

POST-GAZETTE

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President Donald Trump Delivers the Longest State of the Union in History

by Patti Sartori

President Trump's 108-minute 2026 State of the Union address in front of a joint session of Congress and the American people not only broke former President Bill Clinton's record of 78 minutes but also proved to be straight down the Republican party line, and at times quite confrontational. Trump portrayed the country as economically strong and secure domestically while highlighting immigration, trade and international successes across the globe.

With a clear focus on the upcoming mid-term elections later this fall, Trump's speech blended policy initiatives with sharp political messaging, aimed solely at the Democrats sitting in the House Chamber, attempting to solidify support of his base but clearly deepening polarization across the political spectrum.

Trump framed the address as a choice for America's future, selling the narrative of a booming, secure nation under his

leadership while blaming Democrats for present challenges, at times actually pointing his finger at the group and openly calling them out. Some media analysts commented that the speech lacked bipartisan unity and sounded more like one of his typical campaign rallies, aimed at shaping voter sentiment heading into the pivotal 2026 mid-term elections.

The speech was marked by boisterous applause lines, strictly by Republicans, frequent partisan clashes and visible division and open hostility from Democrats as many either boycotted, heckled or walked out immediately upon the President uttering his last sentence.

Trump pitched a resurgent U.S. economy, calling it a "turn-around" and claiming inflation and prices, including gasoline, energy, eggs, beef, rents and even prescription drug prices were declining. He cited the booming stock market and 401k's, as well as a broad

economic strengthening. He touted new tax incentives, including the elimination of taxes on tips and overtime, and promoted federally backed "Trump Accounts" for children's investments along with government-matched retirement contributions up to \$1,000 for some workers, as a method to boost savings.

A notable policy announcement was an agreement with major tech companies to ensure expanding AI data centers build their own power infrastructures so that rising energy demand does not increase utility bills for any American household.

On immigration and border security Trump declared that the U.S. now has "the strongest and most secure border in American history, with zero illegals entering the country over the past nine months," and citing steep declines in fentanyl trafficking. His comments featured tough rhetoric on immigration and enforcement, though many critics noted he



(Photo courtesy of the White House)

did not mention ICE actions and ongoing protests in various parts of the country.

The president's announcement of the Delilah Law, named after five-year-old Deliah Coleman, who was seriously

injured when an illegal immigrant with a CDL issued in California hit her and seriously injuring her while driving a truck. The law prohibits

(Continued on Page 6)

Governor Maura Healey Boycotts U.S. Governor's Meetings at White House

by Patti Sartori

Governor Maura Healey opted out of a U.S. governor's meeting last Friday and dinner on Saturday evening hosted by President Trump at the White House, calling it a "farce and waste of time." Healey took exception with President Trump changing the format of the annual meeting and dinner by moving the event to the White House and making himself the host rather than sticking with the traditional venue and allowing the National Governors Association to remain the hosts of the conference.

"For years, Governors of both parties met with Presidents of both parties annually. This has always been an important opportunity for us to discuss the most pressing issues facing our country and how we can work together on solutions. But it should come as no surprise to anyone that President Trump has completely politicized this. He continues to act in a manner that's beneath the dignity of the Office of the President of the United States," Healey stated in a press release.

Haley is not the only Democratic governor to skip the meeting and dinner, others

are following suit after Trump initially invited only Republican governors, and then extended the invitation to all Democratic Governors except Jared Polis (D-CO) and Wes Moore (D-MD). Healey was in D.C. participating in a Main Stage Affordability Policy Discussion with Democratic Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear and Republican Montana Governor Greg Gianforte. Some Democratic governors are attending the meeting but not the dinner while California Democratic Governor Gavin Newsom and Democratic Hawaii Governor Josh Green are skipping the entire D.C. weekend.

"President Trump has made this whole thing a farce. He doesn't want to work together. He's afraid to hear the truth about the damage he is doing to our economy, how he's making life harder and more expensive, the dangerous and unlawful tactics of ICE, his tariffs that are driving up costs for everyone, and his cuts to healthcare. If the President doesn't want a serious discussion about how we can deliver for the American people, then we aren't going to waste our time," Healey said.

Another Winter Walloping When will Winter 2026 Retreat

It's being referred to as the Blizzard of 2026, after white out conditions, power outages and even an MBTA bus and snow plow were left stranded. Residents and workers from across the state were strongly encouraged and urged to stay home, off the roads in order to allow snow crews to do their job. Schools were closed, businesses shuttered, trash and mail pick up delayed as 15, 18, 20 and in some areas over 2 feet of snow walloped the Bay State.

The snow from last month's storm, in late January, was lighter and fluffier, this snow was heavier and slightly denser making the cleanup that much heavier to remove and clear. Parking bans were in effect on major roadways throughout each city and town as city and town workers worked around the clock to dig out as the snow continued to fall. "We saw upwards of two inches an hour for several hours and met the official criteria for a blizzard, as deemed by the National Weather Service," Boston Mayor Michelle Wu announced at a city hall press conference.

Governor Maura Healey issued an executive order banning non-essential motor vehicle travel in specific counties, including Bristol, Plymouth, Barnstable,



and Martha's Vineyard, as these areas were the hardest hit, facing 3-4 inches of snow per hour, resulting over 30 inches of snow falling. "We need to have the ability for essential vehicle travel to be able to get through, and anybody who doesn't need to be on the road should not be on the road," exclaimed Healey at a State of Emergency Operations press conference in Framingham. The governor also activated an additional 150 members of the Massachusetts National Guard to assist with response.

Almost 30,000 households were without power mid-storm, especially the Cape and the Islands which incurred over 75 mile per hour winds and the most outages. More than 50% of Nantucket was without power,

40% of Martha's Vineyard and more than 8,000 households up in the North Shore area, including Rockport and Gloucester. Eversource and National Grid have extra crews coming in but it is expected to take days for power crews to offer restoration in those regions. "The issue isn't crews. The issue is going to be access. When does the wind die down enough so that's its safe for people to get out in bucket trucks. Also, the roads need to be cleared, so the crews can get into these areas," Governor Healey stated.

Hopefully some snow will melt this weekend, as temperatures are expected to climb well into the 40's, but not before another small system was expected to drop another 1-2 more inches mid-week.

Stirpe Nostra

by Prof. Edmund Turiello

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

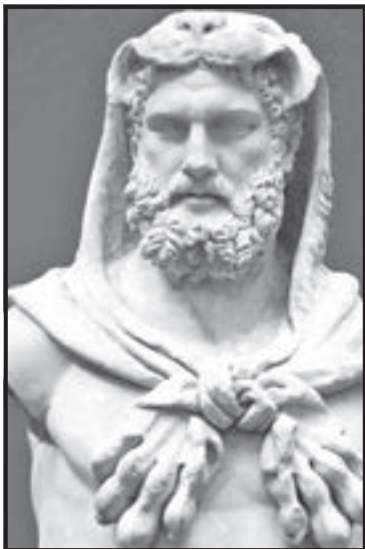


THE LABORS OF HERCULES

The circumstances surrounding the birth of Hercules, his early education, physical training, and the series of events, which led to the imposition of his celebrated "Labors," were discussed in a previous issue. Any reader who might wonder why newspaper space is devoted to this Greek demigod is reminded that Renaissance Rome honored his memory in many works of art. Presently I can recall a statue entitled *The Farnese Hercules*, which is in the National Museum at Naples; a painting of Hercules killing the Hydra (his second labor) and another of Hercules crushing Antaeus, both in the Uffizi gallery in Florence; and a statute of Hercules slaying Cacus, a cattle thief, in the Palazzo Vecchio at Florence near the copy of Michelangelo's *David*.

The first ordeal imposed upon Hercules was to kill the Nemean lion. This was not an ordinary beast, but one of monstrous proportions. The hero visited Nemea (a valley in ancient Argolis, in southeastern Greece) and proceeded to the lion's lair, a two-mouthed cave. He quickly located the animal and, because his aim was infallible, he sent the arrow straight to its mark. When the arrow bounced harmlessly off the lion's side, Hercules realized that the beast was invulnerable to such weapons. He quickly blocked up one end of the cave and walked in unarmed through the other entrance. Hercules stopped the charging animal and strangled it with his bare hands. He then slung the dead lion over his shoulder and went back to the city of Tiryns. The terrified king (author of the labors of Hercules) then decreed that any future trophies were to be displayed outside the city gates. The dead lion was not wanted by anyone, so Hercules skinned it and used the pelt as a garment.

The second labor demanded of Hercules, killing the Lernaean Hydra, was much more difficult. This hideous, many-headed Hydra, or water snake, lived in the marsh of Lerna, near Argos, with its devoted friend, a large crab. The Hydra was so poisonous that even its breath was fatal to humans. It also had nine heads, one of which was immortal. Typical of his usual



Statue of a bearded Hercules covered with lions skin.

boldness, Hercules drove the serpent out into the open with a barrage of burning arrows. As he grabbed the monster by one of its necks, it immediately wound itself around one leg of Hercules. The hero started hacking away at the heads with his sword, but soon found the immortal one invulnerable to his blows, while two other heads grew in place of each that was lopped off. Adding to his problems, the crab now came out of the swamp to bite at the foot of Hercules. Realizing that he could not fight both adversaries alone, the strong man called for Iolaus, his nephew and charioteer, who brought burning brands. Now as soon as a head was severed, it was cauterized. Repeating this procedure, the duo dispatched the monster, except for the immortal head, which was severed and buried beneath a huge boulder. The body of the Hydra was slashed open and the arrows of Hercules were dipped into its deadly gall. This is the deadly poison, which in future years caused the destruction of many enemies of Hercules. The hero returned triumphant to the City of Tiryns, but found that the king refused to count this as one of the labors because Hercules did not kill the Hydra alone. The next time you're in Florence be sure to visit the Uffizi Gallery to view the painting of Hercules killing the Hydra, by the Renaissance artist Antonio Del Pollaiuolo.

NEXT WEEK:

Hind, Boar and Cow Chips

Massachusetts State Auditor Announces Re-Election Campaign

by Patti Sartori

Democratic State Auditor Diana DiZoglio was full of announcements this past week, first it was the lawsuit filed against the Massachusetts State Legislature over the stymied audit then it was her announced intention to run for re-election in the 2026 fall election. "When I ran for State Auditor, I made a simple promise: to audit state government without fear or favor, and to always put the public interest first. Since taking office, my team and I have done exactly that, launch audits, demand accountability, and stand up for taxpayers even when it hasn't been easy. You've seen what we can do with a little sunlight," DiZoglio wrote in a reelection email to supporters.

DiZoglio, first elected in 2022, made her first order of business to conduct an audit of the



(Photo by Sam Drysdale, State House News Service)

state legislature first through a ballot initiative, receiving 72% voter support, and more recently turning to a lawsuit in the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court after her attempt were blocked multiple times by state house leadership. "The voters gave the Auditor a clear mandate to audit the Legislature, and I take that responsibility seriously, stated DiZoglio.

DiZoglio has also witnessed her national profile rise as a result of the lawsuit, with her appearance on Fox News, as she discussed the legal battle. Currently DiZoglio is not facing a challenger from within her own party nor from the Republicans,

"I'm ready to keep up this fight as I launch my campaign for reelection. But I cannot do this alone. I need your help," DiZoglio suggested to Massachusetts voters.

Boston Mayor Michelle Wu Attends International Security Conference

Earlier this month City of Boston Mayor Michelle Wu was invited to Germany as a panelist in a Munich Security Conference focusing on city leadership and international security. Wu was the first American mayor to participate in the global gathering of leaders. "Boston is a leading global city, and it is an honor to be invited to share our progress at this important global forum. Our city is known around the world as a beacon of freedom, and I look forward to connecting with leaders in government, business education, and more to encourage greater investment in Boston and partnership for our future," Wu said in a statement.

