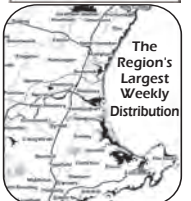


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Wednesday, April 15, 2026 - Vol. 22, No. 25

FREE

CANDIDATE MESSAGE



TOPSFIELD Marshall Hook

My name is Marshall Hook, and I am running for a third term on the Select Board. In my six years on the Board – three as chair – we have been able to accomplish a lot together as a community.

I say “together” intentionally. Nothing that happens in town government is the result of one person. It is the

Continued on page 4

CANDIDATE MESSAGE



GEORGETOWN Robert Hoover

Steady, Thoughtful, Respectful, Leadership...

Dear Georgetown Resident, My name is Rob Hoover, and I am seeking re-election to the Select Board.

My wife Karin and I have lived in Georgetown since 1999, where we raised our family. I have over 18 years of town government experience, hav-

Continued on page 4



Newburyport: Two Grammy Nominees Perform at Belleville

By Stewart Lytle, Sr. Reporter

NEWBURYPORT – North Texas music lovers have a pair of treats in store this weekend as Tony Trischka, who has been called the “greatest banjo player on the planet,” is joined by rhythm and blues singer Farayi at the Belleville Roots Concert Saturday night.

It’s “a night where bluegrass brilliance meets soulful innovation,” the concert described the event.

Tony Trischka’s Earl Jam, a spirited celebration of the legendary Earl Scruggs, and Farayi, who brings her childhood gospel mixed with blues and jazz, are both Grammy nominees.

“Trischka brings jaw-dropping virtu-

osity and deep musical storytelling to the stage, weaving together classic bluegrass roots with adventurous improvisation and heartfelt tributes to Scruggs’ sound,” the concert said.

Trischka rescued unheard recordings of Scruggs and recreated Scruggs’ banjo parts with accuracy and precision. The resulting Earl Jam functions as both a historical restoration and a vibrant, living stage show highlighting Scruggs style is a fresh, contemporary setting.

“Whether you’re a lifelong bluegrass fan or simply crave inspired live perfor-

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Georgetown Underide
PAGE 6

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Mark Van Weelden, Mello’s business development director (Photo: Stewart Lytle)

Mello’s First Months Go Smoothly

By Stewart Lytle, Sr. Reporter

GEORGETOWN – The only issue at the new G. Mello Disposal Corp.’s Transfer Station since it opened two months ago was one lithium battery caught fire.

The fire was put out in minutes, even before the Georgetown Fire Department arrived minutes later, by

a highly sophisticated suppression system.

“It is surprising how uneventful it has been. Customers have adapted quickly,” said Mark Van Weelden, director of Mello’s business development.

The worst fears by neighbors, other residents and town officials that the

Continued on page 8



Photo by Sandy Tilton #rememberthepinkhouse

Sign May Help Heal Pink House Community

By Stewart Lytle, Sr. Reporter

PLUM ISLAND TURNPIKE – Last week the Town of Newbury

installed an anonymously donated sign commemorating the 100 years the Pink House stood along this highway.

Continued on page 8



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Advisory Board Member: 2024 - present

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

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West Newbury Briefs

Sage Center Lunch & Learn Speaker Series

Thursday, April 16
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 PM

WEST NEWBURY - Please join us for lunch and the Q&A forum to discuss Town Meeting warrant articles. Angus Jennings, Town Manager & Amanda Haggstrom, Town Clerk will

review the warrant articles and answer your questions.

Lunch: Sesame Chicken
Suggested donation \$5

Register by calling 978-363-1104 or by emailing coa@wnewbury.org.

Earth Day 2026 Town-Wide Roadside Cleanup

Saturday, April 18

WEST NEWBURY - Please consider helping by cleaning the publicly-owned roadside area in front of your neighborhood.

Pick up locations for trash bags and gloves:

- Town Office Building Lobby

- Food Mart
 - G.A.R. Memorial Library
- Please leave the full bags on the side of the road to be picked up by the DPW on Tuesday. Please email the location to: Highway@wnewbury.org and thank you for participating.

Marijuana/Cannabis: Use Regulation or Prohibition? You Decide

Tuesday, April 21

WEST NEWBURY - On Tuesday, April 21, 2026, the Planning Board will conduct a public hearing to consider the proposal to amend the Zoning Bylaws to prohibit recreational cannabis land uses in West Newbury.

At its meeting on March 19, the Select Board voted to include this proposal on the April 27th Town Meeting warrant, and as a ballot question on the May 4th Town Election. Due to West Newbury's voters having voted in favor of legalization on the 2016 statewide referendum question, a two-step process would be required in order to prohibit these land uses locally.

This proposal to prohibit is proceeding in parallel with a separate proposal to regulate cannabis-related land uses.

For more background on this initiative, including why a two-step process is needed, please refer to the Town Manager's memo beginning on page 10 of the March 17 Select Board meeting packet: March-19-2026-Select-Board-Open-Session-Packet

This video posted to the Town YouTube channel is also intended to summarize the separate but complementary proposals now moving forward toward the April 27 and May 4 votes.

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15 Wed	10:33	8.2	10:54	8.6	4:24	0.4	4:45	0.3	6:01	7:25	☾
16 Thu	11:20	8.4	11:37	9.1	5:11	-0.1	5:28	0.1	5:59	7:26	☾
17 Fri			12:07	8.6	5:57	-0.6	6:11	0.0	5:57	7:27	☾
18 Sat	12:22	9.5	12:54	8.6	6:45	-0.9	6:56	-0.1	5:56	7:28	☾
19 Sun	1:07	9.8	1:42	8.6	7:33	-1.1	7:43	0.0	5:54	7:29	☾
20 Mon	1:56	9.9	2:33	8.4	8:23	-1.1	8:33	0.1	5:53	7:31	☾
21 Tue	2:47	9.8	3:27	8.2	9:17	-0.9	9:28	0.3	5:51	7:32	☾
22 Wed	3:43	9.6	4:26	8.0	10:14	-0.6	10:27	0.6	5:49	7:33	☾

West Newbury Briefs

Hydrant Flushing! Flush Your Pipes Too!

