

# POST-GAZETTE

(Formerly LA GAZZETTA del MASSACHUSETTS)

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## Good Luck New England Patriots Super Bowl LX Awaits!



New England Patriots  
QB Drake Maye



Seattle Seahawks  
QB Sam Darnold

vs.



As we anxiously await the kickoff to **Super Bowl LX** on **Sunday, February 8, 2026**, excitement is building across the region and country as our hometown team prepares to take on the Seattle Seahawks at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, California.

The road to this championship game has been nothing short of remarkable.

Following a dramatic turnaround from a disappointing 2024 season, the Patriots enjoy a 14-3 record, won the AFC Championship and punched their ticket to the biggest game of the year, a true testament to resilience, perseverance, teamwork and belief in each other.

This season the Patriot's embraced their underdog role. Most sportsbooks have New England as underdogs vs. Seattle. But beyond the odds, is the pride and passion this team has reignited in its fanbase, from Boston and across New England.

So, here's to the New England Patriots. Good Luck in Super Bowl LX! May you grit and heart carry you across the goal line to Victory! Patriots Nation is rooting for you.

## Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey Files a \$63 Billion Re-Election Year Budget

by Patti Sartori

The first question we should all be asking ourselves is how can Governor Healey increase this coming year's budget, FY 2026-2027 by 3.8% when tax revenues are projected to grow by just 2.9%. Somehow, somewhere, someone will be required to make up the difference. Any guesses who?

Last week, Healey filed a \$63 billion plus proposal and sent it off to the state legislature, her final budget during her first term as Governor of the Bay State. There are several obstacles facing Governor Healey including the legislature, and Massachusetts taxpayers.

A slash to federal funding, and sluggish tax revenues, will create a challenge to the upcoming budget woes.

During her State of the Commonwealth address last month, Governor Healey pointed to affordability as a central point in her budget plan. "This budget is about making life easier and more affordable for Massachusetts residents and businesses. At a time when budgets across the country are tight, this proposal maximizes our resources to deliver on what matters most while controlling spending, protecting taxpayer dollars and driving

economic growth," Healey said in a statement.

This year's proposed budget represents an increase of approximately \$2.32 billion compared to last year's budget. The governor's budget is relying on an estimate that Massachusetts will collect approximately \$44 billion in tax revenue in FY 27. For the state to reach its \$44 plus billion target, fiscal 2026 collections will need to come in almost equal to expectations. The House and Senate will review and rework Healey's proposal prior to debating and passing their own version later this spring.

## Boston City Council Pushes for Elected School Committee

Over and over, in multiple instances, the will of the voters is pushed aside. In 2021, Boston voters approved a non-binding ballot question with 80% support. If that's not a mandate, then what is? The Boston City Council is once again attempting to address this issue, but continues to meet strong resistance from Mayor Michelle Wu. The current Boston School Committee is appointed by the sitting mayor. Boston is the only municipality in Massachusetts who does not elect its school committee, thanks to a 1991 home rule petition which became state law, resulting in the first appointed school committee in the city.

Councilors Julia Mejia and Brian Worrell introduced legislation last week that would transition from the currently appointed back to a fully elected body. "Boston is the

only municipality in the entire state of Massachusetts that has an appointed school committee structure. If we're serious about democracy, and if we're serious about giving people an opportunity to elect their representatives, the council should support this home rule petition," stated Mejia.

The legislation would change the school committee from the present 7-member mayoral appointed body to a 13-member elected body, modeled after the current city council structure of 9 district representatives and 4 at-large members, using a phased in approach. There would be a two-year period where there would be nine elected members and four appointed then the committee would transition fully to an elected following the next election.

The council previously voted to support a similar version

in 2023, which was vetoed by Mayor Wu and blocked from moving to the state house for legislative consideration. Wu continues to make clear her opposition to an elected school committee, stating through her spokesperson, "an appointed school committee provides for strong leadership, stability and authority needed to partner productively with our school communities to build on the district's progress. The Boston School Committee has shaped and improved BPS policies before they come to a vote through debate and discussions."

While running for mayor in 2021, Wu supported a hybrid committee, comprised of elected and appointed members. Most Boston voters seem to believe the current make up of an appointed school committee is simply a yes group to the mayor.

## News Briefs

by Sal Giarratani

### Rare "Superman" Comic Book Goes for \$9.12 Million

It's a bird, it's a plane ... it's Superman, but this latest Superman comic is super expensive. It went on auction for \$9.12 million. It became the most expensive comic book ever sold. It set a new record. The previous highest price was \$6 million for a copy of "Action Comics No. 1."

### New Bad News on Housing Costs

A typical New York state household would need to save 23 years for just a 10 percent down payment on a home. The new data suggests New York is now ranked third worst in the country.

### Swalwell Looks Like He's Homeless

California Rep. Eric Swalwell isn't qualified to run for governor. Seems he doesn't officially live in the state. Public record searches reveal no current ownership of leaseholds nor any record of ever owning or leasing property in California on public records. Rumor has it, the address Swalwell used on his campaign filing is his lawyer's office.

### How to Save the Republic

Democrats "have convinced themselves," that "a generational struggle against fascism in the United States" is taking place, observes the *Washington Examiner*, but the "propaganda echo chamber" their elected leaders live in means they are "frequently duped by obvious, outright fakery" of "standing up to fascism."

The stories of Renee Good, Alex Pretti have been amplified and hyped by the "pervasive Democratic

(Continued on Page 8)

## Governor Healey Pushes Utility Companies on Interest Charges

Governor Maura Healey announced earlier this week that utility companies in Massachusetts, including National Grid, Eversource, Berkshire Gas, Unitil and Liberty Gas have all agreed to waive interest charges on the upcoming rate deferrals that Healey announced as part of her initiative to lower gas and electric bills in February and March for Bay State residents. "Bills are too high and customers can't wait for relief. That's why I acted

to get \$180 million off winter electric bills and called on the utilities to help provide immediate relief, including waiving interest charges," Healey said.

Healey announced during her State of the Commonwealth last month a \$180 million initiative in alternative compliance payments and rate deferrals to bring ratepayers 25% savings on electric bills and 10% on gas bills using a deferred payment method in February and March, with plans to recover

those payments from ratepayers between May and October, now interest free.

The sky-high energy costs facing many Bay State residents is one of the touchiest issues Governor Healey must deal with in her upcoming 2026 re-election campaign. Many of her detractors and critics point to her stoppage of two natural gas pipelines from coming into Massachusetts while serving as attorney general, a charge the Governor adamantly denies.

## Stirpe Nostra

by Prof. Edmund Turiello

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



### AENEAS



**Aeneas Flees Burning Troy, Federico Barocci, 1598 (Galleria Borghese, Rome, Italy)**

Venus, the goddess of love and beauty, fell in love with Anchises, a member of the royal house of Troy. She loved him for his beauty and bore him a son, which was named Aeneas. In spite of repeated warnings by Venus, Anchises continually boasted of her favor until he was struck blind or paralyzed by the lightning of Jupiter, and remained an invalid for the rest of his life. Aeneas grew to young manhood, tending his flocks on Mount Ida. He did not participate in the Trojan War until after those flocks were driven away by Achilles, the greatest of the Greek warriors. This act caused Aeneas to assemble an army to fight in defense of Troy.

Stories tell of Aeneas' withdrawal to Mount Ida after the war. Later, the gods promised him a new home, so he departed from Asia Minor by sea. From this point in time, the adventures of Aeneas are related in the "Aeneid" the last great work of Publius Vergilius Maro, whom we all know as Vergil. He was the great national poet of ancient Rome and the most famous of all Roman poets. The *Aeneid*, a poem in 12 books was composed between 29 and 19 B.C., being mythological in nature; it was modeled after the Homeric poems. The theme of *Aeneid* is founded upon the old Roman tradition that Aeneas and his Trojan warriors settled in Italy and founded Rome. Its objective was to praise the glories of Rome and to install a patriotic feeling along with a religious sentiment for the gods and heroes of their ancestors.

The *Aeneid* begins with Aeneas being driven to the coast of Africa by an ocean storm. There,

in Carthage, he was hospitably received by Dido their queen, who fell in love with him. When Aeneas left Africa, continuing his journey, Dido in great despair, destroyed herself on a funeral pyre. Aeneas eventually landed at Cumae, Italy. Later he descended to the infernal regions where he visited with his father Anchises. This is also where he received a prophetic vision of a magnificent destiny for himself and his followers, but only after many struggles and hardships. Typical of those struggles was a hand-to-hand combat with the warlike king named Turnus, for the hand of Lavina, the daughter of Latinus, king of the Latini (Latins).

Lastly, the reference to Cumae should be explained in a bit more detail at this time. The female counterpart to a prophet was usually called a sibyl. This ancient city was named in honor of the Cumaean sibyl, one of the 10 or 12 most famous of the prophetesses. Roman mythology placed the seat of the Cumaean sibyl in a cavern below the acropolis in that city. In her youth, Cumaea was loved by Apollo, who granted her as many years of life as the grains of sand that she held in her hand. She accepted, but forgot to request the youth to go along with her many years. The famous ceiling of the Sistine Chapel at the Vatican in Rome shows Cumaea, in addition to four other sibyls. Here, Cumaea is shown hoary with age in a manner that only the great master Michelangelo could portray.

**NEXT ISSUE:**  
*The Sibyls and the Sibylline Books*

## Boston City Council Begins First Meeting of the Year in Discord

by Patti Sartori

Newly elected City Council President Liz Breadon is quickly learning what may have been standard operating procedure in the past may be anything but over the next year. The fireworks began pretty much as soon as the meeting was called to order, when Breadon requested approval of her proposed changes to council rules for the upcoming 2026 - 27 council term. Breadon was the surprise candidate who was unexpectedly elected as president in an upset over Brain Worrell and Gabriela Coletta Zapata.

Adoption of the council rules have traditionally been pretty cut and dried, however this year Breadon's proposed changes were met with strong hesitation after Councilor John Fitzgerald objected to an immediate vote on the changes.

"I have not had a chance to personally review the rules. I do not feel comfortable not knowing," stating that he was not provided with a written copy of the rules until early evening on Tuesday. With his formal

objection to a vote, the matter was referred to a sub-committee for a formal hearing.

Councilor Sharon Durkan quickly made a motion to immediately adjourn the meeting, less than 30 minutes after it had begun. "Since some of my colleagues decided not to show up for work, I would like to make a motion to adjourn the meeting," Durkan said. Given this was Breadon's first meeting as council president she may not have been as familiar with the rules and granted the motion to adjourn. City Clerk Alex Geourntas swiftly reminded Breadon that the motion required a second, and since no other council seconded the motion to adjourn, the meeting would need to be continued.

Councilor Ed Flynn reminded the body that it is "important that we conduct the meeting and treat each other with respect, while Councilor Erin Murphy demanded an apology from Durkan, invoking Rule 38, making it known she was offended by Durkan's comment

about lack of preparation for the meeting. "I came to work prepared. This is my fifth year. I have never missed a council meeting. I come early and with questions. I think that a member saying that none of us came to work prepared deserves an apology, because to me, that's an insult," Murphy exclaimed.

