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**A Very Merry Christmas
to our Readers and Advertisers
from the staff of the Post-Gazette**



St. Agrippina's 27th Annual Christmas Program



St. Agrippina's membership held its 27th annual Christmas Program for North End children on Sunday December 11th. The program once again, was a huge success! Santa Claus arrived at St. Agrippina's Chapel via fire engine with plenty of toys for all the good boys and girls. There were many families anxiously waiting for his arrival, while holiday music played. Santa Claus took an individual picture with each child, gave him or her an age appropriate gift, a balloon and a gift bag filled with school supplies and candy treats

for many children. The Boston Celtics Dancers made a special guest appearance to help Santa Claus! A very merry good time was had by everyone that attended.

The membership would like to thank the following for their continued support of the program. The VFW Post 144 North End, Bencotto Restaurant, Mikes Pastry, Umberto's Pizzeria, North End Fire Station, Balloons Over Boston, Hill Side Press and The Boston Celtics.

The membership of St. Agrippina's Society is very proud of our annual Christmas Program for North End Children. Our membership would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday. We thank everyone for their participation and we look forward to seeing everyone at our next annual feast. Viva St. Agrippina!!!!!!!!!!!!

News Briefs

by Sal Giarratani

Democrats Faux Support for Lawrence O'Donnell?

According to a most recent fundraising email from Ameripac, a Democrat PAC founded by U.S. Rep. Steny Hoyer back in 1992 is now in full support of the Lawrence O'Donnell Show on MSNBC. It appears all of MSNBC's primetime lineup weeknights are having big time poor ratings and Democrats are now blaming GOP attacks for MSNBC's tanking ratings.

Texas Democrat Rips Biden

A border state House Democrat ripped Biden last week for not showing enough urgency about the immigration crisis at the southern border claiming the situation is getting more and more out of control.

U.S. Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-TX, told CNN that communities in southern Texas could soon be overwhelmed by migrants crossing the Rio Grande and that the president needs to "show up" at the border.

Says Cuellar, "I don't know why they keep avoiding the border and saying there are ... more important things than visiting the border, if there is a crisis, just show up."

Journal Taps New Top Editor

The Wall Street Journal has announced that Emma Tucker will be the next Editor-in-Chief, the first woman to lead the 133-year-old newspaper. She is 56 years old and a veteran journalist from the UK and will succeed Matt Murray who held the job since 2018. Tucker will take over on February 1, 2023, and Murray will work with Tucker during a transition period until March 1st. Tucker will also oversee Dow Jones Newswires and has served as editor of the *Sunday Times*, another News Corp publication.


(Continued on Page 12)



Stirpe Nostra

by Prof. Edmund Turiello

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



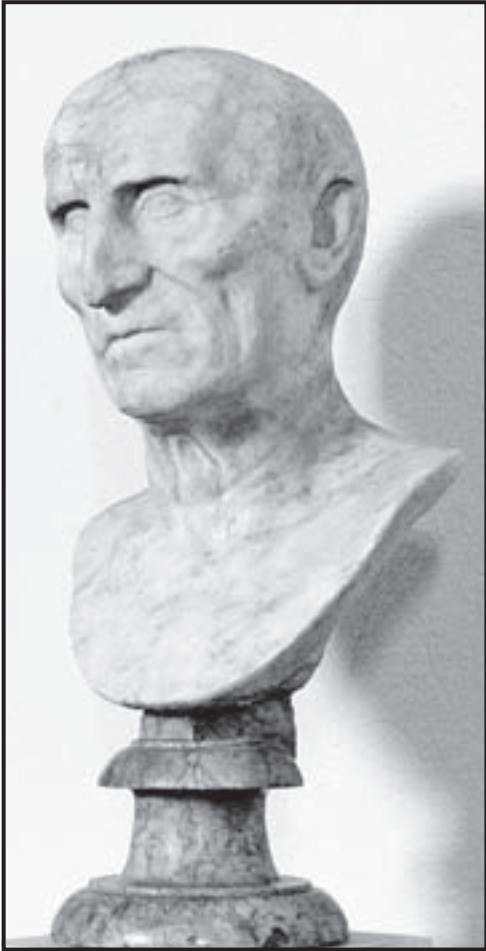
GALBA THE NIBBLER

During a period of less than two years, there were three unfortunates, or “pagliacci,” that served as emperor of the Roman world after the death of Nero. The first of these men was Servius Galba. He was born in the year 3 B.C. near Tarracina (now called Terracina). The town was situated 58 miles southeast of Rome on the Appian Way. We are told that when he was a young boy, he visited Emperor Augustus with other youngsters of his age and the emperor pinched his cheek while implying that Galba would also have a nibble at the imperial power. Augustus, however, did not realize at the time how small and how bitter the nibble would be. During later years, when Tiberius heard of Augustus’ prediction, the second emperor said, “we’ll let him live as this does not concern me.”

While a young man, Galba had many dreams of good fortune that would come to him in later years. His schooling included law as well as the liberal arts. Later, when he lost his wife, Lepida, he remained a widower and became a switch hitter for the rest of his life.

Livia, the surviving wife of Augustus, held Galba in great favor, and he in turn greatly respected her. Livia’s will provided for Galba to receive the equivalent of about two and one-half million dollars, but because the amount was shown in figures and not written out in longhand, Tiberius, who was her legal heir, had this sum reduced to twenty-five thousand, and later it was reduced to zero.

Galba began his public career



at approximately thirty years of age, when he served as Governor of the of Aquitania, became a consul, and then was appointed governor of upper Germany by Caligula. He governed the area with a firm hand, stopping all requests for furloughs, conditioning the troops by plenty of hard work, and quickly checking the barbarians who had begun to penetrate into Gaul. His troops became so well disciplined that he received high commendation during a visit by Caligula. Also, it was during this visit that Galba, shield in hand, ran for 20 miles close beside the emperor’s chariot.

After the murder of Caligula, friends had urged Galba to take advantage of the situation, but he preferred to remain

quiet and not to interfere with the ascension of Claudius to the imperial throne. This action placed Galba in particularly high favor with the new administration and he became an intimate friend to the new emperor.

Galba was active in Claudius’ British campaign, and later became a special choice to govern a troubled Roman province in Africa. Here again, he was successful because of his strict discipline and the observance of justice in all matters. Examples of his fairness and impartiality are related in the story of one soldier who was refused extra rations and consequently died of starvation because he sold some of his provisions for a sum of money. A second story tells of a dispute between two men over the ownership of a beast of burden. The beast was blindfolded and led to its usual watering hole. The blindfold was removed, and ownership was granted to the person to whom the beast returned after drinking.

Next week:
The Pathetic Galba



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Friday, December 23, 2022

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.*

In Loving Memory of



Anthony C. Simboli

April 17, 1929 – December 29, 2020

*Though you are no longer
in our lives to share,
in our hearts you'll always be.
Never Forgotten, Forever Loved
Greatly Missed
Your Family*



December 28, 2017 - December 28, 2021

*Remembering
Sal Balsamo*

*and the incredible impact
he had on so many people
in his journey through life.
... especially the love he shared
with his Family and Friends*

In Loving Memory of Peter R. Nobile

We are saddened to announce Peter's passing on December 21, 2022.
Peter was incredibly active in our community and his loss will be deeply felt.
Arrangements will be announced.

Michele Ann Tirella

April 19, 1949 – December 14, 2022

Michele A. Tirella, 73, lifelong resident of the North End of Boston, passed away on Wednesday, December 14, 2022.

Beloved daughter of the late Michael J. and Marie L. Tirella.

Michele is the devoted sister of Marie (ReRe) G. Bamonte of Boston. She is the beloved aunt of Matthew Michael Bamonte, Sr. and his wife Jaclyn of Winthrop, Nicholas Wanasa of Winthrop and the great-aunt of Matthew Michael, Jr. and Christopher Bamonte.

Michele was a loving and devoted, sister, aunt, great-aunt, and friend that loved spending time with her family,



friends, and traveling.

She worked for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for over 40 years. She was an active member of St. Lucy's Society of the North End. She loved going to the Encore Casino, the Italian Riviera (North End Pool) and the Patio with her loving friends.

