks and colorful beads, promises to chase the ghosts of winter away. I look forward to the joy and gaiety of these holidays. February starts, though, with a less recognized feast that introduces the month, and the season of spring as a whole, with powerful symbolism. This ancient, rustic holiday is known as Candlemas, and its worldwide traditions evoke the spring with anticipation and light.

Candlemas, which occurs on February 2nd, commemorates the date on which the Virgin Mary presented Jesus at the temple, forty days after His birth. The name of the feast derives from the widespread usage of candles during the religious services marking this holiday, which symbolize the light that Jesus metaphorically brings to the world. However, many of Candlemas's folk customs predate Christianity. The Celts celebrated February 1st as Imbolc, a festival heralding the first day of spring. Imbolc, which some scholars theorize translates to "in the belly," honors the lactation of sheep and the beginning of the birthing season for lambs. This ancient Celtic holiday survives as St. Brigid's Day in modern Ireland, where people light candles, make Crosses out of vegetation, and visit holy wells. Indeed, since it serves as a welcome precursor to spring, Candlemas bursts with quaint customs and superstitions everywhere. European folklore states that a warm and sunny Candlemas portents harsh wintry weather, while a cold and blustery Candlemas promises an early spring. Immigrants from Europe brought these traditions over to America, where they melded into the festival of Groundhog Day. Like Candlemas, Groundhog Day is also celebrated on February 2nd, and it further pays homage to the end of the hibernation period for many animals. An Italian dictum repeats this well-known superstition, proclaiming *"Candelora con sole, tarde primavera,"* or "sunny Candlemas, late spring." These practices speak to the universal desire for spring and rebirth, whether it manifests in newborn lambs or candles flickering in the windowsills.

In addition to functioning as a turning point between winter and spring, Candlemas also provides people with an opportunity for celebrations and feasting. Pancakes are the traditional dinner of choice in France, possibly because their round shape and golden color resemble the spring sun, which is now remaining for a longer time in the sky. Superstition claims that a cook who can flip a pancake with one hand while turning a coin in the other will be blessed with luck. In Mexico, people eat tamales on Candlemas, provided by the person who found the hidden bean in their Epiphany King Cake. Italians honor Candlemas, or *Candelora*, with local festivities and regional customs. Though Candlemas traditions vary across Italy, each honors the arrival of spring and the theme of light breaking through the darkness. In the Sicilian city of Catania, *Candelora* festivals segue into parades held in honor of the town's patron saint, St. Agatha, where people make offerings of large candles that illuminate the dark late winter sky. The people of Montevergine, a village located in the southern region of Campania, organize candlelight processions which honor gay rights and pray for increased tolerance. Meanwhile, Neapolitans celebrate *Candelora* with large street parties boasting torches and fireworks displays. Indeed, all throughout Italy, a visitor will find homes, churches and town squares illuminated by candles or bonfires on *Candelora*, the flames both providing warmth against the cold February air and reminding people of the light of the coming spring. Candlemas always makes me think of the long walks I would take on my old college campus at the start of the spring semester, propelled by the wind as I took note of the new buds adorning the otherwise bare tree branches. Nowadays, I bake orange cheesecakes on Candlemas, a seasonal recipe whose color and shape resembles mini sunbursts. How exciting it is to greet spring in all its myriad forms!

As winter slowly melts into spring, we should all take a lesson from Candlemas and search for the beacons of light in our own lives. What are the symbolic candles that illuminate our way out of our personal darkness? Which elements of our lives remind us that rebirth and hope are always near, even in the midst of a literal and metaphorical winter? To me, these "candles" include spending time with loved ones, the smell of baked goods wafting through my kitchen, hearty belly laughs, and warm sunsets. These signs remind me that the world holds so much beauty and promise, even when all appears bleak. Candlemas teaches us to look for these signals in nature as well: a frost-encrusted snowdrop flower, the flash of a robin in flight, a night lit with candles. When we hold on to the hope of spring and appreciate the moments our natural world has to offer, we will always hold the beauty of each season inside us — and that knowledge of Mother Earth's endurance will comfort us always.

Ally Di Censo Symynkywicz is a high school history teacher. She appreciates any comments and suggestions about Italian holidays and folklore at adicenso89@gmail.com.

THINKING OUT LOUD

by Sal Giarratani

Trooper Hanna Still Remembered

Killer Staying Behind Bars

As someone who served over 28 years in law enforcement as a member of the Boston Metro DMH Area police department, I still remember when Trooper George L. Hanna was brutally murdered after he made a traffic stop.

Hanna was removing the occupants of the vehicle when one of them, Jose Colon, 20 years old at the time, shot Hanna six times at close range on February 26, 1983. The killer was sentenced to life without parole. However, this is Massachusetts and thanks to a Supreme Judicial Court decision, Commonwealth v. Mattis, which ruled "emerging adults" who were 18 to 20 at the time they murdered could not be sentenced to life without parole. Parole board hearings are now being held for these youthful killers because their brains weren't fully developed at the time of their killings but seemingly their trigger fingers appeared to have been fully developed, huh? So, Colon and others could eventually get released and back on the streets while the victims get no paroles from death. To date, 39 "emerging adults," thanks to the Supreme Judicial Court's ruling, received their "Get out of Jail" card.

Thank you to Governor Maura Healey and all for so strongly urging the Parole Board to deny parole for Trooper Hanna's killer. His parole was denied. As Healey acknowledged, "In a civil society law enforcement officers uphold the laws that allow our communities to live in peace and safety. The intentional killing of an officer in the line of duty is not only a brutal crime against one person; it is a violent assault on the rule of law."

Finally, let us never forget the real victim here, Trooper George Hanna.

Blue Line Update

On the Blue Line

The MBTA will perform tunnel inspections on the Blue Line between Bowdoin and Airport in January. Proactive inspections are a critical and necessary part of maintaining the integrity of the system.

To accomplish this work, the following service suspension will take place the weekend of **January 24 – 25, 2026.** Blue Line service will be suspended between **Bowdoin and Airport**.

Free and accessible shuttle buses will make stops at Airport, Maverick, and Haymarket on the Green and Orange lines. There will be no direct shuttle bus service to/from Bowdoin, Government Center (for connections to the Green Line), State (for connections to the Orange Line), or Aquarium. Bowdoin is 0.3 miles (or about a six-minute walk) from Haymarket and Aquarium is 0.4 miles (or about a nine-minute walk) from Haymarket. Accessible van service will be available for direct service to Government, Haymarket, Aquarium, and State. Accessible vans can be requested by MBTA personnel or by a station call box. The East Boston Ferry will operate and be free during this service change. On Saturday, the ferry will operate from 6 AM to 10 PM. On Sunday, the ferry will operate from 6 AM to 9 PM. The ferry will depart from each terminus point every 30 minutes. Schedules will be available soon at *mbta.com/EastBostonFerry*. Riders using shuttle buses should budget ample extra travel time. For example, a rider traveling to Government Center from Wonderland should budget at least an additional 30 – 40 minutes of travel in additional to their regular commute. There will be free fares with the fare gates open at Airport, Wood Island, Orient Heights, Suffolk Downs, Beachmont, Revere Beach, and Wonderland.

Cheers to 30 Years!

Patricia Giovaniello, back center with daughters Nicki, and grand-daughter baby Amelia with her mom Vanessa. Seated in front are Patricia's husband Bobby Giovanniello, grandson baby Rocco with his dad and Patricia's future son-in-law Matt Robinson.

For the past 30 years, Patricia Giovanniello has been a dedicated City of Boston employee, beginning on the neighborhood streets in East Boston as a school crossing guard before transferring to the Nazzaro Community Center in the North End. Sadly, all good things must come to an end. Last Friday evening, in a fully-packed room, Patricia bid farewell to her co-workers, the senior and youth groups, and long-time friends she has made in the neighborhood over her many years of service.

Although was a bitter sweet moment, she is ready to embrace her new role as "grandmother" to her recently born twin grandchildren, Rocco and Amelia.

