

THE ITALIAN-AMERICAN VOICE OF MASSACHUSETTS

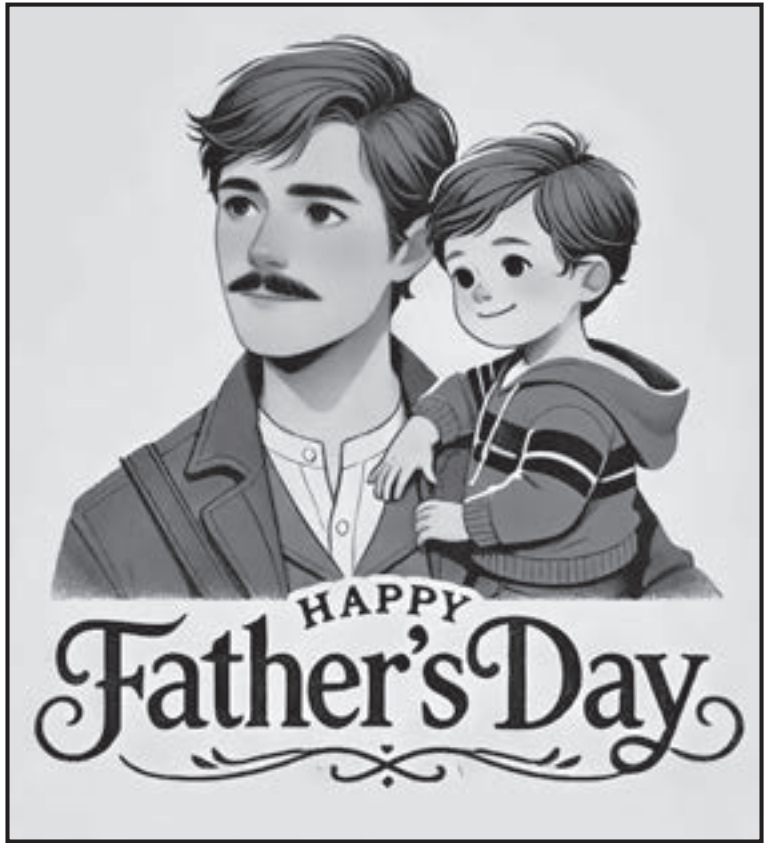
POST-GAZETTE

(Formerly LA GAZZETTA del MASSACHUSETTS)

VOL. 131 - NO. 25

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS, JUNE 19, 2026

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FATHER'S DAY: *The Forgotten Holiday*

Every June, Father's Day arrives with less fanfare than many other holidays on the calendar. While Mother's Day often fill restaurants, florists, card shops and shopping centers weeks in advance, Father's Day tends to come and go quietly, almost as an afterthought. Yet the men who have dedicated their lives to raising families, teaching values, and providing love and guidance deserve to be remembered and celebrated.

Fatherhood has changed over the years. Today's fathers are not only providers but coaches, mentors, caregivers, and role models. They attend school events, cheer from the sidelines at sporting contests, help with homework and school projects, while offering advice through life's challenges. They work long hours, multiple jobs, make sacrifices, and often place the

(Continued on Page 11)

News Briefs

by Sal Giarratani

Cat Falls 10 Stories and is Recovering

Mazy, the cat, has just survived a 10-story fall from a Boston area apartment building and is recovering after undergoing surgery on her front legs according to MSPCA Angell. "Mazy has shown us how much of a fighter she is," the organization stated on its Facebook post.

The cat, a 1-year-old, was recently brought to the Angell Animal Medical Center in Boston. The MSPCA is still investigating the circumstances of the fall.

Mazy has been resting and eating well following surgery and will continue its recovery in foster care.

"Cake" Her Away

A Nantucket environmental activist faces possible criminal action after she gave the local school board a plateful of laxative-laced brownies in a stunt protesting the proposed installation of a new synthetic athletic field. She offered the treat to the Nantucket School Committee members as she approached the podium.

Newark Cops Ordered

Away from Immigration Facility

Newark Police Officers have been ordered to stay clear of an immigration detainee facility following last

(Continued on Page 8)

St. Anthony Feast Day, June 13



Members of St. Anthony of Padua Committee and Pastor of St. Leonard Church Father Michael Della Penna (far right) gather in the Peace Garden prior to setting off on a procession through the streets of the North End. (Photo by Gerri Palladino)

The St. Anthony of Padua Procession in Boston's North End took place on Saturday, June 13, 2026, which marked the saint's traditional feast day. Led by Father Michael Della Penna, Pastor of St. Leonard Parish, the St. Anthony devotees and members carried a statue of the saint through the streets of the community before celebrating a 5:00 p.m. Mass at St. Leonard Church on Hanover Street.

St. Anthony of Padua is best known as the patron saint of lost items, invoked by many to help recover misplaced belongings. In addition, he is

celebrated in the Catholic Church as a brilliant preacher, advocate for the poor, and "Wonder-Worker" known for his countless miracles.

A beautiful tradition associated with the saint is "St. Anthony's Bread." Many Catholics make alms, donations, or give bread to the poor and less fortunate in thanksgiving for blessings received or prayers answered through St. Anthony's intercession.

Thank you to all who participated in the annual festivities last weekend. Your continued support and dedication are greatly appreciated.

Boston City Council Passes Annual Budget Amid Protests

by Patti Sartori

In the midst of protests, disruption, and arrests, the Boston City Council passed Mayor Michelle Wu's \$4.9 million budget, 12-1 including over \$11 million in amendments. At-Large Councilor Julia Mejia was the only No vote. The budget is 2.1 % greater than last year. The mayor can now accept the budget as is from the council, or veto their amendments.

The council meeting was met with planned protests by a large number of activists for almost two hours, leading to eight

arrests following numerous warnings by Council President Liz Breadon to cease and desist. "We have a hard deadline to amend the budget ... midnight tonight. I'm asking you now for the last time to stand up and leave peacefully. Otherwise — this is your last warning — we're going to ask the police department to remove you."

Many protestors laid down on the council floor, in-between the councilor desks, an area off limits to the public, while others called out councilor

names who voted against a council motion last month to reject the budget, yelling "you failed us" and "tell us where the money goes?"

The right to peacefully protest is protected by the First Amendment, but not when that demonstration interrupts a government meeting. The recent protests are just one instance to publicly highlight and bring attention to the negativity and pushback over Mayor Wu's FY27 budget and the council's budget process.

Governor Healey Eyes Pension Funds

by Patti Sartori

Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey has her eye set on the state's pension system as she considers using a portion of the monies to fund \$50 to \$100 million in economic development grants across the state, as unions express their outrage. Both the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 509 and the National Association of Government Employees (NAGE) expressed their displeasure, pushing Healey to change a portion of the legislation which allows the state pension system to be used

to fund economic development grants.

"While this initiative offers many promising ideas to spark and support economic development in Massachusetts, it is both unwise and illegal to utilize the state pension system as a source of grant funding for those initiatives, and our collective organizations stand in firm opposition to the inclusion of this provision in legislation," a joint letter from the two union representatives wrote to Healey. The legislation, (H. 5386), called the Mass Wins Act,

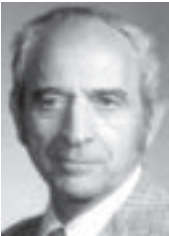
requires the Pension Reserves Investment Management (PRIM) board to allocate \$50 to \$100 million for grants supporting economic development initiatives, under section 104. "Notwithstanding any other general or special law to the contrary, the pension reserves investment management board established under section 23 of chapter 32 of the General Laws shall commit not less than \$50,000,000 and not more than \$100,000,000 in a fund or funds established in

(Continued on Page 11)

Stirpe
Nostra

by Prof. Edmund Turiello

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



Res Publica

by David Trumbull



U.S. Department of War

THE TEMPLE OF VESTA
(The Best Little Virgin House in Old Rome)



Remains of the Temple of Vesta

Last week, we discussed the origin of the sacrificial fire, the candle-lit vigil, and the eternal flame. This week, we continue with a reminder that the sacred fire, the source of all life and power in ancient Rome, was kept alive in a structure known as the Temple of Vesta. It was constantly tended on by a group of virgin priestesses that were called Vestals (Latin, *Virgines Vestales*). They resided near the temple in the Forum Romanum. The whole concept goes back into antiquity when the Vestals represented the daughters of the primitive tribal chief, and they kept alive the State-fire in their father’s hut. The public worship of this goddess was maintained in the Temple of Vesta during later years, but her

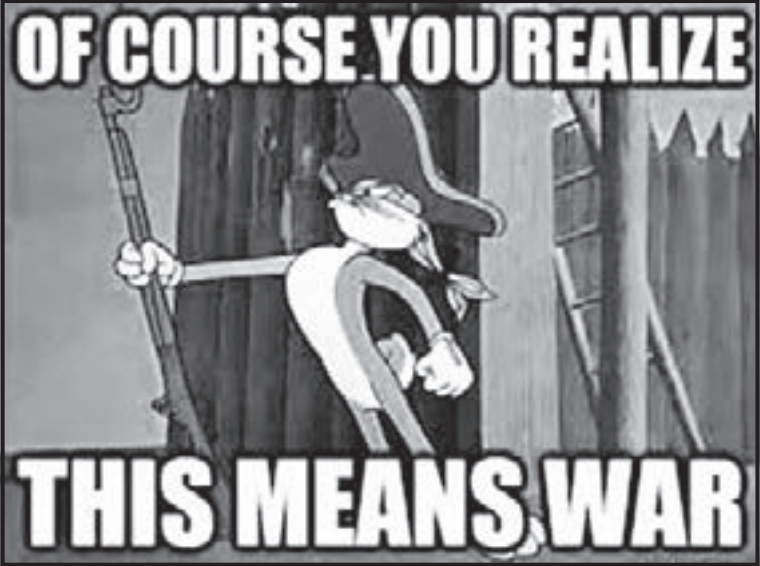
private worship was preserved in every domestic hearth. After she was recognized as a personal deity, it then became necessary to have her attendants live in guarded seclusion in a structure that we now call “The House of the Vestal Virgins” or “Atrium Vestae.”

The temple was a round structure, probably reminiscent of the tribal chief’s hut. This edifice was the most venerated of all temples in Rome. Tradition tells us that the first temple to Vesta was built by Numa Pompilius, the successor to Romulus, and the first of the Sabine kings of Rome. He introduced the worship of this goddess, and devoted to her a space of ground just in front of his own house. It is also interesting to note that at this time in history, about 700 B.C., the king was the high priest, and in this office, he was known as “Pontifex Maximus” or “Pontiff.”

There were at least five successive temples that were built in Rome to honor the goddess Vesta. They all adhered to the same style of architecture. It was always a small circular edifice with a domed roof that was supported on columns. This design was thought to typify the round earth and the vaulted sky. The interior contained a low circular altar, upon which burned the perpetual fire. The maintenance of this fire was the chief duty of six vestals.

Numa’s temple stood for about three centuries until the Gauls burned Rome in 390 B.C. It was soon rebuilt and the second edifice stood for about 50 years. The third temple to Vesta stood until the great fire under Nero, and the fourth lasted for about 100 years. The remains, which now mark the consecrated site, belong to the last rebuilding by Septimius Severus (about 200 A.D.) and this work is contemporary with the great arch of Septimius Severus at the opposite end of the Forum from Vesta’s temple.

NEXT WEEK:
Virgines Vestales
(The Best Little Virgins in Old Rome)



Of Course You Realize This Means War — Bugs Bunny

On September 5, 2025, President Trump signed Executive Order 14347, restoring the United States Department of War. It states, in part:

“On August 7, 1789, 236 years ago, **President George Washington** signed into law a bill establishing the **United States Department of War** to oversee the operation and maintenance of military and naval affairs. It was under this name that the Department of War, along with the later formed Department of the Navy, won the **War of 1812**, **World War I**, and **World War II**, inspiring awe and confidence in our Nation’s military, and ensuring freedom and prosperity for all Americans. The Founders chose this name to signal our strength and resolve to the world. The name “Department of War,” more than the current “Department of Defense,” ensures **peace through strength**, as it demonstrates our ability and willingness to fight and win wars on behalf of our Nation at a moment’s notice, not just to defend. This name sharpens the Department’s focus on our own national interest and our adversaries’ focus on our willingness and availability to wage war to secure what is ours. I have therefore determined that this Department should once again be known as the Department of War and the Secretary should be known as the Secretary of War.”

To the list of America’s victories in war, I add the **Mexican American War** and the **Spanish American War**.

This name change is on its way to becoming Congressionally enacted law. On April 30, 2026, the House of Representatives passed the **National Defense Authorization Act** for Fiscal Year 2027. The vote was very largely along partisan lines, with 14 Democrats and 1 Independent joining Republicans in passing the bill. Three Republicans voted Nay.

