

IPSWICH: End of an Era - Beloved Magestic Dragon Provides Area Firefighters Training Ground Prior to Demo

#### By Lonnie Brennan

**IPSWICH** – Area firefighters joined together at the beloved Magestic Dragon on Rt. 1 in Ipswich to conduct joint inspection and training excercises prior to the demolotion of the closed business. Equipment and firefighters from Ipswich

Equipment and firefighters from Ipswich Fire and Rescue (Truck 1), Rowley (Engine 1), Hamilton, Manchester-by-the-Sea (Ladder 1), and others joined together to excersise ladder trucks and inspect the building while two Komatsu tractors ployed behind the building waiting clearance to begin total dismantling.

Last week, all that remained was a final load of debris awaiting carting from the site. ♦

## AMESBURY: Enjoy the Merrimack

#### By Stewart Lytle, Reporter

**AMESBURY** – The city of Amesbury is planning to improve its access to the Merrimack River.

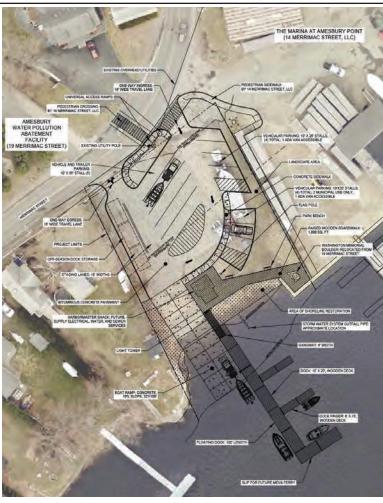
The Washington Landing Boat project will include shoreline restoration and revitalization of the Washington Landing Maritime Support Facility building a boat ramp, the addition to about 900 square feet of boardwalk, future construction of a harbormaster office, installation of a gangway and 100-foot finger dock for the boat ramp facility and transient vessels and improvements to the parking area and restoration of the living shoreline adjacent the boat ramp.

the boat ramp. Nicholas Cracknel, director of the Amesbury Office of Community and Economic Development, said, "As supported in the city's Open Space and Recreation Plan, the proposed capital improvements to the Continued on page 4

> PLUMBER, ELECTICIAN, CLASSIFIED ADS PAGE 11



One last load of debris awaits removal at the former entrance to the Magjestic Dragon - Ipswich



The Washington Landing Boat Project (Photo provided by the city of Amesbury.)

## IPSWICH, GEORGETOWN, ROWLEY, and BOXFORD Town Meetings Face/Faced Tough Decisions

By Stewart Lytle, Reporter

**REGIONAL** – Town Meetings have been busy this spring approving large and small changes.

In Ipswich, Water Department Director Vicki Halmen told the Ipswich select board that the estimated cost of the new water treatment plant has increased from \$35 million to \$50 million. It is expected to hold the vote during a June Special Town Meeting to request borrowing the additional amount. In Georgetown, residents at Town Meeting voted 422 to 64 to approve a \$6 million override to cover a huge budget shortfall. The vote went to the voters on Monday.

The town meeting also voted to give Town Administrator Orlando Pacheco more power over full time, non-school town employees, including the administrators of the Conservation Commission and the Planning Board.

Pacheco, who has maintained a battle with the conservation commission and planning board, called the staff "a wild, wild West." The measure, known as Article 12, was opposed by Conservation Commission and Planning Board chairs Chris Candia and Harry La Cortiglia, who called the measure a power grab by the town administrator who was attempting to influence policy decisions. Pacheco disagreed.

In their Town Meeting, Rowley residents voted to allocate \$500,000 to Windward Crossing, an affordable housing project on Route 1 across from the Rowley Marketplace. It will include 20 affordable rental units for seniors 62 years and older, Continued on page 4

## SALISBURY/GLOUCESTER/BEVERLY and Beyond: Latest Complicated Rules for Massachusetts Fishermen

**REGIONAL** – Last week, the Division of Marine Fisheries is enacted several changes to the commercial summer flounder management program for 2025. The changes are designed to increase the quota available to the inshore summertime fishery, maximize this resource's value to our commercial fishery and seafood industry, and manage quota consumption throughout the summertime period in order to keep the commercial fishery open into September.

