

POST-GAZETTE

(Formerly LA GAZZETTA del MASSACHUSETTS)

VOL. 131 - NO. 8

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS, FEBRUARY 20, 2026

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Boston Mayor Michelle Wu Would Cast Her Ballot in Support of State Wide Rent Control

City of Boston Mayor Michelle Wu seems to have had a change of heart regarding a state wide rent control ballot measure, now appearing to support it after previously indicating she was in opposition. Given similar legislation filed by the mayor and approved by the City Council in 2023, continues to sit in limbo up at the State House, it seems Mayor Wu feels something is better than nothing.

"If this is still on the ballot by this fall, I am a Yes Vote for it. It's not perfect, and it's not what the City of Boston put forward, but I am not going to let perfect be the enemy of the good in this case, when there is so much urgency and pressure from housing costs on our residents," Wu stated.

The proposed ballot question would cap annual rent increases for a majority of housing units in Massachusetts to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) or 5%, whichever is higher. It also includes exemptions for

owner-occupied buildings with four or less units and for newly constructed buildings in the first 10 years of being built.

Wu has previously hinted that she was opposed to the statewide rent control initiative and feared it could stall housing production. In the mayor's proposal yearly rent increases would be capped at 6% plus CPI increases, with a maximum of 10%. It would also allow for exemptions for new construction and owner-occupied landlords as well as offer stronger protection against evictions.

While the mayor did state she could support the state wide measure, she also noted that she was hopeful state lawmakers would compromise on a rent control measure prior to it being placed on the ballot. "We need to see something happen, and I hope there can be some compromise worked out, because every city's condition is quite different from each other," Wu said.

Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey Lays Out FY27 Budget

by Patti Sartori

Governor Maura Healey appeared at the State House before a Joint Ways and Means Committee to offer an overview of her FY27 budget proposal. Healey's first order of business was to blast President Trump for his cuts to federal COVID relief funding and other programs along with blaming his tariffs for the economic challenges currently facing the Bay State.

"Over the past three years, we've worked together collaboratively and constructively through a period marked by significant physical challenges. Federal pandemic funding went away altogether. The cost of everything nationwide has gone up. Donald Trump cut funding and caused chaos. And in spite of these challenges we were able to protect the taxpayer. In the past year, Donald Trump has essentially taken a hatchet to state budgets across the country. In Massachusetts alone, \$3.7 billion has been stripped away. That includes over \$1.1 billion in cuts to healthcare, cuts to food programs that feed kids in school and seniors at home, cuts to public safety and emergency response. You name



it." Healey stated to the Joint Committee.

Healey's proposed budget increases spending by 3.8% over the FY26 budget with tax revenues projected to rise by just 2.9%.

Healey did not escape questioning concerning the severe outmigration issue as well as the increasing number of businesses that are relocating to other states or shutting down completely. "This is something on my mind every day. I think Massachusetts is an incredible state. I think we've got assets that other states would kill

for. Outmigration is actually down since our administration," Healey offered in response.

According to the most recent U.S. Census Bureau, Massachusetts continues to see significant outmigration numbers, with the state losing approximately 182,000 residents while adding 152,000 in the 12-month period ending on July 1, 2025. That results in a net domestic outmigration of over 30,000 residents. The data also pointed to Massachusetts relying on international immigration for adding residents to the state.

Healey didn't fully tackle the loss of businesses, nor did she accept responsibility for the rising utility costs. "You have to acknowledge, I think we all have to, that a lot of the costs on utility bills are not happenstance. They come from legislative mandates since 2021."

The House and Senate will rework Governor Healey's proposed budget within their respective chambers sometime in April and May with the goal of passing a timely budget by June 30. Fiscal Year 2027 begins on July 1.

News Briefs

by Sal Giarratani

Peabody Got Hacked Last Summer

According to the *Daily Item*, many citizens recently received notice from the City of Peabody that the city experienced a cyber security incident last summer and that their computer system had been hacked. Many who received this thought it was a scam, but it turns out to be authentic. According to City Hall, it happened on July 7, 2025. Peabody became aware that certain computer network systems weren't accessible. The city at that time took steps to secure their systems and launched an investigation with the assistance of third-party computer specialists.

Feds Plan to Spend \$38.3 Billion to Boost Detention Capacity to 92,000 Beds

Federal immigration officials plan to spend \$38.3 billion to boost detention capacity to 92,000 beds. ICE has been quietly purchasing warehouses to turn into detention and processing facilities. Republican Gov. Kelly Ayotte of New Hampshire posted that document with those details online amid growing tensions over ICE's plans to convert a Merrimack warehouse into a 500-bed processing center.

Plans call for 16 regional processing facilities up and running by November. This expansion of detention facilities to be financed by President Trump's tax-cutting law.

Is the Sedan Coming Back?

With new car prices topping \$50,000, U.S. auto-makers are actually having second thoughts about

(Continued on Page 10)

U.S. House of Representatives Passes SAVE America Act

by Patti Sartori

The House of Representatives recently approved the SAVE America Act, in a 218 to 213 vote, which would implement newly imposed restrictions for registering to vote and casting ballots, something Democrats adamantly oppose, citing the potential to disenfranchise millions of eligible voters. Only one Democrat voted with all Republicans in favor of the bill. The legislation now heads to the Senate, where its status remains uncertain.

The SAVE America Act would require documentation that shows proof of citizenship, such as a passport or birth certificate, in order to register to vote in federal elections. It would also implement photo ID requirements for voting itself.

U.S. Speaker of the House Mike Johnson, (R-LA), pointed to polling that reflects high levels of support for showing proof of citizenship and photo ID to vote. A 2024 Gallup poll, found that 83% of Americans support a policy requiring people

registering to vote for the first time must provide proof of citizenship, and a poll from the PEW Research Center from August, 2025 found 83% of Americans favor requiring voters to show government issued photo ID to vote. "Common sense legislation to just ensure that American citizens decide American elections, it is really that simple," stated House Speaker Johnson.

Democrats argue that the bill would have negative implications for millions of Americans who don't have access to documents proving their citizenship. "If you're one of the 50% of Americans who doesn't have a passport, if you're one of the tens of millions of Americans who can't quickly access your birth certificate, the SAVE Act could, in effect, take away your right to vote, exclaimed Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, a New York Democrat, on the Senate floor last week, calling the legislation "extreme."

Senate Majority Leader John Thune, a South Dakota

Republican, said leadership is in deep discussion about how to move the legislation forward in the Senate. To reach the 60-vote threshold, Senate Republicans would need support from at least 7 Democrats, and already one Republican, Senator Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, has come out against it, citing concerns about changes to the election too close to the November midterms. "Election Day is fast approaching. Imposing new federal requirements now, when states are deep into their preparations would negatively impact election integrity by forcing election officials to scramble to adhere to the new policies likely without necessary resources."

Johnson met with Thune last week regarding the legislation, indicating the Senate leader is "Committed" to bringing it up for a vote. "I don't tell him how to run the Senate, but I trust he is committed to it, and they're trying to figure that out, figure out the right path," stated Johnson.

Stirpe Nostra

by Prof. Edmund Turiello

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



HERCULES

The Legendary Strong Man



Roman relief (3rd century AD) depicting a sequence of the Labours of Hercules, representing (from left to right): the Nemean lion, the Lernaean Hydra, the Erymanthian Boar, the Ceryneian Hind, the Stymphalian Birds, the Girdle of Hippolyta, the Augean Stables, the Cretan Bull, and the Mares of Diomedes

Mythology identifies Primary Beings, Titans, gods, and demigods. They have all been discussed in previous issues, except the demigods. This last group is imagined to be the offspring from the union of a god with a mortal being. Dardanus, the founder of Troy, King Minos of Crete, Helen of Troy, Aeneas, the ancestor of the Romans, and Hercules are some of the better-known demigods. Hercules (Heracles in Greek) is claimed to be one of the most ancient and most famous of all mythological heroes, and his legendary accomplishments are said to be the richest and most comprehensive of all myths.

Hercules was born in the ancient Greek city of Thebes, the son of the god Zeus and a mortal named Alcmene. The legend tells of Alcmene being visited by Zeus one evening, and by her husband on the following evening. Consequently, she gave birth to twin boys. One child was named Hercules and the other was named Iphicles. Visits of this nature were not uncommon in the many legends

of Zeus (that little rascal.) Hera, the wife of Zeus, was not unaware of her husband's extramarital activities. Usually, her only recourse was to hate the illegitimate children with a passion, and to do all in her power to cause them misery and despair during their adult lives. As a test to determine which boy was the son of Zeus, two snakes were placed in the crib with the brothers. Iphicles screamed in terror, but Hercules grabbed the snakes by the throat and strangled them.

As Hercules grew into young manhood, a number of famous athletes contributed to his education in the various sports. He was instructed in chariot racing, wrestling, archery, and fencing. Linus, the brother of Orpheus, also instructed the strong man in the use of the lyre.

By the time he reached the age of seventeen, Hercules was over six feet tall and an expert marksman with bow and spear. His amazing strength, coupled with his excellent training in wrestling, commanded the greatest respect from all

who knew him. This notoriety soon came to the attention of King Thespius, whose flocks were being ravaged by a ferocious lion. When asked if he would stalk and kill the beast, Hercules refused. Some early writers, in a humorous report, indicate that the king's fifty daughters, plus great quantities of wine, convinced Hercules to change his mind. Other writers insist that Hercules conserved his strength for the fight with the lion, and that his rewards came after he slew the beast.

The next phase in the story of this legendary strong man is most important as it identifies the series of events, which led to the imposition of the celebrated "Labors of Hercules." (The principal characters involved in those labors were sculpted in marble by Phidias on the frieze of the Parthenon in Athens, Greece. Some of these pieces are now in the British Museum as part of the Elgin Marbles that Lord Elgin stole from Greece about

(Continued on Page 10)

Mass State Auditor Files Lawsuit Against State Legislature

by Patti Sartori

Massachusetts State Auditor Diana DiZogio is following through on her commitment to hold the State House accountable to voters who approved an audit of the Legislature in 2024 with 72% support. "This morning our office has filed, with a single justice at the Supreme Judicial Court, requesting that the single justice grant the ability to appoint an attorney of our choosing so we can bring this case before the courts. The Supreme Judicial Court has an opportunity to get it right, stand with the people, and increase trust and faith in our state government, including in the courts themselves, and the people of this Commonwealth deserve access to the government they pay for," stated DiZogio.