The Act passed by the House included an Amendment, offered by **Mr. Ronny Jackson** (Republican, Texas-13) restoring the name Department of War.

The bill was sent to the Senate, where the Senate Armed Services Committee held a “mark up” hearing June 9-10. While the hearing was closed to the public, news outlets report that the Senate Committee is moving the bill forward.

Boston Bars to Enjoy Extended Closing Hours During FIFA World Cup

by Patti Sartori

Governor Maura Healey signed a bill last week allowing cities and towns across the commonwealth to opt in and extended closing hours of establishments during the FIFA World Cup. While some cities and towns, like Revere, are choosing not to participate, Boston is fully on Board. Approximately 144 establishments across the city, have been approved by the Boston Licensing Board for extended last calls, through the July 31st summer events.

What these Bars and restaurants are taking advantage of is a one hour extension of their current liquor license, meaning if they currently hold an existing 2:00 am liquor license, they may remain open until 3:00 am. Whatever their current closing time states on their liquor license, each establishment would be allowed to extend it by 1 hour, assuming they are in good standing and approved. “The Licensing Board welcomes the opportunity to help Boston businesses

participate in what is shaping up to be one of the city’s busiest and most exciting summers in history. We expect all licenses to assist us in making this a successful summer by operating responsibly and prioritizing the safety and well-being of our residents and visitors,” Licensing Board Chairwoman Kathleen Joyce said in a statement.

The Boston Licensing Board will continue to review and approve establishments on a rolling basis as applications are submitted.

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Notice is hereby given by **Tody's Service Inc. of 1354 Washington Street, West Newton, MA**, pursuant to the provisions of Mass G.L. c. 255, Section 39A, that they will sell the following vehicles on or after **July 6th, 2026** beginning at 10:00 am by public or private sale to satisfy their garage keepers lien for towing, storage, and notices of sale:
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Photo Submission Guidelines

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



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

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Friday, June 19, 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.*

COMMENTARY

Extended Closing Times for Local Bars and Establishments is Pure Greed

by Patti Sartori

As Boston and other cities and towns across the Bay State prepare for a busy 2026 summer season filled with sporting events, including FIFA World Cup, concerts, festivals, and a host of celebrations connected to America’s 250th anniversary, the option of extending bar hours, some until 3 am, has supporters arguing that later hours would boost the economy and nightlife, but have the people responsible for this idea actually considered the drawbacks and impacts?

Of course it’s all about the money, not only to business owners, but first and foremost to the cities and towns who reap the financial benefits from the added tax revenue. Of top concern should be public safety. Keeping bars open an extra hour or two means more impaired drivers, more alcohol-related incidents, a greater burden on police and emergency medical personnel.

And what about residents living in direct proximity or near these establishments and entertainment districts who already contend with noise and late-night disturbances. A 3 am closing time would only prolong and exacerbate those problems. Boston is a city of neighborhoods, full of families, elders and young professionals. Don’t they deserve some respect and a peaceful night’s sleep.

Boston has built a successful and vibrant nightlife without needing 3:00 a.m. closings. Visitors come to the city and communities for its history, culture, restaurants and events — not because bars stay open later than in most other cities.

Summer 2026 should be remembered for celebrating Boston and America’s rich heritage, not for creating unnecessary public safety and quality-of-life concerns. Maintaining the current closing times strikes a better balance between supporting businesses and protecting residents and visitors alike.

Clothing Drive

The Pirandello Lyceum is teaming up with recent *I Migliori* honoree Michael Colomba to support the Community Day Center of Waltham’s Clothing Drive.

We are off to a great start — more than 10 bags of clothing have already been collected and delivered. We will continue this important project throughout the summer and welcome additional donations.

Some of the most-needed items include:

- Men’s and women’s clothing
- Socks
- Rain ponchos
- Shoes
- Summer clothing
- Winter clothing
- Jackets and coats
- Boots
- Blankets

For more information or to arrange a clothing donation drop-off, please contact Pirandello Lyceum President Virginia Papa Gardner at 617-721-1062.

Thank you for helping support members of our community in need.

Congratulations St. John School 6th Grade

Students from St. John School (SJS) 6th Grade Class in Boston’s North End participated in a graduation ceremony last week at Sacred Heart Church, in the heart of historic North Square. It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate these students as they close out the 2025-2026 school year and move onto their next academic adventure.

St. John School, located at 9 Moon Street, welcomes students from 2.9 years old through 6th grade, offering a private, Catholic education for over 131 years. The faculty and staff of SJC dedicate themselves to providing a rigorous academic program coupled with a deep commitment to a faith based value system. At SJS, everyone is family!



North End Senior Programming Coalition Host Senior Social



Eleanor, Patricia Romano and Nazzaro Center Director Marlo D’Anno welcome participants to the North End Senior Social in the Prado (Paul Revere Mall).

On Wednesday, June 10, the North End Senior Programming Coalition hosted a Senior Social in the Prado. The event brought neighborhood seniors together to learn about the many programs, events, and resources available to them throughout the community. More than 100 attendees enjoyed lunch, giveaways, raffles, and information about the wide range of activities and services available in the North End.



NEW Health Staff Member Ann Fitzgerald, Area A-1 Boston Police Community Service Officer Michael Mustacchio and NEW Health’s Danny Coakley offer some “sweet” lip balm at the June 10, 2026 North End Senior Social.

Organizations participating in the Senior Social included NEW Health, North End Cares, ABCD, NEMPAC, the Nazzaro Center, Friends of the North End Branch Library, 311, RUFF Dog Park, Friends of Christopher Columbus Park, AgeStrong, Old North Church, St. Leonard Church, Next Stage Benefits, FriendshipWorks, the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind, and NeighborHealth PACE.

Representative Aaron Michlewitz generously provided lunch for attendees, while Artu Restaurant, DePasquale Ventures, and Salumeria Italiana donated gift cards for the event raffles.

The North End Senior Programming Coalition is a group of community organizations and

For more information about these resources, visit:

<https://newhealthcenter.org/north-end-senior-programming-coalition/>



North End Branch Library representatives Casey and Mardie explain all the wonderful activities the library has to offer during the North End Senior Social.

residents working together to reduce social isolation and promote the well-being of senior neighbors through connection, engagement, and participation in community activities. Coalition members include Ann Fitzgerald (NEW Health



Ladies of the North End are all smiles during the North End Senior Social in the Prado on Hanover Street.

and North End Cares), Audrey Tortolani, Casey Abbott (North Branch of the Boston Public Library), Danny Coakley (NEW Health and North End Cares), Julia Power (ABCD), Mardie Hinkley, Maria Perez (Office of Neighborhood Services), Marlo D’Anna (Nazzaro Center), Michele Topor, Pat and Terese O’Connell, Renne Frechette, Rita Pagliuca, Samantha Peracchi (Councilor Gabriella Coletta-Zapata’s Office), Sherri Snow (NEMPAC), and Teresa Mirabito.



There was some serious Bridge Games happening at the Paul River Mall (Prado) during the June, 2026 North End Social event.

L’Anno Bello: A Year in Italian Folklore

A Night of Fairies, Flowers and Fireworks

by Ally Di Censo Symynkywicz



(Photo by bearfotos on Magnific)

What is it about summer nights that make me think of magic, moonbeams, and fireflies and fairies flitting about a darkened forest? Perhaps the answer lies in the velvety hue of the evening sky, offset by the delicate diamond-like stars that peek out from the late sunset. Or perhaps the answer resides in the comforting sound of crickets and cicadas humming their melody from deep within bushes and trees. It could also be that people tend to congregate outside during the warm summer twilight, illuminating the atmosphere with candles and lanterns from barbecues and alfresco dinners. I always find that the most magical of these nights occurs around the summer solstice, the longest day and shortest night of the year. In olden times, the summer solstice was known as midsummer, which can confuse those of us who view the solstice as the beginning of summer rather than the middle. Ancient Europeans used agricultural rather than purely astronomical methods of gauging the seasons, and so the solstice was considered the height of summer rather than its commencement. As Christianity spread across the continent, Midsummer festivities became absorbed into the feast day of St. John the Baptist, creating an indelible mix of traditions. The result is one of my favorite holidays, a festival that embodies the magic and boldness of summer.

Europeans in older times began the summer on May 1st, or May Day, the holiday that marked the time to let livestock out to graze in pastures. Summer ended on Lammas, which fell on August 1st, the festival of the grain harvest and the first fruits of the autumn.

As a result, the summer solstice marked the midpoint of the season and as such was called Midsummer. In Europe, Midsummer heralded not only the longest day of the year, but also the period after which the daylight hours would slowly shorten. For this reason, I like viewing the solstice as the middle rather than the beginning of summer as well — it makes little sense to celebrate the start of summer when the sun begins to diminish in the sky! Midsummer customs later attached themselves to June 24th, St. John the Baptist’s Day, the feast commemorating the birthday of the important Biblical figure six months before Christmas. In Italy, St. John’s Day customs symbolize both the decline of the sun after the solstice and the sense of magic which pervades the evening. All over the Italian countryside, *gli fuochi di San Giovanni*, or St. John’s bonfires, blaze from the hilltops on the eve of the saint’s festival. These fires both mimic the power of summer sun while also symbolically imploring the sun to stay longer in the sky. Young Italians may also spend the evening gathering herbs, which are supposedly imbued with mystical properties on this unusual and magical night. According to old superstitions, these herbs work especially well for romantic divination, and people slip them under their pillows to dream of their future spouse.

Across Europe, similar Midsummer and St. John the Baptist’s Day traditions utilize the seasonal staples of water, fire and greenery. In Scandinavia, Midsummer is one of the most significant holidays of the year, on par with Easter and Christmas. Sporting wreaths of flowers on

their heads, Scandinavians celebrate this holiday by dancing around Maypoles bedecked with greenery, building bonfires near lakes and rivers, and sitting down to feasts featuring summer ingredients like strawberries and potatoes. Meanwhile, girls in Ukraine and other places in Eastern Europe float flower garlands down rivers and attempt to foretell the future by interpreting the movement of the garlands. People in Spain and Portugal celebrate the Feast of St. John the Baptist with outdoor carnivals, bonfires, street fairs, and the exchange of potted herbs. Italians, of course, never pass up an opportunity for a festival and party accordingly on St. John the Baptist’s Day, especially in the cities of Florence and Turin, where he is the patron saint and outdoor fairs and fireworks displays mark the occasion. Out in the countryside, people may enjoy St. John’s apples, or *le mele di San Giovanni*. A favorite of my father, these are small green apples so named because they ripen extremely early, just around the time of the solstice. No matter where one goes in Europe, charming Midsummer revelries emphasize the importance of the summer sun and the blessings of the season. The United States even boasts its own festivals full of outdoor excursions, fireworks and water — the Fourth of July, of course!

Above all, Midsummer is a holiday tinged with bittersweet nostalgia. While it honors the height of the sun’s power and the carefree days of summer, it also recognizes that the hours of sunlight will slowly start to diminish once this date is past. It is a poignant reminder that nothing lasts forever. Yet, Midsummer is celebrated with joy, not sadness. Its celebrations encourage people to enjoy the longest day of the year by living life in the present moment. We know that the year is a cycle, and that we should appreciate each season for what it offers. The darkness of autumn and winter reveals celebrations of the Earth’s bounty and communal feasts where families gather together in joy and goodwill against the cold. And yes, the sun will be once more reborn in a bright blaze of glory on the winter solstice, immortalized in light-themed holidays like Hanukkah and Christmas and New Year’s Eve. This summer solstice, live in the moment and enjoy all that summer has to provide on the longest day of the year — and let’s make a vow to carry that sunshine, optimism and wondrous magic within us for the rest of the year.

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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THINK Before You Act

by Bryan Golden

Acting without first thinking is too common. It is called reacting. It leads to unintended negative consequences. Problems are needlessly created or exacerbated. In this state, you are driven by emotion rather than logic. Anger, jealousy, bitterness, hurt, fear, and distrust are some of the feelings which bypass rational thought.

Thinking after acting makes as much sense as a carpenter who cuts first and then measures. Once cut, a board cannot be made longer. Actions, once taken, can’t be undone. A skilled carpenter measures carefully before cutting. Being prudent means thinking before acting.

Thinking before acting is responding. This is where your behavior is well thought out and planned. Just because someone else acts does not compel you to react. Thinking puts reason before emotion.

Without a consciously thought-out response, you revert to a knee jerk reaction. This is your default automatic behavior. What do you say or do when upset, frustrated, or angry? It’s common to become trapped in the same patterns of reactive behavior. Other people will pick up on this and use it to manipulate you.

