

POST-GAZETTE

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Boston City Councilor Shoots Down Audit Request

Boston City Councilors Ed Flynn, District 2 and Erin Murphy, At-Large, filed emergency orders at a recent weekly council meeting, requesting an audit of city finances and a review of city spending, following an embarrassing situation involving a South Boston Varsity High School baseball team left without hats due to lack of city funds.

District 8 Councilor Sharon Durkan, objected to the two late file orders before City Clerk Alex Geourntas could read them into the official record, which prevented the matters from being added to the agenda and shutting down debate, stoking frustration and anger for Flynn and Murphy.

"Councilor Flynn and I filed two emergency matters after new information came forward raising serious concerns about the city's finances and equity for student-athletes in Boston Public Schools. These issues are urgent. We are in budget season right now. Decisions are being made as we speak. Waiting weeks is not acceptable, but instead of allowing these matters to even be read into the record, Councilor Sharan Durkan blocked them outright. Let that sink in, not debated, not discussed, blocked. That is not how this body is supposed to function," offered Councilor Murphy in a statement.

Councilor Flynn, who co-sponsored the orders, believes the orders should have been taken up by the council, which he views as more focused on national issues rather than what's happening here in the City of Boston. "I'm disappointed that while we continue to deliberate state and federal and international issues, matters of local importance on a city budget deficit over \$100 million and Boston Public Schools not having athletic equipment were blocked by a council colleague simply due to politics."

Councilors Flynn and Murphy may refile the orders for next week's agenda, while Councilor Durkan declined to give reasons for objecting to the late filed matters.

President Trump Provides Update on "Operation Epic Fury"

by Patti Sartori



President Donald Trump spoke directly to the American people last week, delivering what he considered "an important update" on the war with Iran, "**Operation Epic Fury**." Over the past month, the United States and Israel, have joined efforts to take out Iran's political regime, and ensure they never have nuclear weapon capabilities, with the goal of making the world a much safer place.

Originally the president believed the conflict, which began on February 28, would last only days, but in his address last week Trump stated he "expects the war on Iran to last another two to three weeks. We are going to finish the job, and we're going to finish it very fast."

The military attacks conducted by the U.S. and Israel have resulted in the deaths of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and other Iranian leaders, as well as the destruction of the country's military. Iran has countered with missile and drone attacks on a number of Persian Gulf nations and Israel. It has

also rendered the Strait of Hormuz nearly impassable to commercial shipping and oil tankers, halting almost 20% of the world's oil supply and forcing global fuel supplies into a frenzy.

It's becoming more and more clear with each passing day that the continued strikes on Iran and the President's falling approval ratings are possible pre-cursors for the Republicans in the upcoming mid-term elections this fall with polls showing this war is unpopular with many Americans, as gas prices have increased dramatically, sinking Trump's poll numbers.

In a Fox News national poll conducted between March 20th to 23rd, the president's negative of 18 was up from 14 points following a February 28th to March 2nd poll, conducted just as the strikes against Iran began.

The largest factor impacting Trump's decline seems to be the surge in gas prices. The average price of gasoline in the U.S. reached \$4.00 per gallon on March 30, according to the national averages from AAA. According to the Fox News poll, 80% of respondents expressed concern about gas prices.

The White House claims this surge in prices is temporary, "When Operation Epic Fury is complete, gas prices will plummet back to multiyear lows American drivers enjoyed before these short-term disruptions," offered White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt.

This was the President's opportunity to bring his rational straight to the American people. Now it will be up to them to decide if he has made the correct decision.

News Briefs

by Sal Giarratani

Tech Bro:

Sets Guinness Book of Records

An outraged beer drinker used an AI bot to create "a living index" of what local pubs were charging for a glass of Guinness — a database that's now credited for driving down prices across Ireland. He learned that no one had been tracking a single pint of Guinness since 2011, so he created a new price tracking index by calling up every pub in Ireland to find out the price of a pint of it.

Easter Egg Over DNC Face

Recently, an anti-Trump social media post from Democrats backfired when people dug up an embarrassing Easter egg hunt during Biden's time at the White House. The post showed President Barack Obama and the Easter Bunny under the caption, "Better Times at the White House." One progressive journalist mused on X, "I like how they just skip past Biden lol." Someone else on X added, "imagine ignoring one of the most iconic moments of the most recent Democratic presidency and showed a clip of a seemingly confused Biden getting redirected by an Easter Bunny mascot."

Sight for Sore Eyes

A California drugmaker is pulling more than 3 million bottles of eyedrops from the shelves of major pharmacies and grocery stores nationwide over potential safety concerns. The recall stems from a "lack of assurance of sterility," meaning the drops could harbor harmful microbes."

\$1.5 TSA Cut Eyed But

The White House is proposing to cut more than 9,400 workers and just over \$1.5 billion

(Continued on Page 10)

Tax Exempt Sector of Boston Stiffs City on Payments

by Patti Sartori



Boston College

Major colleges, universities, hospitals and other tax exempt non-profits, participating in the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreement with the City of Boston and Mayor Michelle Wu's administration have stiffed the tax payers for a combined total of almost \$30 million dollars in requested payments last fiscal year. Boston is staring down an estimated \$48 million budget deficit and is in need of additional revenue to close that gap.

The Wu administration had hoped the "Big 9" institutions, including Northeastern University, Harvard University, Boston University, Mass General-Brigham Hospital, Beth Israel Hospital, Boston Children's Hospital, Dana Farber Cancer Institute and Tufts Medical Center would step up and make good on their requested contributions from the city in which these institutions conduct their business and derive their profits from.

According to data released by the city, a majority of participating colleges and universities did not live up to their commitment, collectively meeting 68% of their requested payments,

while hospitals met 91% of their requested contribution. On average, the institutions were at 76% compliance, resulting in an approximate \$30 million shortfall to the city for FY25. Of the \$133 million collected, only \$35 million was paid in cash while the remainder came from community type benefits.

The worst offenders were Shriners Hospital for Children in Boston and the Joslin Diabetes Center, who were at a combined total of 0% in contributions during FY25. Boston College (BC) was another offender,


also not submitting any PILOT payments. Although the city has requested \$5 million from BC, the Catholic College has continually opted out of participating in the program. "As a Jesuit, Catholic University with a 163-year history of service, Boston College believes that the best way it can assist the City of Boston is through the more than \$40 million in community benefits that we provide to the city and its residents each year through scholarships and

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Stirpe Nostra

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

by Prof. Edmund Turiello



THE APPLES OF THE HESPERIDES

The legend concerning the apples of the Hesperides starts with the marriage of Jupiter, chief of all Roman gods, to the goddess named Juno. The wedding was attended by all other deities, who brought beautiful gifts. The grandmother of the bride brought a wedding gift of golden apples growing on live branches. As soon as the ceremonies had ended, the branches were planted in the sacred garden of Juno. The Hesperides, three daughters of Atlas, and a goddess named Hesperis, were directed to cultivate and watch over the growing trees. The golden fruit soon became known as the apples of the Hesperides. The girls were negligent in their duties and frequently plucked off apples for themselves. Consequently, Juno sent a large serpent to guard the fruit. This monster had a hundred heads that slept at different intervals, so that it was ever watchful. The eleventh task required of Hercules was to bring back to the king, at the city of Tiryns, the apples of the Hesperides.



Prometheus Bound by Peter Paul Rubens, Circa 1611 to 1612, Philadelphia Museum of Art

The journey to the sacred garden of Juno took Hercules into the Caucasus Mountains where he came upon Prometheus, still bound to the rock. We remember Prometheus as the Secondary Titan who stole fire from the gods and gave it to mankind. Later, he displeased

Jupiter, so he was chained to this rock. Each day a giant eagle tore at his liver, which grew whole again each night. The best artistic representation of this legend has been portrayed on an eight-foot-high oil-on-canvas masterpiece by Peter Paul Rubens. It is entitled *Prometheus Bound*, and is owned by the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Prometheus is also represented in a sculptured wall plaque that is now in the National Museum at Naples, Italy. Hercules shot and killed the eagle; then he freed Prometheus from his bonds. In gratitude, Prometheus advised Hercules not to enter the sacred garden of Juno, but to send Atlas, the father of the

Hesperides, to fetch the apples for him.

Continuing his outward journey, Hercules finally came to the sacred garden of Juno. It was located near the spot where Atlas was holding the sky on his shoulders. Remembering the advice of Prometheus, Hercules offered to relieve Atlas of the weight temporarily if he would gather the golden apples from the garden. Atlas agreed, fetched the apples, and returned shortly thereafter. Hercules soon discovered that Atlas did not intend to resume his great burden, but instead offered to deliver the apples himself. Having this great weight upon his back prevented Hercules from resorting to any kind of force against Atlas. Using caution and wit, Hercules pretended to agree to the proposal of Atlas, but begged him to hold the sky just long enough to permit a pad to be placed on his head. The gullible Atlas laid the apples on the ground and took back the sky. As soon as the weight was transferred, Hercules picked up the golden fruit and started his journey back home.

After receiving the apples, the king immediately returned them to the Hesperides because it was not considered proper that such sacred fruit remain in anyone else's keeping.

NEXT ISSUE:

Hercules and the Hellhound

Nazzaro Community Center Construction Update

PROPOSED DESIGN - OVERVIEW



It was a fully packed Nazzaro Community Center Construction Update Meeting last week, headlined by the City of Boston Public Facilities Department, Turner Construction and Sasaki Architects. This was meeting number 5, and while it has been a long process, beginning with a study back in 2019, work is expected to be underway quite soon, and the completion date set for beginning of pool season, 2028. Also in attendance were State Representative Aaron Michlewitz, the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services North End Liaison Maria Perez, and Samantha Perrachi from District 1 City Councilor Gabriela Coletta's Office.

A fair amount of time has passed since the late fall, 2025 groundbreaking ceremonies were held, with the long and tedious permitting process underway. A construction management plan must be approved, a 4-12-week process, prior to permits being issued. Once permits are set, security fencing will go up around the perimeter, it will not interfere with park activities this summer. NEAA is in close contact and coordination with the construction field team and will hold internal site meetings as needed.

Once the fencing is secure, utilities will be capped and demo permit phase will begin.

Concrete will be removed, 600 poles will be driven into the ground, and approximately 400 pounds of steel will be put in place. Crosswalks and traffic signals will be reconfigured as the one leading into the entrance of the pool, on Commercial Street, will become an entryway for construction vehicles and materials. The new crosswalk and traffic signal will be located mid-parks on Commercial Street.

The new building will be state-of-the-art from top to bottom, inside and outside. Teen, senior and family spaces, athletic, workout and meeting rooms will have their own dedicated areas, and the top prize will be the fully dimensioned, regulation size gymnasium. The pools and pool deck will be totally reconfigured, resulting in a larger pool deck, a dedicated lap pool and a new family pool, with a beach type entrance. There will be state-of-the-art shower facilities and locker rooms.

There will be additional construction updates and meetings as the work progresses. It will be a tough, but temporary loss of the pool over the next two summers, 2026 and 2027, but the ultimate goal is for the entire community, including seniors, youth, families and neighborhood organizations to enjoy the new community center for many generations.