We all miss Patricia greeting us as we walk into the front door of the Nazzaro Center, as she was typically the first face we saw behind the desk, but we know she is looking forward to enjoying time with her family.

Congratulations and best wishes on a healthy and happy retirement!

Patricia Giovanniello celebrates her retirement from the Nazzaro Community Center in the North End with her co-workers.

Cyclone Harry Hits Southern Italy

Cyclone Harry has been wreaking havoc in Italy's most Southern towns as the wild weather is prompting a state of emergency. Horrifying photos depict Sicilian streets as rivers, with residents, tourists, cars, outdoor furniture, plants and trash being swept away. People could be seen wading through water trying to reach safety.

Powerful waves pummeled and submerged roads and neighborhoods as the mediterranean sea seeped quickly above the ground floors of local buildings. In videos from Messina giant waves are flooding the coastal city rolling straight in from the sea and in what looks like a tidal wave, and in areas north of Catania, was engulfed by flood water with the currents taking everything in its path.

The governors are pushing for the government to call for a regional state of emergency, as Sicily, Calabria and Sardinia were placed on red alert. The island was expected to see up to 300 millimeters of rain over a two-day period. "Last night we were focused on the emergency and avoiding loss of life, paying particular attention to the area's most at risk for the population. News of the damage, which unfortunately, is very serious across 100 kms of the Ionian coastline — we're talking about coastal roads, tourists and beach resorts, homes and port facilities. I have already convened an extraordinary meeting of the regional government to approve a state of regional emergency and ask the central government to declare a national emergency," stated Sicilian Governor Renato Schifani.

Other areas of Sicily have suffered, sustaining serious damage from the wild weather. Taormina mayor, Cateno DeLuca, was swept away by the water while live streaming with the mayor of Santa Teresa di Riva. Both men are safe. The storm surge has also reached Calabria, where the president of the region Robert Occhiuto stated, "Fortunately, there have been no casualties or injuries, and will soon begin assessing the damage."

Cyclone Harry is not considered to be a Mediterranean Hurricane but rather an intense cycle producing winds of up to 74 miles per hour. Many schools and businesses in Catania, Messina, Syracuse, Enna, Agrigento, Ragusa, Reggio, Calabria and Cagliari remain closed.

Friends, Romans, Countrymen!

by Laura Carlo

—Family Owned Since 1874—

Pastene®

The chances are really good if you cook homemade meals, especially Italian or Italo-American recipes for your family, the name Pastene is in your pantry. That's certainly true in my kitchen where there's no "Sunday gravy" (red sauce) unless Pastene's Kitchen Ready® tomatoes are in the sauce pot. The Canton-based company has been around since founder Luigi Pastene came to America and set up a pushcart to sell fruit in Boston.

178 years later, the privately-owned company is still run by Luigi's descendants. I spoke with Mark Tosi, owner and president of The Pastene Companies, Ltd., and asked if he knew why his ancestor came to a very young America in 1848? "The Genovese were some of the first to leave for America. Luigi wanted to be part of this new land of opportunity. He operated his pushcart right through the Civil War. But the business became more than that. Luigi realized that as Italians immigrated here, they couldn't find the ingredients they used back in the old country. He began importing high quality ingredients from Italy. The newly-arriving Italian community appreciated finding a "taste of home," and became loyal customers. When he retired in 1874, he handed over the business to his son Pietro. The new president set up a wholesale produce business across the street from Faneuil Hall and the Haymarket, and continued to follow his father's lead by importing high quality olive oil and Italian cheeses which were nowhere else to be found."

I asked how the company grew beyond Boston? "Pietro's salesmen would take a train to Albany, for example, and other northeast cities with growing Italian communities, then hire horses to make sales calls. The logistics were astounding. Remember, sales calls were one thing, but then shipping and distributing the products were an entirely other thing. No planes, no big distribution warehouses. Just trains and horse-drawn wagons for years!"

The company grew throughout New England, then added Montreal and Quebec in 1908, "where we're the number one brand of breadcrumbs in Canada to this day!" Pietro and his sons continued to grow the company by setting up satellite offices in New Haven, New York City, Montreal and Naples, Italy. In addition to a growing number of foods, Pastene also became a major wine importer. Pastene continued to grow right until 1917 when the neutral US was dragged into World War 1 after German U-boats sank three

American merchant ships. The war made it difficult to import goods and Pietro and his sons turned to California for some of the ingredients they couldn't bring in any more. It turns out the Italians canned whole tomatoes, but California peeled and ground them, removing any acidity issues! The new style was such a hit, Tosi said, "our canned tomatoes had more 'frequent flier miles' over the decades than any other brand! Northerners leaving for Florida each winter shipped boxes of Pastene south!"

Meantime, the war wasn't Pastene's only challenge. Prohibition stopped the legal sale of alcohol from 1920 to 1933, but Pastene was allowed to continue importing because it was providing Catholic churches with wine for Sunday Mass!

How is he related to the Pastenes? "My grandfather married into the family in 1900. He, then my father and uncles, headed up offices in Chicago and even Havana. Later, even I and my brothers became trainees based all over Italy. It helped us stay on food trends. Once computers became the norm, the satellite offices could be closed and the business run from one location. In the late 80s our headquarters moved to our current facility in Canton. I'm the 5th generation from Luigi Pastene to run his company!"

"As Pastene grew, new products were introduced with only three things in mind: quality, affordability, and convenience. Today, Pastene has 157 SKUs, which includes some products in different sizes, but with so many offerings some stores not only have a whole Pastene section, some even have overhead aisle signs that say "Pastene!" He suggests you visit the Pastene section regularly to see the newest products. Did you know they were the first to bring in balsamic vinegar? Other products added over the years include tomato paste in a tube ("No waste!"), Calabrian hot peppers, and sliced olives ("Saves a step!"). You can also visit *pastene.com* for more history and great recipes.

I asked him for family food memories as he was growing up? "My mother's family was old Yankee with ancestors who came over on the Mayflower, wonderful in countless ways, but it was my father who was the family cook. Since he was so busy with the company during the week, we'd have to wait until the weekend for the old family recipes. I remember the joy he had. He saw the act of cooking for his family as not just nourishment. We understood that cooking was another way to show love, and dinner was the time to enjoy and be grateful for family."

As for looking ahead, his stepson is already COO, and Mark is hoping "the other kids and the nieces and nephews" will step up and keep it in the family. Although they've received many offers, "this family cares about quality. We want 'controlled expansion,' growth, but never at the cost of quality."

Meantime, he's thrilled to be back for a second year as a sponsor of the Fisherman's Feast, August 13-16, reconnecting with North Enders. The 4-day event is at Lewis, North and Fulton Streets, where Pastene began! "Stop by our tasting booth and see what Pastene is cooking up for you!"

Supreme Court Holds Back Decision on Trump Tariffs

The U.S. Supreme Court is not expected to issue its ruling on President Trump's imposed tariffs until at least next month. The Justices are heading into a four-week recess, making the earliest possible date for a decision to be February 20. Legal Scholars and the Trump administration are closely monitoring the case, as the court is tasked with determining whether it's constitutional for Trump to issue the exorbitant tariffs under the 1977 International Emergency Economic Powers Act.

The case was fast tracked following oral arguments on November 5, 2025. Lower courts have already ruled that Trump exceeded his authority by using emergency powers to impose these broad international tariffs. Legal analysts suggest the Supreme Court's postponement on issuing a decision may be a result of internal conflict among the justices over the legality of the imposed tariffs and what the solution would be if they ruled against the president.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent has predicted the court will not strike down the "president's signature economic policy," adding "I believe that it is very unlikely that the Supreme Court will overrule a President's signature economic policy." Bessent believes the justices would be reluctant to create economic chaos.

Members of the Trump administration have made it clear; the president would immediately replace the duties if the court strikes them down. Trump believes the tariffs are a tool to raise significant tax revenue for the U.S. government and give the nation the upper hand in foreign negotiations. "The administration has consistently maintained that foreign exporters who depend on access to the American economy, the world's biggest and best consumer market, will ultimately pay the cost of the tariffs, and that's exactly how this is playing out," White House spokesman Kush Desai stated.

