

POST-GAZETTE

(Formerly LA GAZZETTA del MASSACHUSETTS)

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Valentine's Day, celebrated annually on February 14, is a holiday dedicated to expressing love, affection, and friendship through cards, flowers and other gifts. While rooted in Roman tradition and Christian history honoring Saint Valentine, it has evolved into a largely secular celebration of romance and appreciation.

According to legend, Saint Valentine was a Roman priest who was martyred for secretly marrying soldiers, in violation of Emperor Claudius II's ban on marriage. Today, it is a significant cultural event celebrating all forms of love, including friendship and family.



Monday,
February 16th

President's Day is traditionally observed on the third Monday in February, this year it falls on February 16, 2026. Originally established to honor George Washington's February 22 birthday, it has become a federal holiday honoring all U.S. presidents, specifically Abraham Lincoln's February 12 birthday, following the 1971 Uniform Monday Holiday Act.

While popularly known as President's Day to recognize all U.S. presidents, the legal federal holiday remains "Washington's Birthday," honoring the first president, George Washington. Federal offices, banks, and many schools are closed. In recent times, it has evolved into a major retail-driven sales holiday.

News Briefs

by Sal Giarratani

Washington Post Laid Off One-Third Work Force and Shuts Down Sports Dept.

The *Washington Post* just laid off one third of its workforce last week and eliminated its sports section and several foreign bureaus in a widespread purge. The move was called painful but necessary.

Eddie Bauer to Shutter Stores, Files Bankruptcy

Outdoor apparel retailer Eddie Bauer is expected to close its stores in North America and file for bankruptcy. The company opened its first store in Seattle in 1920 and operates more than 200 stores currently.

SBA Bans Green Card Holders from Loans

The Small Business Administration has just said in a policy note that green card holders will not be allowed to apply for SBA loans, effective March 1. The move is just the latest by the SBA as it works to tighten loan restrictions and restructure the agency.

(Continued on Page 11)

Local Elected Officials Back Wu and Healey

by Patti Sartori

Mayors and town managers from across Greater Boston stood solidly behind Boston Mayor Michelle Wu as she announced a series of executive actions holding federal officers accountable in the city. Wu signed an executive order directing the Boston Police Department to (BPD) to de-escalate any potential confrontations between the public and ICE agents and to "keep people safe," should Boston witness an immigration surge.

The mayor's order states city departments shall "work with the BPD to publicly release video footage of violence or property damage by federal officials captured by Boston Police Department body worn cameras or other city-controlled surveillance cameras." In addition, police are expected to "investigate all crimes committed in Boston, including those committed by federal agents and make referrals to city law enforcement partners, such as the Suffolk and Middlesex District Attorney's Offices, and Attorney General's office," Wu said.

"Together, we will use every tool we have, every right and law and constitutional protection we fought for, to defend our residents from federal overreach. We are Boston and we will never abandon our values," added Wu. The mayor referenced the recent violent clashes between protestors and ICE officers in Minneapolis, "In these deployments, federal agents have fomented chaos, violated residents' constituent's constitutional rights, and perpetrated egregious acts of violence."

While there has been talk of a



Boston Mayor Michelle Wu is flanked by elected officials from local cities and towns as she announces an executive order directing Boston Police to de-escalate potential confrontations between the public and Ice agents.

(Photo courtesy of the City of Boston)

potential immigration surge in Boston, Wu was quick to tamp down the rumor, stating "We don't have any information to suggest that there is an imminent we change, but there has been continued federal immigration enforcement throughout Boston. I think many of us felt we wanted to join the Governor and also to join together in being clear about where we stand and taking the actions that are with in our power and authority to protect our residents."

The mayor plans to restrict the use of city property, without a court order or warrant, declaring that Boston property, parks and even parking lots cannot "be used as an un-permitted staging area, processing location, operations base, or any similar purpose in furtherance of civil immigration enforcement operations." The Mayor also said the order is not meant to obstruct federal immigration enforcement, and that it's in line with the *Boston Trust Act*,

which allows for cooperation in certain criminal matters.

Other mayors and city managers from around the area, including Somerville Mayor Jake Wilson and Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan, announced they would be imposing and supporting executive action similar to Boston, as it relates to federal immigration enforcement.

Let's hope the playing field will be made level for all involved in chaos and destruction of property in and around the city of Boston. As I recall and have witnessed on the local news, there have been multiple instances in Boston, specifically adjacent to Boston Common not too long ago, where law enforcement officers were attacked and property damaged by protestors. I hope any charges that may have been applied, stuck and that the offenders were punished to the full intent of the law. After all, what's fair for one specific group, should be just as fair to all!

Massachusetts Legislature to Vote on Illegal Immigrant Defense Fund

Currently awaiting a vote in the Massachusetts State Legislature is a joint bill that would establish a publicly funded program, providing legal representation to illegal immigrants dealing with deportation. The bill is called *An Act Ensuring Access to Equitable Representation in Immigration Proceedings*. Should the bill be approved later this month, it would allow for the creation of an immigrant legal defense fund.

The legislation calls for the administrator of the program to issue requests for proposals from qualified attorneys and non-profit organizations and award grants to provide illegal immigrants legal services. The \$5 million funding earmark was put in place, in July, 2025, as

part of the House FY26 budget for an Immigration Legal Defense Fund. Supporters of the bill testified at a Joint Judiciary Committee hearing in late November, stressing that the arrests and deportation crackdown by the Trump administration calls for free legal representation for illegal immigrants.

"Immigration court proceedings are incredibly complex. The stakes can potentially include permanent family separation, often to places where people have grave fears of return. As ICE arrests in our communities continue to increase, that need for representation is only growing," stated Liz Sweet, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Immigrant

and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA). "Research has consistently shown that those who are represented by a lawyer are five times more likely to win their immigration case if they have counsel," said Immigration policy expert Wendy Wayne.

However, there are some who oppose this legislation, feeling it would be unfair to taxpayers who do not want to fund legal services for illegal immigrants. "Could you imagine losing a family member or loved one to, for example, an illegal immigrant who has been drunk driving and then find out it's your tax dollars going to support that person's legal defense?" asked the Director of the Massachusetts Coalition for Immigration Reform (MCIR) Henry Barbaro.

Stirpe Nostra

by Prof. Edmund Turiello

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



SIBYLS AND THE SIBYLLINE BOOKS

We are reminded that the female counterpart to a prophet is called a sibyl. Delving a bit further into the word Sibyl, there appears to be a root expression, “the will of God” attached to it. Sibyl is also the name used during ancient times to identify those prophetesses who were inspired by some god, usually Apollo, and some were even described as Apollo’s daughters or favorite wives. More often than not, they were considered to be maidens who lived near springs that inspired a divine influence. This caused the sibyl to utter prophetic expressions while in a trance, daze, or frenzy.

Most confusion about sibyls seems to be in their exact numbers. Plato, for instance, identified only one, while others named any number up to ten or twelve. The important sibyls that I recall at this time were the Erythraean, Cumaean, Delphian, Libyan, Persian, Samian, Egyptian, Babylonian, Cimmerian, Hellespontine, Phrygian and the Tiburtine.

Michelangelo’s Sistine Chapel ceiling frescoes is said to be



Michelangelo’s Libyan Sibyl, Sistine Chapel

the world’s most powerful piece of painting. In addition to scenes that illustrate events from the Old Testament, he also enthroned seven prophets and five sibyls. The prophets are Jonah, Daniel, Isaiah, Zechariah, Joel, Ezekiel, and Jeremiah. The sibyls are Erythraea, who foretold the details of the passion of Christ and the Resurrection, Cumaea, who is credited with “God shall be born of a pure virgin and

hold converse with sinners,” Delphica, or the Delphic Oracle, who, in addition to being consulted on national and personal matters, wrote many poems about the Incarnation, the virgin birth, the passion, the crucifixion and the Resurrection, the Libyan sibyl who said, “The day shall come when all men will see the King of all living things. A virgin, the mistress of the nations shall hold him in her lap, and shall reign in mercy,” and lastly, the Persian sibyl who said, “Satan shall be overcome by a true prophet. The Lord shall be brought forth in the orb (center) of the lands,” and “The womb of a virgin shall be the salvation of the people.”

The Sibylline Books are quite often mentioned in Roman history. They are a collection of oracular sayings or prophecies (nine books) in Greek hexameter verse. The books are attributed to the Hellespontic Sibyl, put together at the time of Solon (about 638 B.C.) and buried in the Temple of Apollo at Gergis,

(Continued on Page 10)

Mayor Wu Unveils “Final Budget” for White Stadium Renovation

by Patti Sartori

Boston Mayor Michelle Wu has finally made public the cost to city taxpayers for the controversial White Stadium Project. Deflecting for months from committing to a cost associated with this project, Wu held a press conference last week providing an updated cost estimate. It seems, now that all bids have been reviewed, the Boston taxpayers will be on the hook for \$135 million, triple the amount that was originally suggested almost three years ago.

The total cost of the project now exceeds \$325 million, bringing the city’s share of the original \$50 million, which climbed to \$91 million before ultimately settling on \$135 million according to Wu. “Our Boston kids deserve nothing less than the best, and we are going to continue to fight for them to have every possible opportunity. By partnering with Boston Legacy Soccer, our students get a publicly owned and controlled world class stadium at less than half the cost, delivering the largest community benefits deal in Boston’s history,” Mayor Wu stated at the recent press conference.

Boston Legacy is a new National Women’s Soccer

League Team that will share the use of the new White Stadium with Boston Public School student athletes, beginning spring of 2027. Wu has been a strong proponent of the public-private partnership since she announced the proposed project in 2023, but it has received severe criticism from neighbors as well as the Franklin Park Defenders, for the high cost to tax payers, lack of traffic and transportation plan and almost no community input from the beginning.

“With these latest cost overruns, the taxpayer cost of turning White Stadium into a professional soccer complex has now more than quadrupled. This project is no longer anything close to the \$30 million renovation that was first proposed to Boston residents,” stated Dorchester resident Louis Elisa, and member of the Franklin Park Defenders.

The public disclosure of the project’s cost comes on the heels of Boston Public Schools Superintendent Mary Skipper’s recent announcement that the school department is facing a \$53 million dollar budget gap, with more than 500 staff cuts and layoffs looming.

U.S. Attorney to Massachusetts Leah Foley to Establish a Fraud Coordinator

by Patti Sartori

U.S. Attorney Leah Foley announced earlier this week that she will establish a fraud coordinator for Massachusetts as more Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) benefit fraud schemes are discovered in the Bay State. “The fraud coordinator will act as a primary point of contact for benefit fraud in the U.S. Attorney’s office and as a trusted advisor to me and my leadership team when it comes to investigating and charging these kinds of cases. What we are seeing in our ongoing investigations warrants this type of attention, and you should anticipate seeing more and more of these cases coming here in Massachusetts,” Foley stated in her announcement.

Foley’s action is due in part to the recent SNAP fraud her office has uncovered, including a \$7 million SNAP fraud scheme run by a Haitian national criminal enterprise using tiny retail

stores in Boston, along with the Massachusetts State Auditor Diana DiZoglio’s office identifying almost \$12 million in public assistance fraud in the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2025, the majority of which was found in the SNAP program totaling \$4.1 million and approximately \$1.3 million of fraud was discovered in Mass Health.

Other offenders include a naturalized citizen from the Dominican Republic, two illegal immigrants and one green card holder, who allegedly stole identities from U.S. citizens in several states, including New York, Florida, Connecticut, Kentucky, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts.

