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Boston Fire Department Union Votes on Four-Year Contract

by Patti Sartori

The Boston Firefighters Union has voted to accept a $90 million contract with the city, including an 8.5% raise spread out over a four-year period. The contract was ratified by union members just before Christmas and will cover the period retroactively from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2028. "Local 718 is very proud of this contract that we were able to negotiate with the City of Boston. It recognizes the service and the sacrifices that our firefighters deliver every single day, as well as taking care of their families," stated Boston Firefighters Union President Sam Dillon.

The agreement, announced by Mayor Wu, includes a 2.5% wage increase for each firefighter in the first year, and a 2% increase for firefighters every year for the three subsequent years. "Our Boston firefighters and their families serve with dedication and sacrifice every hour of every day on behalf of the residents of Boston," emphasized Mayor Wu.

The base salary will include salary increases at five, ten, fifteen, twenty and twenty-five years of service to ensure the longevity of firefighters and increases the line of duty death benefits for active firefighters who die in the course of their work for the Boston Fire Department. The contract also boosts paid details by allowing retired firefighters under the age of 75 to work fire details.

Boston Fire Commissioner Paul Burke said in a statement that the contract "not only strengthens the operational structure of the fire department, it also fairly compensates our firefighters who come to work every day and serve the residents of our city with professionalism and respect."

The new contract still requires City Council approval before it becomes effective.

News Briefs

by Sal Giarratani

Hegseth Censured U.S. Sen. Mark Kelly

Secretary of War Pete Hegseth announced this past Monday that he had censored U.S. Sen. Mark Kelly, D-AZ, over the former Navy pilot's role in a video that called on U.S. troops to resist unlawful orders. Hegseth called his own action "a necessary process step" to proceedings that could result in a demotion from Kelly's retired rank as captain and subsequent reduction in retirement pay. Kelly called Hegseth's move "outrageous" and "un-American." saying he would fight the censure.

Walz Ends Third Term

Not long ago, Gov. Tim Walz, D-Minnesota, announced he would run for a third term, but this past Monday, the governor dropped his bid for a third term. It came amid a growing fraud scandal in which tens of billions of taxpayer dollars were swindled. Many critics of his think he should resign immediately over the billions that have been stolen in recent years under his watch.

Diplomatic Fraud-Firm Tie

Somalia's ambassador to the United Nations is linked to an Ohio home health-care provider that previously engaged in Medicaid fraud, according to a top official with the Department of Health and Human Services.

According to HHS Deputy Secretary Jim O'Neill, "I can confirm public speculation that Ambassador Abukar Dahir Osman, Permanent Representative of Somalia to the UN and President of the Security Council is in fact associated with Progressive Health Care Services, a home-health agency in Cincinnati."

Osman's ties to the health care agency came under scrutiny in response to fraud scandals inside the state's Somali population in response to bogus entities set up to rake in taxpayer funds meant for the homeless, hungry and folks in need of day care for their children.

(Continued on Page 11)

Boston Mayor Michelle Wu *Sworn in for Second Term*

Mayor Michelle Wu was officially sworn into her second term earlier this week, by Massachusetts Superior Court Judge Sarah G. Kim, next to her husband and three children. The Mayor took the oath of office in front of a fully packed Symphony Hall, receiving numerous applause as she spoke of the many achievements the city has seen during her first term, including efforts to reduce gun violence to "the lowest levels on record," increase affordable housing production, offer family friendly programs like free museum initiatives for Boston school children, ending tent encampment at Mass and Cass as well as touting her White Stadium rehabilitation plan." Together, we will deliver the best city services to all of our residents, set the standard for public education, and build an economy that will thrive for another two and a half centuries," Wu stated.

Boston Mayor Michelle Wu takes the oath of office surrounded by her family.

(Mayor's Office Photo by Jeremiah Robinson)

The mayor steered clear of introducing any new initiatives, possible holding those for her annual State of the City address in February. She did take the opportunity, to a standing ovation and overwhelming applause, to criticize the Trump administration and emphasize her continued efforts on battling a Federal administration that she says has "plundered our economy, ravaged our reputation, torched our institutions, and destroyed the lives of our people. When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for a city to stand and be the beacon for freedom and proof of what's possible, a testament to the endurance of American ingenuity and civic success, Boston will be that Beacon."

Boston and Kraft Group Come to Terms on Soccer Stadium Mitigation Agreement

Everett Receives Larger Portion of Revenue

by Patti Sartori

Boston Mayor Michelle Wu announced the city has come to terms on a community impact agreement with the Kraft Group to the tune of $48 million for the Everett Stadium development, a vastly higher sum than the original $750,000. The agreement was reached with hours to spare and barely avoiding a New Year's Eve deadline to avoid arbitration.

"The city fought for a fair deal for Boston and our residents, and that is what we have achieved through this agreement. After months of negotiations, we have secured commitments addressing the needs of Charlestown residents and feedback from community partners. This stadium will enhance Boston's position as the sports and entertainment capital of New England while transforming a blighted site on our doorstep," stated Mayor Michelle Wu.

The 15-year agreement in-cludes $1 million in direct payments and a new, permanent per ticket revenue source for Boston that is expected to total $34 million in the first 15 years, or at least $2 million per year, half of which will be directed to Charlestown specific municipal projects. To strengthen support for the Charlestown community, the Boston neighborhood most directly impacted by the stadium, the Kraft Group will make an initial payment of $3 million over six years which will be directed to the Charlestown Community Impact Fund, originally created in 2016 to distribute annual community mitigation funds from the Encore Casino in Everett to support a range of Charlestown organizations.

While Boston will reap substantial benefits due to the mitigation agreement, it's not difficult to see the $91

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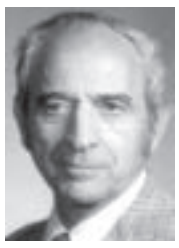
Stirpe Nostra

by Prof. Edmund Turiello

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



MUSEUM

Artistic Rendering of the Library of Alexandria, based on some archaeological evidence.

A good knowledge of Greek and Roman mythology is necessary in order to understand why the ancient Romans built all of those beautiful temples. Since that time, we have been examining the legends surrounding the various Greek deities and their Roman counterparts. Last week, we covered the Muses, those nine goddesses that became the representatives of epic poetry, history, lyric song, dancing, erotic poetry, sacred songs, and astronomy. We now examine the origin of the word museum and identify it as originally a temple of the Muses, then as a place dedicated to the work of the Muses.

The most celebrated museum of antiquity was established in the ancient City of Alexandria (Egypt), early in the third century B.C. It was a spacious and magnificent edifice that contained a library, observatory, public lecture rooms, dining rooms for the professors, botanical gardens, and zoological gardens. The structure was built near a beautiful temple of the Muses. Scholarly men were supported by the State and permitted to devote their full-time to teaching and additional study without interruption. These scholars fell into four academic groups — letters, medicine, mathematics, and astronomy. As many as 14,000 students were also in attendance. The institute continued to be the center of learning under many of the emperors during the Roman domination, but finally, about 200 A.D., the Roman Emperor Caracalla confiscated the pension fund that was reserved for the professors, and the structure was completely destroyed about 75 years later during the civil wars that

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Election of New Boston City Council President *Takes Unexpected Twist*

After District 1 City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata announced in early November that she had locked up the 7 votes required to become the next City Council President, everyone assumed it was a done deal. All except, District 4 City Councilor Brian Worrell, who made it clear very early on that he would actively seek the presidency and announced the night before the vote was to take place that he has flipped three of Coletta's votes and was now poised to be elected as the next president of the body.

Fast forward to the city council chambers and the afternoon of the actual election and in a shocking twist an unexpected compromise candidate emerged from the shadow to take the prized crown. District 9 Councilor Liz Breadon, the first openly-gay woman to be elected to the city council eight years ago, representing Allston/Brighton, was nominated by Councilor Brian Weber and elected 7-6, to lead the body, shutting down an unusually public process which has traditionally been handled very discreetly and always behind closed doors.

"It's incredibly humbling for me to be here. I didn't know I would be standing here this time yesterday, but that said, I am ready to lead. I will continue to be a peacemaker, a bridge-builder, and someone who hopefully will be instrumental in helping us move forward positively."

While Breadon said she had not spoken with the mayor ahead of the election, the last-minute surprise had some councilors wondering if Mayor Wu had any inside knowledge of how the election would play out. Breadon was nominated by Weber, an ally of the mayor, and also supported by her other allies.

Another Fee Tacked on by the City of Boston

Has anyone else opened their water bill or tax bill recently and received an extra surprise, not counting the amounts of the bills inside? Most owner-occupied homeowners and property owners recently opened their Water & Sewer bill only to find a notice requiring their rental units to be registered with the Inspectional Services Department by July 1, or possibly face a fine of $300 for every month the property is out of compliance.

It seems this ordinance that governs rental registration and inspection, CBC9-13, has been on the books since 2013. The registration period begins January 1 of each year and every rental property in the City of Boston must be registered by July 1. The initial registration fee is $25 per unit and the annual renewal fee is $15 per unit. Owner occupied properties with six or fewer units do not pay the registration fees but still must register each unit.

However, if you are a property owner who is not owner occupied, for example you maintain a former family property in the city, as so many are in the North End, East Boston and other neighborhoods, but have since moved out, you are responsible for registering your property and paying the necessary fees. The city does not presently invoice for rental registrations. It is the responsibility of the property owner to register by the July 1 deadline each year.

All registrations may be done on-line and fees paid on-line as well. Keep in mind that this ordinance went into effect in 2013, and every rental property must be registered each year from 2013 forward. If you still own the property and you paid some years and not others you will still be responsible for bringing your account up to date.

In addition to registering each unit, non-owner-occupied units must be inspected at least once every five years. You do not need to have your property inspected until you receive a notice that the property has been selected for inspection by the Inspectional Services Department. The fee is $50 per unit with 1-3 units and $75 per unit for properties with 4 or more units. Owner occupied properties are exempt from the inspection requirement.

Considering this ordinance has been on the books for the past 13 years, why are so many property owners just receiving this notice now, in 2026. Many do not seem to be aware of this requirement. With the vast increase in property taxes this year this just seems an added financial burden to hit property owners with, especially since in most cases it will need to be passed onto the tenant in the form of a rent increase at some point. The City of Boston needs to slow down and stop tacking on fees. It only adds anxiety and frustration to an already stressful environment.

University of Massachusetts *Jackpot Winners*

Top 10 Highest Paid State Employees

by Patti Sartori

For the past eighteen years, the Boston herald has highlighted "Your Tax Dollars at Work," breaking down where in the Bay State your money is spent, with the University of Massachusetts accounting for the top 10 highest paid state employees. Administration and athletic personnel made up the majority of the positions.

We all enjoyed a competitive sporting event, but is a college basketball coach salary truly worth over $2 million dollars annually? According to the Herald, U Mass men's basketball coach, is the highest paid state employee with a take home pay of $2,280,000 and U Mass football coach got in on the action to the tune of a $1,410,000 2025 salary. U Mass Athletic Director was the sixth highest paid state employee at $912,226.