Rule 38 states, when a councilor is called upon to speak, a councilor "shall not use unbecoming, profane, abusive, or non-parliamentary language, and shall avoid personal or derogatory remarks to or about any member," and if an offense is committed, the councilor "shall make an apology in open session at the meeting at which the offense was committed or at the next succeeding regular meeting."

Following a short recess, Breadon formally acknowledged Murphy's invocation of Rule 38 and stated she would address the issue prior to the next meeting. It is expected an apology from Councilor Durkan will be forthcoming at the next council meeting.

## Former President Obama's 2010 Immigration Speech Sounds Familiar

Making its way around the internet, social media and Joe Rogan's podcast show is a 2010 clip of former U.S. President Barack Obama defending his stance on immigration and deportation enforcement. Obama stood up to pro-immigration advocates who requested amnesty and a halt to deportations, stating "I recognize the sense of compassion that drives this argument, but I believe such an indiscriminate approach would be both unwise and unfair. It would suggest to those thinking about coming here illegally that there will be no repercussions for such a decision, and this could lead to a surge in more illegal immigration. Ultimately, our nation, like all nations has the right and obligation to control its borders and set laws for residency and citizenship. No matter how decent they are, no matter their reasons, the 11 million

who broke the law should be held accountable." Obama also noted he was not in favor of deporting 11 million people.

Another clip aired by Rogan recently is of Hillary Clinton in 2008, stating "I think we've gotta have tough conditions, tell people to come out of the shadows. If they've committed a crime, deport them. No questions asked, they're gone. If they've been working and are law abiding, we should say 'Here are the conditions for you staying. You have to pay a stiff fine because you came here illegally. You have to pay back taxes, and you have to try and learn English. And you have to wait in line!'"

As Rogan commented, "everybody cheered" these statements made by the top Democratic politicians in America 15 years ago, yet now they call Trump a Nazi for taking a similar stance.

## New England Patriots Owner Robert Kraft Honors Fallen Uxbridge Police Officer

Officer Stephen La Porta was a loyal Patriots fan. Tragically, La Porta was killed in early January, just days prior to the Pats beginning their playoff quest when a driver of a tractor-trailer crashed into the officer as he attempted to assist a motorist on Route 147. In honor of La Porta's service, Patriots owner Robert Kraft is sending the officers wife and son to the Super Bowl, as guests of the team.

The Patriots posted a video on social media showing Shannon and Matthew La Porta heading to Foxboro believing they were to tour the team's facility. "In reality, they were about to be surprised with something much bigger by Robert Kraft," the dream spokesperson stated. Shannon can be seen with tears in her eyes while Matthew was awestruck, as Kraft told them he was sending the mother and son to Santa Clara to root for the Patriots in Super Bowl LX against Seattle. "We wanted to

present you with a special surprise. We're sending you there in dad's honor," Kraft said.

The Uxbridge Police Department was in utter shock over Kraft's generosity, writing on its Facebook page, it had "no words. The New England Patriots are sending Shannon and Matthew to the Super Bowl. There are no words. Unbelievable. Absolutely unreal. What a way to honor Steve."

The Patriots had previously honored La Porta's sacrifice, as he was killed in the line of duty, with a moment of silence prior to the Wild Card game against the Chargers on January 11. Officer La Porta was an avid sports fan who proudly supported the Bruins, Patriots and Red Sox, never missing an opportunity to cheer on his teams. Now it's a team's turn to honor him and his service.

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Friday, February 6, 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.

## Olympia L. Levinson-Stiegele

August 21, 1940 - January 31, 2026



She is the beloved wife of the late Eberhard K.O. Stiegele. The devoted daughter of the late Aaron "Arthur" Levinson and Enes (Vicario) Levinson. The loving granddaughter of the late Antonio and Giuseppina Vicario. The treasured niece of the late Alfonso Vicario, Auriello Vicario and Olympia Vicario. She was also lovingly survived by many friends, former colleagues, and extended family.

Olympia was born on August 21, 1940, in Boston, the only child to Aaron "Arthur" Levinson and Enes

(Vicario) Levinson. Olympia was proudly raised in Boston's North End and she was surrounded by many aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Olympia was educated in the Boston Public Schools and was an alumna of the Julie Billiard School Class of 1958. Olympia furthered her education by attending Boston State College where she would earn her bachelor's degree in Education. She would begin a career in teaching in the Boston Public Schools, specifically in East Boston at the Sherridan School and the Bradley School. She taught kindergarten focusing on early childhood development. She would enjoy a career of 41 years working with children.

Olympia enjoyed a life well lived by traveling to many different places around the world, immersing herself in many different cultures. She would go onto meet her one true love, Eberhard K.O. Stiegele, later marrying on April 22, 2004. Olympia and "Eddie" as she would affectionately call her husband would divide their time between Boston and Miami Beach, Florida.

In later years, Olympia was faced with the loss of her eyesight, but being the very determined and strong-willed woman she was, she didn't allow herself to miss out on anything she wanted to do. She was also a woman of great faith and was a devotee of St. Leonard of Port Maurice Parish all her life. Her faith was what kept her strong and gave her peace.

Family and friends are kindly invited to visit on Saturday, February 7th, beginning at 9:00 a.m. at Sacred Heart Church, 12 North Square in Boston's North End. A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. Internment will immediately follow in St. Michael's Cemetery, 500 Canterbury Street, Boston, MA.

## Marie Contrado

March 12, 1947 – January 24, 2026



Marie Contrado, 78, of Boston's North End, passed away on Saturday, January 24, 2026.

Beloved daughter of the late Fiore and Mary (Statuto) Contrado. Dear niece of Pasquale Contrado and Frank Contrado. Also survived by many loving cousins and cherished friends.

"Cousin Marie" was a longtime member of the St. Lucy Society.

The family received visitors on Tuesday, February 3, 2026 in Sacred Heart Church, 12 North Square, North End, Boston followed by a Mass of Christian Burial. Services concluded with internment in Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett, MA.

Donations may be made in Marie's memory to the American Diabetes Association.

SERVICES WERE IN THE CARE OF  
 J.S. Waterman Langone Chapel

# North End Cares Bingo

*a Sell Out Event*



(L- R): North End Cares Committee members Area A-1 Boston Police Community Service Officer to the North End Michael Mustacchio, Anne Fitzgerald, Olivia Scimeca, Karen D'Amico, Maria Lanza, Ciara D'Amico, Nisharna Jackson, Michael Giannasoli, Danny Coakley and John Pregmon

North End Cares held another of its Sunday, Fun day Bingo Events last week at the Nazzaro Center. As usual it was a full house and a great way to spend a wintry Sunday. This event was just one of many fundraisers the organization holds throughout the year, with all proceeds put back into the community. North End Cares mission and purpose is to serve the neighborhood by enhancing the quality of life for its residents.



(L- R): John Pregmon and Danny Coakley selling bingo cards. Where else would these two dedicated individuals be on a cold, winter Sunday other than hanging out at North End Cares Bingo.



The Best Bingo Caller this side of the Tobin Bridge, the North End's own Maria Lanza.

All events organized by the North End Cares Committee throughout the summer and year are free of charge, including the annual Johnny Paolo Bocce Tournament, the Emily Pugliano/Bobby DeCristoforo Sunset Harbor Boat Cruise, National Night out at the Prado, and Family Movie Night Under the Stars.

If you missed out on your opportunity to call Bingo and

walk away with one of the generous prizes, keep an eye out for the next one, and be sure to support this dedicated North End group.



(L- R): Mother and daughter duo, Anna Foti and Mary Ann Simonelli Foti. Anna is all smiles after winning one of the generous prizes.



(L- R): Michael Giannasoli and Nisharna Jackson, dad and daughter bingo team spend quality time together at North End Cares Sunday Bingo.



Chrissy Pagliuca smiles as she shares a laugh with friends and neighbors during NE Cares Sunday Bingo.



Peter Siciliano proves he is a master bingo player as he keeps a watchful eye over his many cards.



The Nazzaro Center was fully packed with North End Cares Bingo players who came armed with snacks and ready to snag one of the generous prizes.

## L'Anno Bello: A Year in Italian Folklore

### A Call of Joy at Carnival!

by Ally Di Censo Symynkywicz



Lately, I appear to have acquired a massive bout of spring fever. That has to be the reason why I insist on wearing brightly patterned dresses every day, admiring the way they shine against newly fallen snow. What else but spring fever can explain the desire to open my classroom windows, letting the earthy scent of fresh soil waft through the air on the first balmy day in a long while? Certainly, spring fever *must* be behind my recent quirky tendencies towards the absurd, such as my proclivity to randomly watch reruns of *Friends* at ten o'clock at night or impulsively gather a small collection of hand-crafted slime for fragrant and satisfying sensory play. Yes, the anticipation of spring drives me towards acts of whimsy, and I am sure that I am hardly the only one affected by this excitement, as I feel the world pulsating with change. The evening sun glows brighter, robins hop in the bushes, and the drip of melting snow sounds like the second hand on nature's clock, denoting each turn of the season. This is one of the most exhilarating times of the year, humming with transition and liminality. Not surprisingly, folk holidays latch on to this thrilling sensation, celebrating the joyous leap from winter to spring. The most magical and spontaneous of these festivals is Carnival, the feast of masks and indulgence that precedes somber Lent. With its myriad of rustic customs and traditional foods, Carnival practices in Italy and around the world herald the joyous arrival of spring with tomfoolery and magic galore.

Except for the celebrations in New Orleans, Carnival is not as well-known in the United States as it is in Europe, a fact

which often baffles me. Carnival overlaps with the vibrant onset of spring, a period whose hope and promise practically encourage the revelry of street dancing and fanciful masquerades. The very name of Carnival conjures imagery of indulgence and decadence. Many scholars theorize that the word "Carnival" derives from the Latin term *carne vale*, or "goodbye to meat," a reference to the extravagant consumption of foods that would later be forbidden during austere Lent. The Christian significance of pre-Lent combined with old pagan rites devoted to chasing away winter and welcoming in spring in order to create the festivities we know as Carnival. The masks and costumes that characterize the holiday may originate in the disguises worn by the ancient Europeans in order to scare off the winter demons. Similarly, cultures throughout the world emphasize golden fried pastries as traditional Carnival food, from the jelly donuts popular in Germany and Poland to the pancakes eaten in Great Britain. These delectable treats not only served as a way to use up butter and eggs, which were prohibited during Lent in olden times, but they also resemble the spring sun with their sunny color and round shape. Classic Italian Carnival desserts include *cenci*, or strips of fried dough that also go by whimsical monikers such as *chiacchiere* (gossip) and *bugie* (lies). These treats remind me of windy, brisk late winter days when I would cook up a batch with my grandmother, then watch her sprinkle powdered sugar over the *cenci*. Delicious!