“These benefits are intended to enable low-income households to obtain a more nutritious diet by increasing their food purchasing power, not to stock someone’s restaurants. This is just the tip of the iceberg,” Foley stated. Foley has

called out state officials, including Governor Maura Healey, for lack of oversight and enforcement surrounding these types of fraudulent occurrences. “It is not particularly hard to identify these scams, but if you don’t even care to look or prosecute those involved, essentially allowing criminals to steal vast amounts of taxpayer money with impunity, the scams will continue to proliferate unabated,” added Foley.

Healey and Foley’s office are at odds over whether Massachusetts officials alerted federal investigators about the \$7 million SNAP fraud scheme uncovered in December of last year, something the Governor claims her administration did in fact take the initiative on. Foley says Healey only deactivated the EBT debit cards flagged for fraud and did not refer prosecution of any of the individuals connected to those cards and benefits.

The Trump administration has been asking Healey to provide the USDA with information on SNAP recipients in order to allow them to root out waste, fraud, and abuse, suggesting that Healey is protecting fraudsters over constituents. Healey has been steadfast in her refusal to comply, stating “The Trump administration has refused to give us assurances that this personal data, including social security numbers, will not be turned over to ICE or abused for other purposes. If the Trump administration agrees they will protect people’s sensitive data from places like ICE, we will of course consider providing it.”

Tom Brady’s Lack of Loyalty a Huge Disappointment



It seems neither a god like statue at Gillette Stadium nor a fast track into the New England Patriots Hall of Fame are enough to secure the loyalty of former NFL quarterback Tom Brady. After a 20-year career with the Pats and Six Super Bowl championships, Tom Brady offered no allegiance to his former team, stating he didn’t have “a dog in the fight” when asked about Super Bowl LX. On a recent “Let’s Go!” Podcast with sportscaster Jim Gray, Brady said, “We did it for 20 years. There was a little bit of a hiatus in there, but the Patriots

are back, and it’s a very exciting time in New England. I hope to see a good game. May the best team win.”

Brady’s comments received some serious pushback from former teammates and current players, including Patriots linebacker Robert Spillane, saying “Personally it makes me sick. He’s a Patriot, he has a dog in this fight. So, for him to say that, it is what it is. At the end of the day, he’s an owner of the Las Vegas Raiders now, so he has to do what’s best for him.”

Former Patriot Defensive Tackle Vince Wilfork didn’t hesitate to call Brady’s comment “bull crap,” while another former New England Patriot favorite, Assante Samuel posted his feelings on social media, that he was “highly disappointed” in the former quarterback for “not rooting for your ex-teammate, Mike Vrabel.” Even suggesting Brady might be envious of Drake Maye’s rise.

It seems the GOAT may be falling out of favor with his comments. One of his biggest fans, North End resident Chrissy Pagliuca never hesitated over the past two decades to express her feeling for Brady, “The only person who loves him more is his mother.” When asked this past week how she felt about his neutrality, she stated, “Not good. He has forgotten where he started.”

Maybe idols really do have feet of clay!

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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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.

Boston Considers Billing for Snow Clean Up

We have all heard the saying, "Those who live in glass houses, shouldn't throw stones." But I can't help wonder if Boston Mayor Michelle Wu subscribes to the old adage given her recent announcement that she is considering clearing sidewalks for residents and businesses in future snowstorms and sending them the bill.

Despite recent criticism for lack of attention and coordination of snow removal these past few weeks, Wu said she is "very proud" of the city's efforts and response to the two feet of snow that has been dumped on the city. "Our teams have gone above and beyond. I know we have a lot of work to do when we get a historic amount of snow, from trash pickup, from schools being open, from libraries and community centers being accessible."

The mayor believes there is room for improvement as it relates to clearing snow from in and around private property. Boston property owners are responsible for clearing snow and ice from sidewalks abutting their property within three hours after it stops snowing, or within three hours after sunrise, if it snowed overnight.

Wu said the city is contemplating stepping in next year to remove and clear the snow from private properties and sending the bill to the property owners. "I think it is time to go beyond just relying on good neighbors and volunteers on certain areas where we absolutely need to know the sidewalk is clear. It may come to a point, where as we're thinking about next year's preparations, exploring things like certain sidewalks that absolutely need to be passable, maybe the city should just assume responsibility, and then charge those property owners afterwards for the work that has been done."

Which begs the question, "Who should the bill be sent to when the sidewalks in front of parks or handicap ramps are left covered in snow and barely passible? Or when the overly high snowbanks at city road way intersections impede foot traffic or driver visibility?" There should not be any finger pointing, especially since the city bears as much responsibility as private property owners in this instance. What is needed are alternate methods of snow removal, to assist the Public Works Department with their efforts. Other cities and towns have come up with solutions, maybe it's time for the Wu administration to think out of the box as well.

LETTERS POLICY

The Post-Gazette invites its readers to submit Letters to the Editor

- Letters should be typed, double-spaced and must include the writer's name, address, and telephone number. Anonymous letters are not accepted for publication.
- Due to space considerations, we request that letters not exceed two double-spaced, type-written pages.
- This newspaper reserves the right to edit letters for style, grammar and taste and to limit the number of letters published from any one person or organization.
- Deadline for submission is 12:00 noon on the Monday prior to the Friday on which the writer wishes to have the material published. Submission by the deadline does not guarantee publication.

Send letter to: Pamela Donnaruma, Editor,
 The Post-Gazette, P.O. Box 130135, Boston, MA 02113

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The Gilardi Real Estate Group

Announces Relocation

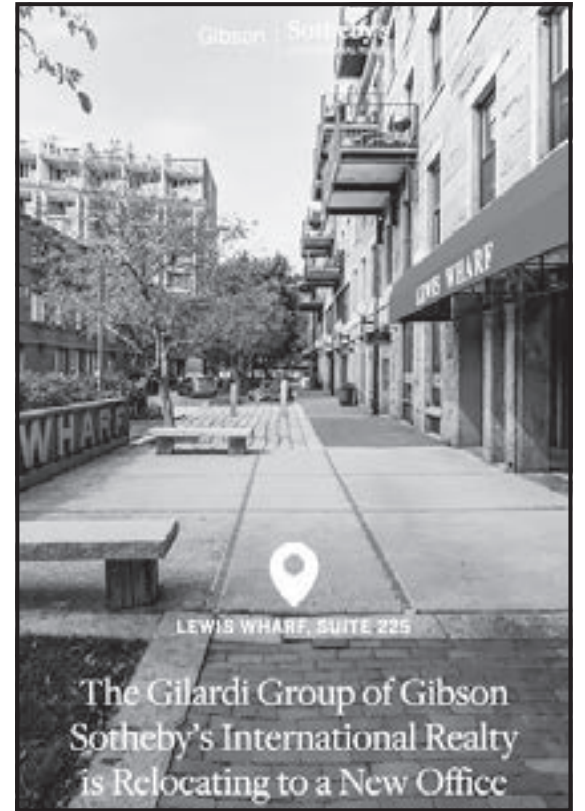
The Gilardi Group of Gibson Sotheby's International Realty is relocating to a new office at 225 Lewis Wharf, U225, Boston, MA 02110. "We're excited to officially announce that our office is relocating to the North End Waterfront! This move marks an exciting new chapter for our team while continuing to proudly serve the neighborhood we call home!" stated Toni Gilardi, Broker Associate.

The Gilardi team strives to maintain the highest level of customer service and professionalism while assisting their clients in maximizing their knowledge and understanding of the ever-changing industry.

Since joining Gibson Sotheby's International Realty in 2015, The Gilardi Group has been recognized every year as top producers at the company. They are always willing to go the extra mile for their clients.

The Gilardi group places priority on giving back. One of their philanthropic efforts is hosting an annual "Toys for Tots" gala. Toni also fundraises for the St. Leonard Church Peace Garden on Hanover Street in the North End and has received numerous accolades for her team's continued support of their community.

Wishing the Gilardi Group continued success at their new location.



Jelly Roll Reveals his Faith has Carried Him

As of late it seems quite uncommon for an entertainer to use their acceptance speech to speak of their Religious Faith rather than politics, so imagine the surprise of many in the audience and the viewers to hear Jason DeFord, better known as Jelly Roll, stand on stage, in front of a live audience at Crypto.com Arena in Los Angeles, during the recent Grammy Awards earlier this month and accept his award with thanks and gratitude to his faith in Jesus.



Jelly Roll accepted the award for best contemporary country album for "Beautifully Broken" during the 68th annual Grammy Awards, delivering an emotional speech centered on faith and redemption and the long road that carried him from the criminal justice system to where he stood that evening, before an audience of the top entertainers across the music industry.

"First of all, Jesus, I hear you, and I'm listening. Lord, I am listening. Second of all, I want to thank my beautiful wife. I would never have changed my life without you. I would have killed myself if it wasn't for you and Jesus," said DeFord, before noting the inspiration behind the album "Beautifully Broken," which was being honored.

"There was a time in my life, y'all, that I was broken. That's why I wrote this album.

I didn't think I had a chance, y'all. There were days that I thought the darkest things. There was a moment in my life that all I had was a bible and a radio the same size, and a 6-by-8 foot-cell. And I believe that those two things could change my life. I believe that music had the power to change my life. And I want to tell y'all right now, Je-

sus is for everybody. Jesus is not owned by one political party. Jesus is not owned by no music label. Jesus is Jesus, and anybody can have a relationship with him. I love you Lord," explained DeFord.

For those who assumed the award ceremony would follow the typical script, preaching and demoralizing conservative viewers or those who don't follow the traditional Hollywood liberal thinking, it must have come as quite a shock, including, Bad Bunny, the Super Bowl LX headliner, who upon accepting his award for best Musica Urbana album made sure to place politics before faith stating, "Before I say thanks to God, I'm going to say, 'ICE Out.'"

For the many Americans who place God, their faith and religion above politics De Ford, "Jelly Roll" was a reinforcing reminder of the power of redemption, as he turned the spotlight toward his family and faith.

ST. LEONARD

ASH WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

February 18, 2026

7:30AM - MASS WITH ASHES
8:15AM - SCHOOL MASS WITH ASHES
11:30AM - ROSARY
12:05PM - MASS WITH ASHES
1:30PM - ADORATION & CONFESSION
2:00PM - NORTH END REHAB MASS WITH ASHES
3:00PM - PRAYER SERVICE & DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES
4:00PM ADORATION
6:00PM - CONFESSION
6:30PM - ROSARY
7:00PM - MASS WITH ASH DISTRIBUTION

Ash Wednesday marks the first day of Lent, a 40-day season of prayer, fasting, and penance for Catholics in the U.S. and throughout the world, culminating on Easter Sunday. Traditionally symbolized by a priest marking a worshipper's forehead with a cross of ashes reciting, "Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

The ashes, made from burned palm branches from the previous Palm Sunday, represents mortality, grief for sins, and a call to spiritual renewal and repentance. Ash Wednesday is a day of obligatory fasting and abstinence from meat for Catholics and many other Christians, reinforcing the spirit of sacrifice and self-discipline.

Ash Wednesday serves as a meaningful observance of our reliance and dependence on God, while serving as a starting point for the Lenten journey, leading us toward Easter with a renewed spirit and commitment to God.

L'Anno Bello: A Year in Italian Folklore

St. Valentine's Day and Swooning for Spring

by Ally Di Censo Symynkywicz



February is the month when, despite the snow crunching beneath my feet and the bare branches whipping in the wind, signs of spring seem to blossom all around me, delicate as the first snowdrop. Heavy winter jackets, which still provide us with much-needed heat from the cold, nevertheless get pushed aside in stores to make way for pastel-colored dresses and cheery patterned leggings. The lemons and oranges of winter yield to the first tender artichokes and green peas of the season. These heralds of spring get a big boost from a major seasonal holiday that honors all things floral and sprightly — St. Valentine's Day, which occurs this year on Saturday, February 14th. This festival of love and hearts also revels in the sense of renewed life that accompanies spring, evident in its focus on flowers and birds. I love this holiday for the opportunity to snack on decadent chocolates and bake up a batch of red velvet cupcakes. However, in the midst of all the pink and red hoopla, I will constantly keep my mind on spring. St. Valentine's Day will remind me that love, in all of its myriad forms, is necessary and natural in order to make the transition from winter into spring.