The Commonwealth's 2025 commercial summer flounder quota is 571,147 pounds, of which about 46,000 pounds (~8%) has been taken so far this year. Therefore, about 525,000 pounds of quota (~92%) remains available for the remainder of the calendar year.

The annual quota is allocated seasonally between Period I (January 1 – April 22) and Period II (April 23 – December 31). The fishery during Period I occurs almost exclusively offshore in federal waters during the winter months, whereas the Period II fishery spans from the spring into the early fall in the inshore waters around Cape Cod and the islands before transitioning back offshore into federal waters should quota remain available into the fall. Historically, Period I has received 30% of the annual quota and Period II has received 70% of **Continued on page 4** 

SOUTH BYFIELD Cemetery Annual Meeting All lot owners are encouraged to attend the South Byfield Cemetery Annual Meeting on May 19, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. - Newbury Town Library, 0 Lunt St., Byfield, Mass. •

## | First the Pink House, Now Endangered Species

#### By Ava Moeckel, Reporter

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), under the Trump administration, has proposed a new federal rule that would take away habitat protections for endangered and threatened species. This comes soon after the demolition of the Pink House, seen by many as a symbol of environmental loss.

The proposed change would redefine the word "harm" in the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Now, "harm" includes damaging or destroying the places where endangered species live. Environmental groups say removing this part of the law would make it much easier to develop, log or mine in those areas.

The FWS and National Marine Fisheries Service argue that harming a species' habitat isn't the same as directly hurting the species itself. But environmentalists disagree and say the law has always treated habitat damage as a serious threat. The U.S. Supreme Court has also

"This rule cuts the heart out of the Endangered Species Act," said Noah Greenwald of the Center for Biological

n Fri, Sat, Sun & Holidays Nov 15th - Apr 1st Diversity. "If harm no longer includes habitat loss, then endangered species lose one of their most important protections." Normally, there is a 60-day public comment period for changes like this, but this time it was shortened to just 30 days. The deadline to submit comments is May 19. Rochelle Joseph, who helped lead efforts to save the Pink House, urged people to speak up. "At the very least, preserving their habitat preserves yours," she said.

Local photographer and environmental advocate Sandy Tilton also warned that this rule could lead to more logging, mining and destruction of public lands. "This is a slippery slope," she said. "If we don't protect their habitats, we risk losing these species forever."

Anyone can submit a comment on the rule by visiting the Federal Register online. "Think about it," Tilton said. "If we stop protecting the homes of endangered animals, what do you think will happen to them?"

To comment on the proposed rule change, visit the Federal Register to comment at:

**Call Ahead** 

Take Out

https://tinyurl.com/commentbymay19.

#### By Michael Dempsey Special to The Town Common

**GROVELAND** – Last month the town announced the release of a Request for Expression of Interest or REI on the development of 150 Center Street. The townowned parcel was purchased in 2013 and consists of 60 acres of undeveloped land. A 300-home subdivision was originally planned for the site under the state's 40B law where local zoning and other restrictions can be bypassed.

Many citizens were concerned about the impact of the development on our water supply with the town's main aquifer located under the site. At a town-wide vote, 63% of voters approved the purchase of the parcel. The parcel has been under the care of the Select Board since. A study was completed last year that proposed the development of a portion of the property. The REI has been issued to determine who may be interested in the property and what if anything might be built there.

#### Trail Stewardship program

The Groveland ConservatiPn Commission and the Groveland Recreation Committee continue to develop their plans for a new 2025 trails stewardship program. They want volunteers to help maintain our trails. The trail sites include Meadow Pond Reservation, Town Forest Reservation, Center Street Greenway, Veasey Park, Merrimack River Trail and the Community Trail. Volunteers can help for one day, one project, one site or for the whole season. Tasks may include posting trail markers, repairing bridges, building trail signs and cleaning and clearing trails. Interested volunteers can contact the Commission at 978-556-7205 or concomm@grovelandma.com.