The Auditor is suing State House leadership, namely House Speaker Ron Mariano, Senate President Karen Spilka, as well as the clerk's in each chamber. The lawsuit seeks relief from the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court to order Mariano and Spilka to comply with and produce all requested records for the legislative audit, and to appoint outside counsel of the auditor's choice to represent her office.

"The current order request simply seeks to make public the financial and state contracting records that are a matter of public record for all other state government entities and every city and town of the Commonwealth. It is unacceptable that any of our lawmakers would defend withholding taxpayer funded financial receipts for state contracts. There is no defense for what's happening right now. This is your money and you deserve to know how it's spent. 72% of you went to the polls and voted overwhelmingly to approve the legislative audit. Massachusetts is the only state in the nation that allows our Governor, Legislature and Judiciary to exempt themselves from the state's public office laws," exclaimed DiZogio.

North End Waterfront Residents Association (NEWRA) Monthly Meeting

NEWRA held its monthly meeting on the second Thursday of the month, February 12, at the Nazzaro Community Center, 30 North Bennett Street. The group was pleased to welcome back President Cheryl DeGrecio who was unable to attend last month's meeting. Cheryl always runs an informative and disciplined meeting.

Boston Police Department Area A-1 Community Service Office Micheal Mustacchio and Sargent Sean Walsh provided an overview of 911 calls including a 1:00 a.m. disturbance outside Bricco at 241 Hanover Street. A premise check was performed, management was cooperative and the situation was de-escalated. Another resident reported his motor vehicle had been stolen from the area of 450 Commercial Street, but it turned out it had actually been towed by the city. The officers also gave an update on District 1 Crime statistics over the past year. Robberies, aggravated assault and violent crime are all down. A couple of issues that continue to be problematic are larceny of motor vehicles and property within the vehicles, which often occurs when the vehicles are left unlocked, and theft of packages left out in the open or in unlocked doorways. Overall, the officers stressed the neighborhood continues to remain safe.

The proponent and representatives from 133-135 North Washington Street, a newly proposed six-story apartment building, appeared before the group once again to announce they had come to a mutual agreement on the proposed development with the abutters on Endicott Street. The plan now calls for 13 units, down from 16, no rear decks, and 8 foot and 12 foot rear setbacks, which all parties agreed were reasonable concessions. The sticking point with some NEWRA members is the frontline height of the building, which will meet the cornerstone of the abutting building at 60 feet, five feet over the allowed 55 foot height limit in the North End. The rear of the building will actually be 50 feet, five feet under the height restriction. The applicants attorney said they would move ahead with their request for relief at the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) and will not entertain decreasing the height of the building site line. The final NEWRA vote on the proposed project was 10 in support and 10 in opposition.

Another portion of the meeting covered six different restaurants and establishments that filed for an application with the City of Boston to upgrade from a beer, wine and cordial license to all-alcohol licenses; Caffè Dello Sport (308 Hanover Street), Aria Trattoria (253 Hanover Street), Dolce (272 Hanover Street), Quattro (264 Hanover Street), AquaPazza (135 Richmond Street), and Modern Pastry (257 Hanover Street). None of the establishments will alter their current operating or closing hours. NEWRA voted in support of each establishments request to upgrade to an all-alcohol license and will send a letter of support to the ABCC and Boston Licensing Department.

The final piece of the agenda was a pest control update by Luke Hines, special project manager of the Boston Rodent Action Plan (BRAP). This is a cross departmental effort between ISD, PWD, Parks Department and led by Mayor Wu's office. The goal is to redirect rodent population and identify key driver issues using data, various tools and track trash collection process. It has been an ongoing effort and will continue into the early spring when Hines will report back to NEWRA with the progress. Please continue to call 311 with problem areas, as there is a dedicated team of inspectors who will respond within 24 to 48 hours.

The next scheduled NEWRA meeting will take place on Thursday, March 12, 6:30 p.m., at the Nazzaro Center, 30 North Bennet Street. Please make every effort to attend.

Massachusetts Congressional Members Wealth Grows Exponentially!

It hard not to wonder just how some members of the United States Congress enter office somewhat average earning Americans and miraculously become millionaires almost overnight. Is it more than a coincidence? One member who has recently raised a few eyebrows is Democratic Congresswoman Ayanna

Pressley (D-MA), whose net worth in 2018 went from a flat line to an estimated \$8 million net worth, thanks in part to a number of rental properties, including Boston, Fort Lauderdale and Martha's Vineyard. It's been reported that a 2024 sale of the Florida property made the Congresswoman a hefty profit.

Representative Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.) was another member of congress who had practically nothing when elected and is now reported to be worth approximately \$25 million. The House Oversight Committee is looking into the rapid rise. "We're going to get answers, whether it's through the Ethics Committee or the Oversight Committee, one of the two," stated Oversight Chair James Comer (R-KY) to the *New York Post*.

Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren is said to be worth \$10 million, thanks in part to lucrative book deals, while Congresswoman Katherine Clark reportedly increased her net worth from over \$6 million in 2018 to approximately \$14 million, including almost a half a million dollar gain in the stock market last year.

It's no wonder candidates fight so hard to join this elite club, not only are they pretty much in a job for life once elected but it's fair safe to say they have reached Easy Street once they've arrived in Washington, DC.

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POST-GAZETTE

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e-mail: postgazette@aol.com

Website: www.BostonPostGazette.com

Subscriptions in the United States \$35.00 yearly

Published weekly by

Post-Gazette, 5 Prince St., P.O. Box 130135,
 Boston, MA 02113

USPS 1538 – Second-Class Postage paid at Boston, MA

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the
 POST-GAZETTE - P.O. Box 130135, Boston, MA 02113

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Vol. 131 - No. 8

Friday, February 20, 2026

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

John J. Rosato, Jr.

January 29, 1957 - February 20, 2017



Always
in Our
Hearts,

Never
to be
Forgotten

Love,
Jake, Jáclene & Mary

Photo Submission Guidelines

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



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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

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Frances Marie (Graffeo) Longo

Frances Marie (Graffeo) Longo, age 91, of Medford passed away peacefully on Saturday, February 7, 2026, with her family by her side.

Raised and educated in Boston's North End, she was the daughter of the late Alphonso and Frances (Molea) Graffeo. After finishing school, Frances married and moved to Medford, and was employed as a bookkeeper but always a mom first. She had a passion for travel and would pack a bag and go anywhere at any time and loved visiting Aruba. Holidays with children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and all family were Frances' most favorite times, especially Christmas Eve. Her friends were of great importance to her as well, and she thoroughly enjoyed their regular card games, dinners out or in the latter years reminiscing of days gone by and cherished times spent together.

Frances was the devoted mother of Theresa Pietrolungo and her husband Ivo of Medford, Salvatore Longo of Medford and his late wife Cindy, Alfred Longo of Malden and his Fiancée Lori Simas, and Louis Longo and his wife Tracy of Pelham, NH. She was the loving



grandmother of Karla, Anthony and his Fiancée Eleni, Brooke and her Fiancée Cristianne, Trevor and Tyler, and the great-grandmother of Domenic, Alexa and Cameron. Frances was predeceased by her former husband Louis J. Longo. She was the sister of Michael Graffeo and his wife Mary of Arizona, Anthony Graffeo and his wife Linda of Plymouth, MA and his late wife Marilyn, and the late

Anna Del Buono and her surviving husband James of Florida. She was the cherished aunt of Alfred, Michael, Amy, Ann, Brian, Michael and Andrea and so many other nieces and nephews that called her Auntie.

Visiting hours were held in the Dello Russo Funeral Home, 306 Main Street, Medford on Monday, February 16th and again on Tuesday, February 17th followed by a Mass of Christian Burial celebrated in St. Francis of Assisi Church, 441 Fellsway West, Medford. Services concluded with entombment at Holy Cross Mausoleum, Malden.

Donations in Frances memory can be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memorials Processing, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105-9959.

May She Rest in Peace

One Month Until the 250th Anniversary of EVACUATION DAY

Commemorative Event to Recognize the
British Evacuation of Boston in 1776

On Tuesday, March 17, 2026, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, in partnership with the National Park Service, the City of Boston, the South Boston Citizens Association, and civic and historical organizations, will commemorate the 250th anniversary of

Evacuation Day, marking the historic departure of British forces from Boston in 1776 and the first major victory of the American Revolutionary War.

The commemoration, part of Massachusetts 250, will feature a ceremonial 10:30 a.m. processional march through South Boston, re-enacting the transportation of canon towards the Dorchester Heights Monument in South Boston. A commemorative program will begin at 11:00 a.m., and rededicate the newly refurbished monument at Dorchester Heights. The event will honor the service and sacrifice of thousands of soldiers and civilians whose efforts ended the 332-day Siege of Boston and altered the course of American history.

On March 5, 1776, General George Washington, alongside General Henry Knox, positioned artillery transported from Fort Ticonderoga atop Dorchester Heights using prefabricated fortifications. Facing a fortified American position and weakened by weather and strained conditions, British General William Howe ordered the evacuation of more than 11,000 soldiers and over 1,200 Loyalist civilians aboard a fleet of 120 ships on March 17, 1776. British



forces never again occupied Massachusetts.

The procession is open to the public, and the ceremony will be held within a tent at the Dorchester Heights Monument. Admission to an adjacent tent is free and open to the public. The commemorative program

will include historical reenactments, music, a wreath-laying ceremony, and a community time capsule event, culminating in celebratory canon fire and music recessional.