Like most other holidays, St. Valentine's Day remains synonymous with rampant commercialism. As soon as the Christmas festivities end, stores roll out the heart-shaped cards and velvety red boxes of chocolates, the giant doe-eyed stuffed

animals, and fresh bouquets of roses. Though I always enjoyed the chocolates, this unchecked commercialism frequently annoyed me back in my single days, as it seemed that the idea of romantic love was constantly being shoved down my unattached throat! However, I now realize that the real spirit of St. Valentine's Day includes not only celebrating romantic love, but indeed love in all of manifestations, including the bond between friends and the affection for family members. I also became fascinated by the joint pagan and Christian roots of St. Valentine's Day, which stretch all the way back to our ancestors in Italy. This holiday bears the name of the mysterious St. Valentine, or *San Valentino* in Italian, about whom many romantic legends arose. One tale claims that St. Valentine secretly performed forbidden marriages for Roman soldiers, while another proclaims that he fell in love with the blind daughter of his jailer and restored her vision, then addressed himself as her "Valentine" in a letter written prior to his execution. Meanwhile, some scholars believe that the feast of St. Valentine's Day was inspired by the ancient Roman celebration of Lupercalia, a festival dedicated to purification and fertility. Though there is no evidence of a direct correlation between St. Valentine's Day and Lupercalia, both holidays symbolically indicate that the spring is a ripe time for love and regeneration.

Indeed, love across all of nature is inescapable on St. Valentine's Day. A medieval superstition, popularized by author Geoffrey Chaucer, stated that birds choose their mates on St. Valentine's Day, a quaint piece of folklore that recalls not only the romantic overtones of the holiday but also its connections to fertility and the rebirth of nature. Other avian-related superstitions stated that the first bird a girl saw on St. Valentine's Day presaged the career of her future spouse — a robin meant a sailor, a goldfinch meant a millionaire, a bat meant a baseball player, etc. In Italy, people celebrate St. Valentine's Day, or *la Festa di San Valentino*, in much the same way as their American counterparts, replete with romantic dinners, cards and gifts of flowers or chocolate. The truly love-struck Italians may journey to the beautiful city of Verona, where they will gather under the small stone Juliet's balcony and ponder the fate of the star-crossed lovers from William Shakespeare's famous play. Contemporary lovebirds scribe their initials on the walls of a tunnel adjacent to the balcony, creating a living testimony to passions past and present. Meanwhile, the heartsick write their own letters to Juliet, or *Giulietta* as she is known in Italy, asking for romantic advice. These superstitions and folk customs epitomize the intense and capricious power love has over our lives. As such, it is exciting and comforting to have a holiday, balanced on the equally unpredictable precipice between winter and spring, devoted to love in all its shapes.

I plan to celebrate this St. Valentine's Day by eating chocolate in some manner, most likely in the form of the red velvet cupcakes or brownies I make each year for my husband. However, I also will express my thanks for all of those whom I love in my life — my family, my friends, even my cat! After all, nothing can melt the metaphorical winter snows faster than the warmth that radiates from the laughter and company of loved ones. In fact, we should honor the abundant love that we can give to others not only on St. Valentine's Day, but during every day of the year. As spring slowly inches her way into our lives, let us notice — and love — the signs of rebirth plentiful in the nature around us: a crocus bud shyly peeking out from the snow and dirt, the first robin proudly chirping from an icy tree, the pale sunlight of a late evening. For just as we recognize the importance of love on St. Valentine's Day, so should we recognize this love reflected in the natural world around us, bright as the resplendent spring sunshine.

Happy St. Valentine's Day!

Ally Di Censo Symynkywicz is a high school history teacher. She appreciates any comments and suggestions about Italian holidays and folklore at adicens089@gmail.com.

(Image by Lookstudio on Freepik)

THINKING OUT LOUD

by Sal Giarratani



Are We Not Our Brothers (Sisters) Keeper? Or Do We Just Stand by as Bystanders?

There is something terribly wrong when street people are dying on the streets of New York's boroughs due to the city's "last resort" policy. Two recent headlines ("My Hands are Tired" and "Tragedy of his own Making") show just how blind are those that will not see. This city policy of last resort makes no sense at all. According to officials even first responders on the streets seem not to understand how someone gets deemed a danger to themselves or others.

Is living out on the street in arctic cold weather not enough proof that someone is a danger to themselves? So far only 18 poor souls have frozen to death. Can anyone tell me they weren't a danger to themselves? Regardless of any city policy about not being allowed to take people off the streets before they die, is everyone in public health and public safety positions that uncaring about consigning people to death. A 86-year-old man died on the street because he didn't want to be brought inside. Is his death really a tragedy of his own making or is it a tragedy of government authorities who do nothing but watch the death count rise again and again.

As far as the mumbling homeless woman who wouldn't accept help to get out of the brutal cold, is it enough for EMTs or police to say "Hands tied on homeless" and walk away?

Here is the problem with Mayor Mamdani's homeless policy, it is killing people.

There is a deadly flaw in the mayor's take on the homeless dying on the streets.

Does the mayor, EMTs or police officers expect anyone to say they are a danger to themselves or others? I think not. At some point somebody needs to be responsible, or the same tragedies will just mount up.

I am a retired police officer up here in Massachusetts, on the job for 28 years. I would never allow anyone to freeze to death, not if I had anything to do with it.

Police officers have the authority to write pink papers (Section 12s) to hold them involuntarily. In 28 years, I took this action only twice when there was no one else around. I had no idea what happened to either person after they rode away in an ambulance but at least they didn't die on my watch.

New York City's last resort policy is almost a self-fulfilling prophecy. How often does anyone think that a homeless/mentally ill person says "Take me away against my will for my own good?"

If the political leadership of New York City is too afraid to make responsible solutions, perhaps they could at least look at Baltimore, where the mayor there is doing something (heated buses). If you stand by and do nothing you are not part of the solution, you are part of the problem which has already killed 18 folks living in the shadows of our lives.

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

LEGAL NOTICES

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Bulbs with Season Long Color and Pollinator Appeal

by Melinda Myers

Boost the beauty and pollinator appeal of your gardens and containers with flowering bulbs. A combination of spring- and fall-planted bulbs can provide season-long color and nectar for bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, and other pollinators.

Include a few dahlias known for their excellent pollinator appeal. The award-winning Collarette Pooh grows 24 to 30" tall and features cherry red and yellow daisy-like flowers. Light up your gardens with Kelsey Sunshine collarette dahlias. The pale-yellow outer petals make a nice backdrop for the frilly white inner petals. Add even more color with the HS Date single dahlia with burgundy leaves and melon-colored flowers. Grow these and other dahlias in a sunny location with moist well-drained soil.

Add vertical interest and color to flower beds and containers with gladiolas. Start planting batches of the corns in spring and continue every week through early summer. You and the hummingbirds will enjoy the longer bloom time. Select from a wide range of colors, including white, pink, orange, yellow, red, bicolors and more. Once flowering begins you may need to provide some support. Just slide a bamboo stake next to the plants and secure the stems with twine to keep top-heavy plants upright.

Enjoy the bold foliage, showy flowers and visiting hummingbirds and other pollinators by including cannas in the full to part sun areas of your landscape. Select dwarf varieties for containers and grow cannas where you can easily view the visiting birds.

Consider growing a few begonias in containers and hanging baskets. Most tolerate some shade and many bloom from spring through frost.

Grow a few containers of some of the lesser-known bulbs. *Hymenocallis*, also known as Peruvian daffodil or spider lily, has large, lightly fragrant white flowers. The blooms attract butterflies, moths, and other pollinators while deer and rabbits tend to leave them be. Pineapple lily (*Eucomis*) has spikes of blooms topped with a small cluster of leaves. The flowers attract bees, butterflies, and other pollinators.

Provide some late-season nectar for a variety of butterflies by growing blazing star (*Liatris spicata*). This North American native plant produces spires of fuzzy purple flowers and combines nicely with rudbeckias, asters, dahlias, and other late-season bloomers.

Plant pre-chilled lily bulbs in spring or fall with other spring-flowering bulbs that need a winter chill to bloom. Either way, you'll enjoy



North American native Blazing Star (*Liatris spicata*) provides nectar for a variety of butterflies.
(Photo courtesy of Longfield-Gardens.com)

their color throughout the summer by planting various early-, mid- and late-season lilies. See Longfield Gardens' *Bloom Times for Lilies* article at longfield-gardens.com for help with your selection. Ensure success by planting them in full sun and well-drained soil and protecting them from rabbits and deer.

Support early visiting pollinators with fall-planted spring-blooming bulbs. Look for opportunities to add these to your landscape. Make a list and note in your calendar so you are sure to get them planted in fall.

Plan for months of spring color starting with early-blooming crocus, snowdrops (*Galanthus*), glory of the snow (*Chionodoxa*) and grape hyacinths (*Muscari*). Include early-, mid- and late-spring blooming tulips, daffodils, and hyacinths. Add a few uniquely flowered fritillarias, bearded iris in a rainbow of colors and a few showy alliums.

Use Longfield Gardens' Bloom Time Chart for Spring and Summer Bulbs (longfield-gardens.com) to help you plan for months of beauty and pollinator appeal.

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

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Friday the 13th Lucky or Unlucky



For centuries, Friday the 13th has been regarded as one of the unluckiest days on the calendar. Unless of course you're of Italian descent, then St. Anthony, whose feast day is June 13 and thought to be a sacred day and number.

Yet even in today's modern world, the superstition surrounding this date continues to influence how many people think, feel and behave. The fear of Friday the 13th is rooted in a mix of history and religion. In Catholic and Christian tradition, Friday is associated with the crucifixion of Jesus, while the number 13 is often associated with misfortune, dating back to the Last Supper, where 13 people were present before Jesus' betrayal, 12 apostles and Judas.

In modern times, pop culture, society and Hollywood have played major roles in shaping the fear of Friday the 13th. Horror films, novels, television shows and even the construction of major buildings and hotels omitting a 13th floor, have portrayed the day as a time of danger, suspense, or bad luck. As a result, some people avoid traveling or leaving their homes on this date, expressing an overall sense of doom.

Despite its superstitious reputation, Friday the 13th is harmless in reality. Studies show no consistent increase in accidents or bad events on this day. Still the superstition persists, reminding us of just how powerful storytelling and tradition can be. Whether feared or ignored, Friday the 13th remains a fascinating example of how mythical beliefs continue to influence modern life and thinking.

Updates from Boston 311

❄️ Sidewalks matter this winter, Boston! ❄️

Here's what you need to know to keep our sidewalks safe and accessible for everyone:

- Property owners must clear the sidewalk and curb ramps next to their property
- Clear snow and ice within 3 hours after snowfall ends (or within 3 hours after sunrise if it snows overnight)
- Leave at least a 42-inch-wide accessible path for wheelchairs, strollers, and walkers
- Don't shove or push snow into the street or onto public sidewalks
- Fines can be issued daily until sidewalks are cleared (even for City-owned properties)

See an un-shoveled sidewalk? Report it to 311. Visit boston.gov/snow for more information, use the BOS:311 app, or call 3-1-1 / 617-635-4500.

Stay safe this winter!

★ Presidents Day City Services Update ★ (Monday, February 16)

City Hall will be closed on Presidents Day, but Boston 311 will remain open to help residents with non-emergency City services.