Along with food, Carnival famously boasts energetic parties, feasts, and folkloric events. These celebrations kick off the

Carnival season on the holiday of the Epiphany, which occurs on January 6<sup>th</sup>, and come to a frenzied culmination on Mardi Gras, or Fat Tuesday, the last day before the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday. This year, Mardi Gras falls on February 17<sup>th</sup>. Around that day, expect to see the traditional colors of Carnival everywhere: green for faith, purple for justice, gold for power. These hues brighten the ubiquitous beads and masks emblematic of Carnival, adding an aura of playfulness and mystery to the air. In Italy, Carnival festivities, though extremely diverse across the country, all take on a primeval, raucous tone. The most renowned of such celebrations is the *Carnevale di Venezia*, or Venetian Carnival. Participants in this feast wear elegant 18<sup>th</sup>-century costumes and sport masks like the ones that once adorned the actors of the Italian *commedia dell'arte* — a type of improvised performance where character archetypes each boasted their own mask. The *Carnevale di Venezia* has become such a symbol of this mysterious city that visitors will now find the eerie, beautiful masks on display year-round. Other famous Italian Carnivals take place in Acireale, Sicily and Viareggio, Tuscany, where gigantic floats satirize local events and politicians. These floats hearken back to the topsy-turvy nature of Carnival, since in olden times dissent was only permitted in the form of satire and slapstick unleashed once a year. The northern Italian city of Ivrea recreates a historic battle every Carnival with oranges, emphasizing the absurdity of the season. Indeed, no matter how Italy celebrates Carnival, it is always imbued with glee and mischievous abandon.

Whenever I think of Carnival, I always think of the fact that these very sensations of glee and mischievous abandon are often missing from our everyday lives. We need to embrace laughing so hard that tears stream from our eyes and turning the volume up on our favorite song and dancing around. Carnival reminds us that it is okay to be silly, and furthermore, that it is healthy to indulge in our funny side in order to bring levity to stressful or monotonous situations. Perhaps Carnival is not widely celebrated in the United States because we are much too serious. We should lighten up and enjoy the beauties and wonders of life! Let us follow the example of Carnival and temporarily revel in lighthearted extravagance, rampant silliness, and delicious decadence. Our laughter will ignite our optimism and inspire us to share our joy with others. This Carnival, therefore, let us get swept up in the magic and mystery of the season, leading the way to a warm, shining spring!

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](mailto:adicenso89@gmail.com).

(Image by [gpointstudio](http://gpointstudio.com) on [Freepik](http://Freepik))

## THINKING OUT LOUD

by Sal Giarratani



### Minneapolis Has Cooled Down a Bit but for How Long is the Question

It seemed like for about a month or so that the City of Minneapolis was really looking like a tinderbox ready to go up in smoke. The chaos is constantly being broadcast everywhere. I did a lot of watching the mayhem from *LiveNOW from Fox* on Channel 4014 on Xfinity here in Boston. I have been keeping up with the story on social media too. Everyone seems to have a strong opinion on the issue of federal agents riding into town. Some people simply want them out of Dodge and these protesters, every city in America has become Dodge City.

I blame both President Trump acting like John Wayne coming to the rescue and I blame all these hateful Democrat loudmouths waiting for General Santa Ana. Instead of trying to calm down everyone, the opposite seems to be happening.

We need to get back to our senses. America is soon to celebrate its 250th birthday. We are both a Constitutional Republic and a Democrat Republic. We fought a bloody war to be free of British tyranny and followed that with a Civil War to strengthen exactly what: The kind of government we wanted to be. We are 50 sovereign states but we are all part of one nation. The states can't look at the feds as the enemy and neither can the federal government do that in return to the states.

President Trump is not the Great and Powerful Oz and governors like Tim Walz need to understand the constitutional roles of state governments. How many liberals back in the '60s opposed Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace when he tried to take on the feds over desegregation? Liberals understood then that we were a federal government and that states couldn't go off on their own trying to replace federal law with state laws. We are One Nation made up of 50 states. We can only work if we work together.

Much has changed since last week's commentary. Trump has brought in border czar Tom Homan to attempt to end the chaos. What has been going on is not the answer in getting the worst of the worst of our streets. It is appearing right now that Homan will attempt to pivot the federal agents becoming the face of dysfunction. Earlier this week, Jeff Kuhner who speaks for many MAGA Trump supporters seemingly disagreed with President Trump's pivoting into a new response to all the ugly scenes of what has been happening on the streets of Minneapolis. Kuhner seemingly thought out loud that pushing forward was the only answer but many, myself included, disagree.

As a retired police officer, I think federal agents ICE or Border Patrol need much more training — police training. What I have been viewing so far hasn't been working out well. ICE can't look like storm trooper members of Special Ops. People inside the Twin Cities aren't combatants, they are Minnesota residents.

Also, who out there on the ground wants to see more fatalities or violence. out in the Midwest? I know I don't. The scenes of law enforcement involved in take downs of disruptive protesters always looks messy. Over my police career, I was involved in many take downs that in the blink of an eye could always change hot to cold. My job and the job of law enforcement was to keep everyone as safe as possible, that includes the person that needs to be restrained quite quickly.

What America needs now are political leaders on both sides of the aisle to communicate with one another and bridge the social rupture that keeps growing wider and wider. How upsetting to see all these crazy antics by our so-called leaders down in Washington, D.C.

We need to deescalate our tempers and stand together to find real solutions rather than more hyperbole. The goal is to make America as safe as possible for all of us. It is okay to disagree about how to fix things without calling those you disagree "Nazis," the "Gestapo," or some other hateful tag. Disagreeing or debating with each other is not a threat to democracy. It is who we are and who we should stay.

Human beings don't always have to fight each other. It really is possible to be civil with each other again. The latest news out of Minnesota clearly shows the downside of a lack of good communication. Make America One Again.

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# Renaissance Lodge Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America (OSDIA)

## Enjoys a Cultural Event with “Boston’s Historian” Anthony Sammarco

In post-holiday January, during a cold, snowy snap, Boston’s Renaissance Lodge, OSDIA, held a wonderful event featuring an interesting lecture by “Boston’s Historian” Anthony Sammarco. As a founding member of the Renaissance Lodge, Anthony contacted Dr. Dean Saluti, Lodge President — and extended an invitation to the Lodge to hear his presentation on the history of molasses and the North End’s Molasses Flood. Lodge member Marjorie Cahn was thrilled to learn that Anthony was going to deliver this lecture at a Quincy community center of which she is a member. Marjorie called the center, learning that this lecture was already nearly a “sellout,” she immediately reserved a block of seats for the Renaissance Lodge. Thankfully she took the initiative, as there were over a hundred people in attendance, which is a marvelous showing given it was held on a Thursday afternoon!

All Renaissance Lodge events involve eating, of course. We are Italian! Our members met at Victory Point restaurant in picturesque Marina Bay, Quincy, for lunch before Anthony’s presentation. It was an added bonus to have Anthony join



**Anthony Sammarco giving the Great North End Molasses Flood lecture in Quincy**

us for lunch. As expected, the food was spectacular. After all, Victory Point is owned by the Frattaroli family, legendary Boston restaurateurs. It was Margie’s friend Jeanine Graf’s birthday, so of course we brought a birthday cake from none other than Montilio’s Bakery, famous for making the wedding cake for then U.S. Senator John Kennedy and Jacqueline. You may remember Jeanine Graf — a popular radio and TV talk show host, not so many years ago. Other attendees included Renaissance officers Carol Rossi, Kathy Cammarata, and Chuck and Patt Centore.

Just like all of Anthony Sammarco’s lectures, this one was extremely interesting. He provided a historical perspective that revealed that Boston’s molasses business evolved from the slave trade of the 1700s. Ships back and forth from the island carried slaves and drums of molasses. In the early 1900s, a giant silo sat at the end of Hanover Street filled with molasses. Given Boston’s erratic weather and temperature conditions, the giant vat exploded and spewed a river of molasses down Hanover Street, sadly drowning many North End residents and many others. It was a great tragedy, and to this day it is believed the aroma of molasses lingers in the air even after all these years. Following the lecture, Anthony was surrounded by many people wanting to purchase his books — he’s published over a hundred! Some of his titles include *Howard Johnson’s*, *Jordan Marsh*, *Baker Chocolates*, amongst others.

If you are not already a member of the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America, contact Marjorie Cahn at 617-285-6565, to join Boston’s Renaissance Lodge.



**Birthday Luncheon at Victory Point restaurant in Marina Bay, Quincy – Seated (L-R): Carol Rossi, Kathy Cammarata, Patt Centore, Margie Cahn, and Birthday Girl Jeanine Graf; Standing (L-R): Chuck Centore (our photographer), Renaissance Lodge President Dr. Dean Saluti, Daniel Graf, Guest Speaker Anthony Sammarco, and Joe Cedrone**

## Cape Cod Potato Chips

### Will No Longer be Made in Massachusetts

The parent company of Cape Cod Potato Chips announced it will be shutting down its hometown facility in Hyannis, Massachusetts, after almost 40 years of operation on Cape Cod, come April and moving production to facilities in North Carolina, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania, resulting in the loss of almost 50 jobs.

“The Campbell Company announced plans to close its plant in Hyannis, Mass. and consolidate potato chip production as part of an ongoing effort to transform its Snacks supply chain network. The plant, which produces Cape Cod chips and Kettle Brand chips, will cease operations in April 2026,” Campbell said while explaining the “Hyannis facility is currently only producing 4% of the brand’s total volume, and doesn’t believe it makes economic sense for the business to remain where it is. These new locations will offer more modern and efficient plants.”



The Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance points to Beacon Hill policies as an attributing factor for the closure, believing Massachusetts is losing too many businesses to other states in the Northeast. “Massachusetts cannot even keep Cape Cod Potato Chips in Cape Cod. When a company whose entire identity is tied to this state decides it no longer makes economic sense to operate here, that should set off alarm bells on Beacon Hill. Other states are rolling out the welcome mat for manufacturers while Massachusetts leaders continue to pretend everything is fine,” said MassFiscal Executive Director Paul Craney.

Cape Cod Chips was founded in Hyannis in 1980, and has been operating since 1985. Campbell’s purchased the company as part of an acquisition of Snyder’s-Lance, Inc.

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## Massachusetts Well Represented at 2026 Winter Olympics

As the 2026 Winter Olympic Games are set to begin, athletes from across the U.S. and throughout the world will begin to arrive in Milan and Cortina, Italy. Here in Massachusetts, there are 15 competitors preparing to head off to compete in various Olympic sports later this month as part of Team USA.

Competing in Hockey are: Matt Boldy (Millis), Alex Carpenter (North Reading), Jack Eichel (North Chelmsford), David Eustace (Stoneham), Noah Hanifin (Norwood), and Aimee Varano (Duxbury). The lone competitors in each of the following sports are: Cross-Country; Julia Kern (Waltham), Speed Skating; Julie Letai (Medfield), Curling; Corey Dropkin (Southboro), Bobsled; Kris Horn (Pembroke), Wheelchair Curling; Sean O’Neill (Forestdale), and Sled Hockey – Paraplegic; Griffin LaMarre (Haverhill). The Luge competitors will consist of Zachary DiGregorio (Medway), Chevonne Forgan (Chelmsford) and Ansel Haugsjaa (Framingham).

