Another glorious week of ...

m Common

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Wednesday, August 27, 2025 - Vol. 21, No. 44



Gracie Gatchell, the youngest of the Aulson family, greeting the alpacas as they explore their paddock by the pond. Petting the youngest and friendliest alpaca Tutu.

Rescued Alpacas from MSPCA Find a Cozy New Home at Great Rock Farm



By Michelle Aulson **Guest Columnist**

GEORGETOWN – If you've been by our farm lately, you may have noticed a few taller, fuzzy faces peeking over the fences. Yes, it's true - we now have alpacas! Six of them, in fact, rescued by the MSPCA at Nevins Farm and originally from Martha's Vineyard, have trotted into Great Rock Farm (also known as Goats To Go) and straight into our hearts.

The moment they stepped off the trailer, I knew they were going to fit right in. One immediately stretched its long neck to nibble at a handful of treats, another hummed softly at the horses, and before long they were striking poses by the duck pond as though they'd always been here.

Continued on page 8



Pink Ladies from the Fox Run Dance Troup (Photo: Stewart Lytle)

Newburyport's Vintage Car Show Block Party!

By Ava Moeckel, Reporter

NEWBURYPORT - Cruisin' the '50s returned to downtown Newburyport Thursday for its 13th year, drawing large crowds despite cool, breezy conditions with Hurricane Erin about 300 miles offshore.

From 4 to 7 pm downtown streets, including Market Square, State Street, Liberty Street, Pleasant Street, Uni-

closed to traffic and filled with more than 250 classic cars from the 1930s through the 1970s.

Car owners displayed their vehicles, many opening hoods for all to look at original engines, while the owners answered questions from the curious.

The free event also boosted local businesses, with shops and restaurants open and busy. Live music and a per-

corn Street and Inn Street Park, were formance by the Pink Ladies from the Fox Run Dance Troupe, which turned the State and Pleasant Street intersec-Cruisin' the '50s remains a commu-

nity highlight, offering families and car enthusiasts the chance to celebrate vintage automobiles while enjoying Newburyport's downtown in a unique way. ♦

We'll print lots of photos next week!

Greater Newburyport Adult & Community Education Fall Class Registration is Open Now!

Looking to try something new this and Community Education fall? Whether you're interested in exploring a creative hobby, learning practical life skills, or preparing for

The Town Common

(GNACE) has a class designed for

GREATER NEWBURYPORT - college, Greater Newburyport Adult you in mind — and fall class registration is now open! Space is limited,





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Publisher/Editor Lonnie Brennan Lonnie@thetowncommon.com



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



Marc Maravalli, B.S., R.Ph. Founder/Publisher/Editor 2004 - 2024

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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Smart Glasses Help the Blind Read

By Stewart Lytle, Sr. Reporter

REGIONAL – When Steve Baran came to lunch recently to talk about the Lions Club Clipper City Rail Trail project for low vision people, he who has been blind from birth picked up the menu and started to select his

Am I being scammed? this writer thought.

Baran wore dark glasses and relied on his wife, Denise, to help him find a seat. So, "how is he reading the menu?" I asked.

"I am wearing Ray-Ban Meta smart glasses," he announced proudly.

One of several smart eyewear on the market, the Ray-Ban Meta AI was designed for gamers and sighted people who find enjoy the hands-free technology the glasses offer. Compared to using their phones, the

glasses are faster and less cumbersome. But for the blind, these glasses, powered by artificial intelligence, are life changing. Baran, who helps lead low vision groups at Amesbury and Newburyport senior centers, demonstrated the glasses for the Amesbury

group this month. The new glasses on a voice command can make calls, send texts and find answers.

"These are pretty amazing," Baran told the Amesbury group. "Are they perfect? No. Do I like them? Yes. Do they make a difference? Yes.

And the cost is around \$300 a pair, although some smart glasses are priced much higher. And the Ray Bans come in a wide variety of styles from the classic Aviator to the Wavfarer and Skylar. They also come with clear lenses.