St. Patrick's Day Trumps Red Sox Opening Day

Much to the disappointment of many Catholic Red Sox Fans this past Opening Day, there would be No Fenway Franks or greasy sausages on their menu. Many Catholics dutifully abide by the Church teachings not to eat meat on the Friday's of Lent, nearing completion of the 40-day period on Good Friday, with many having to make a moral choice this year given the Archdiocese of Boston refused to grant special dispensation for the faithful to eat meat at the ballpark on opening day, April 3, 2026, which this year also happens to fall on Good Friday. "No dispensation. Good Friday is one of the holiest and somber days in the church and it



is an opportunity for Catholics for reflection, fasting, prayer, and penance," the Archdiocese spokesperson stated.

This is not the first time a special situation like this has occurred. Back in April of 2004, the Archdiocese of Boston refused requests from Catholics requesting a waiver from the no-meat rule for opening day also falling on Good Friday, however, in 1995 and 2000, Cardinal Bernard Law allowed local Catholics to eat meat when St. Patrick's day fell on a Friday during Lent, and three years ago, 2023, Cardinal Sean O'Malley granted the same special one-day dispensation for meat on a Friday in which St. Patrick's Day fell, noting, "This year, the Feast of St. Patrick, the patron saint of our Archdiocese, falls on a Friday during Lent. Given the importance of this feast in the lives of many Catholics, Cardinal Sean is granting a dispensation from the Friday Lenten abstinence on March 17, 2023 to those who wish to take advantage of this opportunity."

It certainly appears that in the Boston Archdiocese, St. Patrick is the Shepard and Red Sox fans are the sheep.

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AGES 6-12

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Friday, April 10, 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.

A Daring Rescue Mission Proves Successful; "God is Good"

by Patti Sartori

Amid escalating conflict between the United States and Iran, a dramatic and high-risk rescue mission unfolded that captured global attention. What began as a crisis, a downed American fighter jet deep inside hostile territory, quickly turned into one of the most daring combat search-and-rescue operations in modern U.S. military history.

On April 3, an American F-15E Strike Eagle was shot down by Iranian air defenses, forcing both crew members to eject into enemy controlled terrain. One airman was recovered relatively quickly, but the second, a weapons system officer, was left stranded in rugged mountainous terrain, seriously injured and surrounded by Iranian forces searching for him in hopes of securing the \$60,000 bounty that had been placed on his head.

For nearly 48 hours, the isolated soldier evaded capture, hiding in a remote mountain crevice while relying on survival training and sending sporadic messages to U.S. forces, including the cryptic phrase "God is Good" and using emergency locator equipment to communicate with U.S. forces. Meanwhile, the U.S. military intelligence agencies launched a massive, coordinated rescue effort involving hundreds of personnel, special operations units, more than 100 aircraft as well as Navy SEAL Team 6 and the CIA.

The rescue itself was anything but routine, instead relying on a deception campaign led by the CIA. American fighter jets and A-10 aircraft flew dangerous low-level missions to suppress Iranian defenses, while helicopters and special operations teams pushed into hostile territory to reach the downed airman. Complicating matters further, mechanical failures left some U.S. aircraft stranded inside Iran, forcing commanders to make the extraordinary decision to destroy their own planes to prevent sensitive technology from falling into enemy hands.

In a final high stakes push, U.S. special forces successfully located and extracted the missing soldier under force, bringing him to safety. Despite the immense risks and losses of equipment, the mission succeeded in its primary objective: bringing every American service member home alive. U.S. officials praised the officer's "absolute commitment to surviving."

The operation has since been hailed by officials as a powerful demonstration of the U.S. military's commitment to its troops, no matter the danger. In the face of overwhelming odds, the rescue mission showcased precision, courage, and an unwavering principle: never leave a soldier behind!



In Loving Memory of

Joseph C.
 Cataldo

April 12, 2014 - April 12, 2026

It's Been Twelve Years

Love of my life, I miss you so
 Always my darling, my tears still flow
 A constant wish that you were here
 How much I love you, please hear
 None on earth can take your place
 You, my love I will forever embrace

Your memory is my keepsake, with which I'll never part
 God has you in his keeping, I have you in my heart

Beautifully loved always and forever,
 We all miss you infinitely

Your Loving Wife Annette and Family



Yvonne Balsamo



Yvonne Balsamo of Marco Island, Florida formerly of Dover, Canton, and Dorchester, Massachusetts, died peacefully at her daughter's home on April 3rd, surrounded by her children. She celebrated her 90th birthday with family and longtime friends this past December.

Her headstone will read; Yvonne Balsamo, 1935 - 2026. It's hardly enough to tell her story — the life she led, her quiet strength, her love of family, her generosity, and her caring for so many of the people she knew, as well as the people she never met. One of her lasting legacies and proudest moments was when she donated a Smart Home to an injured serviceman through the Tunnels to Towers Foundation in Tampa, Florida, in 2024. She changed a man and his family's life that day — a man who proudly served our country. Yvonne was a founding member of the Balsamo Memorial Charitable Foundation, which provided funds and services for children and the elderly for over twenty years. She continued to provide funding for the Balsamo Family Memorial Scholarship, for Canton High School seniors who demonstrate a commitment to community service. Yvonne served for many years as a Board member of the Rodman Ride for Kids, and supported many other charitable organizations, including the Marilyn Rodman Center for Performing Arts.

In addition, Yvonne was a businesswoman, philanthropist, and held an honorary doctorate degree in the humanities from Stonehill College. Yvonne did not view herself as funny, but she had a great sense of humor. She wouldn't try to dominate a conversation, but she was smart, well-read, and had strong opinions on what she believed in. She had a presence and could light up a room not only with her beauty and style, but with her grace and intellect.

Yvonne was special to all who knew her and cherished her children; Tony Balsamo (Mary), Linda Wirta (Billy), Vicki Balsamo (Mindy); her seven grandchildren: Anthony Balsamo (Meghan), Vincent Balsamo (Maureen), Nicole Nielsen (John), Paul Wirta, Nina Dion (Nicholas), Jake, and Ellison; and her nine great-grandchildren, whom she beamed about whenever anyone asked: Torey, Kyla, Isabella, Sienna, Presley, Harlow, Cecilia, Maddox, and Cade. She is also survived by her brother, Joseph F. Mollomo, Jr., and his longtime partner, Mary Kreem. In addition, she leaves behind her cherished godchildren, Jeanne Massaro, Angela Balsamo, and Randy Monahan; her in-laws, Deborah Mollomo, Joseph Monahan, and countless cousins, nieces, nephews, and treasured lifelong friends. She is predeceased by her parents, Dr. Joseph Mollomo and Helen Mollomo; her maternal grandmother, Mary Graziano; her sister, Lucille Wright; and the love of her life, her beloved late husband, Salvatore A. Balsamo.

Yvonne and Sal had a fairytale love story — an unbreakable bond — and both passed on their love of family and family values to their children, as well as to the generations that followed. Sal has been waiting patiently for their reunion. She will now be with him for eternity.

Visiting hours at the Dockray & Thomas Funeral Home, 455 Washington St., Canton Friday, April 10th from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. Funeral Mass at St. Oscar Romero Church, Canton Saturday morning April 11th at 11:30 a.m. Burial Canton Corner Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to the Tunnels to Towers Foundation, 2361 Hylan Blvd., Staten Island, NY 10306, or Good Shepherd Community Care, 160 Wells Avenue, Newton, MA 02459.

Immigrants Arrive on American Shores Between 1880-1925

Historian Vincent Cannato was a recent guest speaker at the North End Library, a very well attended event, discussing his book, *After the Voyage: Immigrants on American Shores, 1880-1925*. Sponsored by the North End Historical Society, Cannato's talk explored the experiences faced by millions of immigrants entering the U.S. during a peak immigration period, covering the reasons for leaving their homelands, the reception they received and the evolving immigration laws.

Prior to 1800s, individual states oversaw immigration laws, presently it is the Federal Government's jurisdiction. 1880-1890 most arriving immigrants were German, Irish and from the United Kingdom, between 1900 - 1910 new arrivals were from Russia and Central European countries, such as Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Croatia. Many wonder why these individuals left their homeland, what was the push factor? Typically it was due to religious and political persecution, and lack of economic opportunities. The pull factor was a catalyst in immigrants arriving to America. The fact that family and friends were already living in American cities and towns, religious and political liberties and freedoms and the opportunity to prosper economically. Factories and mines needed workers, subways, railroads, roadways all



Vincent J. Cannato

needed to be built in the cities while farmers were needed in the up-and-coming mid-western towns.

Around 1882, the Federal Government began to get choosy about what types of immigrants should be allowed into America. Desirable vs. Undesirable Immigrants. Not only were convicts barred from entry but so was any person unable to care for themselves. In 1885, contract labor laws went into effect, meaning individuals were not allowed to come to America without a job in hand. In 1891, Congress created the Federal Bureau of Immigration, and on January 1, 1892 Ellis Island in New York City was transferred to the Federal Government. In 1917, Federal Immigration required residents of other countries, over the age of 16 years, to be able to read in their native

language before applying to come to the U.S. Steamships were the most popular mode of transportation and arrival to American ports, including New York City, Boston, Philadelphia, and Baltimore, mainly Italians and Greeks. The cost of a one-way ticket from Italy to America in the 1900s was approximately \$35.00, which would be equivalent to almost \$500 in today's money.

Upon arrival into these ports, public health officials would board the ships and inspect the first- and second-class passengers. The passengers arriving in storage, meaning third-class passengers, were ferried to immigration stations for inspection. Big white books served as the ships manifest, with the names, ages, place of birth and where each passenger was traveling to was recorded.

In 1911, over 786,000 immigrants arrived with specific exclusions, including diseases such as TB, poor physique or sickly in general. LTC was a major exclusion, known as "Likely to Become a Public Charge." If immigration inspectors believed an individual arriving in America could not take care of themselves or provide for themselves, they were excluded. The U.S. Government refused to allow in individuals who they could end up responsible for. Another policy in

(Continued on Page 11)

L'Anno Bello: A Year in Italian Folklore

April, in All its Showers and Flowers

by Ally Di Censo Symynkywicz



(Image by Freepik)

Easter Sunday has passed, but there is still a whole month of spring and sunshine to enjoy. April smells like fresh flowers and the pungent scent of trees after a delicate rainfall, like balmy breezes and juicy strawberries. Soft rains drizzle down outside my window, making the grass seem lush and greener than a mint sprig, the pavement shiny and smooth like obsidian. I am reminded of the old rhyme I cheerfully intoned as a young girl: "April showers bring May flowers!" Indeed, April is the time of the year when spring finally feels in full bloom, when flowers, rain and abundant sunshine meld together to form an energetic, playful month. The origin of April's name also reflects its qualities of rejuvenation and rebirth. April may derive from the Latin word *aperire*, which means "to open." Truly, all of nature is opening and awakening at this point, from the purple tulips peeking out of the dirt to the buds on tree branches and the baby animals walking on wobbly legs. As the Latin origin of the name suggests, April is a significant month in Italy. Not only is it a full month of spring and the frequent home of Easter, but April brims with its own folk traditions, holidays and customs particular to Italy. Italians even start the month in a jovial fashion, surreptitiously pinning paper fishes to each other's backs during *pesce d'aprile*, or April Fools' Day. The following is a sampling of quirky and culturally rich practices that characterize April in Italy:

• **April Proverbs:** Italian folklore abounds with multiple proverbs related to months and times of the year. These hearken back to the days when Italian society was primarily based on agriculture. Farmers needed to

pay special heed to the weather in order to determine important and vital times like when to plant and what crop yields to expect. As such, most of the Italian proverbs related to April (which I gathered from the wonderful website *italyrevisited.org*) concern themselves with the weather of the month. One proverb declares: "*L'aprile piovoso, fa il maggio grazioso.*" Translating to "a rainy April makes a grateful May," this is the Italian version of the April showers bring May flowers dictum. Another proverb says "*Marzo tinge, aprile dipinge*" — meaning that what March dirties, April cleans up; just as April rains and vegetation takes over the muddy or snowy changeable weather of March. However, another proverb admonishes "*Aprile, non ti scoprire.*" It warns against discarding your coat during April, as there are still cool days left!

