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Wednesday, June 26, 2024 - Vol. 20, No. 35

Georgetown Admin Facing Renewed Questions

By Stewart Lytle, Reporter

GEORGETOWN - The Conservation Agent, which reports to the town's Conservation Commission, is embroiled in a new controversy.

A year and a half ago, Steve Przyjemski was the first conservation agent to resign after 17 years working for the town's commission protecting its wetlands. Przyjemski blamed Town Administrator Orlando Pacheco for creating a toxic work environment.

Last week, it was new Conservation Agent Michele Grenier's turn. She told the members of the commission (ConComm) that she was being mistreated by Pacheco because he was trying to cut her contract hours from 32 a week to 24.

Grenier, who was a Select person for Middleboro for 10 years and has college degrees in municipal management and human resources, told the ConComm members, "The town is treating me unfairly."

She was hired in November by former ConComm chair Carl Shreder with an employment letter that Pacheco signed. The contract was for Grenier to work for the town for 32 hours and \$65,000, not 25 and \$54,000 a year.

Pacheco wrote, "8 of the 32 will be allocated to the town of Essex who will reimburse the town for those hours. All salary and benefits will be paid by the Town of Georgetown."

After a few months as conservation agent for Essex, that town said it did not have the \$312 a week it was reimbursing Georgetown for her work on Tuesdays.

Pacheco wrote: "The Town of Georgetown did not cut her hours. As you know the position was shared with Essex and the town of Essex has decided the regional agreement was not in their best interest She is still budgeted the 24 hours for Georgetown which is what she was hired for," he wrote

At the same time, the town's human



Paul Winspeare - HR Director in Providence and in Georgetown, MA (\$750 - \$900/week) - seen in town Georgetown, MA (\$750 - \$900/week) - seen in www." "4-5 times" since December. PHOTO: LinkedIn



Georgetown Town Admin. Orlando Pacheco

resources director, Paul Winspeare, who conducted an investigation into Grenier, works full-time at the city of Providence, RI, plus a few hours at the Georgetown Town Hall, about 100 miles apart.

WPRI, TV-12, which serves Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts, reported recently that Winspeare is under review for working for Providence and Georgetown, plus heading a consulting firm.

Pacheco defended his decision to hire Winspeare, writing, "I do not think this is an unusual situation as many employees have other jobs but they are not allowed to work hours in 2 places at the same time."

Winspeare was approved unanimously last December by the



The Ipswich Mills Dam - Photo by Marc Maravalli

Town Board Votes for Removing 116-Year-Old Dam

By Stewart Lytle, Reporter

IPSWICH — To listen to Neil Shea of the Ipswich River Watershed Assn., a lot of shad, herring and baby fish are looking forward to the town removing the Ipswich Mills Dam from the river in downtown.

The dam, built in 1908 to produce power for the mills along the river, has blocked the fish from swimming upriver to lay their eggs for more than a century.

After debating the removal of the dam for a decade, the SelectBoard last week voted four to one in favor of removing the town-owned dam adjacent to the EBSCO building.

The vote follows the Town Meeting decision last year where 68 percent of the those attending voted to pursue permits to remove the dam. This year,

58 percent of voters supported the dam removal in a non-binding ballot vote last month.

In front of a packed meeting room crowd in town hall, SelectBoard member Carl Nylen made the motion and fellow member Sarah Player seconded it to have the town move forward with the dam removal. They were joined by Charles Surpitski and Michael Doughtery, while chair Linda Alexson voted against removal.

Alexson, who said her priority was protecting the \$100 million, Ipswich shellfish industry, which uses the downriver shellfish beds, wanted to have the sediment that is backed up in the riverbed tested for contaminants before the town voted to have the dam

"It is not a risk I'm willing to take," the chair said, noting that the Ipswich shellfish set the town apart from the rest of the state. "I am opposed to taking any risk to those shellfish beds."

Alexson reminded the board that the shellfish beds were closed for decades because of "horrible pollution" that came from the rows of mills along the river that were powered by the dam.

The Ipswich Mills Dam, which does not seem to serve much of a purpose since it was decommissioned in 1932, is the most impactful dam on the Ipswich River. It is the first dam upriver from the sea that migratory fish encounter.