The longest serving U Mass Chancellor, Dr. Michael Collins, current Chancellor of U Mass Chan Medical School ranked second on the list with a total take-home pay of $1,570,000 in 2025 while Dr. Terrance Flotte, Provost and Executive Deputy Chancellor at U Mass Chan Medical School was the fourth highest paid Massachusetts employee receiving a total of $1,180,000 in 2025.

Former Democratic U.S. Congressman and current U Mass President Marty Meehan earned a total of $879,954 in total pay.

Is it any wonder the tuition at these state universities continue to increase each school year, with the financial burden to fund these salaries placed squarely on the shoulders of the students who attend these public institutions of higher learning. It's a travesty and nothing less than a glutton of greed. Shame on any elected official in Massachusetts who stands by and watches it happen. If these grossly inflated salaries were reigned in, just maybe tuition at U Mass schools would become much more affordable!

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

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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.***

Robert A. Carbone

Robert A. Carbone ("Bob"), 83, of Lynnfield, passed away Thursday, December 25, 2025 after a brief battle with cancer. Bob was the beloved husband of Judith (Rose) Carbone with whom he shared 61 years of marriage.

He was born in Boston on September 21, 1942 and was the son of the late Vincent and Lillian (Ferrandi) Carbone. He was the brother of the late Vincent Carbone.

He graduated from Boston State University with a bachelor's degree in English, pursued a master's degree in education from Suffolk University and completed a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies in education from Boston University. Bob's career as an educator in the Medford Public Schools spanned more than 25 years as an English teacher and middle school principal. He enjoyed teaching tremendously and had a wonderful gift connecting with and supporting his students. Bob proudly served the Medford community with his involvement on various educational committees including multiple board positions within the Medford Municipal Credit Union.

Bob had a passion for good food and cooking Italian dishes that reflected his treasured upbringing in Boston's North End. He was a true "North Ender" with lifelong connections, stories to share, and staying involved with the "Friends of the North End."

Bob's unwavering devotion to his wife, Judy, and his unconditional love and guidance for his family will be forever cherished. Bob was the loving father of Christine Carbone of Wellesley; Robert J. Carbone and wife Denise of Lynnfield; and grandchildren Jacqueline, Julia, and Andrew Carbone of Lynnfield.

His Funeral was celebrated in Saint Maria Goretti Church, 112 Chestnut Street, Lynnfield on Monday, January 5. Visitation for relatives and friends were held at the McDonald Funeral Home, Wakefield on Sunday, January 4. Interment at Forest Hill Cemetery in Lynnfield.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Robert's name may be made to American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 6704, Hagerstown, MD 21741.

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

Celebrate the Dedication of the Garabaldi Meucci Museum (GMM)

Tour Hosts Angelo and Carol Rossi, GMM National Overseer Co-Chairs

Please join us in celebrating with the Garibaldi Meucci Museum (GMM), Staten Island, New York, for the dedication of Giuseppe Garibaldi Way and Antonio Meucci Way, on Saturday, April 18, 2026.

The deluxe motor coach bus will depart the Watertown Sons and Daughters of Italy, 520 Pleasant Street, Watertown, Massachusetts, at 7:30 a.m. sharp. Lunch will be provided at 12 noon, followed by the festivities beginning at 2:00 p.m., as the two corner streets abutting the GMM are renamed. Dinner is also included and will be enjoyed, possibly at Enoteca Maria, aka *"Nonna's"* before departing for home at 6:30 PM. The bus should arrive back at the Watertown Sons and Daughters of Italy at approximately 10:30 p.m.

The cost is $250 per person and includes round trip luxury motor coach, breakfast, lunch, dinner, driver gratuity, water, snacks and a goody bag. Twenty people are needed to secure this price.

A deposit of $150 is due by February 15, and balance due March 15th. NO REFUNDS after March 15th unless a replacement is found or there is a waiting list. If under 20 people, price will be recalculated or trip will be cancelled and monies will be refunded. Checks should be made payable to: Angelo Rossi, and mailed to 13 Arlington Road, Natick, MA 01760. Please contact Carol Rossi with questions at 508-259-2802 or *momsswans@yahoo.com*

The Garibaldi Meucci Museum is an Italian-American Cultural Heritage Center located on Staten Island, New York. It is a National Historic Landmark, has been owned by the Sons and Daughters of Italy since 1919, and is one of the best kept secrets of The Orders Sons and Daughters of Italy in America.

In the heart of Rosebank sits this historic home of the true inventor of the telephone, Antonio Meucci and the legendary international hero, Generale Giuseppe Garabaldi, known as the Unifier of Italy and to many Italians as the *"George Washington of Italy."*

The mission of the Museum is to collect, hold, own, maintain, preserve, and exhibit historical objects and artifacts relating to the lives of General Giuseppe Garabaldi and Antonio Meucci, promote an understanding of Italian-American heritage and a positive image of Italian Americans, conduct educational, cultural, and artistic programming designed to eliminate ethnic and racial prejudice.

For additional information on the museum and the men who it honors, go to: *www.garibaldimeuccimuseum.com*

Music and all things Italian will be part of this festive celebration, and a free tour of the museum will follow the dedication. It is an event you will not want to miss!

L'Anno Bello: A Year in Italian Folklore

It's a Marshmallow World in the Winter

by Ally Di Censo Symynkywicz

(Image by prostooleh on Freepik)

Perhaps there is no month more maligned in the calendar than January. The thrill of the holiday season has faded into the past, while the cold temperatures and bitter winds remain. Frequent snowstorms and icy blasts interrupt the frigid, gray days. The sky is the gray of dirty cotton balls, with only the palest of afternoon sunlight breaking through the clouds. Yet while it may seem odd to think of spring in the midst of such wintry scenes, signs of the upcoming season also surround us this month. Department store shelves explode in hues of red and pink as they boast Valentine's Day decorations. The green, purple and yellow icing from my Epiphany King Cake — a harbinger of the bright tones of spring — still coats the dish of leftover slices. The sun appears for a longer time in the sky, illuminating the dripping icicles on a still evening. However, as much as I shiver in anticipation at these signs of spring, I am constantly reminded that winter stubbornly persists throughout January. Biting winds and snowdrifts drive me inside warm jackets and sturdy boots. In-season clementines and lemons perfume the air with their tartness, while soothing cups of tea provide ultimate comfort. January is a month that follows the two-headed aspect of its namesake Janus, the ancient Roman god of transitions. After all, January encompasses both the frosty beauty of winter and the hope of the imminent spring, teaching us to appreciate both seasons at once.

When one thinks of January, frosty temperatures often come to mind. I imagine days when the air feels like sharp pin pricks and I want nothing more than to curl up on the couch with a mug of steaming hot chocolate. January's gelid weather has even become etched into folklore — European legend marks January 13th, St. Hilary's Day (or *il Giorno di San Ilario* in Italian), as the coldest day of the year. However, January also gives me ample opportunities to celebrate, to revel in family gatherings where love and laughter form a shield against the arctic blasts outdoors. I have long associated January with parties, as a large number of family birthdays occur throughout the month, including my brother's on the 8th, my best friend's on the 13th, my aunt's on the 14th, and my mother-in-law's on the 18th. These January birthday festivities contain all the cakes and gaiety one expects of parties, yet they feel more relaxed since they are now removed from the bustle of the holiday season. Indeed, January does provide us with a welcome respite from the excesses of the previous month. This January, I promise myself that I will focus on the pleasures of winter rather than bemoan the weather. I will binge-watch my favorite television shows while sipping creamy hot chocolate or perfectly spiced tea. I will snack on a juicy Clementine and bake up some goodies featuring seasonal citrus ingredients. I will let snowflakes melt on my tongue like I did when I was a child. Most of all, I hope that everyone will take advantage of January to enjoy the quiet treasures of the oft-defamed winter.

However, as much as January remains firmly enveloped by the trappings of winter, it does intrigue us with soft whispers of spring. In Italy, no January holiday better introduces the coming spring than the Feast of St. Anthony the Abbot, or *la Festa di Sant'Antonio Abate*, which occurs on the 17th of the month. Because the eponymous fourth-century hermit is the patron saint of domestic animals, many Italians celebrate his feast day by honoring their pets or, if living in an agrarian community, their livestock. In many areas, farmers bring their livestock to the local church for a blessing. I remember watching one such ritual with my father on the Italian channel, my curiosity sparked by the lines of sheep, horses and cows winding their way through the cobbled streets of a medieval town towards the church, where a priest waited to bestow a benediction. This quaint festival reminds me of the natural world which starts to blossom under the cold, snowy ground. The first tiny flower seeds are slowly budding beneath the ground, ready to wink hello to the world as the crocuses and snowdrops of February. Sheep begin the process of birthing lambs around this time as well. I know that sooner than I can expect, robins will be hopping among bare tree branches and small green sprouts will peek out of the dirt. In other parts of Italy, people light huge bonfires on the eve of St. Anthony's feast day. These bonfires light up the night sky with their bright orange blaze and warm the bodies and souls of all nearby, mimicking the sun's longer duration as winter cedes the way for spring. I sense the magic of *la Festa di Sant'Antonio Abate* even here, whenever I look up at the pale January twilight and ponder the cycle of the year shifting beneath my feet.

January can be the most exciting of months, bursting with the liminal energy of two seasons. It provides us with the perfect chance to reflect on the beauty and repose of winter, calling us into the tranquility of our homes. Sipping a mug of herbal tea while watching the snow drift, incorporating citrus fruits into desserts, and gathering with family and friends for joyous celebrations that can warm even the chilliest night are wonderful ways to enjoy the winter season. However, January also teaches us to remain forever hopeful for the promise of spring. This anticipation is evident in the Cupids and hearts that decorate store shelves, in the leisurely lengthening of days, and in the folkloristic festivals that honor animals and the natural world. January helps us become attuned to the changing course of the year, and if we always look for the wonders each season offers, we will be instilled with enough hope and optimism to weather the remainder of winter.

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

New Year, Old Nonsense to Follow

Well, here we are entering a brand-new year of life. I just heard something last night that folks should always get their Christmas trees either stored away or put out for the city's trash trucks no later than the Feast of the Epiphany (January 6) or they could run the risk of taking last year's problems forward into the New Year.

I have to tell everyone. Who wants to keep repeating mistakes or carry last year's bad things into a brand-new year? However, this is not always possible. Sometimes it won't happen as we often carry last year's baggage forward into the new year.

The Boston City Council only made itself look more foolish than most of us already thought it was. Two candidates seeking the council presidency told us at one point or another that they had secured the 7 votes necessary to win the post but apparently didn't. It reportedly never happened for either of them and after getting back to City Hall, the governing body chose a third candidate who apparently was a compromise candidate to end all the foolish drama defaming the entire Boston City Council. It almost seemed like a bad old comedy show on MeTV. Only thing missing was no soundtrack could be heard.

Alright, enough of that. Let's move on to Greenland. President Trump obviously wants this chunk of ice. It has been up there forever and now Trump wants to make the place great again. Only problem, Denmark owns this piece of frozen real estate and seemingly doesn't want to sell it to anyone. Now we have a diplomatic quagmire. Nevermind Denmark now Trump has to deal with pushback from Europe.

