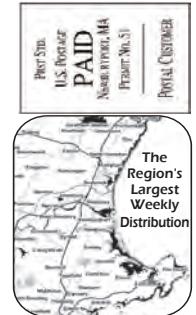


Happy New Year...

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Wednesday, January 7, 2025 - Vol. 22, No. 11

FREE



The deck for the bridge was poured in December (Photo provided by the town of West Newbury)

West Newbury Bridge 7+ Years Later

By Stewart Lytle, Sr. Reporter

WEST NEWBURY – Closed to vehicles for more than seven years, the Middle Street/Plummer Springs Bridge on the border of West Newbury and Newburyport now has a deck over the Upper Artichoke Reservoir, the drinking water supply for both communities.

According to West Newbury officials, construction on the project is ahead of schedule, although peat was discovered in the ground below the bridge, which would not support the bridge's foundation. The peat is

scheduled to be excavated this summer. The schedule was delayed two months earlier.

Costing West Newbury and Newburyport each \$275,000, the bridge is scheduled to be completed before November. The bridge's construction costs are offset by a \$1 million-grant to West Newbury from the state's MassWorks and separate MassDOT Small Bridge grants to West Newbury and Newburyport of \$750,000 each. West Newbury also used \$25,000 of its American Rescue Plan Act funds in January 2024

Continued on page 2



Kristen Daley watching for whales. (Photo courtesy of the Newburyport Custom House Maritime Museum)

Newburyport Whale Watching and the Plight of Whales

By Stewart Lytle, Sr. Reporter

NEWBURYPORT – If you love whales, the Custom House Maritime Museum has got a treat waiting for you.

On 2026's first First Friday lecture, Kristin Daley, a marine naturalist at the Newburyport Whale Watch will speak at 6:30 p.m. Friday about

Newburyport Whale Watching and the Plight of Wales.

"Take a deep dive with naturalist Kristin Daley into the biology, behavior, migration and communication of whales in our Gulf of Maine backyard," announced Julia Bradley-Labonte, the museum's senior manager. "What helps these giants thrive, and what threatens them? Learn about

conservation, protection efforts, and stories from the water that bring this ecosystem to life closer to you."

Daley is a marine naturalist with the whale watch and a traveling ocean educator with The Whalemobile. She has spent nine seasons studying whales primarily in the Gulf of Maine, Hawai'i and South Africa.

Continued on page 3



Connection Isn't Seasonal: Winter Programming at the Groveland COA

GROVELAND – Winter doesn't have to mean staying home or feeling disconnected.

At the Groveland Council on Aging (Groveland COA), January and February are filled with reasons to get out, gather, and enjoy time together—whether that's through a shared laugh at the movies, a moment of calm and creativity, or a welcoming space to simply show up.

This winter, the Groveland COA is offering programs that feel easy, inviting, and meaningful. From Movie Mondays and community lunches to relaxed outings and social gatherings, winter programming is designed

to make the colder months feel warmer and more connected.

There are also opportunities to slow down and recharge. January programming includes a Memory Café Sound Bath on January 12, a gentle, sensory-based experience for individuals with memory loss and their care partners—an example of how the COA creates space for calm, connection, and care alongside social fun.

Staying active remains part of the winter rhythm at the Groveland COA. Programs such as Drums Alive—a fun, music-based movement class using stability balls and drumsticks—along with ongoing fitness and yoga classes,

Continued on page 2

Boxford's Paisley's Farm: Wishing You Warmth & Peace in the New Year



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CALLING ALL SINGERS

Newburyport Choral Society

REGIONAL – Please come sing with us in our 91st year!

The Newburyport Choral Society (NCS) is a non-auditioned community chorus that welcomes singers of all ages from Essex County, southern NH, and the seacoast area.

Register now to sing selections from Felix Mendelssohn's dramatic oratorio Elijah, and newly published choral works of his older sister, Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel.

Our first two rehearsals of the 2026 spring semester are OPEN for anyone to experience the chorus with no obligation to pay.