• **Rome's Birthday (April 21st) and St. Mark's Day (April 25th):** Italy is filled with many city-specific holidays, and two of the most intriguing fall during April. Rome's Birthday honors the founding of the city, all the way back in 753 B.C. Romans celebrate with festivals, parades, concerts, and fireworks displays throughout *la città eterna* (the eternal city). Four days later, the charming maritime city of Venice displays similar gaiety for St. Mark's Day, or *la Festa di San Marco*, the feast day of Venice's patron saint. Carnivals, markets and parties center around the enormous St. Mark's Square, the beating heart of the city. Celebrate both holidays by enjoying food from each region. How about a plate of *spaghetti alla carbonara* (spaghetti with egg sauce) on Rome's Birthday and some *risi e bisi*, or risotto with peas, on St. Mark's Day?

• **Liberation Day (April 25th):**

This patriotic holiday honors the liberation of Italy from Nazi and fascist occupation during World War II. On April 25th of 1945, the cities of Turin and Milan were the first to be freed from the occupation, and their liberation prompted a chain of events which culminated in Italy's freedom. Italy celebrates Liberation Day, or *Festa della Liberazione*, with processions, speeches and countrywide events. My ancestors, including my grandparents, still lived in Italy during the Second World War and had to deal with all the horrors that accompany an armed conflict, from bombings to mob violence to food shortages. As such, I always feel compelled to remind people of this springtime feast, a holiday commemorating the ordinary Italians who fought so hard to free their beautiful land from the terror of fascism.

• **May Day Eve (April 30th):** I love this holiday! Since ancient times, European folklore has attributed the first day of May with magical properties. People believed that elves, fairies and witches were especially active on this day. In Italy, May Day is known as *Calendimaggio*, and celebrations begin the night before, on the last evening of April. Cities hold festivals and events with a spooky twist, replete with witch decorations and magical themes. Honor this day by taking a walk during dusk and contemplating the wonder and mystery still left in the world.

• **Sagre:** In conclusion, I would like to point out that towns and cities all over Italy hold *sagre*, or food festivals, throughout the month. They focus on seasonal, local ingredients and the various way to highlight them in delicious dishes. Most Italian April *sagre* focus on the country's premiere spring vegetable, the artichoke, or *carciofo*. I absolutely love artichokes and look forward to them every spring. Enjoy artichokes the way Italians do — stuffed in pastas like ravioli or tortellini, fried, or simply marinated in olive oil. Yum!

So there you go — wonderful ways to celebrate Italian heritage throughout April. When spring is in the air, everyone is in the mood for festivity, and Italy is no different! Whichever holidays and customs you choose to honor, make sure you feast with joy in your heart and optimism for the bounty of 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.

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THINKING OUT LOUD

by Sal Giarratani



Let's Talk About Birthright Citizenship

Everyone is talking about birthright citizenship lately because President Trump believes this concept is now out of date due to it being abused by illegal immigrants who get into America by hook or by crook. We have all heard the term "anchor babies," which is when illegals arrive in America just in time to deliver a baby on American soil. Once that baby is born, it is automatically an American citizen. How could anyone kick out the baby's parents or siblings too? Presto, it becomes a package plan.

President Trump and his supporters want to outlaw birthright citizenship by law and right now this issue is before the U.S. Supreme Court. I understand why so many Americans want to end birthright citizenship but I don't see the current membership of the SCOTUS rule against the contents of the 14th amendment. I don't see

any way the Court can read the Constitution's 14th amendment to end birthright citizenship. To me the only way things can be changed is for a new constitutional amendment that bars birthright citizenship.

Recently, I read a letter to the editor in the *New York Post* calling the 14th amendment outdated and in need of fixing. He called it a Model T Ford in the 2026 world. Be that as it may, the only way to change things is to change what's in our Constitution and not by some law outlawing a tradition that's been around for over 150 or so years now.

Finally, there are many more issues confronting us today other than birthright citizenship like the endless war in Iran. So far I have seen very little there that resembles victory in any sense of the word for us. Am I wrong? Or am I right?

Trinity Martignetti

Named Captain
of Arlington Catholic High School
Softball Team



North End resident and North End Athletic Association (NEAA) product Trinity Martignetti was named captain of her Arlington Catholic High School team for the 2026 season. Trinity, a senior first baseman, was chosen to help lead her team to a successful season. Trinity is also a member of the North End Execution, which is the NEAA's 18 and under summer softball team. Upon graduation Trinity will be attending the University of St. Josephs in West Hartford, CT, where she will be continuing her softball career as she works towards her goal of becoming a veterinarian.

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Donne 2000

Celebrates 26th Festa Delle Donne & Scholarship Fundraiser

by Doreen Giammarco



Left to Right: Maria Ferrusi (Vice President), Maria DiCenso (Co-Treasurer), Doreen Giammarco (Co-Secretary), Rosa Giammarco (President), Alessandro Carissimi (Scholarship Award Recipient), Miranda Fderico (Consigliere), Maria Auciello (Consigliere) Dora Volpe (Co Treasurer)



DJ Alan La Bella and the Boys

On Sunday, March 22, 2026, Donne 2000 members, along with their families and friends came together to celebrate their 26 Annual Festa Delle Donne Event, also known as, International Women's Day, which is on March 8th. It is a very significant day in Italy and abroad as well as in the United States. This day is an opportunity for society to remember the importance of women, their important contributions to the betterment of our society, to recognize their sacrifices and to celebrate their achievements. It is also a day set aside to commemorate the women of the world who have endured injustices and fought for women's rights, which we enjoy today. In Italy the symbol of the day, the beautiful yellow mimosa flower, is an expression of women's solidarity.

This event was also the Donne 2000 Annual Scholarship Fundraiser. The scholarship program is a hallmark of Donne 2000's mission of maintaining the Italian language and culture alive today and for future generations. This year's scholarship award was presented to Alessandro Carissimi, a freshman at Malden Catholic High School. Alessandro is excelling in his academic

courses and his Italian classes and demonstrates a deep appreciation of his Italian heritage.

The celebration was held at the Amici Club in Medford with a delicious lunch catered by Fratelli Catering. DJ Alan LaBella kept the crowd entertained with lively music and dancing. There were many raffles donated by Donne 2000 members and local businesses. We wish to thank all our sponsors for their generous contributions and donations to our raffle. Many thanks to all our members who helped to plan this event and to all our guests who made it a most memorable day. Viva le Donne!

Donne 2000 is an organization that keeps Italian traditions alive from generation to generation through ethnic and cultural events. Please visit our Donne 2000 Facebook Page.



Scholarship recipient Alessandro Carissimi with family and friends



Donne 2000 members and family



DJ Alan La Bella and the Ladies

umbria

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East Boston Annual Easter Egg Hunt A Continued Success



(L to R back Row) Boston Police Officers from Station Area A-7 with Co-Coordinator of the Event Allison DiBiasio and a few smiley East Boston Easter Egg Hunt participants in front.



The Easter Bunny and a pal sharing some treats and a high five during the East Boston Easter Egg Hunt.



It was an Easter Egg Frenzy at the 10th Annual East Boston Easter Egg Hunt 2026, at Bremen Street Park.

The 10th Annual Eastie Easter Egg Hunt, held this past Saturday, April 4, was once again a phenomenal success.

Due to work taking place at Piers Park, this year's event was changed to Bremen Street Park.

Lawn games, face painting, photos with the Easter Bunny and of course the highlight was the traditional Easter Egg Hunt.

The day would not have happened without the commitment and dedication of John Talluto and Allison DiBiasio as well as their loyal volunteers and sponsors.

Streamflation

U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) and U.S. Congressman Patrick Ryan (D-NY) Urge the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to Protect Sports Fans from 'Streamflation,' as ESPN's New Arrangements with NFL and MLB Threaten Fans with Higher Costs.

In a joint statement, Senator Warren and Representative Ryan, "encourage the Commission to act to protect sports fans from growing consolidation. The ESPN NFL deal concentrates market share and power with ESPN, to the detriment of fans and competitors." In response to a request for comments by the agency, the lawmakers wrote to Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chair Brendan Carr with their concerns over recent changes in the sports streaming marketplace that have increased costs for viewers while affecting fans' ability to watch nationally televised live sports and their local teams.

The lawmakers pointed out four major areas of concern. Disney's acquisition of Fubo has decreased competition in the sports streaming market. In August 2024, lawmakers expressed concerns about a proposed joint venture between Fox, Warner Bros. Discovery, and Disney subsidiary ESPN that was projected to control more than 80% of nationally broadcast sports. Sports streaming platform Fubo filed a lawsuit to block the venture, but before the lawsuit could reach the merits stage, Disney announced its acquisition of Fubo, knocking out a competitor and abruptly ending the lawsuit.

"In a surprising turn of events, and before the lawsuit could reach the merits stage, Disney announced its acquisition of Fubo in January 2025, which allowed the sports media giant to end the lawsuit, knock out a competitor, and grow its sports streaming dominance even more, significantly decreasing competition in the MVPD market, while strengthening its ability to raise prices, hurting viewers and competitors," wrote the lawmakers.

The recent deal between Disney/ESPN and the NFL harms competitors and gives the sports media giant an incentive to raise prices for viewers: A year later, ESPN struck a deal to acquire the National Football League (NFL) Network, which included the distribution of NFL games, NFL RedZone, and NFL Fantasy. In exchange, the

NFL acquired 10% of ESPN. "By consolidating the production, operation, and distribution of the NFL Network under ESPN, while simultaneously granting the NFL a 10% stake in ESPN itself, the deal raises concerns of conflicts of interest and potentially disadvantages competing networks, streaming competitors, and distributors," wrote the lawmakers.

ESPN's new arrangement with MLB.TV could raise prices and reduce access for baseball fans: Most recently, Major League Baseball (MLB) and ESPN agreed to a multiyear deal allowing ESPN to produce and broadcast 30 regular season games, making ESPN the home of MLB.TV, and obtaining exclusive local in-market streaming rights for six MLB Clubs. Notably, ESPN will determine the price of MLB.TV, is requiring new MLB.TV subscribers to sign up for the service through ESPN's own Platform, and has not committed to maintaining price stability for MLB.TV's existing subscribers past the 2026 season.