Another brand that is receiving excellent reviews is the Vital Smart



Steve Barans with his Ray-Ban Meta AI glasses (Photo: Stewart Lytle)

Glasses, which offers the same fea- images and videos. The improved Bans will translate in French, Italian contacts using voice command. and Spanish.

Baran brought a Market Basket news- charged in the case, talk to the wearer paper insert. He turned the glasses on from speakers in the arm behind the and said, "Hey, Meta," he said. "Read left ear. It is almost impossible for oth-

is in front of it. It can produce both learning what the glasses can do and

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butterfly

tures as the Ray Bans, but it also will cameras record 1080p videos of up to translate in 134 languages. The Ray 60 seconds, which can be shared with

The glasses, which run on a charge At his Amesbury presentation, of about four hours and can be ers to hear.

The glasses use an ultra-wide, After two months of wearing his 12-metapixel camera to register what smart glasses, Baran admits he is still

how to hold his head to allow the camera to read what is front of him. As a blind person, that has not been necessary.

In the growing smart glasses competition among manufacturers, Baran expects that more technology enhancements will be coming

Asked what the glasses will not do, Barans said it will not let him cross the street without assistance. But it will read to him the words on a sign.

That brought us back to the interview I originally conducted over lunch.

In a project spear-headed by Baran, the Lions Club is installing beacons on mile posts along the rail trail in Newburyport. As reported in The Town Common two weeks

ago, the beacons will talk with a free app on a cell phone and act as a guide on the trail, help walkers with directions and keep them informed of what they are about to encounter on the trail.

The Lions Club is testing the beacons now and expects to have it fully functional in the next few weeks. •





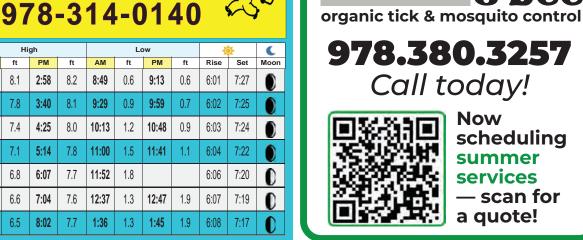


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Are these penguins floating in the Merrimack? (Photo: Stewart Lytle)

Michael Updike: Gravestones Don't Have to be Morbid

 ${f NEWBURY}$ – When one thinks of a gravestone carver, the conjured image is probably that of a humorless, gnarled man hunched over a large stone slate, his chisel and hammer tapping away to memorialize the birth and death dates of the deceased.

That is not Michael Updike, a robust, caring man, whose wit rivals his talent as a master sculptor and carver.

Updike has carved headstones for Pinocchio and Jimmy Cricket, Gumby and a frog, "who gave his life for science," read his epitah. Updike created a gravestone for a possum, to absolve his guilt of killing one as a child. He sold the possum memorial slate to a woman who also suffered guilt from a possum's death.

On a long thin piece of slate, he carved a headstone for a grasshopper he once crushed with a rock. He placed a rock on top of the slate.

He is also the carver of the penguins that float near the shore of the Merrimack. He carved the penguins to humor his children, or more likely himself. But many a car driving on Water Street have pulled over to make sure they were not seeing an illusion.

Úpdike loves a variety of creatures for his gravestones: ravens and crows, all types of fish, Octopi and even mermaid skeletons floating on the sea bottom. He is particularly fond of goats, which often end up in his motifs, because to the sculptor, goats are a symbol of survival. They will eat really weird stuff to survive, he explained.

A visit to his studio at his home on the edge of the marsh is so enticing he should charge admission. His garage is filled with boxes of slates, some small and designed to hang on a wall, and others large enough to be outdoor art. His carvings, one-of-a-kind art works, which he sells on line and at artisan fairs, are of fish and squirrels, maybe a human skull or a skeleton.

Updike also carves the memorable and traditional.