The family received visitors on Monday, December 19, 2022, at Saint Leonard Church,

320 Hanover Street, Boston, MA, followed by a Funeral Mass. Funeral services concluded with interment at Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett, MA.

Donations can be made to St. Leonard Church, 150th Anniversary Fund in memory of Michele Tirella.



Rest in Peace



Medal of Honor Winner

LT. FR. VINCENT CAPODANNO Memorial Mass

Saturday, January 14, 2023, 5:00 PM
St. Leonard's Church, North End, Boston



organizations, including the Italian American Alliance, the Pirandello Lyceum, the Post-Gazette, the Sons and Daughters of Italy in America, the Dante Alighieri Society, the Federation of Italian and Italian-American Associations, and Augusta Boston are actively engaged in petitioning the Postmaster General of the United States to issue a COMMEMORATIVE STAMP to recognize an outstanding Italian American.

All are encouraged to attend. For further information, please contact: Dr. Domenic Amara (domamara@aol.com) or Virginia (Papa) Gardner (viriniagardner@aol.com).

A Memorial Mass is being held on Saturday, January 14, 2023 beginning at 5:00 p.m. at Saint Leonard Church in Boston's North End (130 Hanover Street, Boston, MA) in remembrance of Lt Fr. Vincent Capodanno, an Italian American whose life exemplified the best of Italian culture and devotion to God and Country. He was posthumously given the United States Congressional Medal of Honor in January of 1969 for his heroic act in the Vietnam War.

The Catholic Church has declared him a Servant of God, the first of the four stages toward possible sainthood.

In addition to sponsoring the MASS, several Italian American



L’Anno Bello: A Year in Italian Folklore

The Wonder of Christmas, the Love of Natale

by Ally Di Censo Symynkywicz



The magical season known as midwinter is upon us! The shortest day of the year, also known as the winter solstice, descended upon the world this past Wednesday, the 21st of December. On the days surrounding the solstice, I can sense the darkness enveloping me like a thick velvet cloak, veiling the world in a perpetual state of dusk. However, I do not mind the darkness, as I view it as a necessary and intriguing spoke on the wheel of the year. These are the nights when stars appear sharp and bright against the inky black sky, their light sending diamond-like spangles flitting across the frost below. The darkness also imbues the winter solstice with a profound significance: now that the date has passed, we know that the sun will remain for longer periods in the sky, bringing its much-awaited warmth and its sweet, luminous blaze. For this reason, Christmas — with its focus on candles and crackling Yule logs and electric light displays — occurs during the darkest time of the year. Religiously, Christmas represents the light arriving to the world in the form of Jesus’ Nativity, while metaphorically the radiant decorations of Christmas signify the return of the sun after the solstice. Due to the complex symbolism comprising this holiday and its traditions, I revel in Christmas customs which emphasize the literal and figurative lights of my life. Whether enjoying age-old recipes or exchanging gifts with loved ones, I most appreciate Christmas when the glow of family and tradition encircle me.

Many of my family’s much-loved holiday customs revolve around food. Food forms an ancient and essential part of the Italian Christmas Eve feast known as *la Vigilia di Natale*, which my family celebrates every year. *La Vigilia di Natale*, or “Christmas vigil,” is traditionally a meatless meal in Italy, a vestige from the era in which Christmas Eve was considered a fast day in preparation for Jesus’ birth on the following day. Therefore, many Italian families trim their tables with seafood dishes for *la Vigilia*. I am always excited to plan fish recipes with my mother for *la Vigilia*; in the past, we served sole bursting with a buttery shrimp stuffing and a delectable smoked salmon quiche. This year, my mother will prepare a creamy seafood lasagna laden with shrimp and scallops. However, my favorite component of Christmas

cooking involves the plethora of desserts that fill my family’s kitchens. A great number of traditional Italian desserts have become inextricably linked with Christmas and remain an indispensable part of my holiday celebrations. My father would always bring home a cylindrical cardboard box of *panettone* home right before Christmas. *Panettone*, whose name means “great bread,” is a sweet bread studded with dried fruit and candied peel. I am not a huge fan of the taste of *panettone*, but I appreciate its time-honored symbolism in the Italian Christmas festivities. I hold the nostalgic *struffoli*, a dessert my grandmother has been making since I was little, in high esteem. *Struffoli* are deep-fried spheres of dough soaked in honey, then arranged into the shape of a tree or wreath and sprinkled with colorful nonpareils. *Struffoli* are a fun, whimsical way to celebrate the childlike wonder of the holiday season. I also make a lemon tart every year to cap off our *la Vigilia* meal and honor the citrus fruits seasonal during the winter. Collectively, these desserts stand in the exquisite tapestry of love and family that characterize my Christmas memories.

Indeed, I believe that family forms the crux of Christmas joy. The true meaning of Christmas derives from the sensation of comfort and peace that envelops a person when surrounded by loved ones. I cannot imagine Christmas without my family. Our Christmas traditions, from the *la Vigilia* meal to opening presents at midnight, strengthen our familial bonds. When my family plays a silly board game on Christmas Eve, our merriment and laughter create a barrier of delight against the darkness and chill air outside, filling the room with the warmth of our love. Opening gifts — which my family does at midnight, according to old Italian lore, while huddled under the multicolored glow of the Christmas tree lights — provides me with yet another way to relish time with my loved ones. I adore the looks of happiness and delight that fill my family members’ and friends’ faces when they open a present selected or crafted with thoughtfulness and care. That moment of love and understanding is the real significance of gift-giving, not materialistic gain. No matter what traditions typify your Christmas, it remains important to approach them with joy, selflessness, and a true appreciation for the people in your life. Midwinter celebrations

like Christmas developed as a response to the frigid and dark days of the winter solstice. At a time when nature seems barren and gelid, lively festivities serve to honor the abundance of past harvests and reinforce the convivial strength of community and family, offering hope that life will cycle on as surely as the sun will once again shine in the sky. An old Italian aphorism states that no one should be left alone on Christmas, which is why we should strive to do good deeds on behalf of those who are lonely or separated from their families during the holidays, including the sick, the poor and those in the military. After all, a family includes more than just blood relations, and the Christmas spirit of generosity and goodwill is too joyous to be contained in small numbers.

This Christmas, I will continue to honor the traditions that have become an intrinsic part of my family. Whether these traditions consist of enjoying *struffoli* or opening gifts at midnight, they link me to the world of my ancestors and their enduring values and spirituality. However, I also plan on paying attention to the true significance of all these beloved customs. For I have found that lurking behind Christmas traditions, no matter their culture of origin, is the universal need for love. Love for family, love for the wisdom of our forebears, the love which inspires us to improve our local and global communities, the love of Jesus and the Holy Family, the love for the sun which grows ever bigger in the sky — all these myriad facets of love imbue Christmas with its indelible complexity. So on Christmas, as you partake in your own special traditions, take heed of the love which surrounds you, and which you can provide to others. You will find that this love can warm even the frostiest night, and that it will carry you through the wonders of the New Year and beyond.

**Merry Christmas!
Buon Natale!**

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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**ADJOINING
PAUL REVERE HOUSE**

**THINKING
OUT LOUD**

by Sal Giaratani

End of Year Thoughts on Revere’s Human Rights Commission

I swear something has happened to our communal sense of time. While the hour still has 60 minutes and the day 24 hours, it does seem like our time has accelerated way too fast. It seems like just yesterday, I was over at Shea’s Beach in Eastie getting a good tan and now Thanksgiving has passed us by as we quickly approach yet another Christmas and New Year’s.

I have been aging much faster than I would wish and must say the older I get, I think of my mortality these days in the new “normal” we now occupy. This year, I wish everyone as I always do the best holiday season they celebrate. Life is far too short to get all in an uproar over political differences. I will still tell bad jokes as I always have, but I must remind folks that a good joke is meant to make laughter, and today there are too many of us whom are afraid to laugh in case it triggers stress in someone else. Remember Buddy Hackett who was great for comic relief. Here’s an old joke of his: “My wife told me she wanted to be cremated. I asked her, “How does next Tuesday sound?” Today, would people demand an apology for such a sexist joke told? I guess I may find out about that if this column gets lots of readers writing in saying it was a bad joke for me to tell.