"The anti-competitive nature of ESPN and MLB's new deal raises serious concerns about potential downstream effects on consumers and competitors," wrote the lawmakers.

Forced bundling has inflated streaming prices and has forced viewers to pay for services they do not want: For viewers, the consolidation of the sports streaming market into "bundles" or "packages" has led to higher prices and fewer choices, a consequence of decreased competition in the market.

"The cost of watching live sports on television or via streaming becomes more expensive every year, and the options for tuning in become even more complicated," wrote the lawmakers.

The FCC has broad authority to protect the public interest, and Congress has previously specifically directed the Commission to actively promote economic competition. "To promote competition in sports media in support of the public interest, we encourage the Commission to act to protect sports fans from growing consolidation," concluded the lawmakers.

Ieri e Oggi Yesterday & Today

A COLUMN OF PAST AND CURRENT EVENTS

by Bennett Molinari & Richard Molinari

The Colosseum



The Colosseum, located in Rome, Italy, originally known as the Flavian Amphitheatre, (Amphitheatrum Flavium), is the largest ancient amphitheater ever built. Construction began under Emperor Vespasian around 70-72 AD and was completed by his son Titus in 80 AD, with further modifications by Domitian. The oval shape structure served not only as a place for public spectacles but also as a symbol of Roman engineering, power and culture. It was the embodiment of the "bread and circuses" politics of the Roman Empire.

Completed around 80 AD, it held over 50,000 to 80,000 spectators for gladiatorial combats, animal hunts, and public spectacles. It is estimated that in the first 100 days of its opening, approximately 2,000 gladiators lost their lives and 5,000 to 9,000 animals were slaughtered.

We don't know who the Roman Colosseum's architect was or the number of people involved in its construction. However, it's safe to assume that tens of thousands of workers were involved in building such a massive structure.

What we do know is, it only took eight years to build and its construction was from travertine, tufa, brick and wood with an underground network of tunnels. It's almost 2,000 years old today, its appearance, impressive as it is, is the result of 1,000 years of pillaging and its treatment as a quarry for stone.

After its use for entertainment ceased, it was repurposed for housing, workshops, and a fortress before becoming a major tourist attraction and UNESCO World Heritage site.

Poetry Reading with local author Harris Gardner

Wednesday, April 29th at 6:00 PM

Join the North End Branch Library for a poetry reading with local author Harris Gardner. Gardner will read from his latest poetry collection, *No Time For Death*.

Harris Gardner has been the Poetry Editor of *Ibbetson Street* since 2010. He has authored four poetry collections: *Chalice of Eros*, co-authored with Lainie Senechal (Stone Soup Press) 1998; *Let Them Become* (Ibbetson Street Press) 2003; *Among Us* (Cervena Barva Press) 2007; *No Time for Death* (Cervena Barva Press) 2022.

After the reading, there will be time for a short open mic if anyone wants to share their own work.

North End Branch Library
25 Parmenter St, Boston, MA 02115
For more information, call 617.227.8155
or visit bpl.org.



Photo Submission Guidelines

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



Blessed Joanna of Portugal

by Bennett Molinari and Richard Molinari



Joanna was born in Lisbon on February 6, 1452 as the daughter of King Afonso V of Portugal and his wife Isabel of Coimbra. After the death of her older brother, she was recognized as heir presumptive and given the title of Princess of Portugal.

Although Joanna had another brother, she kept the title. Joanna expressed a desire to become a nun, but her father did not allow this at first, since she was second-in-line to the throne. During a military expedition of King Afonso, Joanna served as regent.

When her father finally gave consent for her to enter religion, he did not allow her to enter the Dominican convent of her choice. She had to go to the nearby royal abbey of the Benedictines at Odivellas. Here she was besieged by worldly relatives who had only their own interests at heart. After two months of this mental torture, she returned to the court.

The rest of Joanna's life is a story of obedience and trials. She was required to bend her will to a wavering father, who never seemed able to make a decision and abide by it; to bishops, swayed by political causes, who forced her to sign a paper that she would never take her solemn vows and to doctors, who prescribed remedies that were worse than the maladies they tried to cure. The trials came from a jealous brother, from ambitious and interfering relatives, from illness and from cares of state.

After 12 years of praying and hoping, Joanna finally received the Dominican habit at the Convent of Jesus at Aveiro in 1485. Her brother tore the veil from her head. Despite the interruptions of plague, family cares and state troubles, Joanna lived an interior and penitential life. She became an expert at spinning and weaving the fine linens for the altar and busied herself with lowly tasks for the love of God. She used all her income to help the poor and to redeem captives.

She even received some eminent marriage proposals from Charles VIII of France and Richard III of England, but turned them down as she wanted to live for God alone. Joanna continued to support her brother as King throughout his reign and passed away on May 12, 1490, in Aveiro Portugal.

The Feast day of Blessed Joanna of Portugal is May 12.

UNIVERSITY, A RECKONING

BY LEE C. BOLLINGER

Book Review by John Joseph Fahey



Lee C. Bollinger is both a legal scholar as well as educator, having had the distinction from 2002 to 2023 of serving as president of Columbia University, as well as current president emeritus and Seth Low Professor. Previously Bollinger was president of the University of Michigan. Professor Bollinger is also a prolific author of many several books pertaining to *the First Amendment and freedom of speech and press*. Recently, he published his latest book on a topic that has become a contentious issue — on both college campuses and in the public arena — the First Amendment and its interpretation relative to free speech.

The work is concise — just shy of 150 pages; however, and within its three effective chapters, “The University,” “The First Amendment,” and “The Fifth Branch,” the author articulates his experiences as well as those situations played out at campuses nationwide respective to the role of the university with its declining influence and compromising educational culture.

All three components Bollinger admonishes, are at stake. The author presents a clear and cogent argument as to why — and in doing so, allows the audience a thorough understanding of the terms which have become more tempered

and perhaps even abstract in definition.

The author presents clear-cut prose with examples of why the characteristics of what a university embodies is at risk.

Professor Bollinger warns that the university, along with the citizenry's freedom of speech (and that of the university) has been confronted and challenged by an Administration which does not share the campus ideology; and the withholding of federal funding due to politics, which has taken place lately, should not continue.

Bollinger maintains a part of the university's objective is to “...advance civilization, that they an engine of economic and

social growth, that they are a competitive advantage for the nation in the world, and that they educate our youth and prepare our citizens and attempt to equalize the opportunities available to them...” is just the underlining of the university. For the university argues Bollinger is much more!

And this is what the third chapter entails — an increased purpose of the university; Bollinger explains, “I try to envision an expanded role for the university, one that will offer it shelter from government meddling in its essential truth-seeking mission.”

Bollinger's hardcover permits an understanding that the Fifth Branch as a synthesis if you will of the concept and application of the freedom of speech and its place in the realm of the university setting (especially those of research) operating with independence and liberation and without intimidation and retribution.

The reader will find the work well researched, erudite and thought provoking — a treatment exploring the idea of the university and its place in American society.

University, A Reckoning is published by W.W. Norton & Company.

The North End Italian Immigration Memorial Committee Seeks Artist for Cross Street Revitalization Memorial – ManiForti

The North End Italian Immigration Memorial Committee invites artists, architects, designers and other creators to express their interest in conceiving a memorial marking the vital contributions of Italian Americans to the North End, City of Boston, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the United States of America. The site for the memorial is the Cross Street Plaza, the unofficial entrance to America's first neighborhood, the North End, at the corner of Cross and Hanover Streets, directly across from the Rose Kennedy Greenway, on Boston's Historic Freedom Trail.

In late 2021, State Rep. Aaron Michlewitz, Chair of the House Committee on Ways and Means and life-long North End resident, filed bill H4269. This bill included language for the Cross Street revitalization, including a North End Italian immigrant memorial on the corner of Cross and Hanover streets, coordinated through the Freedom Trail Foundation, Inc., the Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy, and the Boston Arts Commission, in collaboration with the Mayor's Office and a volunteer committee comprised of local Italian American community leaders formed for the purpose of supporting the public process for the creation of this memorial.

The history of Boston's North End parallels the history of America, from lanterns hung at the Old North Church to lighting the way to our country's freedom, the North End

neighborhood has served as beacon for Boston's and America's immigrant population. No group has been more woven into the fabric of America than Italian Americans. Beginning in the 1890's, the North End began to largely be defined by Italian immigration and by the 1930's more than 40,000 Italians lived in the community.

Today, the North End is an increasing diverse neighborhood that continues to celebrate its rich cultural heritage through Italian American religious festivals, world class restaurants and cafes, the neighborhood is recognized as the gateway and first stop for Italian American immigrants and their descendants. The installation of this memorial should recognize this and serve as a focal point for all Italian Americans of Massachusetts.

The title of the project is Mani Forti (strong hands): A Journey of Love Progress & Promise. The goal is to create a memorial that honors the contributions of Italian immigrants through a sculpture/installation using traditional materials of granite, marble, bronze or similar materials. This new memorial should focus on the settlement into the neighborhood and the new lives these immigrants and their descendants built, while focusing on their diversity of skills including masons, fishermen, seamstress', lawyers, judges, bankers, political leaders any many other successful careers. Traditions and customs should be included as well, such as

Sunday dinner, religious festivals, processions, playground life to mention a few.

The committee invites submissions from individuals or teams practiced in traditional memorials and or other public art. This Request for Qualifications (RFQ) invites artists, designers, and design teams to submit required materials for consideration. The anticipated timeline for completion of the memorial is Summer 2027. Upon review of all submissions, the committee will invite finalists for interviews with the Committee and meetings with other community leaders and stakeholders. Finalists will then be invited to submit formal proposals to be considered for the memorial.

The committee estimates the total production budget for the memorial at approximately \$1 million dollars, inclusive of all artist fees and project-related costs. The budget is intended to cover, but is not limited to artist fees, engineering, project management, materials, fabrication, and construction costs.

The selected artist or artist team will be commissioned to design, fabricate, and install a long-term memorial that will be subject to review and approval by the Boston Art Commission and other participating stakeholders. All general questions regarding the project must be directed to the IAMC by email info@manifortinorthend.com

If you have questions about eligibility, how to apply, or other aspects of the Open Call RFQ, please send your

question in writing to Emely Chavarria (echavarria@rosekennedy.greenway.org), Curatorial Coordinator, The Greenway by Tuesday, April 14, 2026 at 12 PM EST. Please include “Cross Street RFQ” in the subject line. No calls please. All questions asked and answered during this period will be compiled in an updated FAQ

document to be made available to all applicants on the website on Friday, April 17 at 5PM EST.

For more information about this project, see: <http://manifortinorthend.com> and <https://www.rosekennedygreenway.org/cross-street-revitalization-memorial-rfq/>

DEADLINE FOR RESPONSES IS WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2026

CALLING ALL ARTISTS!

Cross Street Revitalization Memorial

"Mani Forti: A Journey of Love, Progress & Promise"

A REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS IS NOW OPEN TO ARTISTS, ARCHITECTS, AND DESIGN TEAMS!