The city of Newburyport commissioned him to produce a large, round

By Stewart Lytle, Sr. Reporter stone to honor those who died and survived Covid. It stands today on the Merrimack River waterfront along the extension of the Clipper City Rail Trail.

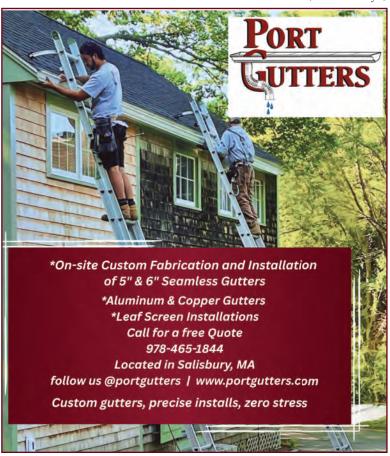
Updike studied at the Massachusetts College of Art, majoring in sculpture. Later, he earned an MFA from the Vermont College of Fine Arts. Beginning in 1992, he began designing tabletop giftware and decorative art for Livia Cowan's Mariposa, a gift and tableware company in Manchester.

He may be best known for his String of Pearls Collection, where multitudes of pearls provide luxurious borders around polished, silver pieces that were handcrafted from 100 percent recycled aluminum.

The death of a good friend, Heidi, and that of his father, John Updike, probably the most famous American novelist, led him to learn the craft of Continued on page 4



Michael Updike with his own gravestone (Photo: Stewart Lytle)



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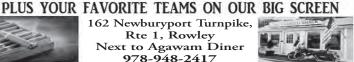
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MICHAEL UPDIKE

Continued from page 3

gravestone carving. "Cemeteries were America's first sculptor gardens," he said.

He studied the ancient craft from carvers and took a course in lettering in Rhode Island. He began experimenting with materials that included slates, marble and granite, but his favorite materials are slates that have been on rooftops.

He orders new stones from a company in Vermont that are delivered in a truck to his house/studio. But he gets most excited when he finds slates of different sizes and styles at yard sales. He prefers slates that have been battered and pitted by weather and ones that have a bit of tar that must be scraped off. "They are the most interesting," he said.

His first intricate gravestone was for his father, which he erected on a family plot in Plowville, PA, where the elder Updike lived as a teenager. The writer's ashes are interred there and in a cremation garden behind a church in Manchester.

The design of his father's gravestone is traditional and whimsical at the same time. He said his father feared death so much that the younger Updike carved his face smiling as a winged skull, happily ascending to heaven.

Below the date lines are various signa-

28 Jefferson St
124 Northern Blvd
7 LONG RIDGE LANE
8 Harrison Cir
298 Andover St
48 Center Street
698 Spofford Rd.
6 Coulson Pratt Dr
8 Palis Dr
62 Alderbrook Drive
235 Arvilla Rd

tures of names the elder Updike used at different periods of his life. On the back, Updike carved an early poem written by his father. It's positioned above a giant crow coughing up telephone poles.

To show potential customers, Updike

began 10 years ago to carve a series of his own gravestones. He confessed that he has never been brave enough to put an actual date for his own death. In one of his first, he carved a crow dragging his name and partial date of his death off into the sky. Over the years he has made nine different gravestones for himself.

Commissions began to come in. He now carves six or seven a year. "It is a long process," he said.

Some are commissioned by the decease's heirs; others for themselves before their death. He meets with the clients to learn what they want on their gravestone. Those conversations run the gamut of emotions, he said. There can be jokes and laughter for some, tears for others.

He creates as many as six or seven different designs. By the fourth one, he said his imagination and humor kick in

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Michael Updike in his studio (Photo: Stewart Lytle) and the design gets a little strange and he knows the clients will reject it. But to his surprise, they often like those best.

The role of the gravestone carver is that of a psychoanalyst or pastor or a friend helping realize their vision, he

Updike has had some unusual requests. One was for a Beta fish. A woman had him carve a stone for her fish that was four inches long. In doing his research, he found that Beta fish are rarely longer than two inches, and they live about four years.