Listen, I think everyone on the city of Revere’s Human Rights Commission needs to be congratulated for brining up tough subjects at times and stirring up way too much drama. It is never a bad thing to make people think about issues that constantly affect our lives. It is, I believe, a good thing to challenge the way we think when in debate with others. All of us, no matter our politics, should be open enough to hear opposing views without being judgmental.

When I first heard about this city’s Commission using the “Circle Process,” I laughed because liberals always seem to love circles and conservatives not so much. I have partaken of using the “circle” to facilitate discussions. I didn’t think I would like this alien idea, but it really wasn’t so alien when I saw people talking with each other without any negativity.

My only concern is when any of us use ideology to silence debate. We need to use this holiday season to welcome the value of peaceful co-existence. We need to stop, look around, and see what our life truly means. It isn’t about having the most toys ever. It isn’t about ranking other people below us. It is about using this life of ours to ensure we are all leaving a better world behind for our children and grandchildren, and being remembered for the good we did with the time God has given us.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I am writing today on behalf of the Casa Monte Cassino, formerly located at 11 Tileston Street here in the North End of Boston. For 35 years, the Casa was a fully charitable organization providing those in need a “home away from home” while seeking prolonged medical treatments in Boston, with the residential space rented from the Archdiocese of Boston. Our work was fulfilling and deeply appreciated by our patrons, but has since evolved. Thus, we have decided to move on from our North End home.

In February of 2022, the Casa donated its remaining funds to The American Cancer Society Hope Lodge located at 125 South Huntington Avenue in Boston. The Hope Lodge has a remarkably similar mission as the Casa Monte Cassino, and therefore provided a natural and meaningful way for the Casa to continue to support and contribute to the lives of those in need seeking medical care in Boston. To show their gratitude for the sizable contribution made to The Hope Lodge by the Casa, a garden space was dedicated within the confines of the property to recognize the generosity of the Casa and all those who assisted in its work over the past three decades. Through the Hope Lodge in Boston, we believe the mission and work of the Casa Monte Cassino will continue on.

I am also writing with deep gratitude to the residents of the North End, the Archdiocese of Boston and especially so many friends, family and charitable groups who worked together to generously provide the vital service, relief and comfort to so many families. Please know the Casa could not have existed without you all and we are indebted to you for your belief in the mission and your tireless support over 35 years.

Thank you and may God continue to bless us all in 2023 and the years ahead.

Guido Vittiglio
Stoneham, MA

The Saint Who Became Known
as Santa Claus

by Bennett Molinari and Richard Molinari

Every year we rerun this column in the hope it will engender in the reader the joy and Spirit of Christmas it brought to us while writing it.

The historical Saint Nicholas, was born at Patara, Lycia in Asia Minor (now Turkey) into a wealthy Christian family. His parents died in an epidemic while Nicholas was still young and he was raised by his uncle who was bishop of Patara. At the age of 19, Nicholas was ordained into the priesthood, becoming Bishop of Myra while still a young man. This young Bishop became known for his many acts of generosity and for helping others in times of financial difficulties. These acts of kindness and love are what have contributed to the loving image of Father Christmas, we all have come to know and expect each Christmas Eve.

In the West, Nicholas is most widely known as the patron saint of children. Many of his stories tell of children rescued from calamity and returned to the care of their families. One story tells of a citizen of Patara who had lost all his money, he had to support three daughters who could not find husbands because of their poverty. He planned to abandon them to the street where they would fend for themselves. Their plight came to the attention of Nicholas, who undercover of darkness threw a bag of gold into an open window of the man’s house supplying a dowry for the eldest girl and she was soon married. At intervals, Nicholas did the same for the second and third daughters; at the last time the father was on the watch recognized his benefactor and overwhelmed him with his gratitude.

St. Nicholas is believed to have died on December 6, 343 and was buried in his episcopal city of Myra, by the time of Justinian there was a basilica built in his honor at Constantinople, today the modern city of Istanbul. When Myra and its great shrine passed into the hands of the Saracens, Saint Nicholas’ relics were transported



to Bari, Italy, arriving safely on May 9, 1087, where a new church was built to shelter them. Over the years, stories of his miracles and work for the poor spread to other parts of the world.

Saint Nicholas became known as the protector of children and is associated with gift giving. He is an important figure in Holland with the Dutch continuing to celebrate the Feast of Saint Nicholas after the Reformation. It was a common practice for

children to put out their shoes the night before his feast Day, December 6th. In the morning, they would discover the gifts that St. Nicholas had left for them.

Dutch immigrants to America brought with them the tradition of St. Nicholas, known to them as Saint Nikolaas or by the name they affectionately gave to him, Sinterklaas who became known in America as Santa Claus. Instead of giving gifts on December 6th, he became a part of the Christmas holiday.

In the 1820 poem *An Account of a Visit from St. Nicholas* by Clement Clarke Moore, Saint Nicholas is described as a jolly, heavy man who comes down the chimney who drives a sleigh pulled by flying reindeers to leave presents for deserving children.

Finally, it was the cartoonist Thomas Nast who added to the St. Nicholas legend with an 1881 drawing of Santa as wearing a red suit with white fur trim, Saint Nicholas had become the Santa Claus we know today.

Saint Nicholas is the patron saint of sailors, merchants, archers, repentant thieves, children, brewers, pawnbrokers and students. The Feast Day of Saint Nicholas is December 6th.

Wishing a Merry Christmas to all our readers.



NORTH END / WATERFRONT RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Special NEWRA Meeting on
OUTDOOR DINING

Thursday, January 12th
6:00 - 8:00 pm
Nazzaro Center

NEWRA will host a special meeting for the neighborhood on Thursday, January 12th to discuss with city agencies and elected officials the impacts the outdoor dining program is having on the community. The City of Boston Outdoor Dining team will attend. Updates to follow with elected officials and other agencies planning to attend.

Renew Your 2023 NEWRA Membership Online

Buon Natale
from the
Officers, Directors, and Members
of the



DANTE ALIGHIERI SOCIETY

41 Hampshire Street - Cambridge, MA 02139
617.876.5160 - www.dantemass.org



Keep fats oils and grease out
of your pipes this holiday season!

Excess fats, oils, and grease (FOG) may result from preparing food and should never be poured down the sink, or flushed down the toilet. FOG that’s poured into the sink or toilet will harden in the pipes causing backups in your plumbing and Boston’s sewer system. Always dispose of FOG into the trash.

BWSC encourages you to Can The Grease! After cooking, let FOG cool in the pan. Once cooled, pour or scoop FOG into a can, cover the can with a BWSC Grease Lid and store it in the freezer until full and dispose of the can on your regular trash collection day.

Boston residents can request a FREE BWSC Grease Lid! Call BWSC at 617-989-7599, or request one online at www.bwsc.org.



Boston Water and
Sewer Commission

Ieri e Oggi

Yesterday & Today

A COLUMN OF PAST AND CURRENT EVENTS

by Bennett Molinari & Richard Molinari



December 11, 1901 — “Ieri” — The first transatlantic radio signal was transmitted by Guglielmo Marconi from Cornwall, England, to St. John’s, Newfoundland.

Marconi was born into Italian nobility as Guglielmo Giovanni Maria Marconi in Palazzo Marescalchi, Bologna, Italy on April 25, 1874. He was the second son of Giuseppe Marconi (an Italian aristocratic landowner) and his Irish wife Annie Jameson, daughter of Andrew Jameson of Daphne Castle in County Wexford, Ireland, and granddaughter of John Jameson, founder of whiskey distillers Jameson & Sons.

Marconi had a brother, Alfonso, and a stepbrother, Luigi. He was educated by tutors at the Livorno Technical Institute and the University of Bologna. Even as a boy he took a keen interest in physical and electrical science. In 1894, Marconi became fascinated with the discovery by German physicist Heinrich Rudolf Hertz of “invisible waves” generated by electromagnetic interactions. Marconi built his own wave-generating equipment at his family’s estate and was soon sending signals to locations a mile away. After failing to interest the Italian government in his work, Marconi decided to try his luck in London.