At the 'head-of-tide', it represents a hard stop between fresh river water and the saltwater estuary at the river's mouth. A fish ladder was installed in 1995 to help fish migrate upriver.

But according to the watershed association, "even the best fish ladders pose issues for migratory fish."

Shea, the watershed's restoration manager, said the current fish count, Continued on page 5



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How to Submit Letters to the Editor



Marc Maravalli, B.S., R.Ph. Publisher/Editor, The Town Common

Letters to the Editor provide a useful way of communicating concerns, issues, or suggestions to all members of the community.

The Town Common encourages all citizens to submit letters concerning issues of interest and concern to the local community.

Letters selected for publication may be edited for length and clarity. Some letters may serve as a catalyst for other articles or coverage, and community leaders and agencies will be offered an opportunity to respond to letters concerning their areas of responsibility.

All letters must be signed and include a daytime telephone number.

Letters may be submitted to:

The Editor c/o The Town Common 77 Wethersfield St. Rowley, MA 01969 or preferably via e-mail to: editor@thetowncommon.com.

The Town Common deadline is 5pm Wednesday (except when a federal holiday necessitates an earlier deadline).

The Town Common serves the communities of the Upper North Shore of Mass. & Coastal New Hampshire and welcomes your participation.

Send your Organization or Group Notices, Birth or Engagement Announcements, Photos, Articles and Letters to the Editor. by mail, phone, or e-mail to: Wethersfield St., Rowley, MA 01969 Phone: 978-432-9669 E-mail: news@thetowncommon.com

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Marc Maravalli, Founding Publisher / Editor

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In loving memory of Liz Ichizawa, '04-05 Reporter (1956 - 2005) Jim Wilson, '20-22 Publisher/Editor (1954-2022)

IN LOVING MEMORY JACK COOK

ROWLEY - It is with heavy hearts Ashleigh Cook, that we announce the peaceful passing of Jack L. Cook, who left us at home, surrounded by his loving family, on June 18, 2024. Born on October Jack Cook III. He 22,1941, at Cable Hospital to the late Leonard and Bertha Cook, Jack was a proud lifelong resident of Rowley and a beloved member of the community.

Jack was the loving patriarch of the Cook family, a role he cherished deeply. His life was marked by his unwavering dedication to his family, friends, and community. He is survived by his devoted wife of sixty-three years, Linda; and their children, son, Michael Cook and his wife Linda of Rowley, daughter, Suellen Desjardins and her husband, Kevin of Salisbury, and sister, Donna Toto of Methuen, and by his eight grandchildren, Stephanie Cook, Tiffany Cook,

Michael Cook, Matthew Desjardins and is also survived by twelve greatgrandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

Following in his parents' footsteps, Jack took over the family's iconic 'Cook's Package Store", becoming a well-known and respected business owner. Jack also owned Cooks

Rubbish and was proud to pass down Rowley's Fire Captain, emulating his his legacy to his grandson, Michael. Michelle Mycko, Amanda Perry, His commitment to Rowley extended



grandfather's career as Rowley's first leave condolences, please visit

beyond business,

as he served as

Selectmen for three

terms. He was also

striving to improve

the town he loved.

remembered

Cemetery

Jack's life was filled with passion and excitement, reflected in many hobbies and interests. He was a horse racing enthusiast, he not only enjoyed watching races but also owned several racehorses, sharing and spreading his love of the sport with friends and family, especially with his son, Mike. Jack was an avid New England sports fan and enjoyed NASCAR.

Jack will be deeply missed by all who knew him, as well as seeing his Red pickup truck driving around the town. His legacy of service and love for the Town will continue to inspire future

Calling hours will be Thursday, June 27, 2024, from 4-6 p.m., at F. S. Roberts & Son Funeral Home, 14 Independent Street, Rowley. To light a memorial candle or to www.fsrobertsandson.com.

Ipswich Fire Department Welcomes New Firefighter

is pleased to report that the Ipswich Fire Department is welcoming a new firefighter upon his graduation from the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy.

Firefighter/EMT Curtis Levasseur graduated Friday from the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy's Career Recruit Firefighter Training Program.

Firefighter/EMT Levasseur is an Ipswich resident and 2015 graduate of Ipswich High School. He recently completed an EMT program and is enrolled at UMass Boston. Firefighter/ EMT Levasseur is a veteran of the U.S. Navy, serving from 2017 to 2022.