They are now saying, we take Greenland, we kick the United States out of Europe. Everyone is blowing blue smoke around. Hope Europe knows what is threatening. The Trump White House probably would be quite happy if we were kicked out of NATO since he already thinks Europe is a bunch of cheapskates to begin with. Everyone seems to appreciate Greenland because it is all over what lies below all that frozen ice and where Greenland is located. No one really cares about the people of Greenland, all 59,000 inhabitants.

Oh, what about Maduro and Venezuela? We went over there with fire power and now he awaits justice in New York City along with his wife

All the leftists and Democrats on Capitol Hill think Trump broke the law because he didn't ask Congress for permission to take action. Many anti-Trumpers think we should release Maduro and many have already been carrying new placards. instead of stating "No Kings," the new signs state "Maduro is King of Venezuela"

The DC Democrats are all so confused. They all wanted Maduro out but they didn't want Trump to actually do it. Every time the Democrats start creeping closer to a House majority, they always seem to find a way to screw up the works which is why Hakeem Jeffries will never be Speaker of the House.

The madness will just continue with two useless political parties whose main goals seem to be screwing the works for their political opponents. Our Founding Fathers must be turning over in their graves with the inept crew now running our national government. I still remember the Bicentennial back 50 years ago. As we head closer and closer to our 250th birthday, things seem like they're going from bad to worse.

Trump is no Reagan and the Democrats have forgotten John F. Kennedy. We must pray and pray much for our America. It needs all the help it can get. Saying Happy New Year is getting more difficult to say, isn't it?

Faster, Easier Way for Eligible Veterans to Claim Cash Bonuses

New Online Portal Streamlines Access to State Benefits

Treasurer Deborah B. Goldberg, along with her office's Veterans' Bonus Division, continues to lead the way in delivering state benefits with the launch of a new portal. The website allows eligible veterans and their family members to apply for bonuses online while providing increased transparency for applicants.

"Our veterans deserve a system that works for them," said State Treasurer Deborah B. Goldberg. "This new portal reflects an ongoing commitment to improving how benefits are delivered, recognizing that access, clarity and speed matter, especially for those who have already given so much."

The new system provides greater visibility and transparency by allowing applicants to view their status and previous bonus payment history at any time. It also allows direct communication with program coordinators to answer questions efficiently and effectively. Additionally, the portal securely stores documents for future bonus eligibility, eliminating the need to submit documentation more than once.

Veterans have made significant sacrifices in service to our country, and ensuring they can easily access the benefits they have earned is a small but meaningful way to honor that service. By removing unnecessary barriers and modernizing how benefits are delivered, the Treasurer's office is helping ensure the state meets veterans with the efficiency and care they deserve.

Sign up for the new portal at ***https://matreasury.my.site.com/mavbd/SelfRegister***. Veterans and their families are also encouraged to submit an inquiry to determine eligibility for a bonus at ***https://matreasury.my.site.com/mavbd/inquiry***.

Pirandello Italian School Christmas Celebration at Sacred Heart Church

by Tony Cortese

The annual Christmas event of the Pirandello Italian School in the North End took place on December 20 at St. John School in Boston's North End. There was singing and readings from children and adults and refreshments. It is was ecumenical as could be, meant to celebrate the spirit and traditions of the holiday season of all spiritual interest.

The non-profit Italian School, funded by the students and families, has been around for 52 years thanks to Tino Valdesolo's great leadership with an outstanding faculty and the efforts of your family to promote it over that time period and before. In a record year, it currently has **144 students** with separate classes from age 3, kindergarten, grade school, high school and adults with three levels — beginning, intermediate and advanced. It is highly interactive in culture and language which must go hand-in-hand to be effective.

The faculty is a group of outstanding well-educated professionals. Most of the faculty are educated Italian natives who have lived in the U.S. for at least a few decades. Some teach at the Eliot School and high schools in the Boston area.

The program is 26 weeks every Saturday (except holiday weekends) from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. It is the only Italian school for all ages together in the greater Boston area.

I am amazed and delighted to see families (adult and children) come to the school every Saturday from all over the greater Boston area. Some come from the north shore and the south shore. Several are families in which one or two parents and the children take classes. The school is, in my opinion, an important contributor to advancing what is so iconic about the North End and its urban lifestyle.

School children from the Pirandello Italian School in the North End of Boston perform as part of the Christmas Celebration at Sacred Heart Church in North Square.

The event was a great success with about 200 people in attendance at Mass at Sacred Heart Church. Children and adults participated enthusiastically, making presentations and singing hymns and parts of the Mass in Italian. The children were so cute and articulate. The music was great. The Church was beautifully decorated. Afterwards, there was a small reception provided by the families and the faculty.

Everyone left feeling the true meaning of the Christmas spirit. Donna and I are delighted to be students at the school. It is bringing us closer to the North End in very meaningful ways.

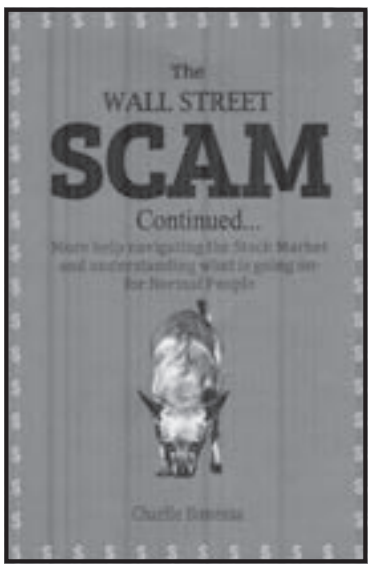
A pianist and guitarist lead the singing of hymns and other musical selections during the Italian Mass for the Pirandello Italian School.

The students from the Pirandello Italian School classes participate in the 2025 Christmas Celebration Festivities at Sacred Heart Church in the North End neighborhood.

THE WALL STREET SCAM Continued ...

BY CHARLIE BONESSA

REVIEW BY PATTI SARTORI



If you were smart enough to have read the ***Wall Street SCAM*** by Charlie Bonessa, don't let the follow up, ***The Wall Street SCAM Continued,*** pass you by. Book 1 was Bonessa's attempt at assisting the average person, or normal people as he refers to us, understand the financial markets as well as navigate the complexities of the stock market in the most basic sense, along with who and what to beware of.

In his follow up, Book 2 as we will refer to it, Bonessa's goal is simply to touch upon newer topics not covered in Book 1 and to go slightly more in-depth on topics that were. His goal is to share a full and complete picture of investing in a clear and brief manner, while offering a solid foundation of learning before beginning your investment journey.

Credit Unions and Regional Banks vs. Big Banks, Brick & Mortar Retail Stores vs. On-Line Shopping, Liquidity, Money Markets, Tariffs and the AI Boom are just a few of the topics discussed in Book 2. If you're looking to learn about Crypto, you better avoid this book, as the author adamantly refuses to write about it!

If you meet Bonessa's definition of "Normal People", meaning people who go to college or don't go to college but either way Do Not land a job with an investment bank in New York or elsewhere to start their career, then Book 1 and Book 2 should definitely be on your radar.

Enjoy and Good Luck Investing ...

North End Cares *Spreads Holiday Cheer*

North End Cares recently had the pleasure of spreading some holiday cheer, stopping by the Nazzaro Center's North End 55+ group and volunteering at Mayor Wu's Enchanted Trolley Tour. It's always a fun time when this group gets together and the generosity of North End Cares made it much more festive.

Daniel Coackley and Ann Fitzgerald both of NEW Health and John Pregmon all North End Cares volunteer board members spreading Holiday Cheer during Mayor Wu's Enchanted Trolley Tour.

North End Cares volunteers donate gift cards to the Nazzaro Center 55+ Group during the holiday season.

Nazzaro Center Senior Activities

We're excited to remind you of our engaging **exercise class this week** — designed to enhance your health, energy, and well-being on **Friday, January 9th – 10:30 AM.** *Live Better with Suzanne* – Focus on your health and finish the week strong! **Lunch & Learn** - Friday, January 9th at 12:00PM - 1:00PM (Location: Nazzaro Center)

Additional Opportunities include: 55+ Coffee & Conversations – 2nd and 4th Friday of every month! (January 9th and January 23rd: 6:00PM-8:30PM @ the Nazzaro Center). **Adult Chess Club at the North End Library** each Monday 2:30 PM. **Senior Social Hour** each Tuesday and Thursday beginning at 11AM followed by a **Cold Lunch** at 11:30AM and **Senior Bingo** at 1:00PM. **Patricia's Sewing and Arts & Crafts -** Every Wednesday 11:00AM - 1:00PM. **Friday Films at the North End Library** at 2:00PM

New Health Strategic Planning Meeting - Wednesday, January 14th 10:00AM - 12:00PM (Location: Nazzaro Center)

Let's stay active, connected, and inspired together!

Friends, Romans, Countrymen!

by Laura Carlo

Stephen Guerriero

In early 2025 I was invited by Stephen Guerriero to emcee a public event at the Charles River Museum of Industry & Innovation in Waltham. I knew the Museum well because a couple of decades earlier, the Waltham radio station for which I worked collaborated a number of times on similar programs. This time around I was just as fascinated with the Museum as I was with Guerriero, its young and energetic Director of Education.

Guerriero is half Italian on his father's side. His mother's roots are English and Irish and descend from settlers to America from the 1630s. Guerriero's father's parents, however, were much newer to our country. His grandfather immigrated here in 1951 from Montemiletto, about 20 km from Avellino (near Naples). His grandmother followed him here a year later. His dad was the first generation of the family born here. Montemiletto is a mountaintop town described as "rising around the imposing walls of a medieval castle." Travel brochures show a beautiful Italian city high above a romantic looking landscape. 1950s America must have been quite a contrast, but they stayed to make a new life for themselves.

Stephen remembers Sunday dinners at his grandparents' house when he was growing up. There was not only endless food, but "the most amazing stories about Italy and growing up there." He also remembers going through his grandparents' books about Italy, seeing everything from photographs of beautiful cities and artwork to a light-up gondola.

No surprise that he would study Italian from when he was in 8th grade all the way through high school. While at B.U. he majored in International Relations/Italian Studies and became interested in joining the U.S. Diplomatic Corps. Although he went through the exercises and exams to be accepted in the Corps, he changed course and went on to get his Master's in Education from Boston College. His interest in Italian studies, especially history and archeology never waned, and he got a second Master's degree in Ancient Greek and Roman Studies from Brandeis. He is also Educational Director of a Brandeis program called "An Examined Life" for practicing teachers. Through this program he and other teachers have worked on archeological digs in Greece and Crete, and also the Via Appia in Rome.

History isn't some dusty book in the back of a library shelf to Guerriero. It's easy to see how his enthusiasm for the subject transferred to his 6th grade Social Studies students. It became tougher to do, however, during the 2020 covid pandemic. In his case, he'd teach half the class on a Zoom call, then start all over with the other half. It was mentally exhausting, and like many teachers, he left the profession. In the summer of 2022, he went to work for an ed-tech start-up that simply didn't get enough funding to continue. In May of 2024, he became the Director of Education at the Charles River Museum of Industry & Innovation, and its best PR tool ever since!

