

POST-GAZETTE

(Formerly LA GAZZETTA del MASSACHUSETTS)

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The Fall of Traditional Media

When we would think of traditional media outlets or networks the most common would most likely come to mind, including ABC, NBC, CBS, CNN, *The New York Times* and the *Washington Post*. But the focus has changed dramatically over the past few years, with the most listened to broadcasts typically podcasts.

Joe Rogan, out of Austin Texas, averaging 11 million viewers per episode, is the most listened to broadcast in the nation. In comparison CNN can't seem to attract more than 400,000 viewers to its prime-time line up, which is less than 4% of what Rogan pulls in. Elon Musk's X is said to be the number 1 source for news in the world.

The *Washington Post* has reportedly lost more than \$70 million dollars and 50% of its audience in 2023 and looked to be on track to lose more than \$75 million in 2024. A number of well-known, high-profile reporters have departed for other publications. One of the top reasons for the change

in viewership and decrease in readership is the loss of respect the traditional media has encountered due to the lack of integrity, ethics and honesty.

Just look at how many media outlets covered for the Biden/Harris administration and their inept governing ability by outright lying or censoring factual information, including President Biden's cognitive decline, all while defaming President-elect Donald Trump and his supporters. Thankfully these efforts failed, exposing the biased media for the manipulative hypocrites they truly are.

According to Gallup, only 27% of independent voters trust the media, and only 12% of Republicans say the same. With the number of viewers and readers on the downslide, it is unsustainable for traditional large-scale newsrooms, and national newspapers to continue moving forward without drastic changes. The days of big paydays for network and

(Continued on Page 10)

President Biden Signs Bill Increasing Social Security Benefits for Millions of Workers

by Patti Sartori



Forty years after Municipal Employees, including teachers, policemen, firefighters and other public sector workers were stripped of a portion of their social security benefits, President Biden signed the Social Security Fairness Act, paving the way for nearly three million workers to boost their monthly social security benefits. The bipartisan legislation repeals two provisions, the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), and Government Pension Offset (GPO), that reduced social security benefits for certain public workers who also receive pension income. These provisions had been in place for over four decades and were implemented under President Ronald Reagan. While advocates of the bill say this rights a decades old disparity, others believe it will place an added strain on Social Security Trust funds, which are facing an insolvency crisis.

The WEP reduced social security benefits for individuals who receive pension or disability benefits from employment where social security payroll taxes were not withheld. As of December 2023, that provision affected approximately two million Social Security beneficiaries. The GPO reduced Social Security benefits for spouses, widows and widowers who also receive income from their own government pensions. In December 2023, the GPO affected almost 750,000 beneficiaries.

"By signing this bill, we're extending Social Security benefits for millions of teachers, nurses and other public employees and their spouses and survivors," Biden said after signing the bill. This could mean an estimated average of \$360 per month increase. The extra income is a big deal for many households. More than two and a half million Americans will receive a lump-sum payment of thousands of dollars to make up for a shortfall in benefits they should have received in 2024. The Social Security Fairness Act will affect Social Security benefits payable after December 2023.

Advocacy groups who pushed for the changes praised President Biden for signing the bill. "Our organization has spent decades lobbying for the repeal of the WEP and GPO. We endorsed the Social Security Fairness Act and are gratified to finally see this legislation

enacted and signed by the president," Max Richtman, president and CEO of the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicaid said in a statement. "This victory is more than forty years in the making, while we celebrated today, we also reflect on those who were impacted by these provisions but are no longer here to witness this change. Their service and contributions are not lost on us, and we honor their legacy by continuing to advocate for fairness in retirement benefits for all public servants," he added.

The bill was passed by the Senate with a bipartisan vote, including Senators Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, and Susan Collins, R-Maine, who co-led the legislation in that chamber. The House also passed the legislation in a bipartisan manner led by Representatives Garrett Graves, R-LA, and Abigail Spanberger, D-VA.

News Briefs

by Sal Giarratani

Lawmakers Split Over J-6 Pardons

I am putting this column together on January 6th, which is also the 4th anniversary of the January 6th so-called insurrection at the U.S. Capitol. Many lawmakers are waiting to see if President-elect Donald Trump will pardon many, if not all those 1,500 folks charged with crimes that day related to the ensuing riot that took place. Trump has said he would be issuing pardons to rioters on Day 1.

U.S. Rep. Majorie Taylor Greene, R-GA, has met with Trump and has lobbied him to pardon all who participated but there are many Republicans who think Trump should look at pardons on a case-by-case basis.

Taylor countered any case-by-case pardons and stated, "Here we are ... four years later. Many of these people have been in prison since 2021. Even the ones that fought Capitol Police ... I think they've served their time and I think they should all be pardoned and released from prison."

U.S. Rep. Jim Jordan who leads the House Judiciary Committee supports some pardons "for people who didn't commit any violence ... I think that makes sense."

Former Boston Police Commissioner William Gross

MLK Day Breakfast Speaker

The City of Quincy will celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Monday, January 20th at a breakfast in the Tirrell Room at 254 Quarry Street in Quincy. Former Boston Police Commissioner William Gross will serve as keynote speaker.

Gross came up through the ranks in his long career in the police department. In 2014, Mayor Marty Walsh

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Defying Fear:

Why Americans Must Continue to Live Boldly

by Patti Sartori

In the face of tragedy, America and its citizens have always shown resilience. From the attacks on Pearl Harbor to September 11th, to the devastating Boston Marathon bombings in our sacred city, the nation has repeatedly proved that it and its people are stronger than any act of terror. Recent events, like the tragedy in New Orleans, have sparked fear and uncertainty in many of us, but it also can offer a reminder of why we must continue to live each day boldly and not let fear dictate our lives.

Terror attacks, domestic or foreign, create fear and paralyze individuals and communities. The moment we stop celebrating and enjoying life we surrender

the freedoms we all enjoy as a nation. It's natural to feel concerned about safety in uncertain times, but we must never let fear overshadow the joy that comes from visiting other cities or areas of our beautiful country. Taking reasonable precautions, staying informed about current events, avoiding risky areas and always remaining vigilant, allows us to embrace the richness and diversity of our nation.

Communities affected by terror attacks, like New Orleans, often show incredible resilience and band together in the face of adversity or tragedy, as we did as a city here in Boston. These cities rebuild, adapt and carry on, inspiring others with their


courage and determination. By offering support to these locations, residents, and business owners we express our encouragement and aid in their healing.

Life is unpredictable, and fear is a natural response to tragedy, but we must remember that fear is the intended goal and desire of those who seek to harm us. As Americans we have the responsibility to rise above that fear, as overwhelming as that can feel sometimes. By refusing to let terror dictate our choices and joys of life we send a powerful message to friend and foe, that the American spirit is unbreakable, and that our love for life, freedom and our country will always triumph.

Stirpe Nostra

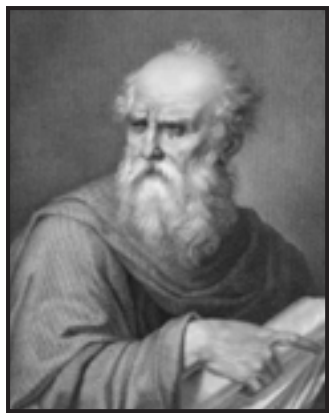
A weekly column highlighting some of the more interesting aspects of our ancestry . . . our lineage . . . our roots.

by Prof. Edmund Turiello



VITRUVIUS

Marcus Vitruvius Pollio, writer, engineer, and architect is my last scholar in the Augustan Period of Latin Literati. He served as an architectural advisor to Emperor Augustus. This emperor's reign of forty-one years was called the Augustan Age, and was for Rome what the Age of Pericles was for Athens. Supposedly, it was Vitruvius whose able assistance made it possible for Augustus to boast that he found Rome a city of brick and left it a city of marble.



Presumed portrait of Marcus Vitruvius Pollio, 80-70 BC, circa 25-BC

Vitruvius was in the twilight of his career when he composed his famous work entitled

De Architectura Libri X (The Ten Books of Architecture) in which he detailed four of the five "orders of architecture" and laid down rules for their proportions. He also set rules for column spacing, how they should be located and grouped.

His first book describes in general, the science of architecture, and suggests the proper education for an architect. Book I also treats city planning and fortifications. Book II is completely taken up with recommendations as to the use of building materials. The third and fourth books are devoted to temples and how the orders of architecture are employed. For those who are unfamiliar with the term "orders of architecture," may I define that an order of architecture is a column with capital, setting on its base, and the entablature (horizontal construction) above.

The Greeks developed three orders of architecture and these are called: Doric, Ionic, and

Corinthian. The Romans accepted (or copied) these three Greek orders, and then added two more of their own design. These two additional Roman orders are called the Tuscan and the Composite. The key to the correct use of the orders is based upon mathematical proportion, and any attempt to vary from the established rules would be to create optical distortion and consequently a disproportionate structure.

The fifth book of Vitruvius relates to buildings for public use, the sixth deals with houses of the "domus," while the seventh discusses interior decorations.

The eighth book deals with the subject of water for community use, how it is found, the various kinds, and the methods used to convey it to required destinations. Sundials and other means for measuring time are discussed in this ninth book, while machinery used in building construction, and military engines occupy the tenth book. These ten books by Vitruvius are considered to be a summary of the works of numerous Greek architects and Roman writers on architecture.

Little else is known about Vitruvius except that his probable birthplace was in Formiae and he died during the reign of Augustus. Formiae was a very ancient town in Latium, on the Via Appia.

About fifteen hundred years later, the work of Vitruvius became a basic guide for the great architects of the Renaissance.