In 1896, Marconi took his apparatus to England where he was introduced to Mr. (later Sir) William Preece, Engineer-in-Chief of the Post Office. Later that year, Marconi was granted the world’s first patent for a system of wireless telegraphy. In 1900, he took out his famous patent No. 7777 for “tuned or syntonistic telegraphy” and in December 1901, determined to prove that wireless waves were not affected by the curvature of the Earth, he used his system for transmitting the first wireless signals across the Atlantic between Poldhu, Cornwall, and St. John’s, Newfoundland.

Marconi later worked on the development of shortwave wireless communication, which constitutes the basis of nearly all modern long-distance radio. Marconi therefore is credited as the inventor of radio. He shared the 1909 Nobel Prize in Physics with Karl Ferdinand Braun “in recognition of their contributions to the development of wireless telegraphy”. Marconi passed away on July 20, 1937 in Rome, Italy.

Pre-Christmas Dinner at Piccolo Nido Ristorante



Friends enjoying a pre-Christmas Dinner at Piccolo Nido Ristorante in the North End. Seated L-R: Carmen Federio, Richie Vita, Nino Crugnale, Joey Crugnale, George Ruggerio, Carmine Bruno, Luciano Volpe, Bill Verdi, Perry Bruno. Standing L-R: Steve Mirabello, Joe Tripodi, Steve Yarnoff, Pino Irano, Jerry Mazzeo.

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from

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as Pastor

Sunday, January 8, 2023
Twelve o'clock Mass
St. Leonard's Church
- with Cardinal Seán O'Malley OFM Cap. -
refreshments to follow in St. Joseph's Hall

Please join us as we commence the
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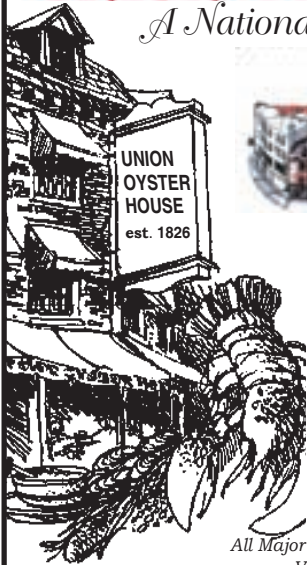
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SMILE
(4K Ultra HD)
Paramount Home Ent.

Fans of the terrifying and mind-bending box office smash hit film *Smile* can now watch at home with over an hour of heart-pounding bonus content. Face your fears with deleted scares not seen in theatres, go behind the scenes with the cast and crew, and then fully immerse yourself in the escalating nightmare with the director's commentary. After witnessing a bizarre, traumatic incident involving a patient, Dr. Rose Cotter (Sosie Bacon) starts experiencing frightening occurrences that she can't explain. As an overwhelming terror begins taking over her life, Rose must confront her troubling past in order to survive and escape her horrifying new reality.

SECRET HEADQUARTERS
(Blu-ray)
Paramount Home Ent.

Friendship and courage take center stage when Charlie and his friends stumble upon the headquarters of the Guard (Owen Wilson) and realize the world's most powerful superhero is Charlie's dad. When an evil businessman (Michael Peña) sends in a team to infiltrate the lair and retrieve the Guard's energy source, the youngsters spring into action and turn the tables on the intruders. Includes over 30 minutes of fun-filled bonus content featuring Wilson and Peña. Meet the cast and crew as they reflect on their time on set and enjoy a gag reel and deleted/extended scenes. Then learn how the Secret Headquarters was built, explore the stunt choreography, and find out how special effects brought everything together!

HINTERLAND (DVD)
Film Movement

The year is 1920. The Austro-Hungarian Empire has fallen and what remains has devolved into social unrest and political turmoil. Peter Perg, a soldier of the Great War, returns home to Vienna, only to realize the place he once called home is now unfamiliar to him. Having spent years as a prisoner of war, Perg is disillusioned by this strange, new city distorted by the nightmares of war. His

world is further upended when a gruesome series of murders targeting veterans begins to unfold. Feeling connected to the victims, Perg decides to investigate the mysterious crimes. Pulled back into his old duties as a former police detective, he finds an ally in the cool-headed forensic doctor, Theresa Korner, and their investigation leads them into the darkest corners of the city. A stranger in his own city, the looming threat of a serial killer begins to take its toll on him.

OLD FRIENDS:
A DOGUMENTARY (Blu-ray)
What Were We Thinkin
+ MVDvisual

Old Friends: A Dogumentary is the paw-inspiring story of the most beloved animal sanctuary in the world, the Old Friends Senior Dog Sanctuary in Mount Juliet, Tennessee. From their humble beginnings as a small backyard sanctuary, we follow founders Zina & Michael Gooden, their amazing staff, and the gang of 100 senior dogs, as they grow and settle into a 20,000 square foot state-of-the-art facility. You'll meet the dogs, and the people who fostered them and gave them a reason to wage their tails. It's a tale of compassion and commitment, where love knows no bounds, a film about a place where love never grows old!

THE LAST BOOKSHOP
OF THE WORLD (DVD)
IndiePix Films

Four Europeans from different cultures and fields of art set off in search of a remote place to establish the world's last bookshop. During their journey, they discuss the power of literature and reveal how certain classics have changed each of them in profound ways. Bringing the almost-lost purpose of books to light, this hybrid road-movie/documentary poses important questions about reading and its importance to our inner lives and to civilization as a whole. Finnish director Rax Rinnekangas explains, "The theme of the documentary is very topical and touches people everywhere, because, without the development of reading skills, we will lose our language of thought and the ability to

(Continued on Page 12)

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



Sydney Curley performing at the 50th Anniversary of the North End Christmas parade singing Santa Claus is coming to town.

This week, leading up to Christmas Day on Sunday, I don't have too many things to talk about. Yeah, I can talk about Mariah Carey and her "All I Want for Christmas is You" torturing all of us (me in particular). I could just grind my teeth but then I might have to wish for my two front teeth like another Christmas diddies I've heard endlessly. Or I could talk about a thing or two about Santa needing to bring us more affordable housing in the New Year.

Sometimes you can get tired of constant chatter over stupid ideas out of our City Councilors like letting kids vote who are either 16 or 17 years old, or about letting non-citizens tell citizens who should be in office representing us. Hey, I really don't wanna play the Grinch here but sometimes enough with the talk and more with the action.

There are, however, two things I really want badly this Christmas. One is never hearing Mariah Carey singing "All I Want for Christmas" again and again and again, and the other is getting the Boston City Council serious again about doing the people's will. Yet, they pontificate on affordable housing, and pontificate on zoning in this city being constantly done by variance.

This city needs a real plan that keeps folks here rather than moving away because no one

can afford to live here anymore. We need our elected officials representing our voices and not those of special interests.

As bad as the idea of letting 16 and 17 year olds vote in municipal elections, members of the Boston City Council now want legal status immigrants also being able to do likewise. I only wonder how long before the undocumented find advocates sitting on the Boston City Council?

Meanwhile, people can't afford to live in this city. Developers get anything they want from Santa Claus all year long. We have zoning board members who rarely see a developer's

plan that doesn't need a variance or two.

We now live in, we are told, "the Greenest City in America." God save our trees. As for the rest of us? We seem on our own. Unless of course, we are high school voters or non-citizen voters. Good luck to struggling homeowners or renters. Don't let the door hit you on the way out of town.

Even listening to endless repeats from Mariah Carey is starting to seem more palatable. Merry Christmas, Ho, Ho, Ho! Bah, Humbug, Maybe, maybe not. Just keep your chin up and pray for rain over snow.



Saint Leonard's 150th Anniversary Celebration Presents
From Italy to the North End:
Migrant Stories & Human
Lives

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 2023
3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

ST. JOSEPH'S HALL (ENTRANCE
AT 44 PRINCE STREET)

Join North End historians and friends for an in-depth discussion about Anthony Riccio's recent publication of oral history accounts of neighborhood residents ("Stories, Streets and Saints") which sheds new light on Italian immigration to Boston and its enduring legacy to the North End.



For more information:
celebrating150Years@slleonard.org

Have a Magical and Blissful Holiday Season!