During the covid shutdown the Museum had to close temporarily because teachers would regularly do programs there for school children. This was his chance to resurrect that program, plus start a Museum internship, build a Mill Talks program, a Collections and Curatorial Team, do research at Harvard on behalf of the Museum, create new outreach events for the community and even incorporate an element of fundraising. In just a year's time he has done all of this with the energy and enthusiasm of a spirited Cheerleader Captain.

And somehow, he has found the time to go back to teaching! This past semester he taught an undergraduate course at Simmons College in Greek Mythology and Religion, and an A.P. class in Psychology at Weston High School.

CHARLES RIVER MUSEUM of INDUSTRY & INNOVATION

I told him mere mortals would be exhausted just hearing his schedule. He said, "I find it energizing and I like the pace! For now, it's working."

You'd think with this schedule he'd go home at night and just plop into an easy chair, but you'd be wrong! Following the examples of his Italian forebears, he puts up between 200-400 jars of tomatoes and sauce each fall, using a machine from Italy to grind the tomatoes. And he spoke almost poetically about his grandfather's wine cellar, "it must have been the scent of the old wooden barrels down there. I've never forgotten it." After his grandfather died, his father bought new stainless-steel tanks from Italy to continue the family wine making tradition, and Stephen continues the annual project using the same type of grapes from the vineyard his grandfather used.

For now, Guerriero is most excited about building the programs at the Museum. It doesn't get any federal funding so it's part of his job to make the public care about preserving both the manufacturing history of Massachusetts (which led the country into the Industrial Revolution), and to build programs "honoring the working class who built this country, from the first 'Mill Girls,' to the waves of European immigrants who followed from Ireland, Italy, Poland, Eastern Europe, and from Central America today."

Meantime, whenever he gets a break, he continues to travel to the "bel paese" and dreams of having a home there someday.

Learn about the Charles River Museum and its amazing programs at charlesrivermuseum.org, and, as Stephen says, "Vieni spesso a visitare 'il museo del popolo.'"

Ed. Note: **The photographer of oboist John Ferrillo, used 12-26-25, was Robert Torres.**

Saint Richard Gwyn

by Bennett Molinari and Richard Molinari

Richard Gwyn was born at Llanidloes, Montgomeryshire, Wales. He studied at Oxford and then at St John's College, Cambridge, but his studies were interrupted in 1558 when Elizabeth I ascended the throne and Catholics were expelled from the universities.

He returned to Wales and became a teacher, first at Overton in Flintshire, then at Wrexham acquiring a considerable reputation as a Welsh scholar. He married and had six children, three of whom survived him. He was pressured to become an Anglican and succumbed briefly, but returned to the Catholic faith after a sudden illness , about the same time as Catholic priests came back to Wales.

Gwyn frequently had to change his home and place of work to avoid fines and imprisonment, but he was finally arrested in 1579 and imprisoned in Ruthin jail. He was offered his freedom if he would give up his Catholic faith but refused to do so. After escaping and spending a year and a half on the run, he spent the rest of his life in prison. He was fined astronomical sums for not attending the Anglican church services, and was carried to church in irons more than once; but he would disrupt the service by rattling his irons and heckling, which led to further astronomical fines. Furious at him, his jailers put him in the stocks for many hours where many people came to abuse and insult and spit on him. The queen's men wanted him to give them the names of other Catholics, but Richard would not do so.

In 1580 he was transferred to Wrexham, where he suffered much persecution. He was removed to the Council of the Marches, and later in the year suffered torture at Bewdley and Bridgenorth before being sent back to Wrexham. There he remained a prisoner. He was brought to trial on October 9, found guilty of treason and sentenced to be executed. At his trial, men were paid to lie about him, as one of them later admitted. The men on the jury were so dishonest that they asked the judge whom he wanted them to condemn.

Richard Gwyn, John Hughes and Robert Morris were indicted for high treason in 1584. The three were also accused of trying to make converts.

Again his life was offered him on condition that he acknowledge the queen as supreme head of the Church. His wife, Catherine, and one of their children were brought to the courtroom and warned not to follow his example. She stated that she would gladly die alongside her husband. She consoled and encouraged her husband to the last. He was executed on October 16, 1584, where he was hung, drawn, and quartered. On the scaffold he stated that he recognized Elizabeth as his lawful queen but could not accept her as head of the Church in England.

The feast day of Saint Richard Gwyn is October 17.

Former President Joe Biden to Receive *Highest Pension in History!*

It will be the largest taxpayer-funded pension of any former U.S. President, totaling an estimated $417,000 annually, double that of Barack Obama. Yes, you read it correctly, former President Joe Biden will in fact receive this unprecedented amount annually, with the figure exceeding his $400,00 per year presidential salary.

The unusually high total is due to Biden's ability to draw benefits from multiple federal retirement programs, reflecting his long career as a U.S. Senator, vice-president, and president. Biden qualifies for benefits under the Former Presidents Act of 1958, which provides a pension equal to a Cabinet Secretary's salary, currently at $250,600 per year, as well as retirement income from the Civil Service Retirement System tied to his 44 years of federal service.

In addition to his pension payment, the General Services Administration has budgeted more than $1.5 million in fiscal year 2026 for Biden's post-presidency benefits, including office space, staff, and equipment, which has renewed calls for reform, with critics arguing the current law allows for excessive taxpayer-funded retirement benefits for former presidents.

Influenza Cases Continue to Rise in Bay State

It's Flu Season and this year it seems no one is immune, vaccine or no vaccine. Hospitals across Massachusetts are continuing to face high numbers of patients, young, old and in-between, seeking care for influenza, pneumonia and respiratory illnesses. Each day last week there were nearly 9,000 emergency department visits, with approximately 25% of those related to acute respiratory illness, including flu, COVID-19 and RSV.

Many areas in Massachusetts are dealing with overwhelming hospital capacity. Sadly four Bay State children have died from the flu over the past few weeks, as well as one young adult, according to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH). Many residents are experiencing serious complications, leading to increased visits to urgent care.

While COVID-19 and RSV rates remain low, cases of both illnesses are on the rise. DPH is looking at two possible COVID-19 associated deaths and one RSV-associated death in individuals under the age of 18 years old. "This is a moment for clarity, urgency, and action. These viruses are serious, dangerous, and life-threatening. We are seeing children who are seriously ill, families grieving devastating losses, and hospitals under capacity strain. There is a simple, effective, and available way to address these concerns, and they save lives. It is not too late. Choosing vaccination is choosing to protect yourself, your family, your friends, your colleagues, and your community," stated Public Health Commissioner Robbie Goldstein.

For those who begin to experience flu symptoms, high fever, chills muscle aches, extreme fatigue, cough, sore throat, and congestion, please do not wait to seek medical advice.

Renaissance Lodge Order Sons and Daughters of Italy (OSDIA)

Celebrate the Holiday Season at the Boston Pops

The Renaissance Lodge celebrated the holiday season in high style, featuring Boston Symphony Hall's Holiday Pops. Limited to only 25 guests with sought after seats, the Pops Orchestra and Tangle Wood Chorus were a special treat. Thanks to the generosity of the Boston Red Sox, for allowing us to access their Kenmore Square parking lot, attendees were able park and board a private coach bus to Maggiano's Little Italy Restaurant in Park Square. It made a chilly afternoon so much more comfortable and convenient.

Guests were welcomed into a festively decorated private room with drinks and hors d'oeuvres. On the menu were their famous fried zucchini, crab cakes and Italian chopped salad, along with beef tenderloin, penne all vodka and chicken piccata. Guests enjoyed not one but two types of desserts — tiramisu and apple crostata with ice cream. It was an outstanding meal to go along with a fabulous concert enjoyed by all who attended.

It was wonderful to see such a diverse group of attendees relaxing and socializing, including Lino Rullo, GR. UFF., President Emeritus of the Dante Alighieri Society and his wife Enza, Dr. Leo Egan, former Commander of the North End Post VFW and his wife Susan and North End Waterfront resident Linda Mullen and her grand-daughter Isabel.

Dean Saluti and Margie Cahn having some fun at the 2025 Renaissance Lodge Holiday Pops Christmas event.

Also joining in the fun were Renaissance Lodge officer and former OSDIA State officer Kathy Cammarata, who hosted a table with another Renaissance Lodge officer Bobby Silva, along with Carol and Angelo Rossi, both of whom are major supporters of the Garibaldi Meucci Museum in New York, and Lina and Phil D'Alleva, from the Italian American Alliance.

It was a day to remember, leaving guests to note they are eagerly awaiting next year's event.

Kathy Cammarata, Angelo and Carol Rossi Lina and Phil D'Alleva enjoying a delicious lunch at Maggiano's Little Italy Restaurant before the Boston Pops Holiday performance.

Seated: Jill and Sal Giugliano with Susannah Cahn. Standing: Enza and Lino Rullo, Thao Trac and Nick Ryan.

Seated: Dr. Leon and Susan Egan, Linda Mullen and granddaughter Isabel. Standing: Tom Leavitt, Ray and Peggy Binder.

La Befana Visits East Boston

Italia Unita sponsored a wonderfully fun and family event last Sunday, celebrating the Epiphany on January 6, at Caffe Dello Sport, Saratoga Street in the Orient Heights section of East Boston. Special guest ***La Befana*** (Pascal Gangi) visited with Italian Unita members and non-members spreading Italian Holiday cheer and good wishes to all.

The tradition of La Befana legend declares her as a good Strega (witch) who flies on a broomstick to deliver gifts to Italian children on Epiphany Eve (January 5th) while searching for baby Jesus. Epiphany marks the end of the Christmas season, symbolizing second chances, kindness, and generosity, with traditions of exchanging sweets and gathering with family and friends.

La Befana (Pascal Gangi) visits East Boston

It was a wonderful day celebrating Epiphany 2026 together at Caffe Dello Sport in East Boston.