Wu participated in a Mayor's panel discussion on city leadership and diplomacy" with mayors from Kyiv, Ukraine, Warsaw, Poland, and other countries. While attending the event, Wu planned to announce that Boston has joined the Pact of Free Cities, described as a value driven city network committed to rebuilding and reinforcing democracy. The mayor also hoped to "strengthen collaboration and investment in Boston" while speaking with and working alongside government officials and business leaders in Munich.

According to Wu's office, event organizers covered the cost for the mayor and two staff members to attend the conference.



Consulate General of Italy
Boston

REFERENDUM COSTITUZIONALE 22 - 23 MARZO 2026

Con Decreto del Presidente della Repubblica del 13/01/2026, pubblicato nella Gazzetta Ufficiale n.10 del 14/01/2026, è stata fissata nei giorni 22 e 23 MARZO 2026 la data del referendum costituzionale in tema di separazione delle carriere nella Magistratura, avente ad oggetto il seguente quesito: **"Approvate il testo della legge di revisione degli artt. 87, decimo comma, 102, primo comma, 104, 105, 106, terzo comma, 107, primo comma, e 110 della Costituzione approvata dal Parlamento e pubblicata nella Gazzetta Ufficiale del 30 ottobre 2025 con il titolo "Norme in materia di ordinamento giurisdizionale e di istituzione della Corte disciplinare"?"** Chi può votare all'estero? Gli elettori iscritti all'AIRE (Anagrafe degli Italiani Residenti all'Estero), che ricevono direttamente il plico elettorale al proprio indirizzo di residenza all'estero. Gli italiani temporaneamente all'estero per almeno tre mesi, esclusivamente PER MOTIVI DI LAVORO, STUDIO O CURE MEDICHE, e i familiari con essi conviventi all'estero. **ATTENZIONE: Quando si vota? In Italia si vota IL 22 e 23 marzo 2026. Gli elettori all'estero votano in anticipo**, per corrispondenza. I plichi verranno spediti all'indirizzo di residenza entro il **4 MARZO**. **ATTENZIONE:** gli elettori che **ENTRO l'8 MARZO** non abbiano ancora ricevuto il plico elettorale potranno contattare questo Consolato per ottenere il **DUPLICATO**. **Il voto avviene per corrispondenza.** Le schede dovranno essere rispedite al consolato seguendo attentamente le indicazioni del foglio informativo presente nel plico elettorale ed utilizzando unicamente il materiale con esso fornito. Saranno trasmesse in Italia per lo scrutinio solamente le schede votate recapitate all'ufficio consolare di riferimento **ENTRO E NON OLTRE le ore 16 locali di giovedì 19 MARZO**. Per Maggiori informazioni scrivere all'email: elektorale.boston@esteri.it o alla pec: con.boston@cert.esteri.it oppure telefonare al 617 722 9201 o consultare il sito web: consboston.esteri.it

CONSTITUTIONAL REFERENDUM MARCH 22-23, 2026

Pursuant to the Decree of the President of the Republic of January 13, 2026, published in the Official Gazette No. 10 of January 14, 2026, the constitutional referendum concerning the separation of careers within the Judiciary has been scheduled for March 22 and 23, 2026, on the following question: **"Do you approve the text of the law revising Articles 87, paragraph ten; 102, paragraph one; 104; 105; 106, paragraph three; 107, paragraph one; and 110 of the Constitution, approved by Parliament and published in the Official Gazette on October 30, 2025, entitled 'Provisions on the organization of the judiciary and the establishment of the Disciplinary Court'?"** Who may vote abroad? Voters registered with AIRE (Registry of Italians Resident Abroad), who will receive their voting package directly at their foreign residence address, and Italian citizens temporarily abroad for at least three months exclusively for work, study, or medical treatment, as well as their cohabiting family members. In Italy, voting will take place on March 22 and 23, 2026; voters abroad cast their ballots in advance by mail. Voting packages will be sent to the address of residence **by March 4**. **PLEASE NOTE:** Voters who have not received their voting package by March 8 may contact this Consular Office to request a duplicate. Voting takes place by mail. Ballots must be returned to the relevant Consulate, carefully following the instructions included in the voting package and using only the materials provided therein. Only ballots received by the competent Consular Office no later than 4:00 p.m. local time on Thursday, March 19, will be forwarded to Italy for counting. **For further information, please write to: elektorale.boston@esteri.it, certified email (PEC) con.boston@cert.esteri.it, call 617 722 9201, or visit www.consboston.esteri.it.**

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Pamela Donnaruma, Publisher and Editor
5 Prince Street, P.O. Box 130135, Boston, MA 02113
617-227-8929 617-227-8928 FAX 617-227-5307

e-mail: postgazette@aol.com

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

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Friday, February 27, 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.

Jodi A. Fiore



Jodi A. Fiore, age 39, of Boston's North End, passed away on Thursday, February 12, 2026

Beloved mother of Lily Faye Cardalino. Loving daughter of Joseph and Julie (Rizzo) Fiore. Dear sister of Nichole Nastari and her husband Michael, Ashley, and Joseph Fiore. Cherished niece of Sal

Rizzo. Adored aunt of Daniel, Michael, Hanna, Taya, Madison, and Emma Theresa. Also survived by Christopher "Caddy" Cardalino, loving cousins and many friends. Granddaughter of the late Leonard and Theresa (Ruzzo) Rizzo, and Anthony and Olga (Chiarello) Fiore.

The family received visitors and a Mass was celebrated on Wednesday, February 25, 2026, in St. Leonard Church, 320 Hanover Street, Boston. Services concluded with internment in Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett.

Gaetano Greco



Gaetano Greco, of Malden, passed away peacefully on Thursday, February 12, 2026, at 100 years of age.

Beloved husband of over 66 years to Lucia (Leone) Greco. Devoted father of Guy and Anthony Greco. Predeceased by four dear siblings. Cherished grandfather of four

grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

Family and friends honored Gaetano's life by gathering at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, 971 Saratoga Street, East Boston, on Tuesday, February 17th and again on Wednesday morning for a prayer service in the funeral home. Services concluded with Gaetano being laid to rest at Holy Cross Cemetery Mausoleum, Malden.

May He Rest in Peace.

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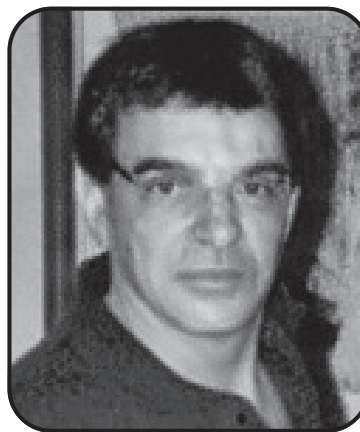
Joseph "JoJo" Manfra

Joseph V. "JoJo" Manfra, a longtime resident of Boston's North End, entered into eternal life on February 12, 2026.

He was a long-time member of AA, a strong believer in Jesus Christ, and a member of the Madonna Della Cava Society. JoJo graduated from the Michelangelo School in the North

End and holds a Master's degree from Cambridge College. He loved to sing A capella with his famed friends: "Last Time Around," "Street Magic," and "North Shore Acapella." He will be missed.

Beloved son of the late Louise (Tragno) Manfra and Giuseppe Manfra. Loving brother of Michael Manfra and Jean LaRosa and her husband Charles. Also survived by his loving cousins Joseph Santangelo, Louise (Amadeo) Drake, Michael Tragno, Gina Keegan, Gina Chiarenza, JoAnn, Nicholas, Jade and Sarah Santangelo, the late Joseph "Chippy" Tragno, Susan Tragno, Paul, Raymond and Joseph Jr.



Santangelo. He leaves behind many loving nieces and nephews, Anthony LaRosa and his wife Susan, Chucky LaRosa, Jeannie LaRosa, Theresa Bagnera, Lisa, Marco and Michael Manfra Jr., and the late Anthony Manfra. He was the loving nephew of the late Auntie Nancy Santangelo and Uncle Ray, Auntie Lulu and Uncle

Mario Amadeo, and other uncles and aunts.

The family received visitors on Thursday, February 26, 2026, from 4:00-7:00 p.m., in the J. S. Waterman Langone Chapel, 580 Commercial Street, Boston. Complimentary valet parking attendants at front door. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Friday, February 27, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., in St. Stephen Church, 401 Hanover Street, Boston. Services will conclude with interment in St. Michael Cemetery, Roslindale.

For online condolences and/or directions, please visit www.watermanboston.com.

Price of Beef Continues to Rise

No matter how hard U.S. consumers try to shop around for the best prices, finding a savings on beef products are few and far between. Beef costs across the country have continued to rise faster than most other items, with beef up 15% since last January. In comparison, chicken prices have risen by a mere 1.1% in the past year and milk barely at all.

In an effort to halt the surge of beef prices, President Trump has vowed to increase competition

in beef processing and increase Argentinian beef import quotas in order to decrease supply. But there could very well be other circumstances affecting the prices, including the fact that the American cattle herd has shrunk to the lowest level since the early 1950s due to droughts and the high production costs.

While beef prices have always fluctuated up and down, the current pricing has lasted much longer than expected because there is more profit to be made

by selling animals for slaughter when they are younger rather than keeping them to expand and grow the herds. According to a representative for the beef industry, any expansion of U.S. cattle herds at this point wouldn't lower retail beef prices until 2028.

Industry representatives have also pointed to high borrowing cost of equipment, repairs and land maintenance facing ranchers which are eventually passed onto consumers.

Town of Foxboro Holding Up FIFA Permits

No Money, No Permits, it's that simple, according to Foxboro Select Board members. Nearly \$8 million in funding is due the town to cover security and other local costs. With slightly over three months until the first FIFA soccer match is set to take place at Gillette Stadium, town officials have been left without any concrete answers or details from either FIFA or Boston 26, the non-profit host committee organizing the World Cup matches.

Foxboro town officials have requested a portion of the \$47 million in monies the State of Massachusetts is expected to receive as part of the \$625 million that a White House Task Force and the Federal Emergency Management Agency is expected to allocate in awards for safety and security to the host cities across the U.S., but has not yet come through, deepening Foxboro's concern.

Select Board members are growing frustrated at the lack of information filtering in from State officials, resulting in the board issuing a threat to withhold an entertainment

license for the seven scheduled matches if the funds are not fully in place by March 17.

"We're not prepared to issue this license unless everything is in place. We have a football stadium in this town, but we are a small town. With 18,000 people, this money is almost 10% of our whole entire budget for a year, so there's no way we can fund it or issue a license without knowing," said Vice Chairwoman Stephanie McGowan.

The Kraft Group operates Gillette Stadium but the town owns the land, Foxboro Select Board is responsible for issuing entertainment licenses at the venue. FIFA is requesting the same license for the World Cup that the Kraft's receive to hold the New England Patriots and Revolution games.

There seemed to be some confusion and finger pointing between FIFA and Boston 26 in regards to who would actually pick up the tab for the security should the funding from the Federal earmark fall through, with representatives from both organizations non-committal. "It makes me a little concerned when the question

is asked where the payment is going to come from, and nobody wanted to answer the question," said board member Debbie Gardino.

Gillette Stadium, set to host 7 matches between June 13 and July 9, will be renamed "Boston Stadium." According to event organizers, the World Cup is SEAR 1 event, the highest risk level for public gatherings. It's obviously an NFL game on steroids. It's equivalent of seven Super Bowls and 39 days of coverage, which is not small. We have to secure that facility for 39 days straight," said Foxboro Select Board Chairman Bill Yukna.