Ieri e Oggi

Yesterday & Today

A COLUMN OF PAST AND CURRENT EVENTS

by Bennett Molinari & Richard Molinari

Luca Pacioli

Luca Pacioli was a 15th-century Franciscan friar, mathematician and friend of Leonardo da Vinci known as the "father of accounting." He formalized and published a book on double-entry bookkeeping, which is still the system required for most businesses today.

Luca Pacioli was born in 1445 in Sansepolcro, a town in Tuscany, Italy. His early education primarily focused on subjects that provided practical knowledge for a career as a merchant and was taught in the Italian language and not Latin.

In his teenage years, Pacioli moved to Venice, where he began working for a merchant named Antonio Rompiasi. By doing so, he immersed himself in the practical side of business transactions, such as bookkeeping and finance. Simultaneously, Pacioli continued to deepen his understanding of mathematics.

While in Venice, Pacioli also took on the responsibility of tutoring Rompiasi's three sons. This experience provided him with valuable insight into the world of teaching and allowed him to become more proficient as an educator.

In 1494, Ludovico Sforza became the duke of Milan and, around 1496, Pacioli was invited by Ludovico to go to Milan to teach mathematics at Ludovico Sforza's court. This invitation may have been made at the prompting of Leonardo da Vinci who had an enthusiastic interest in mathematics.

At Milan Pacioli and Leonardo quickly became close friends. Mathematics and art were topics which they discussed at length, both gaining greatly from the other. At this time Pacioli began work on the second of his two famous works, *Divina Proportione,* the figures for the text were drawn by Leonardo. Few mathematicians can have had a more talented illustrator for their book! The book was the first of the three books which finally made up this treatise, and it studied the *Divine Proportion* or 'golden ratio'. It contains the theorems of Euclid which relate to this ratio, and it also studies regular and semi-regular polygons. Clearly the interest of Leonardo in this aesthetically satisfying ratio both from a mathematical and artistic point of view was an important influence on the work. The golden ratio was also of importance in architectural design and this topic was to form the second part of the treatise which Pacioli wrote later. The third book in the treatise was a translation into Italian of one of della Francesca's works.

Throughout his life, Pacioli maintained his ties to the Franciscan Order, which offered him a disciplined spiritual framework. This connection to the friars helped shape his overall worldview and contributed to his approach towards mathematics and accounting.

As he grew older, Pacioli's expertise in various mathematical fields like algebra and geometry increasingly gained recognition. Ultimately, his work paved the way for his career as a reputable mathematician and educator.

Pacioli's final university teaching appointment was in Rome during 1514 and 1515. He passed away in 1517 at the age of 70 in his hometown of Sansepolcro.

By the time of his death, Pacioli was one of the leading mathematicians and teachers of his era. He was acquainted with many prominent Renaissance figures and had served as adviser to dukes, generals, kings, and popes.

Pacioli's influence has also been far-reaching in areas such as art, design and architecture.

Through his teaching of mathematical perspective to figures such as Leonardo da Vinci and Albrecht Dürer, Pacioli helped advance new levels of depth and realism in artistic practice. *De Divina Proportione* also played a key role in disseminating theories of proportion, particularly the 'golden ratio' and its application to art and architecture. Leonardo da Vinci, who illustrated the treatise, is widely thought to have applied these principles in influential paintings including *The Last Supper* and *Mona Lisa*.

St. Gregory of Narek

by Bennett Molinari and Richard Molinari

Gregory was born in the year 950. He was raised in a monastery and eventually entered the Narek Monastery, known as Narekavank in what is now Turkey, as a monk and lived there for nearly his entire life.

At the time, Armenia was experiencing a literature, painting, architecture, and theological renaissance, in which Gregory participated.

As an Armenian monk, Gregory lived humbly and taught at the monastic school. He wrote his prayers in the encyclopedia of prayer for all nations in hopes the book would one day guide people of all stations around the world to prayer.

He was a leader of the well-developed school of Armenian mysticism at the Monastery and was asked to answer the question, "What can one offer to God, our creator, who already has everything and knows everything better than we could ever express it?"

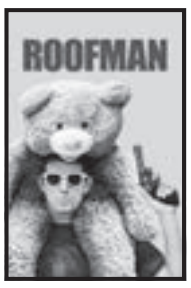
In his Book of Prayer, also called the Book of Lamentations or the Song of Songs, Gregory wrote that the answer to the question is "the sighs of the heart." The book contains 91 prayers and was completed one year before he died.

Several miracles and traditions have been traced back to Gregory and he is known as "the watchful angel in human form."

Gregory of Narek was venerated as a saint by the Armenian Catholic Church and is also recognized as a saint of the Roman Catholic church. On April 12, 2015, Pope Francis officially proclaimed Gregory of Narek as a Doctor of the Church. Gregory passed away in the year, 1005 the feast of Saint Gregory of Narck is February 27.

VIDEO VIEWS ... more than meets the eye

by Bob Morello



ROOFMAN
(4K Ultra HD + Blu-ray + Digital Code)
Paramount Pictures

Based on an unbelievable true story, *Roofman* follows Jeffrey Manchester (Channing Tatum), a former Army Ranger and struggling father who turns to robbing McDonald's restaurants by cutting holes in their roofs, earning him the nickname: Roofman. After escaping prison, he secretly lives inside a Toys "R" Us for six months, surviving undetected while planning his next move. But when he falls for Leigh (Kirsten Dunst), a divorced mom drawn to his undeniable charm, his double life begins to unravel, setting off a compelling and suspenseful game of cat and mouse, as his past closes in. Cast also includes: Ben Mendelsohn, Lakeith Stanfield, Juno Temple, Uzo Aduba, Jimmy O. Yang, Peter Dinklage.

FACKHAM HALL
(Blu-ray)
Decal/Bleecker Street

A spoof that crosses Downton Abbey with Airplane! and Monty Python, *Fackham Hall* follows lovable pick-pocket Eric Noone as he lands a job at a unique English manor house. He quickly rises through the ranks, and a forbidden romance with lady-of-the-house Rose Davenport blossoms. But, when an unexpected murder occurs, Eric gets framed — leaving Rose and her family's future perilously uncertain. A tale of 'born to aristocracy, bred for idiocy.'

SHELBY OAKS
(Blu-ray)
Decal/Neon

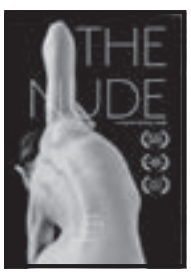
A film crew uncovers a disturbing new lead in a woman's obsessive search for her missing sister, which steers her into a terrifying mystery at the hands of an unknown evil. A terrifying horror gem from Executive Producer Mike Flanagan and Director Chris Stuckmann.

HAZBIN HOTEL – SEASON ONE
(Blu-ray)
Prime/Bento Box/A24

In Season One of *Hazbin Hotel,* this adult animated musical series follows Charlie, the princess of hell, as she pursues her seemingly impossible goal of rehabilitating demons to peacefully reduce overpopulation in her kingdom. After a yearly extermination that was imposed by Heaven, she opens a hotel in the hopes that patrons will be "checking out," after proving their souls are redeemable.

INFINITE SUMMER
(DVD)
IndiePix Unlimited/Prime Video

Set during a long, aimless summer in Tallinn, *Infinite Summer* follows teenage Mia, who drifts between the sea, the promenade, and the party circuit with her older friends Grete and Sarah — until they encounter a strange man known only as Dr. Mindfulness, peddling a bizarre meditation app that promises transcendence. Though clearly a grifter, his "mindfulness tech" begins to deliver uncanny, mind-altering results. Grete and Sarah dive in. Mia hesitates. But the summer's pull is strong, and the days stretch endlessly. As hallucinations blur into reality, a pair of Interpol agents arrive with news: Dr. Mindfulness isn't just a scammer — he's connected to Eleusis Biotechnologies, a company linked to the Tallinn Zoo, where animals and humans alike are beginning to ... change. The app's users seem to dissolve — literally — into something between pollen and cosmic dust. Now, as the agents race to solve the case, Mia is on the run, torn between trying to save her friends and surrendering to the same strange bliss that's claimed them. Is this the start of a new species—or the end of being human? Against a backdrop of dreamy summer days and existential unease, *Infinite Summer* blends body horror, satire, and nostalgia into a strange and singular cinematic experience.