Event Highlights — Dorchester Heights Monument

- Color Guard, musical entertainment, and re-enactor procession of more than 20 groups
- Monument rededication ceremony
- Remarks from state, federal, and city leaders
- Community time capsule presentation
- Musical performances and ceremonial wreath laying
- Bugle performance of Taps

Scheduled Speakers include:

- National Park Service representative
- Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey
- Massachusetts Congressman Stephen Lynch
- Boston Mayor Michelle Wu
- South Boston Citizens Association representative
- Community representatives and historians

L'Anno Bello: A Year in Italian Folklore

Learning to Love Lent

by Ally Di Censo Symynkywicz



Deep inside, we know that spring is coming. Not even layers of snow can disguise the rosy light of a late evening sky or the increasing chatter of birds singing from the bare bushes. However, for many of us, the winter season still reigns supreme. The thermometer dips to the low twenties, causing nights when the air stands so chill that I want nothing more than to rush home and gulp down a mug of hot chocolate. Winter's thick blankets of snow will likely remain on the ground for a long time — but even when there is no snow, the ground below us still reveals unsightly patches of dirt and dry grass left over from summer. Seasonal produce also varies unpredictably, as the oranges and lemons of winter peter out before the tender herbs and peas of spring can line the supermarket shelves. Rather than a herald of gloom, however, this liminal period simply represents nature's renewal and regeneration for the rapidly approaching spring. Once we understand that nature proceeds to awaken from her slumber underneath all this snow, seasonal periods like Lent will make even more sense. The vernal equinox and the joyous celebration of Easter loom closer every day, and just like the natural world around us, we too must purify our beings and examine our consciousness before embarking on a springtime adventure. With its restorative qualities and voyage of discovery, the Lenten season safely carries us over into spring.

This year, Lent began on February 18th, Ash Wednesday. It covers a 40-day period prior to Easter, the most important feast in the Christian calendar. These days serve to prepare the faithful for Easter through purification rituals such as

prayer, fasting, charity and self-reflection. The timing of Lent is highly symbolic, as it occurs during a seemingly barren season in which nature also purifies herself after a long winter, emerging ready for the rebirth of spring. In order to appreciate the glory of Easter and spring, however, we need to embrace the seasonal transition with contemplation and introspection, an opportunity which Lent generously affords us. When my father was a child in Italy, Lent, or *la Quaresima*, functioned as a somber and austere period, matching the chill sterility of nature. Though the rules have relaxed since then, the rite of purification remains the crux of Lenten customs in Italy and beyond. This explains the popular practice of giving up a bad habit or an indulgence for Lent, a tradition which is not mentioned in the Bible but nevertheless fits seamlessly with the folkloric cleansing rituals of the season. The purpose of this Lenten abstinence should not be deprivation, but rather a chance to examine our values or priorities and improve ourselves. This Lent, for example, I gave up my browsing some of my favorite websites, in order that I may break my smartphone habit and spend more mindful time with my family. The promise of Lent, however, stands in the fact that all of our hard work will be rewarded with a beautiful springtime. After all, the English term for Lent shares the same root with the word *lengthen*, referring to the growth of daylight in the spring sky!

Lent means more than saying goodbye to your favorite treat, though. In Italy, this meditative time inspired the creation of unique folk traditions and customs that would come to define the tapestry of pre-Easter celebrations. The most famous

Lenten rule involves the forbidding of meat on Fridays; as such, ingenious Italian cooks devised many fish and vegetable dishes for these days. A visitor to Italy during Lent will notice farmers' markets bursting with fresh fish and *baccalá* (dried cod), along with the first spring vegetables, from which can be crafted a nourishing minestrone. Italians also snack on *quaresimali*, or almond biscuits, which, as the name suggests, are made especially for Lent. According to the author Helen Barolini in her book *Festa*, a simple and customary Italian Lenten dessert is *pizza fritta*, fried dough sprinkled with sugar. My mother and grandmother would frequently whip up this dessert when I was younger, much to my pleasure, though I only recently learned of its Lenten connotations. The people in Italy also celebrate the fourth Sunday of Lent as *Mezza Quaresima*, or mid-Lent. These festivities mark the halfway point of Lent and honor the imminent arrival of Easter, and many Italian towns and cities hold parties and processions reminiscent of Carnival. Of course, due to the self-reflection and sacrifice that accompanies Lent, it is important to remember that giving is just as powerful as abstaining. People in Italy and around the world commemorate Lent with charity and community service, and truly there is no better way to spread the light of spring than by helping others.

When the glitter of Carnival and the crumbs of St. Valentine's Day candies are swept away, the erratic and unfruitful period between winter and spring can seem even more barren and cold. However, the journey of Lent reminds us that the promise of Easter and the spring is never far away. Just as sprouts begin to stir beneath the frost and robins fly back from their winter homes, just as buds nuzzle out of tree branches and melting snow drips down the street drains, we too can enter a meditative period of self-examination and inner cleansing. We can prepare ourselves for the joy that is spring. Lent permits us to challenge ourselves, perform charitable acts, and observe new and exciting traditions of the world. With Lent, we honor change and rebirth, darkness and light, and emerge as better people into the spring sunshine.

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.

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THINKING OUT LOUD

by Sal Giaratani



There is Absolutely Nothing Wrong with the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act

I have been reading up on the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility, or SAVE America Act, pushing strict proof-of-citizenship requirements for voters ahead of midterms and I believe the SAVE Act is an important piece of legislation long overdue.

The need for voters showing up at the polls is more important now than ever. Back when I first started voting, I always knew the poll workers at my old voting precincts and they knew me. I never thought of the need to show identification, it wasn't needed. However, times have changed. Today, we seemingly have become a nation of strangers. I now believe that voters presenting themselves at the polls should be able to show proof of who they are. When my daughter first started to vote back in 2004, she was so surprised no one asked for proof of who she was and wondered why. I told her now the system seems to assume that no one would ever lie to them and therefore, "Here's your ballot whoever you say you are and go over there and vote."

I support passage of the SAVE America Act. Recent polls show most people also support voter identification to register to vote and to show up at the polls to vote. Nearly 83 percent of Americans have no problem with Voter IDs.

However, when the House voted on this new requirement, it mostly passed on a party-line vote, 218-213 with almost all

Democrats voting down photo IDs down.

I have noticed recently how Democrats up on Capitol Hill have been scare mongering. I read that U.S. Rep. Katherine Clark, D-Massachusetts 5th Congressional District, was recently telling voters that if the SAVE Act passed, it could prohibit many female voters from voting if they were married and are now using their marriage name. This is all pure baloney. Nothing in this Trump-supported legislation would prevent any registered voter from voting. Also, bemoaning poor people who don't have any photo ID is more fake outrage. The other day I purchased a new camera, paid for it with a check and needed to show my driver's license before I could buy it. Democrats think any kind of identification to vote is a form of voting suppression. Whether or not voter fraud happens or not isn't the question. The question is are we doing the best we can to guard against voter fraud to protect the integrity of the electoral system.

Why did the overwhelming majority of House Democrats vote against the SAVE Act while an overwhelming majority of voters, all kinds of voters, all colors, all ages support proving who you are at election time? Photo IDs to vote isn't controversial, it's common sense. Democrats need to start listening to their constituents more and stop with all their political shenanigans and double-talk.

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Boston City Hall Plaza to Serve as FIFA Fan Fest Site



Members of the Boston City Council, State Representative Aaron Michlewitz, Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey and Boston Mayor Michelle Wu at the announcement of FIFA Fan Fest.

Boston will be a hot spot of activity this summer, adding to Sail 250 in July will be FIFA Fan Fest at Boston City Hall Plaza. Soccer fans from across all continents will descend on Boston and Gillette Stadium for World Cup matches between June 13 and July 9. Over 2 million visitors are expected to visit, with City Hall Plaza sited as a primary gathering spot for fans to watch games and enjoy other festivities.

Mayor Wu plans to increase the city's annual block-party grants to allow watch parties taking place across Boston neighborhoods. "Hosting the World Cup is a fantastic opportunity to show off our entire city and the best of Boston to the people from all around the world who will be showing up and to highlight the small businesses and our local communities, and neighbors who make up our city every day," stated Mayor Wu.

Commentary ...

Elected Officials Have a Duty and Obligation to Protect U.S. Elections

by Patti Sartori

At a time when public trust in government is fragile, lawmakers from across both aisles have a responsibility to strengthen confidence in our democratic system. The SAVE America Act represents an important step in that direction. By safeguarding election integrity, transparency and accountability, this legislation sends a clear message to Republican and Democratic leaders that protecting the vote is not a partisan issue, it is a national one.

The objective of the SAVE America Act is to ensure only eligible American citizens are able to vote and simply requires a U.S. voter to show ID before casting their ballot. How this differs from an individual or American citizen who is required to show ID when

purchasing liquor, cigarettes, renting a car, a prescription, checking in at a hotel, conducting a financial transaction at a bank, or checking in at an airport to take a flight is literally beyond my comprehension.

Last week, I was asked for my ID while using a check to purchase stamps at the post office on Hanover Street in the North End, I didn't get upset or mad, or accuse the worker of racism or sexism, I simply complied. The majority of polling data shows broad public support, upwards of 83%, for Voter ID requirements, with large majorities of Americans expressing support of the legislation. Many U.S. adults are in favor of requiring some form of government-issued photo ID to vote, including 71% of Democrats

and 95% of Republicans according to a survey conducted by PEW Research. Only 16% of American adults oppose it.

The argument or excuses opponents have put forth are weak, suggesting it will disenfranchise voters and is an act of suppression, particularly for women who change their name after marriage, who don't have their birth certificates, don't have Real ID or driver's license, or the necessary ID to vote, even though they are citizens. As a female who has been married for almost twenty-seven years, I had no problem changing my social security card, obtaining a passport, or real ID over the years. Yes, I had to show my birth certificate and marriage license, but these are documents that easily obtained for all American citizens, regardless of whether you live in a large urban city or a small rural town.

The goal is not to disenfranchise voters, or to suppress the vote in any way, but rather it's to ensure U.S. elections are free and fair to all eligible American Citizen voters. After all, free and fair elections are the foundation of any democracy. Public confidence in elections is crucial, if people believe the process is secure, they are more likely to accept the results.

Our founding fathers set forth our electoral process 250 years ago, it is our duty and responsibility to safeguard the most sacred right all American citizens were born with. I am quite sure 250 years ago, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Paul Revere, John Hancock, Samuel Adams and many others would have fully supported voter ID if it meant keeping the British out of American elections.