THE NORTH END ITALIAN IMMIGRATION MEMORIAL COMMITTEE, (IAMC) INVITES THE ABOVE TO EXPRESS THEIR INTEREST IN CONCEIVING OF A MEMORIAL MARKING THE ROBUST AND PLENTIFUL CONTRIBUTIONS OF ITALIAN AMERICANS TO THE NORTH END AND THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES.

SCAN TO APPLY TO RFQ

OR VISIT: TINYURL.COM/RKGIAMC

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: MAY 6, 2026

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL! [f](#) Mani Forti North End [@](#) [manifortinorthend](#) [manifortinorthend.com](#)



**PAUL McCARTNEY –
MAN ON THE RUN:
MUSIC FROM THE MOTION
PICTURE SOUNDTRACK
(Vinyl)**

**Capitol Records/MPL
Communications/UMG**

Ahead of the release of *Paul McCartney: Man on the Run*, the intimate new feature documentary by Oscar, Emmy, and Grammy Award-winning director Morgan Neville, exploring Paul McCartney's creative rebirth after The Beatles' breakup, Capitol Records, MPL Communications and UMG have announced details of a companion album titled, *Man on the Run - Music from the Motion Picture Soundtrack*. The album includes all-time classics, hits and essential tracks from across Paul McCartney and Wings' revered catalog. A snapshot of Paul's creativity in the 1970s in 12 songs. "Arrow Through Me (Rough Mix)," a previously unreleased rough mix from the 1979 album sessions for *Back to the Egg*, and "Live And Let Die (Rockshow)," from the 1980 concert film *Rockshow*. The album will feature a third previously unreleased track in "Gotta Sing Gotta Dance," originally featured in the 1973 *The James Paul McCartney TV Special*. The *Paul McCartney: Man on the Run* documentary captures Paul's transformative decade in the wake of The Beatles' break-up and the rise of his new band Wings. Through stunning archival footage, Linda McCartney's exceptional photographs, interviews with Paul, Linda, Mary and Stella McCartney, a number of Wings band members, Sean Ono Lennon, Mick Jagger, Chrissie Hynde, and more, the film examines this time through a uniquely vulnerable lens. Additional Tracks: Wings - Silly Love Songs (Demo) - Mull of Kintyre (2016 Remaster). Paul - That Would Be Something (2011 Remaster) - Coming Up (2011 Remaster). Paul & Linda - Long Haired Lady (2012 Remaster) - Too Many People (2012 Remaster), Paul and Wings - Big Barn Bed (2018 Remaster), - Gotta Sing Gotta Dance - Band on the Run (2010 Remaster) - Let Me Roll It (2010 Remaster).

**GODSMACK –
AWAKE
(Vinyl 2LP)
Republic/UME**

The 25th Anniversary edition of Godsmack's landmark sophomore album, *Awake*, is available now as a digital deluxe and on deluxe 2LP smoky-green color vinyl & CD. This commemorative edition includes a special holographic lithograph of the cover art and features five bonus tracks, including "Why," which was featured on the *Any Given Sunday* soundtrack, and a Black Sabbath cover of "Sweet Leaf." Following their multi-platinum self-titled debut in 1998, Godsmack returned two years later in 2000 with an album that not only met but surpassed all expectations. The release delivered a powerful collection of songs that quickly became fan favorites, including "Bad Magick," "Awake,"

and "Greed," and cemented the band's reputation as one of the defining acts of their era. Building on the momentum of their breakthrough success, the sophomore album's title track earned Godsmack their first Billboard No. 1 hit, while another standout single, "Vampires," garnered the band their first GRAMMY nomination. The reissue celebrates a defining moment in Godsmack's career, showcasing the enduring legacy of an album that continues to resonate with fans worldwide. Known for their ferocious live shows and decades-long dominance at rock radio, Godsmack continue to raise the bar with a career-spanning set that celebrates their legacy while ushering in a bold new chapter. **Awake 25th Anniversary Tracklist:** Side A: Sick Of Life, Awake, Greed, Bad Magick. Side B: Goin' Down, Mistakes, Trippin'. Side C: Forgive Me, Vampires, The Journey, Spiral. Side D: Why (Revised Original Mix), Sweet Leaf (Black Sabbath Cover), Trippin' (Clean Mix), Awake (Acapella), Bad Magick (Acapella).

**BOILED IN LEAD –
KING OF THE DOGWOODS
(Vinyl LP)**

Omnium Records

Legendary Minneapolis Celtic punk (folk, world) band Boiled in Lead's 12th album, *King of the Dogwoods* is released on CD, Vinyl and digital format. Boiled in Lead's musical recipe features guitar, bass, violin & drums that play country music from many countries with power and emotion. They are the longest-running Celtic punk band in America, and an important part of the foundation of what became Minnesota punk rock. Known for their Celtic roots, *King Of The Dogwoods* is much more than that. Boiled in Lead is radically eclectic: the Serbian folk song "Adje Jano" sits comfortably alongside strong originals like the title track, and multiple instrumentals from the delicate "Keshenever Bulgar" to the brutal "Fast Reels." Enthusiastic, powerful, technically brilliant, playing a wealth of instruments with extreme dynamics, Boiled In Lead routinely demolishes genres with its highly-identifiable sound. While in high school, bass player and founder Drew Miller became obsessed with traditional folk, and started the band. Following their first LP, he met guitarist/vocalist Todd Menton at an Irish session. The band was soon playing the First Avenue Mainroom, the Winnipeg Folk Festival; that led to a UK record deal and tours in Europe and around the country. Boiled in Lead are celebrating more than 40 years on stage and in the studio combining eclectic sounds featuring world music tunes from Irish, Serbian, Bulgarian, Klezmer, and roots American traditions. Boiled in Lead is Todd Menton (*vocals, guitar, mandolin, bodhrán, whistle*), Drew Miller (*bass guitar, dulcimer*), Morris Engel (*drum kit*) and Haley Olson (*violin, vocals*).

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

**EASTER BUNNY ARRIVES
AT A&L BAKERY
FOR COOKIE DECORATING**

Recently, the Easter Bunny arrived at A&L Bakery in East Boston for cookie decorating and all the kids showed up for all the fun. Over a dozen children made the most of this event decorating and eating up their creations.



A&L Bakery on Sumner Street in East Boston held an Easter Egg cookie decorating event.

**REMEMBER THE
SUGAR SHACK?**

Who remembers the Sugar Shack down at 110 Boylston Street across from the Boston Common? It was a big night time hot spot for soul music between 1965 to 1977 and was part of the "Chitlin Circuit" too. Big names like Stevie Wonder and James Brown played this venue back in the day. It was the place where the action was with great music and dancing too.

I thought about this place while listening to Sirius Radio one morning while driving to work when the station played



It was nothing but laughs with the A&L Bakery Easter Bunny on Sumner Street in East Boston.

"The Sugar Shack" by Jimmy Gilmer & the Fireballers. That song was a big hit back in 1963 and I presume a great venue name in 1965 when this night-spot opened for business.

**SPEAKING OF THE
SUGAR SHACK**

Does anyone remember that very tall wired fence that straddled Boylston Street seemingly caging in the Boston Common? My dad said it went up in the 1940s and at some point while I was a teen it was removed. Does anyone out there know anything about that tall fence or why it was placed along the edge of Boston Common?

ENGLISH HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI MARCH MADNESS PARTY

On Saturday, March 4, I was over on Centre Street in West Roxbury at the English High School Mini Alumni March Madness Party at the Boston Ale House where nearly 30 members of the alumni association showed up to party and catch up with the latest EHS news and also remembering the way things were back in the day.



(Photo by Angel Anan)

**NEAA to Honor Skippy Imbergamo
on Opening Day – Saturday, April 25th**

by John Romano

The North End Athletic Association is beginning its 66th year of baseball programs at the Langone and Puopolo Parks this Spring. With baseball for Ages 4-15, we are excited for another fun filled year.

Opening Day is on Saturday, April 25th with minor league games starting at 10:00 a.m. and First Pitch ceremonies to begin at 12:15 p.m. This year former NEAA player and coach Skippy Imbergamo will be honored. We hope to see former players, coaches and teammates of Skippy join us at this family event.

We will have a BBQ, face painter, balloon artist, Boston Red Sox, the Boston Public Market, NEW Health and much more at the event.



If you would like to be a sponsor there are sponsorship levels available:

GRAND SLAM - \$2,500
HOME RUN - \$1000.00
TRIPLE - \$500
DOUBLE \$250
SINGLE - \$100
WALK - \$50

All Grand Slam, Home Run and Triple sponsors will be allowed to be on the field during the first pitch ceremony. The NEAA is a Massachusetts registered non-profit. All checks are made out to the NEAA and can be mailed to: N.E.A.A., P.O. Box 130134, Boston, MA 02113

You can contact me at 617-750-9749 for more information.

Nanna & Babbononno

by John Christoforo

A Nostalgic Remembrance



Last week, I was talking about Easter, family and good food, what else is new ... but I began thinking about my references during the week and astonishingly, when it came to the social graces, much of it came from Uncle Nick's two wives. My Godfather, Nick Contini, married Ada Georgione in 1934, I believe. They stood up for my folks when they were wed in 1936 and served as my Godparents when I was born in 1938.

Ada was my mother's best friend growing up and they stayed close after both were married. Ada was quite active in assisting my mother raising me. She came from immigrant parent stock and with her siblings, grew up in the Jefferies Point section of East Boston. Somewhere along the line, she had learned about how the Boston Brahmin lived and attempted to develop the same level of sophistication that they had inherited or achieved that set them apart from the new comers in Boston, the Irish, the Italians, the Jews and other minorities that happen to wander onto dry land from Boston Harbor.

Unfortunately, Aunt Ada and Uncle Nick never had any children. As a result of being the first-born male in an Italian family, I was placed on a pedestal, and worshiped by all (only kidding). Being childless and Mom's best friend, my aunt had carte blanche in helping my mother raise me. As a result, she took quite an active part in my up-bringing.

Neither she nor Mom worked, and during the day, the two were often together shopping, going to the theater, libraries, museums, movies, or just heading to downtown Boston to window shop and have lunch. When I first made it out of diapers, I made the group into a trio. She and Mom would take me to all of the places they frequented during the week. Early on, Aunt Ada taught me correct table manners according to Emily Post, as well as how to conduct myself in public, especially in my address to adults. Mom let her have free reign and I became quite the little "Proper Bostonian." Even when it came to my clothing, I ranked with the kids from Beacon Hill. They had me wearing short pants with long stockings, a white shirt with a British striped tie, a blazer with a coat of arms on the breast pocket and an Eton cap, just like the kids who attended private schools in London.

At restaurants, I read the menus and ordered for myself

and knew which fork, knife or spoon to use with each course that was served. Aunt Ada showed me the proper placement and use of a napkin, and how to get the attention of someone from the wait-staff when I wanted something. When I was introduced to adults, I would extend my right hand, shake theirs and say, "How do you do Mr./Mrs. or Miss So and so." When parting their company, I would say, "It has been a pleasure making your acquaintance, sir or ma'am." Looking back, I don't know if I was really cool or a pint-sized snob ... maybe both.

