

# POST-GAZETTE

(Formerly LA GAZZETTA del MASSACHUSETTS)

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## Time to Change the Clocks



## SPRING AHEAD!

It's time to change the clocks, and while we will all lose an hour sleep as a result, it also means the long, harsh, cold dark winter is quickly fading with the mild, sunny spring within our grasp. On Saturday, March 9th, at 2:00 a.m. millions of Americans will turn their clocks ahead one hour to mark the beginning of daylight savings 2025. While many will grumble over the loss of sleep, fear not, you will find it again in November. Embrace the extra hour of daylight at the end of each day and enjoy the positives that go along with it.

## Boston's Downtown Crossing, a Shell of the Vibrant Business District it Once Was

by Patti Sartori

Downtown Crossing, once the anchor business district in downtown Boston, has seen a substantial increase in crime and criminal activity, reaching a seven-year high in the immediate areas, including the Boston Common. Mayor Michelle Wu, Boston Police Commissioner Michael Cox and Suffolk County District Attorney Kevin Hayden are pointing to spillover from Mass and Cass drug use as the accelerant and will focus on treatment rather than arrests to deal with the situation.

The trio laid out what they called an "evolution" of the city's plan to combat the open-air drug market of drug users and dealers, as it continues to spill into downtown and other neighborhoods since the area around Mass and Cass was cleared over a year ago. The newly devised plan comes in response to rising safety complaints in downtown areas, including the Boston Common, a heavily visited tourist area, and will focus on placing drug users and dealers into addiction treatment.

"At the end of the day, this issue is about sobriety, incarceration is not the answer to help them get sober, and if we don't get them sober, then they're coming back. If we don't address the underlying issue, then we don't solve the problem, and they will continue to commit whatever crime they were committing, whether its drug use, dealing to support their habit, shoplifting, robbery or whatever it may be, that's what we're trying to deal with," stated DA Hayden.

Commissioner Cox said the Boston Police Department would probably enforce violations involving open air drug use and things of that nature that are against the law, "But the fact is, we are making a conscious effort to try to enforce, to deter the people that are coming down there feeding these people, and when I say feeding, I mean drugs and other means, to not be there and actually arrest them because those are the people we're really looking for," the Commissioner added.

The evolved plan comes as police statistics point to crime, including drug dealing and shop lifting, reaching a seven year high in the Downtown Crossing/Boston Common last year, with 955 crimes reported in 2024, compared to 958 in 2023, according to a *Boston Globe* report. Two juveniles were arrested last week for allegedly assaulting and robbing a man in Macy's Downtown Crossing Department store.

Mayor Wu, also spoke at the briefing, referenced the plan she intends to file with the city council, "New congregations of outdoor substance users, and related activity emerged as the most pressing issue impacting quality of life for residents city-wide, particularly in the downtown and Boston Common. After a sustained period without significant crowding from November 2023 through April 2024, congregate outdoor substance use emerged as a daily challenge at the Mass and Cass

(Continued on Page 9)

## News Briefs

by Sal Giarratani

### RFK Jr., Says Time to Vax Over Measles

HHS Secretary Bobby Kennedy, Jr., is now touting the benefits of the measles vaccine as a growing outbreak of this disease ravages Texas and other states in the southwest. According to recent data out of Texas, there have been more than 145 confirmed cases with one death so far since the end of January. According to Kennedy on *Fox News Digital*, "MMR vaccine is crucial to avoiding potentially deadly disease." He also added, "The decision to vaccinate is a personal one." Reports suggest the Texas measles outbreak began in the Mennonite community which historically has been vaccine resistant on religious grounds.

### Study Shows Society Failing the Obese

According to recent research published in the *Lancet*, overweight and obesity rates are spiraling out of control due to a "monumental societal failure" to tackle this health issue, with more than half of adults and a third of children and young adults set to be affected by 2050. Obesity is associated with an increased risk of serious health problems such as diabetes, some cancers and heart disease.

### Doing their "Civic" Duty

As Canada, Mexico and China brace themselves for incoming Trump tariffs, Honda became the first company and is now scrapping plans to produce its new Civic in Mexico in favor of Indiana. The Japanese auto giant had initially planned to manufacture its-next generation Honda Civic in Guanajuato, Mexico starting in

(Continued on Page 10)

## Massachusetts Voters Polled on Governor Healey

### How does President Trump Fare with Bay State Voters

In the weeks following Governor Healey's re-election announcement, Massachusetts voters have taken the opportunity to rate her job performance. As she gears up for the 2026 Gubernatorial campaign, Healey has a 52% approval rating while 36% of voters disapprove. Healey's rating has dropped from the 58% she held this past October, and her disapproval has climbed from 36%, according to the 700 Massachusetts voters surveyed for UMass Amherst and WCVB.

Breaking down voters' assessment of Healey these past two years in office shows 57% think Healey is doing at least somewhat well, 16% believe very well. Thirty-three percent said they don't think Healey is performing well as governor, 12% not too well and 21% said not well at all. It seems a solid number of voters in the Bay State approve of the job Governor Healey is doing but fewer than one third feel the same way about President Donald Trump, with a recent poll finding Massachusetts voters are largely split on support for some of Trump's early executive actions.

Approximately six weeks into his second term at the White

House, Trump has an approval rating of 32% according to the UMass poll. 64% of voters here disapprove of the job Trump is doing and only 4% of voters have not made up their mind about him. At the end of Trump's first term, his approval rating among Mass voters stood at 31% according to MassINC Polling Group.

The UMass poll asked Massachusetts voters about five executive orders Trump had signed. One of the five was supported by a majority of voters, one was opposed by a majority and the other three were evenly supported and opposed. Trump's order to release all records surrounding the assassinations of John F. Kennedy, Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr., is supported by 56% of Massachusetts voters, including 36% who strongly support it and 20% who somewhat support it. Only 15% oppose the release of materials.

The President's order ending federal government diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) programs and mandates is opposed by 52% of Massachusetts voters, 44% of whom strongly support it. Trump's DEI order holds

35% of respondents support. 43% of voter's support Trump's order officially recognizing only male and female sexes, 34% oppose it and 14% of voters neither oppose nor support. 44% of voters polled said they support Trump's decision to withhold federal money from educational programs that allow transgender women or girls to participate in female sports while 42% oppose it.

Massachusetts voters surveyed made it quite clear they expect state government elected officials to resist and legally challenge some of the Trump administrations actions. A majority of voters said they want Governor Healey (58%), the state Legislature (53%) and the Massachusetts Congressional delegation (56%) to push back or challenge Trump's actions if they are in conflict with state law or the U.S. Constitution.

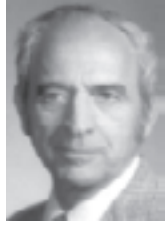
When directly asked for a response to Massachusetts Attorney General Andrea Campbell's efforts to sue the Trump administration 48% were strongly in support with 12% somewhat supportive.

(Continued on Page 6)

## Stirpe Nostra

by Prof. Edmund Turiello

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



### LITERATI OF THE LATER EMPIRE

Recently, we started the series on Roman scholars, and as you may recall, divided all of Latin literati into four periods or Ages. These were: 1. The Early Age; 2. The Golden Age; 3. The Silver Age, and 4. The Late Empire. We have completed our brief description of many greats in the first three Ages. Now we enter the Late Empire, and our coverage will include six of the greatest scholars that this Age produced. Three of them will be honored this week, and the last three will be reserved for next week.

1. **ANNAES FLORUS**, the first member of this week's trio was a Latin historian, born either in Gaul or in Spain, and wrote during the reign of Trajan. He prepared a history of Rome starting with the origin of the city, and continuing to a point midway in the reign of Augustus. Experts tell us that this work was not so much a history as it was a eulogy of the Roman people, written in elegant fashion, and in an oratorical style. The work of Florus was prepared in two manuscripts which, unfortunately, have been handed down to us in a very corrupt state.

2. **GAIUS**, the second of this week's trio, was one of the most accomplished professors of Roman law, and also a writer on that subject. He was born in one of the Asian provinces and resided in Rome during the reigns of Hadrian, Antoninus Pius, and Marcus Aurelius. He prepared numerous manuscripts but the only one which is still available to us today is an introduction to the private law of the Romans called "Institutiones," which was written in four books.

The first book covered laws governing the Roman family, while the second and third treated property rights and the last concentrated on legal procedure. It should be of interest to note that this set became a favorite handbook of law during those ancient times, and was used as a foundation for some of the Justinian Law.



Bas-relief of Gaius from the chamber of the U.S. House of Representatives.

3. **LUCIUS APULEIUS**, more commonly known as simply Apuleius, is the last of this week's scholarly trio. He was born in Africa, into a wealthy family, and this permitted him to travel to Athens where he spent a considerable amount of time studying the work of Plato. He lived in Rome for many years following his classical studies and became engaged as an advocate.

Apuleius returned to Africa fairly early in his career and married a wealthy older woman. After he was charged with using magic to win the rich widow's hand, he replied with much wit in an oration called "Apologia," which has since become quite famous. He subsequently traveled throughout Africa, delivering lectures and orations. His most famous work is probably "The Golden Ass," a book which tells the story of a man named Lucius, who is transformed into an ass; thus providing him ample opportunity to observe the ridiculous doings of mankind, and also the activities of Cupid and Psyche. Throughout this story, the moral conditions of the time are also depicted with much humor.

**NEXT WEEK:**  
Suetonius, Marcellinus, and Claudian

## Massachusetts State Legislature Evades Voter Approved Audit

The Massachusetts State Legislature has taken every effort to block State Auditor Diana DiZoglio from undertaking a voter approved audit. A substantial majority of Bay State voters, 66% according to Secretary of State William Galvin, voted yes on ballot *Question 1* last November, giving the state auditor the authority to examine "the accounts, programs, activities and functions" of the legislature. Yet the Legislature has defiantly and forcibly pushed back on the mandate.

State Auditor DiZoglio has appealed to Bay State Attorney General Andrea Campbell to approve a lawsuit requiring the House and Senate to open their books. "Specifically, I request your support to start the process of litigating this matter as the Legislature has already failed to even acknowledge, much less comply with our current audit engagement letter." Campbell's office said she respects the will of the voters with regard to *Question 1*.

Massachusetts lawmakers have even torpedoed the amendment that would allow the Supreme Judicial Court to rule on whether DiZoglio has the authority to audit the Legislature. It seems any effort to force the Legislature to comply with *Question 1* through an internal rule change will be defeated, leaving the will of the voters ignored.

MassGOP Chair Amy Carnevale blasted the Democratic leadership stating, "The voters spoke loud and clear when they passed *Question 1*. Instead of respecting the democratic process, Republican efforts to uphold the will of the voters are being stonewalled. This is nothing more than a power grab the Democrats claim to support transparency, yet at every turn, they block oversight and keep taxpayers in the dark."

There is no doubt Auditor DiZoglio will continue her efforts to force the legislature to comply with the will of the voters.

## Massachusetts Voter Enrollment on the Decline Independents Strongest Party

Massachusetts voter registration has dropped 2.2% since this past presidential election, under both major political parties, Democratic and Republican, according to Secretary of State William Galvin. Just before the November election, there were 5,142,343 registered voters. As of last month, that number had decreased by 116,517 now totaling 5,025,826 registered Mass voters.

According to Galvin's office it's not unusual for voter rolls to shrink after an election, as they did in 2015, 2017, 2019, 2021, and 2023. Federal law requires inactive voters be kept on the rolls for a period spanning two federal elections. Inactive voters who haven't voted in that three to four-year period or confirmed their residence in any other way during that time, will be removed from the rolls. Most of these removed voters have likely moved but haven't registered at their new address.

While Democratic and Republican voter rolls have declined, the block of unenrolled or

independent voters has grown. This group made up the majority of the electorate this past fall, accounting for 64% or 3,302,493 registered voters. Democrats accounted for 26% or 1,352,937 members, and Republicans with 8% or 434,887 members.

Nearly four months later, in February, Democrats accounted for 25% or 1,298,603 voters, a drop of 54,334 voters, while Republicans accounted for almost 8.5% or 423,287 members, a decrease of 11,600 voters. The number of unenrolled voters also dropped between October and February to 3,254,435, a difference of 48,058 non-party affiliated voters. However, the number of unenrolled voters grew, comprising 64.75% of the electorate.

Regardless of how Massachusetts voters choose to register, there is no denying that Democrats are the powerhouse political party in the Bay State, holding every top office in the state, every Congressional seat and both U.S. Senate seats.

## Wu Tops Kraft in First Mayoral Poll Survey Shows it Could be a Tight Race

by Patti Sartori

The results of the first City of Boston 2025 Mayoral Poll are in showing Incumbent Mayor Michelle Wu with the lead, and challenger Josh Kraft not as far behind as some may have expected. The Emerson College poll surveyed 600 registered Boston voters from February 24th to 26th. This is the first of many polls to be conducted.

Wu topped Kraft 43-29%, and holds a job approval rating of 41%, 38% not favorable and another 21% of voters remain neutral. Kraft, the son of New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft, was the former CEO of the Boys and Girls Club in Boston, now heads the Kraft Family Philanthropies, announced his campaign three weeks ago, on February 5th, seizing on the controversial Women's Pro-Soccer White Stadium proposal, lack of affordable housing in the city and the need for a partially elected school committee.