TIME: 7:00pm Tuesday, January 13 & 20

PLACE: Belleville Church, 300

High Street, Newburyport

Please fill out the new member inquiry form so we have music ready for you to borrow. Advanced singers may audition for our "NCS Chamber Singers" group. The new member form is available at:

tinyurl.com/choralsocietyspring

As a chorus member you will experience:

- a rewarding and creative atmosphere
- an expansion of your musical horizons
- the warm camaraderie of our chorus members
- satisfaction from contributing to the culture of our community
- an opportunity to audition for select repertoire

showing up, asking questions, having fun, and planning for what's next."

As the Groveland COA looks ahead, community voice continues to guide its work. Residents are invited to share feedback through the Living & Aging in Groveland community survey, available online through the Town of Groveland website or by contacting the Groveland COA for a paper or phone option.

Most programs are free or low-cost, and programming is open to Groveland residents and individuals from surrounding communities.

For a full January–February 2026 calendar or more information, contact the Groveland COA at 978-372-1101 or visit the Town of Groveland website



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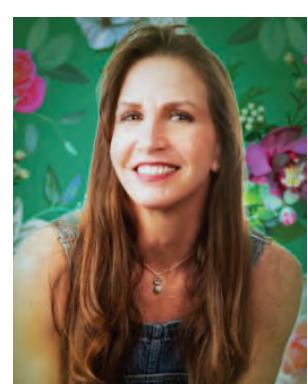
Date	High			Low			Rise	Set	Moon			
	AM	ft	PM	ft	AM	ft	PM	ft				
7	Wed	1:58	8.3	2:13	8.9	8:03	0.1	8:35	-0.5	7:13	4:25	0
8	Thu	2:47	8.2	3:04	8.4	8:56	0.2	9:23	-0.2	7:13	4:26	0
9	Fri	3:37	8.1	3:57	7.9	9:50	0.5	10:12	0.3	7:13	4:27	0
10	Sat	4:28	8.0	4:50	7.4	10:45	0.6	11:02	0.7	7:12	4:28	0
11	Sun	5:19	7.9	5:46	7.0	11:41	0.8	11:54	1.0	7:12	4:29	0
12	Mon	6:12	7.8	6:43	6.7			12:39	0.9	7:12	4:31	0
13	Tue	7:05	7.8	7:40	6.5	12:47	1.3	1:36	0.8	7:11	4:32	0



Julz DeSantis



Nate Allard



Brenda Ernst

Meet the Team Who Serves You

REGIONAL – The Town Common

newspaper welcomes Nate Allard, the former president of the Greater Newburyport Chamber of Commerce and Industry, to its team as a senior Newburyport and Salisbury advertising sales consultant.

Born in Newburyport and raised in Salisbury, Nate's reach is much further than either of the two cities he knows so well. He has spent his career helping businesses of all types succeed, working with businesses large and small, finding unique, creative ways to keep their name in the forefront of existing clients while reaching out for new clients to bring health to his client's businesses.

In his advertising sales consultant role, Nate brings his proven focus of attention on select clients to maintain or achieve their highest goals. Call Nate at 978-270-5219.

He joins a proven team for the growing Town Common newspaper that includes Brenda Ernst and Julian

Julz' DeSantis.

Brenda has spent much of her time on the upper North Shore and Southern New Hampshire Coast helping banks, investment firms, pizza shops and other retailers, including unique game shops, sustain and thrive over the ups and downs that businesses face through the sell cycles each year.

Rowley is a primary focus, but her talents and energy cannot be contained in one town. An avid hiker, dog walker, and traveler, Brenda is committed to supporting local businesses, people, activities and community. Brenda can be reached at 978-810-5078.

If your business is in Ipswich, Boxford, Georgetown, Groveland and Haverhill, you need to talk with Julz DeSantis about promoting your business throughout the North Shore. Julz joined the The Town Common advertising team earlier last year and brings a wealth of enthusiasm. She is eager to help local schools, repair shops, dog groomers, estate planners and specialty businesses find new clients. Call Julz 978-626-7443.

