

Ipswich Local News

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Ora inching its way to approval

John P. Muldoon
Ipswich Local News

IPSWICH — Amid some bad-tempered exchanges among members of the public, the planning board inched the Ora application closer to approval.

The application to place a corporate center at 55 Waldingfield Road has aroused intense opposition among many abutters in Ipswich and Hamilton. However, the project also has many supporters in Ipswich.

With almost a year of hearings held so far, planning board chairwoman Toni Mooradd asked for a “temperature check” last week after the board discussed its findings on the project.

Ora has applied for a special permit, and the board must decide if the application is a net benefit under criteria relating to traffic, fiscal impact, social and community needs, utilities, neighborhood character, and the environment.

As a super-majority is required to pass a special permit application, Mooradd asked for board member’s opinions before discussing possible

see ORA, page 15



The Ipswich Bay Yacht Club recently presented a \$5,000 check to Ipswich Junior Sailing. The money will help with community outreach and equipment. From left: Peter Twining, president of Ipswich Junior Sailing (IJS), Amelia Krause and Aly Moulton, co-directors IJS, Steve Miles, Mark Avenmarg, treasurer, Steve Clark, vice president, and Tom Burgess, vice-commodore.

Local farms shouldering weight of drought

by Tristan Ashlock

IPSWICH — Essex County farmers are dealing with extraordinarily dry weather this summer.

The National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) has given the northeast portion of Massachusetts the designation of “D3” — an area currently experiencing extreme drought conditions. The rest of the state falls anywhere between the designations of D0 and D2 — abnormally dry to severe drought.

Ipswich and neighboring towns Rowley, Hamilton, Wenham, and Topsfield are all currently under mandatory water-use restriction orders. For most of these towns, the water bans and restrictions mean no outdoor watering at all.

For farmers in the area, it means rising costs, smaller yields, and fewer harvests.

The farmers

“Costs are up 60 percent, and yields are down 60 percent and dropping,” said third-generation farmer Mike Marini of Marini Farms. “The concern now is that there is really no rain in the forecast, so I don’t know what the future is going to hold.”

Jeff Head of Chickadee Hill Farm in Rowley oversees and maintains the growth of over 70 acres of land that grows everything from produce to Christmas trees.

“Pretty much every fruit and vegetable you can think of that grows around here we grow,” he said.

For Chickadee Hill and other farms in the area, the challenge lies in prioritizing valuable crops

and deciding where water should be used.

Miranda Russell of Russell Orchards in Ipswich said that less-critical crops are receiving smaller amounts of water in order to keep higher-value plants producing. “We need to keep the plants alive, but that’s the bare minimum.”

Familiar territory

For Head and other farmers, the current drought poses a greater threat than the one the area experienced in 2016. “This drought is worse than 2016 because that drought came later. This year, we are still planting for the fall crops.”

Marini said, “It’s probably the biggest challenge we’ve ever seen, and we’ve had

see DROUGHT, page 13

Tales from the scanner: sick skunk, fireworks complaint

On Wednesday, Aug. 10, a caller reported a smell of smoke in the area of Old England Road.

On Thursday, at around 8:50 a.m., a motorcycle accident was reported on High Street near Dairy Queen. The person reporting the accident didn't see it, but they saw a motorcycle on the ground with the rider standing beside it. Police radioed that the man was uninjured.

At around 2 p.m. on Saturday, a fin was seen poking through the water just off Crane Beach. A few moments later, swimmers were let back in the water after the fin was confirmed to belong to a sunfish.

At 6:35 p.m., a caller said a 12-year-old was waving down traffic near Herrick and Newbury roads and saying their parents, who were parked at the side of the street, were out of control. The child waited with the caller until police arrived.

At 9 p.m., there was a fireworks complaint (or two) from Linebrook Road.

On Sunday at 2:40 p.m., a

seven-year-old girl got separated from her parents while swimming on Crane Beach. The dispatcher relayed that she was an "avid swimmer" and may have gone too far along the beach. Around three minutes later, he reported that she was reunited with her family.