A third candidate, North End restaurateur Jorge Mendoza-Iturralde, also included in the poll with 2% support, stated he is also planning a run for mayor but has not yet made an official announcement. Mendoza-Iturralde is not happy with Wu's decision to shut down outdoor dining in the North

End neighborhood. The mayoral election will take place on November 4th, with early voting beginning in late October.

Emerson College Polling Executive Director Spencer Kimball stated the mayor "starts strong with 57% of voters reporting the city is headed in the right direction and holding a favorable view of the mayor. Wu's support is strongest among Hispanic voters, at 54% and Asian voters, 58%, while Kraft splits the white vote with Wu 39% to 37%." The poll showed Wu's highest support is among voters under 30 years old and voters over 70. Kraft had 27% of voters rate him favorably, 24% unfavorably, 36% neutrally and 13% have never heard of him.

Some of the top issues in Boston seem to be the Trust Act, which prohibits local police and authorities from cooperating with ICE and federal authorities on civil immigration detainees, the redevelopment of White Stadium to host the new National Women's Soccer League team, housing and bike lanes. Over 50% of voters support the Trust Act, 31% disapprove with white voters evenly split on the issue. However, 51% of voters polled believe Boston

cannot accommodate more immigrants seeking sanctuary status, while 49% believe it can.

Mayor Wu testified before a Congressional committee earlier this week, along with the mayors of New York City, Chicago and Denver, over federal immigration policies. On the White Stadium issue, 53% said they support the redevelopment, 22% opposed it and 26% are unsure. Wu supporters lean towards supporting the project while Kraft's supporters are split.

When polled on which candidate would make housing more affordable, 38% of the voters said Wu and 25% said Kraft, but an eye opening 31% believe no one would. Most voters feel there are too many bike lanes, 48%, while 35% feel there are just enough. 61% of voters believe the MBTA is now headed in the right direction. However most polled voters, 54%, reported Boston Public Schools (BPS) is heading in the wrong direction.

There will be many more polls over the next eight months, with the possibility of the race tightening or widening in either candidate's direction. All candidates should be prepared for a long road of campaigning.

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Friday, March 7, 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.

## Property Tax Application Assistance Clinics to Help Older Adults Across Boston

Clinics are running now through March to support older adults in saving money on this year's property taxes by accessing existing resources.

Mayor Wu and the City of Boston's Age Strong Commission is hosting a series of in-person Property Tax Application Assistance Clinics to help Boston's older residents find out which various cost savings they may be eligible for now through the end of March. Clinics will be held across the city and support Boston residents age 60 and above for eligibility on property tax exemptions/deferral, fuel assistance, SNAP, water/sewer discount, and Medicare Savings Program.

"These clinics hosted across the city by Age Strong will support our older residents in identifying and signing up for every possible resource to save money and stay healthy throughout the year. I encourage all eligible older adults to get connected by signing up for a clinic now through the end of March," said Mayor Michelle Wu.

For more information regarding the clinics and eligibility, please visit [boston.gov/prop-tax-clinics](http://boston.gov/prop-tax-clinics). To register for an in-person clinic appointment, residents are encouraged to contact the Age Strong Commission directly by calling **617-635-4366**.

"Our Age Strong Advocates are trained to help our older adults make sure they get the benefits and discounts they're eligible for," said Emily K. Shea, Age Strong Commissioner. "In addition, we have many partner departments and organizations at these events so that it is a one-stop shop for our older residents."

Older residents may be eligible for the following existing resources:

**Boston's Residential Exemption:** This exemption can reduce property tax bill by up to \$3,984. The deadline to apply for this reduction is April 1st.

**The Senior Exemption "41C":** This exemption offers qualifying older residents up to \$2,000 in tax relief. Applications are due April 1st.

**The City of Boston's Senior Property Tax Deferral Program:** Program that allows qualifying older adults to defer all or part of your property tax bill, a 1% loan paid back when the property is sold or transferred. Applications are due April 1st.

**Age Strong Commission's Property Tax Work-off Program:** Older adults are provided an opportunity to "work off" up to \$2,000 from your property tax bill by volunteering with City departments. Apply by July 11th.

**Boston Water and Sewer Elderly and Disability Discounts:** Through this program, BWSC gives eligible residents a 30% discount on their water, sewer, and stormwater charges.

**Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP):** This existing program helps eligible people with their winter heating bills.

**SNAP program:** Key program that helps people expand their food budget.

**Massachusetts Senior Circuit Breaker Tax Credit:** A tax credit program that gives eligible older adults a refundable credit of up to \$2730 on their personal state income tax return.

**Boston Home Center:** Residents may be eligible through the Home Center for support with home repair costs.

**Community Choice Electricity:** Residents may also be eligible for utility discounts or payment plans.

The Property Tax Application Assistance Clinics are hosted in partnership with various City departments including Assessing, Boston Home Center, the Boston Water and Sewer Commission, Community Engagement, the Worker Empowerment Cabinet/Boston Tax Help Coalition, and Environment. Additionally, various organizations partnered with the city to host these clinics including Action for I Community Development (ABCD), MassSave, Eversource and National Grid.

These clinics to support older adults with property tax assistance builds on Mayor Wu's work to make Boston a home for everyone and address the rising cost of living facing Boston residents. Mayor Wu continues to fight for *residential tax relief legislation* for Boston residents impacted by sharp increases in their Fiscal Year 2025 third-quarter property tax bills.

## La Fontana di Trevi a Roma Italia e Stata Riaperta The Trevi Fountain in Roma Italy has Reopened

Anyone who has been to Rome, knows the Trevi Fountain is always jam packed, and could be a daunting effort attempting to come away with a clear, unobstructed photo or selfie. However, that may not be the case the next time you visit the Eternal City. After being closed for months of maintenance, the water is flowing once again, and Rome officials have introduced a new system to allow for a more civilized visit to the iconic site.

Newly implemented rules will rid the area immediately surrounding the fountain of the traditional chaos. The Trevi fountain now has a capacity limit of 400 visitors at a time. The main piazza will remain open, but if you wish to get up close, you will need to enter through the central staircase and exit on the other side. Currently, there is NO entry fee, but Roman officials left that door open for a future decision, and honestly, who can blame them.

The fountain will be open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. (last entry at 8:30 p.m.). Monday and Fridays the opening is delayed until 11:00 a.m.



to allow for coin collection. Every other Monday it will open at 2:00 p.m. for a deep clean, and after 9:00 p.m. it is unrestricted access, so for those who enjoy walking the city later in the evening, you're in luck!

There will be no more sitting on the fountain's edge or lounging with a gelato or espresso. The new rules strictly prohibit sitting, eating, drinking or smoking near the water. The goal is to protect the monument and keep people out of it. When a temporary walkway was

set up over the fountain during construction, people were initially skeptical, but it seems the over 250,000 visitors during that time frame loved the idea of calm and order.

Time will tell if this change is productive but given the mere fact that one will no longer need to fight for a front row spot, or squeeze through a shoulder-to-shoulder, elbow-to-elbow crowd, it should prove to be a much more enjoyable way to experience one of Rome's most stunning landmarks.

## MBTA Announces Start Dates for 2025 Ferry Season

### Increased Winthrop and Quincy Ferry Service

Upcoming Winthrop and Quincy Ferry Upgrades this Season Include Doubling the Number of Weekday Trips, Direct Winthrop-to-Boston and Quincy-to-Boston Service on Weekdays, and Weekday Trip Time Enhancements

The MBTA announced start dates, trip information, and improvements for the Winthrop and Quincy Ferry for the upcoming season along with start dates for all seasonal routes. Upgrades coming to the Winthrop and Quincy Ferry include doubling the number of weekday trips, direct Winthrop-to-Boston and Quincy-to-Boston service on weekdays, and weekday trip time enhancements by about 30 minutes. The full schedules for all ferry routes are anticipated to be released next month and will be available at [mbta.com/Ferry](http://mbta.com/Ferry).

#### WINTHROP AND QUINCY FERRY INFORMATION

• **Weekday Service:** Winthrop and Quincy Ferry weekday service will begin on **Monday, April 28, 2025**

To better serve ferry passengers, weekday trips will be divided into two separate routes: the **Winthrop Ferry** operating directly between Winthrop and Boston and the **Quincy Ferry** operating directly between Quincy and Boston. With two separate ferry routes serving Winthrop and Quincy, the MBTA is more than doubling trips to these destinations on weekdays. Two separate routes also allow the MBTA to improve trip times from Winthrop to Boston by about 30 minutes (last year, a weekday trip from Winthrop to Boston or the Seaport took about 50 minutes; this season, these trips will take about 20 minutes). Both ferry routes will continue to serve Logan Airport, the Seaport, and Central Wharf / Aquarium

• **Weekend Service:** Winthrop and Quincy Ferry weekend service will begin on **Saturday, May 24, 2025**, to



coincide with Memorial Day weekend. On weekends, the MBTA will continue to operate a combined Winthrop and Quincy Ferry route serving all destinations.

Tickets can be purchased on the mTicket app or with cash on board. Commuter Boat or Commuter Rail Zone 1 (or higher) passes and M7 cards are also accepted.

#### LYNN FERRY INFORMATION

Lynn Ferry weekday service will begin on **Monday, March 31, 2025**. Lynn Ferry weekend service will begin on **Saturday, May 24, 2025**, to coincide with Memorial Day weekend.

Tickets can be purchased on the mTicket app or with cash on board. Commuter Boat or Commuter Rail Zone 2 (or higher) passes and M7 cards are also accepted.

#### HINGHAM/HULL FERRY INFORMATION

Hingham/Hull Ferry weekday service continues to operate year-round. Hingham/Hull Ferry weekend service will begin on **Saturday, May 24, 2025**, to coincide with Memorial Day weekend.

Tickets can be purchased on the mTicket app or with cash on board. Commuter Boat passes or Commuter Rail Zone 6 (or higher) passes are also accepted.

Passengers should note that different fares apply for trips to and from Georges Island. More information is available at [bostonharborislands.org](http://bostonharborislands.org). Tickets to and from Georges Island are available on the mTicket app, at the Hingham Ferry Terminal ticket counter, and on board.

MBTA passes are not valid for trips to and from Georges Island.

#### EAST BOSTON FERRY INFORMATION

East Boston Ferry weekday and weekend service will begin **Monday, March 31, 2025**.

A one-way fare on the East Boston Ferry is the same as taking the subway. Tickets can be purchased on the mTicket app. Printed LinkPasses, Commuter Rail Zone passes, and M7s are also accepted.

#### CHARLESTOWN FERRY INFORMATION

Charlestown Ferry weekday and weekend service continues to operate year-round.

Tickets can be purchased on the mTicket app or with cash on board. Commuter Boat passes or Commuter Rail Zone 1A (or higher) passes are also accepted. Schedules are available at [mbta.com/Ferry](http://mbta.com/Ferry).

Complete schedules will be available soon at [mbta.com/Ferry](http://mbta.com/Ferry).

## L'Anno Bello: A Year in Italian Folklore

### A Season of Refreshing Renewal

by Ally Di Censo Symynkywicz



We find ourselves in the midst of the changeable month of March, and spring seems palpably in our grasp. Sparkling shamrocks and mischievous leprechauns adorn doorways and windows across my town, reminding me of the upcoming St. Patrick's Day festivities. Robins herald the arrival of a new season with their blazing red breasts as they hop about on the slowly budding tree branches. Crocuses and daffodils begin to wink from newly-churned dirt. However, though the signs of spring prove plentiful, other aspects of nature tell us that we are still in a period of transition, when the weather remains as unpredictable as the March winds. Clumps of old snow, stubborn to melt, may cling to the ground under trees or on the edges of parking lots, while an occasional slate-gray sky threatens additional wintry weather. Bursts of frigid air still send us scrambling for heavy coats, scarves and gloves. In supermarkets, agricultural produce comes to a virtual standstill, as the lemons and oranges of winter dwindle before they can be replaced by the tender greens and herbs of spring. During this time of the year, when winter reluctantly yields its hold on spring, folk customs around the world honor the changing of the seasons. For example, we are now in the period of Lent, an interval which boasts profound religious significance but also cultural and seasonal importance. Lent mirrors the changes occurring in the natural world and guides us towards spring with a sense of promise, hope and renewal.

This year, Lent began on March 5th, Ash Wednesday. It covers a 40-day period prior to Easter, the most important feast in the Christian calendar.

These days serve to prepare the faithful for Easter through purification rituals such as prayer, fasting, charity and self-reflection. The timing of Lent is highly symbolic, as it occurs during a seemingly barren season in which nature also purifies herself after a long winter, emerging ready for the rebirth of spring. In order to appreciate the glory of Easter and spring, we need to embrace the seasonal transition with contemplation and introspection, an opportunity which Lent generously affords us. When my father was a child in Italy, Lent, or *la Quaresima*, functioned as a somber and austere period, matching the chill sterility of nature. Though the rules have relaxed since then, the rite of purification remains the crux of Lenten customs in Italy and beyond. This explains the popular practice of giving up a bad habit or an indulgence for Lent, a tradition which is not mentioned in the Bible but nevertheless fits seamlessly with the folkloric cleansing rituals of the season. The purpose of this Lenten abstinence should not be deprivation, but rather a chance to examine our values or priorities and improve ourselves. This Lent, for example, I gave up my browsing my favorite website, in order that I may break my smartphone habit and spend more mindful time with my family. The promise of Lent, however, stands in the fact that all of our hard work will be rewarded with a beautiful springtime. After all, the English term for Lent shares the same root with the word *lengthen*, referring to the growth of daylight in the spring sky!