While other newspapers are shrinking in circulation, The Town Common enters 2026, its 22nd year, growing together with its advertisers.

The Town Common continues to buck the trend of many newspapers experiencing a decline in readership and advertising revenue because it remains free, adds more papers to its widespread distribution, provides a lively design delivering an unbiased coverage of our communities, from art classes to selectboard meetings, fire,

police, and everything in between.

As our readers and advertisers tell us weekly, The Town Common is a fun, well-written paper, that keeps them connected to their communities in a way that social media doesn't.

One of our advertisers volunteered: "If I advertise, I get customers, new and old, coming in. They don't say where they saw me, but they come. And I know when I don't advertise, they tend to get busy or forget, then I advertise, and well, they're back! So, I just let it roll and things do well."

Another advertiser shared: "You know, if I only advertised here (in my city) then that's all the customers I would reach. I find that advertising in a fun weekly paper that has some sticking power – sticks around – and spreads a large net around (the area) I get surprised when I get customers from all over."

Our professional distributor places The Town Common in hundreds of locations – that's only the beginning. We share the paper with hundreds of businesses, and now with our free wire racks, it appears at community centers and museums. We've added street boxes in Georgetown, Groveland, West Newbury, Rowley, Salisbury and have many more to deploy.

Pick up the paper each week on Wednesday. If your business wants one of our red boxes outside, or a wire rack inside, just let us know and we'll be happy to share the paper each week at your location!

Contact one of our friendly sales reps or visit us at Advertise@TheTownCommon.com. •

BRIDGE REBUILD UNDERWAY AFTER 2018 CLOSING

Continued from page 1

to support on-going expenses needed to secure these grants.

In addition, both communities are getting reclaimed granite from the old bridge that they can use for other

projects.

The bridge, closed in 2018 when a spandrel wall failed, was designed by engineer, BSC Group and is being built by the S&R Construction. •



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Founder/Publisher/Editor 2004 - 2024

Advisory Board Member: 2024 - present

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Liz Ichizawa, '04-05 Reporter (1956 - 2005)

Jim Wilson, '20-22 Publisher/Editor (1954-2022)

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GEORGETOWN State-Wide Ballot Questions Discussion Jan. 10th 10 A.M. at the Public Library

A group called Partners in Democracy will be coming to the Georgetown Peabody Library on Saturday, January 10 at 10:00 am to speak about the ballot questions that will be on the ballot later this year.

Some of the issues covered will be:

- Fairer legislative pay ("stipend reform")
- Legislative transparency
- Same-day voter registration
- Restoring voting rights for folks incarcerated for felony convictions
- Voter I.D. requirements for voting

This event is open to the public so please consider attending and spread the word to your members. These ballot questions are vitally important and provide a chance for voters to make the necessary changes that our elected officials won't make.

Hope to see you there!
Lenny Mirra

WHALES

Continued from page 1

She has experience tagging sharks, rehabilitating sea turtles and is completing her master's degree in Marine Conservation Biology.

The lecture is free for museum members and \$10 for non-members and guests. Register at the museum's web site customhousemaritimemuseum.org/events/

A reception will be held at 5:30 pm at the museum. •



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Plant Matters

Let us just burn
Burning Bush.

I've been concerned about "introduced"

ornamental plants from countries outside the USA since I worked for the U.S.D.A. (U. S. Department of Agriculture) in the Port of New York. I have been working in the green industry over the last four decades and have become alarmed by the negative impact that 'invasive' ornamental plants have had on local ecosystems. One shrub that has been classified as a *significant threat* to local ecosystems is *Euonymus alatus* which was introduced from Asia. This shrub - commonly known as *Burning Bush* or *Winged Euonymous* - is prized for red and persistent fall foliage. Masses of these plants have been deliberately planted from parking lots to suburban plots.