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State Rep. Aaron Michlewitz and Victor Brogna Trade Honors



North End resident Victor Brogna and State Representative Aaron Michlewitz present each other with awards at the Massachusetts State House. Victor for his dedication to the North End community and Aaron for his support of the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program.

The Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP) presented an award to State Representative Aaron Michlewitz for his continued support of the MRVP. Native born North End resident Victor Brogna was honored to introduce Representative Michlewitz and present him with a Big Cookie Award, not only because he counts the Representative as his dear friend, but also because Michlewitz occupies the same position, as State Rep. from the North End, as Victor's dad did a little over 100 years ago. The roots of the North End generations run very deeply throughout the community.

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Friends, Romans, Countrymen!

by Laura Carlo

The name Troisi sounded familiar. “Did your family own a hair salon on Hanover Street in the 60s-70s?” “Yes! My grandparents did! They were both stylists! I remember my brother and me playing with the cash register and messing up the figures!” “I knew it was familiar! That’s where my Nonna had her hair done for decades!”

We also reminisced about having the whole family show up without fail at our grandparents’ places for day-long Sunday dinners with homemade pasta & meatballs. “I absolutely miss it, but we still try to keep some of those heartwarming traditions going.”

Meet Paul Troisi, the founder of Troy Mobility, based in Peabody. Back when the 2008 financial crisis hit, Paul realized that with a young family to care for, he needed to be part of a recession-proof business. The Apple iPhone was gaining popularity and he just sensed that Blackberry, the main MDM organization taking care of data for various companies at the time, was not going to be lasting long term. MDM, or Mobile Device Management, helps manage connectivity to the cellphone, and then from cellphones to a company’s infrastructure, and even to their back-office resources (such as email and internal file sharing). He decided to start his own MDM business and soon discovered that while there were other companies already doing this, they were affiliated with



one particular vendor. His idea was to build a business that would focus on your company’s needs and then find the best solution.

“It doesn’t matter what your company does, whether financial or legal services, construction, sales, your people are using their mobile devices (cellphones or tablets), as the primary tool to do their jobs. The phones and the laptops are receiving the same type of information, for example, accessing the same Cloud services, but most likely there’s a ‘hands off’ approach to the mobile device. We help companies understand how to achieve ‘device parity.’ By the way, large companies often have in-house tech-security staff, but small to mid-size companies are often on their own.”

What if employees want to use their own phones while they do their jobs? “That’s fine, but companies must understand they’re at high risk because they’re allowing their employees to access company information, possibly highly sensitive, with no security on their personal phones. That’s where we can help.”

Paul taught me 2 new words: smishing and vishing! He said, “You’ve heard of ‘phishing’ scams. Well, vishing is voice impersonation, usually of a top

company executive, and smishing is content sent to you via text. Research shows the average person will click on a text, even respond, within 50-seconds. For example, the text may have requested your employee buy hundreds of gift cards and ship them somewhere. They put in the expense report. You say you never ordered that! They say they were only following your voice mail or texted orders. Look, threat actors have been using these tricks longer than we’ve been protecting against them, and with the rise of AI these scams will become significantly more polished and personalized and harder to identify.”

I asked him how does he keep ahead of the newest scams? “By making sure we have the right partners and vendors in our portfolio, we’re able to go to our customers and present a multi-layered approach to mobile security and device parity. In addition to MDM, we utilize solutions called MTD (Mobile Threat Defense) and UEM (Unified Endpoint Management). They protect the mobile device. Once a threat is identified, you’re able to remediate that directly on the device right when it happens! Not with the usual delays, not waiting for another platform to alert you. There isn’t a business category that hasn’t been hit by scammers. Just recently we heard that even Social Security was hit, where there are billions of unique user names and passwords. A secure server was moved to an unsecure location without the right credentials on it and somebody was able to access that. This is an issue that’s running rampant today. Being able to protect every blind spot can be done with our security layers plus employee training with phishing/smishing simulation.”

He added, “Look, we’re not sales people. We’re consultants helping your company’s info stay safe. We listen, find the gaps, and make suggestions that fit the company’s needs, culture and budget.”

Troy Mobility is a shortened version of his last name, and the family ties continue. His father Angelo, who had his own consulting business, helped Paul design and launch this company and remains a consultant, and one of Paul’s sons, Matthew, is also part of the business. Paul said one of the things he appreciated about his Italian-American upbringing “was understanding the word ‘respect.’ Respect for family members, respect for those in the community. My own kids, two sets of twins, have great spouses or relationships, fantastic jobs, never been in trouble with the law, very respectful of their elders and each other. As I have carried that word into my life and business, so have they.” That’s an honorable legacy.

If you’re mobile device security-curious Paul is very generous with free security tutorials on his company website, troy-mobility.com, where customer testimonials call him “best in class.” Good to know great people doing amazing work.

Ieri e Oggi

Yesterday & Today

A COLUMN OF PAST AND CURRENT EVENTS

by Bennett Molinari & Richard Molinari

Sandro Botticelli

Sandro Botticelli — At the height of his fame, the Florentine painter and draughtsman Sandro Botticelli was one of the most esteemed artists in Italy. His graceful pictures of the Madonna and Child, his altarpieces and his life-size mythological paintings, such as “Venus and Mars,” were immensely popular in his lifetime.

The son of a tanner, he was born Alessandro di Mariano Filipepi, but he was given the nickname “Botticelli” (derived from the word “botticello” meaning ‘small wine cask’). Botticelli was a restless, hyperactive and impatient child. Fortunately, his precocious talent was recognized and he was withdrawn from school and sent to work as an apprentice painter (artist).

Botticelli trained at the studio of the artist Fra Filippo Lippi. He began his career painting frescoes for Florentine churches and cathedrals, and worked with the painter and engraver Antonio del Pollaiuolo. By 1470, he had his own workshop.

Botticelli bridged the gap between the Medieval Gothic style of painting and an emerging Humanist Realism. His work incorporated an emerging knowledge of human anatomy and perspective, yet it retains a decorative quality, not found in the work of artists of the succeeding High Renaissance, or for a long time afterwards.

After a successful early career, Botticelli fell under the



influence extremist Dominican Friar Girolamo Savonarola, who in the 1490s convinced many Florentines that the black plague was punishment from God and that they needed to repent by burning their material possessions, in a massive public bonfire. Thus most of Bocelli’s early work was destroyed, except for those that had already been acquired of the prominent Medici family. Botticelli’s subsequent work took on a much darker mood.

The art historian Giorgio Vasari writes that Botticelli squandered the money he had made earlier in his career. Whatever the reason, he seems to have died a poor man.

Botticelli died in 1510, and was buried in the chapel of the Vespucci family in the church of Ognissanti in Florence, close to where he grew up and lived all his life.

Vasari saw Botticelli as the epitome of the “golden age” of art achieved during the time of the great patron of the arts, Lorenzo de’ Medici.

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Mary Romano Celebrates Her 100th Birthday

*with Family Members on
Valentine's Day, February 14, 2026*



Mary Romano (Center) celebrates her 100th Birthday with family members on Valentines Day, February 14th, 2026

Mary is 1 of 9 siblings born to Francisco and Angelina Romano, and raised on Commercial Street in Boston's North End neighborhood. She is the dear "Auntie Mary" of John "JR" Romano, Former First Lady of Boston Angela Menino, and extended family members. After spending her first 95 years in the North End community, Mary now resides at the VNA Assisted Living in Somerville.

Saint Paola Elizabeth Cerioli

by Bennett Molinari and Richard Molinari



Paola was born into a devoutly Catholic, noble Italian family, she was the youngest child of 15 brothers and sisters. She spent much of her youth away at boarding school, and suffered under the strain of being away from those she loved. When she was 19, she returned home to marry. It was an arranged marriage — her husband was a 59-year-old count who had recently been widowed. Paola did her

best to please him, she suffered much under his harsh and distant personality. She bore him four children, three of whom died at birth. The fourth, Carlo, passed away when he was 16. Her husband passed away soon after, leaving her terribly alone, she was 38. It was the darkest moment of her life.

Carlo's last words to her turned out to be her salvation. As he lay dying, he had told her, 'Mom, do not cry ... the Lord will give you other children.' In her loneliness after the death of her husband, she turned to her spiritual director and to prayer for guidance, and these words kept echoing in her heart. Although all her children had died, she still felt called to be a mother. And as she poured over the Gospel and spent long hours in prayer and reflection, she realized that she still could be a mother, a spiritual mother to the poor and abandoned of the world.

Paola began to visit the poor and the sick, the orphans and the dying. She used her large inheritance to start orphanages and poor houses, and eventually sold all her belongings in order to do more for those in need. She made vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience and devoted herself entirely to mothering those who had no mother. Soon she attracted other women to help with her work, and she wrote up a rule of life for them to follow, modeling their community and their activity on the best model of family life the world has ever known: the Holy Family of Nazareth.

Paola founded the Institute of the Sisters of the Holy Family in Comonte to care for abandoned children and to assist new parents. It was during this time that Paola took the name of Paola Elisabetta. The men's Congregation of the Holy Family was founded on November 4, 1863. That year she opened another country house, the Villa Campagna di Soncino for orphaned boys.

Paola Elisabetta died in her home in Comonte on December 25, 1865 at the age 49.

Paola was Canonized on May 16, 2004 by Pope John Paul II. The feast day of Saint Paola Elizabeth Cerioli is December 24.

St. Theresa's Society Brings Valentine Joy to North End Elderly

Members of the St. Theresa Society were blessed to deliver Valentine's Day gifts to the elderly residents of the North End Rehabilitation Center on Fulton Street alongside Father Michael and Brother Daniel. Beautiful red roses, generously prepared by Connie of Romano's Florist on Hanover Street, sweet chocolates and heartfelt cards lovingly made by the amazing students at St. John's School in the North End, were distributed to the residents.

The extra effort of everyone involved brightened so many faces this past Valentine's Day. St. Theresa reminds us it is so important to do little things with great love. This was a perfect example of how small acts of kindness can bring a big joy.