At 3:35 p.m., there was a report of a fire alarm sounding and smoke showing in a condo on Colonial Drive. The dispatcher updated responders to say the smoke had come from cooking and was being vented into a hallway.

On Monday at 7:40 p.m., a sick skunk was reported on Damon Avenue.

Around 9:10 p.m., the dispatcher said a driver left a disabled car by the side of the road near the Hellenic Center. An officer radioed back that it had been there all day with the hazards on. The dispatcher checked with the driver, who was on the phone, that roadside assistance would not be available until the morning. Police called Paul's Towing instead.

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The view from Liberty Street toward Linebrook Road.

Man killed on train track

IPSWICH — A man has been killed after he was struck by a commuter train on Tuesday morning.

"Responding officers and firefighters discovered a 70-year-old Ipswich man suffering from serious injuries and provided immediate medical aid," according to a statement from police Chief Paul Nikas and fire Chief Paul Parisi. Both attended the scene.

The man was transported by Action Ambulance to Beverly Hospital, where he was pronounced dead, they added.

ActionPage tweeted that a Med-Flight was called and then canceled after the patient went into "traumatic arrest."

"MBTA Transit Police Superintendent Richard Sullivan wrote in an email that the man had deliberately stepped onto the tracks," the *Boston Globe* reported.

At around 9 a.m. on August 16, the police dispatcher radioed to say a person had been struck by the train. Arriving first, police radioed the victim was on the Bialek Park side of the train.

According to the MBTA commuter rail schedule, an inbound train was due in Ipswich at 9:05 a.m.

A teenage boy reportedly witnessed the incident and was distraught afterwards.

The train was stopped at the crossing, and Linebrook Road at Lord's Square was closed for more than two hours. The closure came on top of emergency sewer works that closed High Street the day before. Both diversions snarled traffic.

Passengers were taken off the train at around 10 a.m. The train was allowed to proceed at around 11:15 a.m., and the road was reopened.



The scene on Linebrook Road at Bialek Park

Looking at our neighboring towns' approaches to water restrictions

by Amy Palmer

Large portions of eastern Massachusetts, including the entirety of the North Shore, is experiencing an extreme drought, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor (USDM). Here is what some nearby towns are doing in light of the current situation.

Towns along the Parker River

Boxford has no water use restrictions — residents use private wells that the Massachusetts Department

of Environmental Protection (MASS-DEP) does not regulate.

Ipswich is in a severe drought with a ban on all outdoor water use, including private well users, as of July 25.

Newbury has a ban on all outdoor water use, according to the Byfield water department. There are no penalties for violating the policy.

Newburyport announced voluntary water restrictions on Aug. 2, asking residents to water between

6 a.m. and 9 a.m. and between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. every day. The city encourages residents to water their lawns no more than every three days and to adjust their sprinklers to ensure water is not being wasted.

Rowley imposed an outdoor water ban on Aug. 2 to limit all outdoor water use except for the use of watering cans.

Towns along the Ipswich River
Topsfield issued a mandatory outdoor water use restriction on

June 1 limiting outdoor water use to hand-held devices before 9 a.m. and after 5 p.m. All irrigation systems are prohibited.

Hamilton implemented a non-essential outdoor water use ban on July 18. Watering is only permitted for health and safety reasons, by regulation, for food production, for maintaining livestock, and for meeting core functions of a business.

Read the full article at [ipswichlocalnews.com](https://www.ipswichlocalnews.com).



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Drought causing 'phantom leaks' in swimming pools

by Amy Palmer

With extreme heat and practically no rain, water is disappearing fast from swimming pools — so fast that Gibraltar Pools has seen an uptick in calls for leak detection this summer.

But most of these pools aren't actually leaking, general manager Jay Henshall said. These pool owners are just seeing yet another impact of the ongoing drought — excessive evaporation.