After the war broke out, Uncle Nick joined the Navy, knowing that he would be drafted at some point. He auditioned for Andre Konstelanitz who was conducting the orchestra at the Newport Naval Base and made it. As a result, he spent the entire war serenading the Navy brass and playing for dances at the base. As the war progressed, the marriage between him and my Godmother, Ada, began to develop problems. The separation led them in separate directions, and every time he came home for a leave, there were arguments between them. If I was present, I would be ushered out of the room by Nanna, Babbononno or Mom, all of whom wanted to give the quarrelsome couple space to work out their differences. Well, the differences distanced them from each other more and more. By the end of the war, they had separated. When Uncle Nick was discharged from the Navy, he came home but not to the apartment he and my aunt had shared. He moved in with Nanna and Babbononno.

Soon the word was out that he and Aunt Ada were getting a divorce. This silenced everyone in the family. Divorce was not allowed by the Catholic Church, and no one in the history of Nanna's nor Babbononno's family had ever reached this point in a relationship. Divorce wasn't even a maybe. Added to this were the Massachusetts Blue Laws. It took almost five years for the divorce to become final.

At about the same time, Dorothea Hanscom-Bolduc divorced Gus Bolduc, and she and Uncle Nick began dating. They were married by a justice of the peace in 1950. Most of the family said nothing, but the hostilities were there. Uncle Nick, regardless of what his circumstances were personally, was marrying someone who wasn't Italian, was divorced, and was a liberated woman working in a "man's" world. This

made her a cousin to the devil in an old fashion blue collar Italian American culture.

When Ada, who was still my mother's best friend, heard that Nick and Dorothy had been invited to our house, gave my mother an ultimatum: "Either her or me!" My mother refused to play that type of a game and she and Aunt Ada became estranged from one another. That was in the early '50s, and I didn't see Ada again until 1972. She and Mom were in contact with one another, and one day in June, I came home and there she was in the kitchen having coffee with Mom. All things were forgiven and they were the best of friends again. Not long after the visit, I headed to Italy for the summer and bought my Godmother a gift when I went to the Vatican. While I was gone, the same scenario replayed itself with Uncle Nick and Aunt Dorothy visiting my mother. Another ultimatum was given, and again, Mom refused to play into it. Ada again distanced herself and never came back. It's 53 years later, and I still have that gift in my jewelry box, blessed by the Pope. Ada is long gone as is everyone else from that generation.

Dorothy had a very strong personality and seemed to intimidate most of the men in our family. Everyone backed off and she and Uncle Nick could sense the strain. I stayed close to my uncle and actually worked with him off and on, playing bass in his bands.

In the early '70s, Aunt Dorothy retired and she and my uncle bought a place in Pompano Beach, Florida. He headed there about a weekend per month from then on until he left office. He, for about 25 years had been the vice president of the musicians' union, and then called it quits just after Loretta and I were married in 1977. Just about then, Aunt Dorothy sold the place in Pompano and bought another condo in Delray Beach, a few miles north. Uncle Nick had made contacts with local society bandleaders and a few ex-Bostonians who played in the Palm Beach area. In late '77, I helped him pack, sell everything in his Brookline apartment after which, he headed to Florida permanently. He and Aunt Dorothy became surrogate parents to my wife, Loretta, and me and Delray Beach, Florida became our second home. It still is.

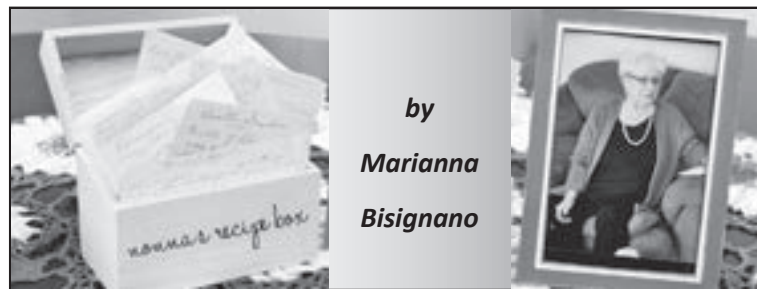
GOD BLESS AMERICA

Remember Your Loved Ones



The Post-Gazette accepts memorials throughout the year.

Please call **617-227-8929**



by
Marianna Bisignano

Repurposing leftovers has always been part of Italian American cooking, a tradition born from la cucina povera, where nothing was ever wasted. What remained from one meal transformed into tomorrow's delicacy. Day-old pasta became a golden frittata, leftover risotto was shaped into arancini, and even stale bread found new life in many dishes and desserts.

My Nonna never wasted anything, especially bread. I can still hear her saying, "you never throw away bread, it's a sin," a belief deeply rooted in Italian culture where bread symbolizes life, sustenance, and something sacred. Her Italian bread often became breadcrumbs or Panzanella, and leftover Panettone or Easter sweet bread was always transformed into a warm, comforting and delicious bread pudding. This simple recipe for Nonna's Sweet Bread Pudding is made with a custard of two cups of milk or cream to four eggs and can be adapted with dried fruit or warm spices, or left just as it is, because in an Italian kitchen, even the humblest ingredients can transform into something truly exceptional!

NONNA'S SWEET BREAD PUDDING *Il Dolce Budino di Pane Della Nonna*



- 1 1½ to 2-pound Easter Sweet Bread (Brioche), cut into cubes
- 8 large eggs
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 3 cups whole milk
- 1 ¼ cups granulated sugar
- 1 ½ teaspoons pure vanilla or vanilla bean paste
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon (optional)
- ½ to ¾ cup raisins (optional)
- 4 tablespoons butter, for greasing the baking dish and drizzling the top with 1 tablespoon of the butter, generously grease a 9 x 13-inch baking or casserole dish, set aside.

Preheat the oven to 350°F (175°C). Cut up sweet bread into cubes and arrange on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper. Place in the oven and allow bread to dry/toast for about 8 to 10 minutes. Arrange the toasted cubed bread evenly in the prepared dish.

In a large mixing bowl, whisk together the eggs, heavy cream, whole milk, and sugar until well combined. Add in the vanilla and cinnamon (if using).

Pour the custard mixture evenly over the sweet bread, gently pressing the bread down so it is fully submerged. Cover the dish and refrigerate for 30 minutes to allow the sweet bread to absorb the custard.

Remove the dish from the refrigerator, uncover, and allow it to sit at room temperature for about 10 minutes.

Melt the remaining 3 tablespoons of butter and drizzle over the top of the bread pudding and bake for 40 to 50 minutes, or until the top is golden and the center is set but still very moist.

Remove from the oven and allow to cool until firm before serving. When served as a dessert, this bread pudding is delicious with warm caramel sauce or even fresh mascarpone whipped cream.

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

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THOUGHTS BY DAN ABOUT THIS & THAT

with Daniel A. DiCenso

Scotland's Natural Beauty



Chanonry Point

If an aspect of Scotland's rich heritage draws as much fascination as its legendary castles, it's the natural beauty. Scotland's nature and its history are one, after all, the beauty of the former cloaked in the legends and mystery of its past. The Highlands bore as much witness to the nation's growth as did its ruins.

Of the animals that inhabit the Scottish woodlands, I saw mostly the red deer, but on the 24th of October I arrived at Chanonry Point hoping to see the bottlenose dolphins that frolic on its shore. The day started out misty and I had much driving planned. With wildlife a viewing is never guaranteed and on its own terms. My own time was limited so I arrived with adjusted expectations. Sure enough, I saw neither dolphin nor seal, which Chanonry Point is also known for. Nonetheless, visiting a place shared by some of the marvelous creatures we share the world taps on primal energy.

True to Scotland's love of rotaries, the viewing points of Chanonry form a circle around the lookout overseeing the North Sea. While there I saw several tourists driving up and a few locals who came about to sketch the birds that nest near the shore. As it turns out, this was the off-season as dolphins, although common throughout the year, are more active in the summer following the salmon migration from the Inverness Firth.

After a while I stopped looking for the dolphins and simply took in the view. The sea, disappearing into the horizon beyond our vision, is nature's clearest reminder of the expansiveness of our world and, in a sense, a connector of our diverse lands.



An Corran beach

My next stop was more typical of my journey through Scotland thus far. And yet, Eilean Donan Castle felt like a logical follow-up.

Although built in the early 13th century as a defensive look-out post against Vikings and other invaders, Eilean Donan stood overlooking what would come to be known as the Sea Kingdom of the Lord of the Isles, when the waters it overlooked were the battleground of feuding clans. The castle continued change throughout the centuries until its destruction in 1719 by three frigates sent by the English government when it discovered a Spanish garrison sympathetic to the Jacobites was using the castle as an armory. What the cannons failed to bring down was ultimately felled by the explosion from the very gunpowder the Spanish fleet was storing within the thick walls.

It was not until 1911 that Lt. Colonel John Macrae-Gilstrap bought the island outright and began restoration on the castle, which was completed by 1932



Eilean Donan Castle



and to this day continues to be the home of the Macrae family.

Time, as Thoreau observed, plays games with the human mind. We are often mesmerized by observing human progress throughout the centuries, hence the fascination with ancient ruins, but often forget that the entire history of *Homo Sapiens* is but a fraction of the history of life on earth. If Eilean Donan took me back centuries, the rocky shores of An Corran took me back to the prehistoric past long before man walked the earth. In itself An Corran is a sight to behold, reminiscent of the black sand beaches I

saw in Iceland. But within the muddy rocks lies evidence of a world long since vanished, 166 million years ago to be exact. Here, the giant *Megalosaurus* once stomped what is now the Isle of Skye, the fossilized footprints on the rocks now the only relics to its memory. Making my way over the rocks trying to spot the giant footprints made me forget, for a while, that I was in Scotland and instead in the world as a whole; a world that started without nations, without languages and without



Kilt Rock

us. After millions of years of migrations, progress and evolution we developed tongues, customs, religions as well as territories, nations and laws. And yet, places like An Corran remind us of the superficiality of human boundaries. We evolved into this world as one species and left our mark in it just as our primitive ancestors had done. And yet, the air we breathe and the land we walk on are part of one planet which houses us not as a world of nations and territories but as one of the many species that have called it home.

The Boston Legacy

One Step Closer to Success

by Angela Cornacchio



The Boston Legacy hosted the #1 ranked San Diego Wave at Gillette Stadium in front of over 10,000 fans.
(Photo by Angela Cornacchio)

In case you hadn't heard, the latest addition to professional sports in Massachusetts are the women of the Boston Legacy FC who had their National Women's Soccer League inaugural match on March 14th at Gillette Stadium.

The team is newly formed after the demise of the Boston Breakers in 2017. Since women's professional soccer has exploded in the United States, Boston wanted in on the action.

Currently their record is four losses in four games, however it is not as dreary as it sounds. The club is starting from ground zero and has put together a rookie type style roster with no national team players or superstar names, as of yet.

This past Friday, Boston hosted the #1 ranked San Diego Wave at Gillette Stadium. Boston held most of the possession in the Wave's defense rotating at the top of the box yet not finding many shots on goals, however creating opportunities for dangerous corner kicks attempts. The halftime scoreline was 0-0 and it was in the 63rd minute of play that San Diego's Ludmila found the back of the net for a 1-0 lead over Boston.

The match ended with the 1-0 scoreline in favor of the Wave yet it did not reflect the match played. Boston dominated the

pitch and it was later mentioned in post-game interviews that the goal scored was a short loss of focus for the Legacy.