Firefighter Levasseur was among 31 graduates from 14 fire departments to graduate from the Academy's Career

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IPSWICH — Fire Chief Paul Parisi Recruit Firefighter Training Program Class #321. The graduates completed the 50-day Career Recruit Firefighting Training Program at the Stow campus.

The Career Recruit Firefighter Training Program teaches the essentials of fire and non-fire conditions, life safety, search and rescue, ladder operations, water supply, pump operation and fire attack. The graduates are now certified at the level of Firefighter I and II and in hazardous material operation.

"I'm pleased to welcome Firefighter/ EMT Levasseur to the Ipswich Fire Department," said Chief Parisi. "I'm excited to see where his career will lead him. His appointment brings the department back to our authorized compliment of 12 line firefighters since the retirement of Firefighter Keith

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Curtis J. Levasseur in his graduation photo from the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy. (Courtesy Ipswich Fire Department)

Carlson in November. I know Curtis will do a great job here at IFD and will embrace our values of Integrity, Compassion, and Professionalism.

NEW DATE! Vehicle Day at the Georgetown Library

Thurs June 27 - 10AM to 12PM Georgetown Peabody Library 2 Maple Street, Georgetown, Mass.

Come and explore the town vehicles on the lawn. There will be police cars, fire trucks, bucket trucks and much more! Maple Street will be closed. We recommend parking at the Georgetown Middle/High School and walking over. If it is raining, this program will be canceled.



Newbury Select Board Member Geoffrey H. Walker Named to AgeSpan's 50 Over 60 List

NEWBURY – The Town of Newbury is pleased to share that Select Board Member Geoffrey H. Walker was named to AgeSpan's 50 over 60 list.

Geoffrey Walker has had a pivotal role in the Town of Newbury for over 20 years. He served on various municipal boards including the Planning Board, and Conservation Commission, and has served on the Select Board since

To celebrate its 50th anniversary, AgeSpan, located in Lawrence and Danvers, is recognizing seniors in the Merrimack Valley and North Shore whose lives inspire others. The 50 Over $60\,List\,show cases\,people\,aged\,60\,and\,over$ from across the region who motivate us through their positive attitudes, healthy aging, intergenerational experiences, community service, activism, advocacy and caregiving.

Walker, 77, was recognized for being a trusted mentor within Newbury and for his passion for environmental sciences. When he is not working in the town, Walker enjoys motorcycles, hunting, fishing, and expressing his artistic abilities by creating hand-carved duck decoys.

"Geoffrey is truly an influential member of the community, and it is wonderful to see him receive recognition for his dedication to the town and its residents," said Town Administrator Tracy Blais. "He is the kind of smalltown resident who always puts the needs of the community first.'

The Town of Newbury would like to congratulate Walker on this wonderful recognition.

County Community Foundation Has New Leader

By Ava Moeckel, Reporter

REGIONAL - Celebrating the foundation's landmark 25 years, the Essex County Community Foundation (ECCF) has named Stratton Lloyd the new president and CEO.

Stratton, who played major roles of the ECCF for the last six years, will assume his new role on July 1.

"I am humbled and honored to have been selected as ECCF's next leader," Stratton said. "What happens in Essex County matters to me, and I am thrilled for this opportunity to build on the foundation's 25-year history of collaborative work to create a vibrant and thriving region.

'The ECCF team comes to work every day ready to roll up their sleeves for our communities. It's an incredible privilege to work alongside them and ECCF's family of passionate fund advisors and donors, our many diverse partners and the larger community so together we can continue to build a sense of belonging and opportunity for

every person who calls Essex County

Stratton has played a key role in the growth and success of ECCF since joining as chief architect for ECCF's System Philanthropy approach, which is data-driven, community-focused and establishes it as a strategic and engaged partner in the community.

Among many other initiatives, ECCF is Advancing Digital Equity and Creative County, among others. ECCF's innovative systems approach has positively impacted thousands of non-profits and more than 200,000 residents, deploying \$49 million in collaboration.

Prior to joining ECCF, Stratton served as executive vice president of product management, business development and customer operations at EBSCO Information Services in Ipswich (2004-2018) and senior product manager at Siebel Systems Inc. in Seattle, WA (2000-2004).