"I've been chasing phantom leaks for a couple of weeks now," he said. "A lot of people don't quite grasp how much water they can actually lose to evaporation in a situation like this."

Three weeks ago, the select board declared a severe drought in Ipswich and imposed a complete ban on outdoor water use. Many surrounding towns are also facing mandatory water-use restrictions that prohibit refilling swimming pools, which has raised concerns for residents about maintaining their pools over the summer.

"[The drought] can make filtering pretty much impossible, especially if you have a ban on adding water to swimming pools," Henshall said.

Without enough water in the pool, surface skimmers can't draw in water to filter and circulate around the pool to keep it healthy.

Many in-ground pools have a bottom filtration system that allows them to continue to filter water without the help of a surface skim-

mer, but this is not the case for above-ground pools.

"In most above-ground pools, they're either adding water that they're not supposed to be doing or the pool's not functioning properly," Henshall said.

Filtering is key to cleaning pool water and circulating chemicals. Without enough water to filter properly, algae can grow in the pool. Algae grows very quickly, according to Henshall, and it becomes much harder to get rid of after it continues to multiply.

"Especially when it's this warm, and the water in the pool is at a higher than normal temperature — [a pool] can turn into a swamp pretty quick," Henshall said.

To avoid this issue, some pool owners have been buying more chlorine because it seems to be 'burning off' with the heat as well.

"Obviously, I'm losing water in the pool because it evaporates quicker," Ed Deane, a resident of Topsfield, said. "And I need to put more chemicals in because they evaporate quicker."

Kevin Forman, another pool owner, said he's seeing changes in chemical levels in his pool as well.

"The chlorine seems to be burning off faster than I've noticed before," he said.

Adding water to pools can dilute the chemicals, according to Henshall, but when a pool is being cared for properly, it does not require a large amount of chemicals to maintain.

Though there is no way of conserving water in the pool, Henshall said pool owners can inhibit evaporation by using solar covers that act as a barrier between the water and the sun and by not heating their pools.

"Pools can be a pain to maintain," said Nick Thompson, a pool owner from Beverly.

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Cautious optimism that water supplies can be secured

John P. Muldoon
Ipswich Local News

NORTH SHORE — Three towns in the Ipswich River Basin draw all their drinking water exclusively from wells.

During hot, dry summers, the withdrawals further stress a river unable to recharge itself from springs fed by groundwater. “It leads to these horrible, dry conditions we’re seeing right now,” said Wayne Castonguay, executive director of the Ipswich River Watershed Association (IRWA).

Meanwhile, water officials tasked with planning future growth know groundwater supplies are finite and that other sources will have to be found.

Looking at ways to improve supply resiliency in the lower Ipswich River Watershed, a recently published report (available online) said Hamilton is well placed to serve as a distribution hub for a new source of

reservoir water.

Written by Dewberry Engineers of Boston in collaboration with IRWA, the report noted that Hamilton already has connections to Ipswich, Essex, and Wenham.

Wenham, meanwhile, has connections with Beverly, which is part of the Salem and Beverly Water Supply Board.

In fact, Gordon College in Wenham is supplied from a Beverly connection. The college is leaving town and has agreed to sell “a significant parcel of land abutting Coy Pond to Pulte Homes,” according to town administrator Steve Poulos.

The Dewberry report looked at water infrastructure and water treatment operations in six towns and the SBWSB. It said that facilities would need to be upgraded where connections are already in place and that new pipes could be laid to supply Topsfield and Manchester-by-the-Sea.

The cost of upgrades in Hamilton

would vary between \$7 million for a partial supply of the town’s needs to just under \$7.9 million for a full supply, Dewberry estimated.

Upgrades to the interconnections with surrounding towns vary in cost. Ipswich and Wenham, for example, would cost \$325,000 each. However, Essex would be \$780,000 and Topsfield \$3.66 million, Dewberry said.

River

In addition to providing more reliable supplies, a switch to SBWSB water would improve the ecology of the Ipswich River, the report said.