THE NUDE
(DVD)
IndiePix Unlimited/Prime Video

A young woman walks the galleries and halls of a museum, admiring and imitating the gestures of the marble sculptures surrounding her. She is a figure art model, who poses nude for finely skilled painters and sculptors. Like a dancer, she exhibits total control over her body. Aware of every muscle and its function, she uses her keen eye and natural instincts to guide her movements, movements that express the mysteries of the human form. Always selective with her assignments, she decides to accept a job with a still photographer, a session that allows her the ability to move more freely than ever before, and she misses the intimate connection between artist and model that she feels while working in the traditional arts.

The time has come, the walrus said,

TO TALK OF MANY THINGS

of shoes and ships and sealing wax of cabbages and kings

by Sal Giarratani

PROPERTY TAXES ARE KRYPTONITE

I was checking the real estate section of a recent *Sunday Globe* and noticed something incredible. A 4-bedroom townhouse in the Beacon Hill neighborhood was on the market for $11,495,000. However, it was the property taxes that got me. the yearly tax bill, a measly $87,183,34. Another home on Marlborough Street in the Back Bay on sale for $10,800,000. Tax bill in 2025 was $872,347.

While most ordinary homeowners across Boston's neighborhoods won't be seeing these kinds of property tax bills. theirs won't be steep, especially when one factors in an expected 13 percent increase, it will still be steep enough to chase more and more folks to consider calling a moving van as Boston becomes more unaffordable every day. When this happens, it will also mean higher and higher rents. All in all, this 13 percent increase will hurt everyone, owners and renters.

The mayor likes to tout Boston as the safest city in America but she won't be able to say, the most affordable city in America, will she?

PROTESTING AND COUNTER-PROTESTING

Scanning a newspaper of mine, I came upon a wire story on a counter protest outside the Minneapolis City Hall this past weekend where a pardoned January 6 rioter decided to square off with anti-ICE rioters and almost got himself killed.

This guy came with a bullhorn and bulletproof jacket.

He was vastly outnumbered and the group across from him didn't take kindly to his rantings. Especially, when hollering support for white Americans and sending Somalis back home.

I haven't seen our country so bitterly divided going back over 50 years to my younger college campus days. And all we got today are politicians screaming and yelling at each other. The lunacy coming from both sides.

Someone told me a joke about that raucous scene over the past weekend that the residents of Minneapolis caught in the middle of it all are still waiting for the city's police department to arrive and quell things down. However, they wait in vain, I guess.

WE NEED TO STOP TALK OF TAKING OVER GREENLAND

Isn't it time for President Trump to stop all his talk about taking over that place? Seems like a losing strategy to me and really makes no sense. Denmark, who owns the place, is telling us to get lost and the people up there want us to get lost too. Don't we have more than enough trouble to deal with already?

JUST GETTING OVER A NASTY FLU

I am usually pretty good when the flu goes around. It has been several years since I went down for the count with the current stuff out there. Seems like everyone I know has it or has had it. Wasn't that lucky this flu season.

New England Patriots Teeter on Brink…

The Patriot's Dynasty is inching closer to beginning a second life after being shelved since Tom Brady took his last snap as a New England Patriot on January 4, 2020. Five years after the championship drought began, the Patriots will once again play in the AFC Championship game, the first in seven years, and their facing off against a familiar opponent.

The Pats will meet the Broncos, in Denver for their third conference championship, having lost in 2013 and 2015 in Denver. With a razor-sharp focus and a little bit of luck, the Patriots will break the losing spell cast at Mile High Field, as they go up against former New England back-up quarterback and current Bronco's second-string quarterback Jarrett Stidham, who is filling in for Bo Nix, who broke his ankle during the previous playoff-game.

On the offensive line rookie Will Campbell needs to be quicker and hold tighter in his protection of quarterback Drake Maye, having been beaten multiple times against the Texans last week. The Broncos have a solid pass rush and will need to be neutralized in order to protect Maye. "I need to play better. I hold myself to a higher standard than what I put out tonight," stated Campbell on his recent performance.

With Denver starting quarterback on the sidelines, the Bronco's will look to Stidham to move them over the goal line. He may be a second stringer, but he is still an NFL quarterback and his ability should never be discounted or downplayed. If the Patriots defensive line can bring the heat, and force turnovers, fumbles or incompletions, it will make things somewhat easier on their entire team.

If Maye can evade Denver's blitz and hit his targeted receivers, Stefon Diggs, Hunter Henry, Mack Hollins along with Kayshon Boutte and DeMario Douglas, before taking a sack it could mean the difference in a win vs. a loss. Maye realizes he must protect the ball better, especially on scrambles, "I have to be better with the football when I am taking off and running. From there I need to just know that the football is the prized possession. And when we don't turn the ball over and are able to put the team in the best spots, I like our chances," Maye said after last week's game.

Maybe, just maybe if the Patriots fall off the brink they will land on the road to Super Bowl LX.

Nanna & Babbononno

by John Christoforo

A Nostalgic Remembrance

My first trip to Miami Beach as a young adult took place during the February school vacation when I had just started teaching. I was supposed to stay with a musician friend but my stay with him was cut short by the unannounced arrival of his sister with no place to stay. I found a place on Miami Beach and was ready for a vacation week of fun in the sun. I received a message at the hotel to call Larry, the musician I was supposed to stay with, and when I called, he told me that his sister wanted to meet me and he was bringing her to the beach for an early Sunday dinner to which I was invited.

A heat wave then hit southern Florida and that Sunday, I spent more time in the tropical waters of the Atlantic than on the beach towel I had purchased. When it was time to meet with Larry and his sister, I dressed. Back in the day, you dressed at almost every location on the beach. The problem was that, over that weekend, I had lost about ten pounds due to the climate and my suit was just hanging on me like a sack.

At the appointed time, I met Larry and his sister. There was a famous steak place on one of the side streets off Collins Ave., called the Embers. We met there for and early dinner. The food was great and I enjoyed the company of friend Larry's sister. She was an older woman from a working-class family from Boston and Larry was the star of the family having become a well-known piano player in show business circles. When it was time for them to head back, Larry gave me a list of places where he thought I might enjoy the night life and meet some interesting people who also were on vacation.

On my own, I walked along Collins Ave., checking out the hotels, stores and the well-dressed tourists. The first place I decided to stop at was a club called Murray Franklin's on a side street not too far from the Embers where we had eaten. Do you old folks remember a Boston comedian named Freddie Ross, yes? Well, he was the headliner there. I was ushered to a table near the stage, ordered a drink, and watched the opening act. A rather attractive young lady came out on the stage holding a dummy. She sat down with the dummy on her lap and began her act. The dummy had a Yiddish accent and the voice was a male voice. When the young lady spoke, she had a female voice and spoke with an accent. As I found out later, she was from Naples, Italy, not Naples, Florida. So, the dummy had a Yiddish accent, she had an Italian accent and you couldn't see her lips move when she did her routine.

When she had finished, Freddy Ross was announced and he spent an hour telling jokes. I gave the waiter a note to give to Freddy Ross, and after he finished his act, he left the stage and came over to my table. The note stated that Nick Conti was my uncle. At that point in time, Uncle Nick was the vice president of the Musicians' Union and knew just about every entertainer in Boston. Ross and I spoke for several minutes about Boston's club scene which he was an integral part of. There were two people named Freddy that were Boston headliners back then, Freddy Ross and Freddy Hall, both good comedians. Just before he decided to leave the table, he spotted the ventriloquist with the dummy that had a Jewish accent. He called her over and as we were introduced, I stood up and said, "Multo piacere." She answered me in Italian and then asked in English how I knew she was Italian. I told her that I thought she had a Neapolitan accent. She said, "You're right, but how did you know?" I told her that my family was Avellinese and I was familiar with the accent. She smiled as I complimented her on the Yiddish accent she used through her dummy. The answer explained the situation. She came from New York's Lower East Side that, back then, was loaded with Jews and Italians.