Good Luck to all of the U.S. athletes competing in the upcoming Winter Olympics. We will be watching and cheering for you all. **Go Team USA!**



## Red Sox Truck Day Tradition Continues



season may have ended. In years it served as an official rally or block party of sorts, taking place on Van Ness Street between Jersey and Ipswich, complete with marching bands, throngs of fans and even Johnny Pesky serving as Grand Marshall a time or two.

Super Bowl LX will soon be history, the Bruins season will be on pause as the 2026 Winter Olympics in Milan prepare to begin, and the Celtics All-Star Break is almost upon us, so traditionally that means Baseball Season is just around the corner.

This past Monday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> as Punxsutawney Phil prepared to peek out of his hibernation and make a prediction regarding springs arrival, Truck Day preparations were taking place in front of Fenway Park.

Since 2003, Truck Day has been the unofficial kickoff for the Boston Red Sox season, triggering a fresh start, regardless of how ugly the previous

This year it was a vastly smaller crowd who gathered to watch approximately 20k baseballs, 1,100 bats, 20 cases of bubble gum, 60 cases of sunflower seeds, hundreds of batting gloves, helmets, and various clothing items loaded onto the truck. Some came to wish the team well others to gripe about the lack of direction and enthusiasm from team ownership and front office.

Regardless, Spring Training in Fort Myers, Florida awaits and with that thought, like clockwork the flatbed truck, led by mascots Wallie and Tessie led the way for the first step of what we all hope will be a safe journey and a victorious season!



## Friends, Romans, Countrymen!

by Laura Carlo

9:30 AM my phone rings. Big happy voice says “Good morning, Laura! I’m ready to do this when you are!” It’s my friend and former colleague, Boston radio icon Ron Della Chiesa, a half hour earlier than we had scheduled. For as long as I’ve known Ron (over 35 years) the man behind that familiar velvety made-for-radio voice has always sounded bright and upbeat. This is true today, too, even though he’s doing the interview from a short-stay rehab hospital.

Ron was born in Quincy to a father of Italian descent (the first Italian elected to office in Quincy!) and a mother whose family was French Canadian. Both of them were teachers and instilled in him a love of learning. Both were also fans of radio and exposed their only child to “hours of great music shows like ‘The Voice of Firestone,’ Toscanini, jazz, opera shows, comedy shows like ‘Burns and Allen.’ There were also shows for kids like ‘The Lone Ranger’ and ‘Captain Midnight.’ They really knew how to keep a kids interested by ending each episode with a cliffhanger, and encouraging you to send away for a decoder ring. By the way, when the ring came in the mail, you had to figure out the message, which was usually, “Buy Ovaltine!”

All this exposure to “good radio” prompted 10-year-old Ron to build his own radio studio in his bedroom. “I set up a turntable with a stack of records, and one of the earliest home tape recorders.” Around that time WJDA in Quincy started a children’s show that included everything from music and fun quizzes to reading children’s books. Young Ron wrote a letter to the station and asked for a chance to be on. Station owner James Asher took him up on it! He made his radio debut



there and must have impressed because he was invited back for years.

I asked Ron if he had had any other career aspirations when he was a child? “No, I knew from a very early age that radio was my future.” He went on to study at Boston University’s College of Communication. While there he hosted several music shows on BU’s radio station, WBUR, and also met several newsmakers, such as Martin Luther King, Jr., who stopped by to do interviews.

Ron’s first professional job was when Boston radio personality Arnie “Woo Woo” Ginsberg hired him to be on WBOS, which had 4 hours of programming in Italian every night. Everyone in the Italian-American community listened in. Ron was hired to be an announcer and to voice the Italian commercials in English. From there, he went on to WBCN (the “Boston Concert Network”). It was a classical music station that also simulcast Boston Symphony concerts with WCRB in Waltham.

I asked him if the music genre mattered to him for a radio job? “No, anything — jazz, opera, classical — as long as it was good music. After WBCN changed formats, I went to

WGBH and spent the next 40 years there, again, doing both classical and jazz shows.” While he was happy in the radio booth, Ron also enjoyed doing what are called “remotes,” when a portable studio would be set up at locations around Greater Boston, including the Franklin Park Zoo! He said he really loved meeting listeners and talking radio and music with them. Same thing with heading out to Tanglewood every summer to broadcast from the Boston Symphony’s summer home. As you can imagine, Ron has great stories about all the biggest names, including Arthur Fiedler, Peter Nero, Leonard Bernstein and John Williams.

Ron has always been proud of his ethnic heritage. I asked him if he had ever been advised to change his name to a more “American” sounding one, as earlier Italo-Americans in radio had done? “Some radio execs suggested a name change, one floated ‘Ron Church,’ a translation of my name. I said, “I’m proud of my name and background, so no thanks, I’ll just keep my own.”

Long-time Della Chiesa fans know he is never one to sit still. Always a big fan of singer Frank Sinatra, Ron did “Strictly Sinatra,” a show on WPLM in Plymouth for about 30 years on Friday and Saturday nights. While the show was pre-recorded so Ron could do his BSO and Boston Pops broadcasts live on GBH, the music came alive at his “Sinatra dance parties,” held at Raffael’s in Hingham. There was a singer and full orchestra, and people would go to both to enjoy the music and to dance. Although his good friend Tony Bennett once offered to introduce him to Sinatra if Ron could get to NYC at the last minute, he couldn’t get out of hosting a previously scheduled event the same night. “While I was sorry that didn’t work out, I became really good friends with Sinatra’s son, Frank Jr., for many, many years.”

Although he loved his radio career (“I was there at the right time, when announcers had more freedom and flexibility on the air,”) he would not advise young people to look at radio as a career now. “Stations are being consolidated, people who run them now are suits, not broadcasters themselves. Even the opportunities to get a job today are few. Radio is no longer the long-term career it used to be.”

As for what he’s looking forward to? Ron and the love of his life, wife and celebrated chef Joyce, plan to travel again. They’ve led several cooking and listener tours to Italy in the past, and they’ve also solo traveled there, as well as to other beautiful places around the world.

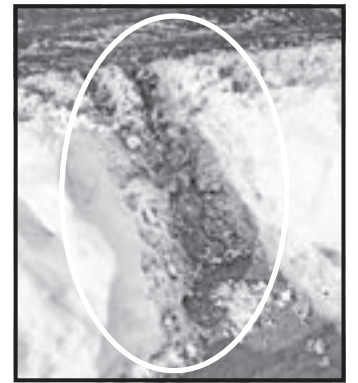
Meantime, if you’d like a fun read about great musicians he’s met, Ron’s book, *Radio My Way*, is still available on Amazon. Everyone knows Ron’s famous line, quoting the Sinatra song, “the best is yet to come!” We have no doubt, Ron!

## Commentary

### “Plowed Over or Passed Over

by Patti Sartori

In the aftermath of the recent January, 2026 snowstorm, I felt compelled to voice my concern over the unsafe conditions of our sidewalks, streets, intersections, and handicap ramps in a few of the dense pedestrian neighborhoods that I walk in and drive through each day. The storm ranked among the largest in the city’s recorded history, dumping nearly two feet of snow and leaving all of Boston digging out well into the week and beyond.



The North End, where I work and walk through the neighborhood multiple times per day, provided an extreme mobility challenge and in some areas looked quite disastrous. Sidewalks were choked with deep snow and ice, forcing residents, older adults with mobility aids, families with strollers or small children, and even ordinary pedestrians like myself to step into the street just to navigate the tricky street patterns.

Crosswalks, like the one at North Washington and Endicott Street, or at Hanover and Fleet Street, stood blocked by massive snow banks even days after the storm ended.

The other morning, I walked to the *Post-Gazette* office after parking my car at Sargents Wharf, and was faced with an impasse as I reached the corner of North and Sun Court Streets. The intersection was almost impassible by foot, never mind if a vehicle attempted it. The next day, I walked the entirety of Prince Street, after parking at the Brinks Garage, heading to the *Post-Gazette* office and that was an even worse experience. I had to bounce back and forth between the snow blocked sidewalk, especially in front of the Gassy, and the middle of the street, the entire way.

As I delivered the *Post-Gazette* newspapers last Thursday, days after the storm ended, untreated surfaces were glazed with ice and heavy, slushy snow that made this walkable neighborhood into an obstacle course. As I walked my traditional route I thought to myself, “If I as a healthy, able-bodied adult is having such a difficult time walking around the neighborhood, how are older residents with their shopping baskets and walkers, able to move around safely? How will they be able to go out to pick up medications, shop for food items at local stores or attend Mass? How are children going to get to school?” It was absolutely unacceptable!

This past Sunday, one full week after the snow storm, I drove into East Boston to visit my mother. What a disaster that was. Each side of the street was full of snow, making it difficult for cars to park safely. When I attempted to walk from my car to the sidewalk in front of her house, I was met with a fairly-substantial pile of snow, blocking the clearly marked, yellow handicap ramp, that for me was passible, but for someone with a walker, wheelchair or mobility scooter would have been pointless to attempt navigating through.

At a time of the year when public safety should be paramount, these conditions are a shameful reflection of inadequate planning and execution. Whether it’s the city’s snow plow contracts that need to be reviewed, the lack of effective salting on treacherous brick sidewalks, or the sheer unwillingness to haul snow away from high traffic pedestrian zones, intersections, or handicap ramps, the result is the same. Residents of all ages are put at risk every time they leave their homes. The North End, East Boston and any other neighborhood within the City of Boston, should not feel like a burden or afterthought in snow recovery, but after this past storm, that’s exactly what it feels like!



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SUNDAY, February 15, 2026  
3:30pm - 5:30pm

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# Ieri e Oggi

## Yesterday & Today

A COLUMN OF PAST AND CURRENT EVENTS

by Bennett Molinari & Richard Molinari

### Giotto di Bondone



who drew all his figures and their postures according to nature. He was given a salary by the commune of Florence in virtue of his talent and excellence.”

The later 16th century biographer Giorgio Vasari says of him “... He made a decisive break with the Byzantine style, and brought to life the great art of painting as we know it today, introducing the technique of drawing accurately from life, which had been neglected for more than two hundred years.”

Giotto’s masterwork is the decoration of the Scrovegni Chapel in Padua, commonly called the Arena Chapel, completed around 1305. This fresco cycle depicts the life of the Virgin and the life of Christ. It is regarded as one of the supreme masterpieces of the Early Renaissance. That Giotto painted the Arena Chapel and that he was chosen by the commune of Florence in 1334 to design the new campanile (bell tower) of the Florence Cathedral are among the few certainties of his biography. Almost every other aspect of it is subject to controversy: his birthdate, his birthplace, his appearance, his apprenticeship, the order in which he created his works, and where he was eventually buried after his death. Giotto passed away on January 8, 1337.

Giotto di Bondone better known simply as Giotto, was an Italian painter and architect from Florence. He is generally considered the first in a line of great artists who contributed to the Italian Renaissance.

Giotto was born in Florence, the son of a blacksmith. Most authors accept that Giotto was his real name, but may have been an abbreviation of Ambrogio (*Ambrogiotto*).