NEXT ISSUE:
Tacitus

President Biden's Mental Decline Began on Day 1 of Presidency

by Patti Sartori

The lack of access to the nation's oldest president began during his 2020 election bid and continued throughout his four-year term. Presidential staff formed a tight circle around Biden, as soon as he took the oath of office on January 20, 2021, immediately limiting his in-person interactions with the public and press corps. It seems White House staff and personal aides to the president covered up his mental decline from Day 1, limiting his public events and rearranging his schedule after less than lucid performances, according to a newly released *Wall Street Journal* report. In response to his gaffe prone interviews, Biden hosted the fewest large press conferences in modern history often unable to finish a coherent thought or sentence, but just how much the White House covered his haziness had been hidden, until

this newly released report was made public.

By spring 2021, meetings were being rescheduled to accommodate for his "good and bad days" and adjustments made to daily plans when the president appeared tired or continued to stumble at world stage events. Meetings were often scheduled for later in the day, a fact not disclosed until after Biden's disastrous debate performance against Donald Trump in June of 2020, with his staff finally admitting Biden had difficulty functioning outside a six-hour window that typically closed about 4:00 p.m.

Officials were instructed to make their briefing to the president short and to the point, with meetings with top cabinet officials growing more infrequent as time went on. It's been reported that the White House even went as far as

hiring a voice coach, Hollywood honcho and campaign co-chair Jeffery Katzenberg, to try and improve Biden's faint, raspy voice. Staffers were also known to remove negative reports from Biden's stack of daily news, potentially misleading him about the public's actual opinion of his job performance, reaching a seventy-year low in 2024.

While many presidential aides and staff denounced these rumors as pure nonsense, the signs were clearly evident from the onset of Biden's presidency. He habitually relied on note cards, had large directions printed out for him, mixed up the names of foreign leaders and dignitaries or other facts when he went off script or ignored his teleprompter.

The circle around Biden during the 2024 re-election campaign was even tighter with staffers fielding questions more than the president and First Lady Jill Biden often holding the president's hand in public as she apparently attempted to prevent him from answering questions from the press. *The Wall Street Journal* report clearly indicates there was a large scale cover up carried out by the president's family, closest aides, staff and the complicit national news media who were willing to go to any extreme necessary to re-elect Biden over Donald Trump. Had it not been for Biden's cataclysmic debate performance, the course of U.S. history might have looked very different.

Celebrity Opinions Non-Starters

It seems many Americans prefer not to hear celebrity opinions or political endorsements as most seem to be suffering from post-election "information overload" according to a recently released poll. AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research published a poll titled, "Most adults feel the need to limit political news consumption due to fatigue and information overload."

Sixty-one percent of Republicans strongly/somewhat disapproved of celebrities speaking out about political issues, while 27% neither approved nor disapproved and 11% strongly/somewhat approved. For Democrats 20% strongly/somewhat disapproved, while 40% neither approved nor disapproved and 39% strongly/somewhat approved.

Much of America is still processing the 2024 contentious election results, with many burned out on political news altogether. Sixty-five percent of adults have felt the need to limit their media consumption about the government and politics due to information overload, fatigue, or similar reasons and half feel the same for overseas conflict. Around four in ten adults feel the same way about news on the economy and climate change, according to the poll's summary findings. Democrats are more likely than Republicans to limit their "media consumption" of stories about government and politics at 72% vs. 59% respectively.

"People are not eager for politics to mix with their entertainment or commerce experiences. Forty-three percent of adults approve of small businesses speaking out on political issues and 20% disapprove. One quarter approve of celebrities, professional athletes, or large companies speaking out, while four in ten disapprove," according to the summary. The study also noted that "Democrats are more likely than Republicans to approve of celebrities, professional athletes, and large companies speaking out about politics. Small businesses speaking out on political issues is viewed similarly by Democrats and Republicans."

One major point of interest from the 2024 election showed podcasts that focus on political and cultural commentary, such as the "Joe Rogan Experience," seemed to influence voters more than endorsements from celebrity entertainers. When Taylor Swift endorsed the Harris-Waltz campaign in 2024, it was believed to be a devastating blow to the Trump campaign, however President-elect Donald Trump's decisive victory over Vice-President Kamala Harris proves that Swift and other celebrity endorsements may not have the impact Democrats were hoping for.

According to AP VoteCast, 44% of women between ages 18 and 44 voted for Trump, while 48% of women 45 and older supported him.

The Evolution of Generational Titles

From the Greatest Generation to Gen Beta

First came the greatest generation born in 1901 to 1927, next was the silent generation from 1928 to 1945, then came baby boomers from 1946 to 1964, generation x was 1965 to 1980, millennials were born from 1981 through 1996, Gen Z ran from 1997 to 2012, followed by Gen Alpha spanning from 2013 to 2024 and now babies born in 2025 will be the first of a new peer group known as Generation Beta, lasting until 2039.

This newest generation "will inherit a world grappling with major societal changes, climate change, global population shifts, and rapid urbanization at the forefront, sustainability will not just be a preference but an expectation," wrote Mark McCrindle, who coined the term "Generation Alpha". He also noted that by 2035, Gen Beta will make up 16% of the world's population and live in a world powered by artificial intelligence (AI). "Generation Beta will live in an era where AI and automation are fully embedded in everyday life, from education and workplaces to healthcare and entertainment," he explained.

McCrindle also predicted that parents of Gen Betas, who are mainly Gen Zers, may take a different approach to social media use than previous generations. "While many millennial parents used social media to document their children's lives, Generation Z know more about both the positives and challenges that come with social media use at a young age. Gen Z parents are more likely to strongly agree that limiting their child's screen time is a high priority for them."

Generational researcher Jason Dorsey pointed out that Gen Betas will be born in a post-pandemic world, which they will learn about in history class. "It'll be something that maybe older siblings went through, certainly something they learn about in history, but not something that is necessarily a contemporary event," he stated. When Gen Betas are old enough to vote, Gen X, or those born from 1965 to 1980 will be the demographic in power. "We will likely have Gen Z as elected officials when Gen Beta is old enough to vote, and climate change will continue to be a big deal for them," Dorsey added.

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

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Friday, January 10, 2025

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.

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 you touched so many lives.
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"Our Girl Linda Foundation"
 we are able to keep your memory alive
 In helping so many.
 A bright & beautiful light still
 shines bright thinking of you.
 Love your husband Sebu,
 Dimitri, Kristen, Celine Linda, Lucia Silva,
 Alec, Mom, Sondra, Milan & Sam, Nancy,
 and the entire Petrosian and Cellucci family

Silvio Santo Susi

November 1, 1937 – December 23, 2024

Silvio S. Susi, age 87, formerly of the North End in Boston, passed away peacefully on Monday, December 23, 2024.

Born in Sulmona on November 1, 1937, he was the beloved son of the late Franco and Enrica (DiCenso) Susi. Silvio was a devoted husband to Gina Susi for 57 wonderful years. He is survived by his son, Piero, and daughter-in-law, Stefania Susi, of Melrose. Silvio took great joy in being a loving Nonno to his grandchildren: Silvio, Luca, and Marco.

He was a cherished brother to Luisa DiCenso and her late husband, Domenico, of Sulmona, as well as to Domenico Susi and his wife, Anna, of Medford. Additionally, he was a devoted brother-in-law to Frank Susi and his wife, Adriana, of the North End, and to Delio



Susi and his wife, Portia, of Florida and his late wife Amelia Susi.

Silvio leaves behind a large family, including many nieces and nephews: Franco D., Enrica, Tiziana, Franco S., Giancarlo, Rita, Tony, Franca, Delio, and David, all of whom will forever hold him in their hearts. He will also be remembered fondly by

his dear friends, Patricia and Steve Ng, and their son, Dennis.

The family received visitors on Monday, December 30, 2024, in St. Leonard Church, North End, Boston, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial. Services concluded with entombment at Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett.

Donations can be made in Silvio's name to St. Leonard Church, 320 Hanover Street, Boston.

Massachusetts Native and WWII Pearl Harbor Veteran

HARRY CHANDLER

Passes at 103 years old

Harry Chandler, Holyoke, Massachusetts native and longtime resident of South Hadley passed away on December 30, 2024 at 103 years old. Chandler was a Navy medic and hospital corpsman 3rd Class when waves of Japanese firefighter planes dropped bombs and fired machine guns on battleships in Pearl Harbor, Honolulu, Hawaii, on December 7, 1941. He is the third Pearl harbor survivor to die in the past few weeks.

He told the associated Press in 2023 that he saw planes approach as he was raising the flag that morning at a mobile hospital overlooking the base. "I thought they were planes coming in from the states until I saw bombs dropping," Chandler said. The harbor was covered in oil



from exploding ships, so he boarded a boat to help pluck wounded sailors from the water and washed the sailors off after lifting them out. "It got so busy that you weren't scared. It was after that you got scared."

The attack killed more than 2,300 U.S. servicemen. Nearly 1,200 were sailors and Marines on board the USS *Arizona*, which sank nine minutes after it was bombed. Chandler recalled his memories while attending a 2023 ceremony commemorating the 82nd anniversary of the bombing, "I look out there, and I can still see what's going on. I can still see it happening. We should have known that was going to happen. The intelligence should have been better," Chandler told the *Associated Press*.

I Was Frank Bellotti's Friend for 54 Years

by Sal Giarratani

It was quite sad to hear the news of Frank Bellotti's passing. He lived to a ripe old age and had a life well spent. His aim in public service was to make the lives of the people he served while in office better, and he did that, especially in those three consecutive terms as state attorney general. He reshaped that office as he became the people's lawyer.