Since emotions cloud your ability for clear thinking, take time to calm down whenever you are upset. Acting in haste bypasses the thinking stage. Rarely is there a pressing need to act immediately. More time is on your side than you realize.

Once you are calm, you are in a position to begin assessing your situation. Start by answering a few questions. What happened? Does it really matter? Do you need to respond at all? What are you trying to accomplish? The objective answers stimulate your thinking process.

Not only do you want to formulate an appropriate strategy for your response, you also need to keep things in perspective. “Don’t sweat the small stuff,” should always be kept in mind. Many circumstances, which at first seem upsetting, are insignificant when compared to the big picture of your life. These situations typically require little or no action. You can just let them go.

When action is necessary, keep your objective in mind. Know what it is you are looking to accomplish. Consider all of the options available to you. Identify the pros and cons for each option. Objectivity is essential. It may be helpful bouncing your thoughts off a neutral person who you trust.

Before deciding on your appropriate response, make sure you gather all of the facts directly from the source. Using second or third hand information as a basis for your decisions is a faulty strategy which leads to erroneous conclusions. Realizing a short-term gain at a long-term expense is self-defeating.

Take care not to burn bridges if possible. You never know what circumstances and people you will encounter in the future. Well thought out action is more likely to solve problems and preserve relationships than an emotionally fueled reaction.

Actions have consequences. Think things through from different perspectives. What impact will your actions have on the various people and situations involved? Are you acting in your best interest or is there some desire for retribution? Your actions should improve your circumstances, not make them worse.

Before deciding on a particular course of action, run the different options through “what if scenarios.” This approach forces you to consider all of the various cause and effect relationships. You want to anticipate what impact your action will have so you are not caught by surprise. How will other people react? What action will they take? What are the benefits and liabilities to you?

A well thought out response gives you the best chance of taking appropriate action which yields the desired results. Use these suggestions to help you think before you act.

Bryan is the author of “Dare to Live Without Limits.” Contact Bryan at Bryan@columunist.com or visit www.DareToLiveWithoutLimits.com Copyright 2026 Bryan Golden

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Mary Ellen Welch
GREENWAY
EAST BOSTON
2026 Summer Event Series

 June 24, 6PM-8PM Old Fly Life, Supernatural Elements & Floor Licks Breakdowns	 July 1, 6PM-8PM Reverend Theater Studio Sweet Harmony	 July 8, 6PM-8PM On It Or Not
 July 15, 6PM-8PM Ultimate Cumbia & DJ Gregg's Choice	 July 22, 6PM-8PM The Red Green Band & Friends	 July 29, 6PM-8PM Artists Showcase Band
 August 5, 6PM-8PM The Gals	 August 12, 6PM-8PM Street Magic	 August 19, 6PM-8PM 1913 - Movie 1901
 August 26, 6PM-8PM The Lonesome Band	MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Spend your Wednesday nights on the Greenway this summer! Pack a picnic & lawn chair/blanket. BREMEN STREET PARK, EAST BOSTON AIRPORT T STATION www.maryellenwelchgreenway.org @maryellenwelchgreenway Friends of the Mary Ellen Welch Greenway	

Mayor Wu Hosts North End Neighborhood Coffee Hour



Boston Mayor Michelle Wu, various state and city elected officials, along with faculty and administrators of the near by Eliot School congratulate the students on an outstanding choir performance during the 2026 North End Coffee Hour at Langone Park on Commercial Street.

It was a beautiful, sun-filled day on Tuesday, June 9 at Langone Park and a perfect setting for Boston Mayor Michelle Wu’s annual North End Coffee Hour.

It was a wonderful opportunity to meet representatives and staff from the various city departments and local agencies, including

the parks department, police department, transportation department, mayoral staff and other elected officials. Mayor Wu would like to offer her gratitude to the Eliot School children for the lovely singing, and all of the sponsors and donors for providing coffee, gift cards and other give aways.



City of Boston Mayor Michelle Wu addresses the crowd during her annual North End Coffee Hour at Langone Park in the North End.
(Photos courtesy of the City of Boston)

Happy 75th Anniversary Freedom Trail

Seventy-five years ago, on June 11, 1951 Boston Mayor John B. Hynes officially dedicated the Freedom Trail, a 2.5 mile route connecting historically significant sites, including Boston Common, Massachusetts State House, Park Street Church, Granary Burying Ground, Kings Chapel, Old South Meeting House, Old State House, Boston Massacre Site, Faneuil Hall, Paul Revere House, Old North Church, Copp’s Hill Burying Ground, USS Constitution, and Bunker Hill Monument, all of which preserve, maintain and interpret these historic gems.

The Freedom Trail is marked by a red line, which was originally painted starting in 1958, and is now made up of 13,200 linear feet consisting mostly of embedded red bricks in city sidewalks maintained by the City of Boston Public Works Department.

Boston’s iconic freedom Trail welcomes people from across the globe, educating residents and visitors alike about the founding of America and beyond, and is an economic driving force



for Boston and Massachusetts’ travel and tourism industry helping to create more than a hundred thousand jobs. The important contributions Boston and Massachusetts hold in American history as well as events, activities and programs hosted along the Trail makes it a must visit for anyone living or visiting the City and Commonwealth.

Founded in 1964, the Freedom Trail Foundation is the non-profit entity that markets, promotes and helps preserve the Trail and historic sites, through visitor services and programs, educational programs, and marketing and preservation efforts.

The Freedom Trail historic sites and the Foundation continue to join with Boston250 and Massachusetts 250 to also commemorate the 250th anniversary of America this summer, while keeping the stories of revolutionary people and historic sites alive every year, day in and day out.

For more information, please call 617-357-8300 or visit *TheFreedomTrail.org*.

North End Events for Seniors

NORTH END BRANCH LIBRARY **25 Parmenter St. Boston, MA** **(617) 227-8135**

- Meet Your Neighborhood Age Strong Advocate (3rd Monday of the month, 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM)
- Chess Club (Mondays 2:30 - 3:30 PM)
- Bridge Club (Tuesdays, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM)
- Adult Craft Time (2nd Tuesday of the month, 2:00 - 3:00 PM)
- Book Club (Usually 4th Wednesday of the month, 6:00 - 7:00 PM)
- Mahjong (Thursdays 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM)
- Chair Yoga (Fridays 10:00 - 11:00 AM)
- Friday Films (Fridays 2:00 - 4:00 PM)

NAZZARO CENTER

- 30 N. Bennet St. Boston, MA (617) 635-5166**
- Senior Social Hour (Tuesdays & Thursdays 11:00 AM)
- Ethos Lunch (Tuesdays & Thursdays, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM)
- Senior Dance Fitness Class (Wednesdays at 10:30 AM)
- Senior Sewing (Wednesdays at 11:00 AM)

- Senior Yoga (Thursdays at 10:30 AM)
- Senior Bingo (Tuesdays & Thursdays at 1:00 PM)
- Senior Live Better in Your Body (Fridays at 10:30 AM)
- NEW Health Lunch & Learn (2nd Friday of the month 12:00 to 1:00 PM)
- 55+ Coffee & Conversations (2nd & 4th Fridays of the month, 6:00 - 8:30 PM)

ABCD NORTH END & WEST END/ VILLA MICHELANGELO

- 1 Michelangelo St., Boston, MA (617) 523-8125**
Regular Hours (8:00 AM - 4:00 PM)
- Star Market Distribution (Mondays 10:15 - 11:30 AM)
- Down Memory Lane 1st & 3rd Tuesday 10:00 AM
- Food Pantry (Monday thru Friday)
- Coffee Drop-In (Monday thru Friday 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM)

The North End Senior Programming Coalition
These events are drop-in programs and are subject to change. For more information or if you have any questions.

umbria

Italian steakhouse
& mia

ROOF DECK

Bricco
Boutique Italian Cuisine
241 Hanover St. • 617.248.6800

Maré
Seafood & Oyster Bar
223 Hanover St., 3 Mechanic St. • 617.723.MARE

Quattro
Grill, Rosticceria & Pizzeria
266 Hanover St. 617.720.0444

AquaPazza
Oyster Bar & Italian Kitchen
135 Richmond St. • 857-350-3105

Trattoria Il Panino
Boston's 1st Original Trattoria
11 Parmenter St. • 617.720.1336

Assaggio
Positano Cuisine Restaurant • Lounge
29 Prince St. Boston • 617-865-1265

Umbria
Steakhouse & mia Roof Deck
250 Hanover St. • 617-868-1265

Dolce
Italian Cafe with 33 Flavors of Tiramisu
272 Hanover St.

Fratelli
Italian Fine Dining
617-420-8833

Frank and Nick's
The Italian Experience
617-770-3483

Giardino
Breakfast & Lunch
617-770-3360

North End Waterfront Residents Association (NEWRA) Monthly Meeting

The final NEWRA meeting before Summer break was held on Thursday, June 11, 2026 at the Nazzaro Community Center, 30 North Bennet Street.

District 1 Community Service Officer Michael Mustacchio gave an update on happenings around the neighborhood. There were only a couple of quality of life issues to report, including a DUI on North Washington Street, ongoing package theft issues and a sink hole at the intersection of Hanover/Richmond and Parmenter Streets, which has since been repaired.

FIFA events will be ongoing through July 9 while Sail 250 will conclude on July 14. As of present, there will be NO vehicular traffic shutdowns or street closures during the Tall Ship visits. There will be checkpoints on the waterside near Columbus Park and leading out to the waterfront viewing areas on Commercial Street and Atlantic Avenue. Please do not attempt to bring large bags or coolers through any of the checkpoints. There will also be an increase of police officers on each shift throughout the summer events. Many of the establishments have applied to extend closing hours during the FIFA World Cup, with the latest closing time of 3:00 a.m.

Chris Cook, Executive Director of the Rose Kennedy Greenway, gave an update of past and upcoming festivities. Surprisingly, during one of the worst winters in ten years, 32,000 people took a ride on the Greenway Ferris Wheel. There has been a fair amount of progress on the Italian Heritage Memorial, *Mani Forti*, at the Cross Street and Hanover Street area, with 50 artists responding to the city and expressing interest.

State Senator Lydia Edwards provided an overview of legislative initiatives and answered questions from the membership. Edwards spoke about the impact of DC’s budgetary cuts and loss of Federal funding and what it means to the state overall. A couple of initiatives she worked on were the Protect Act, which prevents National Guard members from another state coming into Massachusetts, a Good Landlord Bill, which allows property owners to take a credit if they keep the rent below market rate, and a state wide rent control ballot question compromise.

The owners of 169 North Washington Street, Chris Young and Jamie Russo, offered an overview of their proposed project to replace a single family residence and adjacent parking lot with two single family residences. The owners wanted to meet with NEWRA prior to filing for any permits or requesting zoning relief and will come back to the group in the fall with more details.

The last item on the agenda was 145 North Washington Street, the former Eastern Bakery Building. The reason for the property owners appearance in front of NEWRA was to solicit feedback as to what the neighborhood definitely does not want to see on the site, and what they would consider supporting. The feedback resulted in a No Hotel request, preserve the existing building and a plea to try and maintain commercial space on the ground level. The owner said he would be back again to meet with the group.

President Cheryl Delgreco of NEWRA wished everyone a safe and happy summer and reminded the group it will be a busy fall, with many agenda items coming in September and October.

The opinions expressed by our columnists and contributors are not necessarily the same as those of The Post-Gazette, its publisher or editor. Photo submissions are accepted by the Post-Gazette provided they are clear, original photos. There is a \$5 charge for each photo submitted. Photos can be submitted via e-mail: postgazette@aol.com. If you want your photos returned, include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.



In this special series of Nonna’s Recipe Box, we segue from A Seat at the Table to At the Head of the Table: Buona Festa del Papà. Once again, I will be sitting with the heart and soul of Boston’s North End, the people behind the establishments that have helped shape this remarkable neighborhood. As they share their stories, I will invite them to reflect on the Papas and Nonnos who crossed an ocean in search of opportunity, worked tirelessly to provide for their families, and laid the foundation for the traditions and communities we cherish today.

Few stories embody that legacy more than the Donnaruma family and the newspaper they built. More than 130 years ago, sixteen-year-old James V. Donnaruma arrived in Boston from San Valentino Torio, Salerno. What followed was the creation of *La Gazzetta del Massachusetts*, a newspaper that would later evolve into the *Post-Gazette* and become the voice of a growing Italian immigrant community.

For generations, the *Post-Gazette* has done far more than report the news. It has guided immigrants through the challenges of a new country, defended their rights, promoted local businesses, documented community events, and preserved the stories of the families who helped build Boston’s North End and Italian American communities throughout the Commonwealth and beyond. Following James’s passing in 1953, his son Caesar carried the family legacy forward alongside his wife, Phyllis, one of the nation’s first Italian American women publishers. Today, that tradition continues under the leadership of their daughter, Pamela Donnaruma, the third-generation publisher of the *Post-Gazette*.