Spring Cleanup Day



On April 19, more than 30 residents gathered at the Pines Recreation Area to clean up trash for an event sponsored by the Conservation Commission. The cleanup focused on the boat ramp and the Merrimac River Trail. Seventeen bags of trash and debris were collected by the volunteers. The Commission sponsors annual cleanups in town every year for an Earth Day celebration. ◆

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The Town Common

5 P.M. each Thursday



Marc Maravalli, B.S., R.Ph. Founding Publisher/Editor How to Submit Letters to the Editor

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 short 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. Send your Organization or Group Notices, Birth or Engagement Announcements, Photos, Articles

and Letters to the Editor. **The Town Common** 9 Hamilton Terrace Georgetown, MA 01833 or preferably via e-mail to: editor@thetowncommon.com

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

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15	Thu	1:39	8.5	2:15	7.3	8:07	0.4	8:10	1.5	5:18	8:00	0
16	Fri	2:20	8.4	2:58	7.2	8:50	0.4	8:53	1.5	5:17	8:02	0
17	Sat	3:04	8.4	3:45	7.2	9:35	0.5	9:41	1.6	5:16	8:03	0
18	Sun	3:52	8.3	4:35	7.2	10:24	0.5	10:34	1.6	5:15	8:04	0
19	Mon	4:44	8.2	5:28	7.3	11:15	0.6	11:31	1.5	5:14	8:05	0
20	Tue	5:41	8.1	6:23	7.6			12:08	0.5	5:13	8:06	
21	Wed	6:40	8.1	7:18	8.0	12:30	1.3	1:03	0.5	5:12	8:07	0

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### Local Scholars

AMESBURY: Jessica Cortez named to the Troy University Chancellor's List.

Piper Brown was named to the Dean's List at Emerson College.

Safiya Tarbell elected to membership into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi

BOXFORD: Valentina Knowles, was named to the Dean's List at Kean University. Ainsley Novack was elected to the Phi

Beta Kappa Honor Society at Hamilton College, N.Y. Katelyn Petersen, Braeden O'Connell,

Benjamin McGee, and Quinn Tierney of Boxford were named to the Dean's List at Emerson College.

GEORGETOWN: Elizabeth Kemp inducted into Phi Sigma Iota Honor Society at Pennsylvania's Lebanon Valley College.

Anthony Sanderson was named to the Dean's List at Emerson College.

Edward Blum was named to the Dean's List at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

HAMPTON, N.H.: Jacob Prunier was named to the Dean's List at Emerson College.

Calla Tucker was elected to membership into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi.

Ryan King completed the Enterpreneurship and Technology Innovatoin Center's Certificat Program at the New York Institute of Technology

HAVERHILL: Grace Grauwiler was named to the Dean's List at Emerson College

IPSWICH: Haddon Baker, a junior Computer Engineering major, has been named to the Dean's List with Distinction at Grove City College. Haddon is a 2022 graduate of Covenant Christian Academy and is the son of Rev. and Mrs. Derek Baker (Brooke) from Ipswich, Mass.

Alex Colaneri, a senior Marketing major, has been named to the Dean's List with Distinction. Alex is a 2021 graduate of Homeschool and is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Colaneri (Karen) from Ipswich, Mass.

Victoria Pekrul, a junior Exercise Science major, has been named to the Dean's List. Victoria is a 2022 graduate of Ipswich High School and is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Merton Pekrul (Kristiana) from Ipswich, Mass

NEWBURYPORT: Kate Kiladis, Lucy Page, and Ella Posey were named to the Dean's List at Emerson College.

ROWLEY: Martha Smith hired before graduation by Farmington Avenue Music Academy.

Sidney Golbitz was elected to membership into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi. TOPSFIELD: Samuel Evans was named

IT'S NOT ABOUT US - IT'S ALL ABOUT YOU

to the Dean's List at Emerson College.