**...refrain from washing laundry after 8:00pm on
Thursday, April 16th ...**

WEST NEWBURY - The West Newbury Water Department will begin its spring hydrant flushing on Friday night, April 17th. The process will start at 8:00pm with hydrants along Main Street from the Groveland town line to the Newburyport town line. Flushing will continue through 5:00am on Saturday morning. April 16th we will be closing valves to prepare for flushing.

On Tuesday, April 21st, daytime flushing will commence on secondary roads and continue through Friday, May 1st from 9:00am to 3:00pm.

At this time hydrants on roads south of Main Street are scheduled to be flushed April 20th - 24th and hydrants on roads north of Main Street are scheduled to be flushed April 27th- May 1st.

Flushing hydrants will cause the water to become discolored as sediment is removed from the water system and property owners may experience intervals of low water pressure as well. **If you have discolored water, wait until flushing is completed in your area and at a minimum wait 15-minutes and then run the cold-water faucet until the water runs clear.**

Do not run the hot water, as discolored water can be pulled into your hot water tank and take longer to clear up.

Before doing laundry, residents are advised to run the cold water to make sure it runs clear. Try to avoid using bleach whenever possible, as it may cause the iron and manganese to permanently stain clothes.

If clothing is stained after washing, DO NOT MACHINE DRY.

There are products available, free of charge, in the Water Department office that will help take the stain out during re-washing or you can purchase the product at most grocery and hardware stores. The product would have a name like **Iron Out or Rust-B-Gone**. Officials recommend that homeowners refrain from washing laundry after 8:00pm on Thursday, April 16th through the late afternoon on Saturday, April 18th.

Starting on Tuesday, April 20th, residents should only plan on washing laundry during the evening hours, after 6:00pm when flushing is not scheduled. Continue to wash laundry in the evening until Friday, May 1st and when flushing will be completed. Please note that hydrant flushing takes place twice a year in West Newbury during the months of April and October.

The Water Department appreciates your cooperation during this period.

If you have any questions please contact the water department at (978)363-1100 ext. 1127.

Come home to community news

The Town Common

Great, exciting expansion of The Town Common in 2026:
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Newburyport Art presents Watercolor Interest Group Show & Sale Through Saturday, April 25

Submitted by Kelly Page
Gallery Manager

Newburyport, MA - Newburyport Art (NAA) is pleased to announce the annual Watercolor Interest Group Show & Sale. It includes 18 artists, over 35 art pieces and is in the first-floor Hills Gallery.

This group is part of a community of artists that share their love for watercolor and seek to provide opportunities to learn, paint and exhibit together. The group meets monthly to share, critique, and support members' creative work. Members range from professional artists to novice painters. Members often volunteer to facilitate meetings and share things they have learned through workshops or individual exploration. Often there is a painting theme or challenge of the month. During warmer weather interested members meet to paint en Plein Air.

Coinciding with the Watercolor Show is the OpArt Exhibition in the Sargent Gallery, and Youth Art upstairs in the Hartson Gallery. All three shows end on April 25th.

Spring is here, and so is the Spring Gift Shop, on view through May 30th. The gift shop offers a variety

of art pieces in different mediums, all priced under \$200.

New Hours: Wednesday through Sunday from 11:00am-5:00pm. The gallery is handicap accessible. More information, as well as an online gallery is available at newburyportart.org.

Founded in 1948, Newburyport Art is dedicated to promoting and exhibiting members' work and to providing art education and access to the visual arts for the entire community. The gallery and events are free and open to the public. All artwork is for sale.



Artwork by Doug Fyffe

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MARSHALL HOOK

Continued from page 1

work of a committed Select Board, a strong Town Administrator, dedicated Town Hall staff, colleagues across boards and committees, and the many volunteers who make Topsfield what it is.

Core to the job is stewardship of taxpayer dollars. Each year, the budget and town warrant are built through months of careful review. If you have ever sat through one of our budget meetings, you know how seriously we take this. While there are claims that spending is excessive, I would invite anyone to take a closer look and try to identify any real waste. It simply is not there.

Additionally, our departments continue to bring in substantial grant

funding, easing the burden on local taxpayers.

We have also made meaningful progress across town. In our downtown, a once neglected space has been transformed into a vibrant pocket park. That space, once a problem everyone talked about, is now something everyone uses. We are preparing to close on the School Street property to support a full-service restaurant, something residents identified as a top priority in surveys and the Master Plan.

We have invested in infrastructure, including converting streetlights to LED and replacing an outdated water tank. Our Department of Public Works continues to maintain and improve our roads to a high standard.

Quality of life is always a major focus. Volunteers led the creation of a pump track, and we have completed

major improvements at Pye Brook and Klock Parks, along with upgrades to the downtown tot lot. We have also brought back the Recreation Department, expanding opportunities with programs like summer camp and Homegrown Markets on the Town Common.

We have improved communication through an updated website and social media.

Looking ahead, our focus remains on delivering high quality services while managing growth thoughtfully. We will continue to strengthen our downtown, invest in infrastructure, and expand recreational opportunities while listening to residents and planning for the long term.

I am proud of what we have accomplished so far and am excited about all that is still to come.

ROBERT HOOVER

Continued from page 1

ing served on the Select Board, Planning Board, School Committee, and Zoning Board of Appeals. Combined with a 40-year career specializing in planning and designing the built environment for those most in need, such as Alzheimer's disease, Hospice and Traumatic Brain Injured, I combine planning experience and governmental experience, with a practical, results-oriented approach to local government.

This election presents a clear choice about how our town is governed.

Georgetown needs decisions grounded in planning, consistency and a long-term view, not reactionary

or divisive rhetoric. As Chair, over the past year I have worked to restore trust, enforce accountability via discussion and partnership and not individualized "punishment". We are after all, a community of volunteers. I created a guiding master plan for my term as Chair. I reintroduced workshop meetings specifically to establish a plan, which is currently titled, "The Whiteboard". Having been remarkably effective, this plan provides a clear listing of priorities to guide Select Board decisions, ensuring they are accomplished and consistent with Georgetown's long-term interest. I have also supported practical, reasonable solutions for residents, introduced a new property tax relief idea for low-income seniors via the Affordable Housing Trust, and created clearer communi-

cation around Annual Town Meeting and elections.