Lent means more than saying goodbye to your favorite treat, though. In Italy, this meditative time inspired the creation

of unique folk traditions and customs that would come to define the tapestry of pre-Easter celebrations. The most famous Lenten rule involves the forbidding of meat on Fridays; as such, ingenious Italian cooks devised many fish and vegetable dishes for these days. A visitor to Italy during Lent will notice farmers' markets bursting with fresh fish and *baccalà* (dried cod), along with the first spring vegetables, from which can be crafted a nourishing minestrone. Italians also snack on *quaresimali*, or almond biscuits, which, as the name suggests, are made especially for Lent. According to the author Helen Barolini in her book *Festa*, a simple and customary Italian Lenten dessert is *pizza fritta*, fried dough sprinkled with sugar. My mother and grandmother would frequently whip up this dessert when I was younger, much to my pleasure, though I only recently learned of its Lenten connotations. The people in Italy also celebrate the fourth Sunday of Lent as *Mezza Quaresima*, or mid-Lent. These festivities mark the halfway point of Lent and honor the imminent arrival of Easter, and many Italian towns and cities hold parties and processions reminiscent of Carnival. Of course, due to the self-reflection and sacrifice that accompanies Lent, it is important to remember that giving is just as powerful as abstaining. People in Italy and around the world commemorate Lent with charity and community service, and truly there is no better way to spread the light of spring than by helping others.

Though the checkered March weather makes it appear as if winter will never quite lose its grasp on spring, holidays like Lent skillfully guide us in managing this transition and welcoming a new season. Now that the luxurious chocolates of St. Valentine's Day and the raucous Mardi Gras decorations are swept away, the time proves right for purification and introspection. The rites of Lent, replete with their emphasis on self-improvement and reflection, echo the regeneration of nature as the vernal equinox, and later Easter, approach. Lent is a time to do good deeds, to ruminate on the successes and challenges of the past year, and to cleanse yourself of negative emotions and distractions prior to triumph and rejuvenation of spring. Significantly, Lent is a season of hope — hope for the promise of Easter, hope for the return of the spring sun. Nature will reawaken, the sun will resplendently shine, and the wheel of the year will roll on, carrying with us through life's treasures.

*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.*

## THINKING OUT LOUD

by Sal Giarratani



### This Guy Brought Those TV Cops into the Real World — Warts and All

Growing up during the '50s and into the '60s, I watched endless cop shows on television. Cop shows were the rage along with clean-cut cowboys. Thinking back, Jack Webb loved producing both his own show *Dragnet* which he appeared on as no-nonsense cop named Sgt. Joe Friday, and then went on to do *Adam 12* with two perfect cops named Reed and Malloy. Cops were all one dimensional back then, and with pretty boring habits and speech too. They had no real off duty lives and appeared to be completely tied to their role in society. Can anyone else as old as this guy here remember Sgt. Joe Friday blowing his top or swearing or not wearing a suit and tie? Same for his partner Jim Gannon and Reed and Malloy. Malloy was the old cop, probably around 35 years old and the young cop Reed, a quite boring 20-something year old with a horrible sense of humor.

Those TV cops all seemed to have come out of the same oven from the same cookie tray. Then Joseph Wambaugh came along and changed everything about how cops were portrayed on the boob tube.

I was saddened to hear of his passing the other day at 88 years old. He became known as the master storyteller of police dramas with his books, films and TV tales. He powerfully caught the difficult psychic realities of lonely cops and flawed detectives trapped in the seedy world they occupied on the job with all the greed and senseless brutality that surrounded their complicated world. It seemed as far as Wambaugh was concerned there were no Joe Fridays, no Reeds, no Malloys. Real police work much of the time is often neither pristine nor uplifting. Wambaugh sought to portray the real world of law enforcement and he was blunt about all the hidden costs of being on the job with broken marriages, nervous breakdowns and even suicide.

His era as a writer began in 1971 when most TV police dramas were totally implausible stories about perfect heroes always doing right but he set out to shatter that Hollywood mold by making his cops complex, profane, violent and fallible. If you read his books, you could see his imperfect cops and quickly identify with the burdens placed on their shoulders going from crime scene to crime scene and watching the fatalism of the job eating them up.

Wambaugh wrote real police dramas and produced TV police dramas for about 40 years and he drew upon his 14 years as a member of the Los Angeles

Police Department. The books he wrote and shows like his two series *Police Story* (1973-78) and *The Blue Knight* (1975-76) were the real thing. Many of his books were adapted by others into Hollywood films and miniseries.

*The New Centurion* was a great movie. He wrote the book in 1971, his first year as an LAPD police officer. The book and movie explored the lives of three officers working in Black communities in the early '60s. It examined the traits of veteran officers and how rookies adapted them as their own. The movie came out in 1972 starring George C. Scott and Stacy Keach.

Back in the '70s going into the '80s, I followed his writings and his TV shows and movies he wrote. He was a mentor of mine even before I became a police officer in 1985. On the job, most of my fellow officers always kidded me as "Joseph Wambaugh, Jr." because of all the writing I was producing at that time but, like Wambaugh himself, I was not just a cop who wrote. However, like him I used my experiences on the job to make me a better writer.

No one has called me "Joseph Wambaugh, Jr." for some time now because many have forgotten who this great writer was that just passed away. I remember him and always will. In his obit, it told of a shy loner who rarely gave interviews and had few friends aside from other police officers current and former.

I read that he wanted to become a teacher but instead became a police officer in 1960 because the pay was better. I guess all of us are destined to be the person we ought to be. When I was in college, I thought I was going to be a teacher but there were too many teachers back then and I moved on to something else which eventually led me to my police career. Along the way, I never stopped being a writer.

Joseph Wambaugh, as I said, was my mentor. I learned so much from him just by reading his books and became a better writer for it. I am getting older and hopefully wiser. I still write with a young mind rising about all the subterranean turbulence beneath our feet. There is always hope for better to arrive. I have a large friendship circle and today it even includes public school teachers because in the end I finally made it as a teacher in the classroom over at Quincy High School.

We could all learn a thing or two from Joseph Wambaugh on how to navigate life. It doesn't all have to be lights and sirens, though the lights and sirens were fun too. Everything in its time.

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# Celebrate the Year of the Asclepias by Planting Milkweed

by Melinda Myers

Grow milkweed (*Asclepias*) to support monarch butterflies, hummingbirds, and bees while adding color, fragrance, and beauty to your landscape. You'll find native milkweeds throughout North and South America. In recognition of this garden star's attributes, 2025 has been deemed the *Year of the Asclepias* by the National Garden Bureau.

With so many to choose from, select the milkweed that is best suited to the growing conditions, your landscape design, and garden maintenance. Some milkweeds are very aggressive and can quickly take over garden beds and large areas in the landscape, requiring time and effort to maintain their spread.

Butterfly milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) is one of the tamer milkweeds with lots of ornamental appeal. This adaptable milkweed is hardy in zones three to ten and was named the 2017 Perennial Plant of the Year.

Grow butterfly milkweed in full sun with well-drained soil. You'll appreciate its drought tolerance once it's established. If you are gardening in clay soil, consider growing *Asclepias tuberosa* var. *clay*, a natural variant found growing on clay soil. Mark the location of any butterfly milkweed in the garden or plant some spring flowering bulbs nearby to avoid accidentally digging up this late-to-emerge perennial.

Melinda Myers has written over 20 gardening books, including *Midwest Gardener's Handbook, Revised Edition*, and *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" instant video and DVD series* and the nationally syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment* radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine. Myers' website is [www.MelindaMyers.com](http://www.MelindaMyers.com).



Milkweed (*Asclepias*) supports monarch butterflies and other pollinators. (Photo courtesy of MelindaMyers.com)

You'll enjoy the orange blossoms in meadow, prairie, and even semi-formal gardens. Combine this beauty with yellow, purple, and blue flowers. Deadhead faded flowers to extend bloom time and prevent reseeding if this is a concern.

When looking for a bit larger plant that tolerates moist to wet and occasionally dry soils, check out red milkweed (*Syriaca incarnata*), also known as pink and swamp milkweed. You'll enjoy the fragrant reddish-pink flowers and the butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds that visit the flowers.

It's hardy in zones three to nine plus red milkweed

grows three to five feet tall in upright clumps. The flowers are followed by narrow pods that release silky-haired seeds like other milkweeds. It grows best in full sun with moist soil and is less aggressive than common milkweed. Grow this milkweed in sunny mixed borders, natural gardens, rain gardens, and alongside ponds. And best of all, the deer and rabbits tend to leave it, and other milkweeds, be.

Common milkweed *Asclepias syriaca* is a favorite of monarchs, hardy in zones three to eight, but very aggressive, spreading by deep rhizomes and seeds. The purple-pink flowers are fragrant at night, and you will find a variety of butterflies stopping by for a visit. Keep it contained by persistently removing unwanted suckers and seed-pods before they open to prevent reseeding.

Sullivant's milkweed *Asclepias sullivantii* is similar but a bit less aggressive. It has the same great butterfly appeal and is hardy in zones four to seven.

These are just a few of the more than 100 native milkweed species, many of which you may want to add to your gardens. You can find out more about the species native to your region in the Milkweed Regional Guides located on the *Xerces Society website*. You are sure to find one or more to add to your garden beds.

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## Friends of DeFilippo Playground Board Members Announced

The Friends of DeFilippo Playground would like to announce changes to their board. Elected in February were:

- President - Robyn Reed
- Vice President - Jason Aluia
- Vice President and Director of Facilities and Athletics - Alan Skinner
- Treasurer - Michael D'Elia
- Clerk - Alexandra Salmon

The Board and members are

looking forward to a year of exciting programming, artwork and community building. All interested neighbors are welcome to join the meetings held at 4:30 p.m., on the first Wednesday of each month at the St. Antonio Club on Endicott Street.

Contact [infogassy@gmail.com](mailto:infogassy@gmail.com) for more information about events and to become involved in this great neighborhood group.

## NEW Health to Host Lunch and Learn



NEW Health will be hosting a Lunch and Learn for older North End adults at the Nazzaro Center on Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m. This class will be led by Dr. Yassi Zarbafian, a physical therapist who specializes in pelvic health.

Space is limited for the event so if you wish to join, please email Danny Coakley at [dfcoakley@mgb.org](mailto:dfcoakley@mgb.org) or call 617-643-8105.

### LEGAL NOTICE

#### LEGAL NOTICE

**NOTICE OF SALE**

Notice is hereby given by **D & G Towing and Auto Repair Services, Inc., 2 Emery Road, Allston, MA**, pursuant to the provisions of Mass General Laws, Chapter 255, Section 39A, that they will sell the following vehicle(s) on **March 17th, 2025 beginning at 10:00 AM** by public or private sale to satisfy their garage keeper's lien for towing, storage, and notices of sale. The following motor vehicle(s) will be sold, in as in condition, no keys.

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**2018 AUDI A3**  
VIN# WAUJ8GFF4J1065931

**2018 TOYOTA COROLLA**  
VIN# 2T1BURHE8JC049519

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

Signed  
D & G Towing

Run dates: 02/28, 03/07, 03/14/2025

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. MI24C1450CA

In the Matter of

AMROW HISHAM HEGAZY

CITATION ON

PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Amrow Hisham Hegazy of Cambridge, MA**, requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to **Amaro Immortalis**.

**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 March 28, 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: February 28, 2025

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate

Run Date: 03/07/2025



### The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Massachusetts Department of Transportation Highway Division Notice of a Public Informational Meeting Project File No. 613460

A Public Information Meeting will be held by MassDOT to discuss the Richmond Street Bridge Preservation project in the North End neighborhood of Boston, MA.

**WHERE: NAZZARO COMMUNITY CENTER**  
30 North Bennet Street  
Boston, MA 02113

**WHEN: Wednesday, March 12, 2025 at 6 PM**

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this meeting is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Richmond Street Bridge Preservation project. All views and comments made at the meeting will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

**PROPOSAL:** MassDOT is performing preservation work on the Richmond Street Bridge over State Route 1A Northbound in the North End. The project is anticipated to begin in April 2025 and will be substantially completed in July 2025. At this meeting, the project team will provide an overview of the project, including the phased constructions schedule and impacts on vehicles and pedestrians. Attendees will then have the opportunity to ask questions and offer comments.

This location is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (including but not limited to interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, open or closed captioning for videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats, such as audio tapes, Braille and large print), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-8580), fax (857-368-0602), TTD/TTY (857-368-0603) or by email ([MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us)). Requests should be made as soon as possible prior to the meeting, and for more difficult to arrange services including sign-language, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten (10) business days before the meeting.

In the event of inclement weather a cancellation announcement will be posted on the internet at <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events>.