Please note:

- City offices, Boston Public Libraries, and BCYF Community Centers will be closed
- Parking meters are free with no time limit
- Daytime street cleaning is canceled; overnight street cleaning follows the normal schedule
- Trash and recycling pickup may be delayed in some neighborhoods during the holiday week—check your schedule using the Trash Day app or call 3-1-1

🧹 Daytime Street Sweeping 🧹 Returns March 1

Daytime street sweeping will resume on March 1 in select neighborhoods, including the North End, South End, and Beacon Hill. In most Boston neighborhoods, the Daytime Street Cleaning Program resumes on April 1. Residents should check posted street sweeping signs on their street for specific schedules and parking restrictions.

Follow 311

Stay up to date: [Instagram](#) | [Bluesky](#)

📍 Visit boston.gov/311 to learn more.

BCYF NAZZARO CENTER FEBRUARY VACATION EVENT SCHEDULE AGES 9-13

→ FEBRUARY 2026

TUE 2/17 **MOVIE DAY: GOAT**
11AM-4PM
AMC North station 60 Causeway St. Boston, Ma. 02114

WED 2/18 **BODA BORG**
11AM-4PM
Boda Borg 90 Pleasant St. Malden, Ma. 02148

THUR 2/19 **SKATING PARTY**
10AM-4PM
Steriti Rink 561 Commercial St. Boston, Ma. 02109

FRI 2/20 **BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME**
10-4PM

MORE INFO

CALL 617-635-5166

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Ieri e Oggi

Yesterday & Today

A COLUMN OF PAST AND CURRENT EVENTS

by Bennett Molinari & Richard Molinari

Filippo Brunelleschi



Filippo Brunelleschi was an architect and engineer, and one of the pioneers of early Renaissance architecture in Italy. He was the first modern engineer and an innovative problem solver, building his major work, the dome of the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore (the Duomo) in Florence, with the aid of machines that he invented specifically for the project. The Dome is still the largest brick dome ever constructed, and a defining example of Renaissance architecture. Brunelleschi's masterpiece still inspires wonder.

Brunelleschi was born in Florence, Italy in 1377. His early life is mostly a mystery. It is known that he was the second of three sons and that his father was a distinguished notary in Florence. Brunelleschi initially trained as a goldsmith and sculptor. Around the turn of the century, he was designated a master goldsmith.

In 1401, Brunelleschi competed against Lorenzo Ghiberti, and five other sculptors for the commission to make the

bronze reliefs for the door of the Florence baptistery. Brunelleschi's entry, "The Sacrifice of Isaac," was the high point of his short career as a sculptor, but Ghiberti won the commission. Ghiberti went on to complete another set of bronze doors for the baptistery with the help of Renaissance giant Donatello. A hundred years later, Michelangelo said about the doors, "Surely these must be the 'Gates of Paradise.'"

Brunelleschi's disappointment at losing the baptistery commission might account for his decision to concentrate his talents on architecture instead of sculpture. He continued to sculpt, but architecture was the dominant thread in his professional career.

Perhaps he was simply inspired by his surroundings since it was in this period (1402-1404) that Brunelleschi and his good friend and sculptor Donatello purportedly visited Rome to study the ancient ruins. Although Donatello remained a sculptor, the trip seems to have had a profound effect on Brunelleschi, and he turned firmly and permanently to architecture in the following decade.

Early in his architectural career Brunelleschi "rediscovered" the principles of linear perspective. With the foundation of these principles, one can paint or draw using a single vanishing point, toward which all lines on the same plane appear to converge, and objects appear smaller as they recede into the distance.

Brunelleschi displayed his findings with two painted panels of Florentine streets and buildings. By using Brunelleschi's perspective principles, artists of his generation were able to use two-dimensional canvases to create illusions of three-dimensional space, crafting a realism not seen previously.

Linear perspective as an artistic tool soon spread throughout the whole of Italy and then through Western Europe, and has remained a staple in artistic creation since.

Brunelleschi is also known for building or rebuilding military fortifications in such Italian cities as Pisa, Rencine, Vicopisano, Castellina and Rimini. He also created a hoist-like mechanism to help stage theatrical religious performances in Florentine churches and is credited with securing the first modern patent for a riverboat he invented.

Brunelleschi passed away in Florence on April 15, 1446, and is entombed in the Duomo. He is remembered as one of the giants of Renaissance architecture. The inscription on his grave within the basilica reads: "Both the magnificent dome of this famous church and many other devices invented by Brunelleschi the architect bear witness to his superb skill. Therefore, in tribute to his exceptional talents, a grateful country that will always remember buries him here in the soil below."

Revere Beach is Site of 3rd Annual Winter Wonderland



Marie Monziona, Chelsea, MA



Chili Cook-Off



Chili Cook Off



From the Flames - by Jacob Hughes



Circus Elephant

Not snow, blustery winds or a mix of wintery weather could keep participants away from the Revere Beach Partnership's 3rd Annual Winter Wonderland, which has become a seasonal tradition for locals and visitors. Set on America's First Public Beach, the event was free and open to the public.

The brave attendees enjoyed entertainment, a chili cook off, and magnificent Ice Sculptures competition. In spite of the unseasonably cold temperatures, it proved a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the season beside warm and cozy fire pits.



1st Place Winner - Veiltali by Evan Hughes



2nd Place Winner - SpongeBob by Chip Koser



3rd Place Winner - Bonsai by Andy Campbell

(Photos by Gerri Palladino)

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

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

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Vehicles may be seen by appointment only. Please email for specific information info@todiscotowing.com
Run dates: 02/06, 02/13, 02/20/2026

JAYLEN BROWN

Named to NBA All-Star Team

Boston Celtic Jaylen Brown was named to the 2026 NBA All-Star Team in January. He is the only Celtic to receive the honor. Brown was selected to play for the Eastern Conference, earning a spot following a dominant 2025-26 season, averaging 29.7 points, 6.4 rebounds, and 4.8 assists while leading the Celtics to a second place Eastern Conference record. Brown has stepped up in the absence of Jayson Tatum, following an Achilles injury and surgery.



Just this past week Brown was named a starter for the USA Team Stripes, marking his first ever All-Star start and fifth overall selection. He joins Eastern Conference starters Giannis Antetokounmpo, Jalen Brunson, Cade Cunningham, and Tyrese Maxey.

The 2026 All-Star Game, scheduled for Sunday, February 15 in Los Angeles, will be broadcast live on NBC and streamed on Peacock at 5:00 p.m. ET, features a new format with two USA teams and one international team. Congratulation Jaylen!

American Sign Language (ASL) at the Library: Signing Rocks!



Saturday, February 21, 2026

10:00 AM – 10:45 AM

25 Parmenter St., North End, Boston

Join us for a popular “Anything Goes” event that will get you excited about learning American Sign Language (ASL). Led by a live, experienced ASL instructor, SIGNING Rocks! is designed to engage participants through fun games and activities.

This class is taught entirely in ASL to provide an immersive experience. Whether you are a total beginner, intermediate learner, or have advanced skills, this session offers a great way to practice and learn various signs in an energetic environment. Learn essential signs through interactive games.

Key Takeaways:

- Build confidence in using manual communication.
- Gain exposure to ASL in an immersive, “no-voice” environment.
- Connect with others in the community interested in Deaf culture and language.

Accessibility Notice: We strive to make our events accessible. To request a disability accommodation and/or language services, contact the department listed in the “Contact Info” pane on the right. Please allow at least two weeks to arrange accommodation.

Programming at the Boston Public Library is funded through private support. To learn more about supporting the Library, please visit the Boston Public Library Fund’s website.

For further information, please call 617-227-8135 or email: northend@bpl.org

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
The Probate and Family Court Department
Middlesex, SS Division
Docket No. MI26P0407PO
NOTICE OF PETITION FOR
REMOVAL OF TRUSTEE

To all persons interested in the 33 Kato Drive Realty Trust, a petition has been presented by Perry A. Beckett of Sudbury, MA in the above-captioned matter praying that George Deligiannides of Swampscott, MA be removed as Trustee(s) of said Trust.
If you desire to object thereto, you or your attorney should file a written appearance in said court at Woburn before ten o'clock in the forenoon on February 25th, 2026.

Witness, Hon. Terri L. Klug-Cafazzo, Esquire,
First Justice of said Court at Woburn, this 28th day of January, in the year of our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty-Six.

Tara E. DeCristofaro,
Register of Probate Court

Run date: 02/13/2026

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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF DOING BUSINESS UNDER ASSUMED NAME

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

125 Newbury Street, Suite 200
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The true and real full names of all persons conducting said business are:
Elaine Shi, Chief Executive Officer
Roy Shi, President

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

Saint Theotonius of Coimbra

by Bennett Molinari and Richard Molinari

Theotonius was born in the village of Ganfei, in northern Portugal around 1082. His parents, Oveco (James) and Eugenia were both wealthy and pious. He was called “Theotonius,” a Greek name meaning “godly.” His uncle Dom Crescônio, abbot of the Benedictine monastery near Tuy, was his first teacher. When Dom Crescônio became bishop of Coimbra in 1092, he brought the ten-year-old Theotonius with him and entrusted his further education to the care of a young seminarian, Tello.



and Theotonius and the other pilgrims from his parish returned to Portugal.

Theotonius’ experience in the Holy Land resulted in both an increased devotion to the Passion and an intention to found a religious order following the Augustinian Rule.

Theotonius helped to found the Canons Regular of the Holy Cross in Coimbra. Archdeacon Tello purchased the site of the monastery. Work began on the Monastery of the Holy Cross and of the Blessed Mary Mother of

God, on June 28 1131. On February 22, 1132, the monastery was completed and the community took the habit and rule of Saint Augustine. It opened with 72 members, with Theotonius as prior.

After the death of Bishop Crescônio in 1098, Theotonius went to Viseu, where his uncle named Teodorico was prior of the Cathedral Chapter of Santa Maria. He was ordained a priest sometime before the year 1109, by the bishop of Coimbra. He was appointed a canon of the Cathedral Chapter of Viseu, which was a college of clerics who served as advisors to the bishop.

After being ordained a priest, he remained at Viseu, where his service was so well-received that he soon was given the charge of the entire township as archpriest. He was both an excellent speaker and an advocate for the poor. Deeply devoted to the holy souls in Purgatory, he would say Mass for them every Friday followed by a procession to the cemetery. Alms were collected as part of this weekly work of mercy and distributed to the poor. Theotonius was asked many times by Count Henry and Queen Teresa, to assume the office of bishop.

Theotonius was a trusted advisor of Portugal’s first king, Afonso Henriques. The king attributed his success at the Battle of Ourique to the prayers of Theotonius.

Although his counsel was sought by Afonso Henriques, Theotonius did not hesitate to reprove the king or queen if he thought them in the wrong.

Theotonius retired from his pastoral office of prior, after 30 years of service. He then became a hermit in solitude. He kept with him through his old age a shepherd’s staff which St. Bernard, the first abbot of Clairvaux, had sent to him as a present when he heard of his sanctity. On Saturday, February 18, 1162, Theotonius passed away. The entire city of Coimbra showed their admiration for him. King Afonso I of Portugal was taken by such grief that he said of him, “His soul will be in Heaven before his body is in the tomb.”