This fish died after only a year. "I think there was some guilt there," Updike said.

Recently he was asked to carve a memorial for 40 horses, including a few ponies and a mule, named Smitty, which had died over the years on a West Newbury farm. He found a long, tannish-colored stone, on which he carved the names of the first grouping of horses and the mule. He added black paint to make the names pop.

The plan is to erect the three stones in the pastures where they once ran.

If you have an idea for your gravestone, Updike would love to hear it at mupdike222@comcast.net. For much more on the Michael Updike Carving Studio, visit www.michaelupdike.net.

CLASSES

Continued from page 1

and many classes fill quickly up so it is recommended that students register early.

The fall session runs from September 6 through December 4, with over 60 exciting classes to choosefrom. Whether you want to take a one-night workshop or an eight-week course, you'll find opportunities to learn, create, and connect with others in the community.

Here's just a sampling of what's being offered this fall:

Watercolor, Expressionistic, and Acrylic Painting, Canning, Crime Scene Investigations, Archery, iPhone Photography, Holiday Crafts with Mussel Shells and Oyster Shells, Paleontology, Personal Cybersecurity, Bitcoin & Crypto, Meditation and Slow Flow Yoga, Screens and the Anxious Mind, Japanese Bookbinding, World Languages, Cribbage, and so much more!

GNACE is also offering SAT Prep classes for college-bound juniors and seniors beginning on Monday, Sept. 22 as well as English as a Second Language (ESL) classes for non-native speakers beginning on Tuesday, Sept. 23.

Classes are open to anyone 15 and older in the Greater Newburyport region and southern New Hampshire.

Browse the full catalogue online and register at newburyportadulted.org. ♦

BOXFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

You are hereby notified that a Public Hearing will be held via Zoom videoconference on Thursday September 4, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. or such other time when posted for the Notice of Intent by applicant Jeffrey Foss for the property located at: 43 Belvedere Road, Map 9, Block 2, Lot 19 to install 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

GEORGETOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Public Hearing will be held by the Georgetown Conservation Commission on Thursday, September 4th, 2025 at 7:00 PM, by Zoom Link found on Town Website Calendar date of meeting, 27 Marlboro Road Public Hearing for a Notice of Intent for a failed replacement of a septic system within 100 ft of Bordering Vegetated Wetlands.

Contact person: Michèle Grenier, PWS (978) 352-5712

GEORGETOWN PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Notice is given that the Georgetown Planning Board shall hold a Public Hearing in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40A, Section 11, and the provisions of Article XIII - Special Permits and Site Plan Review, as further provided in \$165-83 of the Town of Georgetown Zoning Bylaws. The Public Hearing will be for Site Plan Approval of a proposed improvements to filter operation and reliability at the existing Water Treatment Plant (WTP) while addressing aging building systems at 75 West Street; 51 West Street; 101 West Street; and 15 Bailey Lane.

This public hearing shall be held remotely on Wednesday, 10 SEPTEMBER 2025 at 7:30 P.M., in accordance with the Executive Order waiving certain provisions of M.G.L. c. 30A, sec. 20 during the COVID-19 pandemic, which was extended to JUNE 30, 2027 by action of the General Court and signed by Gov. Healey. Interested persons are invited to participate in the above-cited hearing, via computer, tablet, smartphone by connecting to the following:

ZOOM: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85195158813 Meeting ID: 851 9515 8813 Passcode: 988703

The above-cited remote meeting connection information will be included on the 20 AUGUST 2025 meeting agenda, which will be posted on the Town of Georgetown website no less than 48 hours prior to the meeting. Further, the meeting will be broadcast live on the Georgetown Local Access Cable TV. Video recordings of this meeting, and all Georgetown Planning Board meetings may be found at www.georgetowma.gov by choosing Cable TV option. Full and complete copies of the above-cited application, together with the associated Plans, are available upon request by emailing the Town Planner at FOConnor@ GeorgetownMA.gov or by clicking here: https://cms5.revize.com/revize/georgetownma/ government/boards___commissions/planning_board/current_projects.php#outer-4253

Any person interested in being heard on this application needs to appear at the time and place designated, herein. Please note that written correspondence will be accepted and read into the record of the hearing if it were received before Noon on the day of the hearing. Persons needing special accommodations may send an eMail to

FOConnor@GeorgetownMA.gov.