**JONATHAN GULLIVER**  
Highway Administrator

**CARRIE E. LAVALLEE**  
Chief Engineer

# A Joyful Celebration of Carnevale IN BOSTON



The Dante Alighieri Society celebrated Carnevale with a massive contingency of family, friends, and other participants. It was a delightful day for all who attended.

On March 2nd, COMITES Boston, in collaboration with the Dante Alighieri Society, the Italian Consulate in Boston, and Federazione delle Associazioni Italiane e Italo americane New England, organized a vibrant Carnevale celebration. Nearly one hundred families gathered for this annual Festa di Carnevale, embracing the joyful spirit of one of Italy's most cherished traditions.



Ivana Maroncelli, Office of the Consul General of Italy in Boston enjoying Carnevale with a masked friend.

Dressed in colorful costumes, both children and adults enjoyed an afternoon filled with music, dancing, and laughter. A special highlight of the event was the performance by the children of the Pirandello School (PILC), who delighted the audience by singing in Italian. Guests also had the opportunity to take photos with Arlecchino (Pazzi Lazzi), further immersing themselves in the magic of the celebration.

Adding to the festive atmosphere was the opportunity to savor authentic Sicilian arancini, generously offered by Brelundi. The delicious treat was a perfect complement to the day's cultural festivities.

Carnevale is a time-honored tradition that brings joy, color, and a deep sense of community to Italian celebrations. Each year, this event allows

us to honor our heritage, embracing the masks, music, and lively customs that have been passed down for generations. It is a beautiful

way to keep Italian culture alive connecting the past with the present and ensuring that future generations continue to celebrate our rich traditions.



Multi-generation participants enjoying Carnevale.

(Photos by Rosario Scabin, Ross Photography)

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• Voters Polled on Governor Healey (Continued from Page 1)

27% percent of voters said they either strongly agree or somewhat oppose Campbell's efforts to go after the Trump administration.

The UMass/WVCB poll tested how Healey might fare against various Republican challengers in the 2026 gubernatorial race, although none have officially announced as of yet. John Deaton, former challenger to U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren scored the highest percentage with 25% of the votes to Healey's 45%. The poll showed Healey would defeat former Housing and Economic Development Secretary Mike Kennealy 40% to 15%, with 39% undecided. Forner MBTA Chief Administrator Brian Shortsleeve garnered 12% to Healey's 44%, Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis loses to Healey 44% to 14% and State Senator Peter Durand is bested by the Governor 41% to 14%.

It remains to be seen whether Healey will face a strong Republican challenge in next year's election, but it's a fair

bet her administration will be closely scrutinized.

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. MI25C0253CA  
In the Matter of  
JESSICA M. RIVERA  
CITATION ON  
PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Jessica M. Rivera of Marlborough, MA, requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to Jessica M. Santiago

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 date of March 24, 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: February 24, 2025  
Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate

Run Date: 03/07/2025

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Middlesex Division  
Middlesex Probate and Family Court  
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Woburn, MA 01801  
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Docket No. MI25P0796EA

Estate of  
JOHN H. RYDER

Date of Death: October 21, 2024

INFORMAL PROBATE  
PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner John F. Fitzgerald of West Newbury, MA, a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

John F. Fitzgerald of West Newbury, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

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

Run date: 03/07/2025

# Ieri e Oggi

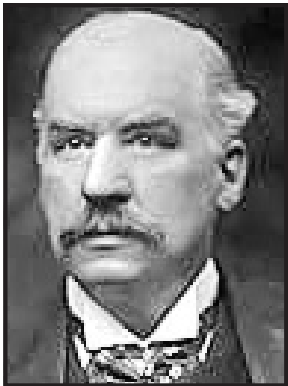
## Yesterday & Today

A COLUMN OF PAST AND CURRENT EVENTS

by Bennett Molinari & Richard Molinari

### J.P. Morgan

J.P. Morgan was born in Hartford, Connecticut on April 17, 1837. He was an American financier and industrial organizer, one of the world's foremost financial figures during the two decades before World War I. He reorganized several major railroads and financed industrial consolidations that formed the United States Steel, International Harvester, and General Electric corporations.



The son of a successful financier, Junius Spencer Morgan, John Pierpont Morgan was educated in Boston and at the University of Göttingen. He began his career in 1857 as an accountant with the New York banking firm of Duncan, Sherman and Company, which was the American representative of the London firm George Peabody and Company. In 1861 Morgan became the agent for his father's banking company in New York City. During 1864-71 he was a member of the firm of Dabney, Morgan and Company, and in 1871 he became a partner in the New York City firm of Drexel, Morgan and Company, which soon became the predominant source of U.S. government financing. This firm was reorganized as J.P. Morgan and Company in 1895, and, largely through Morgan's ability, it became one of the most powerful banking houses in the world.

Because of his links with the Peabody firm, Morgan had intimate and highly useful connections with the London financial world, and during the 1870s he was able to provide the rapidly growing industrial corporations of the United States with much-needed capital from British bankers. He began reorganizing railroads in 1885, he arranged an agreement between two of the largest railroads in the country, the New York Central Railroad and the Pennsylvania Railroad, that minimized a potentially destructive rate war and rail-line competition between them. In 1886 he reorganized two more major railroads with the aim of stabilizing their financial base. He helped to achieve railroad rate stability and discouraged overly chaotic competition in the East. By gaining control of much of the stock of the railroads that he reorganized, he became one of the world's most powerful railroad magnates, controlling about 5,000 miles of American rail.

During the depression that followed the panic of 1893, Morgan formed a syndicate that resupplied the U.S. government's depleted gold reserve with \$62 million in gold in order to relieve a Treasury crisis. Three years later he began financing a series of giant industrial consolidations that were to reshape the corporate structure of the American manufacturing sector. His first venture, in 1891, was to arrange the merger of Edison General Electric and Thomson-Houston Electric Company to form General Electric, which became the dominant electrical-equipment manufacturing firm in the United States. Having financed the creation of the Federal Steel Company in 1898, Morgan in 1901 joined in merging it with the giant Carnegie Steel Company and other steel companies to form United States Steel Corporation, which was the world's first billion-dollar corporation. In 1902 Morgan brought together several of the leading agricultural-equipment manufacturers to form the International Harvester Company. In that same year he organized an amalgamation of a majority of the transatlantic shipping lines, notably including White Star. In April 1912 Morgan had a booking on the maiden voyage of White Star's *Titanic* but was forced to cancel, reportedly because of an illness. The ship subsequently sank with great loss of life.

Morgan successfully led the American financial community's attempt to avert a general financial collapse following the stock market panic of 1907. He headed a group of bankers who took in large government deposits and decided how the money was to be used for purposes of financial relief, thereby preserving the solvency of many major banks and corporations. Having ceased to undertake large industrial reorganizations, Morgan concentrated on amassing control of various banks and insurance companies. Through a system of interlocking memberships on the boards of companies he had reorganized or influenced, Morgan and his banking house achieved a top-heavy concentration of control over some of the nation's leading corporations and financial institutions, he remained the dominant figure in American capitalism until his death in Rome, Italy in 1913.

# Saint Louis of Anjou

## Bishop of Toulouse

The son of Charles II of Naples and Sicily, Saint Louis of Anjou was born in 1274 and named after his uncle, the holy king of France. It was the great concern of his mother, the niece of St. Elizabeth, to rear her many children as true servants of the King of Kings.



The queen observed in her son Louis a deep holiness. He loved prayer, was reserved and gentle, and his whole conduct radiated angelic purity. Even as a child he practiced mortification.

Sweets and delicious foods he carried to the poor and sick with his mother's permission.

When he was 14 Louis was taken to Barcelona with two of his brothers, as a hostage for the release of his father, who had been taken a prisoner of war. Willingly Louis accepted this misfortune to obtain his father's freedom; but at the same time, the disposition with which he accepted it was astonishing in a boy of his age.

In 1295, his father tried to arrange a politically advantageous marriage for him with the daughter of his former captor, but Louis refused. Surrendering his title, he proclaimed, "Jesus Christ is my kingdom. If he is all I have, I shall have everything. If I don't have him, I lose everything."

"Misfortune," he said, "is more useful to the friends of God than good fortune, for on such occasions they can prove their loyalty to their Lord."

Under the guidance of several Franciscan friars who were appointed teachers to the young princes, Louis made remarkable progress in virtue as well as in secular knowledge. In public debates he manifested his mastery of the various branches of knowledge. Theology was his favorite subject. So devoid was he of ambition that he planned to renounce his claims to the throne in order to devote himself entirely to the service of God.

About this time he became seriously ill. He made a vow that if he recovered, he would join the Order of Friars Minor. The sickness immediately took a turn for the better, but the superiors of the order hesitated to receive the young prince without the consent of the king, his father.

At the end of six years his captivity ended. On returning home, after much pleading, he finally obtained the permission of his father to settle his claims to the throne on his brother Robert, and to become a priest. Not very long after his ordination, and although he was only 21 years old, he was selected by Pope Boniface VIII for the bishopric of Toulouse.

"Whatever is lacking to the young priest in age and experience," said the pope, "his extraordinary knowledge, his maturity of mind, and his holiness of life will amply supply."

Saint Louis of Anjou had to yield to the pope's wishes, but he requested that he might first be admitted into the Order of Friars Minor. That request was granted. The royal prince was overjoyed to be permitted, for a time at least, to perform the humblest exercises as a Franciscan; in Rome he went from door to door gathering alms.

The pope himself officiated at the ceremony of Episcopal consecration, and shortly afterwards Saint Louis of Anjou left to assume the government of his diocese. His noble birth and above all the fame of his sanctity caused him to be received at Toulouse like a messenger from heaven. The entire city went out to meet him.

Bishop Louis led the poor and rigorous life of a Friar Minor and devoted himself to the welfare of his diocese. The poor were his best friends, and he fed 25 of them daily at his own table. His ministry, however, was destined to be short-lived.

Saint Louis of Anjou passed away at 24 having been bishop no longer than a year and a half.

Saint Louis of Anjou received the last sacraments on the feast of the Assumption of Our Lady; and on August 19, 1297, while pronouncing the holy name of Mary, he passed away. Because of the many miracles that were performed at his tomb, he was canonized as early as 1317, during the lifetime of his mother. The feast day of St. Louis of Anjou is August 19th.

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5:30 PM - Panel on domestic violence to introduce the show

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Rossella Mancullo  
Carmen Marsico

**DIRECTED BY:**  
Eleonora Francesca Cordovani

**Texts by:**  
Michela Murgia, Franca Rame, Stefano Benni

**Trial transcripts from:**  
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**GLADIATOR II**  
(4K Ultra HD/Blu-ray/Digital)  
Paramount Home Ent.

Director Ridley Scott's action-packed epic *Gladiator II* continues to thrill audiences around the world, and now fans will be able to relive the astonishing spectacle at home — along with a wealth of behind-the-scenes bonus content. From legendary director Ridley Scott, *Gladiator II* continues the epic saga of power, intrigue, and vengeance set in Ancient Rome. Years after witnessing the death of the revered hero Maximus at the hands of his uncle, Lucius (Paul Mescal) is forced to enter the Colosseum after his home is conquered by the tyrannical Emperors who now lead Rome with an iron fist. With rage in his heart and the future of the Empire at stake, Lucius must look to his past to find strength and honor to return the glory of Rome to its people. Fans who purchase the film on Digital or 4K Ultra HD will have access to over 100 minutes of fascinating behind-the-scenes footage and interviews. Discover the epic journey of the highly anticipated film as the cast and filmmakers share their personal experiences. Explore some of the exotic filming locations, including Malta and Morocco, and see the extraordinary sets that brought the Roman Empire back to life. Plus, enter the arena to find out how carefully choreographed combat and visual effects combined to deliver mind-blowing battles on a truly epic scale.

**EVILENKO – LIMITED COLLECTOR'S EDITION**  
(4K Ultra HD / Blu-ray)  
(Unearthed Films)

A disgraced communist schoolteacher in Kyiv becomes a brutal, unfeeling serial killer. Based on the crimes of Andrei Chikatilo, based on the shocking true story of the former Soviet Union's most notorious serial killer, this riveting, haunting film explores the mind of a true monster; a man who mutilated and devoured more than 50 children. For years, Andrei Evilenko (Malcolm McDowell) eluded the obsessive Detective Lesiev (Marton Csokas) and the psychiatric profiler Aron Richter (Ronald Pickup). Spurred on by his rabid fury at the gradual crumbling of his precious Soviet Union, Evilenko is a man who will live, die and kill as a communist. The haunting melodies of composer Angelo Badalamenti and writer-director David Grieco's stark imagination have created a portrait of a serial killer that will resound in the psyches of us all.

**THE MASK OF SATAN**  
(Blu-ray) Severin Films

Writer/director Lamberto Bava delivers a modern-day reimagining of his father's classic *Black Sunday*, featuring FX by Sergio Stivaletti, with music by Simon Boswell, and hailed as "an impressive evolution of '80s Italian horror that not enough fans have seen." When a group of skiers become trapped in a crevasse, their discovery of a long-frozen female corpse will unflinchingly

an ancient evil, unlock a portal of the damned and unleash a nightmare of Satanic vengeance. Mary Sellers, Deborah Caprioglio and Michelle Soavi star in this constantly escalating and fast-moving film.