President of the St. Theresa Society Anthony Boyd, Jr., gathered with society members in front of the North End Rehabilitation Center to distribute Valentine joy to the residents.



St. Theresa Society volunteers with Pastor of St. Leonard Church on Hanover Street in the North End Father Michael Della Penna and Brother Daniel collect Valentine Day cards from St. John School students for residents of the North End Rehabilitation Center.

Boston Public School Students

Explore Geometry and the Immigrant Experience through Public Art at Armenian Heritage Park on The Greenway: Reception at Boston City Hall



Boston Public Schools 4th grade students walk the Labyrinth together at Armenian Heritage Park on The Greenway

The innovative, multidisciplinary curriculum inspired by Armenian Heritage Park on The Greenway is engaging Boston Public School students in an exploration of geometry, public art and the immigrant experience. The Park's geometric features tell a powerful story of the immigrant journey, one that unites and connects us.

City of Boston Mayor's Office of Arts & Culture has designated the Community Windows at Boston City Hall for a public display to introduce the curriculum, *Geometry as Public Art: Telling A Story*. The display includes examples of students' "I AM" poems, written in the voice of the first person in their family to come to this country and a portrait of that person.

A Reception will be held on **Thursday, February 26, 2026 from 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.** at **Community Windows between the second and third floors at Boston City Hall**. The Reception is hosted by Arsenal Catering Group. RSVP is appreciated, email hello@ArmenianHeritagePark.org.

The display will be on view from **February 23 through March 27, 2026**.

Geometry as Public Art: Telling A Story is inspired by the Park's design and geometric features, most notably the shape-changing Abstract Sculpture, a split rhomboid dodecahedron, and the Labyrinth. The curriculum connects geometry, art, history

and civic engagement. It invites students and educators to explore how geometry in public space can communicate powerful narratives about the immigrant experience, resilience and the building of community.

Through interactive learning and reflection, the curriculum demonstrates how public art can serve as a catalyst for dialogue, discovery and connection, building common ground across cultures and generations.

The curriculum was developed by the Friends of Armenian Heritage Park in collaboration with 4th grade teachers at The Eliot K-8 Innovation School in the North End. The curriculum is presently being implemented in twelve Boston Public Schools.

Funding from The Columbus Foundation/Stephen H. Barmakian Family Foundation supports round-trip bus transportation to/from school to the Park and is provided by Eastern Bus Company.

The three lesson experience connects classroom and community. The curriculum integrates geometry, art, language arts and social studies, promoting cross-cultural understanding and respect, celebrating what unites and connects us.

During Lesson One in the Classroom, students explore geometric shapes and view the *About the Park* presentation. They discuss the *About My Family* questionnaire to guide conversations with family

members or friends about the first person in their family to come to this country.

Lesson Two is a visit to Armenian Heritage Park on The Greenway. At the Park, students experience the Park firsthand. They explore the Abstract Sculpture, a split rhomboid dodecahedron, and discuss its symbolism and connection to the immigrant journey. They read the Inscription on the Reflecting Pool upon which the Abstract Sculpture sits. The students walk the Labyrinth, learning about its meditative benefits and coming together at its center with its single jet of water, symbolic of hope and rebirth. The water has re-emerged from the Reflecting Pool upon which the Abstract Sculpture sits. The students discover the words etched around the Labyrinth Circle — *Art, Science, Service, Commerce* — recognizing contributions to American life and culture. They participate in the *One Step Forward* activity, physically and symbolically moving toward a shared center, reinforcing themes of unity and common ground. Each visit concludes with students writing wishes on colorful ribbons for the Park's Wishing Tree.

Lesson Three is back in the classroom and time for reflection. Students create their "I AM" poem told in the voice of the first person in their family, sometimes themselves, to arrive in this country to start a new life. Students create a portrait of that person to accompany their poem. They share their work with classmates.

Teachers report that the curriculum fosters pride, empathy and deeper understanding among students. The curriculum is "... an exciting and engaging way for students to learn about their family heritage and reflect on the American immigration experience ... a wonderful way for teachers to learn about and better understand their students and for the students to learn about one another," shares Brianna Greene, former 4th Grade Teacher, The Eliot K-8 School.

Through geometry, storytelling and shared experience, the curriculum celebrates what unites and connects us, building common ground across Boston's communities.

For more information, visit ArmenianHeritagePark.org or contact hello@ArmenianHeritagePark.org.

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



City Councillor Erin Murphy celebrating the new Lunar Year with young members of the Chinese community in full dress.

CELEBRATING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR IN BOSTON

The Lunar New Year is once again upon Boston. It is also known as Chinese New Year and marks an important holiday marking the beginning of the Chinese lunisolar calendar. This year it started on February 17 and it is the year of the Horse in the Chinese zodiac. It is not a one-day holiday but a period lasting about 2 weeks. This year's Lion Dance Parade will be held in Chinatown on March 1. For more information visit chinatownmainstreets.org.

SACRED HEART COMMUNITY DINNERS CELEBRATES 3RD ANNIVERSARY

Time flies by as everyone seems to say. When the Sacred Heart Parish started free monthly meals for the community, no one had any idea how these dinners would go. Well, on March 11, the monthly community dinners are still up and running. Every month people come and gather together. In fact, this month's dinner marks the third anniversary and there appears to be no end in sight.

Too bad, more parishes aren't doing this community outreach today or weren't doing it back in my boyhood. Good that Sacred

Heart wasn't afraid to think out of the box to feed not only the soul but the body.

SOUTH END BECOMING FOOD DESERT

When I heard about the Foodie's Markets store in the South End across from the Cathedral of the Holy Cross was closing, I knew it would upset the neighborhood. People were outraged and signing petitions. It appears to be a done deal.

I grew up in that neighborhood as a kid, the Foodie's site was where the First National store was located. It was quite a busy supermarket. Where will folks who depended on Foodie's shop now?

Once my old neighborhood had so many supermarkets, it could never have thought there would be none. I still have longtime friends from back in the day. They've called me to complain. Foodier's says their South Boston supermarket is still open but how does that help South Enders?

Where are the elected leaders who represent the South End and Lower Roxbury? At campaign time, they're all over the neighborhood, but when they're really needed all one gets is the sound of crickets. Some things never change, do they?

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Nanna & Babbonnonno

by John Christoforo

A Nostalgic Remembrance



Years ago, when I was a young teacher in Boston, I would plan to go on vacation during February school vacation. There were several young single teachers that I had become familiar with and we all had the same idea about vacation time, go on vacation.

Many of the people I taught with liked to ski. I tried it once and decided to stick to the warm weather sports and hobbies. If none of my colleagues wanted to head to a warmer climate, I would call my old friend, Sal Meli. He lived in East Boston and worked at Polaroid enjoying a rather flexible schedule that allowed him to take winter vacations. When I told him that I was thinking of heading to Puerto Rico during the winter recess, he told me to include him in the plans. One teacher that I had become friendly with at Hyde Park High School, Tom Aylward, decided to join us and I headed to Colpitt's Travel Agency in Boston. I knew the vice president as he was a friend of Uncle Nick's and had taken care of his vacation needs for many years when he and Aunt Dorothy decided to travel.

I've forgotten the man's name, but when I gave him our time frame and budget, he planned a trip for us that included Puerto Rico and St. Thomas, all in one week. We were booked to fly to San Juan at night on the last Friday before the weeks' vacation would start. We were to stay at the Hotel Normandie, an older, but fashionable hotel. After being there for a few days, we were booked to fly to Charlotte Amalie, the capital of St. Thomas and check into the Gramboco Inn, a local hotel that was frequented by naval officers stationed on the island. When I told Babbonnonno about my plans, he fantasized that he could come with us, but it was impossible. He was too old but was satisfied when I told him that I would bring him back a bottle of homemade Puerto Rican rum.

That Friday night, Dad, Mom, Babbonnonno and I picked up Sal and we headed for the airport. My colleague from Hyde Park High was being driven to the airport by another teacher who had wanted to come along but had to care for his ailing mother and couldn't. It had begun to snow and Dad questioned as to whether we would take off. Being young and positive about everything, I had him drop us off at the Eastern Airlines terminal and head back home. There was a lounge at the terminal that

was owned by a former senator, Mike LoPresti. I had campaigned for him when he ran for the senate and had also known one of his sons, Vincent, when we both attended English High School. When Mike spotted me, he came over to say hello and I introduced him to Sal and my teacher friend Tom who also had just arrived.

Mike told us to check in and then head back to the lounge for a drink. At check in, we were told that the flight was going to be delayed for an hour due to the weather. Our teacher friend who couldn't come had more than one drink, and when he headed back to the parking lot, couldn't find his car as they were all covered with snow by then. He wandered around aimlessly and then began to yell for help. A state trooper heard him and found him. He brought him back to the barracks and sobered him up before letting him continue the search for his car. The rest of us didn't know this part of the story but would find out a week later. When the plane was ready to take off about an hour or two later, Mike LoPresti wouldn't let us pay for anything. I thanked him and we headed to the gate to board the plane and head south.

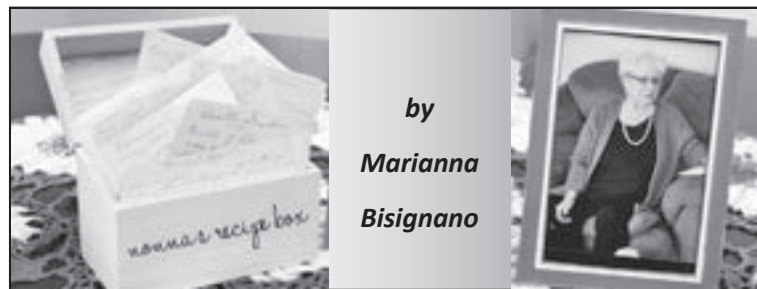
I don't know about Tom or Sal, but I fell asleep. A stewardess woke me up as we were ready to land and I could see that it was almost dawn. It must have been around 5:00 or 5:30 in the morning when we landed. Just as soon as we deplaned, I could feel the warm tropical climate surrounding me, a climate that I've grown to love over the years. A Grey Line tour bus was waiting for us and brought us to the Normandie after we picked up our suitcases from the luggage area. The hotel was oval shaped with a large deck area in the middle and an Olympic sized swimming pool in the center. The room we had booked was very large and had three good sized beds which made us very happy. After check in, we changed into more casual clothing and headed to the hotel restaurant and breakfast. As we entered, I noticed a table with three or four very attractive ladies sitting around it. One of them waved and as I approached, I discovered it was the stewardess who waited on us on the flight from Boston. She and one of the other girls were from Puerto Rico and were destined to show us around San Juan. But, that's another story.