Giotto was a happy and intelligent child who was loved by all who knew him. It is believed that Giotto was an apprentice to the Florentine painter Cimabue.

Giotto’s contemporary Giovanni Villani wrote that Giotto was “the most sovereign master of painting in his time,

# Saint Birinus

by Bennett Molinari and Richard Molinari

In the 7th century, an Italian monk named Birinus was consecrated bishop in Milan. Later he was sent to Britain by Pope Honorius I to continue the conversion of the Anglo-Saxons to Christianity.

Although Bishop Birinus’ original plan was to go into the interior of Britain where no teacher had been before. But on arriving in Britain and first coming to the nation of the West Saxons, he found all to be pagans, he thought it more useful to preach the word where he arrived, rather than to go further looking for people to whom he should preach.

In 635, King Oswald of Northumbria, who had already been converted to Christianity by Celtic Christians in Iona (Scotland), wanted to marry



the daughter of Cynegils, King of the West Saxons, and therefore came to Dorchester to visit Cynegils. There he found

Cynegils receiving instruction in the Christian faith from Birinus. The outcome was that Birinus baptized Cynegils with Oswald standing as godfather. The two kings then granted land to Birinus in Dorchester for the establishment of his episcopal see and cathedral church. Birinus thus became the first Bishop of the West Saxons.

Birinus passed away about the year 650 and was buried in Dorchester; he was canonized soon after. His relics were moved to Winchester around 690 by Bishop Hedda of Winchester, but they were moved again to new shrines in 980, by Bishop Ethelwold, and in 1150, by Henri de Blois.

The feast day of Saint Bernius is December 3.

## Punxsutawney Phil Does it Again



Last Monday, February 2, 2026, in Gobbler’s knob in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, before a crowd of spectators, groundhog Phil saw his shadow for the second year in a row. If tradition is to be believed, this will result in six more weeks of winter. Phil also saw his shadow in 2025.

Since record keeping began, Phil has seen his shadow 110 times. Phil predicted an early spring in 2024 and has done so only 21 times since records were first documented. Let’s all hope Phil is mistaken and these unseasonably cold days will give way to sunshine and more temperate weather very soon!

## THE WEST END MUSEUM

### February 2026 Events



FEBRUARY 5  
6 PM

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@ PENNYWEIGHT HOTEL  
155 PORTLAND ST



FEBRUARY 18  
6 PM

**THE STORY OF BOSTON'S  
BIG DIG**  
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FEBRUARY  
7 and 8

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH  
CENTENARY CELEBRATION**  
FREE ADMISSION



FEBRUARY 19  
6 PM

**WINTER SOCIAL  
CRAFT CIRCLE**



FEBRUARY 12  
6 PM

**CHELSEA, THE JEWISH YEARS**  
DOCUMENTARY FILM SCREENING



FEBRUARY 28  
2 PM

**POOH'S BIRTHDAY SURPRISE**  
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**FRIDAY THE 13<sup>TH</sup> PART 2**  
(4K Ultra HD + Blu-ray)  
Paramount Pictures

Get ready for twice the terror with *Friday the 13th Part 2* as the movie celebrates its 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Five years after the massacre at Camp Crystal Lake, the nerve-wracking legend of Jason Vorhees and his diabolical mother lives on. Despite ominous warnings from the locals to stay away from "Camp Blood" a group of counselors at a nearby summer camp decide to explore the area where seven people were brutally slaughtered. All too soon, they encounter horrors of their own and the killing begins again. You'll be at the edge of your seat for this gruesome thriller about 24 hours of bone-chilling fear!

**KNOCK OFF**  
(4K Ultra HD + Blu-ray)  
MVD Rewind Collection

Jean-Claude Van Damme plays Marcus Ray, a Hong Kong fashion designer who uncovers a deadly conspiracy involving explosive micro-bombs hidden in counterfeit products. Teaming up with a covert agent (Rob Schneider), Ray must navigate the dangerous world of counterfeit fashion to stop the imminent threat and save lives.

**PULSE (Blu-ray)**  
Mill Creek Entertainment

In today's world of modern conveniences, everything we rely on is run by electricity. But what happens if the power we take for granted turns against us? Old man Holger knows. He claims electricity is a living presence, whose voice can only be silenced by getting rid of anything that can hear it. Bill Rockland, however refuses to believe him. It must have been an accident when an electric spark ruptured the gas pipe that nearly killed Bill's son. And it's surely a coincidence when his wife is severely scalded by their electric water heater. But when his own power tools attack him, and an electrical fire turns their home into a blazing inferno, Bill realizes Holger may have been right after all, and perhaps the time has come to finally pull the plug.

**HANKY PANKY (Blu-ray)**  
Mill Creek Entertainment

After a chance encounter with the mysterious Kate (Gilda Radner), architect Michael Jordon (Gene Wilder) is swept into a deadly conspiracy. The duo must outrun shadowy agents and assassins as they unravel a plot that's every bit as outrageous as it is dangerous. Get ready for a wild caper full of mistaken identity, espionage, and laughs starring one of Hollywood's most beloved power couples.

**SUSPECT (Blu-ray)**  
Mill Creek Entertainment

Kathleen Riley (Cher) is an overworked Washington D.C. public defender who needs a vacation. Instead, she is assigned another case. But this is no ordinary crime, with no ordinary criminal. Lobbyist Eddie Sanger (Dennis Quaid) gets saddled with jury duty just when a critical bill is coming up for vote. While on jury duty, Eddie discovers evidence critical to Kathleen's case and contacts her outside the courtroom ... a

violation of the law. Bizarre evidence leads Kathleen on a dangerous trail from Washington's seamy underbelly to the highest levels of government. And the closer she gets to the answer, the more her life is in danger. Kathleen and Eddie take the law into their own hands in the daring suspense thriller where everything is revealed in court ... except the truth.

**10 RILLINGTON PLACE**  
(Blu-ray)  
Mill Creek Entertainment

Richard Attenborough delivers a haunting performance as John Christie, the notorious serial killer who lured women to their doom in his London flat. When Timothy Evans (John Hurt) and his young family move into *10 Rillington Place*, they are caught in web of manipulation and murder that will shake the British criminal system to its very foundation.

**KEEPER**  
(4K Ultra HD + Blu-ray)  
Decal + Neon

While on a weekend getaway at a remote cabin, Liz (Tatiana Maslany) and Malcolm's (Rossif Sutherland) romantic retreat takes a dark turn when a sinister presence unveils the cabin's chilling past.

**FLATHEAD (DVD)**  
INDIEpix

Cass Cumerford has borne more than his fair share of setbacks in life. Now in his seventies, he decides to return to his long-forsaken childhood home of Bundaberg, a small city famous for its rum, in Queensland. Through conversations with the strangers he encounters and the friends he makes, Cass gradually reveals the events that have shaped his life — the mistakes he has made, the moments of joy and the grief that weighs him down as he finds himself on a spiritual search for redemption. Shot with raw intimacy and striking visual minimalism, *Flathead*, the feature film debut from Jaydon Martin, blurs the line between documentary and fiction — capturing real people, real places, and a lived-in authenticity that rarely reaches the screen. *Flathead* was shot in crisp monochrome, and is both a love letter and elegy to a disappearing Australia — an atmospheric meditation on memory, belonging, and the quiet ache of men searching for meaning in the places they once called home.

**LONDON CALLING (DVD)**  
Alliance/Quiver

After botching a hit, Tommy Ward (Josh Duhamel) flees to L.A. and strikes a deal: mentor his boss's awkward son in exchange for a way home. But a routine job turns into a night of gunfights, killers, and chaos as the odd duo battles to survive — and earn redemption.

**GARDEN OF LOVE (Blu-ray)**  
Unearthed Films

The story of a young woman tormented by bloody visions of a past she can't really remember. All she knows is that all of her family was slaughtered when she was very young. Now, the spirits of the dead lusts for vengeance and they want Rebecca to guide those responsible to them. Rebecca reluctantly agrees and blood-spurting chaos ensues.

The time has come, the walrus said,

**TO TALK OF MANY THINGS**  
of shoes and ships and sealing wax of cabbages and kings

by Sal Giarratani

**MLK JR. BREAKFAST OVER IN QUINCY, MA**



(L-R): Rev. Jack Ahern, pastor of St. Gregory's Parish in Dorchester Lower Mills, Sal Giarratani, Brigadier General Enoch "Woody" Woodhouse, and Bob Noble, retired Quincy High School history teacher

(Photo by Bob Bosworth, Quincy Sun publisher)

Recently, I attended the Martin Luther King Jr., holiday breakfast over at the Tirrell Room in Quincy. This year's keynote speaker was Brigadier General Enoch "Woody" Woodhouse, an Air Force veteran who served during WWII in the famed 332nd Fighter Group, the Tuskegee Airmen, one of the most famous all-Black regiments in our armed services history. Five days before MLK Day, he celebrated his 99th birthday.

I have been a published letter writer in the *Quincy Sun* going back to 1983. This newspaper was started by Henry Bosworth in 1968. When he passed away, his son Bob took over the helm of this great community newspaper and is still going strong to this very day.

**SOME SONGS ARE SO BAD, AREN'T THEY?**

On a recent Sunday morning while driving nearby Franklin Park and thinking about the old days, I was listening to the Sirius Seventies channel on the dial, the D.J. played two songs from the 1970s. One was "Alone Again" by Gilbert O'Sullivan and the other "All by Myself" by Eric Carmen. Both remain terrible songs, but sold many records. I can't even say which was worse. Both are so bad. Okay, now everyone out there, which is the worse of the two or did I even miss the worst song ever? Let me know at [sal.giarratani@gmail.com](mailto:sal.giarratani@gmail.com).

**HERE'S A SOMEWHAT USELESS PIECE OF INFO TO HOLD ONTO**

*Wagon Train*, that ran from 1957-65, had two wagon train masters: Major Seth Adams, played by Ward Bond until his death in 1960, and then Christopher Hale, played by John McIntire until the series ended. Each year the wagon train would set out from Missouri headed to California.

This could be a great trivia game or maybe a topic for a bunch of old guys like me who meet up at Burger King in the mornings. The news that day might be too boring and we all know old TV shows, right?

**SHERMAN'S LAGOON COMIC STRIP**

I loved this newspaper comic strip. As of late, a cat has decided to use Thornton the Bear as

a pillow. His friend seeing the cat asleep on the bear's belly says how much he hates cats, adding cats are aloof, self-centered, ungrateful. Then, the cat wakes up and starts going after the bear's friend. While running away, he yells out loud to the bear to call off the cat to which the bear responds, "I think they love seafood."

My cat can often be a pain that likes breaking things and scratching furniture, etc. However, at the end of the evening, after yelling at Smokey endlessly, he ends up jumping into bed next to me and falling asleep, resting up for more hijinks in the morning.

**GIRL SCOUT COOKIE BOOTH AT FIRST PRIORITY CREDIT UNION**



Members of Daisy Troop #63615 inside the First Priority Credit Union

(Photo by Sal Giarratani)

Back on Saturday, January 17, the First Priority Credit Union held a Girl Scout Cookie Day both inside and outside on Swift Street. The place was dripping in girl scouts who were there selling those delicious cookies. The pack was from the Bradley Elementary First Grade Daisy Troop #63615. I was told it was a banner day helping the girls reach their sales goal.