Facts ON wax

by bob morello

reviewing the best . . . forgetting the rest

JUSSI REIJONEN –
sayr: kaiho –
live in helsinki *(CD)*
Unimusic

With sayr, his new series of improvised recordings for solo string instrument, Finnish-born guitarist, Arabic oud player and composer Jussi Reijonen offers an intimate, meditative album: *sayr: kaiho — live in helsinki*. Reflecting on the creative process that led to sayr as a framework for a series of improvised solo recordings that Reijonen plans to release between his ensemble works, he says: "I have of late found myself drawn to solitary reflection and introspection: to the small, simple and sparse, the rugged earthy, the gnarly unpretty; and most of all, to bare feet in soil; to roots and branches; to paths less — or differently — predetermined ... sayr has become a kind of musical diary: an ever-growing, ever-evolving musical organism that is like a metaphorically Arabic taqsim-inspired solo improvisation through time, place and memory. Put another way, for there to be motion, there needs to be stillness as its counterpoint and vice versa, since through their dance, each defines the other." Reijonen's series is centered around a metaphorical reframing of the concept of "sayr" as found in Arabic music — literally, "course" or "motion" — referring here to a musical pathway unfolding through improvisation in an acoustemological memory palace: a pathway of memory recalled and reimagined through music, refracting in reverse in the space between sound and personal experience. Originally inspired by the archaic sound and feel of a late-1940s Gibson LG-2 steel-string acoustic guitar generously gifted to Reijonen by a former student, sayr uses a set of pre-composed musical gestures as loci or touchstones. Reijonen navigates freely between through improvisation, letting memories surface through the sounds themselves. Each gestural locus becomes a portal, triggering emotional and sensory echoes shaped by his life across Northern Finland, Jordan, Tanzania, Oman, Lebanon, and the United States.

sayr: kaiho – live in helsinki presents the continued improvised evolution of the materials uncovered on salt | thirst. Performed on steel-string acoustic guitar and the Arabic oud and recorded and filmed live in concert in Helsinki, Finland, on September 19th, 2025, sayr: kaiho is divided into three arcs — "halla" ("frost" in Finnish); "fes" (in homage to the Moroccan medina where he bought his first oud); and "vielä" ("yet" in Finnish). With "kaiho" referring to longing or nostalgia in Finnish — akin to "saudade" in Portuguese and Galician — the live recording highlights to stunning effect Reijonen's deep relationships with the sonorities of two string instruments that not only have become so entangled with his own memories, but also share between them a deep historical lineage.

LUKE MARANTZ &
SIMON JERMYN -
ECHOES (*CD)*
Chill Tone Records

Pianist Luke Marantz and guitarist Simon Jermyn craft a stunning set of duets on their mesmerizing and atmospheric new album *Echoes*, via Chill Tone, evolves the delicate, genre-defiant sound the pair have evolved together over the past decade, with contributions by drummer Josh Dion. Musicians tend to lead nomadic lives, which means that creative relationships are often subject to the whims of intersecting journeys. Such happenstance brought together the pianist Luke Marantz and guitarist Simon Jermyn in 2015. Marantz had found himself at a crossroads, feeling that his time in Boston was coming to an end after he'd finished studying at New England Conservatory. At that moment, Jermyn was living in New York and playing regularly with Marantz's brother, saxophonist Matt Marantz. The pair first crossed paths when Marantz made the trek from Boston to Manhattan to join his brother for a gig at the now-defunct Rockwood Music Hall, Fender Rhodes in tow."

The album title stems from the way in which the two musicians react and play off of one another; like an echo, each sound is distinct and separate but unified with the other. A series of pieces by that title is woven throughout the track list; unlike the bulk of the music, these were not recorded with Marantz and Jermyn in the studio together. Instead, the guitarist recorded a series of textural excursions and handed them off, after which Marantz transformed them through dense, gauzy layers of piano, synth and other effects. With its galloping piano and percussive acoustic guitar, Marantz's "Country" evokes the titular genre by way of Appalachian folk and Aaron Copland-style chamber Americana, both rustic and elegant. Jermyn's "Hovering" seems to do just that, defying gravity with spaciousness and droning figures supporting the soaring guitar melody. The composer doubles on bass, while Dion enters halfway through to provide a propulsive grounding. Jermyn also contributed the incisive "Shori," named for the vampire protagonist of Octavia E. Butler's final novel, Fledgling. The duo conjure an iridescent, aurora-like beauty on Marantz's "Light Scatters Green," an illustration of the ethereal colors of the sky that he remembers from growing up in Texas' Tornado Alley. Dion returns for the pianist's "Passages," which transmutes gradually from a searching clamor to a keen, loping groove. *Echoes* is the sound of two distinctive musical personalities converging and communing, free to follow each moment's inspiration as it ripples outwards.

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

Boston City Councilors all smiling as they were sworn back into office at Boston Sympathy just before all the drama played out shortly later inside City Council Chambers

WINTHROP RESTAURANT WEEK IS BACK

The Winthrop Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce the return of Winthrop Restaurant Week from January 25-31. I love restaurant weeks wherever they are. I really love dining out in Winthrop. For a small town, it's got an amazing choice of cuisine. You can't get bored eating in Winthrop. I have several places I love . Among them is, of course, the Winthrop Arms. You can never go wrong dining there. If you like good diner-like breakfast, you can choose the Hi Tide Restaurant or the Winthrop Center Cafe. Looking for some good coffee and Italian pastry, nothing better than the Italian American Bakery & Cafe also in Winthrop Center. I love them all.

WHAT JUST HAPPENED INSIDE THE BOSTON CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS?

Well, you know that old saying, "It Ain't Over Until It's Over." Well, that pretty much explained what transpired at Boston City Council Chambers on Monday, January 5. Another old saying that comes to mind is the one about not counting your chickens before they hatch.

For months, we have been hearing that a certain city councillor had rounded up the seven votes she needed to become council president. However, it turned out she may have had seven votes at some point but seemingly not at the right point. Then, another councilor said he was on the hunt for seven votes too but apparently, he didn't find them either. Then, coming out from left field, is a third candidate and this time , just before the voting, she did have seven votes.

Usually, voting for council president is no big deal. It looked like Gigi Coletta Zapata was in like Flynn until she wasn't. Then Brian Worrell started counting his chickens too early. In the end, a compromise entered the fray and that's how Liz Breadon got herself elected president when all the dust settled. She won the election, 7-6. She wasn't on anyone's radar until it frankly counted. Her chickens hatched at just the exact time they needed to crack wide open. All the drama is just the usual game of beanball.

STATUETTES RALLY AT QUINCY CITY HALL

It appears the controversy over those massive statues of Saint Florian and Archangel Michael continues on into the new year. This past Monday evening outside City Hall just before the inauguration was about to take place, supporters rallied in support of the two proposed statues planned outside the new soon-to-be opened Quincy Police Headquarters. According to those who marched, it was about a calm show of support. The placement of these two statues has caused friction among community members. The community is split over both the placement and cost of these two statues. Many in the community think religious statues don't belong on a public building while others support the idea.

Mayor Tom Koch thinks the whole controversy over the statues has been totally overblown and supports both statues as appropriate for a public safety building. Personally and even as a retired police officer, I think placing statues out front of this new building greeting folks as they enter is a distraction and unnecessarily divides the city. There are far more important issues to be worrying about.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ROGER MILLER

Roger Miller, who was born on January 2, 1936 and passed away on October 25, 1992 at age 56, was a great country singer. One of his all-time best hits was "King of the Road." I often hear his good ole music on *Willie's Roadhouse*, Channel 61 on Sirius Radio.

NEVER EAT OFF MORE THAN YOU CAN CHEW

Over in the northern town of Settimo Torinese in Italy, a joyful Christmas eve celebration turned tragic quickly as a man choked to death on a piece of panettone at a family gathering. The piece of cake reportedly became lodged in his airway and he died at the dessert table. I know the old saying that a great meal or pastry is so good, it's to die for. However, the last thing I want to experience is dying for a piece of panettone. I don't care what's inside it. It ain't worth dying for. End of story.

I KNOW MINNESOTA DEMOCRATS ARE ALL PAZZO, BUT

This news story could only come out of Minnesota. Recently, the state's lieutenant governor showed up at some kind of Somali food festival and donned a hijab for an interview which was being taped for a local TV show and went overboard in praise of all things Somali.

Apparently, Democrats out in Minnesota will do or say anything to distract voters away from the massive fraud of public funds by way too many members of the state's Somali community which seems to be up to its eyeballs in this fraud scandal which continues to grow bigger and bigger.

MAVERICK LANDING WISHES YOU HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

As they closed out the year, everyone at Maverick Landing Community Services wished you and your loved ones a joyful, peaceful, and healthy holiday season.

They also invite you to continue supporting the community by standing with the nonprofits that help fill critical gaps and make a real difference in the lives of our neighbors. Your support — whether through time, resources, or advocacy — helps keep our community strong and connected.

Nanna & Babbononno

by John Christoforo

A Nostalgic Remembrance

Back in the day, there wasn't much music around after the first of the new-year. The weddings, christenings and Bar Mitzvahs, were back on schedule but to a lesser degree than before January 1. This meant that only the top musicians were working. Fortunately, this included Uncle Nick and Dad. They were among the best in Boston and always worked. This situation didn't include the men and women in the Boston Symphony, the Boston Pops, chamber groups, and those who played steady engagements at night clubs and restaurants.

Both Dad and Uncle Nick played steady engagements before WWII but had the draft to think about once the war started. Knowing he was about to be drafted, Uncle Nick joined the navy. Luckily, he auditioned for the Andre Kostelanetz Orchestra which was part of the navy operating out of the Newport Naval Base, and made it to their sax section. Dad accepted a job teaching machine shop at East Boston High School, but continued playing at night waiting to be called for military service. He was recruited by the OSS, Office of Strategic Services (today's CIA). His job was to interrogate Italian war prisoners being housed in the Boston area. He actually hired Babbononno to be his recording secretary. Dad's Italian was marginal and he couldn't read nor write in the language of his parents … so Babbononno filled the void.

Once the war was over, Dad stayed with teaching and coaching football. Babbononno settled into retirement, and Uncle Nick became involved in union politics, becoming the vice-president of Boston's Local 9 of the musicians' union, a position he held for 25 years. There was a strange phenomenon back then. Local 9 was for white musicians and another local, 535, was for musicians of color. In the early '70s, the federal government changed this and the two unions merged into Local 9-535, which still exists today. (I have been a member for the past 68 years).

A few years after the war, Dad stopped playing at night clubs, booking one nighters for whichever band-leader called. Until DJs came into existence, he worked several nights a week. I observed all of this, but never was interested in playing music professionally. In junior high school, I played in the drum and bugle corps. (I still have the bugle) Later I tried trumpet but gave that up. I hated to practice. It interfered with baseball, hanging on a street corner and working at the Seville Theater. When I was younger, I tried every practical instrument you could name, but never stayed with any one of them.

One day, I was sitting on the steps of 74 Eutaw Street, our house in East Boston, when a friend walked by with his bass violin under his arm. He stopped to talk and told me that he was selling his bass due to the fact that he had joined the Marines. He also mentioned that he had been playing for a local band, and thought I might be interested seeing my father was a bass player, assuming he had given me lessons on the instrument. I liked the idea, and asked Dad for lessons, which began the same day.

Babbononno had taught me how to read music as a youngster and was so proud that his grandson was going to be the 3rd generation in a row to play music. Within a few weeks, I was holding my own with the band my friend who joined the Marines had left.

So, at the age of 17, I became a professional musician.

I stayed with the local band for several months and discovered that they weren't going anywhere. As my reputation preceded me, I bought a car to enable me to work with band leaders who called with bookings outside of East Boston. Then, thanks to Dad and Uncle Nick's advice, I called the office of Ken Reeves, one of the busiest music suppliers in the state. At that point in time, they had an office on Boylston Street in downtown and I headed there to meet with one of the bookers, a Mr. Dave Kahn. He sat at the office piano, told me to get behind the bass which was sitting on a chair in the corner. He played the music of the day, and I accompanied him without him telling me the tempos nor the keys he was playing in. I thought I held my own, but when we were finished, Mr. Kahn told me that they had enough bass players listed in their office, but thanked me for coming in. I wasn't happy with his response, but figured, nothing ventured, nothing gained.