The matches are expected to generate over \$1 billion in local economic impact, including \$100 million in tax revenue and over 9,000 jobs. The Massachusetts State Legislature approved \$10 million to support transportation, public safety, signage, and other services. The town of Foxboro and its public safety teams has been preparing for World Cup for over three years, and will continue to communicate and coordinate with state and federal officials.

L'Anno Bello: A Year in Italian Folklore

Mesmerizing March!

by Ally Di Censo Symynkywicz



The changeable weather which characterizes this time of the year has placed me in the mindset of spring, a fact which is only enhanced by the arrival of the month of March. Finally, it appears that we can leave the last dregs of winter behind! Spring arrives in March, the month of delicate flower buds, bright green shamrocks and the rebirth of vegetation. Hopefully the unpredictable New England climate will soon allow me to put away my heavy winter coat, making room for my light jackets and floral dresses. March has always sparked such hope inside me precisely because it tastes and feels like spring, fresh and minty and green. I know I am not alone in my excitement; after all, the presence of the spring equinox in March imbued the month with the symbolism of regeneration and renewal across many cultures. Italian traditions, for example, pay homage to the new life which blossoms in March. Inspired by folk customs and my own personal recollections, I compiled a list of five reasons why March appeals to me immensely. These are the reasons why I eagerly await the third month of the year and all its associated pleasures.

1. March Weather: We all have heard the saying that March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb. There is actually a corollary to that famous proverb: if March comes in like a lamb, it will go out like a lion. This just goes to show the changeable nature of weather in March. The Italians even repeat a dictum which intones: "Marzo pazzarello, guarda il sole e prendi l'ombrello." Translated, this means: "Crazy March, look at the sun and grab the umbrella." The proverb certainly rings true

for my own memories of March. One day, I may be walking under a cloudy sky, propelled by a brisk breeze and practically swimming in misty rain. The next day, I can venture outside in a t-shirt and take heed of leaf buds peeking out in the sunshine. The unpredictable weather is part of March's unique charm, and it keeps us looking forward to spring.

2. Spring Fever Abounds: On March 8th, Daylight Savings Time will begin, heralding longer days. I love the thrill of unexpected daytime, of walking outside at five o'clock and seeing dappled sunlight on the forest trees. It energizes me and makes me appreciative of the cycle of time. However, sundry other signs of spring appear in March, even before the equinox arrives on the 20th of the month. The green shoots of the first crocuses and daffodils look striking against the dark, damp soil. Red-breasted robins chirp the arrival of spring as they scamper among the woods. The other day while walking outdoors, I marveled at the number of people promenading about and enjoying the nice weather, finally emerging from their winter hibernation. March is a glorious doorway, preparing us for the wonderful spring to come.

3. Girl Power! March 8th is International Women's Day. In Italy, this date is commemorated as *la Festa della Donna*. The beautiful mimosa flower, which blooms early in March, serves as the symbolic emblem of this holiday for Italians. International Women's Day serves to celebrate women's rights and raise awareness of issues affecting women around the world. Similarly, March is Women's History Month in

the United States. As a history teacher, I love exploring the past for strong female role models whose dedication and courage paved the way for the women leaders of today. I also admire the way the women's holidays of March highlight the plight of women worldwide, calling people to action.

4. St. Patrick's Day: A Bostonian simply cannot avoid St. Patrick's Day, and with good reason! This holiday brims with the joy of the imminent spring during a transitional month when buds still only shyly poke their heads out of trees and much of the ground remains muddy. St. Patrick's Day colors the world with green, especially in the form of the cheerful shamrock and leprechaun decorations that adorn homes and businesses, forebears to the lush spring vegetation. March 17th, the feast of St. Patrick, calls for wearing my favorite green dress, for blasting traditional Irish folk music from my iPhone, and for ebullient family gatherings where we feast on fresh spring salads and thick slabs of soda bread.

5. St. Joseph's Day: St. Joseph's Day arrives on March 19th, two days after the festivities for St. Patrick conclude. This holiday, particularly revered in Italian-American communities, allows me the opportunity to celebrate and take pride in my Italian heritage. My father would always bring home *zeppole*, or Italian doughnuts, around St. Joseph's Day. Italians also celebrate this holiday with outdoor excursions and picnics, marking it as a decidedly spring festival. This is the time of year, after all, when my father and his childhood friends would wander the Abruzzi countryside of their youth, smelling the new peach blossoms and watching farmers ready their fields for spring planting.

So there you go — five absolutely wonderful traditions and customs to love in March. From blustery winds to scarlet-feathered robins, from delicate mimosa flowers to lively shamrocks to creamy *zeppole*, March abounds with unique and indelible heralds of spring. We should all take the opportunity to start March — or any other month, for that matter — by looking around us and making a list of at least five special aspects of the month that bring us the most joy. By doing so, each day of the year becomes its own present, yielding its treasure to all those who seek to appreciate it.

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.

(Image by prostooleh on Freepik)

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THINKING OUT LOUD

by Sal Giarratani



I Am Really Starting to Hate Boston Winters



Since last Saturday it has not been the best of times and has been the worst of times as Charles Dickens once penned. Between having so much snow still here frozen from January 25-26 looking like it was here to stay with brutally cold temps. Then we get a bit of irritant snow just for the fun of it. Only to be followed by the Blizzard of '26 earlier this week.

Currently I am still without an on-street parking spot. They were all gone this past Sunday evening. I ended up parking on the street in front of a public school, which basically I spent hours digging out my car this past Monday. I knew it was temporary because as soon as school reopened then the spot would revert back to the school buses.

Sometimes you just can't win. Thank God I didn't park inside the school's parking lot. In the predawn hours of Monday morning the tow trucks arrived, one after the other until all the cars were gone. I chose wisely at least I didn't get towed.

At the moment I am writing this, my car still remains homeless when it comes to on-street parking. Right now living in East Boston means living day to day. Someday hopefully soon, I will get my parking spot again.

Too bad that residential parking is a farce. How many vehicles all around my neighborhood are illegally parked. I see all these residential parking signs that come with so many

loopholes that a Mack truck could fit through it all. At some point the city has to stop giving out more and more residential parking stickers. It is just one big joke. I tell you it's times like these that make me wonder why I didn't take off from here years ago. Someone told me it's too late now and I am too old. Am I really too old? After shoveling out my car twice recently. Once for almost 6 hours and this past week for almost 8 hours, Texas is starting to look better and better all the time. Just saying.

I wouldn't mind if I never picked up a shovel again. You know, just one more thought, I have a niece down in Providence where she got over 32 inches of snow and the city was unbelievably slow as molasses.

I still remember shoveling out of the Blizzard of '78, but it was a bit easier since I was only 29 years old then. I remember the Winter of 2015 when we had what seemed like 600 snowstorms. Providence just broke the Blizzard of '78 record. It could have been worse for me but thank God, Providence was never my exit out of this town here.

I still can't see Shay's Beach from my place in Jeffries Point but it is actually getting closer. Keep the DREAM. Summer is on the horizon. Just keep believing.

I will return next week with a full menu of columns for your reading pleasure. I needed a little break this week.

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North End Historical Society Provides Update on North End Museum

The North End Historical Society (NEHS) held a North End Museum Exhibit Presentation last week at the North End Branch of the Boston Public Library, 25 Parmenter Street. Following an initial introduction by North End resident, author and NEHS board member Patricia Annino, a detailed and enlightening walk through of museum exhibits was offered by NEHS President Tom Damigella. The goal of the evening was to provide attendees with an overview of planned exhibits and context to deliver a deeper appreciation and understanding of the project.



Located on Boston's Freedom Trail, at 3 Prince Street in the historic North End neighborhood, this labor of love has been a dream of NEHS founding members Jimmy Pasto and Alex Goldfeld, and carried on through the continued efforts of the board members and contributors who have pushed this vision and project over the past 10 years.

and content. As you enter the space there will be an introduction area, a 15-foot wall depicting a timeline, monitors simulating a clothesline where you will choose subjects of interest by coded colors. Topics will cover 1630 to present day, including the Colonial Period, African community, 1700s, onto the American Revolution, the North End as the Cradle of Liberty, The Sons of Liberty, Paul Revere, before segueing into the 1800s where the neighborhood was comprised of Irish and Jewish as the turn of the century witnessed the area becoming predominantly Italian immigrants.

It was less than a year ago that the physical location of the museum was secured, thanks to the generosity of Frank DePasquale of DePasquale Ventures, who kick started the Society's museum building plans by offering a five-year lease, at \$1.00 per year, and undertaking a total build out at his own cost, in order to prep it for the museum.

In the middle a projector will shine maps on the floor, with a loop showing a changing population, from 1700s to 1800s to 1900s and forward. On another 15-foot wall there will be a map of the North End streets showcasing flavors of the North End, such as the sweet shops, fruit and vegetable stores, butcher shops and others. In the back of the museum will be a 20-foot wall and 85-inch monitor showing a changing loop of slides that you will be able to touch

Tom explained this space, because of its limited size, will need to show 400 years of history, in a 900-square-foot space. The society teamed up and hired Trivium, a local expert in this field, to work on and develop conceptual design

and allow you to hear the stories of the North End.

The spirit of the North End area will transport you into the streets of the neighborhood, taking in the sights and sounds of the religious festivals, amongst other graphics. As you finish off your journey through the museum, you will face a full-length mirror, reflections of the North End, where various figures and characters will appear and take you back into history.

It is expected to take approximately 45 minutes to make your way through and around the museum. There will be QR codes that will allow visitors to dive deeper into areas of interest. The historical society hopes to rent the museum for power point presentation, lectures, and corporate events as a way to generate income to sustain the museum.

With \$320k raised out of the \$400k goal, the finish line is almost in sight. To make a donation go to <https://www.northendboston.org> or contact northendhistoricalsociety@gmail.com. The hope is to have the museum open for Summer, 2026.

Massachusetts Invests in Housing Creation

Governor Maura Healey's administration is set to invest over \$140 million, using state programs, with the goal of creating more than a thousand affordable homes and residences, through the rehabilitation of vacant commercial buildings across the Bay State. "Too many downtown buildings across Massachusetts are sitting dark and empty when they could be part of the solution to our housing shortage. The Affordable Homes Act gave us new tools to move faster and



150 Milk Street, Boston

smarter, and this first round of Commercial Conversion tax credits will help turn under-used commercial properties

into homes," said Governor Healey.

The Boston Project on Milk Street in the Financial District will provide 18 units while the Worcester Project will create 198 homes in the downtown district. Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll referred to the rehab projects as a "downtown comeback" commenting that these units result in the "support of local businesses, strengthen neighborhoods and help people love closer to jobs, transit and every day amenities."

An additional \$139 million will offer low-income housing tax credits and subsidies to 15 rental housing developments across Massachusetts, in part to assist individuals and families transitioning from homelessness. "These 15 developments will help move over 1,000 homes throughout the state, delivering the homes seniors, families and workers need to stay in the communities they call home, stated the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities Secretary Ed Augustus.

In addition to four Boston developments providing over 250 homes, there are additional projects slated across the entire state including Beverly, Easthampton, Framingham, Greenfield, Lawrence, Lenox, Lowell, New Bedford, Newton, Pittsfield and Westford.

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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.

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12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
All Adults Registration Required

Register here:
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A 5-Week Journey into American Sign Language: Expand your vocabulary and build confidence in American Sign Language! This interactive course is perfect for beginners or those seeking a refresher to sharpen their conversational skills.

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SIGNING ROCKS!

Virtual ASL Class at the Library



Virtual Event
Thursday, March 12, 2026
6:30 PM - 7:15 PM
All Adults Registration Required

Register here:
tinyurl.com/ASL-Virtual-Mar2026
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SIGNING Rocks! Turn your screen on and get moving! Join our high-energy, "Anything Goes" virtual ASL event. Forget the classroom—learn through play in a "no-voice" immersive environment. All levels welcome!