There is more work to do.

If re-elected, I will strive to focus on the following: residents struggling with rising costs, our elders and our children, the schools and the town's future. I will continue to support the Charter Committee's exploratory work which will include public input and ensure Select Board decisions are guided by sound, respectful and steady process (whiteboard), not personal agendas.

I respectfully ask for your vote on Monday, May 11, 2026. Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,
Rob Hoover
Phone: (978) 852-4118
Email: robchoover@msn.com

FROM THE EDITOR

Invitation to Local Candidates

The Town Common invites local candidates for town positions to introduce themselves - in their own words - to our readers.

Please limit submissions to approximately 400 words so that we may fit in all candidates. (Candidates can always purchase advertising space for additional information, notices of

endorsements, etc., if desired.) Please also include one or more photographs which we can use with your column and any subsequent publication, and also please include how potential supporters can contact you to join/help in your campaign to serve the public.

Please Note: Submit early! We'll print what statements we can fit, however, it is NOT our intention to print any candidate statements nor letters the week prior to the election as it does not allow time for follow-up/rebuttal. We want to

be fair to all and want to do things better each year. Please contact Lonnie@TheTownCommon.com, and if you do not receive a confirmation within 24 hours please call us. Amesbury, Beverly, Boxford, Byfield, Essex, Georgetown, Groveland, Hamilton, Haverhill, Ipswich, Merrimac, Newbury, Newburyport, Rowley, Salisbury, Topsfield, Wenham, West Newbury; in New Hampshire: Hampton, S. Hampton, Hampton Falls, Kensington, Newton, Plaistow, Rye...

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What's Going on with the Underride in Georgetown?



Kay's View
by Kay Lee Ogden

Well folks, a very simple mistake happened: the selectmen voted to put the article for the underride on the town meeting warrant. However, according to the state's regulations, it wasn't

put on in time for the town election ballot. The regulations are not the same for an override. I am not the kind of person that points fingers of blame! it's no one's fault, it's a simple error! the underride will appear on the warrant, at the Monday, May 4th, 2026 town meeting! A vote will take place, and if it is passed, the town will vote on the November 2026, ballot!
Please do not believe the untruths that some people in this town want to spin without finding the facts!
My name is Kay Lee Ogden, I

reside at 198a East Main Street, with my husband, former selectman, Larry Ogden. We have lived in Georgetown for 50 fifty years, we have four sons, three of whom graduated from Georgetown high school.
I initiated an article for a town budget underride, which aims to reduce taxes for Georgetown taxpayers. The article has been approved for the town warrant by the board of selectmen and will be presented at town meeting on May 4th, 2026, at 7:00 in the high school auditorium. if approved, it will appear on November's ballot.

This article is an underride of the budget of \$1.5 million, which is approximately only 3.5% of town's budget.

The reason I initiated this article is: there is an article #2909, that the Senate just passed. This mechanism, if passed, will enable the towns of Mass., to create rules to help the seniors. It has now gone on to the House. The House is not in session, and we have no idea when this will appear or if it will pass!

After the passing of the \$6 million, override, in 2025, many seniors struggle to afford: food, medicine, or higher taxes! Also, after the passing the override, all departments received, their well-deserved requests necessary for the town to function! I appreciate, the fire, police, council on aging, schools, highway, and all the departments in Georgetown, that make Georgetown, "a pearl of a town" (Fred True) to reside in! I am not against any

Continued on page 8

Trucks Remove Asphalt from (Sand Mining) Zibell Farm

By Stewart Lytle, Sr. Reporter

GEORGETOWN - The neighbors and town officials continued last week to be at odds over the removal of ground asphalt from the 100-year-old Zibell Farm here.

Meanwhile, the Salem District Court ordered the former farm manager to pay almost \$4,000 by October to settle charges that he committed larceny, lied and forged the farm owner's name on documents.

According to the neighbors' attorney, Tom Bernstein, the neighbors fear the trucks removing the asphalt millings were the beginning of new sand mining operations they fought against for years.

"Let's not make the same mistake again," Bernstein told the town's Planning Board. "Who issued the permit?"

None of the town officials responded to his question.

"The property owners said they were duped," said Bernstein, who called the activity "Uncontrolled, unknown trucking. I don't know why we are so resistant to holding these people accountable."

Town Administrator Orlando Pacheco, who visited the site with Town Planner Frank O'Coonor, tried to assure the Planning Board that there was no sand being removed. The pit that was excavated last year remained locked up, he said.

Harry LaCortiglia, planning board chair, said part of the problem is that the town has not given the Planning



Mound of road grindings (Photo provided by Town Administrator Orlando Pacheco)

Board the authority to stop such an operation. He said only the courts have that power, but he hopes the upcoming Town Meeting will remedy that issue.

The neighbors last year did take the mining operation to the Lawrence District Court, which ordered the mining of 5 acres of sand to cease and desist.

Champlain was charged with two felony counts for forging farm owner Kathy Potter's signature on documents filed with the town regarding the sand mining. He was also charged with two felony counts of "uttering false writings" and one count of larceny.

The majority of the Planning Board agreed that the asphalt should be removed from the farm. ♦

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Terminated ConCom Agent Speaks Out

To the Editor:
The [Georgetown Conservation] Commission is continually harassed. Most department heads perform site visits, however I am the only one who has to give a copy of my site reports to [town administrator] Orlando [Pacheco] because Kevin Wood [a resident] wants them. This is completely unusual. The one time I was a day late with a site visit form, I was on the phone and [Town Administrator] Orlando [Pacheco] came busting into my office (no one does that) and he yelled at me and said, "If I don't have that by tomorrow, don't come in Monday." Really? This is not how a town administrator treats an employee that does an excellent job and is in the office every day. The resident that I was on the on the phone when Orlando blasted in asked if I was alright and used choice words about the yelling. In addition, the Commission is the only department that had to develop a policy and procedure document that Select people approve - highly unusual. Select people should stay in their own lane. I have worked in my position for over 20 years and certainly know DEP's policies and procedures, however I was not included to review what people wrote, and who were never in my shoes or worked in a town hall or on conservation.