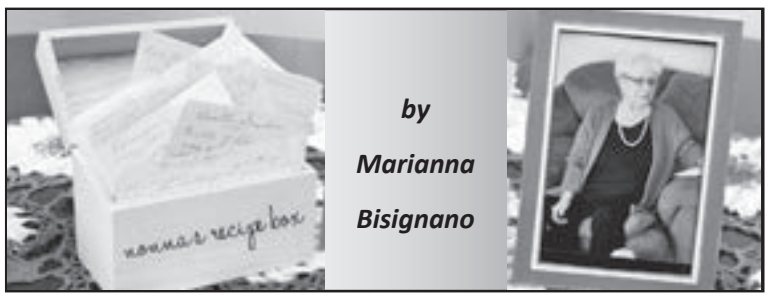
The next day, I received a post card from Mr. Kahn, listing several jobs he booked me on. He also indicated that I needed a tuxedo, and a manicure. About a week later on a Saturday night, I headed out to the Manchester Bath and Tennis Club, dressed in a new tux and a manicure. When I saw the other musicians I would be playing with, I became a bit nervous. They were the best of the best from the Ken Reeves office. We played for three hours straight and then headed back stage for a twenty minute break. The other musicians just stared at me until Mr. Kahn, who was the pianist on the job, called me over to where most of the band was sitting. His comment went this way, "Hey, Christie Junior, get your black ass over here. You don't know who the hell I am, do you?"

Before I could answer, he continued with, "Your folks and I lived in the same apartment building in Brookline when you were still in diapers. I even bounced you on my knee and sang to you. That's why you got the audition, and that's why you're here" At that point he introduced me to the rest of the band members. The ice was broken and I felt more at ease. The man who was leading the band, a sax player named Don Ellis, looked up not smiling but with a comment that made me feel that I had made it, "Hey kid, you're OK and you can play with us anytime."

When I got home that night, Babbononno was waiting up for me with a cup of coffee and a bunch of questions as to how things went. Dad was called the next day and told how well I had played. I felt that I had made it and was so happy that my father and grandfather both had approved, and had let me know it. I stayed with the Reeves office, on and off for several years, paying my own way through college, until one day, when I received a phone call from Don Ellis, the sax player. He had quit Reeves and gone out on his own and wanted to know if I would be his bass player at the function room of Carol's Restaurant in Medford. I joined him and worked several nights a week for a couple of years, being paid enough to pay my way through a masters degree.

The only part of my young life that came to an end was working at the Seville Theater. I had put in ten years as an usher, but I was now 23 and teaching in Boston days, playing music at night and going to graduate school, so something had to go, and it was the job of my youth at the Seville Theater. I taught in Boston for 43 years and played music for 62 years … not bad for a kid from the streets of East Boston.

GOD BLESS AMERICA



by Marianna Bisignano

Many Italian dishes found on restaurant menus across the United States may sound authentic, but that doesn't necessarily mean they originated in Italy. Some of the most sought after "Italian" dishes are, in fact, Italian American creations, born in immigrant kitchens. Chicken Scarpariello, often translated as "Shoemaker's Chicken," is a much-loved Italian American classic that is widely believed to have been popularized by southern Italians cooking in New York City restaurants. This hearty one-pan meal brings together chicken and sausage with a bold blend of vinegar, garlic, peppers, and spices, creating a dish that balances sweet, spicy, tangy, and savory flavors beautifully!

Chicken Scarpariello was one of many one-pan chicken dishes my Nonna made, especially during the cold winter months. She prepared this dish in a variety of ways, sometimes using bone-in, skin-on thighs, and other times opting for boneless, skinless breasts. The flavors shifted from spicy to sweet, with fresh spices and the occasional addition of onions and potatoes, changing it each time. Whether you enjoy it spicy or prefer it on the sweeter side, Chicken Scarpariello, or "Shoemaker's Chicken," is a one-pan meal your entire family is sure to love. Serve it over orzo or Arborio rice with a loaf of freshly baked, crusty Italian bread!

CHICKEN SCARPARIELLO

Pollo Alla Scarpariello

2 to 3 boneless, skinless chicken breasts, cut into bite-size pieces (bone-in, skin-on chicken thighs work great too)
1 ½ cups all-purpose flour (to dredge chicken in)
5 to 6 sweet Italian sausage links
6 garlic cloves, lightly crushed or pressed
8 hot cherry vinegar peppers, seeded and quartered
3 tablespoons cherry pepper brine (from the jar)
3 to 4 tablespoons unsalted butter
⅓ cup red wine vinegar
Juice of 2 large fresh lemons
1 cup chicken broth, divided
¾ teaspoon dried oregano
1¼ cups neutral frying oil (such as vegetable or canola)
Salt to taste
Freshly chopped Italian parsley, for finishing

Preheat your oven to 375°F. Arrange the sausage links in a roasting pan and add about ¼ cup of water to prevent scorching. Bake for approximately 30 to 45 minutes total, turning once, until well browned and crisp. Remove from the oven, slice into 2-inch pieces, and reserve.

Rinse the chicken pieces and pat completely dry. Lightly coat them in flour, shaking off any excess. Heat the oil in a large, heavy skillet over medium heat. When the oil is hot, add the chicken in batches and brown on both sides, about 3 minutes per side, until golden but not fully cooked through. Carefully pour out most of the oil, leaving about 3 tablespoons in the pan along with the chicken.

Add the crushed garlic to the skillet and sauté briefly until fragrant, about 1 minute. Stir in the cherry peppers and cook another minute, allowing their spices to bloom.

Pour in the cherry pepper brine, red wine vinegar, lemon juice, oregano, salt, and ¾ cup of the chicken broth. Stir gently to combine.

Add the cooked sliced sausage back into the pan and reduce the heat to medium-low. Drop in the butter and simmer for about 15 to 25 minutes, gently tossing everything so the chicken and sausage are fully coated and cooked through. If the sauce reduces too much, add the remaining chicken broth in a little at a time. Enjoy!

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

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

heralds the coming of the Olympics.

On the official website (*Olympics.com*) the rink is described thusly: "Built in in a redeveloped area in the southeast of Milan, this new facility represents one of the most significant legacies of the Winter Olympics."

The 2026 Winter Olympics may come to be remembered for many things. Let us hope that they consist of the outstanding performances by world-class athletes in a wide variety of winter sports.

For that to happen the opening of the Olympics can't come fast enough. When it does the focus will shift from buildings and preparations to actual competitions.

Those may serve to overwhelm the potential legacy of the partially completed ice hockey venue. Right now, it is the best that all those officials associated with the Winter Olympics can hope for.

Ieri e Oggi

Yesterday & Today

A COLUMN OF PAST AND CURRENT EVENTS

by Bennett Molinari & Richard Molinari

Common Sense


COMMON SENSE;

ADDRESSED TO THE

INHABITANTS

OF

AMERICA,

On the following interesting

SUBJECTS.

PHILADELPHIA:

MDCC LXXVI.

Common Sense, a fifty page pamphlet by Thomas Paine, was published on January 10, 1776. It sold over 500,000 copies in America and Europe, influencing, among others, the authors of the Declaration of Independence.

Common Sense was a revolutionary pamphlet written in accessible language that made complex political ideas understandable by the general public. It powerfully argued for American independence from Great Britain, convincing many colonists that separation was not just possible but necessary for liberty, attacking monarchy as corrupt and illogical, and advocating for a democratic republic with simple, representative government.

Common Sense distinguished between society which it considered good and limited government which it considered necessary. It detailed Britain's oppressive actions, and outlined America's potential to thrive as a self-sufficient nation, becoming a catalyst for revolution.

Common Sense offered a Critique of Monarchy & British Rule: Paine denounced hereditary rule as unnatural and corrupt, arguing King George III's actions were tyrannical and harmed the colonies economically and politically.

In his pamphlet, Paine defined society as people coming together for mutual benefit, while government is a necessary, but potentially oppressive, tool to restrain human vice; the simplest government is best.

Paine argued that colonies had suffered enough; reconciliation was impossible, and independence was the only logical path to secure their rights and future.

Paine envisioned a new American nation, a democratic republic with elected representatives, where power rested with the people, not a distant king, the pamphlet urged colonists to unite, take up arms, and build a new government from the ground up, asserting America's strength and capability for self-governance. Common Sense pamphlet laid the groundwork for the colonies to declare independence and the U.S. Constitution.

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

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court

Middlesex Probate and Family Court
10-U Commerce Way
Woburn, MA 01801
(781) 865-4000

Docket No. MI25P6459EA

Estate of
VIOLET M. CARREIRO

Date of Death: August 14, 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 **Glen A. Stanbury** of **Tyngsborough, 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: **Maria L. Stanbury** of **Tyngsborough, MA** and **Glen A. Stanbury** of **Tyngsborough, 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 01/21/2026.

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. TERRI L. KLUG CAFAZZO, First Justice of this Court.

Date: December 24, 2025

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate

Run date: 01/09/2026

Low Maintenance Impatiens for Sun and Shade

by Melinda Myers

Impatiens' easy-care nature, season-long bloom, and shade tolerance made it one of the most popular garden annuals. The introduction of downy mildew-resistant varieties has helped it maintain this status. For these reasons as well as its butterfly and hummingbird appeal the National Garden Bureau has declared *2026 Year of the Impatiens.*

The name impatiens is Latin for impatient. It refers to the fact that the seeds abruptly exit the ripe seed pods. Orange jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*) and yellow jewelweed (*Impatiens pallida*) are also known by the common name touch-me-not since their ripe seed pods burst at a slight touch. These two North American native plants attract and support bumblebees, other long-tongued bees, butterflies and hummingbirds.

Some impatiens species' flowers undergo a sex change as they mature known as sequential hermaphroditism. Their flowers start as male and after the pollen sheds, they morph into a female.

Most gardeners are familiar with *Impatiens walleriana,* also known as Busy Lizzie, and have grown them in containers, hanging baskets and garden beds. You will find a variety of colors and double-flowered varieties like Musica®, Silhouette series, Glimmer™ and Fiesta. Look for Beacon®, Glimmer™, and Imara XDR which are resistant to downy mildew disease that devastated many plantings of impatiens starting in 2011.


The unique *impatiens balsamina* has cup-shaped flowers that grow by the leaves all along the upright stems.

(Photo courtesy of MelindaMyers.com)

New Guinea impatiens (*Impatiens hawkeri*) is resistant to downy mildew, grows 12 to 15 inches tall and prefers partial shade. Introduced to the United States in the 1970s, you'll find cultivars with dark green, bronze and variegated leaves and large white, pink, red, orange and violet flowers. Look for the flower color and plant size that best fits your container or garden design.

Interspecific hybrid impatiens were bred by crossing two different species of impatiens for some adaptability or aesthetic benefit. Bounce, and Spectra® grow well in part sun to shady locations while Solarscape® XL and Sunpatiens thrive in a full or half day of direct sunlight. All are downy mildew resistant.