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NEW Health Announces New Dental Services

The Dental Department Continues
to Expand Services;

Facial Cosmetics Were Recently Launched

North End Waterfront Health (NEW Health), a community health center in Boston, announces the launch of new dental services: ClearCorrect aligners and 3D printing services for faster, more convenient and more affordable dental care. These are in addition to new facial cosmetic services that launched in fall of 2025.



NEW Health has added ClearCorrect clear aligner therapy to its dental services, expanding access to modern orthodontic care within our community.

ClearCorrect provides customized treatment plans using advanced digital technology to gradually and predictably align teeth. The aligners are clear, removable, and designed for comfort, allowing patients to eat, brush, and floss normally without brackets or wires. Offered at competitive pricing compared to other area providers, ClearCorrect at NEW Health makes high quality orthodontic care more accessible for those seeking a discreet alternative to traditional braces.

NEW Health now also offers 3D printing services with cutting-edge technology. The dental team is trained to scan and print a variety of products — many available the same day as a patient's appointment, including: Crowns, Occlusal/Night Guards, Athletic Mouthguards, Clear Retainers, Veneers, Ceramic Inlays, and Onlays.

"We are always looking for new ways to expand our services to provide what our patients are looking for, while at the same time supporting and maintaining our core mission of being a community health center," said Vincenzo "Vin" Scibelli, NEW Health CEO. "We look forward to welcoming new dental patients in 2026."

These new services are an expansion of the already robust dental department at NEW Health, which also provides comprehensive dental examinations, digital radiography, professional dental cleanings, tooth-colored restorations, teeth whitening treatments, removable dentures, root canal therapy, oral surgery, restoration of dental implants, and pediatric dentistry.

New facial cosmetic services also launched in fall of 2025. Licensed and certified dentists provide Botox and dermal filler treatments designed to refresh appearance and enhance natural beauty. With advanced training and an expert understanding of facial aesthetics, they bring both artistry and precision to every treatment for natural-looking results in a trusted health care environment. These quick, non-surgical treatments provide results with little to no downtime and NEW Health dentists, Dr. Elodia Kore and Dr. Erika Omansky, are highly trained to deliver all services with expertise and compassion.

The services are open to all — those who are interested do not need to be primary dental care patients at NEW Health, although they will undergo a comprehensive exam with a NEW Health clinician.

Facial cosmetic services are available at out-of-pocket costs, but at competitive prices. For other dental services, NEW Health Dental accepts most major insurances, including MassHealth and Commonwealth Care Alliance. Free consultations at the North End location (332 Hanover Street in Boston) can be scheduled by calling 617-643-8070.

About NEW Health

As a federally qualified health center and an affiliate of Massachusetts General Hospital and Boston Medical Center, North End Waterfront Health (NEW Health) extends its world-renowned healthcare services to people who live and work in and around Boston's North End, Waterfront and Charlestown neighborhoods. NEW Health is committed to improving the quality of health and life for those it serves by providing high quality health care that is consumer oriented, culturally appropriate, neighborhood-based, affordable, and produces positive outcomes. NEW Health is a 2025 Health Center Quality Leader (HCQL), receiving a Gold badge from the Health Resources and Services Administration, among the top 10% of health centers nationwide. NEW Health also received HRSA Quality Badges for Heart Health, Cancer Screening, Advancing Health IT, and Preventive Health.

NEW Health has been serving the North End of Boston and the surrounding community since 1971. In addition to primary care services for all patients, many specialty services are also offered including dental, vision, behavioral health, obstetrics, gynecology, laboratory services and x-ray services. NEW Health is a private, non-profit corporation that is governed by a community-based Board of Directors and licensed by the Department of Public Health. More information at www.newhealthcenter.org, on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

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Saint Kuriakose Elias Chavara

by Bennett Molinari and Richard Molinari



St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara was a priest and social reformer who uplifted the marginalized. He removed barriers to education for the poor, provided food for impoverished students, and promoted humanitarian aid for the sick and elderly. and poor.

Born on February 10, 1805 in Kainakary, Kerala, in southwestern India, Kuriakose was raised in a devout Catholic family that belonged to an ancient community of Christians popularly known as Saint Thomas Christians. The community is descended from Christians

baptized by St. Thomas the Apostle in the 1st Century AD. Kuriakose entered the seminary and was ordained a Carmelite priest in 1829. His holiness, humility, and deep pastoral sense soon made him a trusted counselor to clergy and laity alike.

In 1831, together with two other priests, he founded what would become the Carmelites of Mary Immaculate (CMI), the first men's religious congregation founded by Indian Catholics. Inspired by Carmelite spirituality and devoted to the

Blessed Virgin. The community provided education, mission work, and service to the marginalized. Fr. Kuriakose later assisted in founding the Congregation of the Mother of Carmel (CMC), the first indigenous women's religious congregation in India.

Fr. Kuriakose introduced parish reforms that strengthened family prayer, catechesis, and unity. He urged families to gather daily for prayer and to practice reading Scripture at home. His love for the poor shaped initiatives such as *Pidiyari*, a practice of setting aside a handful of rice daily to assist those in need.

The rice from the *Pidiyari* program supplied the midday meal that drew poor children to school, preparing their minds and souls for a life of grace. Fr. Kuriakose said, "As those who have no eyes are called 'blind,' so too those who have no learning are to be called 'intellectually blind.' Hence, it is the responsibility of the priest to teach the faithful and of parents to teach their children."

Fr. Kuriakose passed away on January 3, 1871, and was canonized in 2014 by Pope Francis. His legacy includes religious congregations, churches, schools, monasteries, a newspaper, and numerous writings. The Feast day of Saint Kuriakose Elias Chavara is February 18.

• State of the Union (Continued from Page 1)

states from issuing commercial driver's licenses to illegal immigrants, was subject to outbursts from Minnesota Democratic Congresswoman Ilhan Omar and Michigan Democratic Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib. The president fired back with criticism of the Democratic lawmakers for "putting illegal aliens before American citizens," adding "You should be ashamed of yourself."

President Trump referred to public benefits fraud and SNAP schemes, promising a "war on fraud" to be led by Vice-President JD Vance, promising a balanced budget if successful. "There's been no more stunning example than Minnesota, where members of the Somali community have pillaged an estimated \$19 billion from the American tax bill, and California, Massachusetts, Maine and many other states are even worse. And we are working on it like you wouldn't believe. We'll get it done. We will actually have a balanced budget overnight, that's how much money we are talking about."

He urged congress to join together to pass the Save America Act, which would require proof of citizenship to vote while imposing stricter voter ID laws, something the Democrats fiercely oppose. The president also called on Democratic members to vote and fund DHS, "Tonight, I'm demanding the full and immediate restoration of all funding for the Border Security, Homeland Security of the United States and also for helping people clean up their snow. We have no money because of the Democrats, and it would be nice, love to give you a hand at

cleaning it up, but you gave no money."

The president emphasized strength through strength, boasting of a trillion-dollar U.S. military budget and crediting his administration and Secretary of State Marco for ending international wars and conflicts and continuing U.S. global engagements with various world leaders. He touched on Iran, asserting he would "never allow" Tehran to develop nuclear weapons, reflecting ongoing tensions in the Middle East. He briefly mentioned European leadership with calls for NATO allies to raise their spending and strengthen deterrence from common threats and enemies.

No one was spared the wrath of President Donald Trump, not even the judiciary branch, as he took the opportunity to publicly criticize the Supreme Court, as they sat stoically in front of him. Trump was particularly critical of last week's ruling invalidating large portions of his tariffs. It's believed that some of his most recent comments resulted in a reduced Supreme Court attendance, as some justices opted out of attending.

At one point during the address, Trump called out insider trading on Capitol Hill, urging Congress to "pass the Stop Insider Trading Act without delay," while also taking a shot at former Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and one of the wealthiest members of Congress. "Let's ensure that members of Congress cannot corruptly profit from using insider information," Trump stated as members of both parties to stand in support, including Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren.

Trump responded, "They stood up for that. I can't believe it. Did Nancy Pelosi stand up, if she's here?"

The President invited and honored a number of guests to rousing applause and chants of USA from Congressional Republicans, as most of the Democratic attendees remained seated without applauding, with the exception of when the entire USA gold medal winning Men's Olympic Hockey Team was welcomed into the chamber with a standing ovation from everyone and chants of USA erupted. Trump took the opportunity to promote American pride, including awarding a Purple Heart, Medal of Honor, and a Presidential medal of Freedom to USA men's gold medal winning Olympic Hockey Team goalie Connor Hellebuyck. An emotional tribute was also paid to the late conservative activist and TPU President Charlie Kirk.

Whether you align with Democrats, Republicans, or Independents. Whether you voted for President Trump or another candidate. Regardless of where you live geographically across the United States. We are all proud Americans and should embrace the closing comments made by President Trump during his address to members of Congress and the American people, as he reminded all who were openly listening, "There is no challenge Americans cannot overcome. These first 250 years were just the beginning. The golden age of America is upon us. The revolution that began in 1776 has not ended. It still continues, because the flame of liberty and independence still burns in the heart of every American patriot. God Bless America!"

Ieri e Oggi

Yesterday & Today

A COLUMN OF PAST AND CURRENT EVENTS

by Bennett Molinari & Richard Molinari



The Hanseatic League: The Hanseatic League was a powerful 12th to 17th century commercial and defensive confederation of merchant guilds and market towns in Northern Europe, dominating Baltic and North Sea trade. The League was centered in Lübeck in present day Germany, and protected trade routes, secured monopolies, and controlled commerce for goods like fish, timber, and furs. The League was formed to protect commercial interests, secure trading privileges abroad, and defend against pirates. It enabled merchants to work together, establishing trading posts in foreign cities.

Growing from Lübeck and a few other North German towns in the late 12th century, the League expanded between the 13th and 15th centuries and ultimately encompassed nearly 200 settlements across eight modern-day countries, ranging from what became Estonia and Russia in the northeast to the Netherlands in the west, and extended inland as far south as Cologne.

Economic interdependence and family connections among merchant families led to deeper political integration and the reduction of trade barriers. This gradual process involved standardizing trade regulations among Hanseatic cities.

The League's power wane in the 15th and 16th centuries due to the rise of territorial states (like England and Russia), competition from Dutch merchants, and changing trade. By the mid-16th century, these weak connections left the Hanseatic League vulnerable, and it gradually unraveled as members merged into other realms or departed, ultimately disintegrating in 1669.

Pirandello Lyceum Sponsors

Boston Bel Canto

March 15, at 3:30 PM

New President of the Pirandello Lyceum, Virginia Papa Gardner and the Board of Directors invite all lovers of music to attend the 28th annual year which the Pirandello Lyceum is sponsoring the Boston Bel Canto Opera performance. Maestro Bradley Pennington and the Boston Bel Canto singers will sing well known opera arias from *La Rondine*, *La Favorita*, *Cavalleria Rusticana*, *Rigoletto* and others.

The concert will take place on Sunday afternoon, March 15, at 3:00 p.m., at the Dante Alighieri, Cambridge, 41 Hampshire Street, Cambridge, MA.

The Pirandello Lyceum looks forward to welcoming you to this beautiful concert free of charge for Pirandello Lyceum Members, please check in at the Pirandello Table.

HELPING THOSE IN NEED DURING LENT

A Collection for the Rita A. DiMento Women's Clinic

Once again this year, John JR Romano, Fr. Mike, St. Leonard Parish, and the Ausonia Council Knights of Columbus #1513 will be doing a collection for the Rita A. DiMento Women's Clinic located in the St. Anthony's Shrine at Arch Street Church. We ask our friends and neighbors in the North End to help us help the most vulnerable members of our society, homeless women. The event will be held on Saturday, March 21st at St. Joseph's Hall on Prince Street from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. A Mass will follow at 5:00 p.m., at St. Leonard Church where the second collection will be donated to the Clinic. If you cannot attend the collection, items can be dropped off ahead of time at the Nazzaro Community Center, 30 North Bennet Street. You can also contact JR at 617-750-9749 for a pick-up.