I first met Frank Bellotti during his 1970 run for governor. I was a young 22-year-old Boston State College student and a political science major. While always interested in politics, it wasn't until 1970 that I began my history as a political activist and over the long years, I have worked on many political campaigns. I lost some, I won some.

In late summer of 1970, working out of the Bellotti headquarters across the street from South Station in Dewey Square, I often talked with the candidate back then when I thought he was an old guy of 47 years old.

Over the years I was amazed at how persistent he was. He had more than his share of losing but he kept coming back and he ended his career on an up note having served three terms and 12 years as the state attorney general. I called him my friend and also became friends with his family, too.

Several years ago when I retired as a police officer, I was given an award at a Massachusetts Italian American Police Officers Association at which Frank Bellotti would be a speaker. I attended this function with my daughter and introduced her to Mr. Bellotti and the first thing he told my daughter, who was 27 at the time was, "I knew your father since he was only 22." My daughter was impressed with Frank Bellotti's words to her.

The last time I spoke with Frank Bellotti was at his 100th birthday party on May 4, 2023. I remember that date well since I turned 75 years old that very same day. He and I smiled and wished each other Happy Birthdays.

I was so appreciative that year when his son Michael called and told me to be there. Frank Bellotti was an old school Democrat, never an ideologue and saw himself as a voice for the people. It was never about him but about the role in life he accepted. God gave him a long life in which to use those talents God gifted him. We are all here for a purpose and apparently God decided that Frank had finished his race down here and has now crossed the finish line up there.

Let us never forget him and all the good he accomplished in his long life among us.

L'Anno Bello: A Year in Italian Folklore

Celebrating a Snow Globe World

by Ally Di Censo Symynkywicz



Perhaps there is no month more maligned in the calendar than January. The thrill of the holiday season has faded into the past, while the cold temperatures and bitter winds remain. Frequent snowstorms and icy blasts interrupt the frigid, gray days. The sky is the gray of dirty cotton balls, with only the palest of afternoon sunlight breaking through the clouds. Yet while it may seem odd to think of spring in the midst of such wintry scenes, signs of the upcoming season also surround us this month. Department store shelves explode in hues of red and pink as they boast Valentine's Day decorations. The green, purple and yellow icing from my Epiphany King Cake — a harbinger of the bright tones of spring — still coats the dish of leftover slices. The sun appears for a longer time in the sky, illuminating the dripping icicles on a still evening. However, as much as I shiver in anticipation at these signs of spring, I am constantly reminded that winter stubbornly persists throughout January. Biting winds and snowdrifts drive me inside warm jackets and sturdy boots. In-season clementines and lemons perfume the air with their tartness, while soothing cups of tea provide ultimate comfort. January is a month that follows the two-headed aspect of its namesake Janus, the ancient Roman god of transitions. After all, January encompasses both the frosty beauty of winter and the hope of the imminent spring, teaching us to appreciate both seasons at once.

When one thinks of January, frosty temperatures often come to mind. I imagine days when the air feels like sharp pin pricks and I want nothing more than to curl up on the

couch with a mug of steaming hot chocolate. January's gelid weather has even become etched into folklore — European legend marks January 13th, St. Hilary's Day (or *il Giorno di San Ilario* in Italian), as the coldest day of the year. However, January also gives me ample opportunities to celebrate, to revel in family gatherings where love and laughter form a shield against the arctic blasts outdoors. I have long associated January with parties, as a large number of family birthdays occur throughout the month, including my brother's on the 8th, my best friend's on the 13th, my aunt's on the 14th, and my mother-in-law's on the 18th. These January birthday festivities contain all the cakes and gaiety one expects of parties, yet they feel more relaxed since they are now removed from the bustle of the holiday season. Indeed, January does provide us with a welcome respite from the excesses of the previous month. This January, I promise myself that I will focus on the pleasures of winter rather than bemoan the weather. I will binge-watch my favorite television shows while sipping creamy hot chocolate or perfectly spiced tea. I will snack on a juicy Clementine and bake up some goodies featuring seasonal citrus ingredients. I will let snowflakes melt on my tongue like I did when I was a child. Most of all, I hope that everyone will take advantage of January to enjoy the quiet treasures of the oft-defamed winter.

However, as much as January remains firmly enveloped by the trappings of winter, it does intrigue us with soft whispers of spring. In Italy, no January holiday better introduces the coming spring than the Feast of St. Anthony the Abbot, or

la Festa di Sant'Antonio Abate, which occurs on the 17th of the month. Because the eponymous fourth-century hermit is the patron saint of domestic animals, many Italians celebrate his feast day by honoring their pets or, if living in an agrarian community, their livestock. In many areas, farmers bring their livestock to the local church for a blessing. I remember watching one such ritual with my father on the Italian channel, my curiosity sparked by the lines of sheep, horses and cows winding their way through the cobble streets of a medieval town towards the church, where a priest waited to bestow a benediction. This quaint festival reminds me of the nature which starts to blossom under the cold, snowy ground. The first tiny flower seeds are slowly budding beneath the ground, ready to wink hello to the world as the crocuses and snowdrops of February. Sheep begin the process of birthing lambs around this time as well. I know that sooner than I can expect, robins will be hopping among bare tree branches and small green sprouts will peek out of the dirt. In other parts of Italy, people light huge bonfires on the eve of St. Anthony's feast day. These bonfires light up the night sky with their bright orange blaze and warm the bodies and souls of all nearby, mimicking the sun's longer duration as winter cedes the way for spring. I sense the magic of *la Festa di Sant'Antonio Abate* even here, whenever I look up at the pale January twilight and ponder the cycle of the year shifting beneath my feet.

January can be the most exciting of months, bursting with the liminal energy of two seasons. It provides us with the perfect chance to reflect on the beauty and repose of winter, calling us into the tranquility of our homes. Sipping a mug of herbal tea while watching the snow drift, incorporating citrus fruits into desserts, and gathering with family and friends for joyous celebrations that can warm even the chilliest night are wonderful ways to enjoy the winter season. However, January also teaches us to remain forever hopeful for the promise of spring. This anticipation is evident in the Cupids and hearts that decorate store shelves, in the leisurely lengthening of days, and in the folkloristic festivals that honor animals and the natural world. January helps us become attuned to the changing course of the year, and if we always look for the wonders each season offers, we will be instilled with enough hope and optimism to weather the remainder of winter.

Ally Di Censo Symynkywicz is a high school history teacher. She appreciates any comments and suggestions about Italian holidays and folklore at adicenso89@gmail.com.

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THINKING OUT LOUD

by Sal Giarratani



Here We Go Again!

The news of yet another mass shooting at a Wisconsin Christian School which left two dead, many wounded and the shooter taking out herself, serves as yet another reminder of how unsafe our society has become going back to at least the aftermath of the Columbine High School mass shooting.

Back in 1999, at the police academy I witnessed first-hand the rules of engagement changing dramatically. Instead of law enforcement trained to remain outside a school waiting for a SWAT team to arrive, officers would immediately move in to search and engage the suspect or suspects.

Here we are 25 years later and these attacks on school children continue. One wonders once again why no red flags were spotted of this latest teen shooter. It seems difficult to fathom how school officials did not observe any warning signs of approaching danger. However, even if red flags went up, what does anyone do in response to seeing those warnings? Scarier too, now school shooters are no longer just young males as the last two school shootings showed.

Once again the immediate reaction from anti-gun activists and liberal Democrats is to blame the weapon rather than the shooter. Didn't her family, the school teachers or anyone who knew her notice something was obviously very wrong? How did a 15-year-old get her hands on a gun which is absolutely illegal? Who granted her access to a deadly weapon?

Was she in treatment? Was she on psych medicine? Did she

have a therapist? All important questions in need of answers. It is always easier to see things clearly when using hindsight, not so much in real time.

School shooters cannot become the norm. Many blame the lack of enough anti-gun legislation but I question what affects young people to grow so dark that they would contemplate killing others. I think we need to look at social media as a possible culprit. Too many young people spend too much time on their screens and get overdosed by this addiction to the web where reality quickly gets distorted pushing people down a rabbit hole into darkness. We may never know why the latest shooter did what she did. Her motives may never be fully understood.

However, as a society we must deal with the rise in mental health issues affecting our young people. This violence we see all too often cannot continue to happen without understanding it and effectively dealing with it.

We need to keep our schools as safe as possible but we shouldn't be turning them into prisons. We live in a dangerous world and resource officers need to be mandated into every school in America; private, public, religious, etc. We will never be able to prevent all schools from active shooters but we need to make such occurrences as rare as possible.

As a retired police officer, I say we owe it to our young people of today to keep them safe from harm inside their classrooms. We need to be far more vigilant with their young lives. No more excuses.

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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

Annual East Boston Holiday Bazaar



(L-R): Shirley Fabbo, President of the East Boston Chamber of Commerce, Adriana Zabieta, and Veronica Robles of the Veronica Robles Cultural Center

The East Boston Chamber of Commerce participated in the annual East Boston Holiday Bazaar hosted by the Veronica Robles Cultural Center at the ICA Watershed on Marginal Street in East Boston on Sunday, December 15, 2024. The event

was a well-attended success and included music, singing, and dancing of the season, vendors and artists with holiday gifts for purchase and food and beverages. There were also artist tables set up for kids to make their own art for gifts and holiday decorations. Santa was on hand to take children's wish lists and offered a photo opportunity for everyone who attended.



Kids could make their own art for gifts and holiday decorations at the Holiday Bazaar

When it Comes to Christmas, Santa is their First Priority

by Sal Giarratani



The Landos family of East Boston showed up to see Santa Claus at First Priority Credit Union at its annual Community Holiday Celebration

The Red Carpet was laid out for Santa Claus so that he could find his big soft chair at the 2nd Annual Meet Santa Claus event at First Priority Credit Union. Kids (and a few adults) got to take a photo with the Big Guy and received a free present. However, all those big people were carded by Santa and Ho, ho, ho, they had aged out of their toy truck or doll. I overheard Santa tell one of them, try the Easter Bunny in the spring.