As the writer of *Nonna’s Recipe Box* since 2019, I have had the privilege of sharing another part of that story, the recipes, memories, and traditions passed from one generation to the next. Because in Italian culture, food is not separate from life; it is life. Especially here in the North End, recipes are not simply followed, they are inherited, preserving not only the flavors of Italy, but also the stories and traditions carried across the ocean by those who came before us.

It seemed fitting that *At the Head of the Table* would begin within the pages of a publication dedicated to preserving the voices, traditions, and heritage of Italian Americans. Right here on Prince Street in Boston’s North End, I sat down with Pamela Donnaruma to reflect on the men whose vision and dedication helped build not only a newspaper, but a lasting record of the Italian American experience. So significant has that contribution been that every issue of the *Post-Gazette* has been preserved on microfilm by the University of Minnesota, ensuring that this remarkable history will endure for generations to come.

As I sat in Pamela’s office, I couldn’t help but take in the history that surrounded us. The walls were lined with photographs of her grandfather, James, her father, Caesar, her mother, Phyllis, and Pamela herself. Awards, citations, newspaper clippings, and decades of accomplishments filled every corner of the small space. It felt like stepping back in time into an old-fashioned newsroom, and I found myself imagining the printing presses running in the background.

Looking around, I said aloud, “It feels like the kind of place where the printing presses must have once been running.”

“*They were here,*” Pamela replied with a smile, recalling the days when the presses occupied the building.

Surrounded by generations of history and legacy, I began with a simple question.

“Your grandfather arrived here at just sixteen years old. Did he come to Boston with the dream of creating a newspaper?”

“No,” Pamela explained. *“It happened. He was friends with George Scigliano. He was an attorney who was deeply committed to helping and protecting Italian immigrants. He worked to end the padrone system and fought for laws that protect immigrants from dishonest banks. While my grandfather used the newspaper to advocate for local Italians, covering issues affecting the community, helping people find jobs, writing letters to Congress, supporting Italian American candidates, and always looking for ways to help Italians build lives here in America. Then he passed away, and my father took over.”*

As she spoke, I found myself looking up at



James Donnaruma



Caesar Donnaruma

“I never met my grandfather but my dad, he too liked helping people through the newspaper,” Pamela explained. *“He loved promoting and helping Italian businesses. He helped so many people. That’s what he liked to do.”*

One thing quickly became apparent during our conversation. Pamela is incredibly humble. Surrounded by more than a century of history, accomplishments, awards, and recognition, she seemed far more interested in talking about her family, the community, and the newspaper than about herself. In fact, I found myself having to dig for the stories behind many of the honors displayed throughout the office.

One article that caught my attention was a feature in *Boston Magazine*, which noted that the family’s North End newspaper, the *Post-Gazette*, had been recognized by the *Newseum* in Washington, D.C., as one of the oldest ethnic newspapers still in existence in the United States. The article reflected on how James Donnaruma founded *La Gazzetta del Massachusetts* in 1896, how Caesar and Phyllis carried the publication forward, and how Pamela assumed leadership in 1990, continuing a family tradition that has now spanned more than 130 years without missing a single issue.

The article also highlighted something that Pamela would later emphasize herself, her father’s gift for helping Italian businesses succeed at a time when discrimination was still commonplace.

Recalling one such moment, Pamela smiled. *“The last time I stopped at Piantedosi Baking Company, the owner looked at me and said, ‘We still have it hanging on the wall, that story your parents did on my father.’”*

She paused for a moment. *“Do you know how good that makes me feel when you see how big the Piantedosi company has grown?”*

From there, Pamela began talking about the newspaper itself.

“Years ago, she explained, the Post-Gazette was the only newspaper written entirely in Italian. Its reach extended far beyond Boston, serving readers throughout Rhode Island and across New England.

Then people moved, she said, reaching into a file cabinet and pulling out index cards filled with names and addresses. “But they wanted to take the paper with them because they still wanted to read about what was going on here.”

Smiling, she recalled some of her earliest memories of the family business.

“I was five years old, licking envelopes and putting labels on newspapers to be mailed to subscribers.”

More than half a century later, that tradition continues. Each week, the *Post-Gazette* is still mailed to loyal subscribers across the country, connecting generations of Italian Americans to the community, culture, and neighborhood they continue to call home.

Pamela went on to explain what she believes has allowed the *Post-Gazette* to endure for so many generations.

“I think the reason we’re not like the other papers and have stayed alive so long is because there’s a little bit of everything in it,” she said. *“There’s something for everyone, news, sports, travel...”*

“And recipes,” I quickly added with a smile.

That naturally led me to ask, “So when did the newspaper start running a recipe column?”

“Oh my God,” Pamela laughed. *“I’m trying to think who was before Vita. Vita came to me one day and asked if I would like a recipe column. Her family had a bakery here. Then she passed away, and we asked her family’s permission to keep running them.”*

As our conversation shifted to food, we began talking about the meals her mother prepared for her father.

“My mother worked, so Sunday was her big cooking day,” Pamela recalled. *“She made soup and gravy with all the meats. I remember I’d come home from school, dinner would go in the oven, we all ate together, and nobody left the table until everyone was finished.”*

When I asked what foods immediately brought her

At the Head of the Table: BUONA FESTA DEL PAPÀ

SPAGHETTI AGLIO E OLIO

Courtesy of Pamela Donnaruma
Owner/Publisher of Post-Gazette

*Sea salt, for pasta water
1-pound dried spaghetti (preferably bronze-cut semolina)
¾ to 1 cup or more extra-virgin olive oil
6 to 8 large garlic cloves, peeled and thinly sliced
Red pepper flakes, to taste
Freshly grated Parmigiano Reggiano cheese, for serving*

Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Add the spaghetti and cook until al dente.

While the pasta cooks, heat the olive oil in a large skillet over medium-low heat. Add the sliced garlic and cook gently until lightly golden, being careful not to burn it. Remove the cooked garlic and set aside. Stir in the red pepper flakes and cook for about 30 seconds.

Drain the spaghetti, reserving about 1 cup of the pasta water.

Add the spaghetti to the skillet and toss well to coat. If needed, add a splash of the reserved pasta water to help create a light sauce. Place the cooked garlic on top of the pasta. Serve immediately topped with freshly grated Parmigiano Reggiano cheese.

father to mind, Pamela smiled. The look in her eyes said everything. Even all these years later, it was clear how much she loved and respected him.

“My dad liked pasta. He liked greens,” she said. *“When dandelion greens were in season, he’d come home with big bags of them. My mother would clean them and make a salad with hard-boiled eggs and a simple oil and vinegar dressing. My dad loved that. He liked peasant foods—pasta, greens, just using a few simple ingredients.”*

She went on to describe another favorite dish her mother made for him. Being Genovese, he especially loved the stuffed eggplant her mother would make.

Then Pamela smiled again. *“And after every meal, no matter what it was, my dad finished with a cup of coffee with sugar and cream and Italian bread toasted and smothered with butter. He’d take the toast and dunk it right into his coffee, butter and all. That was his dessert. He loved it.”*

As we continued talking about food and family traditions, Pamela suddenly remembered another detail.

“Oh, and on Fridays, we only ate fish.” “So, your family followed the old Catholic tradition of no meat on Fridays all year long?” I asked, recalling a practice many older Italian families never abandoned.

Pamela nodded. When I asked whether her family attended St. Leonard’s Church, she smiled.

“My dad was Genovese and grew up on the Hill, so he favored St. Leonard’s. My mother preferred Sacred Heart.”

It was yet another reminder of how many old-world traditions remained woven into everyday life for Italian families in the North End.

As our conversation came to a close, I asked Pamela what recipe she would like to share in memory of her father, one that he loved and one that immediately brought him to mind.

Her answer came without hesitation. *“Aglio e Olio,”* she said. *“Just garlic, olive oil, red pepper flakes, pasta, and grated Parmigiano Reggiano.”* Simple. Humble. Unpretentious.

Much like the foods Caesar Donnaruma loved. Though Nonno James and Papa Caesar are no longer here, their legacy continues to live on through the pages of the *Post-Gazette* and in the customs they passed down. It lives on in the simple foods Caesar loved, a plate of *Aglio e Olio*, a salad of dandelion greens, or a cup of coffee with buttered toast at the end of a meal, and in the memories shared by his daughter, Pamela.

Because long after the headlines are read and the editions are filed away, it is family, tradition, and the moments shared around the table that endure. And perhaps that is the true legacy of the men we honor in *At the Head of the Table*, not merely the businesses they built, the newspapers they published, or the communities they helped shape, but the values they instilled, the traditions they preserved, and the memories they passed down, ensuring that a piece of them remains at every family table for generations to come.

2026 NORTH END FESTIVAL DIRECTORY

JUNE

ST. THERESA SOCIETY June 28
Mass St. Leonard Church 10:30 am
Procession – Hanover – Prince Sts. 1 pm

JULY

MADONNA DEL GRAZIE July 12
Mass St. Leonard Church 10:30 am
Procession – Hanover – Prince Sts. 2 pm

SAN ROCCO July 19
Italian Mass St. Leonard Church 10:30 am
Procession – Hanover – Prince Sts. 1 pm

ST. JOSEPH July 24, 25, 26
Mass Sunday, July 26 12 pm
Sunday Procession – Hanover – Prince Sts. 1 pm

AUGUST

ST. AGRIPPINA July 30, 31, August 1, 2
Hanover & Battery Sts. Opens 7 pm on Thursday
Sunday Procession 12 noon

MADONNA DELLA CAVA August 7, 8, 9
Hanover & Battery Sts. Opens 7 pm on Friday
Sunday Procession 1 pm

MADONNA del SOCCORSO August 13,14, 15, 16
North, Fleet & Lewis Sts. (Fisherman's)
Sunday Procession 1 pm - *Flight of the Angel* 8 pm

SAN GENNARO August 21, 22, 23
Mass Sunday, August 23, 12 pm

SANTA LUCIA August 27
Thursday, Feast & Procession 5 pm
Thacher & Endicott Sts.

ST. ANTHONY'S FEAST August 28, 29, 30
Endicott & Thacher, N. Margin Sts.
Sunday Procession 12 pm

SEPTEMBER

ST. ROSALIA di PALERMO TBA
Procession Only - North Square 1 pm

ADDITIONAL ITALIAN FESTIVALS

Gloucester, MA
SAINT PETER'S FIESTA June 24, 25, 26, 27, 28
Sunday Mass 10 am (Outdoor) - Procession 12 pm
For more details visit: <http://stpetersfiesta.org/>

Newton, MA
ITALIAN AMERICAN FESTIVAL July 15-19
St. Mary of Carmen Society
The Lake - Nonantum at Pelligrini Park

Malden, MA
SAINT ROCCO FESTIVAL August 7, 8, 9
Pearl Street, Malden, MA
Sunday Procession 1 pm

Lawrence, MA
FEAST of the THREE SAINTS *New Dates* Sept. 4-6
Saints Alfio, Filadelfo and Cirino
Sunday Procession 3 pm
Common & Union Streets, Lawrence

Cambridge Festival
SS COSMAS AND DAMIAN Sept. 10,11,12,13
Sunday Procession 1 pm
Warren and Cambridge St., Cambridge

Saint Charles of Sezze

by Bennett Molinari and Richard Molinari

Giancarlo Marchioni was born in Sezze, near Rome, Italy, on October 19, 1613 to the poor farmers Ruggero Marchioni and Antonia Marchioni. His mother — when he was a toddler — liked to dress him in a dark tunic with a cord and hood in honor of Francis of Assisi and Anthony of Padua

He worked on the farm as a shepherd to help his parents with the exhaustive workload. He made a private vow to remain chaste in 1630 and in 1633 fell ill to the point of near death, he pledged to join the Order of Friars Minor if he were to be healed of his ailment. His parents encouraged his call to become a priest, though he was a poor student and largely illiterate.

Marchioni was admitted into the order at the San Francesco convent in 1635 at Nazzano; he received the habit of the order on May 18, 1635. He later recounted that he did so out of a desire to live a poor life and to beg alms “for the love of Christ.” He again set his sights on the missions but poor health halted this dream.

He lived the life of a religious and never requested ordination to the priesthood. He made his solemn profession into the order



on May 19, 1636, and his religious name was “Carlo.” From 1640 to 1642 he was stationed at the convent of Saint John the Baptist at Piglio and at San Francesco at Castel Gandolfo. In October 1648, he attended Mass at the church of San Giuseppe a Capo le Case and a beam of light emanated from an elevated Host that pierced his side leaving a visible open wound.