Frank O'Connor, Jr.

Planner for Town of Georgetown

8/27, 9/3



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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Your honesty might upset some people. But you inevitably win more admirers for having the courage to tell the truth when others are more likely to scram-

when others are more likely to scramble for cover. **TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) Your efforts to defend your project begin to show favorable results. You should soon be able to win over even the most determined detractors who had lined up against if.

up against it. **GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) You win praise for your selfless efforts in a very difficult situation. But be careful not to allow your generous nature to be exploited by those who have their

be exploited by those who have their own agenda.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) A trusted colleague sheds light on a recent spate of puzzling workplace situations. This should give you the information you need to bring the matter to your superior's attention.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) A shift in workplace management could be helpful for talented Leos and Leonas who have been waiting to have their accomplishments rewarded by receptive leadership.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) A misunderstanding between you and someone you care for should be corrected immediately. This relationship is too important to lose over a bruised ego.

22) A welcome piece of good news helps clear the air in a family situa-tion. A job-related incident also eases as more information provides a clearer focus on the problem.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Quick action to heal bruised feelings pays off in a big way. Now you'll be able to move forward with your plans without a problem holding

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Your creativity combined with a positive attitude should give you a considerable edge in finding a way to get around the negativity you've run into. you've run into.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) A sudden streak of stubbornness could cause some problems. Try to be more open to helpful suggestions and more flexible in making needed changes.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Now that a special relationship appears to be well and truly restored, you can spend more time dealing with some long-needed workplace chang-

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) A new opportunity sounds promising, but watch out for any conditions that might be attached. Before making a decision, ask that each opportunity be explained in detail.

BORN THIS WEEK: You can **BURN THIS WEEK:** You can often get distracted by promises of good times, yet you ultimately reach the amazing goals that you set out for yourself because of your determination.



Silver Springs – Fleetwood Mac Tribute on the Salisbury Beach Oceanfront Stage last Saturday night. Catch them again, Sat. Aug. 30th at the Carousel Lounge, 27 Ocean Front St. Salisbury! (Photo: Lonnie Bren

Please Contribute to the Georgetown Troop #50 Boys Scouts with Your Returnable Bottles and Cans

I'm asking all you folks if you would be kind enough to donate all your recyclable, returnable bottles and cans for the Boy Scouts of Troop 50 in George-

The boys use this money to do their projects and go on trips during the winter and summer. They also donate scholarships! They could not do this with-

My name is Kay Lee Ogden, and I am willing to drive around and pick up your recyclables, and cash them in and give the money to the Scouts! My son is an assistant scout master, and works with the boys along with my grandson.

Please leave me your name and number, and I will be glad to call you and make arrangements. I can be reached at the following:

KAY LEE OGDEN: TEXT 978.771.6884 OR CALL: 978.352.8318 or

you may send me a message at: KayLeeOgden4@gmail.com.

We appreciate your help with supporting these great kiddos who will make these good boys become better men. Thank you.

Reminder - School Clothes!

By Sarah Nicholson Rowley Public Library Youth Services

ROWLEY - Back to school time is rapidly approaching, and there's nothing more costly than new clothes! Rowley Public Library and Striving for Sustainability have a solution for you; a free back to school clothing shop! From July 14th until August 29th you can drop off your gently used baby, children's and teen's clothing at the Rowley Public Library, 500 Wethersfield Street, or 41 Wethersfield Street. There will also be a drop-off spot at Green Fest on August 9th.