The Conservation Commission had a meeting scheduled on February 26, 2026, and I was told there was no quorum at about 5:45 P.M. I was not

the one who made the decision and I did not misbehave. I tried to call applicants and everyone was closed so I went on the zoom to catch anyone that came on, I called someone for the town clerk's number to put it canceled on the agenda, and they came on the zoom to give me the number, I called the town clerk and left a message it was 6:30 and GCTV was not on yet. The resident and I talked, I said it happened we had 2 snow days and the first snow day, Orlando emailed: we have a snow day, work on your computers to serve the residents. Log me -in was removed from our laptops almost a year ago when Boston Systems were replaced. No available log in effects every department head. He told me to call IT, that was 4 months ago and I made an expletive comment about Orlando as he should have been evolved to speed up the ability to log into our files to work on laptops to help residents. Now it was 15 minutes before 7:00 P.M., GCTV logged in and I told them there was not a meeting, no quorum. At 7:00 P.M. the Water Department consultants log on, and I told them, then Ida Wye, and Nick Lawler and I told them. Kerri had called to say she changed the agenda. Aaron logged on for a minute, and Kevin Wood logged on. We all said good night. No one offered to chair the meeting that was on, and people on previous boards and as chair should have offered but only three commissioners logged in. Yet the Commission received much un-needed and not warranted criticism and harassment, me as well. We are not the White House and even in

the White House, mistakes are made and employees are not fired. It was a mistake for not offering to chair the meeting, any commissioner could have chaired. Did they get ridiculed for not offering, they kept saying we had a quorum?

The next day I was bombarded with emails from Kevin Wood and Mike Donahue. I asked them to stop as I was busy, this was in the termination letter as bad behavior. I can think of worst behavior by them and other departments heads who have said they are busy. Saying I am busy, I answered all the harassing questions, except the phone number of the person who called me, with no municipal service or knowledge. No one gives out volunteer's phone numbers, unless they approve first. I did not have bad behavior at all or done so the three plus years I was employed in Georgetown.

I will admit I am not a Zoom aficionado. What I sent Kevin Wood, he wanted on March 3rd, 2026, he did not like and complained to the town clerk, yelling at her, what are you little thugs? and on March 9th the town clerk emailed me asking me for my Zoom credentials. I log in automatically at work, my password was at home. I went down to the town clerk's office and asked her to come up to my office to look at Zoom, we both walked up together and we saw there was no meeting taped, (Janet Morrison, GCTV confirmed) if a meeting is taped it appears with a transcript next to the recording. We looked together for a few minutes and found transcripts at the top of the Zoom



Letters To The Editor

page, clicked on it at the top, and there was the complete transcript. I printed it and the town clerk emailed it to Kevin Wood within the required state time frame. I did not withhold information as indicated in the Termination letter, I did not know there was more information and when I found it, printed it right away for the town clerk.

Now, Orlando has called Rachel Therrien (ConCom chair) expletive names on an actual Zoom meeting. So have others. [New ConCom member] Nick Lawler called her a liar in a conservation meeting, I get fired because of my comment about a town administrator who is out of the office more than in the office and who's contract was extended. It OK for the boys, but not the woman?

I met with Orlando in his office on March 18, 2026; he emailed me he wanted to speak to me about the March 3 Meeting (no March 3 meeting it was February 26th) and he told me Friday he would do an investigation on me and let me know what he found on Monday.

On Friday, March 20, 2026, town hall closed, I received an email from Orlando and a termination letter. All I can say is the letter and attached documents can be torn up and thrown in the garbage, but I have a copy and original. All dates are wrong in the termination letter and was not reviewed by anyone. Some selectboard members knew nothing about it. I have a degree in B.A Public Administration, M.A in Leadership, and M.A.

in Human Resource Management. You do not email an employee a termination letter by either of these professionals. And, you do not use false accusations to fire someone that has not had complaints from applicants, and their consultants, home owners, lawyers, real state employees and those who come in the office or call for information.

There is free speech, and my free speech is as good as Orlando's and everyone else's, I have been called a liar by Kevin Wood, he even called the town attorneys KP Law liars. Nick Lawler called [ConCom chair] Rachel Therrien a liar in a conservation commission meeting, and Orlando called her a liar in a meeting. I did not withhold information, did not have an exit interview, or a detailed discussions with a selectman, a conservation member, Orlando and me. As some of the select people were not aware. The select people are Orlando's boss. If they can't act like it, they should be recalled.

This is my exit interview to everyone.

It is the residents, applicants, community gardeners and the Commission who will suffer.

I am glad I could help the very many residents I did, as I and others are public servers.

Sincerely Submitted,
Michèle Fleur Grenier, PWS

[Editor's Note: Given our prior coverage of the ConCom, the unusual letter and length was printed as received.]



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You are self-reliant and rarely ask anyone for help. But this time, you might want someone you trust to be there for you while you deal with a difficult matter. Cheer up! Things will improve soon.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Your patience begins to pay off. Look for the first sign that your goals are in plain sight. Then take time out from all your hard work for some fun with someone special.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) There could be some lingering effects from a recent setback. But it's all for the best (as you're now beginning to appreciate). Use the lessons that you've learned to start over.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) What seemed to be a difficult goal to reach is now — or soon will be — all yours. Congratulations! Meanwhile, an unexpected travel opportunity holds an intriguing new prospect.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) A chilly reception to your presentation shouldn't cause you to abandon your ideas. Instead, tweak up the weaker parts and then, once again, show them what you have.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Hiding your feelings might make you feel safer against rejection. But this could be the time when you'll need to speak up or risk losing out on an important event in your life.

