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Wednesday, July 24, 2024 - Vol. 20, No. 39







Party goers at the New England Spicy Festival (Photo provided by the festival.)

Get Ready For Your Throat to Burn

By Stewart Lytle, Reporter

REGIONAL – Just back from attending Shark Week in Tampa, FL, Gabe DiSaverio is about to host the third annual New England Hot Sauce Festival from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, July 27 at the scenic outdoor field behind Smuttynose Brewery in Hampton, NH.

What do sharks and hot sauce have in common? Disaverio is passionate about preserving sharks and protecting the oceans at the same time this former beer salesman owns and operates the Spicy Shark, a successful producer of craft hot sauces and spicy condiments in Portsmouth.

Disaverio, who drives a replica of the sheriff's vehicle in the movie, Jaws, started the festival in 2022 after traveling the country attending spicy sauce festivals only to realize there was no such event in the Northeast or New England which promoted bold flavors for hot sauce enthusiasts.

New England in particular and the Northeast in general "are not known as a spicy sauce region," Disaverio said last week. He was determined to remedy that while raising money for two environmental organizations that work to protect the oceans for his beloved sharks.

Building on the success of the festival's first two years, where almost 2,500 heat-seeking party goers attended the festival, this year's event promises an even hotter experience with a wide range of attractions and activities.

Festival goers will indulge in an array of hot sauce samples and they can watch or participate in hot sauce eating contests. Nine unique food trucks will offer ways to put out the fires, while a variety of local crafters showcase their specialty products.

The main event will be hot sauce celebrities from the U.S. and Canada, who will compete in a timed Carolina Reaper pepper-eating contest. This highstakes challenge involves blistering hot Carolina Reaper peppers created and grown by Ed Currie of Puckerbutt Pepper Co., a festival sponsor and the creator of the Carolina Reaper pepper.

Bella and Dark from Heat 101 radio station will return as the master of ceremonies.

The New England Hot Sauce Fest is a family-friendly event with bouncy houses, face painting and magic shows for children, and a vibrant atmosphere that will delight guests of all ages.

Smuttynose Brewery, which just celebrated its 30th year producing award-Continued on page 3

GOATS TO GO Huge Live Addition to Last Year's Yankee Homecoming Parade (Photo: Lonnie Brennan) Yankee Homecoming Comes to Town

By Ava Moeckel, Reporter

NEWBURYPORT – New Orleans has Mardi Gras. San Antonio has Fiesta, week long, citywide parties that hosst colorful events, concerts, parades and sometimes fireworks.

This old port city on the Merrimack River enjoys Yankee Homecoming, which starts Saturday, and ends after a week of events, concerts, parades and fireworks. It ends with a huge parade next Sunday, Aug. 4. For 66 years, Yankee Homecoming has

been bringing residents, former residents and visitors to the city. It started in 1958 with 29 other New England communities in an effort to promote economic growth. Newburyport, one of the last cities to join with the other cities, is now the only community that still celebrates Yankee

Homecoming. The theme of this year's celebration is A Family Tradition. Alysha Robitaille, this year's general chair, wrote that she chose the theme because she realized it has been her family's tradition for generations.

"I like to say that I was born into Yankee Homecoming," she wrote on the Yankee Homecoming web site. "My tradition included my Mom bringing me to Olde

Concerts and seeing the Fireworks.

as I look forward to Yankee Homecoming each year. However, it wasn't until I was older that I realized it really was a family

Not a Hot Listing

NEWBURY – There is a two-story house for sale on the road to Plum Island. Built in 1925, the 1,500-squarefoot house has an unfinished basement and walk-up attic.

According to the description provided by General Services Administration (GSA), "The structure has been unoccupied for several decades. Due to its age and condition, there is lead-based paint, asbestos and mold; no abatement has been conducted."

(Town Common Photo) with any land. The 9 acres it sits on at 60 Plum Island Turnpike will remain Continued on page 4

FREE watch battery per customer, additional HALF OFF! •)•)**!**[c) Newbury L.E.D. SIGNS Gold & Silversmith Cash for gold and silver! **AWNINGS • BANNERS** 6 Smiths Lane #2 Seabrook NH **CARVED SIGNS** 603 760 27 Same day___ **BOAT/TRUCK LETTERING** repairs! 4.5.6999

Fashioned Sunday, walking around at the Craft Fair, attending the Waterfront tradition. My grandparents and parents have been General Chairs multiple times, so it only made sense that I loved the

festival as much as they did." This tradition has continued to this day, Yankee Homecoming with its blue and white flags around the city opens Saturday



"THE CONDITION OF THE PROPERTY IS NOT WARRANTED," the description says.