(Photos: Lonnie Brenna GEORGETOWN: Great pancakes, sausages, eggs, and all the fixings and neighborly friendship was served up at this year's Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast at Georgetown's Perley Elementary School. Fire Chief Matt McKay (center) focus on flip-time!



(Photos: Courtesy of Darin!) ROWLEY: It's Christmas in May at the Rowley Country Club as volunteers celebrate another success food drive!

## Beverly Police Arrest Man on Warrant for Attempted Murder

BEVERLY - Chief John G. LeLacheur reports that the Beverly Police Department located and arrested a New Jersey man on a warrant for attempted murder in that state.

ANDREW ARIAS-PEGUERO, AGE 54, OF FORT LEE, NEW JERSEY, was arrested and charged as a "Fugitive From Justice.'

Beverly Police were contacted by Fort Lee, New Jersey Police, who reported they were seeking ARIAS-PEGUERO on a felony warrant, charging attempted murder. Fort Lee Police reported that ARIAS-PEGUERO was wanted for stabbing and threatening to kill someone, and that he was believed to be in the area of north Beverly.

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

ARIAS-PEGUERO was taken into custody on four warrants out of Lynn District Court and charged as a Fugitive

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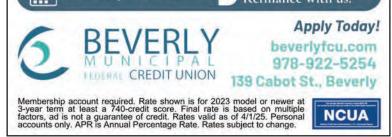
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Beverly Police located ARIAS-PEGUERO

and his vehicle in the area a short time later.

from Justice due to the New Jersey warrant. Beverly Police Chief LeLacheur said:

"Acting on information from Fort Lee Police, we were able to take a dangerous individual



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#### FISHING LAWS Continued from page 1

the annual quota plus any underage of the Period I allocation. Moving forward, DMF has adjusted this quota allocation split by reducing the Period I allocation to 15% and increasing the Period II allocation to 85%.

Effective May 9, 2025, new rules went into place affecting the commercial summertime (April 23 – September 30) for the directed summer flounder fishery. The trip limit for net fishers will be reduced from 600 pounds to 500 pounds and the trip limit for hook fishers will be reduced from 400 pounds to 325 pounds. These trip limits may be automatically adjusted in-season based on projected quota utilization. If 75% of the annual quota is taken on or before August

#### TOWN MEETINGS Continued from page 1

a five-person group home for adults with developmental issues, plus private residences and a community center open to all Rowley residents

Harborlight Homes, a development group, Homes requested the \$500,000 from the town's community preservation fund for

#### MERRIMAC LANDING Continued from page 1

Washington Landing Park will significantly improve and expand public access, safety and enjoyment to and along the Merrimac River.

The timing of the project gives the city the opportunity to continue working with the abutting property owners at the Marina at Amesbury Point to expand public access to more than 300 feet of shoreline along the Merrimac River, Crackel said.

grant funding awarded by the Supportive Coastal Infrastructure and Local Maritime Economic Development Planning grants program that promotes economic growth in coastal communities.

2024 shared among five other communities. Amesbury Police Chief Craig Bailey and Cracknell co-wrote the application that was submitted to the state as part of a plan to improve recreational access to the Merrimac River and support potential economic development along the waterfront. State Rep. Dawn Shand advocated at the State House in support of the funding for Amesbury.

15, the trip limit will be reduced to 400 pounds for net fishers and 250 pounds for hook fishers. If 90% of the annual quota is taken before September 1, the trip limit will be reduced to 200 pounds for all commercial fishers. However, if more than 20% of the quota remains available on September 1, the trip limit will be increased to 800 pounds for all gear types.

To participate in the directed trawl fishery, vessels must be using a net with large mesh that measures at least 6.5" in the cod end and at least 6" throughout the remainder of the net. Trawlers that are lawfully using smaller mesh (e.g., squid) are limited to a bycatch of 100 pounds of summer flounder but may switch over to large mesh during a trip and participate in the directed summer flounder fishery provided they are not in possession of

#### this project.

The community preservation fund, which raises money by adding a surcharge of up to 3 percent on property taxes, is designated for affordable housing, open-space protection and historic preservation.