The following items will be collected; all must be brand new:

- Women's: sweatpants, leggings, sports bras, underwear (XS-XL), comfortable walking shoes, long or short sleeve shirts and tops — plain pullover, zip-up sweatshirts, rain jackets
- Backpacks and Fanny packs
- \$10 gift cards to Dunkins, CVS or McDonald's, (gift cards used to incentivize goals and/or medical tests, and allows use of a restroom)
- SPARE CHANGE OF ANY AMOUNT

Stop by on the 21st and have coffee and home-made baked goods.

We will accept, cash, checks or Venmo. Thank you in advance for your support!



Donne 2000



Festa Delle Donne & Scholarship Fundraiser

Sunday, March 22, 2026 @ 12:30 PM

AMICI CLUB

17 Reardon Road, Medford, MA 02155

Fratelli Catering ♦ DJ Alan LaBella

\$75.00 per person - \$26.00 per child 12 and under

Please join us as we celebrate *International Women's Day*. Proceeds from this event will go towards our scholarship program. Please invite your family and friends, including men and children to help us celebrate this memorable event. We will have a great time with delicious food, dancing, and raffle prizes. Family-style lunch includes rigatoni capricciosa, chicken piccata, pork tenderloin, roasted potatoes, green beans, salad, wine, and dessert. Children's menu is chicken fingers and fries.

Donations or raffle prizes are greatly appreciated.

For more information, contact

Doreen Giammarco 857-204-6742 doreeng869@aol.com

Please RSVP by March 15th.

Blackhawks Big Bluestem

Adds Bold Color and Interest to the Landscape

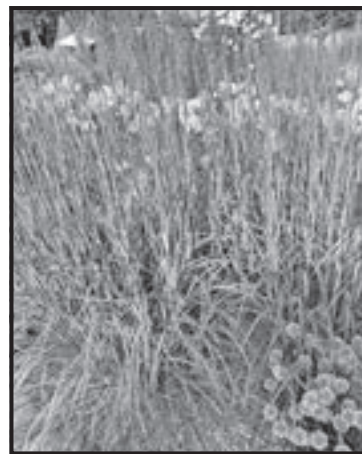
by Melinda Myers

No matter your garden style you are likely to find a place for this year's Perennial Plant of the Year, Blackhawks big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii* 'Blackhawks'). You'll enjoy the beauty it adds to your gardens and low maintenance it requires to thrive.

This cultivar of our native big bluestem provides vertical interest, motion and bold color to the landscape. Its leaves start out dark green and develop reddish-purple tips throughout the growing season. Flowers appear in August and by September the leaves and stems of the plant turn a deep purple hue.

Hardy in zones 3 to 9, it prefers full sun and adapts to a wide range of soil but may flop in fertile, moist conditions. Once established, it is drought tolerant. Make sure it receives needed moisture and proper care for the first two years while developing its robust, more drought-tolerant root system.

In addition to drought tolerance, Blackhawks big bluestem has no major pests or disease problems. Just cut it back to the ground in late winter before new growth begins. Its overall excellent performance made it one of the top-rated ornamental grasses in the Chicago Botanic Garden's *Evaluation Study of*



Blackhawks big bluestem is low maintenance and combines nicely with other perennials.

(Photo by www.MelindaMyers.com)

Hardy Ornamental Grasses.

Big bluestem was the dominant grass of the prairies and largely responsible for the formation of prairie sod. This drought-tolerant grass is a host plant for many skippers and provides shelter and food for songbirds. It grows 5 to 8 feet tall and reseeds readily, making it hard for many home gardeners to include in their landscape.

It is smaller in size than the big bluestem species, just 5 feet tall and 24 inches wide,

making it more suitable for home landscapes. Use it as a screen, backdrop in garden beds or as part of mixed borders. It combines nicely with other perennials, like Zagreb threadleaf coreopsis, calamint, liatris, Rudbeckia, sedum, asters and more.

Blackhawks big bluestem, like other Perennial Plants of the Year, was selected for its low maintenance, pest and disease resistance and ability to thrive in a wide range of climates. It joins past winners like little bluestem, butterfly weed, Millenium allium, American Goldrush Rudbeckia and *Amsonia hubrichtii*. These winners are selected by Perennial Plant Association members, which include hundreds of horticulture experts like landscapers, designers, professors, plant breeders, growers, retailers and public garden curators. You can find out more about this nonprofit program and past Perennial Plants of the Year at <https://perennialplantoftheyear.com>.

Look for opportunities to include this year's Perennial Plant of the Year in your gardens. You'll enjoy its beauty and the benefits it provides whether your gardens are informal, naturalistic or a cottage-style.

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

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– THE PEACOCKS (CD)
JackoJazz**

New York based vocalist Alfie Jackson named her debut album on the homegrown *JackoJazz* label after Jimmy Rowles' evocative composition from 1974 *The Peacocks* because it held special meaning for her. The Stan Getz/Bill Evans recording of the tune was the last album her grandfather played on his turntable before he died, a dozen years before Alfie was born. She penned new lyrics to Rowles' melody to bridge the gap, meditating on what that distant relationship might have been in the picturesque town of Knaresborough in North Yorkshire, UK. Despite her poised sensitivity on ballads, represented here with the opener "500 Miles High," "How Insensitive" and "My One and Only Love," Jackson also likes to groove out and take risks, notably on Joe Henderson's "Inner Urge" and Cedar Walton's "Ugetsu." These hardbop warhorses also feature equally adventurous soloing from members of her sextet, which includes saxophonist Leo Milano, vibraphonist Wanye Williams, drummer Chase Wilkins, acoustic and electric bassist Daniel Ellis Perez and guitarist Sam Roberson. The latter is featured on Nina Simone's importunate blues "Do I Move You?" which heralds a cameo performance, from producer and saxophonist Michael Jackson. Other highlights include a rangy take on Coltrane's "After the Rain" for which Alfie also wrote lyrics, and a rousing version of the eden ahbez classic "Nature Boy" which features Williams' energetic vibraphone and, salient in the set, her own confessional song "I Deserve This," written while still in high school.

**MICHAEL JACKSON =
THE GAL FROM OCHI (CD)
JackoJazz**

Michael Jackson has always been active as a saxophonist, and the lull in his diverse activities caused by the pandemic afforded time to focus on adding final touches to an album he'd had in the works for years. *The Gal From Ochi* features eleven powerful originals running the gamut from out-funk to Chicago blues, bossa, calypso, pop, spoken word, reggae and balladry, all infused with essential doses of jazz and improvisation. After a horn-led warm up, the eponymous opener pits Jackson's tenor sax against patois from Lady B. The message is about 'appreciatin de day' — and not 'acting your age, or you'll miss out;' another line puns 'Afrodizzy/Act' with 'aphrodisiac.' The latter's up-beats, alongside percussionist JoVia Armstrong, are given another island turn on a calypso inspired by jazzman Sonny Rollins, dubbed "Sonny the Squirrel" after Rollins' darting, unpredictable lines. Latin influences include a bossa with contrapuntal horn lines dedicated to Jackson's first voyage to Brazil which features cuica from Rio de Janeiro's Geraldo de Oliveira behind guitarist Aaron Koppel's solo. Koppel's

energized playing is featured on a stomping Chicago blues dedicated to Junior Wells and the freight train funk of "Blue Stew." On a more mellow tip "Pop Tart" — which was featured in the independent movie "Bad Johnson" — is a showcase for Jackson's attempt at smooth jazz. An understated piano solo from Andrew Zallar is an unforced highlight. "Wolfgang" in marked contrast, is free-for-all funk. Breaker distinguishes himself on the closer "Scoot Ya Butt," with burning trumpet volleys from Corey Wilkes. Jackson's teenage daughter Alfie added purified vocals to "Stepping Stones," about an absent, disloyal lover, delivered with a panache beyond her years.

**BEN ROSENBLUM NEBULA
PROJECT –
THE LONGEST WAY ROUND
(CD)**

One Trick Dog Records

"Think you're escaping and run into yourself," James Joyce wrote in his insightful masterpiece *Ulysses*. "Longest way 'round is the shortest way home." Pianist, accordionist and composer Ben Rosenblum has found resonant truth in those words. So much so that he's adopted them as the title of *The Longest Way Round*, the third release to date by his globally influenced ensemble, the Nebula Project. As a composer he delights in the juxtapositions between musical traditions from around the world. In the members of the Nebula Project, the composer has surrounded himself with traveling companions who share his restless curiosity and bring their own diverse influences and backgrounds into this explorative mix. On *The Longest Way Round* Rosenblum endeavors further and in more divergent directions, experimenting with distinct traditions on every piece. Those folkloric influences pervade *The Longest Way Round*, but not always in the most expected ways. Opener "Merengue x Fantasy" clearly draws from Dominican merengue, but that 'x' — a naming convention borrowed from Japanese anime — is a nod to the tune's J-pop inspired chord progression. "Sheridan's Reel," an Irish-inflected piece with a hint of blues/funk in the groove, follows it. The suite "Scenes Frozen in Time" compiles three pieces written at key points and places in Rosenblum's musical development. The first, "Berlin," is the most recent, penned while the composer spent an isolated period in the city in late 2021. The origins of "Old Friends" stretch back to high school, while "Onslaught" is a revised version of a piece written during his college years. "Circulo" soars upon West African rhythms shared after a trip to Cameroon, while "Blue Water" treks to the Caribbean for its reggae/ska rhythms. "Albatross" and "Fool's Gold" are the album's most straightforward pieces. "Last Call" was written with trumpeter Wayne Tucker in mind, taking advantage of his experience in the realm of neo-soul and R&B.

Volunteer Snow Shovelers Gather Around the City of Boston



Boston Mayor Michelle Wu is a pro at flipping the annoying snow out of the way.

Following the most recent snow storm earlier this week, The City of Boston organized a neighborhood shoveling meet up, on Tuesday, February 24 in each community throughout the city. Utilizing social media, friends and neighbors were encouraged to bundle up, meet at a designated location and time, bring a shovel and take the opportunity to "Love Your Block."

Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services Liaison's coordinated the efforts as volunteers cleared sidewalks, fire hydrants and handicap curb ramps across each neighborhood. It was a selfless group effort by all who participated and a reminder of what makes the neighborhoods in Boston and its people so special.



(L to R): The North End Volunteer Snow Brigade; State Representative Aaron Michlewitz, North End residents and Adam Hartwell, Dariel Meehan, Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services Liaison Maria Perez, North End Liaison to District 1 City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata's office Samantha Peracchi, North End resident Richard Perez, Luigi Natale and kneeling in front North End resident Dr. Jessica Dello Russo.



East Boston Volunteer Snow Brigade prepares to tackle the snow piles.



(L to R): Richard Perez, Maria Perez and Samantha Peracchi clear the crosswalk at the corner of North Street and Sun Court Street in the North End.



Volunteers from the East Boston Shoveling Brigade clear the crosswalk in the heart of Central Square.



District 1 City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata is dressed and ready to take on the snow piles.



Boston Mayor Michelle Wu (far right) leads the South Boston Volunteer Shoveling Team, including City Councilor Ed Flynn (3rd from left). (Photos courtesy of the City of Boston)

Nanna & Babbonnonno

by John Christoforo

A Nostalgic Remembrance



Well, it's the end of February, and I'm half way through a story about vacationing in the islands with friends back in the day. As a young man teaching school in Boston, I had the school vacations off including the 3rd week in February. Back a few years ago, it was called Washington's Birthday Week and many of my fellow teachers would head for ski country to vacation and maybe break an ankle trying to navigate the slopes of northern New England's snow-covered mountains. I tried it once and hated everything except the social activities that took place at the ski lodges. Once I had discovered the tropics, that was the end of heading north to vacation in the winter. Last week's story involved my old friend, Sal Meli, whom I had grown up with in East Boston and a pal that I taught with. The three of us headed to Puerto Rico for the February vacation, basically to bask in the sun and swim in 85-degree Caribbean waters.