One hitch - the house does not come



and see.

How to Submit Protesting Land Development in Groveland 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

The Town Common

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

When I met my husband in 1984 I came to find out about the beauty of Groveland's past history that was recorded in archives books. We found them in the cellar of his parent's cellar.

As his parents got to retire they gave the responsibility of the family estate to us. We raised two beautiful children here and they became aware of the beauty that we saw.

This is a town that was small and you could walk a short distance to the Open Fields that were maintained by the residence that abutted this place on Garrison Street.

The wildlife and the peacefulness that when you stood and looked over the field you could feel the happiness that overcame your thoughts of gratitude that the oldest of generations became to enjoy. This was a place where it was maintained by the local farmers worked to cut the hay and that smell of God's land that overcame to us as a place of peace and the town never took care of this property. No money was exchanged for the caretaker

If you were to visit this place you would see what I'm saying. It's like going over the rainbow. Its beauty and peace that comes to you just driving by it. You can't help but stop and enjoy what you feel

HOT SAUCE FEST Continued from page 1

winning beer, will be on hand to douse the flames of the hot sauces.

This spicy event is made possible by the generous support of our local sponsors: New Hampshire Lottery, Port City Veterinary Referral Hospital, Avery Insurance, Bangor Savings Bank, The City Beverage Centers and Great Island Realty.

A majority of the proceeds will again benefit the non-profit organizations the Blue Ocean Society and the Seacoast Science Center. They support efforts to protect the oceans and foster environmental education.

For information and to buy tickets, visit www.newenglandhotsaucefest.com

'IDF

The history of Groveland is so special my children and my nieces and nephews growing up around the special place was so exciting to have a knowledge of where and what Groveland became over the years. The kids don't need to see what the oldest of generations have built and preserved for the children of what we call townies.

They worked hard to keep Groveland a place where everyone knew everyone and keep it friendly and safe.

Do you really want to repay the past of what was taught to my children's home town. There's a lot of special stories that we can share about a small town.

It was Indian Territory and that alone is fascinating.

We have to preserve this land because it's all this street has left. We on Garrison Street don't need a place like this, it's bad for all of us and that's including the wildlife. It's not alot a land to have what they want to put there. It's such a spot that we don't need. We need beauty and respect towards the oldest of generations. This is so not right.

I want my grandchildren to come to enjoy what was put here for years to come.

Is this how we thank the people that take care of this place full of peace and happiness?

As it stands right now to answer that question! There won't be a place if you allow them to go to build on this field on Garrison Street.

The people won't stop and admire it. What this will mean, the history will never be mentioned again.

We owe the old townies they held for all of us to enjoy and be grateful that they shared it with all of us to have to come to get such a wonderful place.

Please help us keep the history a live and take a stand against more land like this to keep families from going away from the homes that is not a good thing to let them talk take the piece away from whom it is very much appreciated.

Thank you and keep fighting. The Medicos, Garrison St., Groveland, MA

HA



		AM	ft	PM	ft	AM	ft	PM	ft	Rise	Set	Moon
24	Wed	2:00	9.6	2:34	8.7	8:24	-0.8	8:40	-0.1	5:25	8:13	0
25	Thu	2:51	9.4	3:24	8.9	9:12	-0.7	9:34	-0.2	5:26	8:12	0
26	Fri	3:44	9.1	4:16	9.1	10:02	-0.5	10:32	-0.2	5:27	8:11	0
27	Sat	4:41	8.7	5:11	9.2	10:54	-0.2	11:32	-0.1	5:28	8:10	
28	Sun	5:40	8.3	6:08	9.1	11:49	0.1			5:29	8:09	
29	Mon	6:41	7.8	7:07	9.1	12:33	0.0	12:47	0.5	5:30	8:08	0
30	Tue	7:45	7.5	8:07	9.0	1:37	0.1	1:47	0.7	5:31	8:07	
31	Wed	8:48	7.4	9:07	8.9	2:41	0.1	2:48	0.9	5:32	8:06	

cartridges and flavored tobacco products seized from a Georgetown store that was allegedly selling the items without a permit. (Courtesy Georgetown Police Department)

Georgetown Police Charge Store Owner, Employee With Illegally Selling Marijuana Vape Cartridges Without a License

GEORGETOWN - Chief David marijuana products even though it was Sedgwick reports that the Georgetown Police Department, in collaboration with the Massachusetts Department of Revenue and the North Shore/Cape Ann Tobacco Policy Program, has charged two men with illegally selling THC vape cartridges.