Though he was not a priest, he was instructed to write the account of his life after his confessor requested it of him.

The result was *The Grandeurs of the Mercies of God*, which was well-read; he went on to write several other books. Though he kept himself under the guidance of a spiritual director he himself — though not a priest — was often sought for spiritual advice and even Pope Innocent X and Alexander VII sought him out for advice. In 1656, he tended to victims of cholera at Carpineto. On August 22, 1664, he was at San Pietro in Montorio when he fell ill with malaria and was taken to San Francesco a Ripa to recuperate; he recovered on August 30, after bed rest was prescribed to him. On July 28, 1665, he had a vision of Pope Victor I and Teresa of Ávila.

Pope Clement IX summoned him to his deathbed for comfort and a blessing not long before the two men died. In the first week of December 1669, the pope summoned him but the friar was ill so was taken to the pope on a chair. He greeted the pope: “Holy Father, how are you”? and the pope responded: “As well as God wants me to be.”

Present in the room was Cardinal Giacomo Rospigliosi and the friar asked him to bless the pope with a special relic he

(Continued on Page 11)

Alfred's Sicily

by Alfred M. Zappala

Whenever I return to Boston, I find myself drawn back to the North End.

Like many Italian Americans, I enjoy wandering its narrow streets, stopping at Mike’s Pastry, Modern Pastry, or Bova’s for a cannolo, and soaking in the history that seems to live around every corner.

A short walk away stands the Paul Revere House. Built around 1680, it is one of the oldest surviving buildings in Boston and a treasured piece of American history. A testament to our Founding Founders.

Not far from there is another landmark that always makes me smile: the statue honoring the late middleweight boxing champion Tony DeMarco, my friend and one of Boston’s most beloved sons.

Tony was proud of his roots in the Sicilian town of Sciacca.

I’ve had the privilege of walking the streets of Sciacca countless times.

I’ve admired the ceramic shops that seem to occupy every corner. I’ve stood along the harbor and watched fishermen bring in their daily catch much as their fathers, grandfathers, and great-grandfathers did before them. The rhythms of the town feel timeless.

And that’s when it struck me. For many Italian Americans, places like the North End feel old.

For Sicilians, places like Sciacca redefine the meaning of old.

If you brought the Paul Revere House to Sicily, it would certainly be respected and preserved. Same with Tony’s statue.

But in Giardini Naxos, just a few miles from my home, visitors can stand where Greek settlers established the first permanent colony in Sicily in 734 B.C.

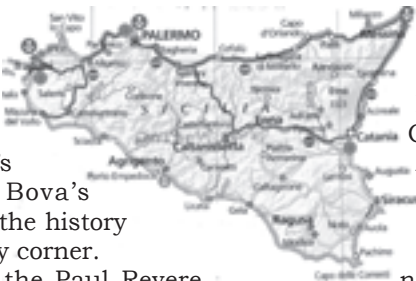
That settlement was already more than two thousand years old before the Paul Revere House was built. Or even before Massachusetts and Boston was established.

Americans and Sicilians simply measure time differently.

In America, a three-hundred-year-old building is extraordinary.

In Sicily, three hundred years may describe the age of a neighborhood church, a town square, or a family palazzo.

Alfred M. Zappala is a Sicilian-American author, attorney, educator, and co-founder of You, Me & Sicily. He has lived in Sicily for more than two decades and writes about Sicilian life, culture, history, and traditions. Learn more at www.YouMeAndSicily.com.



The island itself really is a giant lasagna. Layer upon layer of civilizations accumulated over thousands of years. Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Arabs, Normans, Swabians, Spaniards, and Italians all left their mark.

Each layer added something new without completely erasing what came before.

That is what makes Sicily unique. History is not confined to museums. It is woven into everyday life.



The port of Sciacca

You can drink coffee in the shadow of a Norman cathedral, drive past a Greek theater, walk through streets influenced by Arab urban planning, and finish your day in a thoroughly modern European city.

For Italian Americans, that realization can be surprisingly moving. Many of us grew up hearing stories about Sicily from parents and grandparents. We inherited memories of a place that most of us had never seen.

Then one day we arrive and we discover that the village our grandfather left behind is still there. The church is still there, the harbor is still there, the bells still ring, the fishermen still return with their catch.

The past is not gone. It simply continues alongside the present. Perhaps that is why so many Italian Americans feel an immediate connection when they visit Sicily.

The North End tells an important chapter of our story. Sicily tells the beginning.

And once you’ve stood in both places, you realize they are connected by much more than an ocean. They are connected deep in your heart.



**CRIME 101
(4K Ultra HD)
MGM**

When an elusive jewel thief (Chris Hemsworth) eyes the score of a lifetime, his path crosses that of a disillusioned insurance broker (Halle Berry) who is facing her own crossroads. Convinced he has found a pattern, a relentless detective (Mark Ruffalo) is closing in, raising the stakes even higher. As the heist approaches, the line between hunter and hunted begins to blur, and all three are faced with life-defining choices — and the realization that there can be no turning back.

**AFTER THE RAIN:
PUTIN'S STOLEN CHILDREN
COME HOME (DVD)
IndiePix Films**

A powerful and deeply human documentary that confronts one of the most harrowing humanitarian crises of the modern era. Set in a forest retreat on the Baltic Sea, the film follows a group of Ukrainian families as they begin the slow and painful process of healing after their children were illegally deported to Russia during the ongoing war. At the heart of the story are the children themselves — survivors of forced separation — who begin to rediscover trust and joy through animal-assisted therapy with golden retrievers and Palomino horses. In the hands of compassionate counselors, their trauma gradually unfolds, revealing the emotional and psychological toll of displacement, fear, and resilience. Captured are not only the quiet moments of recovery but also the families' unwavering determination to reclaim what was taken from them. The result is an intimate portrait of strength and renewal that connects personal healing with global accountability — the very atrocities that led to the International Criminal Court's arrest warrant for Vladimir Putin.

**DR. CLIFF:
WORLDWIDE VET (DVD)
IndiePix Films**

An inspiring and deeply personal documentary portrait of Canadian veterinarian Dr. Cliff Redford, whose boundless compassion and adventurous spirit have made him a global ambassador for animal welfare. Known affectionately as “Dr. Cliff,” Redford’s lifelong passion for animals began during childhood and led him to graduate from the prestigious Ontario Veterinary College in 1998. Only 18 months later, he purchased the Wellington Veterinary Hospital in Ontario, where he built a reputation for his veterinary expertise - along with his signature empathy and humor that comfort both pets and their owners. But Dr. Cliff’s mission extends far beyond the clinic. A tireless volunteer and humanitarian, he travels the world offering veterinary care to animals in need — from street dogs in Jamaica to wildlife rescues across Africa and Asia. Through his popular YouTube channel and podcast, *Dr. Cliff Worldwide Vet*, he shares these experiences to raise awareness, educate fellow veterinarians, and inspire kindness. His

motto, “Be Kind to Animals,” isn’t just a slogan, but the guiding principle behind his life’s work. In this documentary, his daughter Emily joins the doctor, as they face some of their most challenging rescues yet. After a young fox nearly dies in surgery, Emily and her father long to continue their wildlife rescue work and head back to India, where dogs, birds and monkeys face life-threatening danger during the celebration of Diwali, the Festival of Lights. **A YARD OF JACKALS (DVD)
IndiePix Films**

In the winter of 1978, under Chile’s dictatorship in Santiago, Raúl Peralta, a lonely, disabled architectural model maker, leads a quiet life, caring for his ailing mother and accompanied only by a pet canary. His routine is shattered by the arrival of new neighbors whose sinister activities seem to hide dark secrets. As Raúl desperately clings to the last vestiges of his sanity, his life becomes increasingly entangled with Guillermo, a mysterious man in dark glasses. Caught between personal loss and political terror, Raúl must confront the scars of repression and survival in this haunting psychological thriller about isolation, moral decay, and a mind fracturing under authoritarian rule. Director Diego Figueroa explained: The film’s script is inspired by real events, making it a work of fiction set in an historical period, with a solid foundation that supports and validates the events portrayed in the narrative. Since our viewpoint is that of an observer witnessing the atrocities happening next door, all information is conveyed through the prism of the protagonist. Every sound, image, and rhythm is aesthetically defined and expressed based on how the protagonist perceives them.

**THE INVINCIBLE EIGHT
(Blu-ray)
88 Films**

Before director Lo Wei helped Bruce Lee unleash his *Fists of Fury*, he established himself as a master of action with sword-play classics like this story of family and vengeance: eight warriors — amongst them Nora Miao and Angela Mao — ride out for revenge against the cruel general who killed all their fathers. With action arranged by the young genius Sammo Hung — who also appears in the film — *The Invincible Eight* is an undisputed classic of early Hong Kong action, now beautifully restored and presented on Blu-ray for the very first time.

**CRADLE OF FEAR –
COLLECTOR’S EDITION
(Blu-ray)
Unearthed Films**

Notorious child murderer Kemper (David McEwen) is hell-bent on exacting his revenge on the people who put him away, and from hid padded room in the local asylum, he commands “The Man” (Dani Filth) to slaughter the families of those responsible. Detective Neilson (Edmund Dehn), who’d had his own unpleasant run-in with Kemper, is faced with an increasingly large pile of mutilated bodies and tries to make some sense of the savagery.

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

**BLOCK PARTY
ON COTTAGE STREET THIS SUNDAY**

Nick Moulaison Sr., owner of Carmella’s Market in East Boston organized a BLOCK Party on Cottage Street this coming Sunday, June 28 from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m., between Maverick and Everett Streets. Nick says the idea is about bringing people together for a day of fun, friendship and community spirit. For more information just stop by the market or call Nick at 857-615-3763.

**34 BOTTLES OF BOOZE IN THE CAR,
34 BOTTLES OF BOOZE**

A Florida guy was recently arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence after a Florida Highway Patrol trooper stopped this driver for allegedly speeding more than 90 mph on Interstate 75 and discovered dozens of open alcohol containers inside the vehicle.

If he wasn’t driving so fast, he might have gotten away with it, but isn’t that exactly why people should not drink and drive. The only thing left to be decided is how drunk was he? I say 34 bottles of booze opened means he was flying high like Rocky in the ring, huh?

YOU GOT MY ORDER WRONG, TAKE THAT

Two Michigan sisters, including one nine months pregnant allegedly stabbed and threw hot oil at a restaurant worker after receiving the wrong order. A fight ensued and the two sisters were arrested for assault with the intent to murder for their beatdown of the server at ClickonDetroit. Maybe this place should be called BeatdownDetroit, huh?

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ROCKSTER JOEY DEE

Rock and roll singer Joey Dee just celebrated his 86th birthday on June 11. I just heard him singing one of his rock hits “Hey, Let’s Twist” on Sirius Radio earlier this week. His biggest hit “Peppermint Twist” was released by Joey Dee and the Starlites in 1958 and then re-released again in 1962. Big hit singers late ’50s into the ’60s.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO “HOTEL CALIFORNIA”

I cannot believe that the Eagles’ “Hotel California” turned 49 years old this year. In fact, back on June 4, 1977 , the song reached number 13 on the pop charts on rock and roll radio stations across the nation. Became an iconic hit for many in my generation.

**NOTHING GOOD EVER
HAPPENS AFTER MIDNIGHT**

Seems like both Governor Healey and Mayor Wu think that allowing bars and restaurants to

**ROSLINDALE FARMERS MARKET
RETURNS FOR NEW SEASON**



Once again, it is time for the Farmers Market return to Roslindale Square. The recent ribbon cutting celebration was well attended with elected officials and community folk. Kudos to Boston City Councilor Ruthzee Lovuijeune, City Councilor Enrique Pepen from District 5, and State Senator Mike Rush for helping to cut the ribbon opening up another summer of locally grown food shopping.
(Photo by Ann Cushing)

sell alcohol up to 3:00 a.m., during the World Cup festivities this summer is a win-win idea. Good for business and good for tax revenue .You can bet 3:00 a.m. bar closings won’t end when the soccer ball quits getting tossed around. Most bars and restaurants will keep the booze flowing later if allowed. I heard the City of Revere won’t be supporting the 3:00 a.m. closings. At least common sense prevailed there.

I was a sausage guy at Quincy Market for five years working with Johnny TwoDog across from the Black Rose and giving folks more time to drink up is a stupid idea. Eventually, you’ll see 3:00 a.m., closings become the new norm. As I said STUPID idea. Politicians say this is only a temporary measure but watch and see, that ain’t gonna happen.