**ANTIVIRAL (4K Ultra HD)**  
Severin Films

The award-winning debut feature by writer/director Brandon Cronenberg has been called "wild and creepy," "smart and subversive" and "hallucinatory body horror from the same plasma pool as VIDEOROME." Now it can be experienced in 4K UHD for the first time ever: Syd March (Caleb Landry Jones) is a top sales representative for The Lucas Clinic, which harvests exclusive infections from celebrities for injection into obsessed fans. But in a near future consumed by the possibilities of biological communion, will Syd himself pay a horrific price for the toxicity of fame? Sarah Gadon and Malcolm McDowell co-star.

**DELICATESSEN**  
(4K Ultra HD) Severin Films

*Delicatessen* has been called funny, and a stunning visual experience. Now fans can experience this video that has also been called a cannibal comedy. From co-writers/directors Jean-Pierre Jeunet & Marc Caro and producer Claudie Ossard, comes *Delicatessen*, all about odd jobs and strange neighbors, circus stars and troglodytes, fresh meat and true love. Dominique Pinon, Jean-Claude Dreyfus and Howard Vernon star in this tasty, easy to digest tale, now restored in 4K from the original camera negative.

**THE LADY ASSASSIN**  
(Blu-ray) 88 Films

From Hong Kong's legendary Shaw Brothers studio comes a blood-drenched story of ninjas, eunuchs and dark palace intrigue: the old emperor is on his last legs, and his most ambitious and amoral son plots to cheat his way to the throne. But taking power is the easy bit. Staying on top will prove much more difficult. Based on a particularly infamous chapter of Chinese history, *The Lady Assassin* mixes pageantry with some of the most awesome sword fights in any Shaw Brothers film.

**DINOSAUR VALLEY GIRLS**  
(Blu-ray) Visual Vengeance

*Dinosaur Valley Girls* enjoys its first time ever on Blu-ray, and is packed with hours of new and archival bonus features. Chain-smoking Hollywood action movie star Tony Markham is zapped back in time via a magic artifact to a prehistoric world of flesh-hungry dinosaurs, angry cavemen, and a tribe of exotic, love-starved cave girls. He must use his modern-day machismo and best karate moves to survive the onslaught of Jurassic terrors while wooing the literal cave girl of his dreams, Heather. *Dinosaur Valley Girls* playfully and skillfully dives headfirst into the subject matter, including creating a completely new language for the tarts. An epic world-building adventure, complete with stop motion dinosaurs, original music numbers, off-the-wall cameos and more.

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

**A RECENT FUNDRAISER WAS HELD AT THE REEL HOUSE FOR STATE SENATOR LYDIA EDWARDS**



Senator Lydia Edwards with Sean O'Brien  
(Photo by Sal Giarratani)

Recently, I attended a Welcome Back to the District fundraiser for state Senator Lydia Edwards who just returned to the Senate District after completing boot camp training. Edwards besides being a state senator is also a Judge Advocate General (JAG Officer) in the Mass. Army National Guard. She enlisted in the national guard on October 30, 2023.

The fundraising event which I attended was hosted by Sean O'Brien, the International President of the Teamsters USA. A large crowd of supporters showed up to welcome her home. Elected officials from across the Senate district, friends, neighbors. As I say about these events. All the usual suspects were there. It was a great time for all and I believe takes us all out of winter and back into more ongoing receptions, fundraisers, community gatherings and more.

**TRUMP GETS NO AMBIVALENCE FROM ANYBODY AND SO MUCH OTHER STUFF**

People either love him like the best president ever or they hate his guts. No in-between to be found. Amazing how he has the power to bring out the best and worst in hearing range. Once we could chat with each other and laugh about current events. That's gone.

What just happened in the Oval Office was truly unbelievable. It was proof that live TV can be dangerous and quite unpredictable. Hey, at least there wasn't a cage-match set up for the cameras.

Personally, I thought Zelensky was a bit of an ingrate since we keep sending him barrels of money. What's it up to now; \$200 million? Or it could be zillions by now and if we keep sending him the dough, it could go up into the billions or gazillions.

As far as Europe goes, is this our problem? Let them finance Ukraine but if I was the Z-man I wouldn't place all my eggs into NATO or the Europeans. Britain, France or Germany, do any of them really trust each other? When it comes to boots on the ground, all of them usually mean U.S. boots.

**WU:**

**SAFEST LARGE CITY IN AMERICA?**

Mayor Wu keeps saying Boston is one of the most diverse and safest when it comes to America's largest cities. When it comes to feeling safe, tell that to all those diners over the weekend in town who

**AND THEY CALL IT PUPPY LOVE !!!!**



A good friend of mine, Renee Taylor, who makes a mean capuchino and lives in Winthrop has just adopted three cute little puppies from the same litter, one pup at a time. Their names are Willow, Meadow and Rowan. I guess if there was a fourth puppy, most likely it would have been named Martin as in *Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In* TV show from the '60s!

ended up witnessing some guy with a knife chasing people into a restaurant.

An off-duty cop saves the day when he was forced to kill the culprit but it seemed the first-person Wu thought about afterwards was the poor guy trying to kill people with a knife.

**BIGGER BAD BRUINS TICKET PRICES**

Did you notice how the Boston Bruins are raising ticket prices for next week after this year? If there was any justice in the world, the Bruins would be lowering ticket prices. However, people love paying more without complaining, don't they?

**TAKE ME DOWN TURNS INTO PINK VINYL**

I just found out from the electrifying guitarist Dom Petrosino that his Take Me Down band has a new name. They are now called Pink Vinyl. Wonder if they'll be playing some Pink Floyd? The band showed up last week over at Bianchi's on the Sandbar to a great crowd who seemed to be having a great time.

**DECEASED SINGERS NEVER DIE ON PBS**

Wanna bet, PBS will now be repeating all those old R&B, Motown concerts from decades ago in honor of the passing of Jerry Butler who just died the other day. Once again he will be 50-something years old again bringing us along with him for a visit back to yesteryear. Sometimes I swear PBS has no shame.

**YOUR HOT DOG IS WAITING FOR YOU AT SULLIVANS**

If you're into hot dogs, you might like to know that Sullivan's over at Castle Island just reopened March 1st, last Saturday, to a big crowd waiting to bite into the beginning of the end for winter. I've done it a couple of times less for the dogs and more for what is to

follow as we move into spring on the way to summer tanning again.

**WHO PANICS OVER CHANGING CLOCKS?**

Did you see any panic the other day when we had to turn our clocks forward into Daylight Savings Time. No one ever goes bananas when we turn the clocks forward. But turn them back and everyone starts tripping out over having to deal with it.

**ST. PATRICK'S DAY IS ALMOST HERE**

Hey, it is almost St. Patrick's Day over in South Boston. The parade is happening on Sunday, March 16. I was already over at the Seapoint Restaurant in Southie this past weekend for the annual General Know Evacuation Day breakfast. The hall was crowded, the food was hot and the bar was opened up for customers. They gave out several Unsung Hero Awards to members of the South Boston community like usual. The color of the day was green, of course. No other color would do.

**IF YOU TOOK THE SPLASH, CONGRATS**

By the way, they held another Shamrock Splash over at Shay's Beach in Eastie. Outsiders call it Constitution Beach but we locals know better. This year's splash was the 15th Annual JetBlue Shamrock Splash, a polar-plunging fundraiser for the Better Beaches Grant Program. I thought of plunging this year but when I woke up Sunday morning it was just way too cold for this old guy to hit the water. I did do a plunge several years back on New Year's Day over at L Street but I must confess the temperature was about 47 Fahrenheit on that day. Lots more folks show up for a plunge on a warm New Year's Day.

**THE TALEND**

Spring is almost here. The worst is over.



# Nanna & Babbonnonno

by John Christoforo

A Nostalgic Remembrance



From what I remember, Italians have always loved pets. Even going back to ancient Rome, they loved their animals. When Pompeii was excavated, the entrance to someone's home had an inscription cemented to the floor, "Cave canum" (beware of the dog). My first recollection of a family pet was when I was very young and we all lived in one big house on Eutaw Street in East Boston. Nanna had a cat named Tippi. She was orange and white, had a pleasant disposition and was bilingual. She reacted to both English and Italian. She was dedicated to Nanna and would often bring home presents and lay them at Nanna's feet. More often than not, the presents were mice she had caught somewhere in the neighborhood.

There were two things Nanna hated more than anything else, rats and snakes. To her, a mouse was a rat that hadn't grown up yet, and when Tippi graced my grandmother with an expired rodent, she would wait until Babbonnonno, my father or one of my uncles returned home and have them remove it from the house. Then, came the day when Tippi, proud of her latest kill, dropped the limp body of a garden snake at Nanna's feet. Nanna screamed loud enough for my mother, Aunt Eleanor and cousin Paula to all run to her rescue. As I was in the kitchen when the present was delivered and witnessed the whole scenario, I just stood there and watched. After all the ladies had arrived, not one of them would touch the snake to remove it. Tippi sat aside the snake looking up at Nanna as if to say, "Look what I brought you this time!" Dad was the first one home that afternoon and the snake was finally taken from the kitchen and deposited somewhere in the backyard.

In later years, when Tippi was just a memory, Mom told me a story about Babbonnonno's dog. I believe it was a German shepherd. One Sunday, when my mother was in her early 20s, she and her best girlfriend, Ada Georgone (Uncle Nick's first wife), decided to go to the Seville to catch a Sunday matinee, Babbonnonno told them what time to be home. They arrived late and missed the first few minutes of the co-feature. Back then, most theaters showed two pictures. The co-feature was usually a B level production and this was followed by the main attraction. Anyway, they missed the first few minutes of the first film and decided to stay and see what was shown before they arrived.

Babbonnonno became impatient when the girls had not returned at the designated time. He glanced at his pocket watch, a gold Hamilton which I inherited and keep in a glass case, and decided to head to the theater and bring the girls home. Prior to leaving, he leashed up the German shepherd and brought him on the expedition. When Babbonnonno arrived at the theater, he bypassed the ticket booth, walked up to the doorman, told him that he was

looking for his daughters and continued into the theater to find the missing girls. Neither the doorman nor any of the ushers stopped him as he wandered through the lobby. Babbonnonno was only 4' 11" tall, but the dog must have made him look like a 6-footer.

Not finding the girls in the lobby, he headed inside the darkened theater, walked up and down the isles yelling, "Angie, a du sta?" (Angie, where are you ... in dialect) As he yelled, the dog echoed him with a bark. When he finally found Mom and Ada, they were given orders to accompany him home. They explained how they missed the first part of the co-feature to Nanna when they arrived home and she calmed Babbonnonno down, but the girls were so embarrassed that it was a long time before they returned to that same theater.

On the other side of the family, Grandpa Christoforo raised canaries and had a cat for a pet when Dad and his sister, Aunt Mary, were kids. I don't know much about the birds, but understand that Grandpa taught the cat to do things that dogs were trained to do and the cat followed him around just like it was a dog.

The cat didn't show up for dinner one night and was missing for a few days. Grandpa searched for him and only discovered the cat's location when he heard it cry somewhere in the backyard. When he saw the cat, he saw blood on the hind quarter. He picked it up and saw that it had been shot. He held the cat in his arms, walked to the South Ferry, brought the cat to Boston and headed for the Angel Memorial Hospital. The cat was too far gone and had to be put to sleep. When my grandfather was back home, he asked all of his Chelsea Street neighbors if they knew anything about someone shooting animals in the neighborhood. He did find out who shot his cat, loaded the revolver he carried during the Spanish American war, but the rest of that story is not printable.

Years later, when we moved to Belmont, I inherited a dog from an old girlfriend. I was told the pup's name was Tammi and was house broken. My lady friend couldn't keep it where she lived and thought I might give it a good home. Tammi was part lecherous father and part promiscuous mother, a Heinz 57 ... a genuine mutt. Seeing Babbonnonno was home during the day, he and the dog became inseparable. The only problem was that Babbonnonno couldn't say Tammi. He called her Sammi. He couldn't say T without it becoming an S. Babbonnonno taught the dog to understand Italian and Mom, Dad and I taught her the same commands in English. I tried an experiment and taught the dog to understand the same commands in a third language, Spanish. I told Babbonnonno that the dog was now a canine linguist and he assumed that I called the dog a linguini. It was sort of a breakdown in translation.

After Tammi's demise, Loretta and I bought Mom a Keeshond. She was a show dog that my mother overfed and could not enter her in any shows due to the extra pounds. It stayed a family pet traveling with my folks wherever they went.

After my sons, John and Michael came along, we inherited a beagle that my kids immediately named, Beagsley. Beagsley became part of the family and he and the kids grew up together. By the time the boys went off to college, Beagsley was getting old. We took care of him as best as possible, but we reached a point when everything was wrong with him. During August of 2007, it was time. John was home from college and we brought Beagsley to the vet for the last time. We stayed with him till it was all over and then headed home, all of us in tears.