He is also the founder of First Look



STRATTON LLOYD ECCF's new president & CEO Photo provided by Essex County Community Found

Inc. (today, known as Youthserve), a global youth service-education company. In addition to graduating from Yale University, Stratton holds a master's degree in business administration from

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Whittier Tech Carpentry Students Use Skills to Complete Community Projects

REGIONAL – Superintendent Maureen Lynch shares that Whittier Tech carpentry students recently completed two community projects to wrap up the end of the school year.

Several students in the carpentry program partnered with Haverhill Brightside, Team Haverhill, and Haverhill Garden Club to build two handicap-accessible raised garden beds.

The garden beds were built out of Douglas Fir, requiring a liner on the inside to help preserve the wood. Students also created a drainage system to help alleviate water build-up and increase the lifespan of the beds.

Students delivered the completed garden beds to Trinity Stadium in Haverhill on May 21, where they will be stored until their permanent location is ready.

Students involved in this project were seniors Christopher Bognanno, Shannon DeJesus, Aiden Dupre, Noah Gayner, William Monroy, Zachary Sieminski, Benificent Silva, and Connor Swales, all of Haverhill, Stephanie Darmody and Craig Kielbania, of Ipswich, William King, of Merrimac, and Jordan Salthouse, of Georgetown.

Another group of carpentry students constructed and painted a 20-foot sign for the Rocks Village Fire Station in

The old sign — originally built by Whittier Tech students in the 1990s had deteriorated and needed to be replaced.

Students constructed the new sign in the Whittier Tech shop, using plywood as a backer and medium density overlay (MDO) for the face of the sign. They then framed and trimmed the sign with AZEK, a composite material that is more durable than traditional wood.

Students primed and painted the sign before delivering it to the fire station on April 1.

The students also built a smaller sign



Back from left, Zachary Sieminski, Aiden Dupre, and William Monroy; front from left, Carpentry Instructor Mike Sandlin, Shannon DeJesus, Jordan Salthouse, and Stephanie Darmody with the garden beds. (Photo Courtesy Whittier Tech)

using the remaining materials to replace deteriorated Rocks Village Volunteers sign.

tudents who took part in this project were juniors Audrey Allen. Aiden Fogarty, and Aiden Frommelt, Georgetown, Illianna Čepeda, Autumn LaMothe,



From left, William King, Christopher Bognanno, Noah Gayner, and Craig Trever Mullarkey, Kielbania stand with the completed garden beds built for Haverhill Brightside,

Continued on page 4 Team Haverhill, and Haverhill Garden Club. (Photo Courtesy Whittier Tech)



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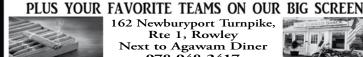
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PUBLIC NOTICE DRAFT SOLID WASTE HANDLING FACILITY PERMIT G. Mello Disposal Corp.

Authorization to Construct Large Solid Waste Handling Facility at Carleton Drive, Lot 46, Georgetown, Massachusetts 01833