Theotonius left his parish with a large number of pilgrims and set out for Jerusalem. Upon entering Jerusalem, Theotonius set himself first to see the Cross on Mount Calvary. He also visited the Mount of Olives and Bethany. Traveling to Bethlehem, the group continued to the Sea of Galilee. There the pilgrimage ended,

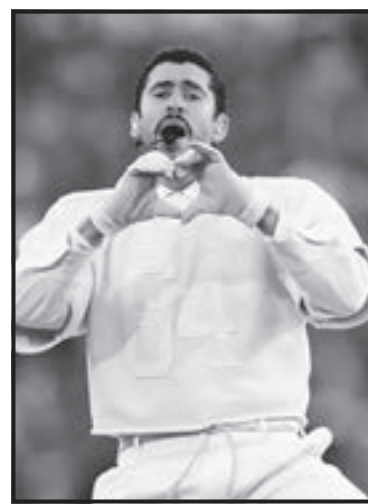
The Feast Day of Saint Theotonius is February 18.

Commentary ...

Why Many Believe the NFL Mis-stepped with Their “Bad Bunny” Choice

by Patti Sartori

In the eyes of those opposed to the NFL’s decision to put **Bad Bunny** on the Super Bowl stage, it represented a departure from the unifying and traditionally American half time show extravaganza typically aimed



resurfaced once his Super Bowl role was announced. Many critics, especially conservatives, interpreted his selection as a political statement, not a simple musical choice, arguing that traditional half time show should not serve as a platform for “controversial” political views.

A portion of long time NFL viewers view the league as deeply rooted in traditional American culture, from college football rivalries to weekly Sunday football match ups. For them, a halftime headliner whose persona is sharply critical of America, represents a misalignment between the NFL’s biggest season moment and what many fans hope to expect from it.

It seems the core group believes this wrong choice stems from the idea that the traditional American Football halftime show should be, universally appealing and align with mainstream American culture. Given the deep and vocal backlash to the choice of bad Bunny, many fans believe the NFL misread its audience, values and tradition.

Regardless of who may be chosen as future half time show performers, let’s hope they remember they are performing in front of one of the largest television and streaming audiences in the country, the United States of America, and that it should always uphold the values and traditions of America.

for, and in making this choice, risked alienating key parts of viewership. Whether one agrees or disagrees with this perspective, the intensity of the debate shows just how high the stakes are when entertainment meets one of the America’s most watched moments.

A major portion of the backlash stems from the fact that Bad Bunny’s playlist was performed almost entirely in Spanish, a language many Americans do not understand, leaving a large population of fans feeling left out, while others believe the show was less accessible and should in fact be targeted to the larger audience and wider viewership, and not a select population.

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Middlesex Probate and Family Court
10-U Commerce Way
Woburn, MA 01801
(781) 865-4000
Docket No. MI25A0961AD

CITATION
G. L. c. 210, § 6

In the matter of
PAYTON MARIE BURKE

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

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

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

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

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

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

Date: January 21, 2026

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate

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

VIDEO VIEWS ... more than meets the eye

by Bob Morello



rebellion through Kingston and Rastafarian pride. Packed with raw energy, unforgettable performances, and a pulsating soundtrack, *Rockers* is a vibrant, rebellious ride through the streets, sound systems, and soul of 1970s Jamaica.



Jim Martin, the team includes five elite fighters, each with unique combat skills—from unarmed street fighting and karate to high-impact kickboxing. Their mission: infiltrate the island compound, uncover the secrets of the cult's charismatic and manipulative leader, and rescue the senator's daughter before she becomes permanently indoctrinated — or worse. The diverse cast of martial arts legends includes Joe Lewis, Bong Soo Han, Sonny Barnes, Benny 'The Jet' Urquidez, Richard Norton, and Amanda Wyss, in this classic martial arts action genre.



leaps into the dual roles of Chad and Alex Wagner, twin brothers who were separated after their parents' brutal murder. Years later, the two couldn't be more different: Chad is a slick Beverly Hills fitness instructor, while Alex is a rough and tumble smuggler on the gritty streets of Hong Kong. But when fate throws them together again, Chad and Alex discover that there's one thing they have in common: they're both fighting machines! Determined to enact revenge on their parents' killers, the martial-arts experts kick, chop and shoot all the way to an electrifying final showdown aboard a gargantuan freighter in Hong Kong harbor.



what begins as flirtation soon becomes a hypnotic seduction — leading him straight into her bed and trapped in her world of erotic indulgence and eternal hunger. Early 2000s erotic horror, and first time ever on Blu-ray, also includes bonus erotic horror film *Blood Craving*.



Way - Back Home Again - Somebody Save Me - Heartbreak Station - Coming Home - Falling Apart At The Seams - Love's Got Me Doin' Time - Love Gone Bad - Gypsy Road - Shake Me.

ROCKERS -

COLLECTOR'S EDITION 4K Ultra HD + Blu-ray) Blue Sun

In the heart of Kingston's music scene, reggae drummer Horsemouth (Leroy Wallace) dreams of making it big by distributing records on his brand-new motorcycle. But when the bike is stolen, Horsemouth rallies a group of legendary musicians to track it down and take on the corrupt elite exploiting their community, sparking a musical rebellion through Kingston and Rastafarian pride. Packed with raw energy, unforgettable performances, and a pulsating soundtrack, *Rockers* is a vibrant, rebellious ride through the streets, sound systems, and soul of 1970s Jamaica.

FORCE: FIVE - COLLECTOR'S EDITION (Blu-ray) MVD Rewind

A powerful and dangerous cult, hidden on a remote island fortress, has brainwashed the daughter of a U.S. senator. With local authorities powerless and time running out, the government turns to a highly specialized team of martial arts experts known as 'Force: Five,' in this action-packed 1980s thriller. Led by seasoned agent

DOUBLE IMPACT - COLLECTOR'S EDITION (4K Ultra HD + Blu-ray) MVD Rewind

What could be better than Jean-Claude Van Damme in an explosively entertaining action extravaganza? Two of him, starring in *Double Impact!* There's twice the excitement, twice the mayhem and twice the fun in this turbo-charged adventure that pushes the thrills into overdrive. Van Damme

DATE WITH A VAMPIRE - COLLECTOR'S EDITION (Blu-ray) Visual Vengeance

Violet is a vampire who hungers for sexual pleasure as much as her victim's blood, in *Date With A Vampire*. By night she prowls the city, luring both men and women into her web of lust and murder. Her latest unsuspecting prey, Chuck, is a lonely young man she meets in a smoky bar and draws into her orbit with a mix of charm, sensuality, and mystery. But

what begins as flirtation soon becomes a hypnotic seduction — leading him straight into her bed and trapped in her world of erotic indulgence and eternal hunger. Early 2000s erotic horror, and first time ever on Blu-ray, also includes bonus erotic horror film *Blood Craving*.

CINDERELLA - IN CONCERT (Blu-ray) Cleopatra Entertainment

Filmed during Cinderella's legendary Heartbreak Station Tour of 1991, when the boys were at the very height of their powers, on *Cinderella - In Concert*, the show includes their hits 'Night Songs', 'Don't Know What You've Got Till It's Gone', 'Nobody's Fool', 'Shelter Me' and many more! This digitally remastered audio has been formatted in both 5.1 Surround and 2.0 Stereo and there's an exclusive photo slide show as a bonus! Additional tracks include: The More Things Change - Push Push - Sick For The Cure - Make Your Own

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

WHOSE VERSION IS BETTER?

This morning while listening to *Sunny Side Up* on Willie's Roadhouse on Sirius Radio 61, Sunny Sweeney played Ray Steven's version of "Sunday Mornin' Coming Up." I hadn't heard that before but I love Johnny Cash singing that very same country tune. However, I wonder what you all think out there. Is it Steven's or Cash's version that's the best? Let me know at sal.giarratani@gmail.com.

BY THE WAY, GLAD TO HEAR SUNNY SWEENEY'S SUNNY SIDE UP AGAIN

Following that horrible snow storm back on January 25-26, there was no *Sunny Side Up* on Sirius Radio. Sunny Sweeney lives down in Tennessee, an area of the country hit hard by that storm. She had no power at home and therefore had no broadcasting ability. She was off the radio for nearly two weeks. Some parts of Tennessee are still without power. That part of the country isn't ready for a powerful winter storm. Glad she is back for my drive to work.

BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS LAYING OFF TEACHERS

The latest news for Boston Public Schools appears to be a somewhat massive layoff of teacher positions as the city begins talking about the need to cut costs in the school budget. As the city's student population dips lower, the city has been taking on some infrastructure closures to tame the budget beast.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Todisco Services, Inc., with its corporate office located at 147A Summit Street, Peabody, MA 01960, under the provisions of Mass G.L.c.255, Section 39A, will sell the following vehicles on or after March 09, 2026 by public or private sale to satisfy a lien for towing, storage, and all other fees due.

2009 GENUINE SCOOTERS ROUGHHOUSE 50

Vin #RFVPM20191003270

2022 INTERNATIONAL LT625

Vin #3HSDZAPR8NN529929

2012 NISSAN ALTIMA

Vin #1N4AL2AP8CN423781

2012 NISSAN ALTIMA

Vin #1N4AL2AP5CN542808

2006 CHRYSLER 300

Vin #2C3KA43R46H151682

2013 SUBARU FORESTER

Vin #JF2SHADC1DG413474

2008 SUBARU OUTBACK

Vin #4S4BP61C387336045

2007 FORD F-150

Vin #1FTPW14547FA93931

2016 KIA OPTIMA

Vin #5XXGU4L37GG109399

2017 FORD EXPLORER

Vin #1FM5K8B87HGD73486

2011 JEEP COMPASS

Vin #1J4NF5FB9BD165299

2007 GMC SIERRA

Vin #1GTEK14Z57E166817

2012 TOYOTA COROLLA

Vin #5YFBU4EE3CP064181

2024 ZHILONG ST

Vin #HZ2TBCFXR1008783

2005 FORD ESCAPE

Vin #1FMYU93115DA17949

2010 FORD FUSION

Vin #3FADP0L30AR361500

2013 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN

Vin #2C4RDGCG9DR736394

2012 KIA FORTE

Vin #KNAFT4A22C5609152

2005 FORD FOCUS

Vin #1FAFP34NX5W228417

Vehicles may be seen by appointment only.

Please email for specific information

info@todiscotowing.com

Run dates: 02/13, 02/20, 02/27/2026



Years ago, I was a friend of one of the Disco Queen's sisters, and I have known Mike Freedberg for over 40 years going back to when he lived in Jamaica Plain and I in Charlestown



Boston Public Schools buses remain big burden on annual budget.

Wouldn't this be a great time to consider bringing back the elected Boston School Committee so that parents can gain more control over decision-making power? At the moment, the mayor's office runs the school system with her appointed flunkies and her rubber stamp school committee appointees. Bring back an elected school board.

The whole Boston Public Schools system has been going down the tubes since Forced Busing was implemented by Judge Arthur Garrity back in 1974.

THREE CHEERS TO ARTHUR M. ROSE ON 107th BIRTHDAY



City Councilor Erin Murphy honoring Arthur Rose on his 107th birthday

I was also honored to celebrate Arthur M. Rose as he marked an extraordinary 107 years of life. A World War II and Korean War Navy veteran, Arthur's life reflects service, resilience, and quiet leadership. Celebrating him alongside family, fellow veterans, and neighbors was a powerful reminder of the values that hold our communities together.

KUHNERMAN

REALLY UPSET WITH TRUMP RETREAT?

As I listened to Jeff Kuhner last Friday heading into work, I could instantly tell he was upset over something. Turns out it was President Trump's pivot away from the current mess in Minneapolis. Kuhner thought Trump's rethinking was the wrong one to make.

It appears the visual of what has been taking place on the streets of Minneapolis and St.

Paul was going nowhere good and very quickly too. In an audio played on that morning's radio show, Trump can be clearly heard saying that neither Good nor Pretti should have died during interactions with federal agents.

Most polls still show that a majority of Americans support removing violent illegal migrants from this country but polls also show that voters think the craziness going on over in the Twin Cities between the feds and the protesters had to be resolved before more deaths occurred.