Before I ran out of space last week, I mentioned that we headed for a San Juan hotel casino and I tried my hand at gambling for the first time. The only other casino I had ever been in was at the Nacional, in Havana, Cuba. Uncle Nick and Aunt Dorothy often took cruises during vacation time and in 1958, they headed for Havana during Easter week. As was often the case, I was invited seeing Uncle Nick was my Godfather and never had kids of his own. In '58, I accepted their offer and joined them and one of the side ventures was a stop at the hotel's casino. I didn't gamble. Uncle Nick wouldn't let me. Well, it was now the early '60s, Cuba was off limits and San Juan had taken over as the number one Caribbean stop for American tourists and Sal Meli suggested the casino at the Caribe Hilton, one of San Juan's best hotels. I had beginner's luck, a phenomenon that only happens to a person the first time they try something.

We dressed back then. You couldn't get into most of the better places unless you wore a suit and tie. Once we were properly attired, we headed from the Hotel Normandie to the Caribe Hilton. After we entered the casino, I sat down at a blackjack table and tried my luck. As I said, I had beginners luck. No matter what I did, I won. If I had 18 showing, and foolishly drew a card, with the way my luck was running, I could have drawn a 3 and hit 21. I stayed at the table for quite a while and kept winning. At one point, I wanted to leave but drew 2 aces. I split the cards, bet everything I had and drew 2 kings, making double blackjack. When I finally quit, I had enough money to go on a Caribbean shopping spree and not think twice. The next day, we headed for St. Thomas. We actually had reservations at a long-gone resort called the Gramboco Inn.

Once we arrived and were settled in, the owner, a woman who looked like a hippie, told

us about the beaches we should visit. She saw the beginnings of our Puerto Rican tans and assumed we were sun worshippers. She was right and we rented motor cycles and were on our way to the local beaches. During the afternoons, we headed to the main street in Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas' capital. For about a mile on both sides, there were stores of every type and description. I bought cartons of cigarettes for \$2.10 per carton. Handmade cigars for 50 cents each, assorted summer clothes, jewelry and perfumes for gifts and several quarts of liquor not on the market back home. The quota was 4 quarts packaged and an open bottle for medicinal purposes. I even bought Babbonnonno a bottle of 100-year-old cognac and French absinthe, which not long after, became illegal to distill or sell. At that point, Sal told me that he wasn't buying more than one bottle of liquor and I bought myself even more to fill his quota. The one mistake was to purchase a bottle of Japanese scotch. I learned from that purchase, that if I was to buy scotch, it had to come from Scotland.

I only had one problem. When we flew to St. Thomas, we left some of our clothes at the Hotel Normandie and packed enough for a couple of days in St. Thomas. We three then flew to St. Thomas. My suitcase didn't. I had just the clothes on my back. I basically needed a bathing suit. Neither Tom nor Sal were anywhere near my size, but I met some tourists from Belmont, MA, and one of the guys lent me a pair of swim trunks. On the last day there, my suitcase arrived having been diverted to Rio de Janeiro by mistake. All was well from that point on.

We had an honor system bar at the Gramboco Inn. You made your own drinks and then paid what you owed at the end of your stay. Each afternoon we would discuss where we were going to go for dinner over a tropical drink. In the process, we became friendly with several naval officers who often utilized the hotel as their watering hole. There were a few of the sailors who were part of the compliment of men on the U.S.S. *Thresher*, a submarine stationed in St. Thomas. A few months later, the *Thresher* went down in the Atlantic with the entire crew losing their lives. I was very saddened when this happened.

Well, the trip to St. Thomas came to a close and we headed back to Puerto Rico a bit more tanned than when we left. Fortunately, my suitcase didn't head to South America this time around. Once back at the Normandie, our rooms were waiting for us along with passes to a private beach club, El Escambron. At the club, we met an American icon. This gentleman was in Puerto Rico promoting professional boxing among local athletes. Once we spotted him, we introduced ourselves. The big man smiled,

shook our hands and said, "Hello, my name is Joe Louis." We were thrilled, and in conversation just referred to him as, "Champ." I would run into him again several years later in Las Vegas, but this was the first time and I was thrilled. Later that day, I called Dad and Babbonnonno to tell them about the chance meeting as they were both fight fans and Joe Louis had been their favorite heavyweight before he retired.

That night, we headed out on the town, eventually ending the evening at an all-night deli called the Red Rooster. We met some people sitting at the next table and one of them turned out to be Dick Shawn, a Hollywood actor comedian, who would star in *It's a Mad Mad Mad World* the following year.

It was during this vacation that I developed a taste for Puerto Rican and Cuban food. Much of it was centered around marinated roast pork with sweet plantains, beans and rice with caramel custard and local coffee for dessert. I can still taste the garlic.

That Sunday, we flew back to Boston, deeply tanned and fully un-rested needing a day or so to recuperate. Once back at Logan, Tom's father picked him up, and as arranged, Dad was to pick up Sal and me. Actually, he and Mom drove past us twice. We were so tanned, they didn't recognize us. The third time, I flagged them down and could hear Babbonnonno yelling from the back seat, "Ferma la macchina che e John." (Stop the car, that's John.), and they stopped. The February vacation was over, but I still remember it after all these years.

GOD BLESS AMERICA

PS: For those of you who asked for my email address, it is beagsley@rcn.com.

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
The Probate and Family Court Department
Middlesex, SS Division
Docket No. M126P0407PO

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR REMOVAL OF TRUSTEE

To all persons interested in the **33 Kato Drive Realty Trust**, a petition has been presented by **Perry A. Beckett of Sudbury, MA** in the above-captioned matter praying that **George Deligiannides of Swampscott, MA** be removed as Trustee(s) of said Trust.

If you desire to object thereto, you or your attorney should file a written appearance in said court at **Woburn** before ten o'clock in the forenoon on **March 25th, 2026**.

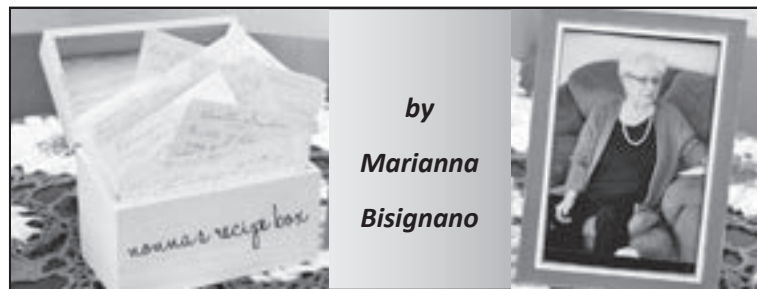
Witness, Hon. Terri L. Klug-Cafazzo, Esquire, First Justice of said Court at Woburn, this 25th day of **February**, in the year of our Lord **Two Thousand and Twenty-Six**.

Tara E. DeCristofaro,
Register of Probate Court

Run date: 02/27/2026

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by
**Marianna
Bisignano**

For centuries, Neapolitans have created rich, deeply flavored sauces that captured the hardness of a meat ragù without using meat. From that tradition came Neapolitan Eggplant Sauce, a Southern Italian classic born during a time when eggplant was abundant and home cooks relied on what the land naturally provided. Dating back to the early 1800s, this rustic sauce, often thought of as a vegetarian version of Bolognese, became a beloved companion to many kinds of pasta.

My Nonna had her own way of making eggplant sauce, using the same simple ingredients that have always defined the dish, such as eggplant, tomatoes, onions, olive oil, and fresh basil. Simple, rustic cooking at its best. She would serve it over spaghetti, rigatoni, or sometimes even layer it into a lasagna. During Lent especially, Nonna's Eggplant Sauce with Rigatoni was one of those comforting meatless meals that always brought the whole family to the table!

NONNA'S EGGPLANT SAUCE with RIGATONI *Sugo di Melanzane Della Nonna con Rigatoni*



- 3 eggplants, peeled and cut into bite-size pieces
- 1 cup olive oil, divided
- 3 to 4 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 1 to 2 onions, finely chopped
- 2 (6-ounce) cans tomato paste
- 2 (28-ounce) cans crushed tomatoes
- ½ cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese
- 4 to 6 fresh basil leaves, chopped
- Salt and black pepper, to taste
- 1 pound rigatoni
- 1 to 2 cups freshly grated mozzarella cheese
- Extra Parmesan for serving (optional)

Preheat the oven to 350°F. Toss the eggplant pieces with ½ cup olive oil and spread them in a single layer on a parchment-lined baking sheet. Roast for about 20 minutes, turn the pieces, and continue baking until soft and lightly golden. Set aside.

In a large stockpot, heat the remaining ½ cup olive oil over medium heat. Add the chopped onions and cook until soft and translucent. Stir in the garlic and cook for another minute or two until fragrant. Add the tomato paste and cook, stirring often, for 5 to 10 minutes. Pour in the crushed tomatoes, then stir in the Parmesan cheese, chopped basil, salt and pepper, to taste. Add the roasted eggplant to the sauce. Reduce the heat and let the sauce simmer uncovered for about 1½ hours, stirring occasionally, until rich and thick.

Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Cook the rigatoni until al dente, then drain.

Add the cooked rigatoni to a large casserole dish. Spoon the eggplant sauce over the pasta and mix gently. Stir in the mozzarella cheese so it melts throughout the dish and serve hot with extra grated Parmesan cheese, if desired.

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

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*Johnny Christy
Orchestra*

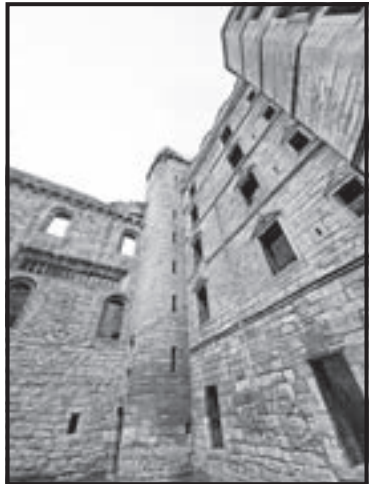
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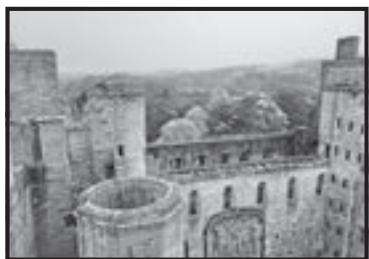
with Daniel A. DiCenso

Lilinthgow, Dunkeld and the Hermitage



Linlithgow

The morning of October 21st began with planning the drive to the Hermitage through Dunkeld with awe-inspiring vistas of the Scottish countryside. But I had to visit Linlithgow Palace before departing the Edinburgh area. Linlithgow was, after all, the residence of Scottish royalty from the 15th to the 17th century when the Scottish crowns left for England. After falling into neglect in the 18th century, the palace has since been revived as one of the most popular destinations in Scotland.



Linlithgow from the top

Its construction was a group effort started by the English occupation as a post between Edinburgh and Sterling Castle in 1301. Throughout 1302, the King's soldiers as well as 200 civilians were hired to build the ditches. This palace was largely finished a year before the arrival of Elizabeth of Rhuddlan, daughter of Edward I (founder and visionary of the castle) to give birth. Nine years later Scotland would regain the castle in a battle tactic that can only be called Homerian. A familiar hay vendor by the name of William Bynnie dropped by the palace peel with his wagon to sell his supply. As a recognized vendor the peel was opened for him, as was customary. Once within the palace walls, Bynnie and his seven sons jumped out of the hay wagon and reclaimed the palace for their leader Robert the Bruce who, with the palace in his position, wasted little



The central grounds of Linlithgow

time in dismantling the peel to keep out the English army.