It is always great to see parents with their children enjoying the holiday celebration with so

many others doing the exact same thing. There was hot chocolate for everyone, some several times over. This is a great new tradition at this neighborhood credit union. One that hopefully will repeat itself year after year because we can never run out of time for Christmas, Santa Claus and everything else that makes this time of the year special for everyone.

As Tony Paciulli, President /CEO said, "This is a great day. The kids have a great time and everybody is smiling. What better way to get ready for the holidays?"



Here is the Kamuanga family who traveled over from Dorchester to see Santa Claus, from left to right, Wesley, Nansa (mom) and Whitney



Here is Fatima of First Priority discussing gift options with Santa Claus



Santa Claus meets up with Sal G looking like he just got into town from Dodge City

(Photos by Sal Giarratani and FirstPriorityCU)

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Dilemma Brewing Over Rental Broker Fee

The Boston City Council was set to reintroduce a home rule petition, at their weekly council meeting, Wednesday, January 8, 2025 that would shift the broker's rental fee to the party, lessor or tenant who hired the broker. This move comes simultaneously with Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey's call for abolishing broker fees that renters are often forced to pay when signing a lease agreement. The Massachusetts State Legislature is also considering a similar change during the current legislative session.

Healey has publicly stated she supports doing away with broker's fees as an avenue to improve housing affordability in Massachusetts. "I think they should be abolished. I think they should go away. I totally support that, and I support taking action to make that happen, because when it comes to affordability, we're an expensive state", Healey said. However, the Governor stopped short of endorsing the fee to be paid for or absorbed by the landlord instead of the tenant. "The landlord can make their own arrangements," Healey said.

The Governor's comments are part of a movement in Boston and Massachusetts to review a system that places the burden of broker's fees squarely on the tenant. Renters are traditionally required to pay the fee, typically equal to a month's rent, to a real estate broker hired by the landlord. That is in addition to the tenant being required to pay first month rent, last month rent and a security deposit.

Last year, as part of the Senate's housing bill, a policy requiring broker's fees be paid by landlords rather than tenants was considered, but the House of Representatives did not move on the measure. Senate President Karen Spilka noted in her recent Inaugural remarks that the Senate would "try again to shift the burden of broker's fees from renters."

Boston's attempt to shift the burden requires the Massachusetts State Legislature to sign off and approve the measure to bar tenant-paid broker's fees. "Boston remains one of the last major rental markets where prospective tenants are commonly required to pay broker's fees," the petition states.

The Greater Boston Real Estate Board CEO Greg Vasil expressed support of the potential change, offering "Whoever brings a broker to a real estate transaction should be responsible for paying the broker's fee." However, others are fearful this legislation could have the potential to negatively impact realtors, especially if landlords are required to pay the fee. Property owners may decide not to work with a broker or instead pass the costs on to tenants through higher rents.

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.



St. William of Bourges

by Bennett Molinari and Richard Molinari

William was born into the illustrious family of the ancient counts of Nevers. He was educated by Peter the hermit, arch-deacon of Soissons, his uncle by his mother's side. He learned from his infancy to despise the folly and emptiness of the riches and grandeur of the world, to abhor its pleasures, and to tremble at its dangers. His only delight was in exercises of piety and in his studies.

He became a Cistercian monk and took the habit in the abbey of Pontigny. He was in time chosen prior of that house, and then abbot. The cheerfulness of his countenance testified the uninterrupted joy and peace that overflowed his soul.

On the death of Henry de Sully, archbishop of Bourges, the clergy of that church requested his brother Eudo, bishop of Paris, to come and assist them in the election of a pastor. They wanted to choose some abbot of the Cistercian Order, then renowned for holy men, they put on the altar the names of three.

Eudo, accordingly, laid them on the altar; and having made his prayer, drew first the name of the abbot William, on whom,



at the same time, the majority of the clergy had voted on, the 23rd of November, 1200. This news overwhelmed William with grief. He never would have accepted had he not received a double command from both the Pope, and from his Abbot General. He left his solitude, and was received at Bourges as one sent by heaven. He redoubled all his austerities, saying, it was now incumbent on him to do penance for others, as well as for himself. He always wore a hair-shirt under his religious habit, and never added, nor diminished, anything in his clothes either winter or summer.

He never ate meat, though he had it at his table for strangers. His attention to feed his flock was no less remarkable, especially in assisting the poor both spiritually and corporally.

Certain great men abusing his leniency usurped the rights of his church; but the saint strenuously defended them even against the king himself, notwithstanding his threats to confiscate his lands. By his ardent spirituality he converted many of the Albigenses, contemporary heretics, and was preparing himself for a mission among them, at the time he was seized with his last illness. He preached a farewell sermon to his people, which increased his fever to such a degree, that he could not undertake his journey.

Then, according to a sign made by him, he was laid on ashes in the hair-cloth, which he always privately wore. He passed away a little past midnight, on the morning of January 10, 1209. His body was interred in his cathedral. He was canonized by Pope Honorius III in 1217. The Feast day of Saint William de Bourges is January 10th.

COMMENTARY

Sanctuary Status is Screwing Up the Works Everywhere

by Sal Giarratani

Several communities across Massachusetts have either become Sanctuary cities or towns. The latest was Natick joining all the usual suspects like Cambridge, Somerville and, of course, Boston. Some pretend by not calling themselves sanctuaries but their actions and written policies say they are. Massachusetts is a state-wide sanctuary, which is why we are drawing plenty of illegal migrants looking for a new home with plenty of advertised free stuff.

The trouble is our governmental leaders like to toot how liberal they are and how concerned they are with these poor migrants crossing over borders to get here. Meanwhile, we have plenty of homegrown folks suffering badly from an economy not really working for them, but nobody seems to care about that. I volunteer at two food banks for hungry people and families. They were all born and raised here, but elected officials only care if you broke into America at the border.

Massachusetts is running out of spaces for the endless line of migrants all making their way up here as we have become a magnet for this caravan of folks who think they have landed in the Emerald City.

Also, with shelters overfilled and airport terminals off limits, it looks like our state has started turning the hotel/motel industry into shelters. Looks like the owners of these establishments had too many vacancies and it is a lot easier to take money from the state and book all their rooms to full capacity.

When all this ends, will anyone ever want to rent a room at the hotel/motel chains that took the money and turned themselves into state flop houses? The Quality Inn on Morris Street in Revere, now a state migrant housing site, made the news after a suspect migrant who had been living there was recently arrested by Revere Police and charged with possession of an AR-15 rifle and nearly \$1 million in fentanyl. How many more of the same are still residing across this state right now? And remember migrant housing programs usually have hired private security.

When Massachusetts started becoming a sanctuary, the consequences were inevitable. It is easy to talk about recognizing the value of illegal immigrants when you don't have many to speak of. But as the population grows, so does the ever-increasing cost to the state's taxpayers.

Housing illegals has become a profitable business too with contracts for food services to feed the hungry tenants. Everybody seems to be making out except the taxpayers.

Thanks to the Sanctuary Movement, we are all living in Border States today. There is no end in sight. The American people spoke out in November on all this nonsense and placed Donald Trump back into the White House.

As Americans, we want to help those in need but we cannot allow the progressive wing of the Democrat Party to fly us all into insolvency with its insanity. Time to change things around, control the border again and control the numbers rushing into America. End the chaos caused by daffy do-gooders who can't see the forest from the trees. Close the door and institute government policies that can work for all. We still remain a nation of immigrants. I am the grandson of immigrants from both Sicily and the Republic of Ireland. I am not against immigration; I am against the condoning of illegal migrants barging their way into America.

Godspeed to the soon-to-be the 47th President of the United States.

Holiday Gift Donation for Eliot School Students in Boston New Health Partnered with St. Lucy Society to Give Back to Families in Need



NEW Health and St. Lucy Society representatives: Karen D'Amico, Darlene D'Elia, Vivian Aluia, Angela Mantone, and Olivia Scimeca

On Monday, December 9th, NEW Health — a community health center in the North End of Boston — joined forces with St. Lucy Society to help families in need this holiday season. Volunteers wrapped Christmas presents at NEW Health's North End location for local students at The Eliot K-8 Innovation School. Every holiday season, NEW Health and St. Lucy Society give back to those in need by purchasing gifts to help ease financial stress for struggling families this holiday season. Over 30 kids will receive more than 150 gifts. Special thanks to Nathan and Sheila Barry for their incredibly generous donation and North End Cares for also making a wonderful donation to help the school. Wrapped presents were

dropped off to students the following day.

About NEW Health

As a federally qualified health center and an affiliate of Massachusetts General Hospital and Boston Medical Center, North End Waterfront Health (NEW Health) extends its world-renowned healthcare services to people who live and work in and around Boston's North End, Waterfront and Charlestown neighborhoods. NEW Health is committed to improving the quality of health and life for those it serves by providing high quality health care that is consumer oriented, culturally appropriate, neighborhood-based, affordable, and produces positive outcomes. NEW Health is a 2023 Health

Center Quality Leader (HCQL), the only Massachusetts health center to receive a Gold badge from the Health Resources and Services Administration, among the top 10% of health centers nationwide.