Kuhner thinks it was wrong for President Trump to cave in on his ICE sweeps in places like Minnesota. I think pretty much that Trump did what he had to do because sending in thousands of ICE or border guard agents wasn't working out too well and only seemingly making matters worse.

A REMINDER TO ALWAYS DIG OUT FIRE HYDRANTS FOLLOWING A STORM



We have had a significant snowfall as of late. Starting on January 25-26 when we had the most snow since January 28, 2022. It keeps on happening as of late. This past Wednesday morning we got about 2 inches more of what I call "irritant snow." I hate winter storms living in East Boston. Living here reminds me of younger days living in Charlestown with crowded neighborhoods, too many cars, and too much snow. I am an expert on snow shoveling. I survived the Blizzard of '78, the mother of all winter snow storms.

Here is a side note of the Blizzard of '78, it dropped 28 inches of snow between February 6-7. My neighbors were skiing down Monument Avenue from the Monument to Warren Street. Looked like the Alps. Prior to that storm, less than two weeks prior on January 20, Boston got dumped with 22 inches of snow.

Putting things into perspective. Between January 20 and February 6-7.

Nanna & Babbonnonno

by John Christoforo

A Nostalgic Remembrance



At one time, every Boston neighborhood and every city or town had a movie theater. As I look back in just East Boston, we had the Seville, the Central, the Gem and the Orient Heights, and I believe there were others that disappeared in the 1940s. The Gem was the first to go during my day, it burned down in the '50s. The Gem showed films that were a few years old, and to entice the people to go there, they offered free dishes or china to their customers. You could attend the Gem a couple of days per week and put a complete set of tableware together: dinner plates, cups and saucers, salad bowls, etc. On weekends, they would advertise 7 pictures for 9 cents.

The weekend lineup was mostly for the kids. They would have a news reel, a travelogue, a couple of cartoons, a couple of short subjects, a serial that would be continued next week, and a cowboy film that was so old, Gabby Hayes got the girl.

The Orient Heights was located on Bennington Street in Orient Heights Square just before the right that took you to Winthrop. They would close in the '60s. The Central was one of the oldest of East Boston movie theaters. When I was a kid, John Manfredonia, his sister Adelaide, and I would be given 25 cents for the Central on a Saturday afternoon. Grace Manfredonia and Mom would give us last minute instructions as to the do's and don'ts of going to the movies on our own. If Nanna and Babbonnonno were within earshot, they would add in words of warning and then step aside to allow us to leave the umbilical cord behind.

The Central was located on the first block of Bennington Street just outside of Central Square. This theater was part of the same chain as the Seville, American Theater Corporation. The Seville showed pictures that just left the downtown theaters. The Central showed pictures just a little older or classics from the past. They also specialized in Italian films, and as a child, I was taken by Nanna and Babbonnonno when an Italian film was being featured. The first one I remember was the *Bicycle Thief*, just after WWII. On Saturdays the Central had a special matinee format. They would show a *Tarzan* feature and ten cartoons. Free comic books were given out at the front door as you handed your ticket to the doorman. By-the-way, tickets on Saturday

afternoons were 12 cents. Harry Ashton, the doorman passed out the comic books and was often swamped and had to be assisted by Frank Ferreira, the manager.

As I mentioned, the Manfredonia kids and I were given a quarter each. This meant; after paying the 12 cents entrance fee, we had 13 cents left over. Candy bars were 5 and 10 cents. A box of popcorn was 10 cents. We would spend 10 cents on our choices and have 3 cents for later. Frank Ferreira would check the clock at the end of the 10th car-toon, and if necessary, add 1 or 2 more to bring the time as close to 4:00 p.m. as he could.

If it was spring, summer or fall, there was a slush stand just across the street from the Central. The Bellavia family operated it in the doorway of their house and for the remaining 3 cents, you could buy their smallest slush. The only flavor they had in those days was lemon, but it was so good. During the winter when the slush stand was closed, we would walk home by continuing on Bennington Street to the corner of Marion Street where there was a penny candy store. And for that remaining 3 cents, I could buy a hand full of Boston baked beans (they were candy), or chocolate babies, maybe little wax bottles filled with sweet colored liquid or a strip of dots, flavored circles of candy pasted of a strip of paper. Spending my three cents wisely often allowed me to fill my pockets with candy as we made the trek home.

The Seville was where we thought the rich kids went on a Saturday. They might have had a kids' matinee, but the cost was 16 cents and that was above our budget unless they were showing something special like a Roy Rogers western or a John Wayne war film. If we decided on the Seville, we would check our savings and if we had a penny, the 9 cents left from the quarter would now total 10 cents and we could buy two candy bars.

The Seville was built on a cultural motif, Seville, Spain. There were other theaters built at the same time by the same New England Theater Corp. Two that I remember were the Egyptian in Brighton and the Oriental in Mattapan. The Egyptian had the motif of ancient Egypt during the reign of the pharaohs, and the Oriental was designed to look like the interior of the Forbidden City in China.

By the time 1952 rolled around, three of the older boys on my street worked as ushers at the Seville, Joe Marotta, Fred Cataldo, and Bobby Romano. As a result, by the summer of '52, I began hanging out at the theater, helping with chores. By August, I was offered a job as an usher and would stay there working part-time for 10 years.

By the 9th year, there was a shakeup within the entire corporation and Mr. Ray, the manager, left and Frank Ferreira, who had been the manager of the Central before it burned down, took his place. I put in one last year and then left, myself.

At the tender age of 16, Mr. Ray called me into the office along with Theresa Guelli, one of the candy girls. It seems that money and stock was disappearing from the candy concession, and Mr. Ray found out that most of the ushers and candy girls were involved. (This doesn't include the three ushers I mentioned earlier. By this point in time, they had left.) He had Theresa and me standing in front of him as he told us about the theft that he discovered. Theresa and I looked at each other not knowing what to say, but then Mr. Ray added, "I discovered that you two had nothing to do with this. I fired everyone and (pointing to me) you are now head usher, and you (pointing to Theresa) are now head candy girl. Now, go out and find me two new crews to work for you." At 15, Theresa was the head candy girl, and at 16, I was now a boss ... the head usher.

I put together a few people I knew from East Boston and the North End that I could trust. Henry Giggi, who attended English High with me became my assistant head usher. Carl Sinatra joined with us as did Eddie DeCino and a few others from our neighborhoods. Babbonnonno was so proud that at the age of 16, to him I was a boss. Mr. Ray would become like a second father and I would learn many of the social graces from him that have allowed me to survive and prosper in life. (By the way, for those of you who are superstitious, it's Friday the 13th.)

GOD BLESS AMERICA

LEGAL NOTICE



Watertown Housing Authority
 EOHLC Fish # -321089

PROJECT NAME
 Basement Waterproofing at State Aided Development

WHERE TO FIND BID PACKAGE
 Biddocs.com

ESTIMATED JOB COST
 \$2,247,147.00

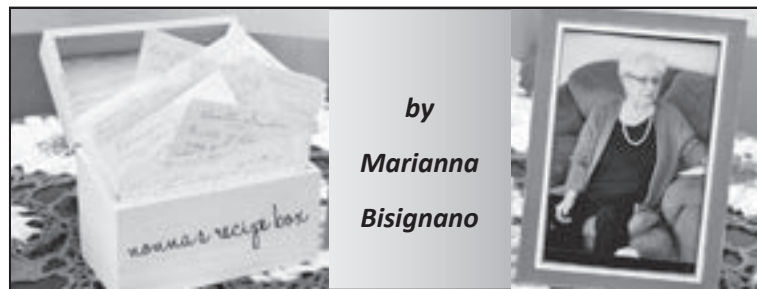
BID DATES:
 GO LIVE:
 Wednesday, February, 11, 2026

SITE WALK-THRU:
 Thursday, February, 19, 2026 @ 10:00 AM

GENERAL BIDS DUE:
 Thursday, March 12, 2026 @ 2:00 PM

FILED SUB-BIDS DUE:
 Thursday, Feb. 26 @ 2:00 PM

Run date: 02/13/2026



by
**Marianna
 Bisignano**

From gondola rides in Venice to the timeless tale of Romeo and Juliet in Verona, Italy has always been a land steeped in love. The Italian language itself is rich with emotion and expression, and the people are naturally warm and affectionate. It's perfectly normal to see friends and loved ones sitting close while they talk, holding hands, or greeting one another with a kiss on the cheek when saying hello or goodbye.

Valentine's Day, *La Festa degli Innamorati*, "the feast of lovers," along with Saint Valentine himself, has its roots in Italy. Unlike in America, this day in Italy has traditionally been reserved exclusively for lovers. For centuries, Italians expressed their affection through handwritten letters and simple tokens of love. The exchange of elaborate cards and gifts is more of an American influence. Today, Italians celebrate with romantic dinners, meaningful gestures, and of course, chocolate.

And speaking of chocolate, what better time than Valentine's Day to indulge in a chocolate-filled biscotto? These *Biscotti di San Valentino* are an old-fashioned recipe featuring a creamy chocolate filling wrapped in a vanilla-scented pasta frolla — style dough, rolled into logs, baked, sliced, and finished with a light dusting of powdered sugar. My Nonna made these year after year, and while I can't promise their exact origin, I can promise that you and your loved ones are going to fall in love with them!

Buon San Valentino xoxo 🍫

BISCOTTI DI SAN VALENTINO



- 2½ to 3 cups 00 flour (as needed for a soft dough)
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 large egg
- ¼ cup lard, shortening, or butter
- ½ cup whole milk
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- 2 teaspoons baking powder or 1 packet Paneangeli Lievito
- 2 cups semi-sweet chocolate or chocolate chips
- 1 (14 oz) can sweetened condensed milk
- 1 cup chopped nuts (optional)
- Confectioners' sugar, for dusting

In a large mixing bowl, beat together the brown sugar and lard/shortening until creamy.

Add the egg and mix well, then stir in the milk and vanilla extract. Gradually sift in the flour and baking powder (or Paneangeli), mixing until a soft, pliable dough forms. Divide the dough into three equal portions. Shape each portion into a rough rectangle. Place one portion between two sheets of lightly floured waxed paper. Roll into a thin rectangle, about ¼-inch thick.

In a saucepan over low heat or in a microwave-safe bowl, combine the chocolate and sweetened condensed milk. Heat gently, stirring often, until smooth and melted.

If using nuts, stir them into the chocolate filling.

Spread one-third of the filling evenly over the rolled-out dough using a spatula.

Carefully roll the dough up jelly-roll style to form a biscotti log. Repeat with the remaining dough and filling.

Place the logs seam-side down on a parchment-lined baking sheet.

Bake at 350°F for 15 to 20 minutes, or until lightly golden. Allow the logs to cool completely before slicing. Dust generously with confectioners' sugar before serving.

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

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THOUGHTS BY DAN ABOUT THIS & THAT

with Daniel A. DiCenso

Edinburgh



Edinburgh Castle

Admittedly and sadly, I saw too little of Glasgow to weigh in on its feud with Edinburgh for the title of the city most representative of Scotland. What I can say, however, is that Edinburgh is a beautiful city and, however it may hold up to Glasgow, is Scottish to the core. My first introduction to the city was at night, which is to my eyes the best way to see a city. The walk back to the hotel from the garage in which I left the car took me through its narrow, winding roads and past Edinburgh Castle.



Me by Edinburgh Castle

Few were out, however, and almost all the pubs were closed. Among the scarce signs of life I saw were a few European hares on the castle grounds. European hares bare a closer resemblance to our Eastern cottontail than the cottontail does to its Western cousin the jack-rabbit. Despite being canonized in British culture by the works of Lewis Carroll and A.A. Milne, the European hare is an import to Great Britain having been introduced from continental Europe by William the Conqueror, a subtle nod to this fact is found in *Watership Down* in which Richard Adams modeled the Lapine language on *lingua franca*. There is, however, one hare that is native to the British Isles and that is the fuzzy mountain hare.