The request for \$800,000 to fund both the trust and Windward Crossing was part of the on-going fight over the MBTA 3A zoning fight. ♦

Representative Shand for her advocacy and the Healey-Driscoll administration for their investment in unlocking a whole new access point for transportation and economic development," said Mayor Kassandra Gove. "I hope this project gets others excited and we have a great partner in bringing our vision to life. We're building a new doorstep for our community to welcome commuters, residents, and visitors."

Along with the application came written letters of support in the form of matching funds from two local marinas that utilize the boat ramp. Both John Jay McPartland, owner of the Marina at Hatter's Point and Dan Healey, owner of the Marina at Amesbury Point committed funds to be utilized in the design, permitting, and future maintenance of the maritime support facility. Marc Frontiero, owner of Goodwin Creek Marina, also provided a letter of support which was included in the proposal.

generations, Bailey said, "For Harbormasters for the city of Amesbury have advocated for better access of the Merrimac River to the public. This project not only does that but also gives the boating public better access to the City of Amesbury, something I am sure Harbormasters of the past would be incredibly proud and supportive of." ♦

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more than 100 pounds of summer flounder when fishing small mesh.

Starting last week, Saturdays will be eliminated as an open directed fishing day. The Saturday closure will remain in effect through Áugust 31, resulting in open directed fishing days from Sunday through Friday. The directed commercial fishery will automatically move back to seven-day-per-week on the first Saturday on or after September 1 should quota remain available. However, please note that vessels participating in lawful small mesh fisheries (e.g., squid) may retain, possess, and land a bycatch of summer flounder not to exceed 100 pounds on Saturdays.

Consecutive Daily Limit Program

DMF is renewing the consecutive daily limit program for June 10, 2025. This program will allow vessels participating in the summertime mixed species trawl fishery south of Cape Cod to possess and land two days' trip limits of summer flounder, black sea bass, horseshoe crab, and whelk that were lawfully caught and retained over consecutive open fishing days provided each day's catch is segregated. This program has been in effect since 2019 and is designed to enhance economic efficiency and address on-thewater safety issues.

Note that there are two changes being made to this year's program. First, in addition to fishing activity having to span at least two calendar days, participating vessels are now restricted from landing and offloading fish within 24 hours of the start of the trip. Accordingly, if you start a trip at 9AM on a Monday, the earliest you could return to port to offload two trip limits is 9AM on Tuesday. Second, participants are no longer required to seal and secure containers of the first day's catch with a single use tag. Instead, the first day's catch of each species must be segregated from the second day's catch of each species and clearly labeled and identifiable as such for inspection. Please note that during the period-of-time when Saturdays are closed as directed fishing days, vessels will not be able to fish for, possess, or land summer flounder in Massachusetts on Saturdays under this program or land fish in Massachusetts on another calendar day (e.g., Sunday) that were previously caught on Saturdays in another jurisdiction (e.g., federal waters). To be eligible to participate, the permit

holder must hold a Coastal Access Permit and relevant species-specific regulated fishery permit endorsements. To apply, please provide the following information to Jared Silva by e-mail jared.silva@mass.gov.

For more information, please visit our website: www.mass.gov/marinefisheries. ♦



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#### **Upcoming Events**

## **GEORGETOWN**

Artist Dael Angelico-Hart The Georgetown Peabody Library is pleased to host Beyond the Page: Unbound Book Creations by Dr. Dael Angelico-Hart for the months of May and June. This art exhibit will be showcased in our display cases upstairs. An artist reception will take place upstairs near the display cases on Friday, May 16 from 3-5PM. All are welcome to attend.

#### GEORGETOWN

Understanding Your DNA Test, Wednesday, May 21 at 6PM, Georgetown Peabody Library, 2 Maple Street, Georgetown, Mass. This class will help you find your OWN roots with the help of a DNÁ test. We'll go over how the DNA test works, why ethnicity estimates change, and how to begin to use your DNA matches to solve family mysteries. Registration recommended. Register online at www. georgetownpl.org/events.