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to M.G.L., Chapter 111, Section 150A and Section 150A1/2, that the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, ("MassDEP") has prepared a Draft Authorization to Construct ("ATC") permit for a large solid waste handling facility (the "Facility") to be located on Carleton Drive, Lot 46, Georgetown (the "Site"). The Site consists of approximately 1.5-acres of land that has been site-assigned for solid waste management activities by the Georgetown Board of Health. The proponent is G. Mello Disposal Corp. ("Mello"), 95 Tenney Street, Georgetown, MA 01833. Mello is proposing to construct a municipal solid waste and construction and demolition debris solid waste handling and processing facility that would handle up to 500 tons per day and a maximum of 177,500 tons per year of solid waste. The facility will accept and sort materials within an enclosed 15,000 square-foot handling building using both manual and mechanical recovery methods. Sorted materials will be consolidated for export in either larger trucks or railcars. The proposed Facility will include a handling building, weigh scales, sound attenuation fence, a scale house, employee breakroom, bathrooms, and offices. Stormwater run-off from the Facility will be collected in a series of catch basins, treated, and discharged. The facility plans to operate Monday through Friday, 6:00am to 5:00pm, Saturday from 7:00am to 4:00pm, and Sunday from 7:00am through 12:00pm. The application and draft permit may be reviewed at the Georgetown Board of Health located at 1 Library Street, Georgetown, MA 01833 during its regular business hours Monday through Thursday 9:00am - noon. The application and draft permit may be reviewed online at: https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/EEA/PublicApp/. Scroll down on the first screen and in the "Site Name/Location Name" box type "G. Mello Disposal Corp." and then click on the orange "Search" box the bottom of the page. Under "Record Type", select the "Application" file. The application, supporting documents, and draft permit will appear in blue links. Click on one link at a time to access each separate document. MassDEP will accept written comments regarding the proposed handling Facility for a period of thirty (30) days from the date of publication of this Notice. Public Comments can be submitted to MassDEP in one of three ways: mailed to Attn: Mark Fairbrother, Chief, Solid Waste Management Section, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, 150 Presidential Way, Woburn, MA 01801; or emailed to Mark.Fairbrother@mass.gov; or submitted online at https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/EEA/PublicApp/. Public Comments must reference Application Number 23-SW05-0001-APP and Facility Number SMS# 617158. Printed copies are available by contacting Mello at 978-352-8581 or email to tbeaupre@mellodisposal.com with a cc to jmello@mellodisposal.com

BOXFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

You are hereby notified that a Public Hearing will be held via Zoom videoconference on Thursday July 11, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. or such other time when posted for the Notice of Intent - By Applicant: Dale & Theresa Pyatt for the property located at: 14 Andrews Farm Road, Map 38, Block 3, Lot 48 to install a sanitary septic system upgrade within 100-feet of Bordering Vegetated Wetland.

The Zoom connection information will be posted on the Town of Boxford website prior to the meeting. This is a joint hearing under the requirements of MGL Ch. 131, Sec. 40, as amended, and Boxford's Wetlands Protection Bylaw and Regulations. For more information, contact Ross Povenmire at rpovenmire@town.boxford.ma.us.

For the Commission,

Ross Povenmire, Conservation Director

6/26

TOWN OF BOXFORD - PLANNING BOARD AND TREE WARDEN NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

REMOVAL OF PUBLIC SHADE TREE & SCENIC ROADS ACT

The Boxford Planning Board and the Tree Warden will hold a Public Hearing pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 87, Sections 3 & 4 (Removal of Public Shade Trees) & Chapter 40, Section 15C (Scenic Roads Act) to consider the removal of 17 linear feet of existing stone retaining wall along the northern property line and the removal of a 10" deciduous tree (Hickory) within the public Right of Way of MacDonald Drive located near an undeveloped lot on MacDonald Drive (Assessor's Map 13-3-12). The tree is posted with a notice as required

Said hearing will be held via Zoom teleconference on Wednesday, July 17, 2024 at 7:30 PM. The Zoom information will be available on the Town of Boxford webpage calendar several days prior to the hearing, or can be requested from rpovenmire@town.boxford.ma.us.

For the Planning Board and the Tree Warden,

Ross Povenmire

6/26, 7/3

GEORGETOWN ADMIN WOES

Continued from page 1

SelectBoard even after it was disclosed that he worked for Providence full time as well as Georgetown. After the initial news reports, former chair Amy Smith asked Pacheco to review Winspeare's dual positions.

Several residents have contacted the Town Common questioning the dual positions.

"I did speak with Providence officials and did explain much of his role was remote and that he had only been in Georgetown on a limited number of occasions," Pacheco wrote to the Town Common.

When the Town Common asked about Winspeare's dual employment, Pacheco wrote: "I do find the timing of your reporting somewhat concerning as the interest seems to be not that he also worked for the City of Providence, which was well known and disclosed from day 1 when he applied and subsequently unanimously approved by the Selectboard, but that his independent investigation found wrongdoing by an employee within the department you seem to have a particular fondness for."

Winespeare's investigation of Grenier accuses her of violating the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law and a code of ethics, based on complaints filed by a disgruntled resident who was not approved by the SelectBoard as a member of the ConComm.

Pacheco told GoLocal News in Providence that he hired Winspeare to work 10 to 12 hours per week, at a rate of \$75 per hour. He said Winspeare is not directly interacting with employees, and that he had personally only seen him in the building "four or five times" total since December.