RAM GUPTA, AGE 30, of HAVERHILL, was arrested and charged with: Distribution of a Class C Substance, Possession with Intent to Distribute a Class C Substance, Delivering Cigarettes to a Minor, Sale of Flavored Tobacco, Conspiracy to Violate Drug Laws

DINESH KUMAR YADAV. AGE 29, of HAVERHILL, was arrested and charged with: Distribution of a Class C Substance, Possession with Intent to Distribute a Class C Substance, Delivering Cigarettes to a Minor, Sale of Flavored Tobacco, Conspiracy to Violate Drug Laws

On Tuesday, July 16, Georgetown Police, working in collaboration with the Massachusetts Department of Revenue and the North Shore/Cape Ann Tobacco Policy Program, served a search warrant at Georgetown Smoke and Vape, 7 W. Main St., as a result of an ongoing investigation.

Georgetown Police were previously notified that the store was selling THC

not permitted or zoned to do so.

As part of an investigation, an undercover agent purchased eight THC vape cartridges from the store. Additionally, a youth was able to buy two packs of flavored nicotine products.

Once the search warrant was served, both GUPTA, the store's owner, and YADAV, an employee, were taken into custody on arrest warrants. While serving the search warrant, police seized hundreds of THC marijuana vape cartridges, as well as several cases of flavored tobacco products, which are not legal in Massachusetts.

Both GUPTA and YADAV were released on \$5,000 cash bail and will be arraigned Wednesday in Haverhill District Court.

"On behalf of the Georgetown Police Department, I want to express gratitude the Massachusetts Department to of Revenue, the North Shore/Cape Ann Tobacco Policy Program and the Georgetown Board of Health for their assistance with this investigation," said Chief Sedgwick. "I also want to commend the officers who led this investigation to a successful conclusion.'

These are allegations. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty.





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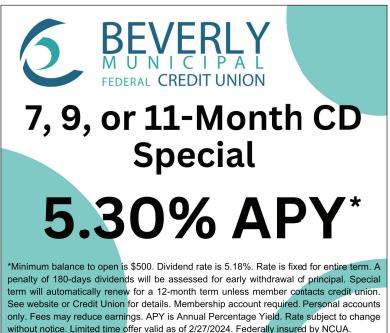
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Ipswich Public Health Department Reminds Residents About Confidential Syringe Service

Crane and Director of Public Health Colleen Fermon wish to remind residents of Ipswich's confidential syringe service program.

Cape Ann communities have seen an uptick in overdoses and incidents of substance misuse recently. In light of these incidents, it is important for residents to familiarize themselves with available resources.

Research shows that comprehensive syringe service programs are safe, effective,

PINK HOUSE Continued from page 1

with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (F&SW). The house must be removed within 90 days of the sale.

Would you bid on this house? Even in the extremely low inventory of homes on the North Shore, no one has offered even \$3,000, the minimum bid on the house, as of last week.

Sandy Tilton, a Support the Pink House (STPH) board member, asked, "After saying for months the Pink House is not safe, they wonder why no one is bidding."

Several local contractors who have toured the home contradict the government's description, saying the elements within are common in many of the cottages they restore and that while F&WS has let the house run down under its ownership, The Pink House is still entirely salvageable.

Tilton said she has heard the care for the house described as "benign neglect."

Meanwhile 1,400 supporters and growing have signed a petition asking the GSA to stop the auction and come up with a different solution to the impasse between the F&WS, owners of the Pink House, and the STPH.

In a letter to the public, published in the Newburyport Daily News last week, Matt Hillman the manager for the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge, acknowledged that the decision to auction off the Pink House was an unpopular one.

"While we understand that relocation or repurposing of the house by auction is not an ideal path for some, others have expressed hope that this could serve as a last resort to preserve the house's memory. It was based on this feedback that we are providing an opportunity for the public to purchase the structure.

We believe this is in the best interest for the long-term preservation of both the house and the habitats we manage."

Hillman continued: "We share common ground, and even when that ground is shaky, we are still rooted in a

IPSWICH - Town Manager Stephen and cost saving, do not increase illegal and harm reduction services to people drug use or crime, and play an important role in reducing the transmission of viral hepatitis, HIV, and other infections.

The syringe service program is provided to Ipswich through the North Shore Health Project and its One Stop program, supported by the state Department of Public Health. Ipswich has benefitted from the program since August 2022.