#### HAVERHILL

The Merrimack Valley Planning Commission will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, May 15 at 11:00 a.m. The agenda includes updates on the commission's activities and is available at the MVPC website www.mvpc.org. For questions or details of this meeting contact Jodie Furey at jfurey@mvpc.org

#### **IPSWICH**

Viking Party May 17th, 12 til 5pm. FAMILY and DOG FRIENDLY! 1634 Meadery, 3 Short Street, Ipswich. Combat battles at 1 and at 3pm. \*Face painting by Shirley Berry; \*Bee and Honey Education by Bill Hamilton; Black Birch Farm; Viking Photo-booth; Corn hole and jenga and other games. LOTS of food vendors.

#### **MERRIMAC Civil War Roundtable**

The next meeting of the Civil War Roundtable of the Merrimack will be on Wednesday, May 14, 2025, at 7:30pm (doors open at 7pm) at the Hilton Senior Center, 43 Lafayette Rd (Rte1), Salisbury, MA.

This month we welcome Ed Rutan who'll present a talk about his book, which he'll have available for sale and signing, "High-Bounty Men in the Army of the Potomac - Reclaiming Their Honor." Guests are welcome! Bring a friend!

### **MERRIMAC**

The Friends of the Merrimac Public Library invite you to join the production of:

Sheryl Faye as Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Thurs, May 29 @ 6:30 p.m.

Join us for a one-hour theatrical presentation by popular and talented historical performer Sheryl Faye as she recounts the life of Ruth Bader Ginsburg. This is a FREE event to be held at the Merrimac Public Library. Sign up at the library or register at: https://tinyurl.com/ merrimaclibrary.

#### **NEWBURYPORT**

Saturday, May 17, 10-11:30: How to Transform History and Your Family's Origin Story Into a Compelling Narrative That Catches Readers' Imaginations. Instructor: Karen Kirsten. Cost: \$75. 50% of the registration fees will be donated to this year's Festival. Each workshop will be 90 minutes in length and accessible via Zoom. Register at newburyportliteraryfestival.org/workshops.

#### **NEWBURYPORT**

Newburyport Art (NAA) presents three new exhibits on view at Newburyport Art. On view in the Sargent and Hartson Galleries is Paper Stories, featuring works by 84 artists. In the Hills Gallery is Light, Color... Action!, a featured artist exhibition by Adrienne Circelli-Silversmith. Lastly, in the Mural Gallery is Artist Spotlight Bill Balsam.

The galleries are free and open to the public Tuesday through Saturday from 11:00am-5:00pm and Sunday from 1:00pm-5:00pm. Newburyport Art is closed on Mondays. More information, as well as an online gallery is available at newburyportart.org.

#### **SALISBURY**

Save the date: May 22nd for a Women in Business Luncheon & Panel Discussion, 12:00 - 2:00 PM, Sin a Loa Tacos and Tequila, Salisbury. Salisbury Chamber of Commerce event. Ticket Price: \$20 for Members | \$25 for Non-Members.

#### **SOUTH BYFIELD GEORGE-TOWN**

#### South Byfield Cemetery Annual Meeting

All [living] lot owners are encouraged to attend the South Byfield Cemetery Annual Meeting on May 19, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. -Newbury Town Library, 0 Lunt St., Byfield, Mass.

#### WEST NEWBURY

If you are a gardener, you should check out the West Newbury Garden Club annual Plant Sale on May 17.

It will be held on the Training Ground on Route 113 in West Newbury from 8:30-11:00 am.

Proceeds support scholarships for students in the area who will study disciplines related to the environment.

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There will be flowers, vegetables, flowering plants, herbs, hangers, etc. A bake sale will also be held. The Grange hall is located at 21 Garden Street, West Newbury.