So how did this plant become a menace to local ecosystems? It can grow almost anywhere, from deep shade to full sun, in any soil type as well as from dry to wet conditions. It is such an unappealing meal to wildlife that even deer abhor it and do not impede its rampant colonization. This miscreant is successfully competing with native plants that are essential for forest succession and bird migration. Climate change is providing a strategic advantage to *Burning bush*. Birds need vital calories for successful migration and are migrating later due to climate change, but many of the native plants that provide the most nutrient dense berries are ripening before birds begin their journey. Consequently, birds are consuming berries that are produced later and are more persistent. *Burning Bush* berries are abundant at this crucial time but provide less nutrition. Birds must eat more of these berries and, inadvertently, consume and disperse *Burning Bush* disproportionately to native plants

and is growing in impenetrable thickets in forests and along road sides.

The best remedy is to remove this bully from your landscape and plant native trees and shrubs that provide outstanding autumn colors and high functional value to our shared ecosystem. The following is a list of native plants to consider adding to your landscape.

Trees

Oxydendrum arboreum ~25'
Nyssa sylvatica 'Red Rage' ~40'
Amelanchier x grandiflora
'Autumn Brilliance' ~20'

Shrubs

Viburnum prunifolium ~12'
Viburnum cassinoides ~6'
Aronia Arbutifolia

'Brilliantissima' ~8'

Vaccinium corymbosum ~5'

Fothergilla major ~8'

Small Shrubs

Fothergilla gardenii ~3'
Aronia melanocarpa
'Low Scape Mound' ~3'
Rhus aromatica ~2'

See also: *Free List of Native Plants for New England Gardens*, UMass Extension Landscape, Roberta Clark. •

Ida Wye is the principal of Ida Wye Designs, offering landscape design, consultation, implementation, and restoration. Ida was green long before it was fashionable. She is committed to creating gardens that heal our planet, one landscape at a time. Ida graduated from U. Mass. Amherst with a B. S. in Plant and Soil Sciences before working for the U.S. D. A. and teaching Horticulture. After studying Landscape Design at Radcliffe, she began working independently. She later studied Urban Forestry and Wetland Science. www.idawyelandscapes.com



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Cantemus Invites Tenor and Bass Singers to Audition

Cantemus Chamber Chorus, now in its 44th year of providing the North Shore with imaginative and skillful choral performances, invites tenor and bass singers to audition for the spring semester and beyond. Ten-minute auditions will take place by appoint-

ment on January 13th between 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. at First Church, 1 Arbor St., Wenham. Alternative audition times can be arranged as needed.

Please email info@cantemus.org to schedule your audition. For audition details, visit www.cantemus.org/

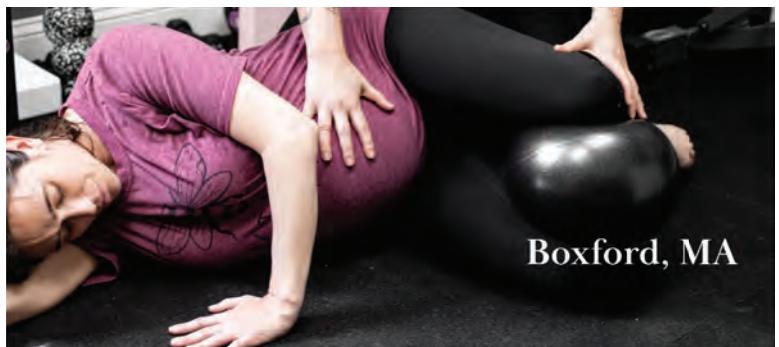
[about-us/auditions/](#).

Cantemus' Spring 2026 concerts on May 2nd and 3rd, "A Salute to the Great American Songbook," in collaboration with jazz-pop-folk vocalist and local celebrity Miranda Russell, will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the

signing of the Declaration of Independence with an all-American program ranging from George Gershwin and Irving Berlin to Judy Collins.