Ŏne Stop provides free, confidential, low-threshold overdose prevention

mutual love for conserving wild things and wild places. We will continue to work with the community, and respectfully navigate conflict, to stay true to that mission."

The auction, which began on July 10, has no official end date.

Tilton said the community supporters of the house are angry and exhausted at fighting to keep the government from tearing down an icon that is one of the most photographed and painted structures on the North Shore.

The F&WS purchased the house for \$375,000. It spent about \$5,000 on a 33-page environmental assessment that concluded that the Pink House needed to be removed. If it costs \$50,000 to \$90,000 to tear it down, the government will have invested almost a half million dollars of taxpayer money in an asset it is unlikely to recoup in this auction, Tilton said.

The F&WS also plans to build a twocar parking lot and fenced-in benches when the Pink House is gone.

Hillman in his public letter, wrote: Removing the house and restoring the area to productive habitat provides the best long-term health and sustainability of the lands and waters we're trusted to conserve.

'This decision was not one made hastily or easily. We understand fully the strong sense of place that draws many to the Pink House, and we acknowledge the cultural values impacted by its loss.

"It is undeniably difficult to lose places and memories we love, but in the natural environment, change is constant, and the salt marsh has become an untenable home for the Pink House.'

Bidders can register with a deposit of \$1,500, which allows them to tour the house.

For more information, visit www. gsa.gov/about-us/gsa-regions/region-1-new-england/region-1-newsroom/ press-releases/gsa-announces-public-saleof-the-pink-house-in-newbury-mass-foroffsite-removal-07102024

who use drugs and their loved ones. Residents are provided with free harm reduction services such as access to sterile needles, overdose prevention education and support, Narcan, testing strips and access to testing for sexually transmitted diseases.

Those interested in disposing of lancets, needles, and syringes may do so by contacting One Stop or at the kiosk in the lower level of Town Hall, outside of the Council on Aging cafeteria near the kiosk for disposal of unwanted and unneeded medications.

Sharp objects cannot be placed directly into the kiosk. Small containers that fit through the kiosk's door are available at Town Hall.

Individuals and businesses may call or text One Stop at 978-515-0455 for Narcan training, Narcan, Fentanyl test strips, and other services. All services are confidential.

The University of Tampa Honors Dean's List Students for the Spring 2024 Semester TAMPA, FL – The University of Tampa has honored 2,221 students who were named to the dean's list for the Spring 2024 semester. Students must

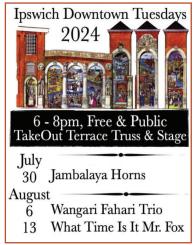
maintain a GPA of 3.75 or higher to be eligible for the dean's list. Abigail Bonasera of Topsfield a Junior majoring in Nursing BSN. Thomas Childs of Newburyport a Junior majoring in Advertising and Public Relations BA.

Kerrin Fitzgerald of Salisbury a Junior majoring in History BA. Michael Mabius of Georgetown a Freshman majoring in International Business and Marketing BS Olivia Marotta of Topsfield a Senior majoring in Management BS. Jessica Caputo of Topsfield a Junior majoring in Marketing BS. Holly Harris of Byfield a Senior majoring in Criminology and Criminal Justice BS. Justin McNally of Hampton

a Senior majoring in Nursing BSN.

The University of Tampa is a private, comprehensive university located on 110 acres on the riverfront in downtown Tampa. Known for academic excellence, personal attention and real-world experience in its undergraduate and graduate programs, the University has about 200 programs of study and serves more than 11,000 students from 50 states and most of the world's countries.









Brighter Smiles...ETIQUETTE



By I. Peter St. Clair, DMD

Your dentist may have the best technology, may have gone to a top dental school, and do great clinical work, but none of those are the primary reasons people choose to stay with a dental practice or any service provider. Generally speaking, people stay with their provider because of the relationships they have built with individuals within the office.

When we have a problem, we all like the convenience of calling someone we know and are comfortable with. Whether that problem is a broken filling or needing to change an appointment, it is nice to deal with people who know us and are eager to help with solving our dilemma.

I recently had an appointment with an office that I needed to change. The an office that I needed to change. The appointment was a week and a half away. When I called the office to change the appointment, I was less than thrilled

Crowes Pasture

unifying feel."

141 Main St. in Rowley.

with the way I was treated. While I didn't necessarily expect to know the person on the other end of the phone, I wasn't expecting to feel like a criminal. The first question I was asked by the grumpy person answering the phone was, "Why do you need to change your appointment?" This was quickly followed by how inconvenient it was for their office that I needed to change my appointment.