Winspeare met with Grenier to conduct an investigation of her. His investigation regarding Grenier proposed that she and all members of the commission be forced to submit to training about Open Law Meetings.

Grenier has apologized for writing a letter recommending that one candidate would be more qualified than another candidate. She said she wrote the letter as a personal issue, not as a town employee.

WHITTIER

Continued from page 3

Madeline O'Donnell, Jose Pineiro, Halie Purington, and Jayden Tu, of Haverhill, Angelis Diaz-Dossett, of Salisbury, Jack Mahoney, of Groveland, and Tristan Sculley, of Amesbury.

The carpentry juniors did a fantastic job setting up staging and installing the large 20-foot sign," said Carpentry Instructor Mike Sandlin. "It was a pleasure helping with this project and I know that the students are proud of their work!"

The Town Common is the friendly place to find new customers.

Free Self Defense and Martial **Application Workshops**

AMESBURY - Friday mornings at 8 am, and going all summer, Great Bay Tai Chi and Sensei Michael Miller will be offering free self defense classes with a focus on Situational Self-defense, to be held at Training Field Park in Amesbury. Students will examine ways to deal with common scenarios, as well as how to avoid being targeted as a potential victim.

Michael Miller started his "empty hand" martial arts career in 1984 and brings more than 4 decades of experience to his work teaching Martial Movement at Great Bay Tai Chi. In addition to holding a Third Degree Black Belt in both Hapkido and Tae Kwon Do, Sensei Michael is well versed in Muay Thai and studied Kung Fu sword while in China where he went to school for a short time. Complementing his empty hand training, Sensei Michael also enjoys practicing and competing in several forms of traditional and modern weaponry.

Some weeks will be situational self-defense with Sensei Michael, and others Chris Himmel, lead instructor at Great Bay Tai Chi, will look at the techniques of Taijiquan, Baguazhang, and Xingyiquan, and how they can be applied in selfdefense situations. These classes are offered for free to the public, all teens and adults are welcome to attend on a drop-in basis. Training Field Park is located on Monroe St. In bad weather classes will be held at the Internal Arts New England location at 102 Bridge Road in Salisbury. Visit https://greatbaytaichima.com/ news/ or email chris@greatbaytaichima.com for more information.

IPSWICH DAM

Continued from page 1

which is done manually and by video, shows a growing number of fish waiting downriver from the dam.

'The fish are waiting to get upriver to lay their eggs," he said. "There are more fish waiting to get up the fish ladder than can get up it.'

That is the reason the removal of the Ipswich Mills Dam has gotten so much attention nationally, Shea said.

(F&WS) had agreed to donate \$1.2 million as part of what was described as a "good amount of funding" for the dam removal. The National Ocean Industries Assn. has donated \$120,000, tide will extend another 1.5 to 2 about half of which has been spent in preparing the dam to be removed.

The state and federal agencies have

the dam removal, Shea said. "We are fortunate that there is a significant amount of funds available right now."

Neal Price with the Horsley Witten Group, a consultant on the dam removal, outlined a detailed plan for multiple sediment sampling and testing that will be sent to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) before dam removal can proceed.

If any sediment samples are found to be contaminated above the department's The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service threshold for toxicity, it would "trigger further investigation and mitigation," Price told the SelectBoard.

When the dam is removed, natural river processes will return and the miles upriver, creating a freshwater tidal habitat, which the watershed association called "the rarest aquatic also indicated an interest in funding habitat in Massachusetts.



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Brighter Smiles... FIND YOUR DENTAL HOME



By J. Peter St. Clair, DMD

The word is out – taking care of your oral health is better for your whole body, including your mind. However, statistics still indicate only about half of the population goes on a regular basis. For those that do go, most patients usually stay with a dentist unless there is some kind of personality conflict or philosophical discrepancy in the perceived need for treatment. How do you know if another opinion is right for you?

When it comes to larger purchases, such as a car, a house or even home improvements, it's not uncommon to get a second or third opinion/quote. We use the information we gather to make a more informed decision about where and what we are going to spend our money on.

When it comes to our health, it usually depends on the nature of the issue. More complex issues in medicine, such as a diagnosis of cancer, an unknown diagnosis, or other major medical issues in which we have to make decisions about significant treatment, tend to stimulate people to get more than one opinion.