LIBRA (September 23 to October

22) Some co-workers might try to talk you out of accepting a promotion, but you need to follow your own instincts. And if you believe you're right for the job, then take the chance.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Some changes are in order as you come to realize that you need to sort out several areas in your life. Your remarkable insight helps you make the right decisions.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) It's time to act on your own behalf and separate yourself from people whose selfish needs threaten your personal and/or professional survival.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Resist the tendency to close yourself off from unpleasant situations. Instead, open up to how things are so that you can help change them to what they could be.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) An unspoken problem could be driving a deep wedge between you and a special person. Some honest talking 'twixt the two of you can start the healing process.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) You might feel like you've been going around in ever-widening circles when trying to deal with recent workplace problems. Cheer up! A successful end is finally in sight.

BORN THIS WEEK: You love to talk, and people love to hear what you have to say. If you were a teacher, you'd never have to worry about keeping your students' attention.

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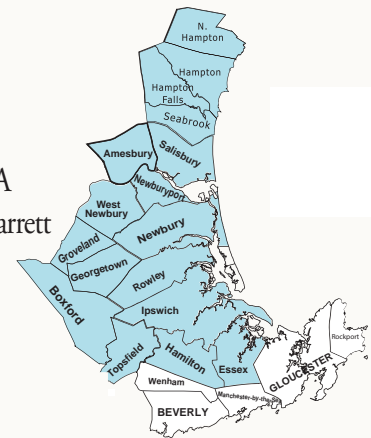
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Historical Women with Sheryl Faye



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Tuesday, April 28, 2026 @ 6:30 p.m.
Merrimac Public Library
86 W. Main Street

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TRISCHKA @ BELLEVILLE

Continued from page 1

mance, this is the show to see," the concert said. With Trischka on banjo, his band includes Michael Daves on vocals and guitar, bassist Jared Engel and fiddler Sam Stage. They trace the story of Scruggs from his childhood to his final years.

Grammy winning banjo player Bela Fleck described Trischka as "one of the greatest banjo players on the planet, and to have him as a teacher was such a thrill."

Farayi Malek, a vocalist, world traveler and solo artist, is returning to her musical roots. Raised

in Southern Idaho by a Zimbabwean immigrant father and an American mother, she grew up playing the fiddle and embracing diverse cultures. Farayi, who was mentored by artists like T-Bone Burnett and Jon Batiste, teaches at Berklee and New England Conservatory.

She has become an integral creative partner in Tony Trischka's recent work, helping to bring the Earl Jam project and related performances to life through thoughtful collaboration, organization, and artistic support.

The concert is held at the Belleville Congregational Church, 300 High St., Newburyport. Buy tickets at <https://tinyurl.com/eventbritetrishka>.

PINK HOUSE MEMORIES

Continued from page 1

Under a replica of local artist Kathy Culbert's painting of the house, the sign reads: "The Pink House. Honoring 100 Years of Memories. Demolished March 11, 2025, But Never Forgotten."

Without fanfare, the sign on 10-foot solid granite pillars was erected close to the road and facing it, just to the left of where the house's driveway was.

"An astonishing thing happened today. This big beautiful sign appeared?" wrote Rochelle Joseph, president of the now-defunct Support the Pink House (STPH) organization. "The appreciation going to those with the idea, the donors, and those at the town who made this happen will be hard to measure!"

Sandy Tilton, another leader of the STPH, said she was grateful to the town and the donors. "It

will help the healing process. It's something positive for the community."

The sign follows the publication last month of Alison Odle's coffee table picture book, The Pink House, A Photographic Memoir. Over 144 pages, Alison's book captured the paintings and photographs by more than 40 artists and fans, who were drawn to the lonely house that stood on one of the few dry plots of marsh.

To own a copy of The Pink House, A Photographic Memoir, it can be ordered at www.thepinkhouse-photographicmemoir.com. Save \$5 off the \$65 price using the discount code Alison. Shipping is free, but it may take several weeks to arrive.

The house was demolished by its owner, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

The new sign was announced on Facebook with about 30 comments. One by Terry Fitzwilliam-Rogers, said, "Hope they don't tear that down too..." ♦

MELLO'S UPDATE

Continued from page 1

150 tons per-day trash transfer station would harm the town have not materialized. Police have reported no complaints of traffic hangups at the intersection of Carleton Drive and East Main Street, primarily because only three to five 18-wheeler trucks are leaving the site per day.

And because little trash is left overnight, there have been no complaints from neighbors about odor.

The transfer station went through nine years of scrutiny by the town's Board of Health, the Planning Board, the Conservation Commission and state agencies. Only the Health Board approved the transfer station initially without state court orders, and the health department imposed some of the most stringent operational conditions on the new plant, including limiting it to 150 tons of trash per day for the first two years.

The plant will not reach full capacity of 500 tons, per day until its fifth year of operations. As a result, less than half of the 15,000 square-foot station is being used. And the number of 18-wheel trucks hauling away the trash to incinerators is limited to an hour in the early morning, between 6:30 to 7:30 a.m. and another hour in the afternoon, between 3:15 to 4:15 p.m.

At the intersection of Carleton Drive and East Main Street, the large trucks must turn east or left to reach Interstate 95. They are prohibited from traveling through town.

"There are a lot of trucks in Georgetown," Van

Weelden said. "But if you see a truck in Georgetown, it ain't us."

On average, the station processes about 125 tons per day. Most is hauled away the day it arrives, Van Weelden said. If there is an odor emanating from the trash, the station has a dust and odor suppression system that sprays scented water to kill the smell and the dust. The only problem is that the sweet smell give the workers a headache, he said.

The station also is equipped with 36 cameras that monitor it 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. If there is a problem, like the battery fire, the system notifies the fire department and Van Weelden.

"Our goal is to put out the fire before the fire department arrives," he said.

About 200 customers bring their trash to the station on weekends. The busiest day of the week is Sunday, when the station closes at noon. "We think people are taking their trash to church," he said.

There has been little waiting because the new station has two scales, and there are workers who help customers unload their trucks and cars.

The most popular items are mattresses, which go in a separate trailer. On average, customers are throwing away 60 to 70 mattresses a week.

The new station, Van Weelden said, is no longer being referred to as the Mello dump, but rather the Mello transfer station.