Although Salem and Beverly rely heavily on the river for their water, they do not draw water during the summer months.

“Between December 1 and May 31, when there is excess water in the river, water is pumped to the Putnamville Reservoir and/or Wenham Lake Reservoir for storage and use during summer and fall each year,” a SBWSB report said.

“Water is not pumped from the Ipswich River from June 1 through November 30. Similarly, Longham Reservoir augments Wenham Lake Reservoir,” it added.

The two cities have three reservoirs either fed by the Ipswich River or watersheds around the reservoirs. The river supplies around 28% of their water, the report said.

Another advantage to using surface water is that water underground is “the primary source of elevated PFAS contamination that has been found to date throughout the Ipswich Basin,” Dewberry said.

Even if the groundwater wells were rested seasonally, “Municipal groundwater wells could have added benefits of reducing iron, manganese, and sodium contamination, as well as lowering operating costs for local municipalities,” the report said.

PFAS, or per- and polyfluoroal-

see RIVER, page 19

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Running with Birds

The American avocet, far from home, is feeding at Stage Island Pool

by Rebecca Pugh

If you are running at the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge on Plum Island this week and find yourself near the Stage Island Pool, you are likely to see the American avocet, a water-wader with long legs, making friends with other species and feeding in the mud flats.

Avocets are usually found in western North America this time of year, but this one has chosen Stage Island Pool in our neighborhood and has returned several years in a row. Because it is rare for our region, and because it is beautiful, it is a popular attraction for runners, bikers, and birders alike on Plum Island.

It has an upturned bill, like a smile, so you can't miss it. It wades, sweeping through the waters in search of invertebrates. Sometimes it shakes the mud from its feet as it goes.

Avocets tend to be about 18 inches long. They are larger than many of the pipers and plovers who forage among them. Their size makes them stand out, as does this one, enjoying the morning light with two greater

The avocet is doing well in 2022, but it has several challenges. It nests in wetlands, which has meant that its traditional breeding grounds have been diminished with the draining of marshes for construction.

Further, the presence of selenium, which sometimes leaches into soil following irrigation, causes embryo deformities.

Finally, methylmercury, which comes from the burning of coal, adversely affects the resilience of avocet chicks. Support for wetland