I can completely understand how difficult it is for front desk personnel to have to deal with these kinds of issues all day long. In my office, we had over 40 appointment changes last month. That is a lot of conversations about the same thing, and stressful for any staff member who deals with a busy schedule.

We all have busy lives. Things change and sometimes we have to re-manipulate our schedules to accommodate all we have to do. However, there needs to be accountability on both ends. If we have a scheduled appointment with our dentist, our hairdresser, or anyone, it is our obligation to realize that they are relying on us to be there. Giving adequate notice (preferably as far in advance as possible – like 48 hours) of the need to change an appointment is common courtesy.

On the other end, it is important for the provider's office to realize that people have lives outside of their appointments. While it may be inconvenient for the office to have to reschedule an appointment, the request must be handled with respect and as much accommodation as possible.

An appointment is a commitment and it is important to take our commitments seriously. If you routinely have to change appointments to accommodate your busy schedule, it may make sense to make your appointments differently, such as being "on call" when you are due for an appointment vs. pre-scheduling.

Dental offices typically schedule your next dental hygienist appointment in advance. It may be 3, 4, or 6 months away. One of the reasons this is done is for patients to choose and reserve a time that usually best fits their schedule. Patients are often disappointed if they call to reschedule and the appointment time options are limited.

The need to change appointments happens. As long as it is not a frequently occurring issue, most providers' offices understand. Mutual respect builds relationships.

Dr. St. Clair maintains a private dental practice in Rowley dedicated to healthcentered 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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FESTIVAL ciation Greek Orthodox Church

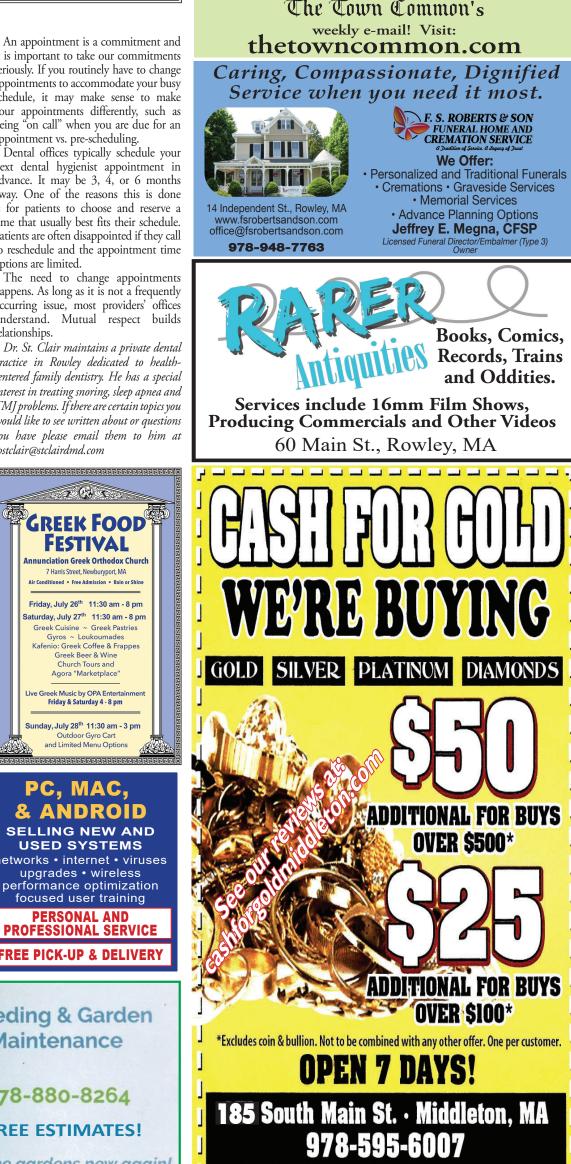
Friday, July 26th 11:30 am - 8 pm

Saturday, July 27th 11:30 am - 8 pm Greek Cuisine ~ Greek Pastries Gyros ~ Loukoumades Kafenio: Greek Coffee & Frappes Greek Beer & Wine Church Tours and Agora "Marketplace"