Demolition of the old trash transfer station on Main Street will be completed and turned over to the town's public works department by May 5. "We are ahead of schedule," he said. ♦

KAY'S VIEW

Continued from page 1

departments; I honor them for what they all do for our small town!!!!

I urge every voter to attend Town Meeting, Monday, May 4th, 2026. Please attend early, to get a seat, and please do not leave until the meeting has ended, because someone can bring up, "the article for reconsideration!!!!!!"

If you have any questions, please contact me at: Kay Lee Ogden , 978.771.6884 or 978.352.8318 or kayleeogden4@gmail.com. I am asking for your support, as I CAN NOT do

this by myself!!!

Georgetown election endorsements:

Endorsing Selectmen Chairman Rob Hoover and former finance chairman, Ed Dobie for the board of selectmen!

Please donate to the Council on Aging at the Georgetown Community Center, 51 North Street. Monday - Thursday 8:30 am - 4: pm 978.352.5726. They could use any of the following: non-perishable food items, hygiene supplies, cleaning supplies, small gift certificates to local businesses, financial donations. we all could help, would you please help our senior center? Thank you, Kay Lee Ogden. ♦

Nancy McElroy Gormley

Nancy McElroy Gormley, 67, of Rowley, Massachusetts, passed away peacefully on March 31, 2026, her birthday, surrounded by the love of her family. Born on March 31, 1959, in Beverly, Massachusetts, Nancy lived a life defined by warmth, humor, and deep devotion to those she loved.

Nancy was the beloved wife of Calvin Gormley and a devoted mother to her son, Matthew Twomey. She was a proud and adoring grandmother to Colin and Owen Twomey, who were truly the light of her life. She is also survived by her loving siblings: Karen Groleau and her husband Jim, Jayne McElroy, Kevin McElroy and his wife Kate, and Jim McElroy and his wife Rochelle, along with many cherished nieces, nephews, and dear friends. She was predeceased by her parents, Ida and Stephen McElroy.

Nancy will be remembered for her quick wit, contagious laugh, and playful spirit. A natural jokester, she brought joy and light to every room she entered. Like her mother, she was deeply devoted to her family, always checking in, always caring, and always putting others before herself. Whether through her daily calls with her sister Karen and niece Nicole, or simply spending time together, Nancy treasured every moment with those she loved.

She had a special love for life's simple pleasures—gathering with family and friends, sharing meals, and creating lasting memories. Nancy especially loved traveling to New Hampshire, taking in the beauty of the Kancamagus Highway, celebrating Fourth of July weekends in the White Mountains, and enjoying peaceful moments by the lakes, often sitting by the fire listening to the call of loons. Family trips to Disney brought her immense joy, as did quiet coffee hours with her mother.

Nancy dedicated 20 years of her professional life to EBSCO, where she served as a Senior Account Executive. Over her career, she built meaningful relationships across academic, medical, and corporate communities, earning the respect and affection of colleagues and clients alike. She was immensely proud and grateful to be part of the EBSCO team and valued beyond belief the friendships she made there. She could not say enough about them all.

The family extends their heartfelt gratitude to the compassionate staff at Whittier Rehabilitation Center, Lahey Hospital & Medical Center, and especially the Kaplan House in Danvers for their exceptional care and support during Nancy's final days.

Nancy's love, laughter, and selfless spirit will live on in the hearts of all who knew her. She will be deeply missed and forever remembered.

Friends and family will be received Friday, April 24, 2026, from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM at F. S. Roberts & Son Funeral Home, 14 Independent Street Rowley, MA 01969-1827. A Graveside Service will follow at Rowley Burial Ground in Rowley, MA.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be pledged to American Cancer Society, Kaplan Family Hospice House.

To light a memorial candle or to leave a message of condolence, please visit www.fsrobertsandson.com.

~ Arrangements entrusted to F. S. Roberts & Son Funeral Home ~



DEATH NOTICES The loss of loved ones in our communities, compiled exclusively for The Town Common by Michelle Leiningner.

Name	City/State Live	Funeral Home
Joan Marie Souza	Danvers, MA	CR Lyons & Sons Funeral Directors, Danvers, 978-777-7900
Dorothy Louise Silva- Mourey	Gloucester, MA	Campbell Funeral Home, Gloucester, 978-283-0884
David J. Christensen, Sr.	Lawrence, MA	Conte Funeral Home, North Andover, 978-681-5000
Daniel Joseph Bouchard	North Andover, MA	Conte-Giamberardino Funeral Home, Georgetown, 978-352-8700
Samuel R. (Sam) McMahon	Georgetown, MA	Conway Cahill-Brodeur Funeral Home, Peabody, 978-531-0472
Kevin G. Gill	Beverly, MA	Conway Cahill-Brodeur Funeral Home, Peabody, 978-531-0472
Daniel B. Kulak	West Peabody, MA	
Flossie Neil	Peabody, MA	
Joseph P. Landry	Manchester, NH	
Agnes Ann Jalbert	Salem, MA	Driscoll Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Haverhill, 978-374-0000
Peter D. Hoffman	Haverhill, MA	E.V. Jutras & Sons Funeral Home, Amesbury, 978-388-0430
Eleanor "Ellie" Berube	Amesbury, MA	H.L. Farmer Funeral Homes & Cremation Services, Haverhill, 978-372-9311
Evelyn G. (Smith) Brewer	Haverhill, MA	
Ronald Sarofian	Haverhill, MA	H.L. Farmer Funeral Homes & Cremation Services, Bradford, 978-372-9311
Photinie (Xenakis) Karris	Haverhill, MA	
Mary Patricia Murphy	Haverhill, MA	Kevin B. Comeau Funeral Home, Haverhill, 978-521-4845
Donna M. (Laratonda) Graham	Methuen, MA	
Stephen M. Hamel	Lawrence, MA	Paul C. Rogers & Sons Family Funeral Homes, Amesbury, 978-388-0288
Greg A. Fale	Haverhill, MA	
David Henson	Haverhill, MA	
Joseph M. Deveau	Haverhill, MA	Remick & Gendron Funeral Home, Hampton, NH, 603-926-6500
Dorothy B. Jean	Exeter, NH	
Furmer H. "Jake" Eaton, Jr.	Exeter, NH	
Clyde A. Fowler, Jr.	Seabrook, NH	

Donald Francis Crosby

Donald Francis Crosby, who lived a life marked by humor, courage, and creativity, was born on May 21, 1933, in Brookline, Massachusetts, and passed away on March 21, 2026, only 61 days shy of his 93rd birthday, in Griffin, Georgia, leaving behind a legacy that continues to inspire everyone who knew him.