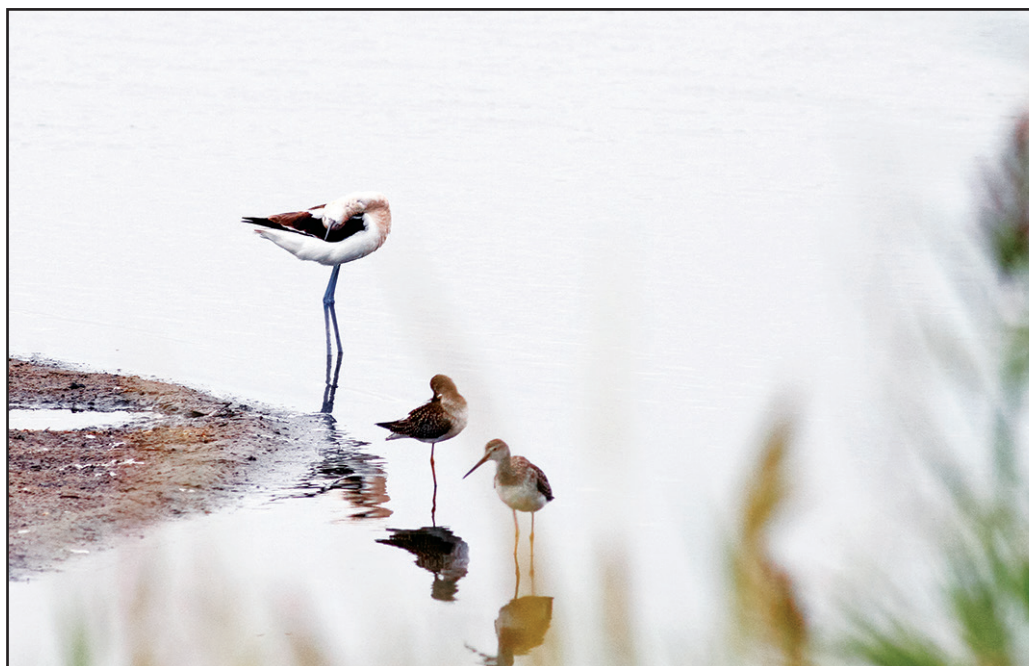


Photo of American avocet with greater yellowlegs by Miles Brengle.

yellowlegs as Miles Brengle has photographed it.

When it is flocking, and a predator is causing trouble, it has a habit of singing a series of call notes that rise in pitch, simulating the Doppler effect. This might sound to a predator as if the flock is approaching at top speed. Likely, the sound gives the community of avocets an advantage at escaping.

restoration, clean farming practices, and renewable energy will do a great service for avocet survival.

So, if you are running on Plum Island, and you see an elegant wading bird sweeping its bill through the waters as it gobbles up aquatic proteins and prepares for its long journey south, you can give a little wave and keep running. Even though it is far from home, the American avocet is alive and well here in Massachusetts, thanks to the conservation efforts of the National Wildlife Refuge and the Audubon Society.

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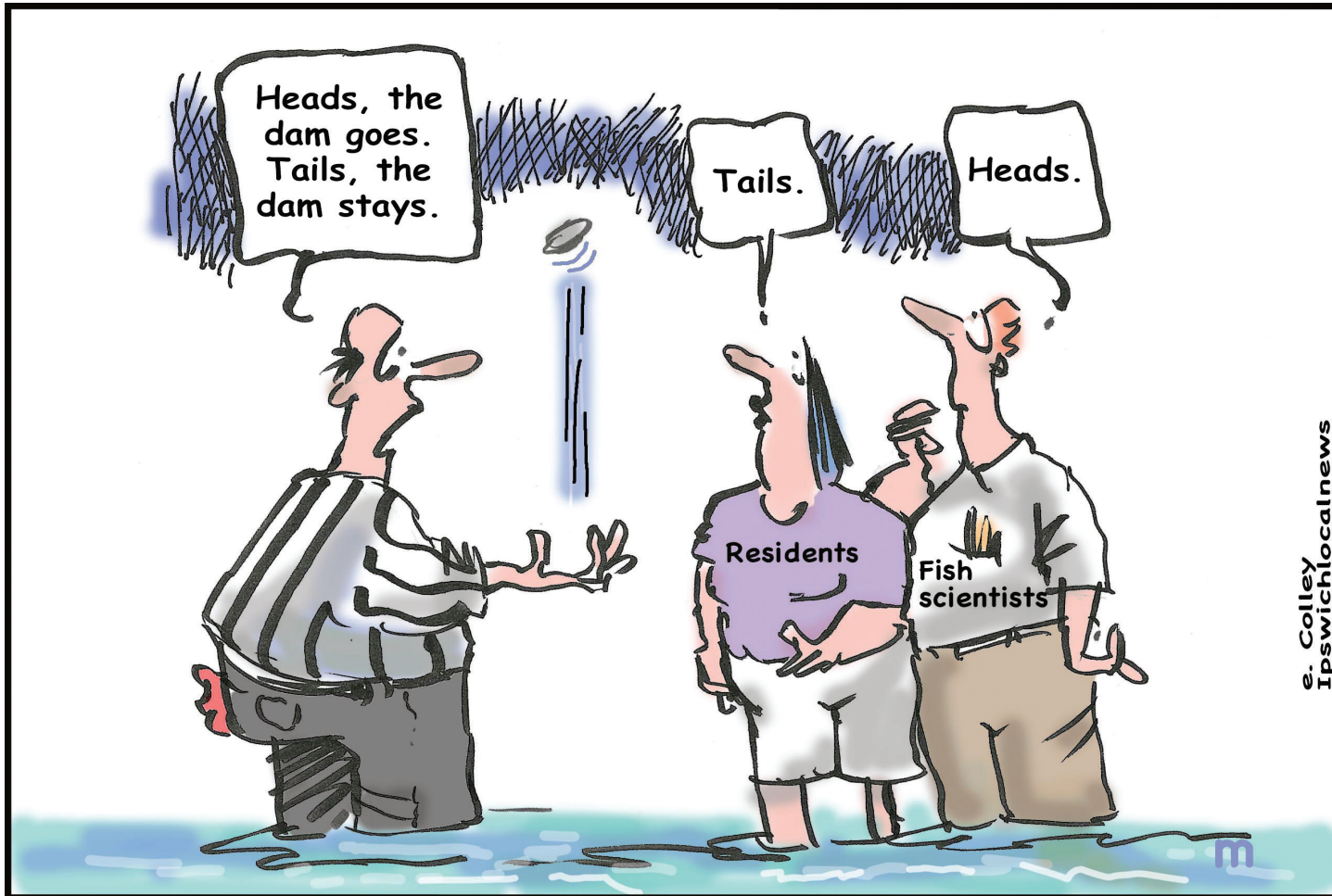
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Ed Colley