When I made my way out in the morning the essence of Edinburgh embraced me in all its liveliness. It's that delightful paradox, a bustling city retaining its quaintness. The retention of its history and heritage has made room for innovation. It thrives while never exhausting.

Ultimately, I decided to leave my car in the lot and experience this vibrant city by foot. This proved to be the right decision as it was the best way to reach the Bath House of Queen Mary, a tiny structure surrounded by a serene garden that was once a retreat for the Queen of Scots.



Queen Mary's Bath House

From there I made my way to the current home of the Crown in Scotland, Holyrood Palace, towering over Queen Mary's little slice of heaven. The contrast is, of course, great. Holyrood Palace is, to the tourist, a museum of a castle with artifacts and arts traversing the centuries. On that particular sunny October day, the Royal Mile was very busy and I became quickly lost in the throngs of visitors.

My visit to Holyrood Palace was briefer than I had hoped for a building of such reputation but I found that the day was passing by and I still had a lot of Edinburgh to see before I left the city on the following day. Indeed, some of Edinburgh's most charming curiosities are overshadowed by its icons. Also, on the Royal Mile one can find the People's Story Museum which celebrates the



Holyrood Palace



John Knox House and Moubray House

laborers that have kept the city running and the Moubray House, home to nobility since 1477. I lingered the longest at the John Knox House, a fascinating building that illustrates how legend and conjecture often become history. What is certain is that the house, built around 1470, was nearly a century old when John Knox (1514-1572), the theologian and reformer of the Church of Scotland, lived there. A plaque adorning the building identifies the house as the residence of John Knox from 1560-66. According to the site's own somewhat contradictory literature, however, Knox resided in the house only briefly during the siege of Edinburgh Castle, but documentations show he died within its walls. Nonetheless, following the Disruption of 1843 and the creation of the Free Church, the house had become so attached to the legacy of John Knox that it carries his name to this day.



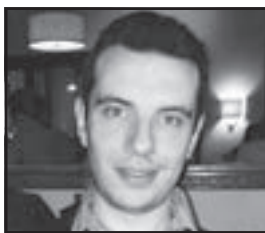
Victoria Street

The majority of my day spent in Victoria Street, which in many ways is the heart of Edinburgh. On the day of my visit (October 20) the city was already decorating the vibrant swerving street with Christmas lights and wreaths while a line of tourists was awaiting their turn to enter Diagon Alley, popularly known as the Harry Potter store. I could have spent an entire day at Victoria Street, admiring the elegant India Buildings and exploring its shops and cafes. I was delighted to find Armchair Books, an antique bookstore with an impressive array of titles. In design Armchair Books bears some resemblance to the basement of the Harvard Square Bookstore. There is a section for every topic imaginable and I got lost in its labyrinth of shelves.

Before dark I had to visit the Sir Walter Scott Monument in Princes Street Gardens, the second largest monument to a literary legend, which is neighbored by a statue of that enigmatic explorer David Livingstone. I ended my day visiting Edinburgh Castle just as the sun was setting. I was feeling somewhat dissatisfied with my pacing and couldn't escape the feeling I had short-changed many of the sights I visited and put off Linlithgow Palace for the following day before leaving Edinburgh, but the shadow cast by the ancient castle as the last rays of sun set reminded me that the true rewards are in the moments you cannot plan.



Statue of David Livingstone



• Stirpe Nostra (Continued from Page 2)

on Mount Ida. The collection found its way to Cumaea who brought it to Rome during the reign of Tarquinius Superbus, the last king of regal Rome (about 500 B.C.). It is said that Cumaea offered the nine books to the king at an exorbitant price. He refused to pay the amount so she burned six of the books. The king finally bought the remaining three books at the original price. These three books were preserved in a vault

beneath the temple of Jupiter, but were destroyed when the capitol was burned in 83 B.C. The Roman Senate then sent out agents to acquire a new collection of similar oracular sayings, and this new collection was deposited in a restored temple. Sometime around 405 A.D. this second collection was also destroyed.

NEXT ISSUE: *Hercules, the Legendary Strong Man*

• Boxing Ringside (Continued from Page 12)



Primo and family

Most importantly, Carnera broke his ankle in the first round of the match. He showed incredible courage continuing on despite the injury and was still on his feet when the fight ended. Baer appeared quite winded at times as the fight wore on. If Carnera had not broken his foot at the beginning of the fight, it could have had a different outcome.

Baer would lose the title belt in his first defense to James J. Braddock. This flight was quite suspicious and it is very possible both fighters were in on the shenanigans. Both Baer and Braddock went on to be inducted into the Hall of Fame.

Baer and Carnera both would go on to fight the up-and-coming Joe Louis the year following their match. Primo took on the future Champ on June 25, 1935. He was stopped in the 6th round after putting up a valiant effort. Baer fought Louis the following September and gave it his best effort for three rounds before being decked twice. In the fourth round he was floored again and decided he had enough, taking the ten-count while on one knee.

I am not questioning anyone's courage or ability. I'm just pointing out that Carnera was not lacking in either, so that would not be a reason to disqualify him from being in the Hall of Fame.

Much has been made of the mob managing Primo. That reminds me of the line from the movie *Casablanca* where Inspector Renault cries out "I'm shocked, shocked to see there is gambling going on!" He says this while being handed his winnings. If mob involvement was a reason to keep fighters out of the Hall of Fame, there would be a lot less members. For goodness sake, Don King has been inducted.

I believe Primo Carnera has been wronged by being snubbed for this honor. In fact, a prime reason for inducting him, and perhaps the reason he has not been chosen, is the way he was exploited by those in the sport. While the character of Toro Moreno in *The Harder They Fall* is supposed to have been influenced by Carnera, it is not an accurate portrayal. What is accurate in the movie was the way Moreno was robbed of his earnings and then cast aside. It's some ugly stuff, but aligns with what was done to Carnera. In this age of being honest about history it would only be fitting for this part of his story to be included in any honor given to the former champ.

Primo Carnera was a proud man who never quit in the ring. He may not have attained greatness, but he did develop solid boxing skills over the course of his career. He defended the heavyweight title successfully two times, something some other Hall of Fame champs didn't manage to do. Max Baer, James J. Braddock, Jack Sharkey, and Ingemar Johansson all lost the title in their first defenses.

Carnera went on to have a successful wrestling career. While many enjoyed demeaning him for going into that field, it was there that he found respect and made money. It also led to roles in the movies. Ironically, Primo has been inducted into the WWE Wrestling Hall of Fame.

I don't have much use for, nor much respect for the powers that control boxing. Maybe it is only just that Carnera is not in the Hall of Fame, but I believe the time is long overdue for this good man to get the respect he had been denied throughout his life.

Primo Carnera, sei stato un brav'uomo?!

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

Last year, it tightened a requirement that businesses applying for loans must be 100 percent owned by U.S. citizens, U.S. nationals, or lawful permanent residents, up from a 51 percent standard.

The SBA doesn't give out direct loans, except when they're related to disasters but it works with lenders to distribute loans to small businesses.

Special U.S. House Race Warning for the GOP

In a special Texas state Senate election on Saturday, January 31, in a state Senate district carried by Trump in 2024 by 17 points, the Democrat candidate beat his GOP opponent by 14 points. This 31-point swing shows that the moderates Republicans need to win over are getting upset with those brutal images coming out of Minneapolis.

As the *NY Post* recently editorialized: "Americans want the border secured and dangerous illegal aliens out of the country; they don't want federal agents

dragging people out of cars and barging into private homes seeking people who might merit arrest."

Border Czar Tom Homan has wisely pivoted into a new Minneapolis strategy. Most American citizens want those illegal bad hombres sent back to their home countries but most U.S. voters polled do not support the images they are viewing on video. It all seems too violent and only making matters worse for all.

Detroit Murders Fall Below 200

Police Chief Todd Bettison says Detroit saw its murder total fall below 200 victims for the first time in six decades. Bettison and other city officials recently marked the third consecutive year of decline in 2025, there were only 165 homicides, the fewest since the city had 125 homicides in 1964.

Detroit had a population of 1.5 million in 1974. Today, the city's population is 645,700.

End Quote

"Each morning, we are born again. What we do today is what matters most."

— *Buddha*

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Docket No. MI25C1087CA

In the matter of:
PEDRO PAULO NERES DE SOUZA

CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A Petition to Change Name of ADULT has been filed by **Pedro Paulo Neres De Souza** of Framingham, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to: **Pedro Paulo Neres De Souza Menezes**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: 370 Jackson Street, 5th Floor, Lowell, MA 01852 before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 3-2-26. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

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

Date: February 02, 2026

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate
Run Date: 02/13/2026

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

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

2017 MERCEDES BENZ GL450
VIN #4JGDF6EE7HA875939

2007 AUDI Q7
VIN #WA1AV74L57D010359

Signed
Gregory Leblanc
Owner, Waltham Auto Tow

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

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF SALE

Notice is hereby given by **Stephens Automotive Transport**, 60 Union Street, Medford, MA 02155, pursuant to the provisions of G.L.c.255 39A, that on **February 28, 2026 at 10AM**, at said address, the following motor vehicle(s) will be sold, in as is condition, no keys, at public sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for towing, storage, and expenses of notice and sale:

2020 HYUNDAI KONA, RED
KM8K12AA8LU551875

2016 KIA OPTIMA, SILVER
5XXGT4L32GG005325

2015 AUDI A3, WHITE
WAUEFGFF9F1070024

1999 FORD ECONOLINE, WHITE
1FBSS31FXXHA19274

2010 HONDA ACCORD, BLACK
1HGCP2F38AA070980

2014 NISSAN SENTRA, GRAY
3N1AB7AP7EY222022

2016 FORD EXPLORER, BLACK
1FM5K8D84GGB90722

2009 SUBARU IMPREZA, GRAY
JF1GH63639H820555

2022 JEEP WRANGLER, GRAY
1C4HJXDN7NW267333

2007 GMC SAVANA, WHITE
1GTGG25V271175090

2008 SAAB 9-3, SILVER
YS3FB49Y481141303

2006 TOYOTA SCION xB, WHITE
JTLKT324164070906

2012 GMC SIERRA, BLUE
1GTR2VE79CZ185637

2024 JIAJUE JJ50QT-3, BLACK
LLPVGBAA1R1030028

2025 ZHILONG ST, BLUE
HZ2TBCNF4S1014391

2025 ZHILONG ST, GRAY
HZ2TBCNF6S1014098

2024 ZHILONG ST, BLUE
HZ2TBCNFXR1009738

2024 ZHILONG ST, BLACK
HZ2TBCNF6R1007100

2025 ZHILONG ST, BLUE
HZ2TBCNFXS1016100

Run dates: 02/13, 02/20, 02/27/2026

LEGAL NOTICE

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

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

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

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

Dated, Attested and Sealed, January 16th, 2026 (Seal)

HON. TIMOTHY P. McELDUFF, JR., SURROGATE

KERRI SERKES
DEPUTY CHIEF CLERK, KERRI SERKES

Name of Attorney for Petitioner:

John E. Ziobro, Esq.

Address of Attorney:

20 Spring Street, Suite 1, Warwick, NY 10990
Tel. No.: (845)986-1700

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

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

EXTRA Innings
by *Sal Giarratani*

Really Wasn't "Mayeday"

The NY Post called the Patriots' defeat at the hands of the Seahawks "MAYEDAY" but we New England fans know better. Yes, we lost 29-13 to a team that showed how great their D-Game is.