He was the beloved husband of Diana Lence Crosby of Georgia for 66 years, just 28 days from their 67th Wedding Anniversary, and their marriage stood as a powerful example of devotion, partnership, and endurance. Together, they built a family rooted in love, resilience, and faith. He was the proud father of three children, including his eldest son, Dana Donald Crosby, and his wife, Patricia, of New York, along with their children, Shawna, Desiree, and Olivia. He was also the father of Dean Harry Crosby of Georgia and his children, Ricky and Christopher. He is also remembered by his youngest sibling daughter, Deborah Fidelia Crosby Bray, and her husband, Darren Jack Bray, of Georgia, and their children, Joshua and Jacob. He also held close family ties with his cousin, David Lence, and his wife, Brenda, of Florida, along with their children and grandchildren. His family was one of the great joys of his life, and his presence strengthened every generation that followed him.

Donald pursued his education at the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts, where he developed the practical foundation that would support a lifetime of skilled work and hands-on. He was the kind of man who believed in learning by doing, and he carried that belief into every chapter of his life. Whether he was solving a mechanical problem, building something with his hands, or offering steady guidance to those around him, he brought discipline, curiosity, and determination to the task.

His work history reflected a remarkable range of talent and service. He served as a Tank Mechanic for the Korean War, a role that demanded strength, precision, and courage. He later worked as an Aircraft Maintenance Technician Mechanic and Jet Engine Mechanic, and he earned the respected title of Licensed Airframe and Powerplant, or A and P, Mechanic. His abilities extended far beyond one trade, as he also served as a Veterinarian Assistant and later as a UGA Weather Station Technician. In every position, he proved that excellence is not accidental. It is built through effort, integrity, and a willingness to keep showing up with purpose.

He also knew how to enjoy the journey. His interests revealed a man who embraced life with energy and imagination. He loved his horse and livestock hobby farm, and he found joy in multi-disciplinary engine mechanics, blacksmithing, traveling, antiquing, kayaking, hands-on crafting, leatherworking, woodworking, metalworking, forging, and welding. He was adventurous in spirit and creative in practice. He did not merely admire craftsmanship. He created it. He did not merely appreciate the world. He explored it. He had a gift for turning raw material into something useful, beautiful, and lasting, and that same spirit shaped the way he lived among people.

Those who knew Donald will remember him as funny, adventurous, and creative. He had the rare ability to make others laugh while also making them believe that hard things could be handled and impossible things could be attempted. He brought warmth into a room, confidence into a challenge, and character into every conversation. He was the kind of man who reminded others that life is meant to be lived fully, with hands ready to work, a mind ready to learn, and a heart ready to love.

His life stands as a powerful reminder that a person can leave an enduring mark through skill, faith, family, and joy. He showed that strength and tenderness can live in the same heart, and that a life built on service and love becomes a blessing to many. His life made the world better for his family, his friends, and all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Though he has passed from this earthly life, the example he set remains. His story is one of perseverance, craftsmanship, devotion, and laughter. His family will carry forward his memory with pride, and his legacy will continue to speak through the lives he touched. He lived with purpose, he worked with excellence, and he loved with steadfastness. That is a life worth honoring, and that is a life that will not be forgotten.

Calling hours were held on Tuesday, April 7, 2026 at the F. S. Roberts & Son Funeral Home, 14 Independent Street, Rowley. Burial followed at Rowley Burial Ground.

To light a memorial candle or to leave a message of condolence, please visit www.fsrobertsandson.com.

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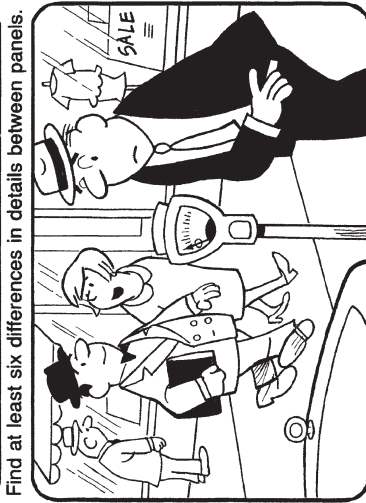
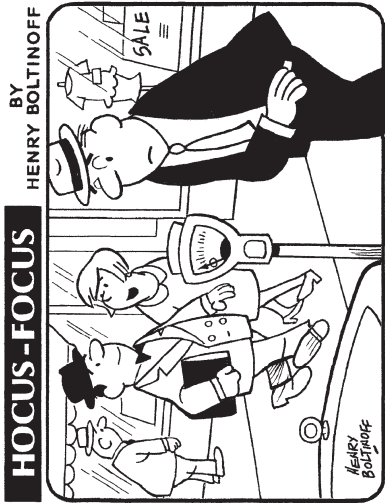
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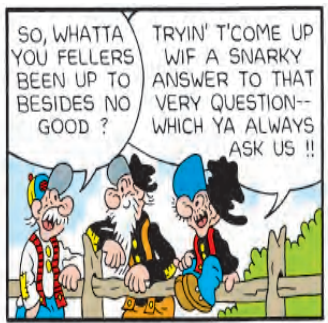