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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. MI22P2118GD
NOTICE AND ORDER:
Petition for Appointment of
Guardian of a Minor
In the interests of
VINCE J. METAYER-JEAN
of Scituate, 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 04/12/2022 by Paul Toussaint of Boston, MA will be held 03/28/2023 9:00 AM Review Hearing
Located Lowell Justice Center, 370 Jackson St., 5th Floor Courtroom 10, 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: December 20, 2022
Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate
Run date: 12/23/2022

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
Notice is hereby given by **Todisco Services, Inc., of 171 Boston Street, Salem, MA** pursuant to the provisions of Mass G.L. c. 255, Section 39A, that they will sell the following vehicles on or after **January 07, 2023 beginning at 9:00 a.m.** by public or private sale to satisfy their garage keepers lien for towing, storage, and notices of sale.
2011 HYUNDAI TUCSON
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2005 TOYOTA COROLLA
VIN # 2T1BR32E55C509216
2010 TOYOTA PRIUS
VIN # JTDKN3DU0A023362
Vehicles are being stored at multiple Todisco Services, Inc. locations, and may be viewed by appointment only.
Signed
Todisco Services, Inc.
12/23, 12/30, 2022, & 01/06/2023

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Middlesex Division
Middlesex Probate and Family Court
10-U Commerce Way
Woburn, MA 01801
(781) 865-4000
Docket No. MI22P6150EA
Estate of
MARY J. TROIANI
Date of Death: July 24, 2022
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Joseph Troiani of Bradford, MA**, a Will has been admitted to informal probate.
Joseph Troiani of Bradford, 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: 12/23/2022

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. MI22D3607DR
DIVORCE SUMMONS BY
PUBLICATION AND MAILING
MISHA NICHOLS
vs.
JUSTIN NICHOLS
To the Defendant:
The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for Irretrievable Breakdown of the Marriage 1B. The Complaint is on file at the Court.
An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. **SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411.**
You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon **Misha Nichols, 31 Tarbell Ave., Lexington, MA 02421** your answer, if any, on or before **January 27, 2023**. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court.
Witness, HON. MAUREEN H. MONKS, First Justice of this Court.
Date: December 16, 2022
Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate
Run date: 12/23/2022

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Middlesex Division
Middlesex Probate and Family Court
Lowell Justice Center
370 Jackson Street, 5th Floor
Lowell, MA 01852
(978) 656-7700
Docket No. MI22P4201EA
Estate of
DIANE L. LUCENTE
Date of Death: February 25, 2021
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Lisa Butner of North Reading, MA**, a Will has been admitted to informal probate.
Lisa Butner of North Reading, 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: 12/23/2022

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Middlesex Division
Middlesex Probate and Family Court
10-U Commerce Way
Woburn, MA 01801
(781) 865-4000
Docket No. MI22P6202EA
Estate of
ELIZABETH M. ANDRESS
Date of Death: June 24, 2022
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Stephen M. Andress of Bedford, MA**, a Will has been admitted to informal probate.
Stephen M. Andress of Bedford, 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: 12/23/2022

EAST BOSTON SOUP KITCHEN
READY FOR NEW YEAR
OF SERVICE TO THOSE IN NEED

by Sal Giarratani



Here we are at the intersection of today and the hope for tomorrow. The East Boston Soup Kitchen organization is about to move into 2023 and

hopefully will continue to both thrive and continue to be able to help our most vulnerable neighbors who live side by side with us and all around us. often we don't even see them. However, over the past few years this soup kitchen has been successful in its mission to serve the underserved. Before the pandemic, I saw firsthand

the needs that were being met by all the volunteers who showed up to help out with basic things like a good meal, sometimes clothing, etc.

Kudos go out to Sandra Nijjar and her crew of volunteers who work with her week after week making sure that those living in the shadows of our life know they are important and respected. Sandra at times has been like a one-woman army who marshals all her volunteers and succeeds in making the lives of so many people better than they were before finding this haven called the East Boston Soup Kitchen.

This Soup kitchen is located at our Savior Lutheran Church at 28 Paris Street, East Boston. Hot meals served on Tuesdays. Stop by to help or just for a meal.

Thanks again to Sandra Nijjar who took a dream in 2016 and turned it into an action plan that is making a difference everyday in this neighborhood she calls home.

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. SU22D1116DR
DIVORCE SUMMONS BY
PUBLICATION AND MAILING
YURY ALEXANDRA ARANGO PENA
vs.
OLIVERIO AMAYA GUERRA
To the Defendant:
The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for Irretrievable Breakdown.
The Complaint is on file at the Court.
An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. **SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411.**
You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon **Yury Alexandra Arango Pena, 17 Bennington St., E. Boston, MA 02128-1010** your answer, if any, on or before **January 31, 2023**. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court.
Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court.
Date: December 14, 2022
Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate
Run date: 12/23/22

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
Notice is hereby given by **Todisco Services, Inc., of 171 Boston Street, Salem, MA** pursuant to the provisions of Mass G.L. c. 255, Section 39A, that they will sell the following vehicles on or after **December 24, 2022 beginning at 9:00 a.m.** by public or private sale to satisfy their garage keepers lien for towing, storage, and notices of sale.
2014 TOYOTA COROLLA
VIN # 5YFBURHE3EP012822
Vehicles are being stored at multiple Todisco Services, Inc. locations, and may be viewed by appointment only.
Signed
Todisco Services, Inc.
12/09, 12/16, & 12/23/2022

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Middlesex Division
Middlesex Probate and Family Court
10-U Commerce Way
Woburn, MA 01801
(781) 865-4000
Docket No. MI22P4448EA
Estate of
CHARLES BURLINGHAM, JR.
Also Known As
CHARLES BURLINGHAM
Date of Death: April 06, 2022
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Robin A. Burlingham of Ithaca, NY**, Petitioner **Nicholas W. Burlingham of Pawcatuck, CT**, a Will has been admitted to informal probate.
Robin A. Burlingham of Ithaca, NY, Nicholas W. Burlingham of Pawcatuck, CT 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: 12/23/2022

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Middlesex Division
Middlesex Probate and Family Court
10-U Commerce Way
Woburn, MA 01801
(781) 865-4000
Docket No. MI22P6189EA
Estate of
HELEN M. RORKE
Date of Death: March 29, 2022
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Donna M. Bradley of Natick, MA**, a Will has been admitted to informal probate.
Donna M. Bradley of Natick, 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: 12/23/2022

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Keep Holiday Greens Looking Their Best

by Melinda Myers



When outdoor temperatures are cooler, green arrangements, like this winter container garden, last much longer than indoor displays. (Photo courtesy of MelindaMyers.com)

Wreaths, door swags, garlands, and containers filled with evergreens have long been part of winter celebrations and displays. Keep them fresh and looking their best throughout the holidays with minimal effort.

Fresh greenery with pliable branches and firmly attached needles will last the longest. Check for good color and an aroma you prefer. Consider buying extra greenery and storing it in the garage or another cool location. Use these to replace any indoor greenery that is starting to brown.

Recut the bottom of the stems with a sharp bypass pruner. Totally submerge the greenery in a tub of room-temperature water overnight to help rehydrate the needles. Gently crush the cut end to allow it to better absorb moisture.

Remove the cuttings from the water and once dry, seal in the moisture by spraying the greens with an anti-transpirant, often called anti-desiccant. These products seal in moisture, reducing drying due to warm, dry air indoors and drying winds and sunlight outside.

Follow label directions for application tips and dilution rates based on what you are treating. Avoid using these on juniper berries, cedar, and blue spruce. The waxy coating that makes these look blue can be damaged by these products. Apply anti-desiccant products outdoors during the day, as light is needed to activate some

of these chemicals. Allow the treated greens to dry for three to four hours before moving them inside.

Display indoor greenery in cool locations out of direct sunlight. This reduces moisture loss and extends the life of your garland, wreaths, and arrangements.

Keep greenery away from heat sources that speed drying, decorative lights that generate heat, and flames from candles. Check the greens every few days and replace dry, brittle, and brown cuttings with fresh greens.

Outdoor greenery lasts much longer when temperatures are cooler than indoors. Further, extend their longevity by placing them in more sheltered locations, out of direct sunlight and wind where they suffer less drying. Avoid hanging wreaths and swags in front of windows in direct sunlight where the reflected light can burn the foliage. Use an anti-transpirant on outdoor greenery to help reduce moisture loss and extend your enjoyment.