Since then, Loretta and I haven't opted for any pets. John worked in Zurich, Switzerland for a few years, and when he returned home bought a golden retriever and named her Zuri. We told him to wait until he has his own place, but he bought her anyway. After Michael and Cathy were married, they bought a dog, named her Bella and a black cat and named her Cinder. I think that at this point in my life, I'm getting too old for pets.

**GOD BLESS AMERICA**

## LEGAL NOTICE

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Notice is hereby given by **Tody's Service, Inc.** of 1354 Washington Street, West Newton, MA, pursuant to the provisions of Mass G.L. c. 255, Section 39A, that they will sell the following vehicle on or after **March 28th, 2025** beginning at 10:00 am by public or private sale to satisfy their garage keepers lien for towing, storage, and notices of sale:

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VIN # 1G1PC5SH3C7367856  
Vehicle is being stored at  
Tody's Service, Inc.

Signed,  
David Donahue, President  
Tody's Service, Inc.  
Run dates: 03/07, 03/14, 03/21/2025

## LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court Department  
Middlesex Division  
Docket No. 25W0194

### SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

SHAMIN NAMBOOZE, Plaintiff(s)

v.

KING F. KABONA, Defendant(s)

To the above named Defendant(s) King F. Kabona

A Complaint has been presented to this Court by the Plaintiff(s), **Shamin Nambooze** seeking a Complaint for **Custody/Support/Parenting Time**.

You are required to serve upon **Shamin Nambooze** or attorney for plaintiff(s) whose address is **194 Salem Rd., Billerica, MA 01821** your answer on or before **10th day of April 2025**. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer in the office of this Court at **370 Jackson Street, 5th Floor, Lowell, MA 01852**.

Witness, **TERRI L. KLUG CAFAZZO, Esq., First Justice of said Court at Lowell, this day of February 27th, 2025.**

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate Court  
Run date: 03/07/2025



by  
**Marianna  
Bisignano**

As the Lenten season begins, Italy's culinary landscape transforms, offering an array of meatless dishes steeped in tradition. Among them, one of my personal favorites — Linguine with White Clam Sauce (Linguine alle Vongole) is a dish that reigns supreme, especially in Naples and Rome. In Naples, this dish is served "bianco" (white) style, where vongole veraci (small, sweet clams) are cooked whole in their shells with olive oil, garlic, white wine, parsley, and a touch of red pepper flakes. The result is a light, briny sauce that perfectly enhances the delicate seafood flavors. And if you're thinking of sprinkling on some cheese — don't. Italians hold firm that cheese overpowers the natural essence of the clams. While some versions incorporate cherry tomatoes (Linguine alle Vongole con Pomodorini), the red clam sauce popular in the U.S. is nearly unheard of in Naples.



For me, this dish is more than just a meal — it's a connection to my Nonna's kitchen. She prepared Linguine alle Vongole often, always emphasizing that with so few ingredients, quality is everything. She handpicked fresh clams from the fish market, along with a large container of chopped clams. Her olive oil came exclusively from Sicily, poured straight from a large tin can, and her pantry was always stocked with fragrant garlic, fresh parsley, peperoncini flakes, and dried Sicilian oregano, which she kept tucked away in her wine cellar beside bottles of homemade wine. My Nonna was nothing if not practical, so when fresh clams weren't available, she effortlessly switched to canned chopped clams and bottled clam juice, and let me tell you, the dish was every bit as delicious!

## LINGUINI with WHITE CLAM SAUCE

### Linguine alle Vongole

- 1 ½ pounds dried or fresh linguine
- 3 pounds littleneck clams, cleaned and scrubbed well
- 1 ½ pounds chopped fresh clams
- ½ to ¾ cup olive oil
- 8 cloves garlic, thinly sliced
- ½ to ¾ cup fresh parsley, chopped
- ¼ to ½ teaspoon dried Sicilian oregano
- ¼ to ½ teaspoon peperoncino flakes, to taste
- Freshly ground salt and black pepper, to taste
- Freshly grated parmesan cheese, if desired (see note below)

**Cook the Pasta:** Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Cook the linguine until al dente according to package instructions.

While the pasta cooks, heat ½ cup olive oil in a large skillet over low heat. Add the sliced garlic and cook until fragrant, about 1 to 2 minutes. Add the whole clams to the skillet along with the peperoncino flakes and oregano. Pour in 1 ½ to 2 cups of water, then add the chopped clams. Bring to a simmer, cover, and cook until the clams open, about 8 to 10 minutes. As they open, transfer them to a bowl.

Add ½ cup chopped parsley to the skillet and allow the sauce to slightly reduce. Meanwhile, remove the clams from their shells, chop them, and return them to the pan.

When the linguine is al dente and the sauce is reduced, lower the heat and transfer the pasta directly to the skillet. Toss well to coat the pasta in the sauce.

Stir in the remaining ¼ cup parsley (if desired) and cook for 1 to 2 minutes more to meld the flavors. Serve immediately.

*Note: Though grated parmesan cheese is not traditionally served with this dish in Italy, my Nonna always added it at home — so feel free to enjoy it your way!*

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

## • Downtown Crossing (Continued from Page 1)

intersection, the surrounding areas, and in areas of downtown Boston," the mayor added. As the colder weather descended in late 2024, Wu said the city received an increase in 311 calls for needle pick up, human waste, and impacts on quality of life.

Mayor Wu's citywide 2025 strategy is to end congregate substance use and related criminal activity in Boston's

neighborhoods, involving a set-up of updated strategies that build on the city's existing intervention, coordinated response and enforcement approach. There will also be more of a police response. Wu will attend a public safety meeting hosted by Downtown Boston Neighborhood Association.

Commissioner Cox believes, "If one person is fearful, that's something that we should address."

# THOUGHTS BY DAN ABOUT THIS & THAT

with Daniel A. DiCenso

## The Beast of Gévaudan: Identifying a Monster



June 30, 1764, had started out as a typical day for fourteen-year-old Jeanne Boulet. While France, her homeland, was mourning the recent loss of its Canadian colony and recovering from the bloodbath of the Seven Years War, Boulet went on with her quiet life in her family's sheep pastures near Les Hubacs. Her mind was on the flock of sheep she cared for especially as there had been rumors of predation nearby. Boulet never returned home. Instead, she would be the first victim of the mysterious creature which would come to be known as the Beast of Gévaudan that would terrorize France for the next three years with over one hundred gruesome attacks.

Two-hundred and fifty years later there is no settled answer as to the identity of the creature that haunted the Mercoire Forest. The most common explanation is an unusually large wolf and, indeed, some accounts of its behavior reconcile with known wolf behavior. The European subspecies of *Canis lupus*, after all, has a far more volatile history with humans than its North American counterpart due in large part to centuries of conflict allowing the inherent fear of man to dissipate.

And yet, other accounts suggest something besides a wolf or any known species for that matter. The more grounded narratives tell of a long sleek tale, more feline than wolf-like in appearance and tawny striped fur. Other stories, perhaps influenced by false memory common in moments of terror, give the creature almost supernatural traits such as the ability to walk upright and take giant leaps.

Expectedly, it is easier to work with the former kind of recollections. From them alternate theories as to the identity of the beast have been formulated. Depending on the account some of the sightings suggest a hyena or one of the big cats such as a lion or tiger. None of those animals are native to France, accounting for the unfamiliarity and, consequently, the fantastical descriptions of witnesses, but the nobility was fond of keeping exotic pets and if one managed to escape the menagerie it is not hard to imagine deadly encounters ensuing with

the populace. Modern zoology itself supports the escaped exotic animal theory as the savageness of the attacks, which often involved the severing of the head while leaving the rest of the body undisturbed, are more indicative of the kill methods of hyenas than wolves.

To understand the second type of testimony it is paramount not to underestimate mass hysteria. As the number of attacks increased throughout the summer and into the fall of 1764 terror took hold on the province of Gévaudan. Legends have always found a breeding ground among the peasantry. The gruesome nature of the attacks combined with the centuries-old role the forest has played in our collective folklore created an unusual string of animal attacks into a local fairytale. Indeed, true or enhanced, the attacks of the beast had the making of a story by the brothers Grimm, most of the victims being lone travelers along lonesome paths.

But the provincial folks do not account for the whole rise of the Beast of Gévaudan into mythic proportions. No, the nobility seized on the panic to elevate a dejected nation that was still recovering from defeat and losses in war. The attacks eventually came to the attention of Louis XV in January of 1765 when he heard of Jacques Portefaix, a boy from Villart and his seven companions who encountered the beast and frightened it off with sticks and shouting. Making them an example of French courage and resistance, the King awarded Portefaix 300 livres, his companions another 350 to divide amongst themselves and Portefaix a full education of the state's money. Using the press, he controlled the King, played no small part in embellishing the tales of terror and heroism in the face of the Beast of Gévaudan. This, however, backfired as the stories now caught the attention of France's old rivals of empire across the Channel. Soon, Louis XV became the source of mockery in England for his inability to take down an animal.

This motivated the King to send his royaldragoons to Gévaudan to hunt down the beast. Led by Captain Duhamel,



the Clermont Prince dragoons encountered the infamous creature several times while stationed in Le Malzieu but failed to get a shot due to the rugged terrain. They were joined in their efforts ultimately by professional hunter François Antoine. Nearly two months after his arrival Antoine heard the story of twenty-year-old Marie-Jeanne Vallet who had encountered the beast while on a footbridge with some other young women. The other women retreated at the sight of the beast, but Vallet threw a spear she was carrying into its chest and the animal ran off. Antoine reported the story back to Louis XV and Vallet became a national hero.

On September 20th, Antoine finally managed to kill an unusually large wolf which he believed to be the Beast of Gévaudan. A number of survivors, including Marie-Jeanne Vallet, identified the carcass as that of the marauding beast. Antoine had the carcass taxidermized and sent back to Paris to be displayed in the royal court. Antoine himself returned to Paris early in November where he was hailed as a hero.

For a while it seemed like the terror was indeed over. But by December attacks began sprouting again in the region. In January of 1766 Monsieur de Montluc wrote to Louis XV informing him that the beast had not been killed after all. But having celebrated a national triumph and regained the respect of the English crown as well as the moral of France, the King refused to admit that the monster was still out there and prevented the press from printing stories suggesting such. The local took matters into their own hands, leaving poisoned animal carcasses in the haunts of the animal as well as organizing small hunting parties. But it was not until June 19, 1767 that the creature was finally killed by local hunter Jean Chastel on Mount Mouchet.

The attacks stopped after this, but mysteries still surround the story. Although the remains of the wolves shot by both Jean Chastel and François Antoine have been lost there is little doubt that they were indeed wolves, albeit abnormally large ones. Both men were professional hunters well acquainted with the game of southern France. The chances of either of them misidentifying an animal are slim and postmortem reports align well with the description of grey wolves.

It is highly possible, however, that both of the wolves were responsible for attacks attributed to the Beast of Gévaudan. At the time attacks were being reported simultaneously from various locations throughout the region. There is no evidence to corroborate but it is not impossible that an exotic pet escaped a menagerie and added to the predation and fear. There may have been several animals responsible for the attacks attributed to the monster but the collective fear makes up the one true Beast of Gévaudan.

## Boston Group Eyes National Women's Basketball Association (WNBA) Franchise

With the WNBA League committing to adding a sixteenth team in 2028, a local group, The Boston Women's Basketball Partners Group, is spearheading an initiative, either through expansion or destination, to establish a team in Boston. The group has not officially submitted a bid to the WNBA, but they have been in talks with the company that the league has hired to handle expansion bids. The group's objective is to get a team in Boston, either through expansion or purchasing an existing team and relocating it to Boston.

Boston hosted a sold-out WNBA game last year between the Connecticut Sun and the Las Vegas Aces, with another regular season game scheduled again to be held at the Garden between Caitlin Clark of the Indiana Fever vs. the Sun. The deadline to submit an expansion bid has come and gone, January 30th, so acquiring an existing team would be the most logical option. There are already three expansion teams set to join the league over the next two years including Golden State, Toronto and Portland ready to begin in 2026. The league has indicated it would be willing to add a 16th team for the 2028 season.

Several cities have submitted bids, including Philadelphia, Cleveland, Detroit, Kansas City, Houston and Nashville. There's also a chance the league could decide to add even more teams to the league, as the interest is growing rapidly.

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

November 2027 and will now be moving to Indiana in May 2028.

#### Hakeem by His Lonesome

House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries is being trolled on social media for posting a video insisting "the American people are with us" in opposing Trump while standing alone outside the Capitol. Jeffries posted his message on X but many users mocked him because he stood alone in the video with no one backing him up on the steps of the Capitol. Conservative commentator Steve Guest accused Jeffries of "gaslighting" the public in the video.

#### Quote to Note

"Most people exist, that is all."  
— Oscar Wilde

#### Everett City Council to Mayor: Return Bonuses

The Everett City Council this past Tuesday has called upon Mayor Carlo DeMaria to repay \$180,000 in longevity payments that a state investigation found he received improperly over a 5-year period. The meeting comes about a week after Inspector General Jeffrey Shapiro called on the council to claw back the monies collected by the mayor between 2016-2021.

#### End Quotes

"As far as anyone knows, we are a nice normal family."

— The family next door to you  
"It is never too late to be what you ought to be."