Cantemus singers come from across the North Shore and from the Boston area to New Hampshire: Amesbury,

Beverly, Bradford, Durham NH, Essex, Georgetown, Gloucester, Hamilton, Haverhill, Ipswich, Lexington, Manchester, Melrose, Newburyport, North Reading, Rockport, Roslindale, Salem, South Hamilton, Topsfield, Wenham, and West Newbury. •



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DEATH NOTICES

Compiled Exclusively for *The Town Common* by Michelle Leininger

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Anne M. Creeden	Danvers, MA	C.R. Lyons & Sons Funeral Directors	Danvers	978-777-7900
Joseph N. Gallant	Beverly, MA	C.R. Lyons & Sons Funeral Directors	Danvers	978-777-7900
Frances M. Gobeille	Beverly, MA	Campbell Funeral Home	Beverly	978-922-1113
Patricia Alice Lane	Durham, NH	Campbell Funeral Home	Ipswich	978-356-3442
Justin Michael Grande	Hanson, MA	Casper Funeral & Cremation Services	Boston	617-269-1930
Sharon Ann (Belanger) Tellier	Haverhill, MA	Berube-Comeau Funeral Home	Haverhill	978-373-5668
Michael Joseph Sullivan II	Andover, MA	Conte Funeral Home	Andover	978-470-8000
James Stefanile, Jr	Newton, NH	Conte-Giamberardino Funeral Home	Georgetown	978-352-8700
Mildred Wasileski	Peabody, MA	Conway, Cahill-Brodeur Funeral Home	Peabody	978-531-0472
Amy M. Schofield	Rowley, MA	Conway, Cahill-Brodeur Funeral Home	Peabody	978-531-0472
Speros P. Brown	Manchester, MA	Conway, Cahill-Brodeur Funeral Home	Peabody	978-531-0472
Lorraine D. Seibel	New York City	Conway, Cahill-Brodeur Funeral Home	Peabody	978-531-0472
Salvatore J. Aiello	Peabody, MA	Conway, Cahill-Brodeur Funeral Home	Peabody	978-531-0472
Thomas Cericola	Peabody, MA	Conway, Cahill-Brodeur Funeral Home	Peabody	978-531-0472
Lewis Vadeboncoeur	Haverhill, MA	Dole, Childs & Shaw Funeral Home	Haverhill	978-372-1120
Michael Joseph Kelleher	Haverhill, MA	HL Farmer & Sons Funeral Home	Haverhill	978-372-9311
Edward P. "Eddie" Chernesky	Haverhill, MA	HL Farmer & Sons Funeral Home	Haverhill	978-372-9311
Ronald Baldeinelli, Sr.	Ipswich, MA	Morris Funeral Home	Ipswich	978-356-2422
Filomena C. Morton	Peabody, MA	Murphy Funeral Home	Salem, MA	978-744-0497
Olga Mercedes (Michel) Castillo	Salem, MA	O'Donnell Cremations-Funerals-Celebrations	Salem	978-774-6600
Wanda (Rideout) Cormier	Salem, MA	O'Donnell Cremations-Funerals-Celebrations	Salem	978-774-6600
Helen Salerno	Peabody, MA	O'Donnell Cremations-Funerals-Celebrations	Salem	978-774-6600
Diane (Eaton) Bochynski	Beverly, MA	O'Donnell Cremations-Funerals-Celebrations	Danvers	978-774-6600
Beverly Mae (Bush) Hill	Newburyport, MA	Paul C. Rogers & Sons Family Funeral Homes	Newburyport	978-462-4323
Timothy B. Fowler	Newburyport, MA	Paul C. Rogers & Sons Family Funeral Homes	Newburyport	978-462-4323
Stephen Dennia Gallup	Rye, NH	Remick & Gendron Funeral Home	Hampton	603-926-6500
Kimberly (Dreyer) Grondin	Hampton, NH	Remick & Gendron Funeral Home	Hampton	603-926-6500

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Focus on Real Estate: Featured Property



A New Gateway to Plum Island

By Stewart Lytle, Sr. Reporter

PLUM ISLAND – The character of residences on this 11-mile barrier island has been undergoing major change over the last decade. Once a popular vacation destination where people from all over the Northeast rented cottages to enjoy the beach.