They still sell Thin Mints, but since my daughter was a Brownie over at Squantum Elementary School in Quincy, there are many new flavors. The box prices are much higher than they were in the 90s, but you can blame that on inflation which is never our friend, right? Still a great bargain.

**DRIVING TO WORK WITH MY RADIO ON**

Driving around in my car, I love listening to music, all kinds of music. I have a ton of CDs. I drive a 2015 Nissan not a 2016 model. The 2015s still have CD players on the dashboard. The 2016s don't. I love Sirius XM. Several favorites are *Willie's Roadhouse*, *Sixties Gold*, *7 on Seventies*, and more. On the radio dial, I have WJIB 740am, 1360 WLYN and, of course, WMEX 1510am.

Over the years I also like political talk with Jeffrey Kuhner on WRKO 680 but lately, I've been tuning him out. One morning last week, he spent way too much airtime beating up on Don Lemon. Boring, boring, boring. My backup for the Kuhnerman is *Willie's Roadhouse* on Sirius XM where I can find Sunny Sweeney on her weekday *Sunny Side Up* show playing all kinds of great country music.

**POTATO CHIP COMPANY FLEES BAY STATE**

Not just any potato chip facility down in Hyannis, but Cape Cod Potato Chips. I kid you not, 49 jobs going to North Carolina, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania. Apparently, it no longer makes economic sense to operate here.

• News Briefs (Continued from Page 1)

media bubble" and presented as "brave" acts of "standing up to fascism," though in reality "law enforcement officers have every right to arrest and detain people who obstruct them in their duties ... enforcing laws is the essence of ordered liberty."

**Quotes to Note**

"When you promise "free" everything on Sunday, boldly declare that millionaires and billionaires shouldn't exist on Monday, and by Tuesday you're scrambling to fund your giveaways with the very people you wanted gone just yesterday."

— former NYC Mayor Eric Adams

"NYC has just experienced what it means to have a Democrat-Communist Mayor. The policy of NYC before, during and after I was Mayor was to remove homeless from the

streets when it approaches freezing. The incumbent Mayor has changed that policy."

— former NYC Mayor Rudi Giuliani

**2 JFK Assassins?**

**Enforcing Laws is the Essence**

A 62-year-old home movie could blow the JFK Assassination wide open — and might prove there was a second shooter on the grassy knoll that fateful day. The grainy 8mm footage captured by Dallas air-conditioner repair guy, Orville Nix, as bullets were flying through Dealey Square on November 22, 1963, hasn't been seen since 1978 when it was sent to Los Angeles for analysis before being sent to the FBI; which the agency claims it doesn't have. Recently, a federal judge has ruled that the battle over the film can go

forward which means it might finally see the light of day. This old home movie, if produced in this latest court action, might once and for all prove whether there had been a second gunman.

**Remembering "Sanford and Son"**

Sad news, actor Grady Demond Wilson just died the other day at age 79. He was best known as Lamont Sanford, the son of Fred Sanford (Red Foxx) in the 1970s sitcom following a battle with cancer. The show lasted six seasons from 1972 to 1977. Fox passed away in 1991 at age 68.

**End Quote**

"I try to believe like I believed when I was five ... When your heart tells you everything you need to know."

— Lucy Liu

# Nanna & Babbononno

by John Christoforo

A Nostalgic Remembrance



Most of the old-timers felt uncomfortable eating out. You ate your mother's cooking and married someone who could cook due to the fact that she was taught "how to" by her mother and grandmother since she was a young child. The attitude was, "Why eat out when my wife is a better cook." Babbononno was from that school of thinking. If he was with his friends in either the North End or East Boston, he might have lunch at one of the places he was familiar with, and the only things he would eat would be Italian cold cuts, cheeses, bread made that day and a glass or two of homemade red wine.

Family weddings, christenings and first communion receptions were always held at someone's home back then, function facilities were few in number in Italian neighborhoods. After the religious part of the ceremony everyone would head for the hosts' house. The ladies of the home probably had been up since 4:00 or 5:00 a.m., preparing the gravy, making the pasta and getting everything ready for the afternoon, since they too, would be at the church to watch the priest marry, baptize, confirm or give out first communion. In their minds, it was considered an infamia if they didn't attend. Quite often, a trusted neighbor would watch the stove for the ladies while they were at the church. When everything was over at the church, the guests would head for the designated house. Once there, they would be greeted by the host and then they would greet each other while munching on a before-dinner spread that covered the kitchen table. Of course, this assortment of cheeses and cold cuts would be accompanied by homemade wine. When it was time, everyone would be directed to be seated in the dining room and a toast would be

given by the head of the family to honor the married couple, the child that was baptized, the kids that received first communion or the kids that were confirmed, whichever the case might be. That's the way it was.

Well, it was back during WWII, and Nanna was recuperating from a heart attack and a bout with pneumonia that followed it. She was laid up for quite a while and Mom was at the Boston Hospital for Women every day. The hospital was located in Roxbury and if no one was around to drive her, she or we often would take the T to get there. Back then, it was called the Boston EL (Boston Elevated Railway), and the trains, trolleys and buses were ancient, due to the fact that there was a war on and they hadn't been upgraded since the 1930s. After a lengthy recuperation, Nanna finally was allowed to come home. It made it easier on her and my mother who became her nurse for the rest of the recuperation.

By the time winter rolled around, my grandmother was doing a lot better. St. Valentine's Day was just around the corner and Uncle Nick was coming home on leave. He was in the Navy during the war, and at that point in time, stationed at the Navy base in Newport, Rhode Island, playing for the U.S. Navy Orchestra, conducted by Andre Kostelanetz. Dad decided to take the family out for a St. Valentine's Day dinner. He had played at the Cathay House, a long-gone, but then, quite popular Chinese restaurant located in Boston's Chinatown. Back then, most Chinese restaurants had entertainment and Dad played with a band at the Cathay House and knew the management rather well. The family had thought of having a Valentine's Day dinner at the house, but were fearful that the excitement might be too much for Nanna. She was not the type who would let others do the work of preparing a dinner. She was always in the middle doing more than her share. Eating out was the best way to celebrate and Dad set it up with the manager of the restaurant.

To save on gas, Uncle Nick, his first wife, Ada, Nanna, Babbononno, Mom, Dad and I squeezed into Dad's 1937 Plymouth and headed through the Sumner Tunnel at a cost of fifteen cents and worked our way through Boston to Chinatown. Babbononno had never eaten Chinese food before this point in time and didn't know what to expect. They left the ordering up to Dad after we were greeted and seated by Dad's friend, the manager. When the waiter arrived, Dad ordered a round of drinks for everyone and as the family toasted each other, Valentine's Day cards were handed to Nanna along with a heart-shaped box of chocolates and flowers that were hidden from her in the car. Dad next ordered the food, egg rolls and pork ends for appetizers, shrimp in lobster sauce, mushroom chow yoke and fried rice for the entrees.

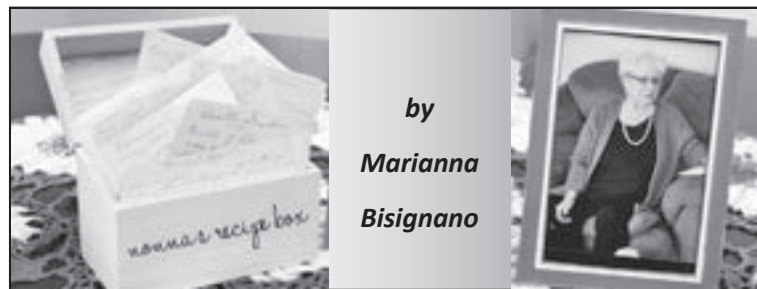
Dad explained each course to Nanna and Babbononno, but my grandfather looked at everything like it was from another planet. The rest of us were familiar with Chinese food and dug in. Nanna was a bit more daring than Babbononno and tried the food and actually liked everything. Babbononno didn't want to be considered a wimp and sampled an egg roll and a few pieces of pork. He put duck sauce on both as suggested by Mom and liked them even better as he had a sweet tooth. Uncle Nick warned him about the hot mustard but he had to try it anyway. He put a large amount on a piece of pork, popped it into his mouth, and within seconds, lunged at his water glass and swallowed the contents in one gulp, swearing in Italian and English. Nanna called him a cafone for the way he acted out in public, he calmed down and continued to eat, minus the hot mustard.

The main courses were to his liking and he dug in with his fork. What fascinated him the most was watching people at other tables eating with chopsticks. He had been to North Africa as a young man in the Italian Marine Corps and had learned to eat with his fingers in countries like Morocco, but considered that barbaric. Mom told him that, in China, people ate with chopsticks and not forks. This was all new to him and he was fascinated. All in all, things worked out rather well. When the bill arrived, it was accompanied by Chinese candy. Back then, fortune cookies weren't that common in Boston. The restaurants served a jelled candy with sesame seeds covering the brown colored pieces. I'm not sure what the flavoring was, but as a kid, I liked it. Babbononno tasted a piece and said, "Questo dolce tene il sapore di lavandina." (This candy has flavor of bleach water.) Having a sweet tooth, he ate it anyway.

As we left the restaurant and headed for the car, my grandfather looked around at the neighborhood and the people, totally fascinated by what he saw. We all squeezed in the old Plymouth and headed toward the tunnel and home. Nanna thanked everyone for the flowers and candy, and once we were back home, we wished each other a Happy Valentine's Day. Those were happy days and I would like to extend that same sentiment to one and all. From the Christoforo family Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup> is the day, so, "Happy Valentine's Day to one and all."

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by  
**Marianna  
Bisignano**

Carnival has arrived in Italy, ushering in a season of masks, parades, and most importantly, indulgent sweets enjoyed before the quiet restraint of Lent. If you have Sicilian roots, this is the perfect time to savor *Treccine con lo Zucchero Siciliane*, or Sicilian Sugar Braids, those soft, brioche-style pastries coated in sugar that often fill bakery windows across the island, especially in the Palermo area.

Recognizable by their twisted, braided shape, *Treccine* have been iconic for generations, enjoyed for breakfast or as an afternoon treat, alongside a cup of coffee or filled with hazelnut cream, jam, or ricotta. Best of all, they're baked, not fried.

In my Nonna's kitchen, Sicilian Sugar Braids were a special breakfast treat, and the ones she made baked with crema pasticceria were reserved for Sundays or when company came to visit. Light, airy, and delicately sweet, like a sugar-coated donut fresh from the oven, they're almost impossible to stop at eating just one. *Buon Carnivale!*

## NONNA'S SICILIAN SUGAR BRAIDS *Treccine con lo Zucchero Siciliani*



- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 4 cups 00 flour                                      | 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract                |
| 1 cup whole milk                                     | 1 ½ tablespoon honey                           |
| ½ cup Crisco/lard, margarine,<br>or butter, softened | 2 ½ teaspoons active dry yeast                 |
| ½ cup granulated sugar                               | Granulated sugar and<br>whole milk for coating |
| 1 teaspoon salt                                      |  |

Warm the milk until just lukewarm. Stir in the yeast and let it sit for about 10 minutes, until slightly foamy.