Join us on August 30th from 11AM to 1PM for free shopping! Please note, we are not accepting undergarments of any kind. Don't have anything to donate? Don't worry! You're welcome to come and shop regardless. •

Upcoming Events

LIVE WELL AMESBURY FESTIVAL 2025 Saturday, September 6, 2025, from 10 AM to 2 PMUpper Milyard & Market Square

GEORGETOWN

The Friends of the Georgetown Peabody Library will hold their Fall Book Sale September 10 - September 14 at the Georgetown Peabody Library, 2 Maple St, Georgetown, MA. The sale features: books, DVDs, CDs, puzzles, board games, and vinyl records. This event is budget friendly, with most items priced from .50 cents - \$2.00. New this season: Evening Hours! The Sale kicks off Wednesday September 10 6-8 pm and continues September 11 & 12 10am-5pm; September 13 9am-1pm; September 14 1pm-4pm. September 14 is the popular Bag Sale Day. The Friends provide the bag, you fill it for just \$8.00.

Donations for the sale gladly accepted September 5-10 during library open hours: September 5 10am-5pm, September 6 9am-1pm, September 8 2pm-8pm, September 9 10am-8pm, September 10 2pm-6pm . Your donations should be clean and in good condition; suitable to give to a friend. (No encyclopedias or cassettes.)

Come shop at this fun community event, full of interesting finds, while directly supporting the Georgetown Peabody Library. (Submitted by Linda Metcalf)

SALISBURY

Saturday, August 30th 6 - 10 pm. Country Beach Jam! Featuring Redneck Castaway Band - On the Center Stage! FIREWORKS AT 10:15!

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Bring beach/lounge chairs as seating is limited Enjoy all that Salisbury Beach entertainment center has to offer For further information, visit ChristianFilmProductions.org

Super Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Served in blazing liquor
 7 Longtime
- executive of the Oakland Raiders
- 14 Utters words 20 Tulip relatives
- 21 Divider of musical measures 22 Began
- vigorously 23 Classic board game played by judges between
- trials? 25 Put in a box 26 Ending for
- priest 27 Gets frantic
- with fear 28 Oil rig part
- 30 Feel sore 31 Russian war vessel on which a
- classic board game is played? 35 Person
- knocking over a drink, e.g. "— queen!" ("You go!")
- 39 Grandiosity "Toodle-oo! 41 Bauxite, e.g.
- 44 Publish anew 47 Neighbor of Mich. and III.

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104 | 105 | 106

36

- 50 Review of a classic board game? **54** Quiver
- 56 Tangle up 57 Trifecta, e.g. 58 1/60 min.
- 60 Like some noisy little dogs —OPs
- (CIA tactics) 62 Maple or oak 64 Morally rigid 68 60% of cinco
- 69 Classic board game that's popular with inhabitants of 111 Appeal heaven?
- 73 Make whole again **75** San
- Francisco's region **76** Don of radio
- 77 Tennis match unit 80 First-string
- players 82 Springfield's Flanders
- 83 Singapore sling liquor 85 Havana resident, to
- Havanans 87 Infatuate 89 Classic board
- game played at a shindig? 93 Tennis court divider

62

weapons

- 96 thought!" 97 Filly's father
- 98 Mexican 81-Down 99 "Combat!"
- actor Morrow 101 Captured with a rope
- 104 Classic board game you keep making people play even though they have no interest?
- 112 Voting group 113 One causing
- fright 114 Ovid's Amatoria'
- Regard highly **119** Shop dedicated
- to selling a classic board game? 123 Prickly plant
- 124 Snooty sort 125 "Everything's
- good here"

 126 "Marty" star Borgnine **127** When a
- check to a landlord is due
- 128 "- what your country can do for you ..."