When I left the club after an hour of conversation with the entertainers, it was time for their next show. I wandered Collins Ave., again and ran into a bunch of people from Revere. They were school teachers who, like myself, were trying to obtain a Florida tan during the February school vacation. We had recognized each other as three of the four people, like me, were taking graduate courses at Boston State (today's U. Mass, Boston) a couple of evenings a week. They invited me to join them and we headed for what would be a tour of the nightclubs that were part of the better Miami Beach hotels.

As time went on, I discovered I was not a drinker. I would order a rum and Coke with the rum on the side and gave the rum to whichever of the others that wanted it. I drank the Coke. As the evening continued, I told them the story of how a travel agent wanted to book me into a hotel where he said, "my kind" could be found. When I mentioned the hotel, the Johnina, one of the crowd said that there was a lounge in the hotel that they wanted to visit as the entertainment was supposed to be good. We headed to the hotel and the Dream Bar Lounge. The entertainment consisted of just a short man named Willie Rustum. He was dressed like a beachcomber and sounded like Tony Bennett.

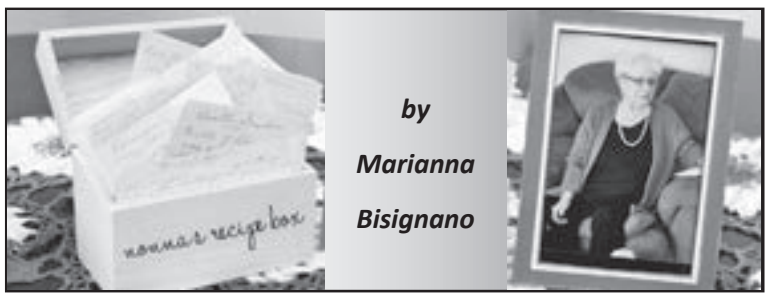
I was totally impressed with his voice. An hour later, one of the crowd said, "It's time for the Boom Boom Room. I asked what the Boom Boom Room was and was told that it was the most famous nightclub on Miami Beach. Located on the lower floor of the Fontainebleau Hotel it featured two bands, one Latin American and the other American.

After waiting for a table, we ordered drinks and I danced the night away with one of the girls in the party. From my ventures at the Cave, a Boston Latin American nightclub, I had become quite proficient at handling a mambo, meringue and a cha cha cha. She was a good Latin dancer and I held my own. This venture would be the first of many to the long-gone Boom Boom Room. Over the next few years, every time I was in Miami Beach, one of the stops had to be that nightclub.

The Revere crowd and I parted company in the wee hours of the morning and I headed back to the small hotel I was staying at. The next day, I headed for South Beach to catch up with the same crowd. Back then, South Beach was not the South Beach of today. It was where the inexpensive Kosher hotels were located and the crowd was mostly old folks. From here on in, I would spend most of the vacation with the same crowd. It was sunny and hot every day, and at the end of the week, I had developed a dark tan.

I flew home that Sunday night at the end of the week. Dad drove past me twice as I stood waiting for him outside the Logan terminal. Mom apologized stating they didn't recognize me at first due to my deep tan. On the way home, I sat with Babbononno in the back seat and told him the story of the vacation. He insisted that, the next time, he would come with me. I said OK, but I knew it would never happen.

GOD BLESS AMERICA



by Marianna Bisignano

A *Ciambellone della Nonna* or Grandma's Donut Cake is a tall, fluffy Italian ring cake that will fill your kitchen with nostalgia as it bakes, turning an ordinary morning into something special. Made from simple pantry staples and lightly scented with lemon or orange zest, it's finished with nothing more than a delicate dusting of confectioners' sugar, no creams or frostings, just pure, old-fashioned comfort the way Nonna once made it. Perfect for dunking into milk or coffee, deliciously moist for days, and easy enough to bake anytime, this *Ciambellone* offers a sweet taste of childhood in every bite.

In our home, my Nonna always had a donut cake on hand, alongside an assortment of biscotti, ready for dessert or, more importantly, for unexpected company. Cake and coffee were a ritual in Italian American households, and Nonna would never think of welcoming guests without something freshly baked to serve. While this *Ciambellone della Nonna* is delicious on its own, it's also the perfect base for countless variations. You can flavor it simply with lemon or orange zest, swirl in cocoa for a marbled donut, or customize it with chocolate chips, dried or fresh fruit, Nutella, instant coffee, or even a touch of mandarin zest. However you choose to make it, this is the kind of cake that tastes like home; simple, comforting, and always meant to be shared!

CIAMBELLONE DELLA NONNA

Grandma's Donut Cake

4 large eggs, room temperature
1¼ cups granulated sugar
¾ cup + 2 tablespoons sunflower oil
1 cup plain or vanilla whole milk yogurt
2½ cups 00 flour or all-purpose flour
¾ cup potato starch
1 packet of Paneangeli (Lievito per Dolci) or 2½ teaspoons baking powder and 2 teaspoons vanilla
¼ teaspoon of salt
Zest of 1 organic lemon or orange

Preheat the oven to 350°F (175°C). Grease and flour a 24–26 cm (9½–10 inch) Ciambella (donut) or round pan.

In a large mixing bowl, beat the eggs and sugar until pale and slightly fluffy. Slowly add in the sunflower oil, followed by the yogurt, mixing until smooth.

In a separate bowl, sift together the flour, potato starch, baking powder, citrus zest and salt. Gradually add the dry ingredients to the wet mixture, stirring until combined.

Pour the batter into the prepared pan and bake for approximately 35 to 45 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.

Allow to cool slightly before removing from the pan. Serve plain or dusted lightly with confectioners' sugar.

Marianna Bisignano is a psychologist for the Boston Public Schools and can be reached at bisignanomarianna@gmail.com

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Todisco Services, Inc., with its corporate office located at **147A Summit Street, Peabody, MA 01960,** under the provisions of Mass G.L. C. 255, Section 39A, will sell the following vehicles on or after **February 02, 2026** by public or private sale to satisfy a lien for towing, storage, and all other fees due.

2017 TOYOTA CAMRY
Vin #4T1BF1FK2HU409994

2008 VOLKSWAGEN JETTA
Vin #3VWRM71K08M161877

Vehicles may be seen by appointment only. Please email for specific information
info@todiscotowing.com

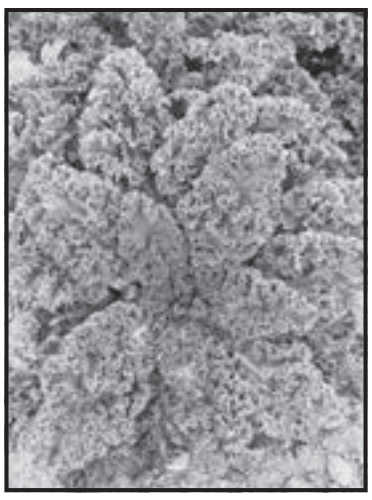
Run dates: 01/09, 01/16, 01/23/2026

Photo Submission Guidelines

Photos submitted for publication should have a minimum resolution of 150 dpi (or ppi*), 300 dpi for best results. Photos taken with camera phones are typically only 72 dpi and will be too grainy to print. If taking photos for a submission, please use a digital camera. If supplying existing photos, please submit a high-quality print for scanning.*

Winning Vegetables for Gardens and Containers

by Melinda Myers



Rubybor kale with its outstanding flavor and beauty is a 2026 All-America Selections Gold Medal Winner in both the flower and vegetable category.

(Photo courtesy of All-America Selections)

Include some winning vegetable varieties in this year's garden. Look for the 2026 All-America Selections (AAS) winners that have been tested nationally and selected for their suitability in home gardens and containers. Winners must have improved appearance, flavor, performance or other features than those varieties already on the market.