Although the Boston Legacy fell to the #1 ranked San Diego Wave in a loss, future progress is showing. Head Coach of the Boston Legacy Filipa Patão sat for local and international interviews to discuss the forming of winning ways.

Patão exclaimed with passion how this team is on the brink. Most of the match Boston held possession, however, couldn't convert. Filipa gave full insight into her plans for the final third and how they will find their finishing. Patão was clear in stating, "It's not going to happen on day one. This is a process; we are building a legacy."

Last place is never desirable; yet Boston sports are no stranger to coming out of the depths to obtain glory. The support from the city is there! 10,213 fans showed a dedicated turnout with same day as Red Sox home opener and final four basketball being played, women's professional soccer was a priority.

The next home game for the Boston Legacy FC is on Wednesday, April 29th at Gillette Stadium with an 8:00 p.m. kickoff. You can learn more about the newest Legacy in Boston or get tickets at www.bostonlegacyfc.com.

• Tax Exempt Sector (Continued from Page 1)

financial aid, volunteer outreach, community grants and the public and private funding we procure for Boston's public and parochial schools," BC spokesperson Jack Dunn wrote in a statement.

City officials will continue to maintain an open dialogue with these institutions and work to secure deals and agreements

that are satisfactory to all parties. "It's a voluntary program, I think at every moment, our colleges, universities, hospitals, our major institutions and the city, we have a lot of shared destiny here. It's a very valued relationship, and one we want to stabilize, continue and grow over time," a Wu administration official stated.

• News Briefs (Continued from Page 1)

from the 60,000 employee Transportation Security Administration that handles airport security operations.

The White House has also proposed a \$1.5 trillion budget for the War Department, upping defense spending by about 40 percent from last year as the war continues in Iran.

MBTA Hikes Prices to Gillette Stadium for World Cup Game Days

It is not only World Cup game ticket prices going up. The MBTA has also announced that it is spiking Commuter Rail ticket prices for fans to travel from Boston to Foxboro.

Roundtrip tickets between South Station and Gillette Stadium for the World Cup in June and July will be \$80, which is four times the \$20 fare for Patriot games, concerts and Boston Legacy FC games. Parking at the stadium will be very limited with spots starting at \$175. The MBTA is encouraging everyone to take the train to Foxboro.

End Quotes

"Do Less, Enjoy More"

— Anonymous

"Think, Laugh, Create, Explore, Play, Relax."

— Anonymous

• Immigrants Arrive on American Shores

(Continued from Page 3)

place pertained to the arrival of unmarried couples. If a man and woman arrived at a U.S. port, and were unmarried, immigration official required they be married right then and there, fearing once they were granted entry the man could leave the woman, and she would be helpless to take care of and provide for herself. Again, the U.S. Government wanted nothing to do with any person likely to become a public charge or dependent on the government to live.

The vast majority of newly arriving immigrants lived in 3 family or multi-family dwellings, known as tenements. Yes, they were extremely overcrowded but it was the cheapest way for immigrants to live and save money, and in most instances it fostered a sense of belonging and community. In 1890-1900 15% of people living in America

were foreign born, in 1970 it dropped to 5% and by 2015 it was back to 15-16%. By the 1920s until 1965, over a 40-year span, immigrant quotas shrunk the number of people arriving from other countries, with a cap per country put into place based upon the Federal census. In 1954, Ellis Island closed as there was no longer a need.

Vincent J. Cannato is an Associate Professor of History at the University of Massachusetts Boston, specializing in 20th Century American political, urban, and immigration history. He is also a widely published author and commentator.

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 **May 04, 2026** by public or private sale to satisfy a lien for towing, storage, and all other fees due.

- 2017 PETERBILT 579**
Vin #1XPBD49X4HD445655
- 2000 ACURA TL**
Vin #19UUA5677YA047632
- 2015 AUDI Q5**
Vin #WA1DGAFF3FA040948
- 2014 LEXUS IS**
Vin #JTHCE1D23E5001426
- 2005 CHEVROLET MALIBU**
Vin #1G1ZS52F85F333088
- 2010 CHEVROLET EQUINOX**
Vin #2CNFLEEW8A6266365
- 2007 DODGE CHARGER**
Vin #2B3LA43G97H788942
- 2007 LEXUS GS**
Vin #JTHCE96S370003138

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

Run dates: 04/10, 04/17, 04/24/2026

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. MI26P1512EA

Estate of ONORINA RAFFAELLE
Date of Death: February 20, 2026

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by **Sergio P. Vespa** of **Newton Center, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Sergio P. Vespa** of **Newton Center, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 05/25/2026.

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 day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

Witness, HON. TERRI L. KLUG CAFAZZO, First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 30, 2026

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate

Run date: 04/10/2026



EXTRA Innings

by Sal Giarratani



“Sell the Team, Sell the Team, Sell the Team”

The other night (Monday) the Red Sox lost once again to the Brewers at Fenway Park and fans rightly so have started booing the team. During this particular game, the fans started yelling “Sell the team, sell the team, sell the team.” Can you blame them for getting down on the team’s performance as of late? They are now two and eight. They won the first game of the season and opening day at Fenway and nothing else.

Monday night’s game wasn’t sold out and of the 35,107 inside the park, most didn’t stay in their seats to the bitter end. Why wait until the loss is over? Get out of there fast for the parking lot or Kenmore Station and try putting the game’s memory out of your mind as fast as you can. Remember, we could have been having this dry spell late in August when we could have been in the mix for a wild card spot, which is the most we usually can hope to achieve.

Manager Alex Cora was quite unhappy with the fans turning on them. Personally, if I were in

the stands, I most likely would have been yelling, “Dump the manager.” It is at times like these, I wish that back in 1953 when I was 5 years old, the Braves had stayed in Boston and the Red Sox were sailing off to Milwaukee.

Wish We Kept Pivetta



Nick Pivetta

As of late the owners and Alex Cora were bragging about how the Boston Red Sox thought they had compiled a great starting rotation until the season actually started. Starting pitchers aren’t doing that well, are they?

Recently, while looking into the standings and checking out how teams across both leagues are doing, I saw that Nick Pivetta had a great game for the Padres as he struck out eight in 5 innings winning a great game against the Giants. I so wish Boston didn’t let Pivetta go. I am sure he would have been quite happy still pitching in Boston. I hope he has a great season in San Diego.

BPS Goes Bush League on Baseball Caps

Community leaders had to step up recently to buy baseball caps for a South Boston high school varsity team due to budget constraints at Boston Public Schools which led to criticism about BPS spending priorities. Bob Ferrara who has been coaching youth sports and high school sports for a long time stated, “You put a team that you know has nothing and send them on a field without baseball caps on. That’s bush

league. That’s unacceptable.”

Like Ferrara, I too find this unacceptable. Boston can spend \$130 million helping a private entity with a soccer team but when it comes to baseball caps there is suddenly no money? Ferrara reached out to others in the community and then there were caps for all the players. On opening day the South Boston team played Madison Park with hats firmly in place on the heads of every player taking to the field.

Thank you Bob Ferrara, Bob Pacitti and Dave Moynihan from The Spot along with City Councilors Eddie Flynn and Erin Murphy and everyone else who made the impossible possible.

It’s Baseball Season Over in Mission Hill

I never lived over in Mission Hill but my brother Dominic and his wife Tanya did and their three oldest children all grew up there and always signed up for the Mission Hill Little League. I have many memories of watching them play baseball back then. Well the warm weather is finally arriving bit by bit every day and I hear there is still time to sign ‘em up for the Mission Hill Little League. Registration is free, three brackets from age 4 to 12. Visit missionhill-littleleague.org or call Dan Weldon at 617-939-1766. Opening Day is Saturday, April 25 at Killilea Park.

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 **April 27, 2026** by public or private sale to satisfy a lien for towing, storage, and all other fees due.

- 2014 TOYOTA RAV4**
Vin #JTMRFREV6ED068060
- 1997 LEXUS SC**
Vin #JT8CD3228V1001220
- 2012 FORD FIESTA**
Vin #3FADP4BJ7CM220530
- 2024 BAODIAO 8 LINES**
Vin #L2BB8BCH4RB528019
- 2010 MERCEDES BENZ C-CLASS**
Vin #WDDGF8BB0AR109278
- 2007 HONDA ACCORD**
Vin #1HGCM56707A090811

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

Run dates: 04/03, 04/10, 04/17/2026

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. MI25C0937CA

In the matter of: ERIC FOSTER BROWN-MUNOZ
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Eric Foster Brown-Munoz** of **Cambridge, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to: **Eric Foster Brown**.

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 **May 05, 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: March 05, 2026

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate

Run Date: 04/10/2026

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court The Probate and Family Court Department Middlesex, SS. Division

Docket No. MI26P1476PO

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR REMOVAL OF A TRUSTEE AND APPOINTMENT OF SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE

To all persons interested in **The Lorraine C. Hall Irrevocable Trust**, a petition has been presented by **Michael Hall of Natick, MA** to said Court praying that **Anne Hall of Charlotte, NC** be removed as Trustee(s) and appoint **Michael Hall of Natick, MA** as successor trustee(s) without sureties on his/her bond.

If you desire to object thereto, you or your attorney should file a written appearance in said Court at **10-U Commerce Way, Woburn, MA 01801** before ten o'clock in the forenoon on **April 24th, 2026**.

Witness, Hon. Terri L. Klug-Cafazzo, Esquire, First Justice of said Court, this **27th day of March 2026**.

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate Court

Run date: 04/10/2026

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. SU26P0610EA

Estate of MARK MICHAEL MANLEY
Also Known As **MARK M. MANLEY**

Date of Death: February 10, 2026

INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **David M. King of Boston, MA**, a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

David M. King of Boston, MA 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: 04/10/2026

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. SU26P0587EA

Estate of REBECCA MURPHY
Also Known As **REBECCA H. MURPHY**

Date of Death: December 28, 2025

INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Andrew Murphy of New York, NY**, a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Andrew Murphy of New York, NY 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: 04/10/2026

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

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- 2009 SUBARU OUTBACK**
Vin #4S4BP61C496343304
- 2010 CHEVROLET HHR**
Vin #3GNBABB8AS617533
- 2018 NISSAN SENTRA**
Vin #3N1AB7AP8JY276486
- 2024 ZHILONG ST**
Vin #HZ2TBCNF9R1009519
- 2012 KIA SOUL**
Vin #KNDJT2A67C7438116
- 2013 HYUNDAI ELANTRA**
Vin #KMH4H4AEXDU747983
- 2008 CHEVROLET EXPRESS**
Vin #1GCGG25C181151752
- 2013 VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT**
Vin #WVWRN7AN2DE506658

- 2006 BMW 325xi**
Vin #WBAVD13506KT79373
- 2002 HONDA CRV**
Vin #SHSRD78842U009411

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Run dates: 03/27, 04/03, 04/10/2026

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF SALE

Notice is hereby given by **Stephens Automotive Transport, 60 Union Street, Medford, MA 02155**, pursuant to the provisions of G.L.c.255 39A, that on **April 18, 2026 at 10AM**, at said address, the following motor vehicle(s) will be sold, in as is condition, no keys, at public sale to satisfy our garage keeper’s lien thereon for towing, storage, and expenses of notice and sale:

- 2008 TOYOTA SIENNA, BLUE**
5TDZK23C48S100176
- 2012 FORD F-150, WHITE**
1FTMF1CMXCKD54489
- 2011 FORD E-150, WHITE**
1FTNE1EW6BDA58040
- 2014 HONDA ACCORD, WHITE**
1HGCR2F83EA125122
- 2000 MERCURY GRAND MARQUIS, BEIGE**
2MEFM74W5YX723067
- 2001 TOYOTA AVALON, BEIGE**
4T1BF28B91U135542
- 2009 NISSAN VERSA, SILVER**
3N1BC11E19L439856
- 2004 GMC SIERRA, BLACK**
2GTFK69U441271697
- 2008 HYUNDAI VERACRUZ, GRAY**
KM8NU13C28U032342
- 2010 CHEVROLET TRAVERSE, SILVER**
1GNLFVFD5A5120659
- 2010 HONDA CRV, GRAY**
5J6RE4H39AL014603
- 2008 HONDA ODYSSEY, SILVER**
5FNRL38428B086688
- 2005 HONDA PILOT, BLACK**
2HKYF18575H572233
- 2010 MERCEDES-BENZ C-CLASS, BLACK**
WDDGF8BB8AF444757
- 2009 MAZDA 5, BLUE**
JM1CR29L990346931

Run dates: 04/03, 04/10, 04/17/2026

Boxing Ringside



WITH BOBBY FRANKLIN

Joe Louis was No One Hit Wonder

Tops the Charts for Songs Written About a Sports Figure

Boxing has always had a place in popular culture. The sport has been the subject of numerous movies, plays, books, poetry, and music.

While books about boxing and prizefighters are numerous, most aren't worth reading. The good ones are very good though. Many biographies of fighters have been written and published. Many of these tend to be hagiographies, but the solid ones include Mark Kram's *The Ghosts of Manilla*, Jonathan Eig's *Ali: A Life*, and Ken Brooks' *Ingemar Johansson*.

Muhammad Ali has had the most books published about him, but very few that go into depth about his life. Joe Louis has been the subject of a number of serious biographies, one of the best being Randy Roberts' *Joe Louis*. It should be noted that Randy along with Johnny Smith also wrote one of the most interesting books about Ali. This was their look at the relationship between Ali and Malcolm X entitled *Blood Brothers: The Fatal Friendship Between Muhammad Ali and Malcolm X*.

While good boxing books certainly contain a wealth of information and drama about those involved, it is music that captures the real emotion of how and what people feel about the subject. More songs have been written about boxing than any other sport. Within that catalogue you will find the most songs are about Joe Louis.

I was recently revisiting a compilation album entitled *Joe Louis: An American Hero*, released in 2001, but with songs dating back to the 1930s through 1950s. This is not a collection of novelty songs, but rather a heartfelt collection of tunes from some of the best musicians of the time.

Cab Calloway and Joe Louis Music, more than books or written tributes, contain much more and deeper emotion. Listening to these songs, written and performed mainly by black musicians capture the time that Joe lived in. He was only the second African American man to hold the Heavyweight Championship of the World, and it took much more than his amazing skills to make that happen. In a time of Jim Crow and rampant bigotry, Joe Louis gave hope and a sense of deep pride to Black America. It is this emotion that it captured so deeply in the songs written about him; for to create music about Joe Louis was to create music about the culture of desperation and hope among those so deeply held back from attempting to live a full life in America.

The album of songs covers many different musical genres including Calypso, Blues, Gospel, Ballads, and Jazz. You will be familiar with some of the artists, while many will be new to most. Among those who are still known are Cab Calloway, Count Basie, and Sonny Boy Williamson. Most are now forgotten but shouldn't be. The Dixieaires are among those whose music is in much in need of rediscovery. They were a Gospel group who made music in what was known as the Jubilee style. Their contribution to the Joe Louis song catalogue was *Joe Louis Was A Fightin' Man*.

It is an upbeat song that, while not entirely accurate, captures aspects of Joe's life in and out of the ring. In listening to this just shy of three minutes song, you come away not only feeling that you know Louis more deeply, but you can't help

but feeling the pride Black America had for him. The emotion is infectious.

Calypso artists The Lion And Atilla take on the subject of both of Joe's fights with Max Schmeling in their *Louis-Schmeling Fight*. Sung with a beautiful patois and backed up by steel drums it is more fun than reading many accounts of the bouts.

Joe The Bomber by Billy Hicks is a swing tune that has a number of different descriptions of Joe in the ring starting with Bomber (taken from Louis' sobriquet *The Brown Bomber*). Hicks adds a few others of his own ending with "That's Joe the Embalmer).

Bill Gaither also takes on the topic of Louis vs Schmeling, but focuses solely on their second fight. While most of America was routing for Joe to win as a way to send a message to Hitler, for Black America the fight held an even deeper message. For Louis to not only beat, but utterly destroy the symbol of the Master Race in just a little over 2 minutes really forced people to think about not only Hitler's perverse ideology, but also the darkness of hatred based on race in the United States. "If I had million dollars, I'd have bet in all on Joe" is a line from the song that while brief, says so much about the pride African Americans had in *The Bomber*.

The Blues is well represented with contributions by Sampson Pittman *Joe Louis*, and Sonny Boy Williamson *Joe Louis and John Henry Blues*. There is a brief interview with Pittman preceding his song written

in 1934. The Williamson tune takes on Louis' defense against his friend John Henry Lewis.

An interesting tract is not a song but rather a sermon by Reverend J.M. Gates entitled *Joe Louis' Fist*

And Wrist. Gates talks about how Joe is able to make a lot of money by fighting while the members of his congregation get jail time for throwing their hands. He also makes the point that Joe's fist and wrist does not distinguish between races when he steps into the ring. No matter what color, they all fall.

Cab Calloway and Count Basie, two whose names and music are still very much alive today, cover the champ with *Let's Go Joe* and *King Joe Part 1* respectively. Neither man short changed Louis

when writing these songs.

There are a total of 15 songs in this collection plus the sermon and interview making a total of 17 tracks. I am partial to *Joe Louis Was A Fightin' Man* by the Dixieaires, but each song, especially when listening to the entire collection, carries a lot of power. Put this music in the time it was written and it holds even more strength in its message.

Joe Louis American Hero is not currently available on streaming services such as Apple Music, but copies of the CD can be found on sites such as eBay and Amazon. You might be able to find some of the tracks on YouTube, but the entire collection should be listened to as a whole. The fifty minutes of music is a narrative that provides us with a look back at the era in a historical sense, but more importantly in an emotional and reflective way. It is also some really good music.

Give *Joe Louis American Hero* a shot. It carries quite a punch.



Sonny Boy Williamson

HOOPS and HOCKEY in the HUB

by Richard Preiss



We have approached the conclusion of the regular season in the NBA and as the Celtics stand on the verge of what could very well be a promising commencement to the playoffs, we thought it might be advantageous to look back over this season and offer our thoughts on what could be a successful spring for the Celtics.

The 2025-2026 season began on Media Day — a day set aside in late September when the players and head coach Joe Mazzulla offered their thoughts on the challenges and possibilities concerning the forthcoming journey that would follow in the months ahead.

Let's just say that the atmosphere was one of cautious optimism. The transactions that took place over the course of the offseason appeared to leave the Green and White somewhat depleted. After all, it was the heart of a lineup that had won an NBA Championship in the spring of 2024 that had been dispersed across the NBA.

And, of course, there was the speculation concerning star Jayson Tatum and how long he would be out as he continued to recover from his injury sustained during the 2025 playoffs.

Even the slogan for the upcoming season appeared in a condensed form to say it all — Different Here.

As the season progressed that statement turned out to be a half truth — in a somewhat pleasant way. Yes, the players that departed were missed — but not as you might think — but more in a sentimental way.

One reached a point in the season, probably around the holidays, when it became more appropriate to think of this team as one that could not only forge a successful narrative of its own on the court but would come to take on an entirely new identity unto itself.

The players from recent seasons were gone but they were no longer missed. One reached a point where it became evident that this team was not a squad that was simply doing its best to keep the franchise in a holding pattern until future seasons yielded something better.

It was a team of the moment — with an over .600 winning percentage to back it up. Somewhere it had crossed a line, moving from a simply hoped for middle of the pack finish to that of being a contender — as of right now, this season. Gone were the days from back in the early fall where some hoped that the Celtics might be able to win 40 or so regular season games and perhaps gain a low-level playoff berth. Their second-place finish in the Eastern Conference proves that they will be a powerful team to reckon with once the playoffs proper get under way on April 18.

And yes, there is an added bonus. When speculation was rife back in the fall about the reduced chances of the C's gaining a playoff berth, that included the possibility of perhaps having to go through the play-in tournament. But if a team survives the play-tournament there follows a pair of consequences, one positive and one somewhat negative. The positive one is that by being successful in the play-tournament a team gains a playoff berth. But it comes at a price — proceeding directly to the playoffs proper with a very short rest period.

However, since the C's put together such a highly successful regular season they will not have to go that route, meaning the players will get an entire week of rest before taking to the floor to begin their quest for Banner 19.

As the Celtics await the results of the play-in tournament to learn who they will face in the first round of the playoffs, they have a healthy possibility of advancing deep into May and perhaps as far as June.

They have the on-court record from the regular season plus their strongest lineup of the campaign to indicate that another successful spring could come to Causeway Street.

That is because Tatum has returned and has participated in a number of games in the closing weeks of the regular season. The C's are at full strength just when they need to be.

Yes, things certainly turned out to be "Different Here" during the regular season in a very positive way. But now there is a higher-level immediate challenge — to see if this year's team can build upon that success during the spring and conclude the playoffs with another banner.

That is a big ask for any team in any year. But remember that the NBA playoffs are not like the NHL playoffs.

This year the Bruins will enter the playoffs as a lowly ranked wild card team. But as we all know, the only thing predictable about the NHL playoffs is that they are unpredictable. Once a team gains entrance to the playoffs anything can happen.

And the Bruins are the most prominent example of that. During the 2022-2023 regular season the B's put together the best regular season record in NHL history by winning 65 games over the course of the six-month campaign. The last month of the regular season seemed like an extended victory tour for the team.

But then came the playoffs and Boston faced the lowly Florida Panthers who had survived a month of battles to earn enough points to just make it over the demarcation line for an eighth seed in the Eastern Conference.

Everyone in the hockey world selected the B's to proceed to the Stanley Cup Final. But battle-tested Florida pulled off one of the most impressive upsets of all time, eliminating the Bruins in the first round

with a game seven overtime goal. Plus, three of the four Florida victories came on Garden ice. What was that old saying about having home ice advantage? The B's got sent home on April 30 — not even making it to May.

The point of the above is that a surprise like that won't happen in pro basketball. It could happen in the college "March Madness" tournament with its single game elimination format but not in the NBA.

In our view the C's have a team that should be capable of making it to the Eastern Conference Finals. Whether they are successful and move forward to the NBA Finals is problematic.

But wouldn't it be something if the team that began the season by playing under the slogan of "Different Here" actually wound up winning it all and Making All The Difference In The World?