Sunburned, hungry and thirsty, the beachgoers would gather at one of a handful of bars and restaurants, most notably the Plum Island Grille, where they watched the sun set over the Great Salt Marsh.

"The Plum Island Grille has a glorious past," said Mark Friery, who once owned and operated the grille and now is selling the property probably as two spectacular condos that will have balconies and decks on three levels offering views not only of the marsh, but the Atlantic as well.

"For anyone serious about living on the island to find a place that has such spectacular views, it's a dream come true," Friery said.

The island is rapidly transitioning from a beach community to an urban village, said veteran Realtor Frank Bertolino with The North Shore Realty Group last week. Summer residents

once knew only those who came with them. "Now, everybody knows everybody," Bertolino said.

Approved plans for this 12,000-square-foot gateway lot, the Residences at 2 Sunset Blvd., is for two townhomes with a total of 4,100 square feet. Each home would have three bedrooms and 2.5 baths. Built on stilts to protect against flooding, the building, as designed, would have a Key West feel, but the architect Scott & Brown can make any changes a developer or builder choose.

To enjoy the sunset overlooking the marsh and the Merrimack River, the homes feature a 60-foot-long, 8-foot-wide front balcony, plus a rear, second-floor balcony off each master suite. And there is a covered 250-square-foot rooftop deck that provides a private view of the ocean.

On the first floor is an eat-in kitchen, living room, laundry, half bath and mud room. The master suite with a full bath is on the second floor and opens to the balcony where the owners can relax with a coffee or cocktail. The second floor in each home also has two more bedrooms, another full bath and a sitting room or office.

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Rendering for The Residences at 2 Sunset Blvd. (Image provided by North Shore Realty Group)



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FRANK BERTOLINO 978.255.4735

ing down, Bertolino said interest from builders and developers in this property, listed at \$1,375,000, has been growing rapidly. Compared to other island listings, "This is a deal," Friery said.

Particularly appealing is that Friery at his expense has secured approval from the town of Newbury, which saves a buyer both money and months of time.

Having those permits, "Anything is possible," Bertolino said. It could be a made into a six-bedroom, five-bath single-family home or family compound

on one of the region's most popular beaches.

Or a developer can take on the project and sell each townhome for about \$1.9 million, Bertolino said.

For those who pine for a restaurateur to restore the Plum Island Grille of old, it was not for lack of trying by Friery and Bertolino.

"We had restaurateurs here looking at the space from as far away as New York City," Bertolino said.

But each prospect, after running the

financials, concluded that the Grille could not be restored after the custom-made bars and interior was vandalized when the restaurant was closed.

The market for Plum Island restaurants has also changed. The popular Sunset Club was built on the site of an old gasoline station across the street. And nearby Newburyport offers an array of well-frequented restaurants.