American Legion Post 61 Revere

249 BROADWAY, REVERE

SUNDAY NIGHT CONCERT SERIES

*We are excited to announce our seven bands this year and also the return of the beer garden sponsored by the American Legion Post 61. BBQ and beer garden 5:00-7:00 p.m. (\$\$\$) and **concerts 6:00-8:00 p.m. FREE***

THE RADIO - JULY 5

A high-energy six-piece cover band plays top hits from artists like Aerosmith, Dua Lipa, The Rolling Stones, and Taylor Swift, delivering a lively, dance filled party experience.

WILDFIRE BAND - JULY 12

The WildFire Band is a high-energy five-piece cover band known for dynamic vocals and dance filled performances spanning artists from AC/DC to Lady Gaga.

TRIF3CTA - JULY 19

A high-energy trio of former Vinyl Groove members — John Kelly, Joy Balzotti, and Rickie Eric — delivers an upbeat mix of disco, pop, Motown classics, and current hits, creating a nostalgic, dance-filled experience from start to finish.

MEMORY LANERS - JULY 26

Memory Laners delivers feel-good, high-energy performances of ’50s–’70s doo-wop and classics

from artists like Louis Armstrong, Roy Orbison, The Everly Brothers, and Elvis Presley, getting audiences of all ages singing and dancing along.

VINYL ECHO - AUGUST 2

Vinyl Echo is a Boston-based six-piece band with male and female vocals playing classic rock, blues, and modern hits by artists like Rihanna, Neil Diamond, and The Ronettes for a high-energy dance show.

RICCO BARR - AUGUST 9

The Ricco Barr Band featuring the JJR Horns delivers a high-energy mix of classic hits, Motown, soul, disco, and tribute performances to artists like Frank Sinatra and Billy Joel.

DECADES OF ROCK - AUGUST 16

Decades of Rock is a six-member Revere-based cover band that delivers powerful rock hits across eras — from ZZ Top to Frank Sinatra — keeping audiences dancing all night.

• **News Briefs** (Continued from Page 1)

weekend’s violent clashes at the detention center.

The June 8 memo illustrates the jurisdictional mess at the facility. One Newark police officer unnamed has called the city’s actions “all political

theater here ... because it’s an ICE facility.”

End Quote

“I just didn’t connect the dots.”

— *Ex-60 Minutes reporter Scott Pelley*

“Pelley claims it never occurred to him that his vicious hostility toward his bosses ... risked getting him fired. He can’t be that complete an idiot ...”

— *NY Post Editorial Board*

Nanna & Babbononno

by John Christoforo

A Nostalgic Remembrance



To satisfy questions asked me, the title of my column is named after my mother’s parents, Mike and Jenny Contini. Dad’s side was a bit different and reflected the way most Italians of the day made it in America. He was born on Chelsea Street in East Boston on June 9, 1910, which would make him 116. (He only made it to 81, passing away in 1991). Dad’s parents were Maria Paglia DeCristoforo and Nunzio DeCristoforo.

On the Paglia side there is Spanish mixed with Italian. I don’t know much about my paternal grandmother’s side, only that they were not poor. My grandmother, Maria Paglia, came to America with her older brother, Frank, just before the turn of the 20th century. I do remember Dad talking about his mother’s side that came here, all living in either Medford and Malden.

My paternal grandfather, Nunzio DeCristoforo, was from Avellino and came here in the late 1800s on his own. He found work as a day laborer and continued working with a pick and shovel all of his working life. Unfortunately, he never learned to speak English very well and was illiterate in both English and Italian. In general, this means that opportunities were not coming his way and my father and his younger sister, Mary (Maria) grew up poor. At one point, Grandpa Christoforo moved the family to Rhode Island where he had family. He worked as a farmer for the length of time the family lived in the Ocean State, and when he had a bit of money saved, bought a house on Chelsea Street in East Boston, and that’s where Dad and Aunt Mary grew up. After they returned to Boston, Grandpa resumed working with a pick and shovel.

Dad, as a teenager, found odd jobs to make a bit of money to survive the streets of East Boston and discovered he was mechanically inclined. He attended East Boston High School and majored in their vocational offering, machine shop. He also developed an interest in music and studied violin, eventually switching to bass violin and tuba. He had a love for football and played for Eastie’s team in the late ’20s, but was too light to play the game beyond the high school level. After high school, he went to work for a steel works and helped put up the super structure of the Seville Building where the Seville Theater would be located. A generation later, I would work at the Seville for 10 years (1952-1962).

In his late teens, Dad became a professional musician, playing both bass violin and tuba with swing bands of the 1930s. As the ’30s progressed, he left his day job and went on the road with several bands at various points in time. He was working with a local band in 1932, and on a particular Saturday, they had a double header. There was enough time between the two jobs to have dinner and a brother team, both sax players, invited him home to have dinner

with their family. Their names were Paul and Nick Contini. At dinner, he met their parents, Mike and Jenny Contini and their sister, Angelina. Dad and Angelina or Anne, as she liked to be called, hit it off and they began dating, a circumstance that lasted for over three years. Finally, in 1936, they were married and moved to Allston where a lot of Boston musicians lived back then, and two years later, I came along. After I was born, my folks moved back to East Boston and took up residence with Mom’s parents, Nanna and Babbononno.

As a child, I didn’t know that Dad had parents. They were never mentioned. I did not meet my father’s side until one Sunday when I was 10 years old. I was never told the reason when I was a kid, but years later I found out the reason there was no communication. Grandma Christoforo, was upset that she didn’t pick the woman for her son to marry. I don’t know if this was an old Italian or Spanish tradition, but she and Grandpa didn’t approve of their son dating the daughter of a musician. As a result, they caused a lot of trouble and almost caused a breakup between Mom and Dad. As a result, Dad disassociated himself from his family, married Mom and accepted Nanna and Babbononno as surrogate parents. Things were resolved in 1948, but by then, Grandma Christoforo was quite sick and passed away two years later at a hospital on Long Island.

Dad belonged to the K of C in East Boston and I attended a Father and Son Mass with him one Sunday in 1948. Afterward, he told me we were going to my grandparent’s house. Normally, I attended the Children’s Mass at the Sacred Heart in East Boston and dropped by to see Nanna and Babbononno afterward. Dad drove to Chelsea Street and instead, parked near Santarpio’s. We walked into a nearby house and Dad knocked on a first floor door. As we entered, I saw a man who looked like Dad, same blue eyes and same black curly hair, but

he was a lot shorter. Dad said, “John, this is my father, your grandfather. A woman, sitting at the kitchen table called me to her side. She had long gray and black streaked hair and was dark skinned. Dad told me to say hello to his mother. I was in shock never thinking that my father had a set of parents, something I mentioned earlier.

I never got to know my father’s mother as her health problems would magnify and she would be hospitalized and then pass away within two years of that point in time. Grandpa tried to make up for lost time getting to know me, but it was too late. I was always respectful, but as far as I was concerned, Nanna and Babbononno were my grandparents.

I was just out of college when Grandpa became sick and had to be hospitalized and wound up in a nursing home in Winthrop. He had been a drinker all his life and had developed cirrhosis of the liver. When I was told the reason for Grandpa’s ailment, I also knew why Dad never drank. Grandpa passed away in the early ’60s. When I asked Dad about growing up on Chelsea Street in East Boston, he often abbreviated the stories. If I wanted more info, I would ask his sister, Aunt Mary. But, in the ’60s, she too was living with health problems, her husband’s, not hers. Her husband, Jim Dello Russo, developed terminal cancer and passed away leaving his wife and young son, my late cousin, James.

After the entire first generation was gone, Mom and I had a long talk one day and this column is a reflection of it. Looking back, I wish things had been different, but I have to accept the way things were. I learned many lessons from what I experienced as a kid, and they were especially important to the way Loretta and I brought up our two sons.

All I can say in retrospect is, “THANK YOU,” to my grandparents and my parents. I hope someday my sons will say the same thing.

GOD BLESS AMERICA

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Suffolk Probate and Family Court
24 New Chardon Street
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 788-8300
Docket No. SU26C0025CA
In the Matter of
ALONDRA ELIZABETH PINEDA ALFARO
CITATION ON
PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A Petition to Change Name of Minor has been filed by **Alondra Elizabeth Pineda Alfaro** of **Boston, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to **Alondra Elizabeth Alfaro Gonzalez**

IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Suffolk Probate and Family Court** before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/30/2026. 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. JANINE D. RIVERS**,
First Justice of this Court.
Date: May 29, 2026

Stephanie L. Everett, Esq., Register of Probate
Run Date: 06/19/2026

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF SALE
Notice is hereby given by **D & G Towing and Auto Repair Services, Inc., 2 Emery Road, Allston, MA**, pursuant to the provisions of Mass General Laws, Chapter 255, Section 39A, that they will sell the following vehicle(s) on **June 24, 2026 beginning at 10:00 AM** by public if no sale then by private sale to satisfy their garage keeper's lien for towing, storage, and notices of sale. The following motor vehicle(s) will be sold, "as is" condition, no keys.

2017 PORSCHE PANAMERA
VIN #: WP0AA2A79HL101010
2011 BMW 3 SERIES
VIN#: WBAPK5G51BNN28821
2016 HONDA CIVIC
VIN#: 19XFC2F57GE060858
2016 MERCEDES BENZ
VIN#: 55SWF4KB2GU115689

Vehicles are being stored at
D & G Towing and Auto Repair Services, Inc.
and may be viewed by appointment only.

Signed
D & G Towing
Run dates: 06/05, 06/12, 06/19/2026

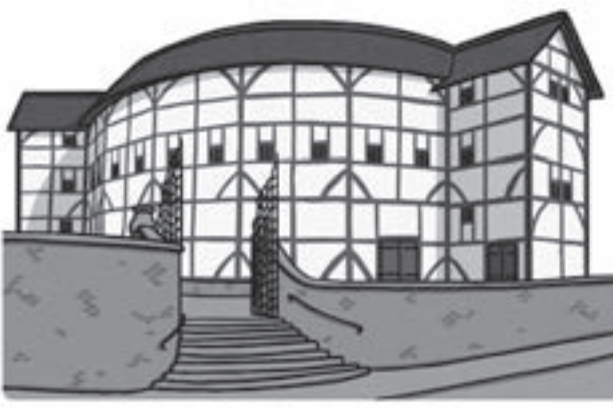
Ieri e Oggi

Yesterday & Today

A COLUMN OF PAST AND CURRENT EVENTS

by Bennett Molinari & Richard Molinari

The Globe Theatre



The Globe Theatre, originally built in 1599 by William Shakespeare’s playing Company the Lord Chamberlain’s Men, is one of history’s most celebrated playhouses. Designed as an open-air amphitheater, it could host up to 3,000 spectators and served as the premier venue for Shakespeare’s greatest plays.

The legendary theatre has gone through three distinct iterations, spanning from the Elizabethan era to the modern day:

The First Globe opened in 1599 in Southwark, on the south bank of the River Thames, using timber salvaged from their previous venue. It was an open-air, three-story wooden amphitheater measuring around 30 feet high, with a distinctive circular shape.

It brought all social classes together. The “groundlings” paid just a penny to stand in the yard (pit) around the stage, while wealthier patrons sat in the covered galleries. Performances began in mid-afternoon utilizing natural daylight. Flags were flown above the theater to advertise the genre: white for comedy, black for tragedy, and red for history.

On June 29, 1613, during a performance of *Henry VIII*, a theatrical cannon misfired and ignited the thatched roof. The entire wooden structure burned to the ground in under two hours, remarkably no one was killed.

The Second Globe (1614–1642)

The acting company quickly rebuilt the theater on the same foundation, opening the second Globe in 1614.

To prevent another disaster, the company used a safer tiled roof instead of thatch. The Theatre operated successfully until 1642, when the Puritan-led government closed all London theaters, deeming them immoral. The building was demolished in 1644.

In 1970, American actor and director Sam Wanamaker founded the Shakespeare Globe Trust to meticulously reconstruct the historic theater near its original Bankside location. It was rebuilt using traditional English timber-framing, lime-plaster, and a water-reed thatched roof.

To meet modern safety regulations, the capacity was limited to roughly 1,500 patrons. The modern Shakespeare’s Globe opened in 1997. The site also houses the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse, an indoor candlelit venue which opened in 2014.

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. SU26P1143EA
Estate of
ELEANOR M. FEENEY
Date of Death: February 18, 2026
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **James Feeney of Marlborough, MA**. **James Feeney of Marlborough, 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.

From the Law Office of
Minasian & Aziz, Attys., P.C.
127 South Broadway
Lawrence, MA 01843
Run date: 06/19/2026

ST. JUDE AND ST. ANTHONY NOVENA

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the hopeless, pray for us. St. Anthony, most loving protector and wonder worker, pray for us. Say this prayer 9 times a day and, by the 8th day your prayer will be answered. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised. My prayers have been answered. Favor received.