Whether you like kale for its beauty, flavor or nutritional value, consider the Gold Medal winner *Rubybor*. This kale is both pretty and edible. The deep purple ruffled foliage is uniform and compact, making it perfect for ornamental planting beds, vegetable gardens and containers. You'll enjoy a continuous harvest of tender non-bitter kale all season long.

This breakthrough in breeding resulted in a kale with outstanding flavor and beauty, causing Rubybor to become an AAS Gold Medal Winner in both the flower and vegetable category. This award is only given once or twice in a decade. Some past winners include Ruby Ball Cabbage, Sugar Snap Pea, Profusion Zinnia, Purple Majesty Millet, and Fresh Look Red Celosia.

Grow the award-winning Treviso basil for use in pesto, pastas, sides and your other favorite recipes. This basil was selected for its disease resistance to powdery and downy mildew, its tight compact growth habit and season long productivity. The flavorful leaves stay tender longer and maintain quality even late in the season. The AAS judges, volunteers with horticulture expertise, were impressed with its vigor, heat tolerance and its slow-to-flower nature.

Wait for the danger of frost to pass and air and soil to warm before planting any basil in the garden. This is about the same time you plant your tomatoes. You can start seeds indoors six to eight weeks before moving transplants into the garden. Wait for the soil to warm when planting seeds directly in the garden. Grow basil in a sunny location and water thoroughly and often enough to keep the soil consistently moist but not soggy wet.

Boost the disease resistance in your tomato patch with BadaBing! Tomato. This large cherry tomato boasts resistance to septoria leaf spot, early blight, late blight and other diseases. You'll enjoy the 1.5-inch diameter juicy red fruit that resists cracking. This indeterminate tomato will keep flowering and fruiting until frost but only grows 36 to 40" tall.

It was selected as a regional winner in the Great Lakes, Heartland, Mountain/Southwest and the Southeast. AAS judges praised BadaBing! for its productivity, flavor and meaty texture.

Check out other AAS winning vegetable and flower varieties. This nonprofit organization has been trialing never-before-sold varieties and selecting winning plants for home gardeners for more than 90 years. Trial gardens are located at seed companies, universities and botanical gardens. Judges are volunteers who monitor and rate varieties' performance compared to similar varieties already on the market.

Plan a visit to one of the nearly 200 *AAS Display Gardens* located at public gardens, extension offices and some retailers. You'll have a chance to see the winners in a garden setting to help you plan for future additions. In the meantime, look for the AAS Winner logo when searching catalogs and your favorite garden center.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition and Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" streaming courses and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and her website is www.MelindaMyers.com

North End Skilled Nursing Facility Residents

Join Boston Latin Academy Hockey Team on the Ice

A group of residents at North End Rehabilitation & Healthcare spent the afternoon playing hockey with the boys varsity ice hockey team at Boston Latin Academy. The students welcomed the residents at DCR Devine Ice Rink in Dorchester, keeping them steady and offering them tips on the ice.

North End Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center residents playing hockey with the Boston Latin Academy boys varsity ice hockey team on January 13.

A North End Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center resident playing hockey with the Boston Latin Academy boys varsity ice hockey team and coaches on January 13

North End Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center residents preparing to play hockey with the Boston Latin Academy boys varsity ice hockey team and coaches on January 13

(Photos by North End Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center)

North End Events for Seniors

These events are drop-in programs and are subject to change, always reach out to the respective organization for more information or if you have any questions.

North End Branch Library

25 Parmenter St. Boston, MA (617) 227-8135

Meet Your Neighborhood Age Strong Advocate (3rd Monday of the month, 10:00 AM- 5:00 PM)
Chess Club (Every Monday 2:30- 3:30 PM)
Bridge Club (Every Tuesday, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm) Starting November 8th
Adult Craft Time (2nd Tuesday of the month, 2:00- 3:00 PM)
Book Club (Usually 4th Wednesday of the month, 6:00- 7:00 PM)
Mahjong (Every Thursday 11:00 AM- 1:00 PM)
Chair Yoga (Every Friday 10:00- 11:00 AM) ***No yoga 1/2, 2/13, 2/20***
Friday Films (Every Friday 2:00- 4:00 PM)

January & February

Nazzaro Center

30 N Bennet St. Boston, MA (617) 635-5166

Senior Social Hour (Every Tuesday & Thursday at 11:00 am)
Ethos Lunch (Every Tuesday & Thursday, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm)
Senior Dance Fitness Class (Every Wednesday at 10:30 am)
Senior Sewing (Every Wednesday at 11:00 am)
Senior Yoga (Every Thursday at 10:30 am)
Senior Bingo (Every Tuesday & Thursday at 1:00 pm)
Senior Live Better in Your Body (Every Friday at 10:30 am)
55+ Coffee & Conversations (2nd & 4th Fridays of the month, 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm)

ABCD North End & West End/Villa Michelangelo

1 Michelangelo St a100 Boston, MA (617) 523-8125

Regular Hours (8:00 am - 4:00 pm)
Star Market Distribution (Mondays 10:15 am-11:30 am)
Down Memory Lane 1st and 3rd Tuesday 10:00 am
Food Pantry (Monday thru Friday)
Coffee Drop-In (Monday thru Friday 8:00 am-12:00 pm)
NEW Health Lunch & Learn (February 13th at 12:00 pm)

The North End Senior Programming Coalition

NEW HEALTH North End - Charlestown | NEMPAC North End Music & Performing Arts Center | Boston Centers for Youth & Families | abcd NORTH END / WEST END

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court

Suffolk Probate and Family Court
24 New Chardon Street
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 788-8300

Docket No. SU25P2909EA

Estate of
PATRICIA A. BENNETT

Date of Death: November 12, 2025

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Kristin M. McCulloch** of **Weymouth, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Kristin M. McCulloch** of **Weymouth, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of February 19, 2026.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

Witness, HON. JANINE D. RIVERS,
First Justice of this Court.

Date: January 12, 2026

Stephanie L. Everett, Esq., Register of Probate

Run date: 01/23/2026

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF SALE

Notice is hereby given by **Stephens Automotive Transport, 60 Union Street, Medford, MA 02155**, pursuant to the provisions of G.L.c.255 39A, that on **January 24, 2026 at 10AM**, at said address, the following motor vehicle(s) will be sold, in as is condition, no keys, at public sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for towing, storage, and expenses of notice and sale:

2004 FORD F-350, RED
1FTWX33S84EC45917

2021 KIA K5, SILVER
5XXG24J25MG029904

2005 FORD F-150, BLACK
1FTPW14505FB21057

2002 HONDA CIVIC, SILVER
2HGES267X2H600993

2012 HONDA CIVIC, BURGUNDY
19XFB2F87CE085850

2003 NISSAN SENTRA, GRAY
3N1CB51D03L818280

2011 MITSUBISHI GALANT, WHITE
4A32B2FF6BE021710

2011 TOYOTA CAMRY, GRAY
4T4BF3EK6BR129697

2017 CHEVROLET TRAVERSE, BLACK
1GNKVHKD5HJ111715

2015 FORD C-MAX, MAROON
1FADP5CU0FL121763

2012 HONDA CIVIC, BURGUNDY
2HGFB2F94CH567609

2003 HONDA ODYSSEY, SILVER
5FNRL18503B156226

2004 CHEVROLET MALIBU, SILVER
1G1ZT62854F169303

2013 FORD ECONOLINE, BLUE
1FTNE2EW2DDA92095

2004 CHEVROLET SUBURBAN, SILVER
3GNFK16Z14G255233

2008 YAMAHA YZF-R6, BLACK
JYARJ16E58A008593

2021 ZNEN ZN50QT, BLUE
L5YACBPZ8M1138373

2024 ZHILONG ST, BLACK
HZ2TBCNF8R1008474

2022 TAOTAO PONY, BLUE
L9NTCBAEXN1303199

2024 ZHILONG ST, BLACK
HZ2TBCNF6R1008683

2025 FLYWING MOPED, BLACK
HZ2TBCNF7S1016135

Run dates: 01/09, 01/16, 01/23/2026

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Todisco Services, Inc., with its corporate office located at **147A Summit Street, Peabody, MA 01960,** under the provisions of Mass G.L. C. 255, Section 39A, will sell the following vehicles on or after **February 09, 2026** by public or private sale to satisfy a lien for towing, storage, and all other fees due.