NEW Health has been serving the North End of Boston and the surrounding community since 1971. In addition to primary care services for all patients, many specialty services are also offered including dental, vision, behavioral health, obstetrics, gynecology, laboratory services and x-ray services. NEW Health is a private, non-profit corporation that is governed by a community-based Board of Directors and licensed by the Department of Public Health. More information at www.newhealthcenter.org, on

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Yesterday & Today

A COLUMN OF PAST AND CURRENT EVENTS

by Bennett Molinari & Richard Molinari

George Herman Ruth Junior



George Herman Ruth Junior was born February 6, 1895 in Baltimore, Maryland, parents, George, Senior, and Kate. George Jr., was one of eight children, although only he and his sister Mamie survived. His parents worked long hours, leaving little time to watch over him and his sister. The lack of parental guidance allowed George to be a bit unruly, often skipping school and causing trouble.

When George turned seven, his parents realized he needed a stricter environment. They sent him to St. Mary's Industrial School for Boys, run by a brotherhood of laymen from an order of the Xaverian Brothers.

St. Mary's provided a regimented environment which shaped George Jr.'s future. Not only did George learn vocational skills, but he also developed a passion for baseball.

Brother Matthias at Saint Mary's took an interest and became a role model and father figure.

He helped George Jr. refine his baseball skills, working tirelessly with him on hitting, fielding, and pitching. George Jr. became so good that the Brothers invited Jack Dunn, owner of the Baltimore Orioles, to watch George Jr. play. Dunn offered a contract to George Jr. in February 1914 after watching him for less than an hour.

Since George Jr. was only nineteen, Dunn had to be George's legal guardian to complete the contract. Seeing George Jr. for the first time, the Orioles players referred to him as "Jack's newest babe" igniting the most famous nickname in sports history was born. Thereafter, George Herman Ruth Jr. was known as the Babe.

The Babe performed well for Dunn and the Orioles, leading to his sale to the Boston Red Sox. While Babe is most known for his power as a slugger, he started as a pitcher—a very good one. In 1914, Babe appeared in five games for the Red Sox, pitching in four. He made his major league debut on July 11, 1914; however, due to a loaded roster, Babe was optioned to the Red Sox minor league team, the Providence Grays, where he led them to the International League pennant. Babe became a fixture in the Red Sox rotation in 1915, accumulating an 18-8 record with an ERA of 2.44. He followed his successful first season with a 23-12 campaign in 1916, leading the league with a 1.75 ERA. In 1917, he went 24-13 with a 2.01 ERA and a staggering 35 complete games in 38 starts. By then, Babe had displayed enormous power in his limited plate appearances, so it was decided his hitting was too good to be left out of the lineup on a daily basis.

In 1918, the transition turned Babe into an everyday player. Ruth tied for the major-league lead in home-runs with 11, and followed that up by setting a single-season home run record of 29 in 1919.

On December 26, 1919, Babe was sold to the New York Yankees. The Yankees would never be the same again; joining the Yankees, Babe became a full-time outfielder. He dominated baseball, achieving never-seen-before stats. He changed baseball from a grind-it-out style to one of power and high-scoring games. He re-wrote the record books from a hitting standpoint, combining a high batting average with unbelievable power.

In 1920, he beat the home-run record he set in 1919 by belting a staggering 54 home-runs, a season in which no other player hit more than 19 and only one team hit more than Babe did individually. But Babe wasn't done, as his 1921 season may have been the greatest in MLB history. That season, he blasted a new record of 59 home-runs, drove in 171 RBI, scored 177 runs, batted .376 and had an unheard of .846 slugging percentage. Babe was officially a superstar and enjoyed a popularity never seen before in professional baseball. The Yankees became the most recognizable and dominant team in baseball, setting attendance records along the way. When the Yankees moved to a new stadium in 1923, it was dubbed "The House that Ruth Built."

Babe's mythical stature grew in 1927 as a member of "Murderers Row," when he set a new home run record of 60 which would stand for 34 years.

With the Yankees, Babe ignited the greatest dynasty in all of sports. Prior to his arrival, the Yankees had never won a title of any kind.

Babe helped the Yankees capture seven pennants and four World Series titles. The 1927 team is still considered by many the greatest in baseball history. Babe held an astonishing 56 major league records at the time, including the most revered record in baseball: 714 homeruns.

In 1936 the baseball Hall of Fame was inaugurated and Babe was one of its first five inductees.

During the fall of 1946, it was discovered that Babe had a malignant tumor on his neck. His health deteriorated quickly.

On June 13, 1948, Ruth's jersey number "3" was retired by the Yankees during his last appearance at Yankee Stadium.

Babe passed away on August 16, 1948. His body lay in state in Yankee Stadium, with his funeral two days later at St. Patrick Cathedral in New York. Over 100,000 people lined up and paid their respects to the Babe.

George Herman Ruth Jr. also known as Babe Ruth, is considered by many, the greatest baseball player in the history of the sport.

St. Theresa's Christmas Party:

A Joyous Celebration of Faith, Family, and Festive



St. Theresa Society Members

On a chilly afternoon, the Saint Theresa Society in the North End held a Christmas party for its members and guests on Sunday, December 15th. Food and desserts were catered by Strega and Mike's Pastry. Members and devotees of all ages were in the mood to celebrate the holiday season as they filled the Gizio Club on North Street like a Winter Wonderland with all the beautiful Christmas decorations. Children and adults who, alike, brought out their dance moves and singing voices to celebrate the Holiday season. Everyone was treated to free activities including cookie decorating, hot chocolate decorating, crafts for kids, delicious sweet treats, and Christmas tunes by D.J. Marco. Red roses were given to everyone in attendance to represent and show the love of "the little flower" St. Theresa. The Society also had many eye-catching raffle prizes. Some of the top prizes were a \$100 scratch ticket tree, Boston Bruins Autograph basket, Boston Celtics Autograph basket, and a gigantic Grinch basket. The St. Theresa Society members also held their Secret Santa grab, as each member received a gift. St. Theresa Society would like to thank Strega, Mike's Pastry, SportsWorld, and all the members who donated to this amazing event. Everyone had a beautiful and wonderful time!



Members Dom Staniscia and Carmelo Zammitto



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Tom and Sgt. at arms Maria Correale



NO REMORSE: THE ILLUSTRATED TRUE STORIES OF LEMMY KILMISTER AND MOTORHEAD – DELUXE BOOK + VINYL 2-LP EDITION (Vinyl + Book) Sanctuary/BMG/Z2

In celebration of the upcoming 50th anniversary of the legendary Motörhead, Z2 Comics has gathered a staggering lineup of icons to narrate their personal encounters with the man that came to define the sex, drugs, and Rock & Roll lifestyle, Lemmy Kilmister. NO REMORSE: The Illustrated True Stories of Lemmy Kilmister and Motorhead kicks off this 176-page tribute with a deeply personal foreword by his dear friend Dave Grohl, and a truly touching afterword by his longtime friend and collaborator Ozzy Osbourne. The book pairs up 25 rock star contributors with 25 acclaimed illustrators to tell the stories of their true and unbelievable personal encounters with the heralded founding father of Motörhead. Recounting their history with Lemmy over the span of his life and career are the greatest living musicians — Ozzy Osbourne, Lars Ulrich, Slash, Chrissie Hynde, Dee Snider, Dave Navarro plus world-class writers Neil Gaiman, Michael Moorcock, pro-wrestling giants Triple H, Corey Graves, TV & Film luminaries including Matt Pinfield, Penelope Spheeris, Riki Rachtman, as well as his bandmates Phil Campbell, Mikkey Dee, and Slim Jim Phantom. With a gorgeous variety of visual approaches, the artists of NO REMORSE: The Illustrated True Stories of Lemmy Kilmister and Motorhead; including Dave Chisholm, Bob Fingerman, Jay Jackson, and Jim Mahfood capture the many facets of these incredible TRUE TALES of Lemmy Kilmister. Recounting their history with Lemmy over the span of his life and career are the greatest living musicians — Ozzy Osbourne, Lars Ulrich, Slash, Chrissie Hynde, Dee Snider, Dave Navarro plus world-class writers Neil Gaiman, Michael Moorcock, pro-wrestling giants Triple H, Corey Graves, TV & Film luminaries including Matt Pinfield, Penelope Spheeris, Riki Rachtman, as well as his bandmates Phil Campbell, Mikkey Dee, and Slim Jim Phantom. With a gorgeous variety of visual approaches, the artists of NO REMORSE: The Illustrated True Stories of Lemmy Kilmister and Motorhead; including Dave Chisholm, Bob Fingerman, Jay Jay Jackson, and Jim Mahfood capture the many facets of these incredible TRUE TALES of Lemmy Kilmister.

This book comes in a variety of highly-collectible editions, including the 1:5 “All-Access” Edition which features a framed AAA Artist Pass from Lemmy’s 70th birthday party at the Whisky A Go-Go; and the 1:25 “Backstage” Edition that comes with a framed original 2012-2013 Motorhead tour laminate. All of these artifacts are from the personal collection of Lemmy Kilmister. The “No Remorse” editions of the book will come with an exclusive white vinyl variant of the legendary Motörhead double LP, No Remorse, a poster triptych set, and a three-card, collectors set presented in a custom frame. The 2-LP vinyl track list includes: SIDE A: Ace Of Spades – Motörhead – Jailbait – Stay Clean – Too Late, Too Late – Killed By Death. SIDE B: Bomber – Iron Fist – Shine – Dancing On Your Grave – Metropolis – Snaggletooth. SIDE C: Overkill – Please Don’t Touch (Featuring, Girlschool) – Stone Dead Forever – Like A Nightmare – Emergency (Featuring, Girlschool) – Steal Your Face. SIDE D: Louie – No Class – Iron Horse – We Are The Road Crew – Leaving Here – Locomotive.