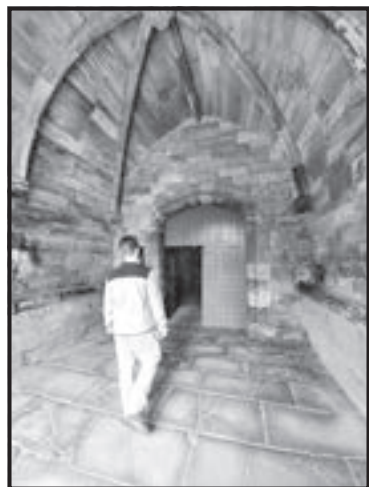
The peel would be repaired some fifty years later in preparation for the visit of King David II.

By the mid-15th century, King James I, while restoring the castle after a fire that broke out in 1424, began shifting its image as a royal house rather than a fort.

This transformation continued into the reign of King James IV and his wife Margaret Tudor who delighted in decorating and beautifying the palace for festivities and royal performances.

The palace continued to play a part in the lives of many royal figures including King James V and James VI, all of which added their own stamps to the walls. Most notably, Linlithgow was the birthplace of Mary, Queen of Scots who, while not as active in maintaining the palace grounds, evidently valued her childhood there, visiting often into adulthood.

Though Linlithgow was never fully forgotten, both its significance and use waned after the Union of the Crowns in 1603 and by the end of the 17th century was in decay. It was not until the first half of the 20th century that a significant restoration of the palace began and Linlithgow returned to its former glory.



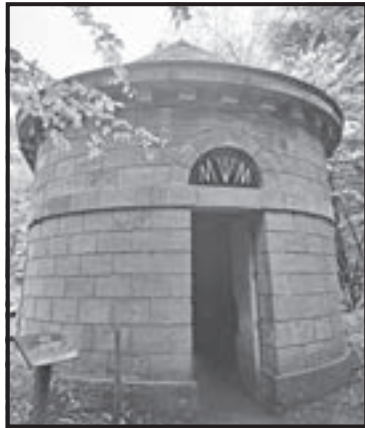
Me traversing the halls of Linlithgow

I took a walk through its interior, getting lost in the labyrinth of its rooms and corridors. After about an hour or so I began my way toward the Hermitage through Dunkeld. I often miss the counterpart of wherever I am, and leaving Edinburgh I was excited to see some of the fabled Scottish countryside. In Dunkeld I found a quaint



Scottish countryside

little bakery I had researched before departing called Aran Bakery. It is a small but busy little shop that, consequently, fills up fast. Still, I managed to find a spot to eat there and then arrived at the Hermitage, easily one of the most beautiful natural spots in Scotland. Its atmosphere will be familiar to anyone who has visited the New England state forests, though it



Ossian's Hall at the Hermitage

was established on the banks of the Craigvinean Forest by a true Scotsman, John Murray, the third Duke of Atholl, in the mid-18th century with the addition of the hermit's cave by the Earl of Breadalbane in 1760.

But its American influence is not a coincidence. The iconic Douglas-firs, an evergreen native to North America, were imported to the park a century later and to this day are



Black Linn Falls at the Hermitage

the giants that give the park its distinction. Further up the park one can find the rotund Ossian's Hall and a wooden totem pole that the park is allowing nature to reclaim. For my money, however, the best place to end a visit at the Hermitage is at the lookout overlooking the roaring Black Linn Falls.

At night I arrived at the Hydro Hotel in Pitlochry, a charming and lively town. On my way I had stopped to see the famous "Harry Potter Bridge" in Glenfinnan. Long before it would be the filming location for the Hogwarts Express, however, the Glenfinnan Viaduct began



Glenfinnan Viaduct

its life as a railroad viaduct in 1898, built above Loch Shiel as part of the West Highland Line. In Pitlochry ate dinner at Victoria's, an Italian restaurant, but found little time to do much else this late in the day. In any event, the day had been tiring while stimulating, and the Hydro Hotel was itself an elegant yet endlessly charming place in the truest Scottish tradition to end one's travels.

Lindsey Vonn's Olympic Dreams Shattered



For the second time in the past weeks, 41-year-old U.S. Olympic skier, and 3-time medal winner, Lindsey Vonn left a mountaintop on an air chopper. On January 30, Vonn fully ruptured her left ACL, sustaining meniscus damage and bone bruising in the final World Cup event, prior to the start of the 2026 Winter Olympics. Despite the injury, Vonn was set to race in her fifth and final

Olympics, saying her "knee felt stable and strong."

Unfortunately, Vonn's most recent downhill crash in Cortina, Italy on February 8 proved to be much more severe and most likely career ending. Vonn suffered a complete tibial fracture, and has already undergone four surgeries in Italy and may need additional back in the United States.

Vonn hooked the fourth gate with her right arm, sending her spinning and tumbling before coming to a stop. After paramedics were able to stabilize the leg, Vonn was airlifted to rousing show of support by the fans below. Vonn is now back in the U.S. recovering, is said to be in good spirits and has promised to keep fans updated on her progress.

U.S. Women's Hockey Team Bests Canada to Clinch Gold Medal

The U.S. and Canadian Women's Hockey teams played for a gold medal on Thursday, February 19, following the American team's victory over Sweden and Canada's win over Switzerland in the semifinal game. U.S. goaltender maintains a shutout at 331 minutes, guarding the U.S. team unbeaten record of 6-0, and outscoring their opponents by a 31-1 margin.

"I think we're looking incredible. The whole tournament we've really been consistent. I don't even think we're at the peak, but I think our peak is getting the gold medal in hand for sure," said Hayley Scamurra. This will be the seventh time the two countries have faced off for an Olympic Gold medal since women's hockey debuted in 1998. The American team worked toward its first gold medal since 2018, bringing home the victory in Milan, Italy.

After trailing 1-0 much of the game, the U.S. tied it up with just over 2 minutes remaining in regulation play to send the game into overtime. It didn't take long for Megan Keller to score the golden goal and cement the 2-1 win and capture the 3rd gold medal in women's hockey history.

New England Patriots Looking Ahead to 2026-27 Season

After a pungent taste of success this past season, the Patriots have one goal in mind; figuring out how to get back in the Super Bowl and take home the Lombardi Trophy for Championship #7. With eleven NFL Draft selections and over \$40 million in cap space strengthening weaknesses shouldn't be much of an issue for Head Coach Mike Vrabel and the front office.

One position that is not up for discussion, according to Vrabel, is left tackle, Rookie Will Campbell's position this past season. When it was suggested that Campbell may be better suited for left guard, Vrabel immediately squashed the idea. "When you sign up to play left tackle, you sign up to play corner, you sign up to play quarterback, you sign up to be the head coach, you get judged, you get scrutinized. Will's 22 years old. He's our left tackle. He'll get better, he'll get stronger. There were moments where he played well, moments where he blocked the guy. There's plays he'd like to have back. We're not moving Will to guard, to center, to tight end or anywhere else," stated Vrabel.

Campbell held his own during the regular season, giving up 5 sacks, but did falter and struggle in the post season, following a knee injury that placed him on the sidelines for 4 games. Hopefully Campbell will continue to improve under the guidance of Coach Vrabel and any other weaknesses in the Offensive line will be tightened during the off season.

Red Sox Outfielder Roman Anthony Joins Team USA in World Baseball Classic

Last year's Red Sox rookie outfielder, Roman Anthony, has officially been named as the newest member of the World Baseball Classic's (WBC) Team USA, replacing Arizona's Corbin Carroll who recently suffered an injury. Anthony received the official notification from USA manager Mark DeRosa while in Fort Myers for the start of Spring Training. "It's something that you dream of as a kid. Obviously, it's super unfortunate what happened to Carroll, but it was exciting on my end to be able to get that call," Anthony told reporters.

Anthony will join some of the most talented MLB players on Team USA, including Aaron Judge of the Yankees, Bobby Witt, Jr., of the Royals and former Red Sox third baseman Alex Bregman, and reigning Cy Young winners Tarik Skubal and Paul Skenes. "It's amazing. Just getting to be around those guys and getting that opportunity to be around the game's best and to be around so many veteran guys that have done it for such a long time. It will be a great learning experience for me, but at the same time understanding that there's a goal that we have to try and come out on top, and at the same time just got to be ready for everything," said Anthony.

The Red Sox outfielder said he hasn't been given too many details about his role on Team USA, except that he will most likely play left field. He reports in early March to begin preparing for the team's tournament opener against Brazil on Friday, March 6.

TEAM USA

Shines at the 2026 Winter Olympics in Italy

Including Hometown Massachusetts Ties

The 2026 Winter Olympics in Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy delivered some of the most memorable moments in recent Olympic history, with Team USA playing a starring role. Over 19 days of competition against some of the world's best athletes, resulted in the U.S. taking second place on the medal podium, including 12 golds. Team USA bested its previous Winter games gold medal record, 10 in 2022, dominating in hockey, skating, ariels and skiing.



Athletes from the U.S.A. 2026 Olympics are all smiles

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 23, 2026** by public or private sale to satisfy a lien for towing, storage, and all other fees due.

- 2014 FORD ESCAPE**
Vin #1FMCU0GX4EUE01700
- 2014 JEEP COMPASS**
Vin #1C4NJDEB9ED699178
- 2021 DAIX PMZ50-19**
Vin #L37MMGFV7MZ030123
- 2000 KAWASAKI NINJA 250R**
Vin #JKAEXMF19YA072128
- 2012 CHEVROLET CRUZE**
Vin #1G1PC5SH8C7337381
- 2024 ZHILONG ST**
Vin #HZ2TBCNF2R1009930
- 1998 MERCEDES BENZ SLK-CLASS**
Vin #WDBKK47F7WF037376
- 2008 HONDA RIDGELINE**
Vin #2HJYK16588H538373

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- 2009 GENUINE SCOOTERS ROUGHHOUSE 50**
Vin #RFVMPMP20191003270
- 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

It's always breathtaking to witness the success of these hardworking and dedicated American athletes, but when they hail from Massachusetts cities and towns the pride glows so much brighter. Korey Dropkin of Southborough won a silver medal in mixed doubles curling, Matt Boldy of Millis scored for men's hockey, Noah Hanifan of Norwood helped the men's hockey team win gold, Jack Eichel of North Andover was a key contributor on the men's gold medal hockey team, Aerin Frankel was a star goaltender for the women's hockey team played at Northeastern University and for Boston's PWHL franchise,

Alex Carpenter of the women's hockey team grew up in North Reading and played hockey at Boston College, Haley Winn is a defenseman for the Women's Boston Fleet hockey team.

The Boston Bruins also counted Olympic gold medal winners as part of their organization. Two top players were Charlie McAvoy, a Bruins defenseman who served as one of Team USA's key defensemen and logged heavy minutes throughout the tournament, while Jeremy Swayman, goaltender for the Bruins, appeared in at least one preliminary game during the Olympics and earned a gold medal as part of the U.S. roster. Henri Jokiharju and Joonas Korpi each

earned bronze medals as part of the Men's Finns Hockey Team.

Alysa Liu delighted fans with a stunning performance in women's figure skating winning gold and ending a 24-year U.S. drought in the event. Mikaela Shiffrin's Alpine Mastery secured her third Olympic gold with a commanding victory in the women's slalom, securing her status as one of America's greatest winter athletes. Freestyle skiers Kaila Kuhn, Connor Curran and Lillis boarded to gold in mixed team ariels, setting a Winter Olympic record.