T.M.S.

Remember Your Loved Ones



The Post-Gazette accepts memorials throughout the year.

Please call
617-227-8929

THOUGHTS BY DAN

ABOUT THIS & THAT

with Daniel A. DiCenso

The Ascension of Ulysses S. Grant



It is amazing how much a construed perception, even if with elements of truth, can become an accepted narrative, scrutiny and reevaluation not even considered. In the case of Ulysses S. Grant and his placement in the canon of United States Presidents, how it happened is less surprising that it happened at all.

Throughout the 20th century and even early in the 21st, Grant was consistently found just above the bottom of presidential rankings, just above Hoover and Harding. And yet, looking at the man's last years, such a standing would seem inconceivable. This is not only because he led the Union Army to victory. In fact, a common and uncontested talking point I myself was thought in history class was that the North the Civil War *in spite of* Grant's leadership. The root of such reading is not hard to see. Lee's first mistake, after all, was simultaneously underestimating Grant and overestimating his own troops, but to suggest that Grant was a man unprepared and unschooled in military science is wrong on many levels.

Rather, Grant's greatest esteem came before and post-presidency. Certainly, Mark Twain thought Grant worthy of commemoration, encouraging him to chronicle his life in his later years. The result was *Personal Memoirs of Ulysses S. Grant*, a two-volume introspection published by Twain himself in July 1885. Within weeks of the publication, Grant succumbed to throat cancer. His funeral was attended by veterans of both the Union and Confederate armies; such was he respected as the man who lived up to Lincoln's vision of Reconstruction "with malice toward none".

And then, in the early 20th century, Grant's reputation suffered an unprecedented blow. It's true that his presidency was marred by scandal and corruption seeing both the resignation of his personal secretary General Orville E. Babcock, who cheated the federal government out of millions in liquor excise taxes, in a collusion with distilleries that would come to be known as the Whiskey Ring and the dishonorable resignation of his Secretary of War William W. Belknap to avoid impeachment for the Indian Trading Post Scandal. But Grant himself was never implicated in these or other embarrassments (such as the creation of a faux railroad company intended to inflate the cost of railway construction). If anything, his greatest

failing in these regards was his unrelenting insistence in seeing the best in people and his deliberate blindness to the darker impulses of his associates.

It's possible that Grant's legacy, with his unwavering commitment to loyalty and honor, could have survived even this scandalous presidency had not a renaissance for the Lost Cause of the Confederacy plagued the early decades of the 20th century. Groups like United Daughters of the Confederacy played no small role in defaming Grant in their overall vandalism of history, overemphasizing his scruffy appearance, his alcoholism and turbulent years in office.

As time has shown, it is dangerous to underestimate the reach of such campaigns. As Daniel L. Fountain, history professor at Meredith College, observed, "The UDC relentlessly lobbied legislatures for public school textbooks that presented a pro-Confederate version of regional history and successfully blacklisted other books. By targeting the region's middle- to upper-class children, they ensured an army of future teachers and leaders would carry forward and defend their message for decades to come. Embedding their version of Confederate history into the sacred spaces of Southern society (the home, cemeteries, churches, city squares, street names, colleges and schools) made erasing it physically difficult and personally painful."

With the advent of film, television and ultimately the internet the influence of such teachings extended beyond the South. This tied in with a biography of Major General Henry Halleck, Lincoln's Chief of Staff during the war, by Stephen Ambrose published in 1962, who had reservations about Grant's skill early on but later grew to respect his approach to battle, all but ruined Grant's standing by the latter half of the 20th century, reducing the hero of the Civil War to something of a failed chump in the public eye.

If there was a shift in the consensus toward Ulysses S. Grant I was largely unaware of it until Siena College Research Institute updated its presidential ranking in 2022. Grant came in at 22, just making the top half of the list. Since the 2010 ranking, Grant began rising in rank to a firm mid-tier.

Undoubtedly, increased awareness of the historical distortions of groups like the UDC is partially responsible. Nonetheless, I became suddenly intrigued by the man who I had learned to think of as at best an unlikely war hero. His memoirs proved the real eye-opener in a way a self-serving autobiography could never be. The humility and empathy present throughout the massive work is of the sort that cannot be faked. What emerged was not the shabby drunk who unwittingly led the troops to victory but rather a dignified humanitarian whose legacy far extends the war.

Reconstruction proved a battle in itself and it is hard to



imagine any president would have navigated it with ease. Nonetheless, Grant's initiatives in the decade following the Civil War are worthy of consideration.

Grant, for his part, made a genuine effort to help the former Confederate states build their way back up into the Union. This would manifest itself, however, in a way many of the former enemy soldiers he was trying to make amends with would come to resent. The passage of the 15th Amendment, one of Grant's first orders of business upon taking office in 1868, guaranteed every male citizen the right to vote regardless of race or former status.

Indeed, as willing as Grant was to forgive former traitors he was as quick to stomp put any emerging threat to the Union. Born out of Southern resentment, the Klan was the most violent stoker of lingering aggression. Spurred by the rising violence toward Blacks and Union sympathizers, Grant established the Justice Department in 1870. For the first few years of its existence the Department's focus was the eradication of the Klan. Within two years, the hooded spooks had been annihilated.

As Frederick Douglas observed after Grant's death, "When red-handed violence ran rampant through the South, and freedmen were being hunted down like wild beasts in the night, the moral courage and fidelity of Gen. Grant transcended that of his party."

His response to the escalating violence toward Native Americans during his presidency may not hold up as well, but it must be remembered that it came at a time when calls for tribal extermination from members of Congress. As Ron Chernow wrote in his biography of Grant, "Whatever its shortcomings, Grant's approach seemed to signal a remarkable advance over the ruthless methods adopted by some earlier administrations."

Grant flatly stated, "A system which looks to the extinction of a race is too horrible for a nation to adopt without entailing upon itself the wrath of all Christendom." His solution, transferring tribes to reservations, would bring its own set of problems, many of

(Continued on Page 11)

Easy-Care

Patriotic Container Gardens

by Melinda Myers



A container garden planted with the Lady Liberty Mix of Soiree Kawaii vincas. (Photo courtesy of Suntory Flowers)

above any water that collects in the bottom. Dress it up a bit by covering the surface with decorative moss or mulch.

Give your containers of herbs and tropical plants a festive touch with some additional color. Place red, white and blue bandanas or placemats under these pots and your place settings.

Welcome guests with a few stars painted on the lawn with grass safe marking chalk spray. Just create cardboard stencils and head out to the lawn. Check the label of the paint you select to make sure it is safe to use on grass plants.

As you gather with friends and family, take some time to celebrate the contributions by individuals and organizations that have been instrumental in the creation and preservation of our democracy. It is also a chance to look forward to the future we want to create.

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

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO26A0142AD
CITATION
G.L. c. 210, § 6
In the matter of
ORION EVEREST BLANK
To: any unnamed or unknown parent and persons interested in a petition for the adoption of said child and to the Department of Children and Families of said Commonwealth.
A petition has been presented to said court by: Alexandra Jennifer Shryock Blank of Millville, MA, Robert Avery Squires, Jr. of Millville, MA requesting for leave to adopt said child and that the name of the child be changed to shall remain the same.
IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT: WORCESTER ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING (10:00 AM) ON: AUGUST 04, 2026.
Witness, HON. KATHRYN M. BAILEY, First Justice of this Court.
Date: May 28, 2026
Stephanie K. Fattman, Register of Probate
Run dates: 06/05, 06/12, 06/19/2026

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. SU09P2701EA
Estate of
SOO YEN CHOW
Date of Death: January 20, 2009
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Wing P. Chow of Newton, MA.
Wing P. Chow of Newton, 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: 06/19/2026

• Father’s Day (Continued from Page 1)

needs of their families ahead of their own.

Despite their importance, Father’s Day traditionally does not receive the same level of attention as other holidays. Greetings card sales are lower, fewer gifts are purchased, and many people struggle to decide how to celebrate. Perhaps it is because fathers are often viewed as quiet figures who did not ask or seek recognition. But their contributions to family life are no less meaningful and their love and devotion deserve appreciation.

The origin of Father’s Day date back to the early 20th

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 **July 13, 2026** by public or private sale to satisfy a lien for towing, storage, and all other fees due.

2008 NISSAN ALTIMA
Vin #1N4AL21E78C281408

2009 HONDA ACCORD
Vin #1HGCP26829a093386

2005 LEXUS ES
Vin #JTHBA30G355109212

2001 NISSAN MAXIMA
Vin #JN1CA31A41T105047

2010 HONDA NHX110
Vin #LWBJF1905A1004879

2010 INFINITI G37
Vin #JN1CV6AR2AM251940

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

Run dates: 06/19, 06/26, 07/03/2026

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Todisco Services, Inc., with its corporate office located at **147A Summit Street, Peabody, MA 01960**, under the provisions of Mass G.L.c.255, Section 39A, will sell the following vehicles on or after **July 06, 2026** by public or private sale to satisfy a lien for towing, storage, and all other fees due.

2005 CHEVROLET MONTE CARLO
Vin #2G1WW12E159200575

2007 INFINITI G35
Vin #JNKBV61F47M816422

2014 HYUNDAI ELANTRA
Vin #KMHDH6AH0EU024134

2002 NISSAN ALTIMA
Vin #1N4AL11DX2C249299

2002 YONGFU YN50QT
Vin #LL0TCAPH7NG012883

2023 SUBARU IMPREZA
Vin #4S3GTAV61P3714608

2010 MERCURY MILAN
Vin #3MEHM0JG7AR661690

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

Run dates: 06/12, 06/19, 06/26/2026

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 **June 27, 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:

2007 FORD E350, GOLD
Vin #1FBSS31L67DB35889

2015 HONDA CR-V, BLACK
Vin #5J6RM4H3XFL028570

2004 LEXUS ES, BLACK
Vin #JTHBA30G545037606

2005 HONDA ELEMENT, GREEN
Vin # 5J6YH18615L014550

2007 TOYOTA PRIUS, RED
Vin #JTDKB20UXX77584569

2011 HONDA ODYSSEY, GRAY
Vin #5FNRL5H68BB058379

2009 CHEVROLET AVEO, BLUE
Vin #KL1TD56E39B658311

2005 KIA SPECTRA, RED
Vin #KNAFE122155124947

2025 MOPED, RED
Vin #H72T8CNFXR1006211

Run dates: 06/12, 06/19, 06/26/2026

century, when Sonora Smart Dodd of Washington state sought to honor her father, a Civil War veteran who raised six children after his wife died. Her efforts eventually led to the establishment of a national holiday, officially recognized in 1972. The purpose was simple: to acknowledge the love, sacrifice, and dedication of father’s everywhere.

A father’s influence extends far beyond childhood. The lessons he teaches about honesty, responsibility, hard work, faith and perseverance often remain with his children for a lifetime. Many adults still hear their father’s words of wisdom echoing in their minds decades later.

Father’s Day does not require extravagant gifts or expensive dinners. Sometimes, the greatest gift is simply spending time together, sharing memories, making a phone call expressing gratitude. Or those whose fathers have passed away, the day provides an opportunity to reflect on cherished moments and honor their legacy.

This Father’s Day, let us remember the men who shaped our lives. Whether they are fathers, grandfathers, step-fathers, or father figures, they have earned more than a passing acknowledgement. They deserve our gratitude, our respect, and our love — not just on one Sunday in June, but throughout the year. After all, father’s may not ask for much, but they deserve to know they are appreciated and remembered.

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. MI26P2941EA

Estate of
ROSALIE SAVIGNANO
Also known as:
ROSALIE M. SAVIGNANO

Date of Death: December 25, 2025

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Regina M. Savignano of Roslindale, MA** and **Dolores A. Savignano of Arlington, VA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Regina M. Savignano of Roslindale, MA** and **Dolores A. Savignano of Arlington, VA** 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 07/06/2026.

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: June 11, 2026

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate
Run date: 06/19/2026

• Pension Funds (Continued from Page 1)

Massachusetts for the benefit of early stage or growth stage companies domiciled or having significant operating presence in the Commonwealth,” Section 104 of Healey’s bill states.

Of deep concern to each of the fund representatives is the lack of a mechanism requiring the monies to be returned back to pension fund. “There does not appear to be any mechanism to return the original principle to the pension fund, let alone guarantee a reasonable return on investment,” SEIE and NAGE

• Saint Charles of Sezze (Continued from Page 7)

carried but the pope wanted the frail friar to bless him and so he did. Clement IX asked when the two would meet again and the friar told him it would be on the feast of the Epiphany to which those present thought the pope would get well and the two would meet in a month. But

wrote in their letter to Governor Healey.