— George Elliot

### 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. M125C0240CA  
In the Matter of  
VIVIAN ALICE JANKOWSKI  
CITATION ON  
PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A Petition to Change Name of Minor has been filed by Vivian Alice Jankowski of Arlington, MA, requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to Vivian Alice Sheppard

#### 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 April 23, 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: February 26, 2025

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate

Run Date: 03/07/2025

### LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF INITIAL SITE  
INVESTIGATION AND TIER II  
CLASSIFICATION  
NORTH WASHINGTON STREET BRIDGE  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS  
RELEASE TRACKING NUMBER 3-38631

A release of oil and/or hazardous materials has occurred at this location, which is a disposal site as defined by M.G.L. c. 21E, § 2 and the Massachusetts Contingency Plan, 310 CMR 40.0000. To evaluate the release, a Phase I Initial Site Investigation was performed under 310 CMR 40.0480. As a result of this investigation, the site has been classified as Tier II under 310 CMR 40.0500. JF White Contracting has filed a Tier II Classification Submittal with the Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP).

To obtain additional information on this disposal site, please contact TERRA Environmental, LLC, located at 159 Haven Street- 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Reading, MA, 781-944-6851.

The Tier Classification Submittal and the disposal site file can be viewed at the MassDEP website using Release Tracking Number (RTN) 3-38631 at <https://eeonline.eea.state.ma.us/portal/#/wastesite/3-0038631> or MassDEP Northeast Regional Office, 205B Lowell Street, Wilmington, MA, 978-694-3200. Additional public involvement opportunities are available under 310 CMR 40.1403(9) and 310 CMR 40.1404.

Run date: 03/07/2025

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500 Canterbury Street Boston, MA 02131  
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info@stmichaelcemetery.com www.stmichaelcemetery.com

**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. MI25C0255CA  
In the Matter of  
**ELIZABETH JO LAWRENCE**  
CITATION ON  
PETITION TO CHANGE NAME  
A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Elizabeth Jo Lawrence of Waltham, MA, requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to Betty Josette Krueger  
**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 March 20, 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: February 20, 2025  
Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate  
Run Date: 03/07/2025

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**NOTICE OF SALE**  
Notice is hereby given by D & G Towing and Auto Repair Services, Inc., 2 Emery Road, Allston, MA, pursuant to the provisions of Mass General Laws, Chapter 255, Section 39A, that they will sell the following vehicle(s) on March 24th, 2025 beginning at 10:00 AM by public or private sale to satisfy their garage keeper's lien for towing, storage, and notices of sale. The following motor vehicle(s) will be sold, in as in condition, no keys.  
2010 FORD ESCAPE  
VIN: # 1FMCU9EG0AKC43840  
2007 KIA SPECTRA  
VIN: # KNAFE162875005693  
2008 HONDA CIVIC  
VIN: # 2HGFA16528H356149  
1999 JEEP CHEROKEE  
VIN: # 1J4FF68S4XL643147  
2008 SUBARU FORESTER  
VIN: # JF1SG63658H732845  
2005 TOYOTA PRIUS  
VIN: # JTDKB20UX53034034  
2010 NISSAN ALTIMA  
VIN: # 1N4AL21E97C152987  
2000 MERCEDES ECLASS  
VIN: # WDBJF65J8YB159290  
2007 HONDA CIVIC  
VIN: # 1HGFA16587L061302  
2004 JEEP G CHEROKEE  
VIN: # 1J4GW48S54C254344  
2009 HONDA CRV  
VIN: # 5J6RE48339L056535  
2013 TOYOTA YARIS  
VIN: # JTDKTUD30DD552124  
2006 HONDA ACCORD  
VIN: # 1HGCM56706A131551  
2005 TOYOTA COROLLA  
VIN: # 1NXBR32E25Z465707  
2006 HONDA CIVIC  
VIN: # 2HGFA165X6H524035  
2003 FORD E-SERIES  
VIN: # 1FDSE35L43HA46091  
2008 INFINTI G35  
VIN: # JNKBV61F98M257628  
2006 SCION XA  
VIN: # JTKKT624060161369  
2009 VOLKSWAGON PASSAT  
VIN: # WVWJK73C79P029951  
2008 JEEP G. CHEROKEE  
VIN: # 1J8HR58238C240383  
1999 HONDA CIVIC  
VIN: # 2HGJE6447XH105533  
2006 VOLVO XC90  
VIN: # YV4CZ592761253157  
2007 NISSAN TITAN  
VIN: # 1N6AA06B07N201109  
2008 VOLKSWAGON GTI  
VIN: # WVWVF71K68W083804  
2002 HONDA CRV  
VIN: # SHSRD78882U000341  
2002 VOLVO S60  
VIN: # YV1RH58D822170709  
2008 INFINTI EX35  
VIN: # JNKAJ09F68M350762  
2012 VOLKSWAGON JETTA  
VIN: # 3VWDP7AJ2CM354114  
2013 FORD ESCAPE  
VIN: # 1FMCU9GX9DUC18716  
2007 ACURA RDX  
VIN: # 5J8TB18557A017640  
2008 TOYOTA PRIUS  
VIN: # JTDKB20U287773363  
Vehicles are being stored at  
D & G Towing and Auto Repair Services, Inc.  
and may be viewed by appointment only.  
Signed  
D & G Towing  
Run dates: 03/07, 03/14, 03/21/2025

**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. MI25P0629EA  
Estate of  
**MARO MEGUERDITCHIAN**  
Date of Death: December 31, 2024  
CITATION ON PETITION FOR  
FORMAL ADJUDICATION  
To all interested persons:  
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Armen D. Meguerditchian of Winchester, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.  
The Petitioner requests that Armen D. Meguerditchian of Winchester, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.  
**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of April 23, 2025.  
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.  
**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**  
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.  
Witness, HON. TERRI L. KLUG CAFAZZO,  
First Justice of this Court.  
Date: February 26, 2025  
Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate  
Run date: 03/07/2025

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**NOTICE OF SALE**  
Notice is hereby given by Stephens Automotive Transport, 60 Union Street, Medford, MA 02155, pursuant to the provisions of G.L.c.255 39A, that on March 22, 2025 at 10AM, at said address, the following motor vehicle(s) will be sold, in as in condition, no keys, at public sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for towing, storage, and expenses of notice and sale:  
2012 NISSAN MAXIMA, SILVER  
VIN # 1N4AA5AP6CC807125  
2012 CHEVROLET EXPRESS, WHITE  
VIN # 1GCWGFCA3C115928  
2009 HONDA ACCORD, BLACK  
VIN # 1HGCP26489A167486  
2016 TOYOTA AVALON, BLACK  
VIN # 4T1BK1EB2GJ208043  
2006 HONDA CIVIC, WHITE  
VIN # 2HGFG128X6H530187  
2006 FORD F-150, SILVER  
VIN # 1FTRX14W36NA36347  
2018 FORD FOCUS, WHITE  
VIN # 1FADP3K20JL206986  
2005 MERCEDES-BENZ SLK-CLASS, BLACK  
VIN # WDBWK56F75F041063  
2012 CHEVROLET TRAVERSE, SILVER  
VIN # 1GNKVGED4CJ204689  
2007 BMW 335xi, SILVER  
VIN # WBAVD53597A009215  
2005 TOYOTA CAMRY, GRAY  
VIN # 4T1BE30KX5U576395  
1982 VOLKSWAGEN CABRIOLET, RED  
VIN # WVWCA0153CK002905  
1997 RKP CHALLENGER MOTORHOME, WHITE  
VIN # 4CH7HF421SM001138  
2021 ZHWEKI MOPED, BLACK  
LT421NAAAXMZ000506  
2018 KYMCO AGILITY, BLACK  
VIN # LC2U6A032JC000210  
2015 YAMAHA SCOOTER, BLUE  
VIN # RKRSA43ABCA103112  
2011 KYMCO SUPER 8, RED  
VIN # LC2U9A047BC100353  
2013 BASHAN MOPED, BLUE  
VIN # LHJTLBBN0DB004455  
2013 YAMAHA XC50, BEIGE  
VIN # RKRSA47AXDA012242  
2014 YAMAHA ZUMA, RED  
VIN # RKRSA43A1EA119848  
Run dates: 03/07, 03/14, 03/21/2025



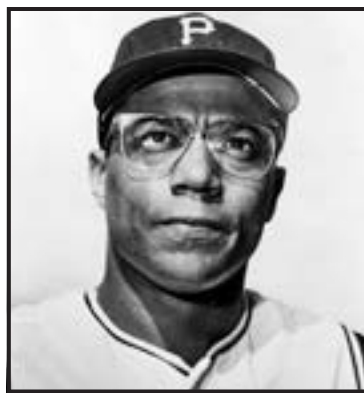
**EXTRA Innings**

by Sal Giarratani

**Remembering Bob Veale and His "Radio Ball"**

Back at the beginning of this year (January 3rd) legendary baseball pitcher most known as a member of the Pittsburgh Pirates passed away at 89 years old. He was always one of my favorite NL players since he was one of a very few who actually wore eyeglasses on the mound. As a kid growing up wearing eyeglasses since second grade, I could identify with him. Actually, it was very rare to see a ballplayer wearing eyeglasses, especially pitchers. The only other player I remember at the moment was Eddie Kasko on the Red Sox in the early '60s.

On the mound, he always seemed to intimidate hitters at the plate with his fastball and his wildness during his '60s and '70s career. A Pirates announcer said that Veale pitched so fast that he threw a radio ball, you could hear it but not see it. Veale was a towering fireballer on the mound at six-foot-six weighing well over two hundred pounds. During his era of baseball, there was an abundance of super aces like Sandy Koufax, Bob Gibson, Juan Marichal, Don Drysdale and Steve Carlton. Born and raised in Birmingham, Alabama,



his dad played for the Homestead Grays in the Negro League. Veale once told a newspaper reporter that he often played sandlot baseball as a kid with his white friends during the Jim Crow era and none of them thought they were breaking segregation laws. They were just playing baseball. As he said, "Not thinking about integrating anything." As a teen, he threw batting practice for the hometown Birmingham Barons in the Negro League.

Over his career, Veale went 120-95 with a career 3.07 ERA completing 78 games out of 255 starts. In 1968, he had the third lowest ERA behind Bob Gibson's 1.12 and Bobby Bolin's 1.99.

He finished off his amazing career at Fenway with the Boston Red Sox in 1973, 1974 when he retired from the game. In June of 1966, when I was about to graduate from Boston English High School, Veale struck out nine Braves in an 11-inning complete game and Willie Stargell his teammate who hit a game-winning homerun in that game told a newspaper reporter after the game, "Anyone who could pitch the way he did, for as long as he did, just couldn't lose."

Well, Veale won and lost games in his career but he always played like a winner right to that last pitch he threw which ended his long career and pitching for the Red Sox too.


**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. MI25C0289CA  
In the Matter of  
**ASMA SHAKIL SHEIKH**  
CITATION ON  
PETITION TO CHANGE NAME  
A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Asma Shakil Sheikh of Cambridge, MA, requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to Asma Wahid  
**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 March 25, 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: February 25, 2025  
Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate  
Run Date: 03/07/2025

**LEGAL NOTICE**

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Suffolk Probate and Family Court  
24 New Chardon Street  
Boston, MA 02114  
(617) 788-8300  
Docket No. SU25C0131CA  
In the Matter of  
**LINDA MICHELLE HOF**  
CITATION ON  
PETITION TO CHANGE NAME  
A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Linda Michelle Hof of Boston, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to Linda Michelle Engelen.  
**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Suffolk Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of March 20, 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. BRIAN J. DUNN,  
First Justice of this Court.  
Date: February 20, 2025  
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq., Register of Probate  
Run Date: 03/07/2025

**LEGAL NOTICE**

  
**WATERTOWN HOUSING AUTHORITY**  
55 Waverley Avenue  
Watertown, MA 02472  
**ADVERTISEMENT**  
The Watertown Housing Authority invites sealed bids from contractors for Seasonal Lawn & Grounds Maintenance Services.  
The Project consists of: Seasonal weekly grass cutting, early season edging and mulching, trimming & leaf removal.  
Sealed Bids for a WHA-1-3-2025-LAWN, SEASONAL LAWN MAINTENANCE SERVICES VARIOUS DEVELOPMENTS, subject to M.G.L.c.30B, & Prevailing Wage according to Ch.149, Sections 26 to 27H. Procurement statutes for Public Housing Developments at Woodland Towers (667-2), McSherry Gardens Apartments (667-1), Munger Apartments A & B Building (WHDC & 667-3 respectively), Lexington Gardens (200-1 & 200-3), Willow Park (200-2) for the Watertown Housing Authority will be received at the Main Office of the Watertown Housing Authority until **11:00 AM., Tuesday, March 25, 2025**, at which time proposals will be publicly opened and read.  
**BIDS may only be hand delivered or mailed to 55 Waverley Avenue, Watertown, MA 02472 and should be received no later than the date and time specified above. WHA not responsible for bids lost or not received on time. Please also mark bids C/O Anthony DiGiovanni, Director of Maintenance & Modernization. You may also call 617-393-1971 and set up an appointment to drop off in person.**  
Contractors are required to use the enclosed Bid Forms. Prevailing Wage rates are required for all State Funded Contracts.  
Bid Forms and Specification Documents will be available by emailing Anthony DiGiovanni at [anthonyd@watertownha.org](mailto:anthonyd@watertownha.org) or for pickup at the Watertown Housing Authority, 55 Waverley Avenue, Watertown, MA 02472 after 10:00 AM on Monday, March 10, 2025 by making an appointment in advance with Anthony DiGiovanni. There will be no charge for these documents.  
The Project sites will be available for inspection by appointment only by contacting Anthony DiGiovanni by emailing [anthonyd@watertownha.org](mailto:anthonyd@watertownha.org) or by calling directly at 617-393-1971.  
**This Contract will be initially awarded for a period of one-year with the option to extend for an additional four (4) one-year periods for a maximum total term of five (5) consecutive years.**  
Run date: 03/07/2025