Routine dental care is generally not that complicated. However, there are many different ways to do the simplest things in dentistry. The method is a function of the dentist's beliefs and training. It is relatively uncommon for a patient to get a second opinion for this type of maintenance dental care. Although there is some subjectivity as to what different dentists might deem as "needing" to be done, patients usually base their decision on their perceived need. Often times, this perception of need comes from the dentist's ability to communicate the reasons for treatment.

The patient's trust in their provider is a big factor. If a patient trusts and

6 Ashley Rd, Rowley

genuinely likes their dentist, they may not necessarily do or want to do what the dentist wants them to, but they are comfortable enough with the relationship to make the decision without the need for another opinion. It is when there is a lack of trust, a personality conflict, or the inability of the dentist to properly communicate with the patient effectively, that often stimulates the desire for another opinion.

Another important factor, which falls in the communication area, is that the patient is given choices. Patients always have the right to choose what treatment they feel is right for themselves. If choices are given and the treatment is effectively communicated to the patient, they have a better ability to decide on the direction to proceed that is right for them. If a dentist presents treatment options and the patient decides to do nothing, that is the patient's choice. It is when treatment presented aligns with the patient's perception of need or desire, that the patient moves forward with treatment.

Fees tend to be a less common reason for patients to seek another opinion. Fees for treatment can definitely vary between dental offices. The problem with seeking treatment based on fees is that the same treatment in two different offices with different fees can also vary in the level of expertise and precision in which it is done. As a consumer, you have very little control in your ability to evaluate this.

You do have the ability to know whether you feel comfortable to make an informed decision. Regardless of the situation, if you need more information to make the best decision for yourself, get more information. If you feel pressured to make a decision, don't make it until you feel comfortable.

The doctor-patient relationship be an open two-way conversation. Find your dental home ... and stay there.

Dr. St. Clair maintains a private dental practice in Rowley dedicated to health-centered family dentistry. He has a special interest in treating snoring, sleep apnea and TMJ problems. If there are certain topics you would like to see written about or questions you have please email them to him at jpstclair@stclairdmd.com

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DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦ ♦ ♦ Challenging BOY! ◆ 유 ◆ 유 ***** Moderate



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Be careful about doing someone when you don't know the full story behind the request. Don't rely on someone's unsubstantiated assuranc-es. Insist on all the facts before you

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) That workplace problem still needs your attention before you can finally close the book on it. Meanwhile, a long-anticipated reunion gets closer to be coming a hopey reality.

to becoming a happy reality. **GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) You might be demanding more from others than they can give. Best advice: Have a long and frank talk to determine what the facts are. Tensions should abate as the week winds down.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22)

Aspects are favorable throughout this Aspects are ravorable throughout this week for making contacts that could be important to your career plans. Meanwhile, an old friend offers the advice you're seeking.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) It's time to stop licking your wounds from past mistakes. Get up and get going

past mistakes. Get up and get going toward your future. Loyal friends will be there to help the Lion get back into

virgo (August 23 to September 22) Take time out to go over what's expected of you before you begin your new project. Otherwise, you run the risk of pushing yourself harder than you need to.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) An unusual request could put you in an awkward position. Best advice: Deal with it immediately. The longer you delay, the more difficult it will be to get out of it.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) You should feel recharged and ready for whatever your workaday world holds for you. The same positive energy spills over into your personal relationships.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A prospect might be less than it appears to be. Like the Archer in your sign, you always aim for the truth. And this is no time to settle for less than full disclosure.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Start doing some serious thinking about a career move that could entail more than just changing job sites. Some lifestyle changes might also be involved.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) With tensions easing at the workplace, a more positive environment once again encourages the free flow of ideas that are so typical of the always-innovative Aquarian.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Show some of that usually hidden steel-strong Piscean backbone and stand up for yourself if you hope to make a case for that promotion you know you deserve.

BORN THIS WEEK: You enjoy doing new things and staying ahead of the crowd. You would make a fine military leader or a sports coach.