In a large bowl, combine the flour and sugar. Add the milk and yeast mixture and mix until a soft dough begins to form. Knead for at least 5 minutes, then cover and let the dough rest for 10 minutes.

Add the softened Crisco/lard, margarine, or butter mixed with the vanilla, honey, and salt. Continue kneading for 12 to 15 minutes, until the dough is smooth, elastic, and slightly tacky.

Transfer the dough to a lightly greased bowl, cover, and let rise in a warm spot until doubled in size, about 2 to 3 hours.

Once risen, divide the dough into 8 to 10 equal pieces. Shape each piece into a braid or twist and place them spaced apart on a parchment-lined baking sheet. Cover with a towel and let rise again until doubled, about 1 to 2 hours.

Preheat the oven to 350°F. Brush each braid gently with milk and bake for 13 to 15 minutes, or until lightly golden brown.

Remove from the oven, brush once more with milk, and generously coat the tops with sugar. Enjoy warm!

Marianna Bisignano is a psychologist for the Boston Public Schools and can be reached at [bisignanomarianna@gmail.com](mailto:bisignanomarianna@gmail.com)

### 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. MI26P0414PO  
TRUST CITATION

In the matter of:  
**THE JOHN CAFFREY  
IRREVOCABLE TRUST**

To all interested persons:  
A Petition has been filed by: **Quinn Caffrey** of **Bedford, MA** requesting this honorable Court enter an order determining the validity of the trust amendment and all other relief requested in General Trust Petition filed: 01/23/2026 pursuant to G.L.c 203E.

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 February 25, 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 date, action may be taken without further notice to you.

Witness, HON. TERRI L. KLUG CAFAZZO,  
First Justice of this Court.  
Date: January 28, 2026

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate  
Run date: 02/06/2026

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# President Trump is a True Patriot Makes Super Bowl Pick



**Former New England Patriots Head Coach Bill Belichick celebrates one of the teams 6 Super Bowl Victories Celebrations at the White House with President Donald Trump.**

So much for remaining neutral. President Donald Trump has made his pick for Super Bowl LX, and has made it quite clear that he is a true New England Patriots fan, noting how quarterback Drake Maye impresses him, complimenting the front office for choosing the QB as the 3rd overall pick in the 2024 NFL Draft, and sounding off very clearly his feelings on Bill Belichick, stating "it's ridiculous" that former Patriots Coach Bill Belichick was not voted into the Hall of Fame last week on a first ballot attempt.

"Bob Kraft is a friend of mine, and I've watched that team, and you've got to hand it to him. He had the great team. Now he's got the great team again. I hope it's going to be a tremendous game," Trump stated. The president is unable to attend the game in person

because "it's just too far away from the White House," but he didn't hesitate to acknowledge his allegiance is with the New England Patriots and their owner Robert Kraft.

As news was made public that Belichick would not be inducted to the Hall of Fame on his first eligible ballot, catching Tom Brady, Patrick Mahomes, and many others off guard, Trump posted on his Truth Social account, "It's the same mindset that gave pro football the new unwatchable 'Sissy' Kickoff Rule, that made it possible for Bill Belichick to not be elected into the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Both are ridiculous and should be overturned."

Belichick served as the Patriots head coach in six Super Bowl victories, three losses, and two as assistant with the New York Giants.

## A Plant for Every Room in Your Home

by Melinda Myers

Add a bit of greenery to your home's décor with a few new plants. Match the plants to your style and the growing conditions in each room to create the desired results.

Consider the time you have and want to invest in caring for plants when selecting and placing them throughout your home. If you prefer to give your plants lots of attention and are attentive to watering, add a few challenging plants and those that like consistently moist soil. If you are busy or prefer a more hands-off approach, look for drought-tolerant plants that thrive with minimal care. Check plant tags and reliable resources for information on the light, water and care needed before purchasing your plants.

Start with one room and once satisfied with the results, move to the next. Dividing any project into smaller parts will be easier on your budget and schedule and often results in greater success.

Focus on the room where you spend the most time or feel it needs a greenery boost. Perhaps it's your living room, family room, or a reading nook. Use large floor plants to create a focal point, provide height, and balance in the room and brighten bare walls. Fiddle leaf and weeping figs, rubber plants, dragon tree (*Dracaena marginata*), and palms are a few popular plants often sold as indoor trees. Set them on a plant caddy to protect your floors and make it easier to move them for cleaning and maintenance. Add some decorative artificial lights if needed.

Add some welcome color to any room. Neon pothos with



**Pothos plants have thick, waxy heart-shaped leaves and come in a variety of colors and patterns.**

(Photo by [www.MelindaMyers.com](http://www.MelindaMyers.com))

its bright chartreuse leaves, crotons with its multicolored leaves, dracaenas with striped variegation and Raven ZZ plant with its purple-black foliage are just a few to consider. Incorporate a few low-maintenance flowering plants like anthuriums, bromeliads and moth orchids.

If you spend a lot of time cooking, washing dishes and cleaning up, your kitchen may be your priority. A windowsill herb garden provides fresh herbs to include in your favorite recipes. Their fragrance, when given a pet, makes clean up a bit more tolerable.

Create a sense of calm and promote a good night's sleep with greenery. The beauty, oxygen and boost in humidity plants provide is also beneficial. Consider adding a few trailing plants grown in hanging baskets or displayed on shelves. The cascading foliage provides a bit of screening and softens hard surfaces for a cozier look.

Take advantage of the humidity in the bathroom and enjoy a splash of greenery when stepping out of the shower or tub. Try some ferns, air plants, prayer plants, and other tropical plants that benefit from this environment.

Don't overlook your home office. Research found looking at and tending plants can help

increase focus and creativity.

Don't let fungus gnats ruin the calm you are trying to create. They feed on organic matter in the soil, usually don't harm your plants, but are annoying as they flit into your face and gather at the windows and your computer screen. Manage them with naturally occurring soil bacteria, *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (Bti), found in Summit® Mosquito Bits® (SummitResponsibleSolutions.com). The bacteria will kill the fungus gnat larvae in the soil but is safe for people and pets. Follow the label directions and repeat as needed.

Evaluate your home's décor and do a bit of research before you start shopping. Like any home project, planning can help save time and increase success.

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 TV & radio program*. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and was commissioned by Summit for her expertise to write this article. Myers' website is [www.MelindaMyers.com](http://www.MelindaMyers.com).

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### LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
The Probate and Family Court Department  
Middlesex, SS Division  
Docket No. MI26P0324PO  
NOTICE OF PETITION FOR  
REMOVAL OF TRUSTEE

To all persons interested in **The Berta Tedesco Irrevocable Trust**, a petition has been presented by **Carmine A. Tedesco of Bedford, MA** in the above-captioned matter praying that **Gina Tedesco of Woburn, 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 **February 19th, 2026**.

WITNESS, Hon. Terri L. Klug-Cafazzo, Esquire, First Justice of said Court, at Woburn, this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of **January**, in the year of our Lord **Two Thousand and Twenty-Six**.

Tara E. DeCristofaro,  
Register of Probate Court

Run date: 02/06/2026

### LEGAL NOTICE



#### WATERTOWN HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANT

The Watertown Housing Development Corporation (WHDC), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation and instrumentality of the Watertown Housing Authority (WHA), is inviting proposals from qualified development consultants for the redevelopment of the Willow Park state-aided public housing development located in Watertown, Massachusetts. The Request for Proposals is available by email and online.

All inquiries from prospective Proposers regarding this RFP must be submitted by email to Jacqueline Weir at [jweir@watertownha.org](mailto:jweir@watertownha.org). Inquiries must be received no later than 4:00 pm on Monday, February 23, 2026.

The Watertown Housing Development Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all proposals.

Every proposal must be in two parts: price and non-price proposals. They shall be submitted in separate envelopes and will be received until 10:00 a.m., on Wednesday, March 4, 2026, at the WHDC's office located at 55 Waverley Avenue, Watertown, MA.

Mailed proposals should be sent to:  
Watertown Housing Development Corporation  
55 Waverley Avenue  
Watertown, MA 02472  
Attention: Jacqueline Weir, Clerk

Proposals must be received no later than the date and time specified above. The final determination of the contract award shall be at the sole discretion of the WHDC Board of Directors.

Proposal requirements will be available by emailing Jacqueline Weir at [jweir@watertownha.org](mailto:jweir@watertownha.org) or for pickup at the Watertown Housing Authority, 55 Waverley Avenue, Watertown, MA 02472, after 10:00 am on Monday, February 9, 2026. There will be no charge for these documents.

Run date: 02/06/2026

## ATTENTION ATTORNEYS

The **POST-GAZETTE** newspaper is a paper of general circulation. We are qualified to accept legal notices from any court in each town that we serve.

### LEGAL NOTICES

For information on placing a Legal Notice in the **POST-GAZETTE**

please email [postgazette@aol.com](mailto:postgazette@aol.com)  
call (617) 227-8929, or mail notice to:

**POST-GAZETTE**  
P.O. BOX 130135, BOSTON, MA 02113  
Attn: Legal Notices

## Remember Your Loved Ones



The Post-Gazette  
accepts memorials  
throughout the year.

Please call  
**617-227-8929**

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE**

Notice is hereby given by **Waltham Auto Tow, Inc.**, of 279 Crescent St., Waltham, MA, pursuant to the provisions of Mass G.L.c. 255, Section 39A, that they will sell the following vehicles on or after **February 20, 2026 beginning at 10:00 am** by private or public sale to satisfy their garage keeper's lien for towing, storage, and notices of sale. Vehicles are being stored at Waltham Auto Tow.

**2017 MERCEDES BENZ GL450**  
VIN #4JGDF6EE7HA875939

**2007 AUDI Q7**  
VIN #WA1AV74L5D7010359

Signed  
Gregory Leblanc  
Owner, Waltham Auto Tow

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

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**NOTICE OF DOING BUSINESS UNDER ASSUMED NAME**

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned individuals are conducting business under the assumed name of **BODYSPEC** at the following location:

125 Newbury Street, Suite 200  
Boston, MA 02116

The true and real full names of all persons conducting said business are:  
*Elaine Shi, Chief Executive Officer*  
*Roy Shi, President*

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

**LEGAL NOTICE**

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Middlesex Probate and Family Court  
10-U Commerce Way  
Woburn, MA 01801  
(781) 865-4000  
Docket No. MI25C1139CA  
In the matter of:  
**JAI NHAT SOUP NGUYEN**  
CITATION ON  
PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Jai Nhat Soup Nguyen of Malden, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to: **Eden Soup Lovelace**.