Hockey Glory, men and women hockey teams reached the pinnacle; the women's team clinched gold in a dramatic overtime win against Canada while the men's team echoed history with a 2-1 OT victory over Canada, capturing their first Olympic hockey gold since

1980 miracle in a fitting anniversary moment.

From ice rinks to alpine slopes, the United States produced stand out performances that energized fans and created new Olympic milestones. With 12 gold medals and 33 medals overall, the 2026 Winter Games will be remembered as one of team USA's most brilliant winter games, a testament to the athletic excellence and resilience on the world stage.

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. MI26P0795EA
Estate of
CATHERINE M. CASEY
Date of Death: November 19, 2025

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Kathleen M. Masucci of Winthrop, MA, Arlene Casey of Salem, MA and Margaret Medeiros of Winthrop, 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: Kathleen M. Masucci of Winthrop, MA, Arlene Casey of Salem, MA and Margaret Medeiros of Winthrop, 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 03/19/2026.

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

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

Witness, HON. TERRI L. KLUG CAFAZZO, First Justice of this Court.
Date: February 19, 2026

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate
Run date: 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. MI26P0510EA
Estate of
ANGELA WOLFE
Date of Death: December 10, 2025

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Robert J. Wolfe of Kane, PA and Jeffrey P. Wolfe of Egg Harbor City, NJ requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: Jeffrey P. Wolfe of Egg Harbor City, NJ and Robert J. Wolfe of Kane, PA 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 03/10/2026.

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 10, 2026

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate
Run date: 02/27/2026

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**
WAUEFGFF9F1070024
- 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**
1C4HJXDN7NW267333
- 2007 GMC SAVANA, WHITE**
1GTGG25V271175090
- 2008 SAAB 9-3, SILVER**
YS3FB49Y481141303
- 2006 TOYOTA SCION xB, WHITE**
JTLKT324164070906
- 2012 GMC SIERRA, BLUE**
1GTR2VE79CZ185637
- 2024 JIAJUE JJ50QT-3, BLACK**
LLPVGBAA1R1030028
- 2025 ZHILONG ST, BLUE**
HZ2TBCNF4S1014391
- 2025 ZHILONG 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

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. MI25C1134CA
In the matter of:
LUZ MERCEDES LORA CRUZ
CITATION ON
PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Luz Mercedes Lora Cruz of Burlington, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to: **Luz Rodriguez**.

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 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: 02/27/2026

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

- 2008 INFINITI G35**
Vin #JNKBV61E98M214396
- 2014 CADILLAC ATS**
Vin #1G6AB5RX1E0143058
- 2005 HONDA CIVIC**
Vin #1HGEM21905L021490
- 2011 KIA SORENTO**
Vin #5XYKT4A15BG183178
- 2009 HONDA ACCORD**
Vin #1HGCP26489A180920
- 1999 FORD F350**
Vin #1FDWF36S4XEE61195
- 2025 TOYOTA RAV4**
Vin #JTMRFV3SD297774
- 2008 NISSAN ALTIMA**
Vin #1N4AL21E08N488257
- 2005 ACURA TSX**
Vin #JH4CL96955C029688
- 2001 JAGUAR VANDEN PLAS**
Vin #SAJDA24C01LF22274

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

Run dates: 02/20, 02/27, 03/06/2026

Boxing Ringside



WITH BOBBY FRANKLIN

Tony Zale Vs. Billy Conn Looking at the Photos



The 1942 bout between Tony Zale and Billy Conn is a fight that has often been overlooked. It's an intriguing bout as it came just seven months after Conn had given Heavyweight Champion Joe Louis all he could handle in their 1941 classic fight. Joe kayoed the determined Billy in the thirteenth round of a very close battle. The public was looking forward to a rematch between the two, but that was called off when Conn broke his hand in a brawl with his father-in-law.

When his hand healed, Billy was back in action beginning in January of 1942 and was getting into form for the rematch. However, WWII broke out and the fight didn't take place until 1946.

Tony Zale had won full recognition as Middleweight Champion when he outpointed Georgie Abrams on November 28, 1941 at Madison Square Garden. It was just three months later when he fought Conn. You might be asking what was the Middleweight Champion doing in the ring with a guy who just fought the Heavyweight Champion?

Remember that Billy had been the Light Heavyweight Champion before giving up the belt to campaign as a heavyweight in pursuit of a title shot. When he fought Louis his weight was announced as 174 pounds. He gave away twenty-five pounds to the champ. Billy had also fought for quite some time as a middleweight. The heaviest he ever weighed in at was 190 pounds and this was at the end of his career.

Tony Zale was a natural middleweight throughout his career. For the Conn fight he weighed in at 164.5 while Conn tipped the scales at 175.75. It gave Billy over a ten-pound advantage in weight.

Tony had been on an eight-fight winning streak that included victories over Fred Apostle, Al Hostak, and Georgie Abrams. I'm not sure why the two were matched other than the fact it would draw well, which it did with over 15,000 fans paying to see it.

It was really a no-win situation for Conn as he was coming off that spectacular, though losing performance against the great Joe Louis. Even though Billy won decisively, he didn't impress the crowd and was even booed when returning to the dressing room.

According to the *New York Times*; "Had he been a hitter of any ability at all, Conn could have stowed Zale away long before the limit, for there were times when the Pittsburgher handled the middleweight champion with no more concern or difficulty than he would a heavy, stuffed bag in a gymnasium workout. But never did Conn approach a knockout or even a knockdown, although he pummeled Zale in every round but the third."

And that about sums it up. The crowd was looking for a decisive knockout. Instead they got a bull vs matador fight. Both men looked awkward at times, with Billy missing more than usual, and Tony rushing and charging his opponent.

I've long held with the view that Conn was a much harder puncher when fighting heavyweights. Leading up to the Louis fight he fought seven heavyweights. Out of that seven just three lasted the distance with the former Light Heavyweight Champion. In his 63 career victories, Conn only scored 15 knockouts. Nearly a third of his kayo victories came at the expense of the big men.

I believe Conn scored these stoppages against heavyweights because they were much slower moving than the lighter fellows he had been facing. While Billy's speed did help him against heavier foes, the fact that they were so much slower than guys Billy's own size, it gave him the chance to plant his feet more and concentrate on using more power.

In his fight with Zale, though he dominated he wasn't able to use that power because Zale had speed and also used an effective though awkward crouch. Most heavyweights didn't fight out a crouch. Of course, there were exceptions such as Arturo Godoy and Jack Dempsey, but not common.



Also, because of Billy's performance against Louis, people naturally thought he would destroy the smaller Zale. Don't forget, Tony was the reigning Middleweight Champ at a time when the division was loaded with great fighters. Tony was also one of the toughest men ever to tie on the gloves.

I am including two photos of the fight that I believe show the temper of the match as well as great defensive skills being utilized by each man at the same time. These photos were possibly taken within a second or two of each, though likely by different photographers.

Both men are throwing solid left hooks. You can see how they are leveraging their bodies by the way their fight are positioned. While throwing the hooks they have both shifted their weight from the right to the left foot, turning their hips to get maximum power into the blows. What is also interesting to note is how both men are using their right hands to parry the shots. They are maximizing their offense without sacrificing defense. That's what years of training, studying the sport, and fighting solid opposition has instilled in them. It's what made fighters great, but later became a lost art.

Unfortunately, there is no footage of this fight in existence. I believe if we could see the entire fight without the thought of Billy's fight against Joe Louis influencing our thinking, it would turn out to be a much better match than was reported by the *New York Times*. Also, Conn, though disappointed in his performance, did not deserve to be booed.

Billy Conn and Tony Zale would not fight again for over three years. They served in the Armed Forces during WWII, giving up the best years of their careers. They put country before self.

These two remarkable men deserve to be remembered both for what they did in the ring and out of it.

HOOPS and HOCKEY in the HUB

by Richard Preiss



A TEAM TOGETHER — Here we are after the NBA All-Star Break with action resuming across the Association as the final weeks of the regular season tick away and jockeying for position in the playoffs comes to the forefront of concern for a number of franchises.

We can think back to that initial first meeting of the current 2025-2026 group of Celtics that gathered together on Media Day in late September.

We would describe the mood as realistic, although some felt grim about the prospects of a team that had seen several quality players go separate ways over the summer months.

At least one talk show host we heard described the team that the Celtics would put on the court for the 2025-2026 season as a lottery pick squad—meaning it would not qualify for the playoffs and the best it could expect was coming away with a chance of obtaining a high pick in the June, 2026 draft.

In other words, just write off the 2025-2026 regular season by going through the motions with the real focus being on the 2026-2027 season and beyond.

A lot of that thinking had to do, of course, not only with the aforementioned transactions but with the unavailability of Jayson Tatum for at least a good portion of the upcoming season.

Indeed, as of this writing Tatum is still recovering from his injury sustained in the 2025 playoffs with a return date not yet specified.

But at this late date perhaps he should not come back, even if available.

The Celtics certainly do not need him to make the playoffs. They are presently leading the Atlantic Division, are second in the Eastern Conference behind Detroit and tied for fourth in the entire 30-team NBA — all of that accomplished without Jayson Tatum on the court.

Why do we suggest that Tatum be held out even if he could come back?

It was something that Jukka Jalonen, the head coach of Team Italy in the recently concluded Winter Olympics said that got us to thinking.

Coach Jalonen indicated he might be able to find players of Italian background who live in other nations but might qualify to play for Italy under Olympic regulations. However, he felt that he owed it to his current players — none of whom were current NHL players — to go with them since they had been part of the Italian National Team for a number of years.

He felt his current players deserved by their time, effort and dedication to the team to be a part of the Olympic experience. In somewhat of the same way, the team that is playing for the Celtics now is the team that got them to their high standing. As of February 25 the Celtics were leading the Atlantic Division, were second in the Eastern Conference and were tied for fourth in the league as a whole.

It is their team and to be a bit more specific, it is Jaylen Brown's team.

He has earned the right to lead his teammates however they might wind up.

Just think if Jayson Tatum came back sometime within the next few weeks. The media focus would immediately shift away from Jaylen and the other players as a cohesive unit to massive coverage of a single individual. The cohesion of the current highly successful Celtics team could be affected.

In the opinion of this columnist, that would not be right. It would be highly inappropriate.

And it might not be the best for Tatum as well.

There is always the possibility of reinjury and if he were to be brought back late in the regular season he would risk reinjury in games that probably would not have much meaning as to how the Celtics might finish in the final regular season standings.

As for his participation in the playoffs, who knows what might happen. The pace of play and physicality of play in the postseason is often at a higher pace than in the regular season. There would be no "working his way into it" as there might be at the start of the regular season back in October.

The point is that most of the players have essentially been with the Celtics for around 60 games this season and deserve the opportunity to finish out the 82-game regular season schedule, proceed on to the playoffs and compete for as high a finish as possible.

That might include going as far as the Eastern Conference Finals.

In order to reach the NBA Finals the Celtics would probably have to defeat the Detroit Pistons—and that would be a significant challenge for any Eastern Conference team this year.

Nonetheless, wherever they finish they will own it all by themselves.

It will be a much better finish than many would have predicted back in late September and early October.

This is a team that is memorable because it has essentially come together as a unit that at the start of the season seemed to consist mostly of rather average players.

But over the course of the season they have become a cohesive unit, one that has had many more successes than most observers could have imagined.

There have been many happy nights in the postgame press conferences this year — as well as some sad ones and some downright disappointing ones.

But on balance it has been a very good season — one every member of Celtics Nation should be proud of.

The overall results continue to be a very worthy tribute to not only the players but to head coach Joe Mazzulla and his staff who have been with them every step of the way.

May the cohesive unit that is the 2025-2026 Celtics continue to experience success to the end of the regular season and on into the spring playoffs.