For more information, contact Bertolino at The North Shore Realty Group. •

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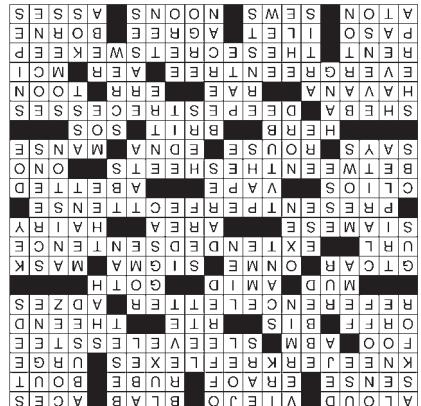
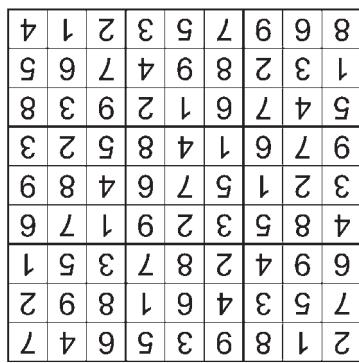
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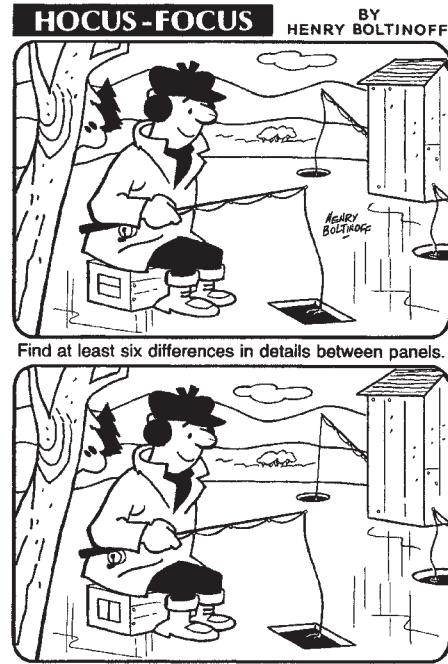
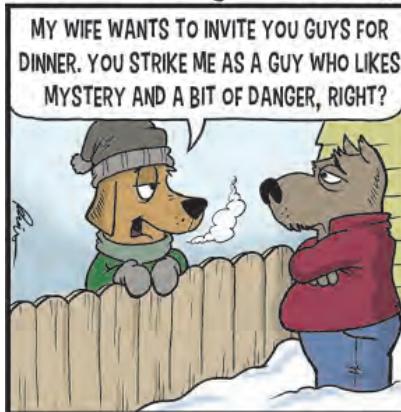
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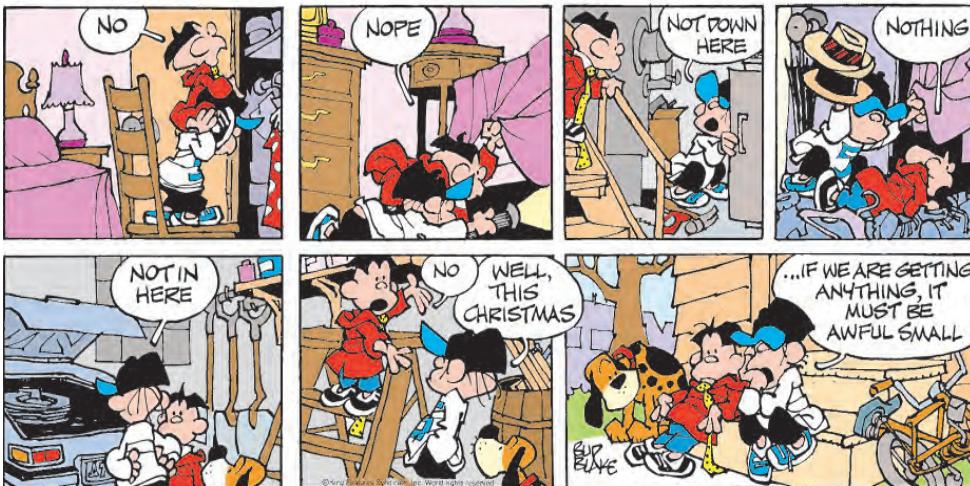
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The Spats



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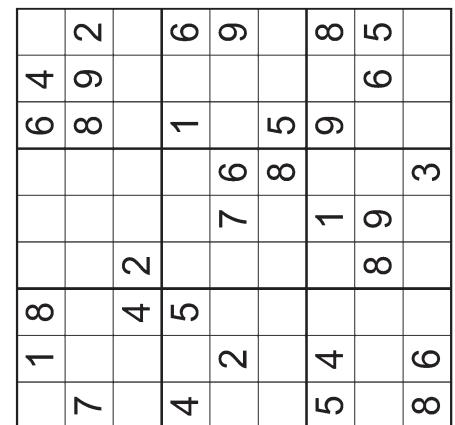
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ACROSS