The Executive Office of Economic Development disputes the unions summarization of the pending legislation, saying that it “does not transfer the pension funds to economic development grant making purposes,” but does “contemplate a market rate investment in a new, professionally managed fund with a focus on Massachusetts companies. The intent is to generate returns for beneficiaries

the Pope died on December 9, and people questioned how the friar was wrong though after the friar died on the Epiphany itself it was realized the pope would greet him as a friend in Heaven thus the two met again.

On December 3, 1669, he was forced to his bed due to

• Thoughts by Dan (Continued from Page 10)

which continue to this day. It is not inconceivable, however, to believe that at the height of the Indian Wars, reservations seemed the only way to ensure an end to the violence. He would appoint Ely S. Parker, of the Tonawanda Seneca Nation, as his Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

“Grant saw absorption and assimilation as a benign, peaceful process, not one robbing Indians of their rightful culture,” Chernow wrote. It goes without saying that Grant’s vision was not the typical outcome, Native Americans being denied full citizenship until almost

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. MI26P2867EA

Estate of
GARY W. ALPAUGH

Date of Death: January 07, 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 **Kimberly S. Alpaugh of Watertown, 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: **Kimberly S. Alpaugh of Watertown, 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 07/10/2026.

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

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

Witness, HON. TERRI L. KLUG CAFAZZO, First Justice of this Court.
Date: June 12, 2026

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate
Run date: 06/19/2026

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. MI26P2630GD

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

In the interests of
MAJESTIE L. BUFORD
of Chelmsford, MA
Minor

NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

1. Hearing Date/Time: A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on **05/20/2026** by **Crystal D. Pahlm** of Chelmsford, MA will be held **08/27/2026 08:30 AM Review Hearing** Located **Lowell Justice Center Courtroom 13 370 Jackson Street Lowell, MA 01852**

2. Response to Petition: You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to:
File the original with the Court; and
Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

3. Counsel for the Minor: The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.

4. Counsel for Parents: If you are a parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you have a right to be represented by an attorney. If you want an attorney and cannot afford to pay for one and if you give proof that you are indigent, an attorney will be assigned to you. Your request for an attorney should be made immediately by filling out the Application of Appointment of Counsel form. Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard.

5. Presence of the Minor at Hearing: A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor’s best interests.

Date: May 28, 2026

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate
Run date: 06/19/2026

while supporting innovation and economic growth in the Commonwealth.”

The Healey administration said they appreciate feedback offered by NAGE and will continue to keep the lines of communication open. The legislation was recently taken up by the Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies on May 19, and has until July 18 to vote on whether to kill the bill or advance the legislation.

pleurisy. On January 6:1670, he passed away in the convent attached to San Francesco a Ripa in Rome; he was buried in that church, where a chapel dedicated to his name still contains his remnants.

The Feast day of Saint Charles of Sezze is January 6.

or even Grant, had his own writings been widely rediscovered, could have done. Grant, after all, was the first to sell himself short. In his farewell address to Congress in 1876, Grant, humbled by the scandals that shook his presidency, said, “Mistakes have been made, as all can see and I admit. But I leave comparisons to history, claiming only that I have acted in every instance from a conscientious desire to do what was right, constitutional, within the law, and for the very best interests of the whole people. Failures have been errors of judgment, not of intent.”

Perhaps, historian Elliot Drago summed it up best, “History is as complicated as the men who make it. The story of Ulysses S. Grant is no exception. For all of his pre-war failures, Ulysses S. Grant achieved his greatest successes both by presiding over those moments in which Americans rediscovered their founding principles and by fighting for those moments in which Americans became Americans once again.”

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 **June 29, 2026** by public or private sale to satisfy a lien for towing, storage, and all other fees due.

2012 JEEP LIBERTY
Vin #1C4PJMAK9CW186075

2023 HONDA CRV
Vin #2HKRS4H70PH414693

2017 FORD ESCAPE
Vin #1FMCU9GD5HUE27575

2010 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER
Vin #5JDBK3EH1AS020050

2007 BMW 328i
Vin #WBAWB33547PV70580

2011 CHEVROLET EXPRESS
Vin #1GB3G3CGXB1164358

2017 TOYOTA CAMRY
Vin #4T1BF1FK6HU644169

2013 NISSAN ROGUE
Vin #JN8AS5MV9DW104382

2012 VOLKSWAGEN CC
Vin #WVWMP7AN8CE536640

2007 HONDA CRV
Vin #5J6RE48317L018833

2007 KIA SPECTRA
Vin #KNAFE122875459271

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

Run dates: 06/05, 06/12, 06/19/2026



EXTRA Innings



by Sal Giarattani

Worst Start Ever Reminds Me of Early '60s

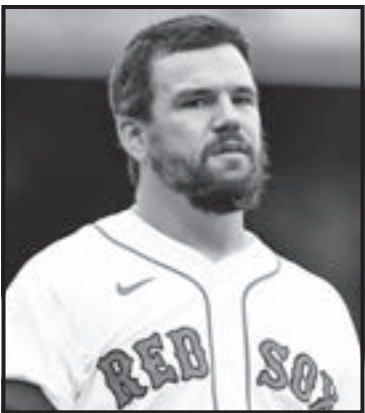
Where we are, it is June 15 and as things stand now, the Red Sox might be off to its worst season since I was 13 or 14 years old. At least, back then we got what we paid between 90 cents to \$1.25 for a bleacher seat. Right field grandstand seats a mere \$2.50. As of June 15, the Sox are holding up the whole AL East with a 29-40 W-L record.

This past Sunday against the Rangers, Early pitched a not so great game, lasting only 4.2 innings and giving up 6, count ‘em, SIX earned runs. And he’s one of our best starters. Meanwhile, Nathan Eovaldi seems to have our number. He pitched 7 innings and is now 6-7 on the year. We should have never let him go.

Ugly start of the season is an understatement. The team is now 13.5 games behind the

Yankees currently holding on to first place. The Sox are 12-22 at the friendly skies of Fenway. At least back in the old days of lousy teams and cheap seats, the Sox could always look good at home. Not this year. Thanks again to John Henry.

Why Didn’t We Keep Kyle Schwarber?



Same old story here. We had Kyle Schwarber until we let him get away. He has hit 211

homers in his first five seasons with the Phillies. Babe Ruth hit 235 in his first five years with the Yankees and Mark McGwire hit 220 during his 5 years with the Cardinals. Overall, Kyle has hit 364 homers in his career and is eighth among active players.

Boston acquired Schwarber half way through 2021 on July 21. He spent only that half season with the Sox and the Red Sox seemingly chose J.D. Martinez over him at the end of the season and let him get away. In his brief stay here, he played 41 games and 11 more in post season. He hit 7 homers, with 31 RBI with a .291 average. He left during free agency when the Phillies signed him to a 4-year deal worth \$79 million and the rest is history. The Red Sox seem to always find great ways to screw up. Nothing new for BoSox fans to see here, right?

North End Athletic Association’s Midnight Riders Sweep Mayor’s Cup Championships



With the Banner 1st/2nd Grade Boys with Championship Rings and Coach



Coach addressing the team after the win

The N.E.A.A.’s North End Midnight Riders lacrosse program enjoyed another big success with championship victories in both the 1st/2nd Grade Boys and 3rd/4th Grade Boys divisions at the inaugural Mayor’s Cup Lacrosse Tournament hosted by the City of Boston.

The double championship marks a significant achievement for the North End community, bringing two Mayor’s Cup titles back to the neighborhood and showcasing the continued growth of youth lacrosse in the area. The tournament brought together teams from five Boston neighborhoods, providing young athletes with an opportunity to compete, develop their skills, and celebrate the sport of lacrosse.

Leading the way for the Midnight Riders was the 3rd/4th Grade Boys team, which captured its division championship with a perfect 3-0 record. The team defeated Parkway, 9-5, in the championship game, and with the game hosted in the North End, the players were able to celebrate the title on their home field.

The 1st/2nd Grade Boys team also claimed a championship with a thrilling 9-7 comeback

victory over Charlestown in the final. Having come up short against the Townies twice earlier in the season, the team’s victory was a testament to the tremendous improvement, confidence, and teamwork they developed over the course of the season.

Beyond the results on the field, the Mayor’s Cup served as a celebration of the continued growth of the Midnight Riders lacrosse program and youth sports throughout the City of Boston.

Thank you to the City of Boston, Mayor Michelle Wu, the Boston Parks and Recreation Department, the North End Athletic Association, N.E.A.A. Lacrosse Commissioner Paolisso, and all of the volunteers, coaches, parents, and supporters who made the season possible. Their commitment to providing opportunities for young athletes continues to strengthen both the sport of lacrosse and the North End community.



Players receiving their rings

HOOPS and HOCKEY in the HUB



by Richard Preiss

We are in the middle of June, perhaps this writer’s favorite month, the one where the bad weather of the past is truly past and the true summer days of warmth and elongated daylight descends across the land and make way for a very satisfying presence.

It was a very long time ago in the lower grades that the class read a lovely comment about the month of June by a British writer.

We don’t remember the author’s name, nor do we remember the exact quote. But it went something like this:

*“What is so rare as a day in June
When Heaven cry to earth if it be in tune
And wherever we look and wherever we listen
We hear life murmur and see it glisten.”*

June should be a time of enjoyment for all and of creating lifetime positive memories for many. When yours truly sees how many commencement ceremonies across this land are truly interfered with by those who wish to display their feelings towards contemporary and world events through chanting and marching — thus ruining a lifetime highlight for others and showing no regard for their fellow graduates.

Numerous decades ago at one of my commencements, a single graduate chose to wear an ancient Roman-style toga, rather than traditional commencement attire. I remember someone saying that he would remember his choices that day for the rest of his life — and in a way that would bring lines of sorrow across his face.

So, we wonder how those chanting and protesting at commencements in June 2026 will feel about their actions in 2056, 2066 and 2076.

Just as June is a time for commencements, June is also the time of conclusions for the professional winter sports teams.

We congratulate the New York Knicks on their first NBA Championship season in 53 years.

In truth, we had a feeling all along that the Knicks were peaking at just the right time. The Knicks seemed that way to us as we watched them through the latter stages of the regular season and then as the playoffs commenced. A title was not a given but the Knicks did seem to be destiny darlings as the playoffs progressed. One of the benefits will be seeing the Knicks a bit more often in the Garden since both the Celtics and New York are in the Eastern Conference.

In addition, the city of Salem should take some pride as well since the Brunson family moved there when Rick was in middle school. He won a state high school championship there and was named a McDonald’s All-American.

He played nine seasons in the NBA. The Knicks hired him as an assistant. His son Jalen is the captain of the team.

Turning to hockey, there was a major disappointment for us as Bruce Cassidy, the former head coach of the Bruins, was fired by the Vegas Golden Knights with eight games to go in the regular season. There was no doubt that Vegas was lagging a bit at that point and that the team went 7-0-1 to close the regular season. There followed an improbable road to the NHL Finals where they lost to the Hurricanes.

Still the image of Cassidy being hurt twice — once by the Bruins and later by the Knights did not go over well with us.

Cassidy took the B’s all the way to the 2019 Stanley Cup Final (the one where Zendo Chara played Game Seven with a broken jaw)

For the 2019-2020 season he received the Jack Adams Award as the best coach during the regular season. Cassidy was fired by the Bruins in June, 2022, was named the Vegas coach eight days later and led them to the 2023 Stanley Cup Championship.

Again it is ironic that both local winter sports teams — the Bruins and the Celtics — wound up essentially where most felt they would.

Bruins management said on Media Day back in October, 2025 that if the team stayed healthy it could make the playoffs. Well, the Bruins did make the playoffs and then were eliminated in the first round.

A similar forecast was made for the Celtics: win around 40 games and qualify for the playoffs. It was, of course, the Celtics that shocked everyone by winning so many regular season games. But then they also were eliminated in the first round of the playoffs, making the prediction of that October day turn into a reality.

Soccer Fans Loving Massachusetts Hospitality

It’s a soccer fan love fest in Boston and throughout Massachusetts. Soccer fans from around the world are embracing the love and hospitality of Bostonians, Bay State businesses and residents, describing a “beautiful” environment.

From Scotland to Norway to Haiti, visitors and fans are thrilled to be part of such a welcoming atmosphere, including Fenway Park where the visitors loudly and enthusiastically joined in the traditional singing rendition of *Sweet Caroline*.

Not only are the soccer fans taking in the games in Foxboro, they are also handing the state a solid economic boon, with many bars and establishments running out of beverages like Sam Adams Taproom and Hennessey, not to mention that the FIFA Fan Festival at Boston City Hall Plaza, free admission, has sold out pre-registration three times, including Friday, June 19 when the U.S. plays in its match against Australia.

Welcome to Massachusetts!