We decided to head for the pool and enjoy the sun and water while we planned what we

were going to do for the next few days. Sal had been to the island a couple times and knew where to go, so we left the planning up to him. Before we did anything else, I wanted to call home and let my folks know that I was safe. Back then, to save money, I would call home collect and ask for myself. Whomever answered would say to the operator that I wasn't home and I would leave a message giving a relative's name. This would let, especially Mom, know that I was safe. Her problem was that she would always respond with, "I'll tell John that you called, and don't forget to wear a sweater if it gets cold."

Later in the day, Sal, Tom and I headed for Old San Juan, the colonial section of the city. We joined a tour and saw the historic sites that amazed me as many of them had been there since around 1500, a fort and several government buildings that were constructed by the Spanish not long after Columbus landed on the island. Later, Sal brought us to a restaurant and we got a sample of local dishes. I loved the food and still do. Much of it is centered around roasted pork marinated in garlic, olive oil and spices.

For the next few days, we headed for several beaches that were recommended to us, and at night, local clubs where the best in salsa music could be heard and danced to. We also spent time at several hotels, especially the ones that had casinos. Right after Cuba became off limits for American tourists, Puerto Rico passed gambling laws and several of the major hotels opened casinos to attract the tourists. It worked, and the island became a destination for Americans who had gone to Havana in the past. I had never been inside a casino and developed something called beginner's luck. No matter what I tried, I won. I tried blackjack and won. I tried roulette and won. I tried a crap table and won. I made more money than what I had brought for spending for the entire trip. As a result, I was ready for some gift buying and a trip to St. Thomas. But, that's a story for another time ... **GOD BLESS AMERICA**



by
Marianna
Bisignano

As Lent begins, we enter forty days of prayer, simplicity, and renewal. *La Quaresima* has always held deep meaning in Italian homes, traditionally marked by attending Mass, giving up indulgences, and abstaining from meat and sweets. Though the Church's rules today are less strict, requiring abstinence from meat on Ash Wednesday and the Fridays leading up to Easter, many older Italian Catholics still honor the more traditional practice of keeping Meatless Fridays all year long. That was how I was raised, and my Nonna always had something special simmering on the stove, turning those simple sacrifices into meals that felt warm, comforting, and full of love.

Spaghetti alle Vongole was a Meatless Friday staple in our home, just as it was in so many other Italian-American households. Second-generation housewives in the 1920s through the 1950s prepared it with canned clams and bottled juice because they were affordable and readily available in the urban cities of New York, Boston, and Providence. And though this may come as a surprise, many actually preferred my "Nonna's Linguini with Clam Sauce" made with canned clams over fresh, and quite honestly, Nonna herself liked it better that way too. Sometimes tradition is shaped as much by memory and flavor, as it is by authenticity!

NONNA'S LINGUINI with CLAM SAUCE *Linguine Della Nonna Con Sugo Di Vongole*



- 1 pound linguine
- 1/2 cup extra virgin olive oil
- 4 to 5 large garlic cloves, pressed or finely chopped
- 1/2 cup fresh parsley, chopped
- 4 (6.5-oz) cans chopped or minced clams, with liquid reserved
- 1 (8-oz) bottle clam juice
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 cup whole milk, warmed
- Dried crushed red pepper, to taste
- Freshly grated Parmesan or Romano cheese

Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil and cook the until al dente. Reserve about 1 to 2 cups of pasta water, then drain.

In a large skillet over low to medium heat, add the olive oil and garlic. Sauté for 1-2 minutes, just until fragrant, do not let the garlic brown. Stir in the chopped parsley and cook for another 1 to 2 minutes to release its flavor. Add the bottled clam juice and the liquid from the canned clams to the skillet. Let it simmer gently for about 5 minutes over low heat. Do not allow it to reduce.

In a small saucepan, warm the milk and whisk the flour into the warmed milk until smooth. Slowly whisk this milk mixture into the clam sauce. Continue whisking over low heat for 3 to 5 minutes, until the sauce thickens slightly. Gently fold in the clams and simmer for another minute.

Add the cooked linguine directly to the sauce and toss well to coat. Let everything cook together for about 2 minutes so the pasta absorbs the flavor. If needed, add a bit of the reserved pasta water. Finish with freshly grated Parmesan or Romano cheese and a pinch of crushed red pepper to taste. Serve immediately and enjoy!

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

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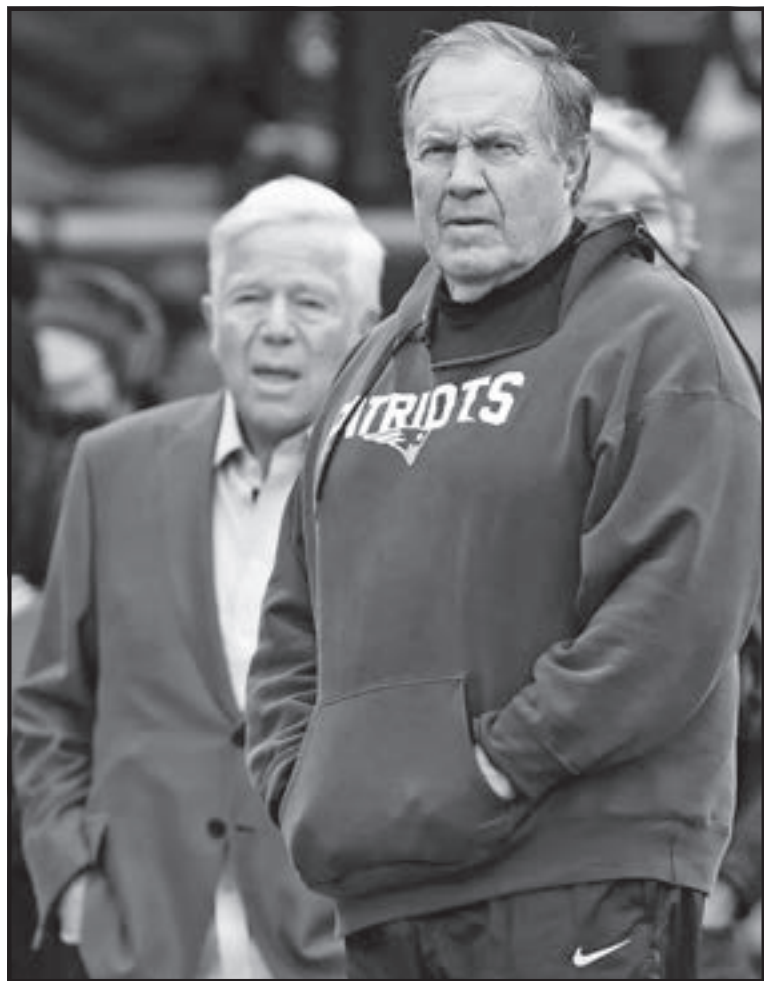
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A Stunning Hall of Fame Snub

Kraft and Belichick Left Out in 2026



(L to R): Patriots owner Robert Kraft and former Patriots Head Coach Bill Belichick

In a move that shocked the football world, both New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft and legendary former head coach Bill Belichick were not voted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame as part of the Class of 2026.

For Belichick, who is consistently regarded as one of the greatest coaches in NFL history, the decision was particularly controversial. The eight-time Super Bowl Champion, six times with the Patriots as head coach and twice with the New York Jets as assistant coach, fell short of the required 40 votes needed from the 50-member selection committee, to earn introduction in his first year of eligibility. Former Patriots quarterback, Tom Brady, openly criticized the vote, stating "If Belichick isn't a first ballot Hall of Famer, there's really no coach that should ever be."

Kraft, making his first appearance as a finalist in the contributor category, also failed to garner enough support for induction. The owner who transformed the Patriots into a modern NFL dynasty, overseeing six Super Bowl titles and 10 Super Bowl appearances, was strongly expected to make in this year.

The dual snubs have sparked intense debate about the Hall of Fame voting system. Critics argue that the current process, especially the way coaches, contributors, and senior candidates are grouped and limited to three votes per ballot, may unfairly pit historic figures against each other.

For now, both Kraft and Belichick will return to the ballot in future years, with many fans and analysts believing their eventual enshrinement is only a matter of time.

Primal Intelligence

BY ANGUS FLETCHER

Review by John Joseph Fahey

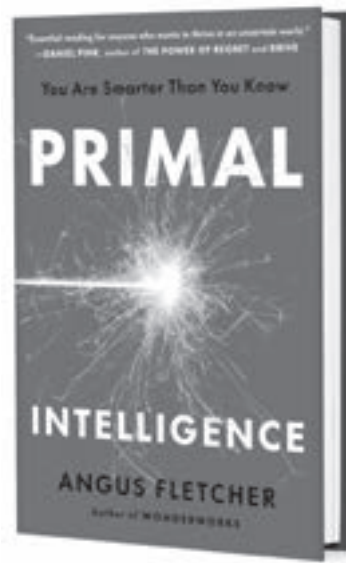
In the recent nonfiction publication, *Primal Intelligence* by Angus Fletcher, Professor of Story Science at Ohio State University's Project Narrative, the author puts forth a program of tapping into, as the book indicates, one's hidden potential.

Somewhat more than a routine self-help book, *Primal Intelligence* relays a paradigm whereby its audience is exposed to the potency and the possibility of what is referred to as the four powers of our Primal Intelligence, namely, intuition, imagination, emotion, and commonsense. According to Fletcher's position, these innate powers allows for the following: intuition sparks plans, imagination shapes plans, emotion sustains plans, and commonsense selects plans.