2015 HONDA CR-V
Vin #5J6RM4H39FL054898

2009 NISSAN VERSA
Vin #3N1BC13E39L355826

2015 CHEVROLET SUBURBAN
Vin #1GNSKJKC1FR141929

2023 TAIZHOU OMING MOTORCYCLE ZHILONG
Vin #HZ2TBCNF0R1005763

2011 TOYOTA CAMRY
Vin #4T1BF3EK0BU729741

2012 HONDA CIVIC
Vin #2HGFB2F58CH524307

Vehicles may be seen by appointment only.
Please email for specific information
info@todiscotowing.com

Run dates: 01/16, 01/23, 01/30/2026

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Todisco Services, Inc., with its corporate office located at **147A Summit Street, Peabody, MA 01960,** under the provisions of Mass G.L. C. 255, Section 39A, will sell the following vehicles on or after **February 16, 2026** by public or private sale to satisfy a lien for towing, storage, and all other fees due.

2014 BMW 3 SERIES
Vin #WBA3B5G54ENS06404

2014 HYUNDAI SONATA
Vin #5NPEB4AC0EH854576

2007 HONDA ACCORD
Vin #1HGCM66537A007635

2010 VOLKSWAGEN TOUAREG
Vin #WVGBF7A94AD003583

2012 HYUNDAI SANTA FE
Vin #5XYZGDAB6CG164376

2012 ACURA MDX
Vin #2HNYD2H20CH550401

2004 HONDA ACCORD
Vin #1HGCM66534A079799

2007 TOYOTA CAMRY
Vin #4T1BE46K67U684335

2024 ZHILONG ST
Vin #HZ2TBCNF0R1009523

Vehicles may be seen by appointment only.
Please email for specific information
info@todiscotowing.com

Run dates: 01/23, 01/30, 02/06/2026

LEGAL NOTICE

Riverside County Superior Court
4050 Main Street
Riverside, CA 92501

SUMMONS

Case No. CRVI2502289

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT
BRUCE P. BARDEN
YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF:
CHRISTINE BARDEN

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association.

NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of $10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.

HARVEY L. KATZMAN
301 9th Street, Suite 222
Redlands, California 92374
December 23, 2025
Clerk, by Joanne Bishop, Deputy

Run dates: 01/09, 01/16, 01/23, 01/30/2026

Headed to Cooperstown

Carlos Beltran

Never say Never. Two new names will be immortalized in the Baseball Hall of Fame (HOF) in Cooperstown, New York this Summer. Carlos Beltran and Andruw Jones were each elected to the Hall of Fame, being the only two candidates to receive the required 75% of the vote. Beltran garnered 84.2% of the vote, earning an induction on his fourth attempt, after previously falling short due to his association with the Houston Astros sign stealing scandal. Beltran is thought to be one of the top switch hitters in MLB history, earning Rookie of the Year honors, nine All-Star selections, three Golden Gloves and two Silver Sluggers over his 20-year career.

Jones earned a huge jump in votes, garnering 78.4%, in his 9th year on the ballot, compared to just 7.3% of the vote in 2018, his first year of eligibility. Jones' candidacy was tarnished by what was perceived as a steep decline in his performance once he hit age 30, however voters began re-evaluating his performance during his peak years when he won 10 straight Gold Gloves at center field, five-time All-Star, 152 stolen bases along with seven seasons with more than 30 home runs.

Former Red Sox Manny Ramirez, who has previously been suspended for using performance-enhancing drugs (PED) toward the end of his career, grabbed 38.8% of the vote in his 10th and final year

Andruw Jones

of eligibility. Alex Rodriguez, who most believe would have been chosen on his first attempt if not for his association with PED's, earned 40% of the vote.

Longtime Red Sox second baseman Dustin Pedroia jumped from 11.9% of the vote in his first year of eligibility to 20.7% this year. Chase Utley (59.1%), Andy Pettitte (48.5%) and Felix Hernandez (46.1%) all increased their voting percentage by almost 20%, setting them up as top candidates to earn induction in the very near future.

Kristian Campbell in Good Spot Physically and Mentally as Season Approaches

It's not easy for any baseball player to transition from tearing up the diamond in the minor leagues to sustaining that consistency once called up to MLB, something Red Sox rookie Kristian Campbell discovered first hand last season. In his first real test in professional baseball last season, Campbell struggled, it seemed physically and emotionally, at times. After battling to maintain his place on the roster, he was optioned to Triple A, where he remained through the season.

"I don't think it was a failure or anything. And honestly, you need it sometimes to grow. So, I'm really excited for this year. I think it's going to be a lot better than last year, just going in with a plan and a foundation. I'm in a good spot," Campbell said during the recent Red Sox Fan Fest. Campbell also noted how much more relaxed and prepared he feels for everything that comes with playing in the majors. Over the off season he has worked on his mechanics, made adjustments to simplify his swing, and bulked up from 202 to 216 pounds this winter while playing ball in Puerto Rico.

Where he plays on the field may be an issue. Defensively at second base his stats were nothing to brag about, and the outfield looks to have quite a few skilled players already. "Wherever they need me, to be honest. Wherever they need to fill a spot or wherever they need me to play, I'll be available to play it," said Campbell. The main goal is to get his hitting consistent again. "I think getting my offense back together is the main thing and then we'll see what happens from there," he added.

• **Hoops and Hockey** (Continued from Page 12)

Finland as you grow up as a player almost everybody thinks he would like to play in the NHL," Jalonen told *NHL.com* writer Jon Paul Morosi. "In Italy it is a whole different story. Only one or two guys have the goal to play in the NHL. Most want to play for their country. They want to represent their country, which is very important to me."

Thus, in establishing a roster for the Olympics, he focused on players that have represented Italy in prior competitions rather than those from other nations who might qualify for Italian passports.

His goal in selecting a roster was to keep it as Italian as possible. He is not in favor of taking players from overseas with Italian heritage who have never played in Italy, noting "it is so wrong for the guys who have played many times for Italy and in lots of tournaments." There are not any NHL players on the roster. What you will be seeing in these Olympics is a very genuine Italian team. Let the Games begin.

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court

Plymouth Probate and Family Court
52 Obery Street - Suite 1130
Plymouth, MA 02360
(508) 747-6204

Docket No. PL25A0296AD

CITATION
G. L. c. 210, § 6

In the matter of
JULIA PROPHETE

To: Unknown/Unnamed Father
any unnamed or unknown parent and persons interested in a petition for the adoption of said child and to the Department of Children and Families of said Commonwealth.

A petition has been presented to said court by **Henry Pascal Mede** of **Brockton, MA, Vanessa Rubin Mede** of **Brockton, MA** requesting for leave to adopt said child and that the name of the child be changed to **Melodee Julia Mede.**

If you object to this adoption you are entitled to the appointment of an attorney if you are an indigent person.

An indigent person is defined by SJC Rule 3:10. The definition includes but is not limited to persons receiving TAFDC, EACDC, poverty related veteran's benefits, Medicaid, and SSI. The Court will determine if you are indigent. Contact an Assistant Judicial Case Manager or Adoption Clerk of the Court on or before the date listed below to obtain the necessary forms.

IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT: **Plymouth** ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING (10:00 AM) ON **FEBRUARY 16, 2026.**

WITNESS, Hon. Patrick W. Stanton,
First Justice of this Court.