All collector editions will include the oversized deluxe volume of the NO REMORSE: The Illustrated True Stories of Lemmy Kilmister and Motörhead book contained in a metallic foil embossed slipcase, with die cuts that reveal the holographic coating on Lemmy’s classic aviator specs on the cover of the book. From his early years, Lemmy gravitated to the live-fast attitude of rock & roll, starting out as a roadie for Jimi Hendrix, joining the seminal space-rock outfit Hawkwind and famously getting fired from the band for “doing the wrong drugs.” Forming Motörhead in 1975 after his dismissal, he set out to kick things up and create an aural assault, the likes of which had not been heard. Lenny Kilmister became the unequalled standard for the Rock & Roll lifestyle.

MOTLEY CRUE: UP TO HERE – LIMITED EDITION – 35TH ANNIVERSARY (6LP Vinyl) BMG

Thirty-five years after its release, Dr. Feelgood stands as the last great rock record of the 1980s, and one of the greatest rock records of all time. Released in 1989, this iconic album took MÖTLEY CRÛE to #1 on the Billboard Top 200 and earned a 6X Platinum certification in the U.S. With five massive hit singles that kept radio request lines busy, the Dr. Feelgood World Tour saw MÖTLEY CRÛE on the road and in the air for over 2 years. First single “Dr. Feelgood.” with its instantly memorable opening, and catchy chorus, set the tone by reaching the top 10 on the US Hot 100 singles chart. Originally a Top 30 hit upon release, “Kickstart My Heart” went on to become MÖTLEY CRÛE’s most popular landmark track. From the buzz saw intro to the cheating-death lyrics and music video shot in a rare return to a club show at the world-famous Whisky a Go Go in Hollywood. The Hot 100 hits kept coming as “Without You” hit “Don’t Go Away Mad (Just Go Away),” and final single “Same Ol’ Situation (S.O.S.)” The centerpiece of this 35th Anniversary campaign is this Limited-Edition Box Set available on LP & CD with the remastered version of the original album, as well as rare demos and live tracks, plus a 24-page replica tour book with photos, a backstage pass, live show handbill, press kit, and guitar pick. Album Track list: T.n.T. (Terror ‘n Tinseltown) – Dr. Feelgood – Slice Of Your Pie – Rattlesnake Shake – Kickstart My Heart – Without You – Same Ol’ Situation (S.O.S.) – Sticky Sweet – She Goes Down – Don’t Go Away Mad (Just Go Away) – Time For Change. Demos Track list: Dr. Feelgood – Get It For Free – Kickstart My Heart – Time For Change – Without You. Live Track list: – Dr. Feelgood – Don’t Go Away Mad (Just Go Away) Without You – Kickstart My Heart – Same Ol’ Situation (S.O.S.)

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ...

Emily Poston from Boston City Council President Ruthzee Louijeune’s office just had another birthday on Saturday, December 30th. Ruthzee couldn’t have a better staff person working for her. Emily is top-notch.

KUHNERMAN CALLS THE RADIO STATION, “THE GREAT WRKO” BUT IS IT?

I enjoy listening to WRKO, you know the one that markets itself as the “Voice of Boston” weekday mornings to hear the latest opinions from Jeff Kuhner and his radio callers, but over the holidays Jeff Kuhner lost his dad and was replaced on-air by useless canned news and entertainment. I stayed away from the radio station until he returned behind the mic. Nothing worse than meaningless nothing shows. I ended up either with WJIB and John Garabedian or Sunny Sweeney aka, “Sunny Side Up” show over on Willie’s Roadhouse on Sirius Radio XM Channel 61.

I cannot help but think WRKO Radio tanked in its morning ratings without Jeff Kuhner. What do you all think out there? Why does WRKO think so lowly of its morning audience?

HAPPY HEAVENLY BIRTHDAY TO ...

Country singer Roger Miller celebrated his 89th heavenly birthday. I thank Dallas Wayne from Willie’s Roadhouse every weekday afternoon for reminding us that January 2nd would have been his birthday. Wayne even played a tune by Miller in his honor, a ditty named “Tall, Tall Trees.” “I always liked this little tune of his. Most country music fans loved his version of “Me and Bobby McGee,” which is almost as good as the original by Janis Joplin, and of course Miller’s iconic tune “King of the Road.”

Sadly, Roger Miller left us back in October 1992 at only 56 years old.

NO MONKEYING AROUND IN MISSOURI

An escaped spider monkey in a pink tutu was rescued from the side of a Missouri highway after running up and tugging at a deputy’s pant leg looking for help. The Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office said a clever 8-pound monkey made its escape from a house when it opened the front door and wandered off apparently on a *Ferris Bueller’s Day Off* adventure.

Deputies responded to a missing monkey report and came upon the little guy on Highway 21 and it ended without incident. He was returned to its owner’s home. The Great Simian Escape didn’t even last a movie’s length of time.

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ROSSETTI SPORTS FILES



Recently, I met up with Frankie Rossetti and Gerard Millerick of Eastie. We had this photo taken of us because two of us looked like twins separated at birth, obviously by someone with good taste in clothing apparel. Notice our cool hats, and we look like two private eyes.

Our other friend is Frankie Rossetti of East Boston, another member of the Burger King Crew. He is “Mr. Sports Guy” who keeps up with all the sports news out there. He knows who is playing who. He knows team records. He knows when the games are on and what channel to watch them on. He is THE source of information for baseball, football, basketball, hockey and of course Italian soccer, etc.

SPEAKING ON KUHERMAN ABOVE

Jeff was back on the air this past Monday morning talking about the recent terrorist attack in New Orleans. While folks were partying as if it were 2025, which it was, one Shamsud-Din Jabbar decided to kill as many people as he could during the celebration. The guy drove his vehicle around a marked police car and mowed down as many folks as he could. In the end, 14 were killed and 16 were injured, eight of whom remain in intensive care as of Monday morning.

The initial narrative stated that it was indeed a plot by Islamists before the FBI said it was just the act of one ISIS-inspired Islamic extremist or Lone Wolf. Is anybody really buying this scenario? Yeah, some guy living inside his tin can in a trailer park in Texas with three ex-wives hounding him. I think not, but that’s just me. As usual, I think Jeff Kuhner is right to label this just another FBI coverup. Was Jabbar’s jihad just an inspiration for him to act or was he part of a terror cell? Nothing worse than home-grown terrorists.

A PRESENT FROM CHRISTMAS PAST

Tim King, 53, of Illinois discovered a Christmas package inside a wall with his name on it 46 years after it was wrapped. He was helping his parents renovate the family home a few days before Christmas. He opened it up revealing a set of Matchbox Thunder Jets. He thinks the gift goes back to 1978, and fell into a wall after his parents stashed all the gifts in the attic. I wonder how much a set of Matchbox Thunder Jets in mint condition go for today in 2025?

DEMI MOORE WINS FIRST GOLDEN GLOBES AWARD OF CAREER

I’ve always enjoyed watching actress Demi Moore both in the movies and on TV. She was nominated for an award at this year’s 82nd Golden Globes Award show but not heavily favored. However, at age 61, she won this award for the first time in her long 45-year career for her performance in *The Substance*, about a Hollywood star who resorts to an experimental process to regain her youth.

She was last nominated for a Globes award back in 1991 for *Ghost*. She was incredible in that movie and should have won that year. I also remember her well from her role on the TV cop show *NYPD Blue*. Congrats to a great actress.

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.
MI24C1423CA
In the Matter of
ADALIANA RUTH KOERBER NUNES
CITATION ON
PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Adaliana Ruth Koerber Nunes of Somerville, MA, requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to Eddy Ruth Koerber Nunes.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Middlesex Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of January 21, 2025. 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: December 23, 2024

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate

Run Date: 01/10/2025

Nanna & Babbononno

by John Christoforo

A Nostalgic Remembrance



For the first 20 years of my career as a Boston teacher, I taught drafting and design at Hyde Park High School. When the faculty had social functions, my band played for them. It was fun (and profitable) playing for my fellow workers who let their hair down periodically. Many of them were single and traveled during the school vacations: Christmas, February recess, April vacation and the two months of July and August. I couldn't travel during the Christmas vacation as I played Christmas parties and New Years Eve events back then. But, I was ready, willing and able to travel during the other points in time and teamed up with the teachers who traveled.

Their destinations were often off-beat and I loved traveling to places that were not tourist destinations, per se. As an example, the travel group headed for the Canary Islands one winter, Caracas, Venezuela the following year, northern ski resorts at other times, Hawaii, Acapulco, Mexico, remote islands in the Caribbean like Trinidad, Tobago, Barbados, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, and North African locations such as Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Spanish Sahara, Malta, and in the Pacific, the Philippines, American Samoa, Fiji, French Polynesia, etc. ... I enjoyed traveling so much, when an old high school chum asked me to team up with him and open a travel agency, I said yes. For both of us it would be a part-time venture as he was an electrical engineer with one of the companies on 128 and I a teacher with the Boston Public Schools.

We chose Allston as a good location. Garber's Travel Agency was in Brookline and catered to the crowds that vacationed several times during the year at the latest hot spots, and Crimson Travel was in Cambridge and catered to the college trade. Allston was half way between these two businesses, so in the mid-1960s, my partner and I opened Paradise Travel Service in Allston. We teamed up with a wholesale travel company, Summit Tours of New England, a business that programmed travel concepts for the retail travel agencies that were affiliated. As a result, we put travel packages together that were unique and not what Garber's or Crimson were interested in: tours to Egypt to see the pyramids, trips to Latin American countries, a two-week package to Hawaii, trips to North Africa, stopovers at exotic Pacific Islands like Samoa, Tahiti, Fiji, and the Philippines.