For something different try growing a few Garden Balsams (*Impatiens balsamina*). Popular during the Victorian era, its cup-shaped flowers grow by the leaves all along the upright stems. The peppermint stick garden balsam cultivar has red and white flowers that are spotted, striped and ruffled. Camellia balsam impatiens have large double flowers reminiscent of the flowers on a camellia shrub.

Keep the soil consistently moist for healthy and attractive impatiens. Spread a layer of leaves, evergreen needles or other organic mulch over the soil surface to help retain moisture and suppress weeds. Regular fertilization according to label directions will help you maximize the floral display.

Pinch back leggy impatiens plants as needed. Use a sharp bypass pruner or snips to reduce the plants by up to one half their height. Make the cut just above a set of leaves or node to encourage more compact growth and a better-looking plant in just a couple of weeks.

With the many color choices and their adaptability, you are sure to find the right impatiens for your containers and garden beds.

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.

• **Stirpe Nosta** (Continued from Page 2)

occurred while Aurelian was emperor.

There is little doubt that most of the museums, which were founded during later years, took much of their design and operating principles from the Alexandrian Museum. The Vatican in Rome, for example contains the most splendid of the public museums in the world today. The displays originated with the works collected by the Renaissance pope and were continued by all other pontiffs. They enriched the collections with more than 200 works of art and then built new buildings to contain those collections. Even today while wandering through the galleries, it is difficult to decide whether to admire the magnificence of the collections or the beauty of the buildings in which they are housed.

Magnificent collections are also contained in other Italian museums, such as the Palazzo dei Conservatori, which houses the famous *Wolf with Romulus and Remus;* the Capitoline Museum, which houses busts of the Roman emperors and other celebrated men of antiquity; the Museo Nazionale at Naples which is famous for its Pompeii collections; and the Galleria degli Uffzi at Florence which houses the *Venus de' Medici.*

Still other famous museums of the world that cannot go unmentioned are: the Louvre in Paris with its *Venus de Milo* and *Mona Lisa;* the British Museum in London, which houses the *Elgin Marbles,* and the Royal Museum in Berlin, which contains objects found at Troy.

NEXT WEEK:
Eros, the Greek God of Love

• **Soccer Stadium** (Continued from Page 1)

million plus the City of Everett is slated to receive from their Kraft Group agreement far exceeds Boston's estimated $48 million. Everett's deal allows for a higher per-ticket revenue and a longer length of benefits, 20 years compared to Boston's 15 years.

As the host city for the 25,000-seat stadium it is believed Everett will feel greater impacts, while Boston is mainly set to feel the traffic and parking impacts in the abutting Charlestown community. "I have always known that the residents of Everett deserve more than the inequitable burden of smokestacks and contaminated former industrial land that we have been asked to bear for too long. This agreement and this project will bring Everett environmental, open space, employment, public transit, and revenue-generating community benefits that many people never thought would have been possible in our city," stated outgoing Everett Mayor Carlo DeMaria.

Under the terms of the 20-year Everett agreement, the city will receive approximately $91 million, delivered through direct payments, infrastructure investments, and other community benefits. This amount is independent from the Kraft Group's additional commitment of $100 million for environmental clean-up and mitigation at the former Mystic Generating Station or power plant.

The City of Everett will receive $2.25 for every ticket sold at the stadium, including the approximate 418,000 soccer tickets as well as an additional 520,000 event tickets each year. In comparison, Boston will receive $1 per soccer ticket and 1.5% for each concert ticket.

"The Kraft Group has reached agreements with the Cities of Everett and Boston, marking an important milestone in our effort to transform a long-neglected industrial site along the Mystic River into a vibrant, publicly accessible waterfront destination and the future home of the New England Revolution. These agreements reflect years of collaboration with city leaders and community stake holders to ensure the project delivers meaningful, lasting benefits for residents while addressing transportation, environmental, and municipal impacts," the Kraft Group said in a statement.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Notice is hereby given by **Tody's Service Inc. of 1354 Washington Street, West Newton, MA,** pursuant to the provisions of Mass G.L. c. 255, Section 39A, that they will sell the following vehicle on or after **January 23rd, 2026** beginning at 10:00 am by public or private sale to satisfy their garage keepers lien for towing, storage, and notices of sale:

2014 HONDA CIVIC COUPE
VIN # 2HGFG3B84EH518384

2011 GMC SIERRA 1500
VIN # 1GTN1TEXXBZ347179

Vehicle is being stored at Tody's Service Inc.

Signed,
David Donahue, President
Tody's Service Inc.

Run dates: 01/02, 01/09, 01/16/2026

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 **January 26, 2026** by public or private sale to satisfy a lien for towing, storage, and all other fees due.

2013 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE
Vin #1C4RJFAGXDC633239

2004 FORD F650
Vin #3FRNF65L54V653059

2018 HYUNDAI ELANTRA
Vin #5NPD74LFXJH290935

2023 JIAJUE JJ50QT-32
Vin #LLPVGBAY6P1040029

2024 KEEWAY SHADOWSTAR
Vin #LZRJLTKF7R1000048

2014 FORD ESCAPE
Vin #1FMCU9JX0EUD28550

2018 MAZDA MAZDA6
Vin #JM1GL1VM4J1333451

2001 TOYOTA CAMRY
Vin #4T1BF28K61U119735

2012 FORD FUSION
Vin #3FAHP0JG5CR111714

2010 TOYOTA COROLLA MATRIX
Vin #2T1KU4EE1AC263002

2008 FORD TAURUS X
Vin #1FMDK02W18GA32015

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

Run dates: 01/02, 01/09, 01/16/2026

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court

Middlesex Probate and Family Court
10-U Commerce Way
Woburn, MA 01801
(781) 865-4000

Docket No. MI25P6410GD

NOTICE AND ORDER:
Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor

In the interests of
YESENIA L. UTLEY
of Maynard, MA
Minor

NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

1. **Hearing Date/Time:** A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on **12/11/2025** by **Corrine M. Utley** of Leominster, MA will be held **03/31/2026 08:30 AM**
   Review Hearing
   Located **370 Jackson St.**
   Lowell, MA 01852
   6th Floor, Courtroom 14
2. **Response to Petition:** You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to:
   File the original with the Court; and
   Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.
3. **Counsel for the Minor:** The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.
4. **Counsel for Parents:** If you are a parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you have a right to be represented by an attorney. If you want an attorney and cannot afford to pay for one and if you give proof that you are indigent, an attorney will be assigned to you. Your request for an attorney should be made immediately by filling out the Application of Appointment of Counsel form. Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard.
5. **Presence of the Minor at Hearing:** A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests.

Date: January 02, 2026

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate

Run date: 01/09/2026

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 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

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 **January 19, 2026** by public or private sale to satisfy a lien for towing, storage, and all other fees due.

2003 TOYOTA CAMRY
Vin #4T1BE32K63U176392

2010 HONDA ACCORD
Vin #1HGCS1B88AA017996

2008 TOYOTA SCION tC
Vin #JTKDE167780224268

2016 HONDA CIVIC
Vin #19XFC2F73GE217271

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

Run dates: 12/26/2025, 01/02, 01/09/2026

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court

Middlesex Probate and Family Court
10-U Commerce Way
Woburn, MA 01801
(781) 865-4000

Docket No. MI25C0707CA

In the Matter of
LUANA PRISCILA ALVES ROCHA

CITATION ON
PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A **Petition to Change Name of Adult** has been filed by **Luana Priscila Alves Rocha** of **Everett, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to: **Lucas Alves Rocha.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Middlesex Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of January 16, 2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

Witness, HON. TERRI L. KLUG CAFAZZO, First Justice of this Court

Date: December 31, 2025

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate

Run Date: 01/09/2026

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. SU25D1516DR

DIVORCE SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION AND MAILING

MARIO ANTONIO RIVERA CUBIAS
vs.
NANCY PATRICIA RUIZ DE RIVERA

To the Defendant:

The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for Irretrievable Breakdown

The Complaint is on file at the Court.

An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. **SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411.**

You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon **Mario Antonio Rivera Cubias, 101 Ashland St., Lynn, MA 01905** your answer, if any, on or before **March 03, 2026**. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court.

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

Date: December 31, 2025

Stephanie L. Everett, Esq., Register of Probate

Run date: 01/09/2026

EXTRA *Innings*

by Sal Giarratani

Patriots Blowout Dolphins on the Field- 38- 10

Who imagined out there that as this NFL season ended that the New England Patriots would finish with a 14-3 record to top the NFL East. At halftime, it was 17-10 and then the Patriots poured in all adding another 21 points that went unanswered. Quarterback Drake Maye put on an MVP performance on the field. It is now onto the Chargers for Coach Mike Vrabel, Drake Maye and the whole team. The Patriots are back. I say on to the Super Bowl, it has been too long not seeing the Patriots being the Patriots. Best offensive and best defense in the division. Getting the right coach and right quarterback working together, how could the Pats not win and win bigtime, huh?

Happy Birthday to Sandy Koufax

Legendary Los Angeles Dodgers Sandy Koufax just turned 90 years old on December 30. As an aging baby boomer who remembers him well, I am amazed he is still with us as a reminder of how great baseball once was back when I was growing up in the '50s and '60s. Sandy Koufax in my opinion was one of the greatest baseball pitchers of all time. He only played, I'd say, 13 seasons with only 154 wins lifetime. I was 6 years old when he came up to the majors with the Brooklyn Dodgers and he retired after the 1966 season in which he won 26 games. I was 18 years old at that time and he was only 33 years old. He retired at the top of his game with a progressive sore arm. Thirteen seasons mostly as a .500 win-lose pitcher. BUT those last 6 years, he turned into the best pitcher ever. Better than Cy Young, better than anybody who ever threw a pitch to home plate from the mound.

January 6, 2021

We all know what happened five years ago down in Washington, DC. You can bet the Democrats will keep reminding us of the craziness of that day, right? However, here I speak of sports. Maybe next week in my *To Talk* column, I'll talk about five years ago or maybe not.

Today, I did notice that the Boston Celtic who have struggled this year finally made it back to first place in the East division right? Thank God, while struggling out of the gate, no one is running away from the pack. Let's hope the Celtics can tap into the Patriots' energy.

You can't see it but today, I am wearing my good luck long-sleeve Celtics sweater from back in the day when the Celtics were two-tone Green-Yellow colors. My sweater is almost 35 years old and I am proud to say, I can still wear it well.

Here's a Little Baseball History

Did you know that Frank Malzone wore No.11 during his 11-year stint as the Red Sox third baseman that included 8 All-Star nods. I remember back in those lean years that Malzone played in Boston, late '50s into the '60s, the Red Sox were TERRIBLE year after year after year. Fans treated any Red Sox starter the second coming of Cy Young if he could just win 14 games over the season. If a pitcher got 15 wins put him into the Hall of Fame.

Getting back to Frank Malzone, one year I think he hit 24 home runs. His 24 homers led the team that year. It wasn't until Dick Stuart came along in 1963 that we had a slugger who finished with 42 home runs, second in the league behind Harmon Killebrew with 43 homers.