Keep outdoor planters of greens looking their best throughout the winter. Keep the soil moist until it freezes when displaying spruce tips, cut holiday trees, and evergreen stems in outdoor containers. If and when the ground freezes, you can stop watering.

A bit of effort goes a long way in extending the beauty of holiday greenery.

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

• News Briefs (Continued from Page 1)

Feds to Arizona: Stop Walking Off Mexico

Recently, the U.S. Justice Department filed a lawsuit against Arizona's Gov. Doug Ducey over the construction of an improvised border using shipping containers. The Biden Administration argued in the federal lawsuit that construction crews building their makeshift wall are trespassing on federal land. The filing asked for an immediate injunction and continuing work without proper permits or authority.

Onions for Peeling-Out Drivers

Several motorists who were speeding through a school zone on the Florida Keys Overseas

Highway received an odorous onion as a reminder to slow down from a Monroe County sheriff's deputy dressed up as the Grinch. Drivers travelling 5 miles or more above the speed limit could choose between a traffic violation and an onion. If drivers chose the onion, they actually had to start eating part of it.

End Quote

"The two major political parties' long hold on America could be finally starting to slip, setting the stage for an exodus of disgruntled voters to the independent side of the ballot."

— Joe Battenfeld, *Boston Herald* columnist

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. SU22C0508CA
In the Matter of
JACOB NATHANIEL PHILLIPS
CITATION ON
PETITION TO CHANGE NAME
A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Jacob Nathaniel Phillips of Boston, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to Julia Northridge Phillips.
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 January 12, 2023. 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. BRIAN J. DUNN,
First Justice of this Court.
Date: December 12, 2022
Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate
Run Date: 12/23/2022

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Middlesex Division
Middlesex Probate and Family Court
10-U Commerce Way
Woburn, MA 01801
(781) 865-4000
Docket No. MI22P6019EA
Estate of
PAULINE T. HENNRNIKUS
Also Known As
PAULINE THERESA HENNRNIKUS
Date of Death: December 17, 2019
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Michael Hennrikus of Watertown, MA, a Will has been admitted to informal probate.
Michael Hennrikus of Watertown, 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: 12/23/2022

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Middlesex Division
Middlesex Probate and Family Court
10-U Commerce Way
Woburn, MA 01801
(781) 865-4000
Docket No. MI22P6378EA
Estate of
ELLEN SCHWAB
Date of Death: August 17, 2021
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Leslie E. Schwab of Newton, MA.
Leslie E. Schwab 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: 12/23/2022

• Video Views (Continued from Page 10)

understand literature, with the end result being catastrophic: without the world's quality literature and its life in bookstores, we will not experience other cultures in a readable form, other than on the terms of entertainment and the internet."

DRAGONS FOREVER (4K Ultra HD) 88 Films

In *Dragons Forever*, Jackie Lung (Jackie Chan) is hired by the seedy proprietor of a chemical works to defend against an injunction filed by the owner of a fishery. The hotshot lawyer enlists the talents of acquaintances Wong Fei-Hung (Sammo Hung) and Tung Tak-Biao (Yuen Biao) to assist in the case, but finds himself romantically involved with a relative of the opposition as he struggles to maintain both professional and personal interest while upholding justice. *Dragons Forever* features three stellar martial arts stars at the top of their game.

CAN'T BE STOPPED (Blu-ray) MVDvisual

Can't Be Stopped is a rare look inside the legendary Los Angeles graffiti crew C.B.S. and their contributions to the art world, and the part they played in shaping urban culture through the late '80s and early '90s. Founded by Frost, Hex, Theory and Demo, Hollywood's own Can't Be Stopped crew emerged as one of the most influential and recognizable graffiti crews in the U.S. Since its inception in the early 1980s, the initials C.B.S. have been at the forefront of evolving graffiti art into a true and viable art form. The kinship that was forged by the crews' father figure, "Skate," created a bond of brotherhood that is the focal point of this story. C.B.S. was a surrogate family that became the buffer between these young graffiti artists and the temptations of the Hollywood streets.

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Merry Christmas

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Nanna & Babbononno

by John Christoforo

A Nostalgic Remembrance



In a couple of days it will be Christmas. I have always looked forward to the Christmas holidays because it seems like I have led a charmed life. (I really have.) There was one point when I questioned whether the existence of Santa was just a story for us kids. I listened to the comments of the non believers from first grade on, but silently knew that Santa existed and loved the story of the night before Christmas, the birth of Jesus and the tie in with a Christmas tree and presents placed at the base of it by the white haired man in the red suit. I was a happy kid from an extended Italian family, the first born male in my generation, and spoiled, spoiled, spoiled.

Mom had taken me to Jordan Marsh to visit Santa. We went as a group of families and friends with Mom's closest cousin, Louise Pepe and her three kids, Mom's friend Grace Manfredonia and her three, and my mother and me. When it was my turn to speak to Santa, I asked for several things, the most important being a new control unit for my electric trains. Lionel manufactured a transformer that could run four trains at the same time, at different speeds and on separate tracks. That was the one I wanted, and all of my other requests were secondary.

Finally Christmas Eve was upon us and the entire family sat at the same dinner table awaiting the traditional seven fish courses. After dinner, my cousins and I were asked what Santa was going to bring us. When I mentioned the train transformer, my father and uncles all looked at each in silence. I didn't know anything was wrong but wondered about the silence. Later, after we had gone home and I eagerly jumped in bed to wait for Santa, I wondered if Mom had put out something for him to eat and drink. I called her into my room and she told me that she had left him a glass of wine and a few biscotti. With this information,

I was ready to fall asleep and await his arrival.

No one had to awaken me the next morning. I was up at the crack of dawn and rushed into the living room to see what presents were under the tree. There were two holstered six guns in a Hopalong Cassidy box from Uncle Paul and Aunt Eleanor. There was a box of kid's toiletries from Uncle Nick and Aunt Ada, his first wife, who only bought sensible gifts, and there were some war souvenirs sent by Uncle Gino who was still in the Pacific. I looked and saw many of the things I had asked Santa for, but no Lionel train transformer that could operate four trains simultaneously.

I didn't say anything, but anyone could tell by the expression on my face that I was disappointed. Dad asked what was the matter and I told him what didn't show up and added that maybe, Santa couldn't afford the transformer, or maybe there really wasn't a Santa Claus, and that maybe he was just a kid's fairy tale. Just then, the phone rang. My mother answered and began speaking in Italian. I immediately knew that either Nanna or Babbononno was on the other end. When she finished she handed me the phone saying that Babbononno was on the other end and he wanted to speak to me.

He sounded excited and instead of Italian, he spoke to me in broken, no, fractured English, "Jenny, Sanda Clauza, heeza maika da mistake. Heeza bring you presenta a my houza. Itza bigga mashina foh lectrice trainza. You comma pic-kum uppa, si?" I yelled, "Si, Babbononno, immediatamente ... subito." I dressed and ran out the door without eating but didn't care. Within minutes, I was ringing the bell that had a name under it that read CONTINI in capital letters. Nanna was waiting with hot cocoa and breakfast and Babbononno brought a large box from under their tree. Inside was the Lionel train

transformer I had asked for.

My grandfather then showed me a letter written to him from Santa ... a letter written in Italian. It said that he, Santa, had already visited my house and placed my requested presents under the tree but forgot to leave the transformer. When he discovered the mistake, there would be no time to return, so he left my present under the tree at my grandparent's house which was next on his route. I was then a happy little kid and quickly finished Nanna's cup of cocoa and headed home carrying the box containing my new Lionel train transformer.

Dad helped me hook up the new control center and I soon could operate both sets of trains I had and several other gadgets from that one device. The day was saved and I continued to believe in Santa Claus for many more years. I think I still believe in him, what the heck.

Years later, the true story was told to me by Dad and Uncle Nick at an Easter Sunday dinner when we could all be together. It seems that, back in the day, Dad and my uncles, all being musicians, worked day and night, during Christmas season. That year, Uncle Nick picked up the train transformer at Jordan Marsh. He was able to fit the pickup into his schedule, and Dad couldn't. The only problem was that his schedule didn't allow him the time to get to our house to drop off the gift. The closest he could get to our house was the apartment of Nanna and Babbononno. Dad couldn't pick it up from there due to his schedule with Christmas parties and Babbononno couldn't bring it to our place without me seeing him, so it stayed with him and Nanna.