Periodically, my partner or I would accompany one of the groups that traveled to the above-mentioned locations and conduct the tours that were part of the package. That first summer we were in business, Summit Tours put a two-week package to Hawaii together for us that we could sell for \$499.00 and still make a good profit. So many people opted for the chance to go to Hawaii, we needed two tour

guides to handle things. Both my partner and I decided to hire someone to run the office and we both flew with the crowd as their tour guides. My folks were proud of my new venture, but Babbononno was worried that I would fall off the edge of mother Earth at some point in my travels.

When that first trip to Hawaii left Boston we stopped in Chicago and then headed to Seattle, Washington to refuel before making the 2,470-mile trip westward in the Pacific.

Our stopover in Seattle was necessary as a plane with tourists to Honolulu was coming in from San Antonio, Texas to join our flight to Hawaii. While we were waiting for the plane from Texas, my partner and I brought our tourists to the Space Needle in Seattle, a construction put up a few years earlier for the 1962 World's Fair. We headed for the restaurant atop the Space Needle and had dinner while the top of the building spun around in a 360-degree circle.

When the plane from Texas finally arrived, we were all back on our plane and looked over the Texans as they came aboard our flight. They didn't look like cowboys and cow girls, something we both expected. One young lady, in particular, caught our fancy and both my partner and I strained our necks to see where she was sitting. After we took off, we had to deal with a couple of finicky passengers from our group and lost sight of the young lady I mentioned. Once we landed, we realized that we had been in the air for around 12 hours but a luau was waiting for us as part of the package. Once we checked into our hotel, both my partner and I assured the crowd that we wouldn't be doing anything until we got up at the crack of noon. Later that day, after a meeting with our travelers, we all headed for the beach and a surfing lesson. And, there she was, the young lady from Texas. Both my partner and I began tripping over each other to get to the young lady and attract her attention. We both succeeded but were too eager. As a result, we did the only thing two young responsible young Italian gentlemen from Boston could do ... we flipped a coin. I lost the toss and humbly backed off while my partner tried to woo the girl we both admired. He was successful.

We had packaged many side trips for our tourists and the young lady from Texas joined in accompanying my business partner as we ventured forth each and every day. We saw the Kodak Hula Show, a rising star playing piano and singing at a hotel on Waikiki Beach (Don Ho), the remains of the U.S.S. *Arizona* from the memorial built above it, Diamond Head, an extinct volcano, Punch Bowl National Cemetery where servicemen and women killed in the Pearl Harbor attack are buried and the shopping bazaars of Waikiki Beach.

There were no Italian restaurants in Honolulu at that point

in time, but I developed a taste for Hawaiian pork and fish with poi, Philippine cuisine, and several Japanese dishes. Most of our crowd was venturesome and tried these ethnic foods too, but there were a few who stuck to McDonald's burgers and fries each day.

When the trip finally ended, my partner and the young lady from Texas were unofficially engaged, and began to plan a wedding to take place back here in Boston. We headed to San Antonio a month later for a Texas engagement party, and a month after that, the girl moved to Boston to be near my business partner. They were married that following spring at Lombardo's in East Boston. After the wedding, the Texan attempted to change her husband's social status and elevate him in society, a venture that caused them to eventually separate and divorce. I was spreading myself too thin between teaching, playing music, working on a master's degree and the travel business. Something had to go, so I sold my share of Paradise Travel to my partner. Summit Tours, the company that put the travel packages together for us left Boston for Los Angeles and I would get involved in a couple of businesses with one of the partners due to a chance meeting one night at the Hollywood Bowl, but that's a story for another day.

GOD BLESS AMERICA

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.
M125P0048GD
NOTICE AND ORDER:
Petition for Appointment of
Guardian of a Minor
In the interests of
AUTUMN XENA-ROSE CAPELES
of Everett, MA
Minor

NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

- Hearing Date/Time:** A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on 01/06/2025 by Julie Anne Razza of Everett, MA will be held 03/10/2025 11:00 AM Guardianship of Minor Hearing Located 10-U Commerce Way, Woburn, MA 01801 - Courtroom 3
- Response to Petition:** You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to:
File the original with the Court; and
Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.
- Counsel for the Minor:** The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.
- Counsel for Parents:** If you are a parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you have a right to be represented by an attorney. If you want an attorney and cannot afford to pay for one and if you give proof that you are indigent, an attorney will be assigned to you. Your request for an attorney should be made immediately by filling out the Application of Appointment of Counsel form. Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard.
- Presence of the Minor at Hearing:** A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests.

Date: January 06, 2025

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate
Run date: 01/10/2025



by
**Marianna
Bisignano**

Split pea soup might not hail from Italy's culinary catalog, but Italian American cooks have a knack for reinventing recipes while adding a distinct twist. In cucina povera tradition, many transform humble ingredients into dishes brimming with flavor and heartiness. Chicken, beef, and leftover ham bones become the foundation for savory broths, while a handful of ditalini or orzo adds a classic Italian flair — making this hearty soup a distant cousin of favorites like Pasta e Fagioli.

My Nonna, a true maestro of cucina povera, would often transform chicken, beef, and ham bones into a variety of flavorful soups. With soup season upon us, there's no better way to warm your soul than with a comforting bowl of Italian Split Pea Soup. Hearty, cozy, and deeply satisfying, it's the perfect antidote to a cold winter day!

ITALIAN SPLIT PEA SOUP *Zuppa di Piselli Spezzati all'Italiana*



- ½ cup olive oil (more if needed to cover the bottom of the pan)
- 6 cloves garlic, finely chopped or pressed
- 1 extra-large sweet onion, finely chopped
- 5 stalks celery, chopped
- 5 carrots, chopped
- 1 large hambone
- 1 ½ pounds dry split peas, rinsed and drained
- 12 cups chicken or beef stock
- 12 cups water
- 4 bay leaves
- 1 sprig of thyme
- 1-pound chopped ham
- 2 large russet potatoes, peeled and cut into chunks (optional)
- ½ pound ditalini or orzo
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- Homemade or store-bought croutons (optional)

In a large Dutch oven, heat the olive oil over medium heat. Add the garlic, onion, carrots, and celery. Sauté for about 10 minutes until softened and fragrant.

Add the split peas and the hambone to the pot. Stir in the bay leaves, thyme, chicken or beef stock, and water. Bring the mixture to a boil.

Once boiling, reduce the heat to low. Simmer the soup for about 2 hours, stirring occasionally.

Stir in the chopped ham and optional potatoes. Continue simmering for another 1 ½ hours, or until the soup is flavorful, the peas have broken down, and the mixture has thickened.

Remove the hambone, bay leaves, and thyme sprig. Stir in the ditalini or orzo and cook for an additional 10-15 minutes.

Turn off the heat, cover the pot, and let the soup rest for a few minutes. This allows the pasta to cook fully and the soup to thicken further. If the soup becomes too thick, thin it with additional stock.

Taste the soup and adjust the seasoning with salt and pepper as needed. Ladle into bowls and serve with croutons, if desired.

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

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P.O. BOX 130135, BOSTON, MA 02113
Attn: Legal Notices

THOUGHTS BY DAN ABOUT THIS & THAT

with Daniel A. DiCenso

The Bleak Fascination of Six Flags New Orleans



Urban exploration, as the term is used by the seekers of crumbling architecture, has a distinct appeal from the more popular and not specifically named spectacle of ancient ruins. The latter offers clues to a long-vanished world, a life so abstracted from our own that any narrative assembled from the remnant pieces is fueled by speculation. Urban exploration hits closer to our shared cultural home. It offers pieces of a familiar world and a life we know. For some an abandoned urban landscape evokes specific memories but, even for those visiting the shattered remains of a once thriving location, there are enough commonalities to imagine the place at its peak with relative accuracy. Whether or not we knew the now decaying place in person we bond over the shared history, a bond formed by remnants of a shared culture, history or routine.



aftermath over political incompetence in the face of disaster that still lingers.

The final component here is New Orleans itself, a city that in the face of every tragedy that comes its way still maintains its joviality. The Big Easy acknowledges its dark secrets and its hardships with a sometimes-cynical good spirit. Its festivities



There is a haunting bitter-sweetness, then, to most such spots not entirely different from visiting a cemetery or a memorial. Most abandoned areas tell of misfortune whether it is a favorite watering hole that went out of business or the site of a natural disaster that caused an evacuation. Indeed, the conflicting emotions conjured by ghost towns are not bound by scope or location, from the misty desolation of Centralia in central Pennsylvania to the stoic empty German mining villages of Namibia.

And yet, the resilient but nonetheless somber remains of Six Flags New Orleans have a bleak fascination of their own. In part this is because after Hurricane Katrina destroyed the park, nature has been remarkably kind to these ironically joyous pieces. It matters too that Six Flags is still very much a cultural fixture, but the real horror comes not only from the recent memories of Hurricane Katrina but at the resentment that emerged in the

are often laced with frightening and often grotesque masks and ghost tours are a large part of its tourist draw.

Perhaps not surprisingly, the story of Six Flags New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina is a testament to the bureaucratic blunders that plagued the city in the years surrounding the



Park after Hurricane Katrina

disaster. In its first incarnation, opening in the spring of 2000, the park was called Jazzland. When Six Flags bought the land in 2002 (opening as Six Flags New Orleans the following year), the national chain themed it to the Bayou Country. Rides included Lafitte's Pirate Ship, Ozarka Splash, The Big Easy, Jocco's Mardi Gras Madness, Voodoo Volcano, The Jester, Gator Bait and Mardi Gras Menagerie and was divided into areas such as Main Street Square and Cajun Country.