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The Spats

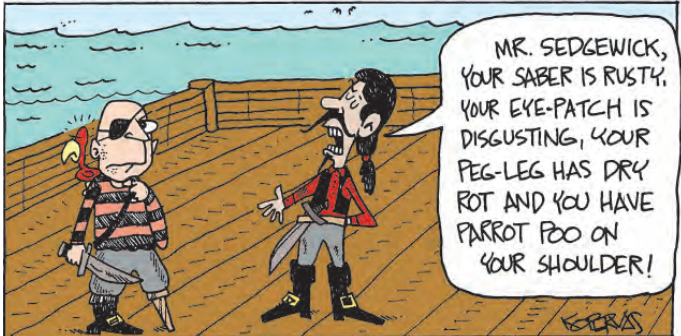


by Jeff Pickering

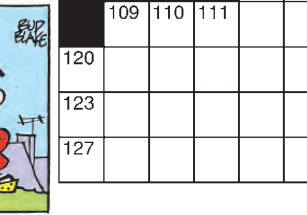
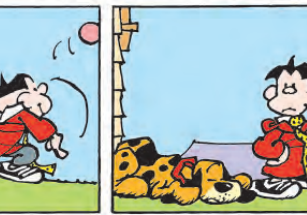
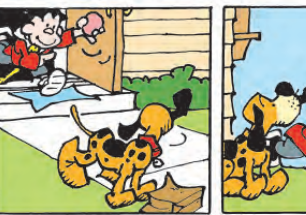
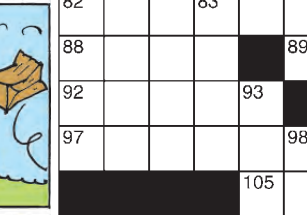
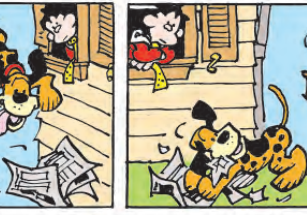
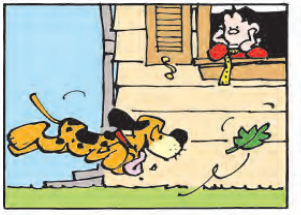


by Gary Kopervas

Out on a Limb



by Bud Blake



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 - 5 Casino IOU
 - 9 Honcho
 - 13 Fruits to bob for
 - 19 Flow slowly
 - 20 Jay of jest
 - 21 Sinful
 - 22 Artist Monet
 - 23 Free
 - 25 — avis (unusual thing)
 - 26 Ottawa's land
 - 27 Start of a riddle
 - 30 By means of
 - 31 Response to a punch
 - 32 Clunker
 - 33 State whose cap. is Boise
 - 35 Riddle, part 2
 - 46 Touch-me- (explosive plants)
 - 48 Cellphone game, often
 - 49 — Trapp family
 - 50 Stable animal
 - 51 Riddle, part 3
 - 58 Locality
 - 59 Squirms, as in pain
 - 60 Film critic Roger
 - 61 Propelled a bicycle
 - 63 Acting prize
 - 64 Made a run for it
 - 65 — extra cost
 - 66 The, in Paris
 - 67 Riddle, part 4
 - 73 Pool length
 - 76 "Jeepers!"
 - 77 Margarine, quaintly
 - 78 — salts
 - 82 Vocalist with the 2018 hits "Boo'd Up" and "Trip"
 - 84 Lyric poets
 - 86 Sweet wine of Portugal
 - 88 Map out
 - 89 Riddle, part 5
 - 92 Gobble down
 - 94 Big Brit. lexicon
 - 95 Tooth doctor's org.
 - 96 Auth. unknown
 - 97 End of the riddle
 - 104 British verb suffix
 - 105 Toward a boat's back
 - 106 Wriggly fish
 - 107 Klutzy type
 - 109 Riddle's answer
 - 120 Regain a conscious state
 - 121 Challenge
 - 122 Fitness club machine
 - 123 Consolidator
 - 124 Iran's home
 - 125 "Jeepers!"
 - 126 Around
 - 127 Go to bed
 - 128 Comply with
 - 129 Lone
 - 130 Novelist Jennifer
 - 10 Egg-shaped
 - 11 Assistant on iPhones
 - 12 Pomeranian, e.g.
 - 13 Accumulate, as interest
 - 14 Modeling compound for kids
 - 15 Twinge of guilt, e.g.
 - 16 Oahu feast
 - 17 Water whirl
 - 18 Briny body
 - 24 Sharp remark
 - 28 Cry of Homer Simpson
 - 29 Actor Byrnes or fielder Roush
 - 33 Halved
 - 34 Entryways
 - 36 Go very fast
 - 37 Numbered musical work
 - 38 FedEx rival
 - 39 State firmly
 - 40 Variety
 - 41 Like most musical works with five sharps
 - 42 Civil rights figure Parks
 - 43 Dentist's tool
 - 44 Lauder of cosmetics
 - 45 Oboe inserts
 - 47 Occupy, as a table
 - 52 Morel or enoki, informally
 - 53 Narrate
 - 54 Comply with
 - 55 City that's home to Tufts University
 - 56 As far as
 - 57 Carnival shelter
 - 62 End of a college's URL
 - 64 Go very fast
 - 65 Earlier
 - 68 Language of Bangkok
 - 69 Infamous Idi
 - 70 Ye — Shoppe
 - 71 Relaxation
 - 72 Met offering
 - 73 Cartoon skunk Pepé
 - 74 Islamic God
 - 75 "Oro y —" (Montana's motto)
 - 79 Representing
 - 80 Often-twisted cookies
 - 81 French river or department
 - 83 "... some kind of —?"
 - 84 Ran in the wash
 - 85 Q7 or A8 carmaker
 - 86 Lead-in to care or gap, in health care
 - 87 Impose — on (illegalize)
 - 90 Gear tooth
 - 91 Owns
 - 93 Book of hymns
 - 98 From the distant past
 - 99 High degree
 - 100 Conquer
 - 101 That gal
 - 102 A-list groups
 - 103 Yummy
 - 108 Apt first name for a general?
 - 109 Actress Skye
 - 110 Leave off
 - 111 — pot (congestion clearer)
 - 112 Cain's father
 - 113 Flower jar
 - 114 Lake abutting Ohio
 - 115 Thus
 - 116 Close tightly
 - 117 Lose vibrancy
 - 118 Spanish pot
 - 119 — Bator, Mongolia
 - 120 Mean mutt

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