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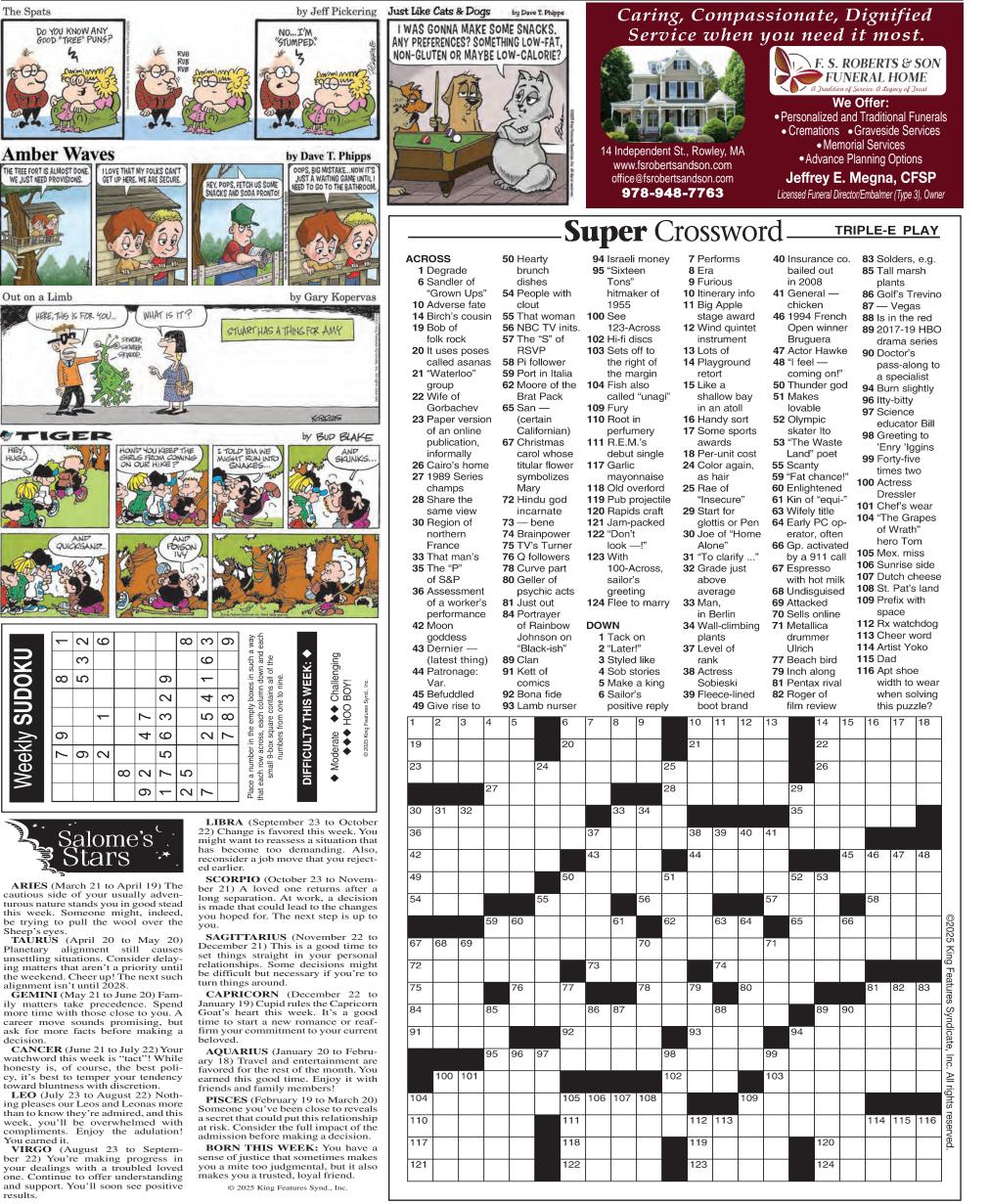
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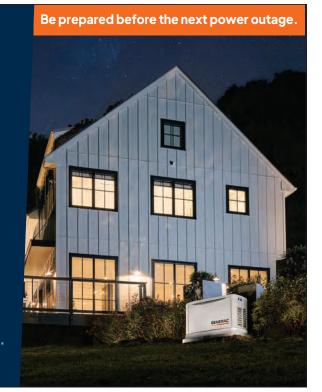
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