Date: December 17, 2025

Matthew J. McDonough, Register of Probate

Run dates: 01/23, 01/30, 02/06/2026

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court Department

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

Middlesex Division

Docket No. 22W0045

CHANNARY ROM, Plaintiff(s)
v.
ARRANY CHOUP, Defendant(s)

To the above named Defendant(s) **Arrany Choup**

A Complaint has been presented to this Court by the Plaintiff(s) **Channary Rom** seeking a Complaint for **Custody/Support/Parenting Time.**

You are required to serve upon **Channary Rom** or attorney for plaintiff(s) whose address is Impounded C/O Tara DeCristofaro, 370 Jackson St., 5th Floor, Lowell, MA 01852, your answer on or before **26th** day of **February 2026**. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer in the office of this Court at **370 Jackson St., 5th Floor, Lowell, MA 01852**.

Witness, **TERRI L. KLUG CAFAZZO, Esq., First Justice of said Court at Lowell, this day of January 15th, 2026**.

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate Court

Run date: 01/23/2026

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court Department

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

Middlesex Division

Docket No. 25D3637

BRENDER N. FOMBAH, Plaintiff(s)
v.
JOE BIATY, Defendant(s)

To the above named Defendant(s) **Joe Biaty**

A Complaint has been presented to this Court by the Plaintiff(s) **Brender N. Fombah** seeking a Complaint for **Custody.**

You are required to serve upon **Brender N. Fombah** or attorney for plaintiff(s) whose address is 28 Brian Rd., Lowell, MA 01850 your answer on or before **17th** day of **February 2026**. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer in the office of this Court at **370 Jackson St., 5th Floor, Lowell, MA 01852**.

Witness, **TERRI L. KLUG CAFAZZO, Esq., First Justice of said Court at Lowell, this day of January 06th, 2026**.

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate Court

Run date: 01/23/2026

Boxing Ringside

WITH BOBBY FRANKLIN

Happy Birthday
Joe and Muhammad

Joe Frazier

Joe Frazier and Muhammad Ali shared more than punches in their lives. They also could each take part in eating birthday cake in January. Ali was born on the January 17, 1942 while Joe arrived 2 years later on January 12, 1944. They had some other things in common.

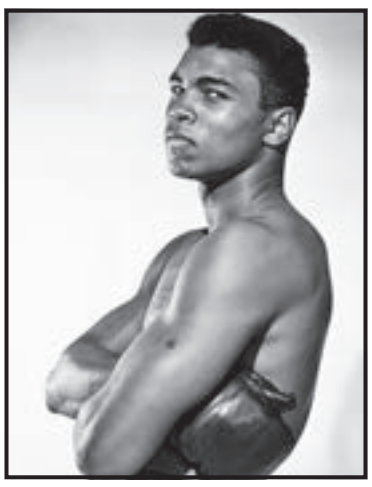
Both enjoyed music with Joe pursuing his performing career for a number of years when he formed the group "Joe Frazier and the Knockouts," and Ali cut one album. There is also a short film of him singing "Hail, Hail the Gangs All Here" with his good friend Sam Cooke.

Each won an Olympic Gold Medal; Ali in 1960 at Rome in the light heavyweight division while Joe picked his up in 1964 at Tokyo in the heavyweight category.

They had a number of mutual opponents in the ring, and I have included photos of a couple of them here.

Joe and Muhammad will always be linked through their rivalry in the ring.

Joe was the first to pass away. He died on November 7, 2011 in Philadelphia. Muhammad would die 5 years later on June 3, 2016 in Scottsdale, Arizona. Frazier was 67 years old, and Ali was 74.



Muhammad Ali

If you were alive during the era these two men fought in you will never forget them.

Take a moment to remember them on their birthdays.

Muhammad Ali winning a Decision over Doug Jones

Joe Frazier winning over Doug Jones by Knockout

Frazier on his way to stopping George Chuvalo

Ali winning a Decision over Chuvalo

Joe Frazier recording

Muhammad Ali singing with Sam Cooke

HOOPS and HOCKEY in the HUB

by Richard Preiss

As the days continue to dwindle down toward the opening of the Winter Olympics in Italy, the latest posting on the internet has the NHL players coming to the Olympics.

According to St. Louis Blues reporter Andy Strickland, posting on the internet and citing a "high ranking" National Hockey League executive: "The rink will not be done but we will be there and the tournament will be played."

If true, that means that the powers that be in the NHL have definitely decided that the league will send its star players to participate. What is not clarified is what is meant by the term "rink." If one means the entire building including all the seats, the restrooms, the food and beverage area and even the parking lots then the statement is correct. Those areas both within the facility and those as you approach it will not be finished.

But if one means the ice surface, the locker rooms and the bench areas utilized by players and coaches while games are being played it is fully expected that those will be ready. That would fulfill NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman's statement in October that a competitive ice sheet built and maintained to NHL standards be complete and ready.

But over and above that there is another issue that is affecting the field of competition. One of the nations that would bring one of the strongest hockey teams to Milan will not be in the 2026 Olympics.

It will be Russia that will not be competing in any of the team sports in the Winter Olympics, although a few athletes may participate in individual sports such as speed skating, figure skating and some of the alpine events if they receive approval. The same goes for Belarus — a nation that borders Russia.

As of January 20, only five athletes from Russia had been approved to compete in the 2026 Winter Olympics under a neutral status category. The total ban on team sports from Russia and Belarus means that some of the NHL's standout players — with Alexander Olvechkin leading the list — will be sitting at home during the NHL's three-week break for the Olympics rather than competing on the ice.

The ban started out as a penalty for a drug doping scandal and later evolved into a statement against Russia's military action in Ukraine — with Belarus allowing Russian troops to be stationed there prior to advancing into Ukraine.

According to ESPN, almost half of the Russian players presently competing in the NHL are at least 30. Boston Bruins defenseman Nikita Zadorov is a member of that group. As a veteran player having played 13 seasons in the league he has experienced quite a bit in his hockey career. One experience he has not had is playing for his country in the Olympics.

"NHL players have missed the last three Olympics," Zadorov told ESPN writer Ryan Clark. "We were hoping for this year, but I guess not and it is tough. But from the other side, I understand where they are coming from. The war is going on and everything and there are the sanctions.

Even though Russia will not be competing, the men's tournament still has a great field with the United States, Canada, Finland, Sweden France, Germany, Latvia, Slovakia, Switzerland, Czechia, Denmark and Italy (as the host nation) all set to compete.

Italy was awarded a berth because of its host nation status. This will be the first time that Italy will have a team in the tournament since the nation last hosted the Winter Olympics in Turin some 20 years ago. It finished 11th there in 2006. Italy's best finish in the Olympic ice hockey tournament came in 1956 at Cortina where it finished seventh in a 10-team field.

This time around Italy has been placed in Group B, meaning it will have to defeat strong teams such as Sweden, Slovakia and Finland in order to advance to the tournament's later rounds.

Here is Italy's schedule for its first three games. Remember, there is a six-hour time difference between Milan and Boston — February 11 Sweden vs. Italy at 3:10 p.m. (Eastern Time); February 13 Italy vs. Slovakia at 6:10 a.m. ET and February14 Finland vs. Italy at 10:40 a.m. ET.

All the games should be available on either conventional TV or various internet websites.

One thing in Italy's favor is their head coach. Jukka Jalonen. Although he may not be well known in the United States, he is one of the world's most respected mentors on the international level. He is best known in Finland for leading its national team to its first Olympic hockey gold medal in 2022.

That was a long wait. Remember it was Finland that the United States faced in the 1980 gold medal game at Lake Placid just two days after shocking the sports world with its "miracle" upset of the then Soviet Union team in the semifinals. And yes, just like in that semifinal game against the Soviets where Team USA came from behind to win, so too did the U.S. come from behind to defeat Finland in the championship game to capture the gold.

Of course, Jalonen was not coaching the team back then. But he was in 2022 when it won. He is now only one of two coaches to win gold at the Olympics, capture the World Championship (2011, 2019 and 2022) and the World Junior Championship (2016).

And now there has been a change. He is no longer coaching Finland. He has moved on — taking a position as coach of the Italian national team — its team for the 2026 Olympics.

He already has noticed a difference between players in Finland and those in Italy. "In

(Continued on Page 11)