**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 February 24, 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: January 27, 2026

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate

Run Date: 02/06/2026

**LEGAL NOTICE**

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Plymouth Probate and Family Court  
52 Obery Street - Suite 1130  
Plymouth, MA 02360  
(508) 747-6204

Docket No. PL25A0296AD

CITATION  
G. L. c. 210, § 6

In the matter of  
**JULIA PROPHETE**

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

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

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

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

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

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

Date: December 17, 2025

Matthew J. McDonough, Register of Probate

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

**LEGAL NOTICE**

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Middlesex Probate and Family Court  
10-U Commerce Way  
Woburn, MA 01801  
(781) 865-4000

Docket No. MI25A0961AD

CITATION  
G. L. c. 210, § 6

In the matter of  
**PAYTON MARIE BURKE**

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

A petition has been presented to said court by **Shannon Marie Ford of Lowell, MA** requesting for leave to adopt said child and that the name of the child be changed to

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

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

IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT: **WOBURN ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING (10:00 AM) ON MARCH 20, 2026.**

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

Date: January 21, 2026

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate

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

**LEGAL NOTICE**

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

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

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

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

Dated, Attested and Sealed, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026 (Seal)

HON. TIMOTHY P. McELDUFF, JR.,  
SURROGATE

KERRI SERKES  
DEPUTY CHIEF CLERK, KERRI SERKES

Name of Attorney for Petitioner:  
*John E. Ziobro, Esq.*  
Address of Attorney:  
20 Spring Street, Suite 1, Warwick, NY 10990  
Tel. No.: (845)986-1700

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

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

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE**

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

**2017 HONDA CIVIC**  
Vin #2HGFC1F96HH630059

**2020 FORD TRANSIT**  
Vin #1FTBR1Y84LKB06152

**2006 JEEP LIBERTY**  
Vin #1J4GL48K86W147007

**2014 NISSAN ALTIMA**  
Vin #1N4AL3AP5EC149329

**1994 HONDA VT600CD**  
Vin #JH2PC214XRM100641

**2011 FORD TAURUS**  
Vin #1FAHP2JW8BG184729

**2008 BMW 328i**  
Vin #WBAVA37518NL44874

**2011 CHEVROLET EQUINOX**  
Vin #2CNFLEEC3B6438857

**2023 HYUNDAI SANTA FE**  
Vin #5NMS2DAJ9PH570946

**2017 AUDI Q5**  
Vin #WA1C2AFP8HA036052

**2005 TOYOTA RAV4**  
Vin #JTEGD20V550087245

**2024 ZHILONG KY6**  
Vin #HZ2TABGFXR1006543

**2017 NISSAN ARMADA**  
Vin #JN8AY2NF4H9301484

**1998 CHEVROLET EXPRESS**  
Vin #1GCHG35R6W1079992

**2005 HONDA ACCORD**  
Vin #1HGCM56495A137465

**2008 TOYOTA PRIUS**  
Vin #JTDKB20U883365683

**2010 TOYOTA CAMRY**  
Vin #4T4BF3EK1AR085252

Vehicles may be seen by appointment only. Please email for specific information

[info@todiscotowing.com](mailto:info@todiscotowing.com)

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

**LEGAL NOTICE**

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Suffolk Division  
Suffolk Probate and Family Court  
24 New Chardon Street  
Boston, MA 02114  
(617) 788-8300  
Docket No. SU26P0146EA  
Estate of  
**KAREN L. MIZE**  
Also Known As:  
**KAREN LYNN MIZE**  
Date of Death: January 12, 2026

**INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **James B. Mize of Williamsville, NY**, Petitioner **Eric A. Mize of Ellicott City, MD**, a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

**James B. Mize of Williamsville, NY, Eric A. Mize of Ellicott City, MD** has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

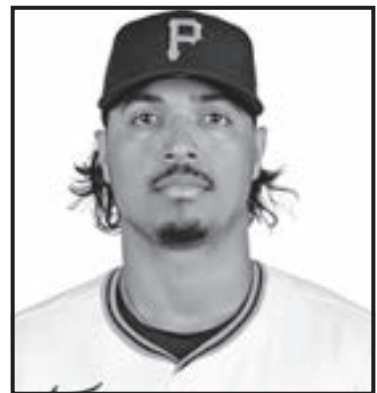
Run date: 02/06/2026

**EXTRA Innings**  
by Sal Giarratani

**Yankee, Mets Reliever  
Robinson Calls It Quits**

After a long career with both the Yankees and Mets, he threw his final pitch. The 40-year-old Dave Robinson announced his retirement after 17 seasons and 881 games during which he won a World Series with the Yankees in 2009, posted and recorded 179 saves with a 2.93 ERA

**Oviedo Looks Like  
Good 5th Starter**



**Johan Oviedo**

The newest addition to the starting rotation of the 2026 Red Sox is Johan Oviedo, 27, six foot-six and 275 pounds, a mountain of a right-hander that

the Sox just picked up from the Pirates.

He should definitely be the team's new fifth starter. He missed all of 2024 due to elbow surgery and returned to the Pirates in mid-August last summer where he started nine games with 42 strikeouts in 40.1 innings with a 4.31 ERA in 177.2 innings.

**Suarez Rejoins  
Cincinnati Reds**

Eugenio Suarez and the Reds agreed to a one-year, \$15 million contract. Last season, he split time between the D-Backs and Mariners and was the top slugger on the free agency market. The two-time All-Star returns to Cincinnati where he played seven seasons. He hit 189 homers for the Reds from 2015-2021.

**Mets Sign Craig Kimbrel  
to Minor League Pact**



**Craig Kimbrel**

The New York Mets signed relief pitcher Craig Kimbrel to a minor league contract with an invitation to big league spring training, giving the nine-time All-Star an opportunity to pitch for the 10th different team should he make the club. He was 0-1 with a 2.25 ERA while pitching for the Braves and Astros last season.

The 37-year-old Kimbrel is 56-48 over 16 seasons, including time with the Padres, Red Sox, White Sox, Cubs, Dodgers, Phillies, and Orioles. He is former Rookie of the Year and ranks fourth among relievers with 1,282 career strikeouts and fifth in saves with 440.

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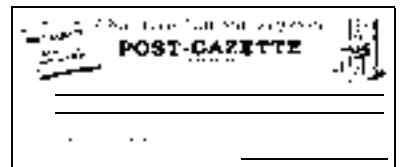
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# Boxing Ringside



WITH BOBBY FRANKLIN

## These Fighters Loved a Piano They Knew a Fine Way to Treat a Steinway



Jack Dempsey taking a break from training.



Joe Louis appears a bit distracted while tickling the ivories with Lena Horne.



Cus D'Amato accompanies Jose Torres on the piano.



Tony Canzoneri is showing his mother and father they didn't waste the money they gave him for piano lessons.



Max Schmeling learning a new song under the watchful eye of Manager Joe Jacobs.



Bennie Briscoe has his hands taped to be sure he doesn't injure them while playing.



Tommy Farr doesn't let the shiner keep him from practicing.



Muhammad Ali gets some show biz advice from Stepin Fetchit.

## HOOPS and HOCKEY in the HUB

by Richard Preiss



Hockey is, of course, a team sport and it takes a united and determined group of players to achieve a significant victory. But sometimes that major factor is bypassed a bit when relying on memories, particularly those of events that took place decades earlier.

In the Boston area people will never forget the stunning triumph of the Team USA hockey squad and its 1980 march through the Winter Olympics that culminated in the winning of the gold medal.

Mike Eruzione, goalie Jim Craig, Dave Silk and Jack O'Callahan all attended Boston University, making the milestone win one of the most momentous for fans in the Boston area – even though there were many more additional players on the squad – with a number hailing from Minnesota.

Team captain Mike Eruzione, who scored the game winning tally against the Soviet Union, continues to this day to receive comments from people across America concerning this once-in-a-lifetime experience.

But by concentrating on one there is a tendency, especially over time, for the contributions of others to recede into the background, their roles somewhat forgotten as the accumulating years become decades. One of those is Mark Johnson, a player whose contributions kept the hopes of Team USA alive through several games and whose goal in the game against the Soviets resulted in one of the most strategic miscalculations of all time.

Mark Einar Johnson was just meant to play ice hockey. Born in Minnesota, he grew up in Madison, Wisconsin where his father Bob Johnson was the head coach of the powerhouse University of Wisconsin team. And he did not wait long to experience success.

In his first year playing for his father, Wisconsin captured the 1977 NCAA Frozen Four Division One National Championship.

Just three years later he would experience the highlight of his career, a moment that *Sports Illustrated* magazine would later call the top sports moment in the 20th century – when Team USA upended the Soviet Union in the Olympics semifinals. How critical was the performance of Mark Johnson in those games? We would not be writing this article without them since Johnson scored two of Team USA's four goals in the upset of the Soviets and added a crucial assist plus a goal in the gold medal game against Finland two days later.

Johnson's first goal against the Soviets came as the first period was ending – there was literally only one second left on the clock when he scored on a rebound to tie the game at 2-2.

Without that goal Team USA would have started the second period in a trailing position and who knows how things would have played out. But Johnson's goal had a larger ramification than knotting the score. In a decision that is still debated to this very day, Soviet coach Viktor Tikhonov – considered by

many the best hockey coach in the world at the time – made the fateful decision to pull Vladislav Trekiak – the consensus best goalie in the world – out of the game. Backup netminder Vladimir Myshkin played the rest of the way and was not that inferior. Remember he was the backup goalie for the best team in the world. It was simply a shocking move that mystified everyone – including not only those on the USA side but also the Soviet players as well.

So, Johnson's goal had not only tied the score. It had also resulted in the Soviets making a momentous lineup change – one that would cost them dearly. Years later coach Tikhonov would call the pulling of Trekiak out of the game the mistake of his career.

Myshkin did hold Team USA scoreless during the entire second period with the Soviets scoring once to take a 3-2 lead. But it was in the very crucial third period that things changed. After being held scoreless by Myshkin for 27 minutes, Johnson scored his second goal with just about 12 minutes remaining in the third period to tie the count at 3-3.

A short time later Eruzione scored his goal for the ages with exactly 10 minutes left, giving the American a 4-3 lead that they protected until time expired.

But there was still one more game to go. It was against Finland and it was the gold medal game. In an interview in 2025 Eruzione was quite candid about the importance of the contest. "If we do not beat Finland, we are not having this conversation (in 2025)," he said at the time.

Although this may come as a surprise to some more than four decades later, Team USA actually entered the third period behind by a 2-1 count. The team was in danger of losing its long sought after gold medal just two days after achieving the most momentous victory in hockey history, once again the play of Johnson was crucial. After teammate Phil Verchota tied the score less than three minutes into the third period, Johnson played a huge role in the eventual game winning goal. About four minutes into the final period he drew two defenders behind the Finland net, then passed to teammate Rob McClanahan who put Team USA ahead for good. Thus, a crucial assist for Johnson. Then, with just under four minutes left in the game, Johnson would score on his own – an insurance tally that made the final score 4-2. In all, Johnson was the leading scorer for Team USA in the tournament, producing five goals and assisting on six others over the course of seven games.

After the Olympics Johnson went on to play over 660 games in the National Hockey League over the course of two decades, retiring in 1990. He later returned to Madison where he became the coach of the University of Wisconsin's women's hockey team. He has led the team to eight national championships in his 22 years behind the bench.