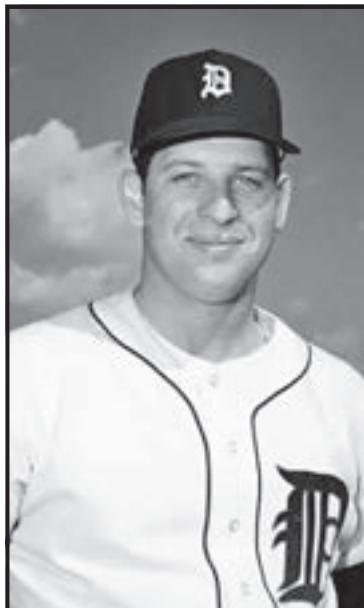
Twenty-three-year-old Drake Maye will return as will head coach Mike Vrabel and offensive coordinator Josh Daniels. These Patriots today did an amazing job this past season. After finishing 4-13 in 2023 and 2024, they were looking like the Patriots of old under Bill Belichick and Tom Brady. This team made it to the Super Bowl, a place no one saw them headed for as this past season began. Pats fans know just to get to the Bowl this year was a miracle. This team will hopefully return next February.

They have nothing to be ashamed of and hopefully it will be clear sailing ahead. Boston Strong.

Mickey Lolich, Hero of '68 Tigers Dies at 85

When I was growing up in Lower Roxbury/South End, I loved baseball. Baseball was still America's Pastime and the game was still thrilling and with some amazingly great players. Great time to be alive.

Recently, I read that longtime Detroit Tigers' pitching ace Mickey Lolich passed away at 85. He had a great career but it was 1968 that baseball fans will always remember. While many fans will remember Denny McClain for his 31 victories that season, it was Lolich who defined it. He was the hero, winning three World Series games that season against the St. Louis Cardinals, which had



Mickey Lolich

Happy Birthday to Carney Lansford



Carney Lansford

Former Red Sox third baseman Carney Lansford just celebrated his 69th birthday a few weeks back. He hit .317 for the Red Sox 1981-82 before he was traded to the Athletics in a six-player deal. The Red Sox were clearing third base for Wade Boggs. The Sox got slugger Tony Armas for Lansford.

I always like Lansford and was glad to see he landed on both feet and played 10 seasons at third base for Oakland.

Here's a little sidebar to this story. The Red Sox traded Lansford after he had just won the AL batting crown. Go back to 1962 when the Red Sox traded Pete Runnels to the Colt 45s to make room for Dick Stuart who they received in another trade that took place off season from the Pirates. Stuart was a home run slugger as the Red sought for more team offense. Pete Runnels wasn't a power hitter but he did ALSO win a batting crown that off-season just like Lansford.

defeated the Boston Red Sox the previous season in 7 games.

In 1968, Denny McClain was the star of the Tigers winning 31 games but it was Lolich who became the MVP of the Series with an 1.67 ERA with his road game Game 7 victory over Gibson. In 2018, Lolich was interviewed about that Game 7 victory and said, "It was always someone else but my day had finally come."

He is No. 3 in career strikeouts ahead of many others who are in the Hall of Fame. By the way, only four other left-handed pitchers had more strikeouts than him.

Mickey Lolich had a career record of 220-192 over a 16-year career, all but three in Detroit. He played for the Mets in 1976 and then for the Padres in 1978-79. In 1971, Lolich was 25-14 striking out 308 over 376 innings, finishing second for the Cy Young. In 1972, he went 22-14 with 250 strikeouts.

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Boxing Ringside



WITH BOBBY FRANKLIN

Should Primo Carnera Be in the International Boxing Hall of Fame?



Primo and Joe Louis weighing in

To say Primo Carnera was treated poorly by boxing is an understatement. From having his money stolen to insulting epithets to a movie based on his life that portrayed him as barely able to fight, Carnera had to endure ridicule for much of his life. Was this abhorrent treatment of the champ warranted? Absolutely not.

The poor treatment continues long after his death with his absence from the International Boxing Hall of Fame in Canastota, NY. Every fully recognized heavyweight champion in the IBHOF Old Timer Category has been inducted from John L. Sullivan to James J. Braddock. Six heavyweights who were not champions, Peter Jackson, Luis Angel Firpo, Sam Langford, Harry Wills, Young Stribling and Joe Jeannette have been honored. There are also three men whom Carnera defeated in the Hall; Jack Sharkey and Tommy Loughran. The third was Young Stribling. The two fought twice in 1929 with each man winning via disqualification. There was talk the fix was in for both matches. Interesting, since that would mean each fighter, one a Hall of Famer, won under suspicious circumstances.

Young Stribling's career was marked by a number of fights that were thought to be less than on the up and up. He also fought a lot of opponents that had very little ring experience. This didn't keep him from being inducted into the IBHOF.

Hall of Famer Jack Johnson claimed he had thrown his fight with Jess Willard. Questions have always surrounded Sonny Liston's two fights with Muhammad Ali. Were Jack Dempsey's gloves loaded when he fought Willard? Did Archie Moore throw the fight to Patterson? All are in the Hall of Fame.



The Champ

Some others who have not been chosen come from the latter part of the 20th Century, but there is still plenty of time for them to be chosen. These include Leon Spinks, Buster Douglas, and Michael Moorer. While the Klitschko brothers have both been chosen. Also, as boxing moved into the later 20th Century and beyond, the title became more and more fragmented to the point where most people couldn't name the heavyweight champ; unthinkable in earlier days.



Carnera and Referee Jack Dempsey get into it during a wrestling match at the Boston Garden in 1950

Primo Carnera won the heavyweight title from Jack Sharkey in 1933 with a 6th round knockout. Two years earlier Sharkey had easily beat Carnera by decision over fifteen rounds. That fight was one-sided. There are some to this day who believe Sharkey threw the second fight, an accusation Jack denied until the day he died.

Between the two Sharkey fights Carnera stayed active. He fought 29 times winning 27 of the matches. He fought a mixture of decent fighters and opponents. Were some of these fights fixed? Possibly, but many fights in that era were suspicious. Don't forget Hall of Famer Stribling.

Primo also had some solid wins on his record beating King Levinsky twice, stopping the only man he fought that was bigger than he was, Victorio Campolo, Art Lasky, and kayoing Ernie Schaaf in a fight that ended tragically. Carnera lost decisions to Stanley Poreda and Larry Gains.

Could Carnera have improved in those 29 fights between the first and second Sharkey fights? It seems logical he would have. Sharkey was known to have good and bad nights as well, which could partially explain Primo defeating him. The fact is, the giant Italian did win the heavyweight title.

Putting aside any question about the legitimacy of the Sharkey fight, it is also overlooked that Primo defended the title twice against legitimate contenders. He defeated Paulino Uzcudun over 15 rounds in Rome just six months after winning the title. Then five months later he beat future Hall of Famer Tommy Loughran by decision after fifteen rounds.

Unfortunately, Primo is most remembered for the fight in which he lost the title in June of 1934, when he stepped in with Max Baer. The fight was a messy affair with a lot of illegal tactics by Max. Carnera was knocked down approximately 10 times. It's been hard to count how many knockdowns there were because some of the trips to the canvas came from wrestling tactics employed by Baer.

(Continued on Page 10)

HOOPS and HOCKEY in the HUB

by Richard Preiss



We are in the Olympic season, so to speak, and once again thoughts of the 1980 Team USA journey to the gold medal move to a forward position in our thoughts.

Recently, this writer had the opportunity to see once again the movie *Miracle* which served as a catalyst for observations and memories that came flowing back over the course of decades.

Some are covered in the movie and others are based on reading material picked from various sources over the years plus, of course, the internet.

We have thought, at times, about the forgotten one — Ralph Cox — the last man cut from Team USA as coach Herb Brooks faced the hard decision that had to be made in order to get down to the maximum number of 20 roster players allowed by the Olympics at that time.

While Cox would be the last man cut, he was not the only man cut.

After an initial training camp held during the summer of 1979, Brooks had kept a total of 27 players on the roster.

But one by one they had been gradually whittled down to 21 and now there was one final tough decision left to be made.

What many people may not know is that until that fateful day Cox had been a player on the roster with significant Boston ties. That was in addition to the famous four of Mike Eruzione, Jim Craig, Dave Silk, and Jack O'Callahan.

All members of that quartet were players from Boston University. Cox was an all-star player who was brought up in Braintree and played his high school hockey at Archbishop Williams High School. From there, he went north to play at the University of New Hampshire for four years, graduating as a member of the class of 1979.

While playing for the Wildcats, he was a prolific scorer — becoming the only player to reach the 40 — goal plateau in two different seasons. He was named both NCAA First Team All Conference Player of the Year as well as ECAC Player of the Year in 1979.

While in college he could have left to join the Boston Bruins organization. He was drafted in the seventh round of the 1977 NHL draft by the B's — but he elected to stay at UNH and complete his college career under head coach Charlie Holt.

What brought Cox into that fateful meeting with Brooks that day were possibly the lingering effects of an ankle injury.

Cox had injured his ankle playing in a contest that was part of a lengthy and challenging pre-Olympic tour across several months that had been designed by Brooks to get the players in shape for the rigors of their demanding slate of games in the Olympics.

In the film, few words are spoken between the men and the role reversal is only hinted at. Some 20 years earlier — in 1960 — Herb Brooks was the one on the other side of the desk when head coach Jack Riley informed him that he was to be the last man cut from the team. That team also went on to defeat the Soviet Union in the Olympic semifinal. Team USA then beat

Canada in the Gold Medal game.

With regard to the meeting between Brooks and Cox, at least one internet source is of the opinion that it was more emotional than depicted in the film.

The separation was immediate, not only in timing but in geographical distance. So where was Cox when his former teammates went onward to complete their march to glory? He was in Tulsa, Oklahoma, debating about whether to watch Team USA on television.

He went ahead and turned on the television, becoming part of the audience of millions.

But as the seconds ticked away in the gold medal game against Finland, Brooks had his former player in mind. In an interview available on the internet, Cox refers to an article he read in the print edition of *Sports Illustrated*. As Cox told the tale years later, the writer had interviewed Brooks. "The writer asked him (Brooks) what he was thinking about as the seconds ticked down and you knew you were going to win the gold? He said: I was thinking about Ralph Cox."

Cox said he thought that was unusual until he read further in the piece that Brooks had indeed been the last man cut from the 1960 gold medal team.

"When he was letting me go, he was probably thinking of himself. I knew it was hard for him and it was a crushing moment for me as an athlete. When I left there, I thought my life was over. I thought it would never be the same. It took a few years. At that point you think of yourself as an athlete, as a hockey player."

But now he was with another team — the Tulsa Oilers of the Central Hockey League — for whom he would play 10 games to finish out the 1979-1980 season.

For the next five seasons he bounced around a number of minor league teams, including stints with the Broome (N.Y.) Dusters and the New Haven Nighthawks. Both of those teams competed in the American Hockey League which meant Cox would compete in the Bay State on occasion.

But then, one day, it was all over. At least the playing part. However, off-ice positions became available. He became a scout for the Pittsburgh Penguins and was with them when they won consecutive Stanley Cups in 1991 and 1992. The general manager of Pittsburgh in those years just happened to be Craig Patrick — the assistant coach of Team USA in 1980.

Cox later moved from the South Shore to the North Shore, settling on the upper portion of Plum Island, an area best known for its southern half which consists of a federal wildlife reservation.

Ralph Cox would later veer away from hockey, study at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design and go on to become the Port Director of the Massachusetts Port Authority.

He also went on to become a co-founder and principal of Redgate, a company that specializes in industrial real estate development. He will celebrate his 69th birthday on February 27.