LETTER

Regarding elementary schools: What kind of community do we aspire to be?

To the editor:
I wanted to commend the school committee for providing the series of well-moderated listening sessions concerning the future of our elementary schools.

There was very little of the vitriol we experienced the last time around with the one school/two school debate.

Hopefully, the civility can last, and, hopefully, the school committee continues to listen to the community and responds to ideas and concerns raised in these sessions.

After attending one session and talking to people who attended the others, it seems clear that one of the biggest concerns for the school project was one of equity. That is, making sure ALL students in Ipswich have access to school resources and have the ability to take part in school activities, be they during the day or after hours.

The concern is that taking away a school in the downtown area would make it extremely difficult for many of the town's most vulnerable families to access the school (parent/teacher conferences, after-school concerts/plays, etc.) because of the transportation difficulties that arise when walking is not an option.

In a letter to the editor last week, I read a very troubling line from a citizen who strongly opposed keeping two small schools. "Ipswich is not obligated to provide special elementary school accommodations for certain families with certain addresses." Yikes.

It is not too hard to read between the lines here. It seems to be saying that if you're not blessed with an abundance of resources, tough luck. That's not the kind of community we aspire to be, is it?

This school question actually is providing the town with a chance

to define the kind of community we want to be.

Are we a town that says, "Every man for themselves?" Or are we a community that strives to lift up every person and not let any child or family fall through the cracks?

I strongly hope that we are the latter.

Christopher Blagg
Ipswich

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The Outsidah

In which the Outsidah tries to find common ground between two disparate viewpoints

by Doug Brendel

Nobody told me there'd be days like these. Summertime in Ipswich. Days of sorrow.

No Chowderfest this October. Ipswich Lions Club won't be doing it.

And the air is thick with poison: Mosquito-spraying by the expert exterminators at Northeast Massachusetts Mosquito Control and Wetlands Management District (NEMMC).

Of course, it's not a sad time for the clams. The clams are celebrating.

The mosquitos, meanwhile, are burying their dead.

With no Chowderfest, the Ipswich clam mortality rate drops by 47%.

With the NEMMC's toxin-tanks rolling through town, the mosquito mortality rate skyrockets. In tiny mosquito hospitals, tiny mosquito nurses dissolve in tears just trying

to keep up with the paperwork. Tiny, refrigerated mosquito trailers transporting heartbreaking numbers of insect cadavers wait in seemingly endless traffic jams trying to get their dear, departed cargo into tiny mosquito funeral homes.

The contrast here — between the immediate situation of the Ipswich clams and the immediate situation of the Ipswich mosquitos — could not be more painful.