The author's overall argument, and certainly pertinent given the apprehension of AI, or *Artificial Intelligence*, is that the individual cannot solely rely of AI, as AI does not have the necessary components that will produce optimal outcomes. AI, while used successfully to address many dilemmas and deliver satisfactory solutions, it cannot process certain inquires without those core powers of the aforementioned intuition, imagination, emotion and commonsense, since these are purely human traits.

As Fletcher states: "These four powers are our Primal Intelligence." Primal because it "... is part of our ancient culture. Because it requires biological hardware that computers lack, making it impossible for artificial intelligence. Because it helps us thrive in life's primordial musk and flux, allowing our brain to act smart in uncertain and changing times when data thins and logic breaks."

Fletcher apportions the book into three sections: Part 1, Primal Activation; Part 11,



Primal Application; and Part 111, Primal Science. And within these segments the following six applications is addressed relative to discovering how one can direct one's inherent primal intelligence in terms of: "... leadership, resilience, communication, coaching, decision-making, and ... innovation."

Fletcher explains how this is executed for not only oneself but for those who might be under one's jurisdiction. The author puts forth the plan – that is the program that the author has coached for the military. Briefly, the system allows for one to release their potential by relying on their intrinsic, natural abilities without the support of Artificial Intelligence. While AI can be of assistance, it *cannot* replace one's integral capacity.

Fletcher's argument states that, essentially, AI does not allow the individual to *think outside the box*. And for those under one's command, the author encourages managerial inspiration and not necessarily exactitude, "Empower the individual in your charge by letting them go, not to abandon them but to get in front, improvising a flight plan to guide them to a new landing zone."

Primal Intelligence, although coming under the category of self-improvement, focuses on a topic that is not only immensely popular, but concentrates on a field that is still relatively new — AI, and the connection between one's inborn talents and that of a robotic *thinking* system; a system that can produce results but not as effectively as results that that been generated with those elements utilizing intuition, imagination, emotion and commonsense.

Primal Intelligence is published by Avery, an imprint of Penguin Random House and is 292 pages.

• News Briefs (Continued from Page 1)

abandoning the more affordable mass-market sedan.

Once everyone seemed to love sedans, station wagons, etc. Then SUVs and trucks seem to have won the hearts and minds of drivers of all ages. Ford stopped making sedans in 2018. Chrysler/Stellantis did likewise. The last GM sedan rolled off the assembly line in November 2024 — a cherry red Chevy Malibu.

Today's drivers are looking for lower prices and automobile makers seem to be listening to these drivers and to the

idea of bringing sedans back. According to Ford CEO Jim Farley, "the sedan market is very vibrant ... it's not that there isn't a market to compete and be profitable."

End Quote

Looking at the way people seem to be thinking or maybe not thinking, here is a great quote from Orson Welles, who started a panic back in 1938 warning radio listeners that the Martians were attacking the world when he was narrating *The War of the Worlds*.

"Some people exist, that's all."

• Stirpe Nostra

(Continued from Page 2)

1800 A.D.) Hercules aided King Creon of Thebes in a war against the Minyae (an ancient race in Thessaly.) As a reward for this service, Hercules received the Princess Megara for his wife. Later, in a period of madness brought on by the unrelenting hostility of the goddess Hera, Hercules killed his wife and children. When he regained his senses, he was horrified at what he had done. Upon seeking advice from a high priest, he was told that as punishment for his crime he was required to go to Tiryns, a small country on the plains of Argos and perform whatever ten labors their king Eurystheus would demand of him. Also, if successful in these tasks, he would achieve immortality along with absolution of the murders.

NEXT WEEK:

The Labors of Hercules.

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. MI25P6222GD
Docket No. MI25P6221GD

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

In the interests of
SOPHIA MARY GRIGAS and
LILLY K. GRIGAS
of Burlington, 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 12/01/2025 by Irene K. Grigas of Burlington, MA will be held 03/05/2026 9:00 AM

Guardianship of Minor Hearing
Located 10 U-Commerce Way, Woburn, MA 01801, Courtroom 2

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 22, 2026

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate

Run date: 02/20/2026

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. MI25C1126CA

In the matter of
HONGYAN SHEN

CITATION ON
PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Hongyan Shen of Westford, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to: Hongyan Du.

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 March 17, 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: February 17, 2026

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate

Run Date: 02/20/2026

2026 WBC ROUND 1 SLATE

USA Baseball

UNITED STATES vs BRAZIL
USA vs BRA
MAR 6 @ 8 ET ON FOX

GREAT BRITAIN vs UNITED STATES
GBR vs USA
MAR 7 @ 8 ET ON FOX

MEXICO vs UNITED STATES
MEX vs USA
MAR 9 @ 8 ET ON FOX

ITALY vs UNITED STATES
ITA vs USA
MAR 10 @ 9 ET ON FS1

GAME TIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
 The Trial Court
 Probate and Family Court
 Docket No. MI25C1049CA
 In the matter of:
FOREST IYLA ROSE
 CITATION ON
 PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Forest Iyla Rose** of Framingham, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to: **Rose Margaret Elizabeth**.

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 03/12/2026. 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: February 12, 2026
 Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate
 Run Date: 02/20/2026

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. MI25C0898CA
 In the matter of:
YESICA MARISOL CABRERA
 CITATION ON
 PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Yesica Marisol Cabrera** of Marlborough, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to: **Yesica Marisol Hipolito Arana**.

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 03/12/2026. 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: February 12, 2026
 Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate
 Run Date: 02/20/2026

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 **March 02, 2026** by public or private sale to satisfy a lien for towing, storage, and all other fees due.

2017 HONDA CIVIC
 Vin #2HGFC1F96HH630059
2020 FORD TRANSIT
 Vin #1FTBR1Y84LKB06152
2006 JEEP LIBERTY
 Vin #1J4GL48K86W147007
2014 NISSAN ALTIMA
 Vin #1N4AL3AP5EC149329
1994 HONDA VT600CD
 Vin #JH2PC214XRM100641
2011 FORD TAURUS
 Vin #1FAHP2JW8BG184729
2008 BMW 328i
 Vin #WBAVA37518NL44874
2011 CHEVROLET EQUINOX
 Vin #2CNFLEEC3B6438857
2023 HYUNDAI SANTA FE
 Vin #5NMS2DAJ9PH570946
2017 AUDI Q5
 Vin #WA1C2AFP8HA036052
2005 TOYOTA RAV4
 Vin #JTEGD20V550087245
2024 ZHILONG KY6
 Vin #HZ2TABGFXR1006543
2017 NISSAN ARMADA
 Vin #JN8AY2NF4H9301484
1998 CHEVROLET EXPRESS
 Vin #1GCHG35R6W1079992
2005 HONDA ACCORD
 Vin #1HGCM56495A137465
2008 TOYOTA PRIUS
 Vin #JTDKB20U883365683
2010 TOYOTA CAMRY
 Vin #4T4BF3EK1AR085252

Vehicles may be seen by appointment only. Please email for specific information info@todiscotowing.com
 Run dates: 02/06, 02/13, 02/20/2026

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 **March 09, 2026** by public or private sale to satisfy a lien for towing, storage, and all other fees due.

2009 GENUINE SCOOTERS ROUGHHOUSE 50
 Vin #RFVPM20191003270
2022 INTERNATIONAL LT625
 Vin #3HSDZAPR8NN529929
2012 NISSAN ALTIMA
 Vin #1N4AL2AP8CN423781
2012 NISSAN ALTIMA
 Vin #1N4AL2AP5CN542808
2006 CHRYSLER 300
 Vin #2C3KA43R46H151682
2013 SUBARU FORESTER
 Vin #JF2SHADC1DG413474
2008 SUBARU OUTBACK
 Vin #4S4BP61C387336045
2007 FORD F-150
 Vin #1FTPW14547FA93931
2016 KIA OPTIMA
 Vin #5XXGU4L37GG109399
2017 FORD EXPLORER
 Vin #1FM5K8B87HGD73486
2011 JEEP COMPASS
 Vin #1J4NF5FB9BD165299
2007 GMC SIERRA
 Vin #1GTEK14Z57E166817
2012 TOYOTA COROLLA
 Vin #5YFBU4EE3CP064181
2024 ZHILONG ST
 Vin #HZ2TBCNFXR1008783
2005 FORD ESCAPE
 Vin #1FMYU93115DA17949
2010 FORD FUSION
 Vin #3FADP0L30AR361500
2013 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN
 Vin #2C4RDGCG9DR736394
2012 KIA FORTE
 Vin #KNAFT4A22C5609152
2005 FORD FOCUS
 Vin #1FAFP34NX5W228417

Vehicles may be seen by appointment only. Please email for specific information info@todiscotowing.com
 Run dates: 02/13, 02/20, 02/27/2026

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. MI26P0646EA
 Estate of
SUSAN S. McLEAN
 Date of Death: January 02, 2026
 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
 A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by **Alick M. McLean** of Salem, 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: **Alick M. McLean** of Salem, 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 03/13/2026.

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: February 13, 2026
 Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate
 Run date: 02/20/2026

EXTRA Innings
 by Sal Giarratani

Elroy Face
All-Time Great
 I just read the news that a great relief pitcher, maybe the best ever, has just passed away.

LEGAL NOTICE

SURROGATE'S COURT, ORANGE COUNTY
THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK,
 By the Grace of God Free and Independent
PROBATE CITATION
 File No.: 2025-902

TO: **PETER CYR**, if living and if dead, to their heirs at law, next of kin and distributees whose names and places of residence are unknown, and if they died subsequent to the decedent herein, **Joseph R. Cyr, Jr.** (date of death July 23rd, 2025), to their executors, administrators, legatees, devisees, assignees and successors in interest whose names and places of residence are unknown and cannot, after diligent inquiry, be ascertained.

A petition having been duly filed by **Richard E. Stiek**, who is domiciled at 43L Madison Park Gardens, Port Washington, NY 11050.