eek Music by OPA Entertai Friday & Saturday 4 - 8 pm

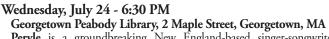
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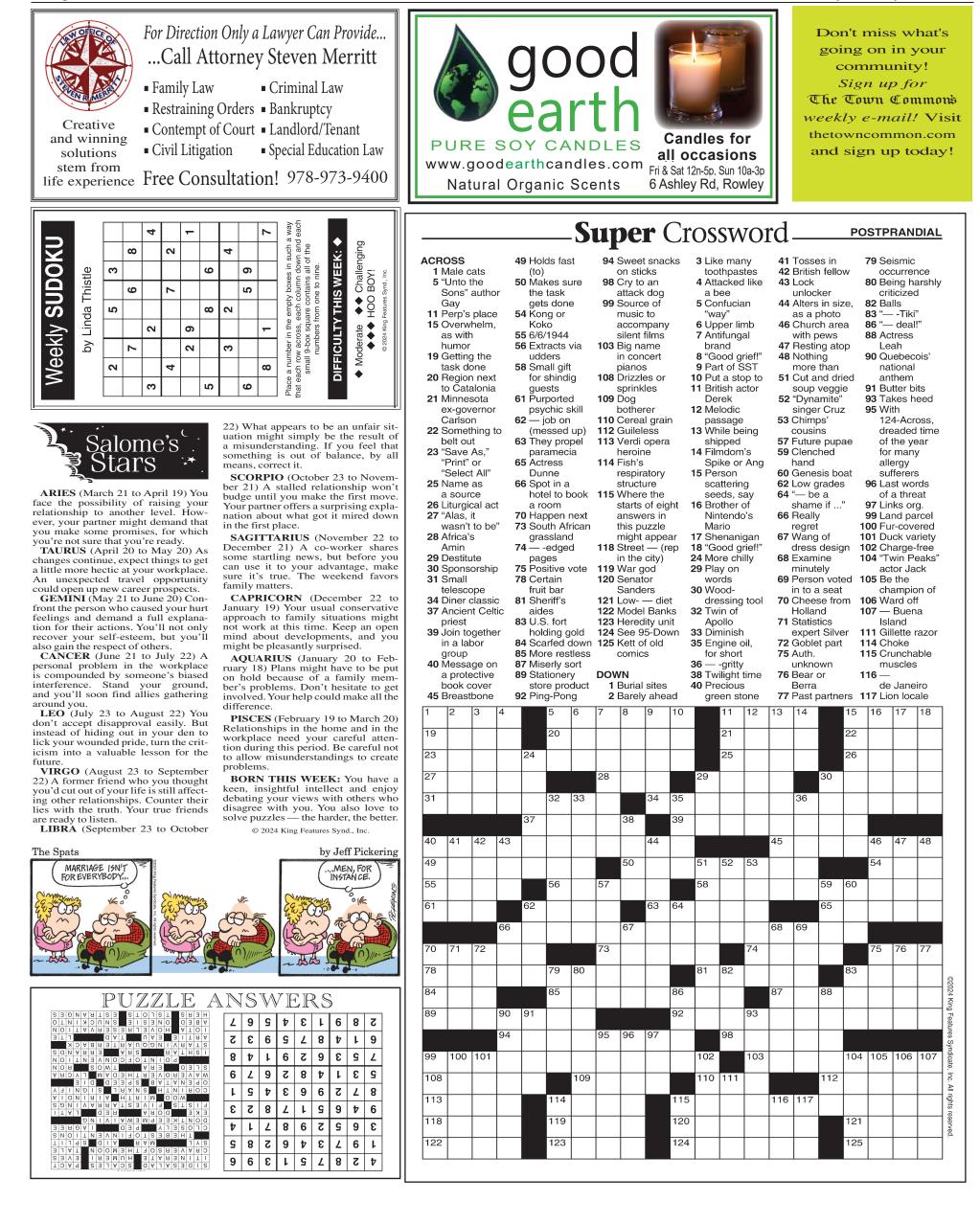
Peryle is a groundbreaking New England-based singer-songwriter who has immersed herself in the world of music since her early years. She'll be performing on the library lawn on Wednesday, July 24 at 6:30PM! Recently, Peryle unveiled her first album, eight. Her music is a blend of indie-pop and folk. Her songs are often personal and introspective, and she writes about many topics, including love, loss, and selfdiscovery. This concert will take place outside on the library lawn. If the weather does not cooperate, the concert will be inside in the library's Meeting Room.

Local Summer Concerts ...

Rowley Public Library, 141 Main St. in Rowley, MA

Jumpin' Juba mixes regional styles of blues from Chicago, Memphis and New Orleans together with rootsy rock & roll.





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"It's not about us - It's all about you"

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