Sometimes People Can't Stay Out of Trouble

Recently, former baseball player Lenny Dykstra found himself in trouble again. He was a passenger in a vehicle which was stopped by the Pennsylvania state police for a motor vehicle violation. He was searched and found to be in possession of drugs. Lenny is 62 years old now and played 12 seasons in the majors, five with the Mets from 1985-96. His most recent arrest was back in 2018 for drug possession and threatening his Uber driver at that time in Linden, NJ.

I must say I always liked him but he was always a character and at times his own worst enemy. Hopefully, his latest arrest teaches him something but I really don't think so.

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

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court

Essex Probate and Family Court
36 Federal Street
Salem, MA 01970
(978) 744-1020

Docket No. ES25D2422DR

DIVORCE SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION AND MAILING

HAMIDA BRIMAH
vs.
MALIK M. ASARIE-BASSEY

To the Defendant:

The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for Cruel and Abusive Treatment.

The Complaint is on file at the Court.

An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. **SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411.**

You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon: **Breanishea Zhade Amaya, Esq., New England Law Boston, 46 Church St., Boston, MA 02116** your answer, if any, on or before **January 30, 2026**. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court.

Witness, HON. FRANCES M. GIORDANO, First Justice of this Court.

Date: December 05, 2025

Pamela Casey O'Brien, Register of Probate

Run date: 01/09/2026

• News Briefs

(Continued from Page 1)

End Quote

"In any college, you will find that 80 percent of the class is impressive and serious and gets a lot out of a college degree. Then you'll find the 20 percent that barely open a book and still gets a college degree."

— Former Duke Professor Stuart Rojstaczer

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court

Middlesex Probate and Family Court
10-U Commerce Way
Woburn, MA 01801
(781) 865-4000

Docket No. MI25C1108CA

In the Matter of
JAYZON JEFFERY KING

CITATION ON
PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A **Petition to Change Name of Adult** has been filed by **Jayzon Jeffery King** of **Westford, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to: **Jasper Artemis Gianski.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: 370 Jackson Street, 5th Floor, Lowell, MA 01852 before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of January 29, 2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

Witness, HON. TERRI L. KLUG CAFAZZO, First Justice of this Court

Date: December 31, 2025

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate

Run Date: 01/09/2026

Boxing Ringside

WITH BOBBY FRANKLIN

Have Gloves, Will Travel

These Globe Trotting Pugilists Racked Up the Frequent Flyer Miles

Most fighters stayed fairly close to home during the course of their careers. They would sometimes venture far from home for a big money fight either as a chance to break into the big time, or often at the back end of their time in the ring, as opponents.

Eddie Perkins

Saoul Mamby

There are some though who seem to be born with the wanderlust. They were not opponents and did not wait until they were on the way out to start packing their bags for travels to far away locales. They made their careers on the road. Two went on to become world champions.

Eddie Perkins and Saoul Mamby were both top-notch boxers; highly-skilled and well-versed in the art of defense. Perkins and Mamby both won world titles.

Perkins and Mamby had long careers with Eddie participating in 98 bouts while Mamby answered the opening bell on 85 occasions. It is interesting to note that with both fighters having a total of 183 bouts, each was stopped only once in his career.

Eddie Perkins (Right) winning the title from Duilio Loi

Eddie Perkins began his career in 1956, and for the first four years he fought mostly in the Chicago area. Then in 1961, he traveled to Monterrey, Mexico where he won a ten-round decision over Baby Vasquez. Eddie must have enjoyed the trip as he stayed on the road for the rest of the year. He fought three more times winning twice before being held to a draw when he challenged Duilio Loi for the World Light Welterweight title in Milan, Italy. After fifteen rounds the bout was declared a draw. considering the fight was held on Loi's home turf it is safe to assume Perkins gave a very account performance.

Eddie would return to the States for a couple of fights then got back on the move. He faced Loi again in Italy September of 1962. This time he got the decision and the title. Three months later he lost it back to Loi.

Eddie Perkins had a total of 98 fights. Out of that number he fought 48 times outside of the United States, just shy of half his career was spent on the road. He went on to win the Junior Welterweight title by beating Roberto Cruz in Manila in 1963 and held it until 1964. He continued fighting until 1975 closing out his career with a record of 74 wins (21 by KO), 20 losses (1 by KO), and 3 draws. During that career he fought in such places as Johannesburg, South Africa; Vienna, Austria; Santiago, Chile; Copenhagen, Denmark; Port-of Spain, Trinidad; Caracas, Venezuela; Bogota, Columbia; Manila, Philippines; to mention just a few.

Saoul Mamby was another master boxer who gave reigning Lightweight Champion Roberto Duran all he could handle in a non-title fight in 1976 at Miami Beach. Duran pulled out a close decision win over Mamby who used his great defensive skills to give the champion fits.

Mamby began his career in 1969 having his first pro fight in Kingston, Jamaica. After that he spent nearly three years fighting in the New York City area. Not known as a power puncher, he was a wily tactician who, while not always exciting, was quite effective in the ring. He showed skills early in his time in the ring that would be more often seen in a veteran boxer.

In 1972, he traveled to San Juan, Puerto Rico where he lost a 10-round split decision to Victor Ortiz. After that he started traveling more frequently, around the United States and abroad. He took on former Light Welterweight Champion Antonio Cervantes in Maracay, Venezuela in 1976 losing a 10-round decision.

The following year he challenged WBC Super Lightweight Champion Saensak Muangsurin in his native Thailand, losing a 15-round split decision in a bid to win the title. From there it was on to Paris and Curaçao, before landing a title shot against Sang Hyun Kim in Seoul, South Korea in 1980. Saoul did not leave it to the judges this time. He stopped the champion in the 14th round to gain the championship.

He returned to the States five months later where he defended the title against Esteban De Jesus whom he stopped in the 14-round in Bloomington, Minnesota.

Mamby stayed busy defending the title five times over the next two years, traveling out of the United States on two occasions to fight in Jakarta, Indonesia and Lagos, Nigeria, giving up any home turf advantage. He eventually lost the title to Leroy Haley via a split decision in 1983 in a fight in Cleveland.

Mamby would continue fighting for an incredible 25 more years having his last bout in 2008 at the age of 63 when lost a 10-round decision to Anthony Osborne. The fight was held in the Cayman Islands and Mamby gained the

Mamby (Right) takes on Roberto Duran

distinction of being the oldest man to participate in an officially sanctioned bout.

In a career that totaled 85 professional fights, Mamby fought outside of the United States 24 times. Even after winning the title he defended it on foreign turf, never putting on the line in his home town of New York.

Of his 85 bouts, Mamby won 45 (18 by KO), lost 34, and had 6 draws. Like Eddie Perkins, he was only stopped once, and that was at the age of 38.

Both of these men became well-known around the world. They won world titles far from home and defended those titles in far off lands. Why did they fight so often out of their home country? Perhaps they simply enjoyed traveling, or maybe paydays were better than what they could get in the United States. Whatever the reasons, they did well on the road. I think it is safe to assume at least some of their losses were via home town decisions seeing how often they were fighting on their opponent's turf.

With all of those destinations under their belts I'm sure they had some very interesting stories to tell. Too bad they didn't write them down.

HOOPS and HOCKEY in the HUB

by Richard Preiss

AN INCOMPLETE PASS? There may be several of those come the first weekend of February since the Super Bowl is set for the first Sunday of that month (February 8).

But the biggest single incomplete pass that weekend will be taking place overseas in Milan, Italy where the main Olympic hockey rink is supposed to open.

And apparently open it will, although in a downsized incomplete form, probably disappointing thousands of fans who have already bought tickets to the various games that will be played in both the women's and men's tournaments over a two-week period.

Speaking at the world junior championships in Minnesota during the first week of January, International Ice Hockey Federation President Luc Tardif admitted that the main rink will not be completed on time but that the ice, various practice facilities and locker rooms would be ready.

Thus the arena will open, passing (because it must) in a low-grade incomplete form.

That apparently fulfills NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman's October statement that "a competitive ice sheet" be ready — with his deputy Bill Daly later adding that the NHL would not participate if its demands were not met by February 2 — just three days before the opening of the women's tournament on February 5.

Noticeably absent from Bettman's comments were any statements regarding the rest of the building, including seating areas, food and beverage locations plus restrooms for those attending the events.

Yes, all those are necessary for fans to completely enjoy the games taking place before them.

And Tardif confirmed that the contests will be played in an incomplete building — downsized to a seating capacity of approximately 11,800.

This is a severe blow to marketing efforts since for years leading up to the games the arena was billed as a facility that would hold around 16,000. This was later reduced to around 14,000 and it has gone down again — to 11,800.

In addition, with the now downsized capacity those that oversee the Olympics may be facing a huge public relations problem.

Back in the fall, we read that the men's gold medal game — scheduled for February 22 — was already sold out. If that is true and it was sold out based on a supposed (at the time) 16,000 seat capacity, how do you tell 4,200 people that they won't be attending the gold medal game?

Sure, you can refund their money but that may not be good enough to satisfy those who were looking forward to attending a once-in-a- lifetime world class event.

Furthermore, if they purchased their tickets through third party entities, they may find it challenging to get their money returned.

Back in the fall Bettman said the NHL was not involved in the on-site construction, describing the league's status as that of "invitees."

Similarly, when speaking with representatives from the *AP*, Tardif noted that his organization is not overseeing construction, leaving that aspect to the International Olympic Committee and local organizers.

As time went on the NHL sent a number of its ice specialists to Milan to offer advice on the reaching of NHL ice standards.

And what are those standards? In browsing the internet we found the following:

An ice sheet maintained at 24 degrees Fahrenheit for ideal conditions.

An ice thickness ranging from one inch thick to an inch and a quarter in thickness — and sometimes reaching an inch and a half.

This requires large amounts of water — 10,000 to 15,000 gallons with an eye towards water conservation of this precious resource.

An additional requirement for the Olympics is that the ice be able to withstand multiple uses per day since games will be played on the ice morning, afternoon and night — particularly during the early rounds. The TD Garden ice sheet can do that since that is exactly what happens in the years when the high school tournaments are played there — sometimes six games in one day.

Italy was awarded the 2026 Winter Olympics back in 2019, leaving plenty of time for the nation to prepare.

Instead, the nation is left with this mess literally. In an article published by the *Canadian Broadcasting Corporation* on January 3, writer Chris Jones wrote that "the troubled arena … isn't going to be finished. Will it get finished enough is the real question."

A few days later Tardif gave the latest answer — with probably more information to come as the countdown continues.

In his piece Jones described a landscape awash in construction equipment and supplies, implying that those attending would be walking past such an environment rather than a nicely groomed area.

But then he added additional observations: "There are still vast stretches of wasteland abandoned mid-development after a dispute over the safety of local groundwater. The arena is surrounded by muddy fields and roads leading to nowhere and piles of rubble that have sat for so long that trees have started growing out of them."

It sure doesn't sound like the way to leave a positive impression with thousands of visitors from around the world.

Of course, it did not have to come to this. But somehow, in some way or ways, it did so, consuming in the process a large portion of the time-honored publicity that usually

(Continued on Page 9)