YOU ARE HERE BY CITED TO SHOW CAUSE before the Surrogate's Court, Orange County, at 30 Park Pl., Goshen, New York, on **March 18th, 2026 at 9:30 o'clock** in the fore noon of that day, why a decree should not be made in the estate of **Joseph R. Cyr, Jr.** lately domiciled at 40 Drew Avenue, Apt. #11, Highland Falls, New York admitting to probate a Will dated August 15, 2024, a copy of which is attached, as the Will of **Joseph R. Cyr, Jr.**, deceased, relating to real and personal property, and directing that Letters Testamentary issue to **Richard E. Stiek**.

Dated, Attested and Sealed, January 16th, 2026 (Seal)
 HON. TIMOTHY P. McELDUFF, JR.,
 SURROGATE
 KERRI SERKES
 DEPUTY CHIEF CLERK, KERRI SERKES
 Name of Attorney for Petitioner:
 John E. Ziobro, Esq.
 Address of Attorney:
 20 Spring Street, Suite 1, Warwick, NY 10990
 Tel. No.: (845)986-1700

Note: This citation is served upon you as required by law. You are not required to appear. If you fail to appear it will be assumed you do not object to the relief requested. You have a right to have an attorney-at-law appear for you.

Run dates: 01/30, 02/06, 02/13, 02/20/2026

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF SALE
 Notice is hereby given by **Stephens Automotive Transport, 60 Union Street, Medford, MA 02155**, pursuant to the provisions of G.L.c.255 39A, that on **February 28, 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:

2020 HYUNDAI KONA, RED
 KM8K12AA8LU551875
2016 KIA OPTIMA, SILVER
 5XXGT4L32GG005325
2015 AUDI A3, WHITE
 WAUJF6FF9F1070024
1999 FORD ECONOLINE, WHITE
 1FBSS31FXXHA19274
2010 HONDA ACCORD, BLACK
 1HGCP2F38AA070980
2014 NISSAN SENTRA, GRAY
 3N1AB7AP7EY222022
2016 FORD EXPLORER, BLACK
 1FM5K8D84GGB90722
2009 SUBARU IMPREZA, GRAY
 JF1GH63639H820555
2022 JEEP WRANGLER, GRAY
 1C4HJXD7N7NW267333
2007 GMC SAVANA, WHITE
 1GTGG25V271175090
2008 SAAB 9-3, SILVER
 YS3FB49Y481141303
2006 TOYOTA SCION xB, WHITE
 JTLKT324164070906
2012 GMC SIERRA, BLUE
 1GTR2VE79C2185637
2024 JIAJUE JJ50QT-3, BLACK
 LLPVGBAA1R1030028
2025 ZHILONG ST, BLUE
 HZ2TBCNF4S1014391
2025 HILONG ST, GRAY
 HZ2TBCNF6S1014098
2024 ZHILONG ST, BLUE
 HZ2TBCNFXR1009738
2024 ZHILONG ST, BLACK
 HZ2TBCNF6R1007100
2025 ZHILONG ST, BLUE
 HZ2TBCNFXS1016100

Run dates: 02/13, 02/20, 02/27/2026



His name was Elroy Face but I didn't cotton up to "ELROY," so I just called him Roy. He passed away last Thursday at age 97, just eight days before his next birthday.

Growing up I always thought that Dick Radatz was the best ever relief pitcher. Well, he was in Red Sox history but when I looked closer, I saw that Face was the best hands down. He was a pioneer when it came to modern-day relief pitching. They called him "the Baron on the Bullpen." In 1959, he practically beat the New York Yankees single handedly when he closed out the Yankees in Game 1, 4 and 5. He left it to a walk-off homer by Bill Mazerowski to win Game 7. That game was tied 9-9 in the bottom of the ninth when Maz hit the only walk-off homer in Game 7 World Series history.

Roy was a six-time All-Star, who went 104-95 with a 3.48 ERA in 16 seasons with the Pirates, Tigers and Expos from 1953 to 1969. He spent his first 14 seasons in Pittsburgh before finishing up with Detroit and Montreal.

He holds the NL record with 96 relief victories and the major league record for single season wins going 18-1 with a 2.70 ERA in 1959. He was inducted into the Pirates Hall of Fame in 2023. Why it took that long I can't fathom? Why he is not in Cooperstown is really beyond me too.

I wish I still had his baseball card from 1959. I remember it well.

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 **March 16, 2026** by public or private sale to satisfy a lien for towing, storage, and all other fees due.

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NOTICE OF DOING BUSINESS UNDER ASSUMED NAME
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Buddy Baer takes a solid right hand from Nathan Mann before stopping Mann in the 7th Round in 1940.



Joe Louis batters Bob Pastor with a left hand. The fight ended in the 11th round with Joe retaining the title in 1939.

Rocky Marciano drives Roland LaStarza through the ropes in their Title Fight in 1953. Marciano went on to stop Roland in the 11th Round. It was Rocky's second defense of the Title. LaStarza had given him a very tough go earlier in their careers.



Billy Graham lands a hard right to the chin of Kid Gavilan in their Welterweight Title fight in 1953. It was the third meetup for the two. The Split Decision in favor of Gavilan was highly disputed.



Rocky Marciano lands a tremendous right hand on Ezzard Charles in their second fight. The Rock was in danger of losing because of a severely cut nose, but turned on the heat, kayoing Charles in the 8th Round in 1954.



Marcel Cerdan furiously attacks Middleweight Champion Tony Zale. The fight, which took place in 1948 with Cerdan stopping the courageous Zale in the 11th Round.



Young Cassius Clay lands a right to the chin of Doug Jones in 1963. This was during Clay's, later Ali, rise to a Title Fight against Sonny Liston. Jones almost ended Clay's title hopes when he held the Louisville Lip to a Split Decision won by Cassius.



Former Welterweight Champion Fritz Zivic (left) parries a left thrown by Jose Basora. Basora won a ten round decision over Zivic on October 15, 1943 at Olympia Stadium in Detroit, Michigan.

HOOPS and HOCKEY in the HUB

by Richard Preiss



They are really just two guys whose lives are somewhat intertwined and have been brought into a shared limelight as the 2026 Winter Olympics in Italy come to a close.

Both grew up in Massachusetts and got their start in the game by playing hockey in the state. Both went to Boston area colleges where they continued their hockey careers. Both later advanced to the National Hockey League where they spent a portion of their respective careers with the Bruins. Later, one would even go on to coach the B's.

We speak, of course, of Mike Sullivan and Bill Guerin, the two at the top of Team USA's men's hockey leadership as the remaining days of the Olympics dwindle down with America's chances for a fine finish very much alive.

Both were born and raised in the Commonwealth. Sullivan grew up in Marshfield while Guerin was born in Worcester but grew up in the Springfield suburb of Wilbraham.

Sullivan played his high school hockey at Boston College High School and went on to play at Boston University for legendary coach Jack Parker.

While he was there the Terriers played in the Beanpot championship game all four years, winning it twice. Over the course of his collegiate career at BU he played in 141 games, scoring 61 goals and adding 77 assists for a total of 138 points. He was team captain during his senior year.

After he graduated, he went on to a career in the National Hockey League, playing in 709 regular season games while seeing action with four different teams, including the Bruins.

His NHL career stop in the Hub was brief, encompassing only a single season (1997-1998). While on Causeway Street he played in 77 games, scoring five goals and adding 13 assists for a total of 19 points. He also played in six first round playoff games, not scoring a goal but coming away with a lone assist. He began his coaching career with the Providence Bruins, securing a 41-17-9-4 record.

Up in Boston GM Mike O'Connell took notice and when the 2003-2004 season opened it was Sullivan who was behind the bench as the head coach of the B's. He led them to a first place finish in the Northeast Division but they were stopped in the first round of the playoffs by Montreal.

The year-long (2004-2005) lockout followed. When action resumed in 2005-2006 it was the B's who were on the sidelines for the playoffs.

Changes at the top took place and when GM O'Connell was let go and was replaced by new GM Peter Chiarelli, Sullivan found himself out of a job.

But Sullivan would have his high points — later leading the Pittsburgh Penguins to consecutive Stanley Cup championships in 2016 and 2017. His total time behind the

Pittsburgh bench encompassed 10 seasons.

Sullivan was the coach of Team USA in the 4 Nations Face-Off tournament last year. He was 12 years old when Team USA won the "Miracle on Ice" gold medal at the 1980 Olympics. He will celebrate his 58th birthday on February 27. He is presently the head coach of the New York Rangers.

Bill Guerin attended high school at Wilbraham and Monson Academy but did not play his high school hockey there. Instead, he played four years with the Springfield Olympics of the New England Junior Hockey League. During his final two years with the team he had 75 points and 67 points respectively.

He then went on to play two seasons for Boston College where he amassed 40 goals and 30 assists in 77 games. During his time at The Heights the Eagles won two Hockey East Championships and advanced to the 1990 NCAA Division One National Semifinals. While he was with the Eagles, BC put together an impressive 55-25-1 record.

Guerin began his NHL career with the New Jersey Devils where he played regularly for five seasons. Along the way, the Devils won the 1995 Stanley Cup Championship, meaning Guerin had reached the highest point in professional hockey early in his career.

He was later traded to the Edmonton Oilers and then to the Bruins early in the 2000-2001 season. He finished the year with 40 goals and 85 points across his two-team season.

The next year the Bruins had a great regular season, finishing first in the Eastern Conference while Guerin scored 40 goals. But the arch-rival Montreal Canadiens toppled the B's in the first round of the playoffs, halting the hopes of the Black and Gold for a long playoff run.

Guerin moved on to Dallas for three seasons while short stays with St. Louis, San Jose and the New York Islanders followed. Traded to Pittsburgh near the trade deadline in 2008, he won his second Stanley Cup that spring.

When he finally retired as a player he had played 1,263 games, scoring 429 goals and adding 427 assists.

Guerin later joined the Pittsburgh front office as a development coach and was promoted to assistant general manager in 2014. At a time when Mike Sullivan was behind the bench, Guerin was in the front office as the Pens won their two consecutive Stanley Cup Championships.

Guerin later left the Pens to become GM of the Minnesota Wild, a position he still holds.

He is the GM for Team USA at the 2026 Olympics, a position he also had with the 4 Nations Face-Off in 2025.

Sullivan and Guerin — a couple of hockey loving guys from our Commonwealth having the time of their lives at the 2026 Winter Olympics.