But, longer-term, can these two species continue to coexist?

What if we could get them together for a conversation?

A clam and a mosquito walk into a bar ...

Eh — not feasible. Clams can't walk. And good luck getting up onto a barstool. Gotta try someplace else.

A clam and a mosquito meet on a clam flat ...

(Cue sad violin music.)

Some hapless mother mosquito,

devastated by the loss of her children during the Wetlands Management District purge, is staggering onto the beach, hoping for solace.

And there's a clam. (Cue guitar riffs.) Probably some smart-aleck teenage clam. Some whippersnapper clam who doesn't appreciate the holocaust they've just avoided, never knew the joy us old guys felt in the Vietnam era the day Richard Nixon canceled the draft.

"Yo! Mosquito!" the clam cries out.

Ms. Mosquito doesn't have the heart, or the strength, to reply. She settles onto the damp wet sand of the clam flat, a surface strange and uncomfortable to her. She's only accustomed to warm human flesh and the room-temperature walls of humans' homes after they've swatted her away.

The clam tries again. "No Chowderfest!"

No response.

"*Strange days are these, pretty mama!*" the clam punk cries glee-

fully.

The mosquito is inert. "Par-tay, baby!"

The mosquito finally arches a tiny eyebrow.

"It's not '*Strange days are these,*'" she sneers, then adds (with a tiny snort), "*Pretty mama.*" Geez."

The clam chokes a bit.

"It's '*Strange days, indeed,*'" the mosquito continues. "*Most peculiar, mama.*" Her head droops again in sadness.

The teen clam, shamed by his ignorance of John Lennon lyrics, declines to say anything more.

After a long moment, the mosquito looks up. Her little head swivels sideways to take in the callow, pimply youth.

"Did you see the videos of Joni Mitchell?" she asks. "From the Newport Folk

Festival?"

The young clam brightens. "Yes! That grandma — in the glasses! She was trending!"

The mosquito ventures a bit of a smile and lets her gaze drop back to the ocean before her.

There's a long silence, and then, very softly, very quietly, she begins to sing — not for an audience, just for herself ... and for the universe:

"*I've looked at clams from both sides now ...*"

Summertime in Ipswich. Two species, no matter their differences, find common ground.

Maybe there's hope for us humans.

Doug Brendel lives on outer Linebrook Road in Ipswich. Follow his survivor's commentary on life in politically fractious New England at Outsidah.com.



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COLUMN

Publishing a book is like making bratwurst — a little unpleasant, but relished in the end

by Bob Waite

It all began innocently enough. A friend told me that some fellow named John Muldoon had started up a newspaper in my hometown. And that he was being aided and

abetted by my first publisher, Bill Wasserman. At the age of 92, Bill had apparently roared out of retirement to be both the paper's consulting guru and itinerant ad salesperson.

I was stunned. Who in their right mind would start a newspaper in the 21st century? Did they not yet know that printed newspapers are dead, consigned to history's scrap heap, along with Kodak film, eight-track tapes, and rotary phones?

Was Bill willingly playing Sancho Panza to John's Don Quixote? Or was an intervention in order?

I was assured by my friend that Bill likely knew exactly what he was doing — as, of course, he always did.

So I contacted Bill and offered to help out, thinking he would ask for a check. He did — but he also issued a challenge: "Perhaps you could also write a kind of 'good olde days' column," he emailed, "but remembering the humor that you were once known for."

Bill was clever. What I heard was, "Waite, you flaccid, pathetic product of corporate excess and political equivocation, can you still hit a fastball (or at least look good while striking out)?"

Hence this weekly column.

My intent has been to do as Bill asked. But I not only try to anchor each column in a memory or contemporary event relating to Ipswich, but I endeavor to take things to a more universal level for a wider audience. As for remembering

the humor I was once known for, I have tried ... despite these being profoundly unfunny times.

After more than 100 columns, I began getting requests to compile them — or at least some of them — into a book.