38

64

90

120 121

107 | 108

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124

127

- 1 Big ice sheet 2 They may be chapped
- 3 Toby brews 4 Space station until 2001
- 5 "C'mon, help me out here' 6 Will subject
- Bubbling over 8 Knight's weapon 9 Containing
- smelting waste 10 TV title ET
- 11 Cruella De — ("101 Dalmatians' meanie)
- **12** Like purchases gotten via the program
- 13 Close using stitches 14 Cleaned with
- a broom 15 Ballpoint, e.g.
- 16 Put up tents 17 Sharp as 18 Maker of GOLEAN
- cereals 19 Dutch genre painter Jan 24 Preludes
- 29 Janitors' tools 31 Actress

12 13

28

58

100

113

109 | 110

33 32

32 Injuré 33 "Got it now"

- 34 Nail file stuff 35 Throat bug 36 Analgesic
- targets 37 "I'll pay for this one"
- 42 Exuberant war cry
 43 Ending for
- Siam 45 Commercial lead-in to -gram or
- -matic 46 Turn the car toward 47 Ballet pro-
- moter, e.g. **48** "Huh-uh!" 49 Teetotalers
- 51 About 52 Landscaping
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- 59 Pack tightly 63 "My People" writer Abba 65 A, in French 66 Wolfgang
- Puck's restaurant 67 Bring forth
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- **72** "The jig —!" 73 Normandy
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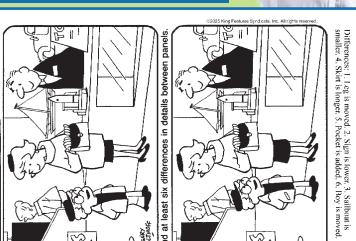
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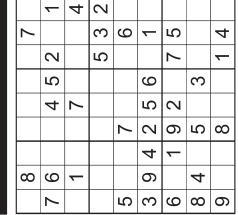
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RESCUED ALPACAS

Continued from page 1

Unlike our goats and sheep, who keep busy clearing brush, these alpacas have no chores on their to-do list. Their only job is to simply be — charming, curious, and endlessly entertaining.

I often catch them gazing regally from the hilltop, peering into the pond as the ducks swim around, or engaging in staring contests with Penny, our ever-curious cat. Around here, they're already celebrities. I like to think of them as our "island stars" who traded beach grass for farm grass — and I dare say, they're enjoying every bite.

"The alpacas are a lively addition to the farm," said my nephew, Tre Aulson. "When I saw them pulling in, I ran right down to the trailer. I had no clue they were coming — my aunt had just adopted them the day before! They were such a friendly, cute surprise. I've already nicknamed the brown one Mocha."

From the very first moment they arrived, the alpacas seemed perfectly at home. And have already become a source of joy for family and visitors. Whether glimpsed from the car on the



Alpacas make their new home in comfort and adventure at Great Rock Farm, Georgetown, Mass.

way to goat yoga or spotted during a mingle class, their gentle presence adds whimsy to daily life at Great Rock Farm. Among goats, sheep, "Dolly" the llama, horses, and the rest of our barnyard crew, the alpacas bring a new layer of delight — craning their necks in curiosity, humming soft greetings, and charming visitors with their quiet, social personalities.

And this is just the beginning of as these "island stars" transform into

their story. Some of the alpacas arrived with minor health issues and are still learning how to be more social, but with time, patience, and plenty of love, we're excited to see how they'll blossom. As they settle into farm life, we have plans to include them in future farm events, where their calm, gentle nature will shine even brighter. We invite everyone to follow along

beloved Georgetown resi-

This fall, the alpacas will be stepping into the spotlight at one of the farm's biggest traditions — the Goat's Fall Festival & Hayrides on Saturday, October 4, from 9–11 AM. They'll be waiting at the gate to greet guests as they park, adding plenty of fuzzy charm to the festive morning. Come for the hayrides, stay for the goats (and alpacas!) — and don't forget to meet the rest of the farm's animal crew. Tickets are available at goatstogo.







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