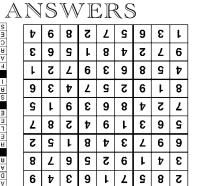
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PUZZLE





Super Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Saudi, sav 5 Raptors' gp.
- 8 In a stupor 13 GMC cross-over SUV
- model
- 19 Reduces the worth of
- 21 Lead-in to a bit of bad 22 What
- "(" and ")" are, for short 23 Capital of
- South Australia 24 Actress
- Dennis leaps? 26 Boxer
- Marciano begins? — Canals
- 29 Thurman
- of film 30 Saloon
- 31 "I could horse!" 33 Newspaper based in
- McLean, Va. Racing driver Wallace
- does some hammering? 42 Singer
- Benatar
- replies? 44 This, in Lima 45 Dancer Charisse

46 Waterproof

- canvas cover 48 out an existence
- 49 Founder of Taoism
 - 51 Hair removal brand 53 Gmail
 - competitor 56 Teensy
 - 59 Yosemite peak, in brief 60 "... — my brother"
 - 61 Quarterback Bradshaw
 - dries himself 66 Reindeer kin
 - 69 Emmy winner Baldwin 113 Lovey
 - 71 Like whiteboards 72 Actor Slater
 - goes on vacation?
 - 76 Most thickset 78 Huge hero 79 Sink down
 - 80 Free TV spot, 128 Niagara River for short 83 Comedian Buttons
 - gains a lot of weight? **85** "True -
 - ("Yep!") 87 Heroic tales
 - 89 Ending for 133 Reveals duct or 134 JFK guess
- 132 Money in the form of coins

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115 "-ology" kin 117 Dancer

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129 Oration of

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130 10th-century

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123 Singer

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90 Lead-in to glottis or Pen 91 Stadium level 135 Agenda unit

- **DOWN** 1 Jewish 93 Employed
 - month
 2 Totally fix up for the 3 With, in Paris
- purpose of 94 "Help us!" 97 Light in signs 99 "Son of," in 4 Pitcher's goof 5 Pain in
- 1-Across the neck 6 Accessory for names a meal fit for 101 Russo of
- "Big Trouble"

 102 Architect a queen? 7 Far offshore 8 Mild aversion Gehrv
- 9 Make -buck speaks? 107 Singer Aiken woos 10 Buddhist
- someone? branch 110 Helicopter or 11 Actor George
- 12 Dehydrate 113 Lovey 114 Tatty cloth
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 - sight 15 Actress
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 - 20 Put away for the future 25 Slugger
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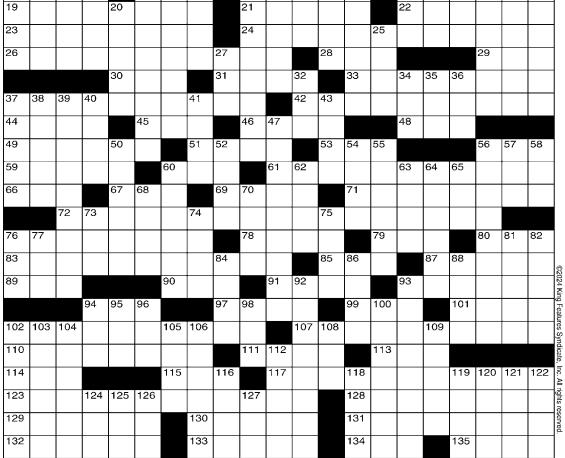
81 Deficient 82 Donkeys **84** Sow's

SUITABLE

ACTIVITIES

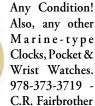
- ticker symbol sound 40 "Ciao!" 41 "... — baked 86 Opera song 88 Lima's land
 - 92 Very troubled
 - 93 Opened, as a wine bottle
 - 94 -- -cone 95 Approved
 - 96 Sow's home
 - 98 Psychic skill 100 From memory
 - 102 Outrageous
 - comedies 103 Rise on the hind legs internet bot
 - 104 Sock pattern
 - 105 Indigo dye 106 Sappho's
 - Greek island
 - 108 Writer Deighton
 - 109 Opening
 - 112 Shining
- 63 "Look what I 116 Closet pest
 - 18 Pasty stuff 119 Classic soda
 - brand 120 "I smell —!"
 - 121 Fir relative **122** Appear **124** Part of SSN:
 - Abbr. 125 Fridays
 - **126** Vote in favor

127 Global commerce qp. 16 17 18



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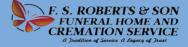
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