- 1 Audibly
- 45 In the thick of
- 6 Mission —, 103 Cuba's largest city
- 11 Spill the 105 "Norma —"
- 15 Golf coups 106 Get it wrong
- 19 Perceive 107 Cel figure
- 20 — Good 108 Fir or spruce
- Feelings 113 Lingus
- 21 Many a 115 Cato's 1,101
- "Hee Haw" 116 Monopoly
- character address expense
- 22 Boxing event 117 2020 drama
- 23 Involuntary normal prison
- leg reactions term
- 26 Stimulate 120 El —, Texas
- 27 — yung (Chinese
- dish) 121 "Why should
- 28 Rocket you?"
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- tank top 124 Loads
- 31 "O Fortuna" 125 Stitches up
- composer 126 Luncheentimes,
- Carl 127 Pack-toting
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- muscles, 128 equines
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- 44 Pigsty stuff
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In accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act, Mass. G.L. 131, Section 40, as amended, and the Town of Georgetown Wetlands Protection Chapter 161 and its Wetland Protection Regulations, a Public Hearing will be held by the Georgetown Conservation Commission on **Thursday, January 15 at 7:00 PM**, by Zoom Link found on Town Website Calendar date of meeting, for a Notice of Intent application 35 Tenney Street for an addition within 100-feet of bordering vegetated wetlands.

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

1/7

LEGAL NOTICE**ROWLEY ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

A Public Hearing will be held on Wednesday, January 21, 2026 at 7:00 PM to act on an application received December 9, 2025 from Hunter and Sherry Wagner. Applicant(s) is requesting a Special Permit from RPZB sec 6.1.3.1. for a variance to front set back and/or a Finding pursuant to RPZB sec 5.4.2. The property is located at 25 Railroad Ave in the Outlying district and is shown on Assessors' Map 27, Parcel 118. The meeting will be held at Town Hall, 139 Main St in the second floor auditorium. At the public hearing, members of the public may ask questions and present evidence that supports either the approval or denial of this petition.

1/7 (1/14)

LEGAL NOTICE**ROWLEY ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

A Public Hearing will be held in accordance with MGL c 40B on Wednesday, January 21, 2026 at 7:00 PM to act on a Comprehensive Permit Application received December 22, 2025 from Rowley Farms Development LLC. Applicant(s) is requesting a Comprehensive Permit for the construction and operation of a proposed 395-unit rental style, multi-family housing community. The property is located at land off Haverhill St and Silva Lane in the Outlying, Residential and Water Resource Protection districts and is shown on Assessors' Map 8, Parcels 51-1, 51-2, 52, 61, 61-A, 62, 62-B, 62-B3, 62-C, 62-D, 62-E, 63-A2 and Map 13, Parcel 3. The meeting will be held at Town Hall, 139 Main St in the second floor auditorium. At the public hearing, members of the public may ask questions and present evidence that supports either the approval or denial of this petition.

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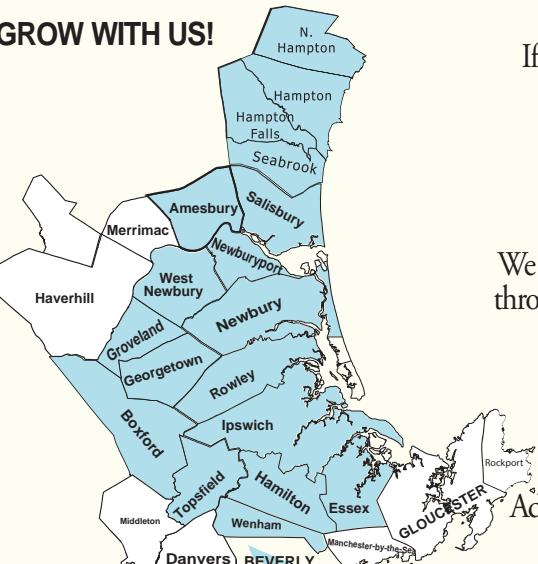
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