The Christmas morning phone call and the letter written to Babbononno from Santa sounded logical to a young kid and I never questioned the situation as the outcome made me more than happy. The one thing I marveled at was that Santa could write in Italian.

When I was a bit older, Dad took me to an annual Christmas morning concert he played and I accompanied him each year he was involved. The U.S.S. *Vulcan*, an aircraft repair ship was assigned to the Boston Navy Yard and the band Dad was with played a Christmas party for the crew and their families if the ship was in port, and for several years in a row, they were home for Christmas. Dad later told me that he considered it an obligation and a thank you the crew for what they did during the war.

I would have breakfast with the children of the servicemen and women who staffed the ship and watch Santa interact with the kids after breakfast. At this age, I now can understand how Dad felt about those sailors who helped win World War II and why he felt obligated to give something back to them.


It's time to close, so, from the Christoforo family to all of you Merry Christmas for 2022, and God Bless ... Buon Natale e Dio benedica.

GOD BLESS AMERICA



by

Marianna Bisignano



Christmas in Italy is celebrated from early December until the day of Epiphany, on the 6th of January. Throughout the country, houses are festively decorated and in churches, homes and town squares, the 'Presepe' or Nativity scene is on display. The Vatican City exhibits a beautifully decorated tree as families eagerly await midnight mass given by the pope. Christmas markets have stalls that are filled with gifts, foods and drinks and one of the most delicious drinks you'll find is *Ciocolata Calda*!

Ciocolata Calda or Italian Hot Chocolate is thicker, richer and much creamier than the American version. *Ciocolata Calda* is more like a pudding than a drink. Italian Hot Chocolate is made with chocolate, sugar and milk and served in smaller sized cups with a spoon. *Ciocolata Calda* is drinkable, "dunkable" and most often loved by adults and children alike. Christmas morning seems the perfect time to indulge in a decadent cup of Italian Hot Chocolate. Serve it "con panna" with a dollop of whipped cream or even with a biscotti to dunk! From my home to yours, *Buon Natale con amore ...*

ITALIAN HOT CHOCOLATE

Ciocolatta Calda



2 cups whole milk
4 ounces dark bittersweet chocolate, chopped
1 tablespoon unsweetened cocoa powder

2 ½ tablespoons granulated sugar
2 tablespoons cornstarch

In a small bowl, whisk together the chocolate, cocoa powder, granulated sugar and cornstarch, set aside.

In a saucepan over medium heat, add the whole milk and heat until lightly bubbling, not boiling. Add the dry mixture, whisk together and continue whisking until the mixture thickens. Do not let thicken too much. Remove from heat, let cool slightly and serve warm with a dollop of whipped cream "con panna," or with a biscotti to dunk!

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

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Merry Christmas

from

The Pirandello Lyceum

Thank you all at the Post-Gazette for all you do for the Italian / Italian-American community. It's not said often enough!!!

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www.pirandello.com

North End Athletic Association Fall Sports Wrap Up



Girls Field Hockey

The following photos are from the NEAA Soccer Program



Flag Football

The N.E.A.A. just recently completed its most robust fall sports programming in its '0 plus year history this past November. The Fall sports program included Soccer for boys and girls ages 4 to 12, Flag Football for boys and girls grades 3 to 10 and Girls Field Hockey for ages 8 to 14. Soccer had 185 participants, Flag Football had over 50 participants and Girls Field hockey had 15 participants in its' inaugural season. Not only did we have over 250 boys and girls participating in these fabulous programs but we also had over 60 volunteer coordinators, coaches and commissioners donating their time to ensure that these programs were fun, interesting and engaging for the youth of the North End and several of our surrounding neighborhoods. Last but not least it is amazing that we also had 20 sponsors participate in the programs as well as partnering once again with the Boston Police Area A-1 Community Service Office to provide a Free Ice Cream Day for the soccer program and also had over 20 parents and businesses step up and provide donations to help cover part of the costs of the end of the year celebrations of pizza, hot chocolate, donuts, munchkins, water and medals for all three programs. We even managed to have two fun soccer games between the NEAA and Hill House 9 to 12 year old girls programs, something we will look to build on next year! It was an amazing Fall! Below are some photos of the various medal ceremonies from the three sports.



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. SU22P2752EA

Estate of
PATRICIA ANN GALLAGHER
Also Known As
PATRICIA A. GALLAGHER

Date of Death: July 27, 2021

INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE

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

Theresa Ann Gallagher of Boston, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

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

Run date: 12/23/2022

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Notice is hereby given by **Todisco Services, Inc., of 171 Boston Street, Salem, MA** pursuant to the provisions of Mass G.L. c. 255, Section 39A, that they will sell the following vehicles on or after **December 31, 2022 beginning at 9:00 a.m.** by public or private sale to satisfy their garage keepers lien for towing, storage, and notices of sale.

2014 HYUNDAI ELANTRA
VIN # KMHDH4AE3EU120253

2004 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER
VIN # JTEEP21A240054390

2001 HARLEY DAVIDSON FXSTD SOFTAIL DEUCE
VIN # 1HD1BSY1X1Y081775

2004 HONDA CBR1000
VIN # JH2SC57014M002638

2008 HONDA ACCORD
VIN # 1HGCP36708A015152

Vehicles are being stored at multiple Todisco Services, Inc. locations, and may be viewed by appointment only.

Signed
Todisco Services, Inc.
12/16, 12/23, & 12/30/2022

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Middlesex Division

Middlesex Probate and Family Court
10-U Commerce Way
Woburn, MA 01801
(781) 865-4000

Docket No. MI22P6175EA

Estate of
MARY ELIZABETH PENSYL
Also Known As
MARY E. PENSYL

Date of Death: October 08, 2022

INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Aryeh Platzker of Belmont, MA**, a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Aryeh Platzker of Belmont, 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: 12/23/2022

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND
FOR ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CASE NO.: 2021-DR-12867-O

IN RE: THE MARRIAGE OF:

AFYIA SMITH,
Petitioner,
and
TYRONE BROWN,
Respondent.

AMENDED NOTICE OF ACTION FOR
DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE
(Amended as to date to serve
written Defenses only.)

TO RESPONDENT/PARA/A:

TYRONE BROWN
12 BAILEY STREET
DORCHESTER, MASSACHUSETTS 02124

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action has been filed against you and that you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on the Petitioner/Wife, **AFYIA SMITH**, and her undersigned Attorney, **Atiya T. Clarke, Esquire**, and the **DeWitt Law Firm, P.A.**, whose address is 135 W. Central Blvd., Suite 320, Orlando, Florida 32801 and by email service delivery to service@dewittlaw.com, on or before January 26, 2023, and file the original with the clerk of this Court at the Orange County Courthouse, 425 North Orange Avenue, Orlando, Florida 32801, before service on Petitioner or immediately thereafter. **IF YOU FAIL to do so, a default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Petition for Dissolution of Marriage and Other Relief.**

Copies of all court documents in this case, including Orders, are available at the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office. You may review these documents upon request.

You must keep the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office notified of your current address. (You may file Notice of Current Address, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915.) Future papers in this lawsuit will be mailed to the address on record at the clerk's office.

WARNING: RULE 12.285, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure, requires certain automatic disclosure of documents and information. Failure to comply can result in sanctions, including dismissal or striking of pleadings.