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE**  
**Todisco Services, Inc.**, with its corporate office located at 171 Boston Street, Salem, MA 01970, under the provisions of Mass G.L. C. 255, Section 39A, will sell the following vehicles on or after March 31, 2025 by public or private sale to satisfy a lien for towing, storage, and all other fees due.  
2009 GMC ACADIA  
Vin #1GKEV23D09J198768  
2013 MERCEDES BENZ GL-CLASS  
Vin #4JGDF7CE2DA257110  
2000 JEEP WRANGLER  
Vin #1J4FA59S7YP726427  
2007 ACURA RL  
Vin #JH4KB16607C002004  
2011 SUBARU OUTBACK  
Vin #4S4BRDLC0B2338058  
2008 MAZDA MAZDA3  
Vin #JM1BK32G281879425  
2007 ACURA MDX  
Vin #2HNYD28277H549980  
2006 FORD F250  
Vin #1FTSF312748CC2781  
2010 FORD F150  
Vin #1FTEX1EW8AFA39468  
2008 PONTIAC G6  
Vin #1G2ZF57B384218131  
2005 FORD E350  
Vin #1FTSS34S15HB45685  
2015 FORD FIESTA  
Vin #3FADP4BJ7FM122487  
2008 NISSAN ALTIMA  
Vin #1N4AL21E98N487771  
2021 TOYOTA CAMRY  
Vin #4T1C11AK5MU529874  
2017 HUNDAI SONATA  
Vin #5NPE34AF8HH460772  
2009 DODGE CHARGER  
Vin #2B3LA43V19H597291  
2015 BMW M3  
Vin #WBS3C9C5XFP804900  
2011 NISSAN MURANO  
Vin #JN8AZ1MW2BW165647  
2012 SUBARU IMPREZA  
Vin #JF1GJAD63CH019475  
2012 DODGE CHARGER  
Vin #2C3CDXBG5CH219447  
2021 YONGFU YN50QT  
Vin #LL0TCAPH0MG004638  
2005 HONDA CIVIC  
Vin #2HGES16505H597115  
2008 ACURA RDX  
Vin #5J8TB18298A005482  
2008 INFINTI EX35  
Vin #JNKAJ09F68M351362  
2008 HONDA CIVIC  
Vin #2HGFG21588H700725  
2022 ZHEJIANG RYA  
Vin #LEHTCB15XNR602409  
Vehicles may be seen by appointment only.  
Please email for specific information  
[info@todiscotowing.com](mailto:info@todiscotowing.com)  
Run dates: 03/07, 03/14, 03/21/2025

# Boxing Ringside



WITH BOBBY FRANKLIN

## PRIMO CARNERA Title Defenses

Heavyweight Champion Primo Carnera is perhaps best remembered for his bout in which he lost the title to Max Baer. In that fight, it is said Da Preem hit the canvas eleven times over the eleven rounds the fight lasted. Nobody is really sure of the exact amount of times the champ was actually knocked down as there was much grappling during the fight resulting in both fighters ending up on the mat.

While it was a one-sided fight, it has to be remembered Carnera broke his ankle in the first round. It is also notable that Baer had to take breaks from throwing punches to regain his wind. I have written before about how this fight may have turned out differently if Primo had not suffered the broken ankle at the onset of the fight. He was still on his feet at the end and had exhibited remarkable bravery during the contest. Courage was something that Carnera never lacked.

It is no secret that Primo Carnera was handled by the mob, and very likely many of his early fights were fixed. It is doubtful that he knew the fix was in, but some of his opponents were persuaded to take dives. Many boxing experts even believe Jack Sharkey took dive when he was defending the title against the Italian. I agree with that opinion.

Baer, on the other hand likely threw his fight with Jimmy Braddock thus making the Cinderella Man champion. Baer also quit in his bout with Joe Louis. This was in sharp contrast to the heroic battle Carnera put up against Louis where Primo was still standing at the end, while Max refused to get up and took the ten count while still able to continue.

What is most overlooked in the time between winning the title and losing it, Carnera made two title defenses. There is very little footage of either one and neither qualifies as "fights to remember", but it is still worth noting these events.

Four months after being crowned champion, Primo made his first defense. The fight took place in his home country of Italy, taking place in Rome on October 22, 1933. His opponent was Paulino Uzcudun from Spain. The two had met three years earlier with Carnera winning a split decision.

Uzcudun had been fighting for a number of years with most of his fights taking place in Europe at this point in his career. He had been the European Champion but the title had been stripped from him for refusing to defend against the leading contender. His most notable wins were over Harry Wills, Tom Heeney, and Max Baer. In the Baer fight he won a twenty-round decision. I think that was the last, or at least one of the last major fights to go that many rounds. He had also been in there with King Levinsky, Max Schmeling, Tommy Loughran, Ernie Schaaf, and Mickey Walker, but without success.

The Carnera/Uzcudun fight looked to be a huge draw, since their first fight, which took place in Spain drew 75,000 people. This contest for the title drew a crowd of 70,000, among them were Italian dictator Benito Mussolini and James Roosevelt, the son of President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Primo entered the ring wearing a black shirt, the Fascist symbol and he gave the Fascist salute. In Carnera's defense, this was before Il Duce's alliance with Hitler which was first formed in 1936. At this time the dictator was a very popular figure in Italy. It has never been hinted that Carnera supported the Axis during WWII.

As for the fight, the Associated Press said it was a one-sided affair with the champion winning every round. The Italian fans were thrilled with the victory. I can't find figures for the amount of money brought in, but with such a huge crowd



Tommy Loughran (Left) and Primo Carnera square off at the weigh-in



Tommy and Primo mix it up

I'm sure it must have been considerable. As to whether or not much of that doe made into the pockets of the champion, I'm doubtful it did. Between his crooked management and the Fascist government in power it is safe to assume they took most of it.

Carnera returned to the States for his next defense. This was a bit of an odd one. Not because his opponent wasn't skilled and deserving, but for the reason he was so small in physical stature. The man chosen was former light heavyweight champion Tommy Loughran who had been campaigning as a heavyweight and had wins over Jack Sharkey, Steve Hamas, King Levinsky, Max Baer, Ernie Schaaf, and Paulino Uzcudun. The problem was, Carnera outweighed Tommy by 84 pounds and was six inches taller. Loughran was also not known for packing much power in his punches.

Since Primo's skill as champion was still in question, this look was not going to enhance his reputation. Unless he could kayo Loughran early, he simply was not going to look good against the very fast and skilled smaller man. Up until that time there had never been such a huge weight difference in heavyweight title fight, and there wouldn't be again until John Ruiz faced off against Nikolay Valuev in 2005.

The fight took place on March 1, 1934 at Madison Square Garden Stadium in Miami, Florida. It had been scheduled for a number of days earlier but delayed supposedly because of a conflict with other social events.

Another delay was due to rain. The fight drew a paltry crowd of just 15,000, and out of that number many had been given free tickets. The paid attendance was only 8,624 with receipts adding up to only \$44,598. Needless to say, the promoters took a huge loss.

As for the bout itself, it did indeed make the champion look bad. In the early going it appeared Loughran might very well pull out an upset. His fast movements in and out made the champion look awkward and even foolish at times. Primo was clearly feeling embarrassed. At one point Tommy even shook Carnera with a solid right hand.

As the fight wore on and with Carnera using his huge weight advantage to lean on and bull Loughran around the ring, Tommy began to tire. He was pretty much out of gas during the final rounds, but never was in danger of going down.

The scoring was quite one sided with the referee and one judge giving only one round to Loughran while scoring four even and the rest to Carnera. The remaining judge had it 3 rounds Loughran and 12 rounds for Carnera. I very much doubt the fight was this one sided.

Though, as with the Uzcudun fight, there is not a lot of footage available of the fight, I believe there was no way Loughran could have won short of a knockout and even then he probably would have been disqualified.

Loughran would never again get a chance at the heavyweight crown. Carnera would lose the title in his next fight, the battle against Max Baer. He would also never get another shot at the title.

Primo Carnera was treated very poorly by the boxing game. He was a very gutsy fighter and, contrary to the generally accepted estimation of his talent, was a decently skilled boxer. It's a shame he never got that one exciting win to be remembered for. He was robbed blind by his management and then became the butt of cruel jokes. Ironically, it was when he turned to professional wrestling that he was able to make money, and he was treated quite well by the promoters and fans in that arena.

I am glad to see that he is finally starting to get some respect from the boxing world. He certainly deserves it.

## HOOPS and HOCKEY in the HUB

by Richard Preiss



### BUNCHED AT THE BOTTOM

#### BUT HOPING FOR A POSITION AT THE PINNACLE —

It is getting crowded down there — near the demarcation line that delineates the two wild card places reserved for teams in the NHL's Eastern Conference that will claim them when regular season action comes to a close on April 17th.

On any given night there are two teams above the cutoff line with another seven within striking distance. The Bruins are right there in the midst of the crowded field hoping to edge themselves through the narrow doorway that offers the promise of playoff action beyond the close of the regular season and, of course, a potential run to the top of the hockey world — the Stanley Cup Championship.

A Mount Everest type journey to the top can only become possible if the Bruins can somehow squeeze through and claim one of those two wild card slots. If not, the B's will finish the regular season among the unsuccessful and will be inactive until practice opens for the 2025-2026 season in September.

In actuality, the possibility of making it through becomes a bit more challenging with each passing day. With less than 20 regular season games to go as we write this; the B's could go on a classic winning streak and claim a spot — anything is possible.

But there are so many other teams that are also within striking distance that the Bruins are now faced with the reality of having to beat out a significant number of teams — not just one or two. And remember that the B's only control their own destiny — not how others will fare.

#### WHITHER GOEST BASEBALL? —

We have entered March, a transition month, but already the crack of the bat resounds throughout Florida and parts of Arizona. Baseball spring training is underway.

But have the majority of sports fans really noticed?

We don't believe that they have as other sports seem to override what was once a universal rite — following spring training from the southern states while those of us in the northern portions of America still shivered as winter fought to keep its grip somewhat longer.

At night, yours truly often listens to the radio. On one show recently a host remarked that the difference between baseball and other sports is that MLB has become more local, losing the national following it once had.

By that he meant that people might continue to follow their regional MLB team but would have little interest in the other teams that comprise the American League or National League.

He gave as an example the fans of the Pittsburgh Pirates. He said that people in western Pennsylvania continue to follow the Pirates as they engage their various opponents but would have little interest in tuning in a game that did not involve them — say Cleveland playing Washington.

But he said in football, they would. If the Steelers were playing the Packers in football, those fans also would tune in later to watch a neutral game — say Minnesota at Seattle.

And that he said was one big difference.

When Red Sox games are over do you flip around and tune in another MLB game involving other teams? If you do, you are one of the rare fans that do.

Tuning into sports talk radio at this time of year, you can hear quite a bit about sports but a lot less about baseball. A good portion revolves around the upcoming NFL Draft in April, which seems, ironically, to be positioned right around the time that MLB teams in the northern states are playing their first string of home games following a winter of dormancy.

In addition, the various March Madness college championship tournaments (particularly, the men's basketball games) dominate the month of March—leaving talk about baseball on the sidelines.

Plus, right after March Madness ends, the respective playoffs in the NBA and NHL begin. And these days they often last into the middle of June, further capturing a significant portion of what once would have been a baseball audience.

Baseball was once so popular that it even led to one of the sports world's outstanding events occupying a special place on the calendar — a placement that remains to this day.

The Masters Tournament (one of pro golf's signature events) has always been played during the first full week of April.

Started in the 1930s, the tournament organizers chose those dates because they coincided with the end of baseball's spring training in Florida. Baseball writers travelled by train in those days and so, with no teams west of Chicago, they would gradually make their way back up north by railroad.

With only 16 teams in MLB at the time (and a shorter 154-game schedule) the regular season started later. Thus the Masters, played in Augusta, Georgia, provided a convenient stopping off destination for the writers—packaged with an opportunity to cover the tournament (and play the course the day after it ended) before resuming their railroad journey to the north to cover Opening Day.

Now, with the March Madness tournament, the upcoming NFL draft and the spring playoffs in the NBA and NHL, talk about baseball seems to be of secondary importance. Where once it was a time of expectation for the baseball world, it is now one of attempting to hold onto a position of diminishing attention. We find this sad since we can remember the closing decades of baseball's Golden Era in mid-20th century America — with interest at a fever pitch as another exciting season drew ever closer.