Despite spending \$20 million to refurbish the park, Six Flags soon began losing interest in its investment. By early 2005, Six Flags began closing its lower performing parks nationwide. By that summer Six Flags New Orleans was among the least profitable parks in the company's portfolio and, though plans for a water park were in talks, it was likely that the New Orleans location was due for the axe.

The last day of operation for the park was August 21st due to the start of school with a planned weekend reopening on the 26th. With news of Katrina hitting New Orleans directly the plans were cancelled.

By the time Katrina passed the park was submerged in six feet of water, its drainage system proving no match for the storm. Six Flags reported that because it took nearly a month for the water to dry out, about eighty percent of the rides and attractions were ruined by the long-term submersion and in 2006 declared the park a total loss. Only a few rides were salvaged. Of these only Bayou Blaster was unique to the New Orleans park and found a new life in Six Flags Great Escape and Hurricane Harbor (the irony is not lost) in Queensbury, New York as Sasquatch. The other salvaged rides were generic to Six Flags Warner Bros I.P.'s, Batman: The Ride was moved to San Antonio's Six Flags Fiesta Texas where it reopened as Goliath in 2008 and Road Runner Express lives on in its original name in Six Flags Magic Mountain in Valencia, California.

What happened next is typical of the finger-pointing and corporate blustering that always seems to follow catastrophe. Then-mayor Ray Nagin expected

(Continued on Page 11)



• News Briefs (Continued from Page 1)

appointed Gross to the position of Superintendent-in-Chief, making him the first African American to hold that position in the police department. In 2018, he became the first person of color to be named BPD Commissioner.

The breakfast will begin at 9:00 a.m. and is free to the public. For more information, call 617-376-1990.

Bob Haas III

Running for Re-election in Revere

Revere City Councilor-at-Large Bob Haas III has announced his candidacy for re-election during his remarks at a recent birthday function at Casa Lucia. "So, we have one year in the books, it's been one year on the City Council and I'd like to announce that we are running for re-election," Haas told the gathering who responded with applause. The candidate who has just turned 46 years old won in his first try at public office back in 2023. Bob's late dad Bob Haas Jr. was a legendary political figure serving as Revere's mayor for eight years.

This Boston-based Band Should be in Rock & Roll Hall of Fame

Is there any good reason why the J. Geils Band has never been inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame? I don't think there is, I still remember their 1974 hit "Must Have Got Lost" and apparently their

nomination into the Hall must have gotten lost too. When I think of this band, I remember Peter Wolf, who in the late '70s used to be a music critic who wrote articles in local newspapers like the original *Regional Review* when it was published by Dominic Amara and Phil Orlandella in their younger days, and mine as well.

Biden Hands Out 19 Medals to ...

President Joe Biden, with days to go in his term of office, just conferred the nation's highest honor, The Presidential Medal of Freedom to 18 individuals including Hillary Clinton, George Soros, Michael J. Fox, Magic Johnson, Denzel Washington and the man Biden considered his mentor, Robert F. Kennedy, the former U.S. attorney general, New York Senator and slain presidential candidate.

End Quotes

"With the Social Security Fairness Act signed into law, fire fighters, emergency medical service providers and their families can rest assured that retirement benefits they have earned through years of dedicated service to their communities will no longer be unfairly reduced."

— U.S. Senator Susan Collins,
R-Maine

"Scientists should stop analyzing animal intelligence and start studying human stupidity."

— Snoop Dogg

• Traditional Media (Continued from Page 1)

cable news hosts are coming to an end. Just look at MSNB's Rachael Maddow and her \$5 million dollar pay cut as a result of a decrease in ratings and viewers, or news veteran Chris Wallace departing CNN to start his own podcast, after he was told his annual \$7 million dollar salary would be slashed. Ratings are down, viewership and readership are down, the demand for advertising on these sites are down. Falling revenue and fewer viewers and subscribers means job losses and smaller pay days.

ABC just settled their own defamation suit with President-elect Trump, stemming from news anchor George Stephanopoulos repeated on air claim that the former president

has been convicted of rape. It was a lie he repeated 10 times in one interview with Congresswoman Nancy Mace (R-SC), even after he was told by his producer and higher ups not to use that term as he would be referring to a verdict that was never found. Trump called him out on it and filed a \$15 million dollar defamation suit, which ABC settled out of court, rather than face a jury.

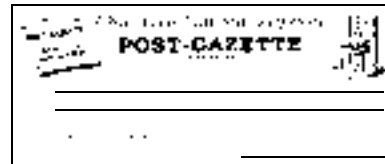
The traditional media outlets are headed to their toughest adversaries come January 20th, in both President Trump as well as the over 77,000,000 million Americans who voted him back into office. Whatever their fate or the outcome, they have no one to blame but themselves.



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Boxing Ringside



WITH BOBBY FRANKLIN

Starting the Year Off with a Bang!
These Great Fighters Were All Born in January



Georges Carpentier



Jake LaMotta



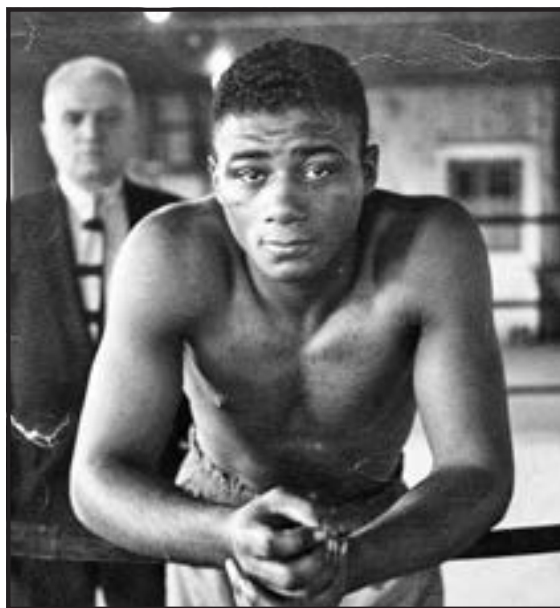
Rocky Graziano



George Dixon



Kid Chocolate



Floyd Patterson



Kid Gavilan



Jersey Joe Walcott

The Potential Role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Professional Sports

Technology has been a significant factor in professional sports for many years, with artificial intelligence (AI) beginning to create a role for itself from enhancing decision-making to reducing human error, AI has the potential to revolutionize how games are officiated. One advantage of AI in officiating professional sports is its ability to review plays frame by frame, detect minor infractions and provide insights that may be missed by the human eye. AI can assist referees and umpires during live games by providing real time data and reducing the reliance on replay systems.

In basketball AI tools can analyze player movements to detect illegal contact, such as fouls or traveling violations. In football it can monitor players movements and identify illegal formations, false starts, helmet-to-helmet collisions more effectively than a human official, who may be prone to split second mistakes and impact the outcome of a game one way or another.

AI also has the ability to help train referees and umpires, in all sports. By analyzing hours of game play and officiating decisions, AI systems can identify common mistakes, and ensure officials are better prepared and more consistent in their decision-making calls. Accurate officiating also strengthens the credibility of sports for fans both at home and in person.

While there are definitely benefits to the implementation of AI in professional sports, there are also challenges and concerns, especially regarding the over-reliance on technology, which could undermine the human element of sports. Striking a balance between human decision-making and AI is vital to maintaining the spirit of the game. It should not be used to replace human referees, but when applied correctly, it can be a powerful tool to assist them. Thoughtful integration of AI into the professional sports industry can ensure that games are fairer, less controversial, and allow the fan base to continue enjoying the thrill of competition.

Kansas City Chiefs Quarterback Patrick Mahomes Left Off Pro Bowl Roster

You would be hard pressed to find any die-hard Patriots fan supporting the Kansas City Chiefs pursuit of a three-peat Super Bowl Championship, yet you can bet that even the most ardent Pats fan was surprised to see Kansas the City Chiefs star among the missing from the NFL Pro-Bowl Team. Mahomes was left off the AFC Pro Bowl roster when it was announced. The three quarterbacks chosen, Buffalo Bills' Josh Allen, Baltimore Ravens' Lamar Jackson and Cincinnati Bengals' Joe Burrow, are all in contention to win MVP.

Mahomes stats may be lower than past seasons, but he still the guiding force behind the Chiefs 15-1 season, earning home-field advantage in the upcoming playoffs. Mahomes has 3,928 passing yards, 26 touchdowns and 11 interceptions this season. The 26 touchdown passes tied for the second lowest of his career since being named the Chief's starting quarterback.

Mahomes is a six-time Pro Bowler and has been named to the AFC roster consecutively since 2018. He is among the alternates for the game along with Chiefs teammates, cornerback Trent McDuffie, linebacker Nick Bolton, fullback Carson Steele, defensive end George Karlaftis, punter Matt Araiza, linebacker Leo Chenal and kicker Harrison Butker.

The Chiefs finished up this past Sunday against the Denver Broncos, before preparing to head into the playoffs.

He should Have Used a Quarterback Sneak

As the Ohio State football team celebrated their Rose Bowl Victory on New Year's Day, crushing Oregon 41-21, there was one key player missing from the on-stage celebration. Ohio quarterback Will Howard wasn't allowed to be part of the post-game awards ceremony with his team due to an apparent weight limit. "They're blocking me. There's a weight limit, apparently ... They're literally blocking me out," Howard can be heard saying to his teammates in a video of the incident.

Fans and other personnel attempted to help Howard get on the stage, telling officials that he was the Buckeye's quarterback, but it wasn't until the very end of the ceremony that he was able to get with his team for a few photos to capture the occasion. The Buckeyes handed Oregon its first and only loss of the season. Ohio State is now headed to the Cotton Bowl on January 10th to face Texas for an opportunity to play in the title game.

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