/s/ Atiya T. Clarke
ATIYA T. CLARKE, ESQUIRE
Florida Bar No. 115542
Atiya.clarke@dewittlaw.com
DEWITT LAW FIRM, P.A.
135 W. Central Blvd., Suite 320
Orlando, Florida 32801
Phone: 407-245-7723
Fax: 407-650-1928
Pleadings: Service@dewittlaw.com

DATED on this 02 day of DECEMBER, 2022

TIFFANY MOORE RUSSELL
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
425 North Orange Ave.
Suite 320
Orlando, Florida 32801
By: /s/ Juan Vazquez
As Deputy Clerk

Run dates: 12/09, 12/16, 12/23, 12/30/2022

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. SU22P2759EA

Estate of
WALTER NIEL SIR
Also Known As
NIEL SIR

Date of Death: August 28, 2022

INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **William Peter Pfaff of Saranac Lake, NY**, a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

William Peter Pfaff of Saranac Lake, NY has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

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

Run date: 12/23/2022

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 539A, that on **December 26, 2022 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:

2005 TOYOTA CAMRY, GRAY
VIN # 4T1BE32K35U566756
Vivare Home Solutions Inc.
196 Salem St., Apt. 22
Medford, MA 02155

2010 HONDA CBR600, BLACK
Vin # JH2PC4009AK300050
Matthew G. Fernandez
69 Whitford St.
Roslindale, MA 02131

2008 FORD FOCUS, RED
VIN # 1FAHP35N98W241140
Pedro Henrique Borges Serrao
56 Floyd St.
Everett, MA 02148

2003 WEDGE JM CARRIER, BLACK
VIN # 1J9GE48301233091
VIX Transport Inc.
11 Davis Ave.
Brockton, MA 02301

Run dates: 12/09, 12/16, 12/23/2022

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Middlesex Division

Middlesex Probate and Family Court
10-U Commerce Way
Woburn, MA 01801
(781) 865-4000

Docket No. MI22P6234EA

Estate of
MARGARET L. ESTEY

Date of Death: April 25, 2022

INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Gregory A. Estey of Portsmouth, NH**, a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Gregory A. Estey of Portsmouth, NH 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: 12/23/2022

EXTRA Innings

by Sal Giaratani

Remembering Gaylord Perry

Growing with baseball from the late '50s on, I loved baseball before it became boring and a business rather than an enjoyable sport to watch or play. Back in the good old days there were real baseball players, great players like Ted Williams, Willie Mays, Mickey Mantle, Al Kaline, Whitey Ford, Juan Marchail, Warren Spahn, Don Drysdale, Sandy Koufax, on and on and on. One of my favorites was Gaylord Perry who started off with the Giants and was with them for 10 years. He was one of the best ever Giants pitchers. He won 134 games with a 2.94 ERA. Overall, he went 314-265 (a workhorse), 3,534 strikeouts with a career 3.11 ERA. He threw a no-hitter for the Giants, was a 5-time All-Star, and won 20 games five times. Then he won two Cy Young awards, one with the Indians in 1972 when he went 24-16 and again with the Padres in 1978 when he went 21-6. Sadly, I heard

of his passing. He died at 84 years old on December 1st. Rest in Peace

Perry was best known for his "interesting" pitches. He allegedly had a spitter but I don't think he ever got caught by the ump. He also had a "puff ball" too. Spit balls were illegal back in his day and both it and the puff ball are banned today. He obviously had a doctorate when it came to the spitter because he almost always got away with his doctoring.

In 1974, he even wrote his autobiography titled *Me & the Spitter*. They don't make pitchers like Gaylord Perry anymore and that is a great loss for both the game and for the fans. Number 36 will always be missed slipping, sliding, and spitting away.

Tom Browning "Mr. Perfect" Passes Away at 62

The Cincinnati Reds "Mr. Perfect" passed away earlier this week at 62 years old. He had a

12 year career, with 11 of those years with the Reds.

He was the only Reds pitcher to throw a perfect game back in 1988, when he blanked the Dodgers 1-0 at Riverfront Stadium. He was elected to the Reds Hall of Fame in 2006. In 1985, he was the runner-up for NL Rookie of the Year when he went 209 with a 3.55 ERA in his first full season.

Extra Points

For all you baseball fans out there getting more and more into football fans; this past weekend's games, many of them were nail biters and just great. Kudos to the Chiefs, they looked impressive, as did the Vikings with their 33 point comeback win. As for the Patriots, they had their game until the team went group stupid on the field. The game was in their hands and at this point, I've given up on them. Even if they sneak into the playoffs, they ain't long for it. Better luck next year! Let's hope Mac Jones just keeps improving, huh?

Happy Holidays

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Happy Holidays

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HOOPS and HOCKEY in the HUB

by Richard Preiss



If you are traveling over the Christmas — New Year's season you might want to consider if the possibility of attending an NBA game in a city at a distance from the Hub can fit into your plans.

Although it may seem strange to those who live and work in our region, there are a number of NBA teams that don't draw that well — and thus often have tickets to sell right up until tipoff time on game night.

That is the direct opposite of the situation that exists at the Garden where games are often sold out at the box office or at Ticketmaster, leaving fans to resort to buying tickets from secondary market sellers — usually at a significant markup.

According to ESPN, the Celtics were one of nine NBA teams to have sold out every home game played through the middle of December. The others who had to shut the doors on fans were Dallas, Toronto, Miami, Cleveland, Golden State, Milwaukee, Atlanta and Phoenix.

Another 14 were selling at or above 90 percent of their tickets — so although you might get in you might be relegated to seats high up in the arena.

That doesn't mean they are inferior seats. As one who sits in the ninth floor press box at the Garden, your correspondent can attest, that one has a view of the entire court and can see how all plays develop. We might add that the Jumbotron is great for close up views.

Judging from the chart provided by ESPN, your best chances of obtaining a good ticket to an NBA game outside of Boston are for teams at the low end of the chart. And the one that currently has the lowest rate of ticket sales is one of the most surprising.

If your plans for the holidays or for anytime between now and the end of the NBA regular season in April brings you to Washington, D.C., that is where you have the best chance of obtaining a ticket on a game night walkup basis.

Why? Because the Washington Wizards are in last place in the entire league in percentage of home tickets sold. Through mid-December, the Wizards had sold a league average low rate of 78.8 percent of their tickets through 15 home games. They are the only NBA team below 80 percent. That is a bit surprising since so many people travel to Washington for pleasure — or, of course, for politics.

Other teams can accommodate you and your family or friends on short notice. Indiana, Oklahoma City and San Antonio are three cities whose teams usually have about 20 percent of their seats unsold on a given night. Minnesota and Charlotte have about 15 percent remaining as a game begins while Orlando typically has about 11 percent.

When one considers teams closer to Boston, the New York Knicks, the Brooklyn Nets and the Philadelphia 76ers all sell at higher than a 95 percent rate.

Of course, remember that these are averages. The number of tickets available may increase or decrease for any given game.

For instance, availability often depends on the quality of the opponent and the number of times a visiting team plays in another city. For example, here is Boston fans only get to see each Western Conference team in person once each season. Miss the game of any Western Conference team and you have to wait until next year until that team once again faces the Celtics on the parquet floor.

For example, if you want to see LeBron James in person at the Garden this season, your only opportunity will come on January 28th. After that, the Lakers won't be back until next season.

However, there is no guarantee that the player or players that one desires to see will actually play on a given night. One or more could be out because of injuries. Coaching decisions also could play a factor.

In a move that was widely criticized, Golden State Warriors coach Steve Kerr deliberately held out four members of his starting five when the team visited New Orleans three days before Thanksgiving.

It was no secret that the sell-out, standing room only crowd had come to see the defending NBA champions. But when the game began regular starters Stephen Curry, Andrew Wiggins, Klay Thompson and Draymond Green remained seated. And there they did so for the entire game — not even dressed in their uniforms. They wore street clothes.

None of the four were injured. Nor was there any indication that any had been performing poorly in games prior to coming to New Orleans. There were no quotes from coach Kerr in the article by *New York Post* columnist Phil Mushnick. But apparently, Kerr felt that these players needed a rest — even if it meant absorbing a 128-83 defeat at the hands of the Pelicans.

Apparently, the reason that the game with the Pelicans was chosen was because it was not scheduled for national television, only regional television. According to Mushnick, the NBA has a policy that un-injured players may not be held out of a game that is nationally televised.

So all those who hoped to see the core of the current NBA championship team on the floor went home disappointed, especially those who had shelled out more than \$3,000 for a seat.

Some time ago, we read a letter from a fan who indicated that a policy should be developed whereby non-injured, healthy players could only be held out of home games. The writer reasoned that since there are 41 regular season home games, local fans would have multiple opportunities to see the stars. While that is theoretically true, we all know of people who only go to a game to celebrate a birthday or anniversary — or at this time of year — have been given tickets as Christmas gifts. That is a night that has the potential to be spoiled if important players don't suit up.

As you can see, it is complicated issue for the fans — especially since tickets cost so much.