While I have co-authored a couple of books on personal finance and contributed a chapter to one titled *Conversations with John Updike*, I had never been involved with the actual publication process. To my mind, book publishing could be likened to bratwurst-making — I enjoy the finished product, but I would prefer to stay far from the process that brings it into my hands.

Plus, aren't books also dead?

It seems they are not. People are still buying books, in both

print and eBook format. So I decided to plunge ahead.

Fortunately, I have a brother, Tom, who is no stranger to publishing. He has five best-selling thrillers under his belt and has navigated the world of Amazon and Kindle.

He offered up his imprint — Marlborough Press, named after the



street in the Back Bay — and his tag-team of associates, including Asha Hossain, a designer who specializes in book covers.

I had two thoughts regarding a cover. Ipswich photographer Stoney Stone, whose work I admire immensely, had generously offered to let me use one of his shots. And I also owned a painting, "Walking the Beach," by Ipswich artist Colleen Kidder, that I also thought might work.

Asha loved the photographs but urged me to use the painting, which she felt worked better for the response she was trying to evoke.

I also engaged a formatter, a fellow named Dallas Hodge. Yes, books need to be formatted, both for eBook and printed versions. Dallas, who lives in Texas (but not in Dallas) suggested a font called "Glacial Indifference" for my particular work. A music teacher by trade, his

recommendation hit just the right note for me.

The book is now out. Called *Ipswich On My Mind*, it is available from Amazon and as a Kindle eBook. A portion of the proceeds will go directly to *Ipswich Local News* to support quality community journalism. (I had originally thought to devote the profits, but my brother pointed out that, after expenses, there probably won't be any profits!)

In some small way, I would like to think I am honoring the late Bill Wasserman's call to action ... and John Muldoon's vision. If I hit a few singles along the way, so much the better.

Bob Waite also considered Tarbox Secrets Revealed as the book's title but feared being sued by Alfred A. Knopf. You can find his book on Amazon.

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LETTERS

We have an opportunity to do something that will generate clear, positive results for the Ipswich River

To the editor:

Reporting on the select board hearing that centered on the Ipswich Mills Dam surfaced a range of perspectives on the state of the Ipswich River and the possible impacts of removing the dam.

Would it return to its natural state, or has centuries of human impact on the river rendered it forever unnatural? What would happen to neighborhoods next to the river, and would fish really begin to migrate up the river? How would the river habitat change?

These and other questions are valid.

A major statistic not always brought front and center is that 97% of the world's water supply is in the oceans, leaving only 3% as freshwater.

Of that 3%, 2% has been locked up in the ice of Antarctica and Greenland.

All the water we take for granted — that which provides us with the all the water we use for drinking, showering, cleaning, and cooking — is only 1% of the world's water supply.

It is never too late to explore all ways possible to give back to the river so that it has chance to survive as a healthy ecosystem. The sum of all the studies indicates that removing the dam is one way to do that. Exploring innovative water conservation policies and strategies in all the cities and towns that rely on the Ipswich River Shed is another.

Doing the right thing to mitigate human impact on the planet is a global question.

With so many complicated layers, it is hard to figure what to DO and how to ACT.

As a community, Ipswich citizens have an opportunity to do

something that will generate clear, observable, and positive results for the Ipswich River — our extremely important share of the 1%.

Removing the Ipswich Mill Dam is an action that would give the river a chance at being natural again.

It is an act for the better of the environment that Ipswich can actually DO. It is one of the few projects in the maze of discussions and projections of how best to mitigate our impact on the planet that we can

control.

Finding ways to minimize the amount communities continue to take from the Ipswich River, combined with removing the dam, would be a concrete act of our town can make to give back to the watershed and all that depends on it.

What a wonderful example that would set for current and future generation our community.

John C. Wigglesworth
Ipswich

No rules were broken; no one exceeded authority

To the editor:

Similar to the Outsidah in his eponymous column in your newspaper, I'm also a "new resident" of Ipswich — I've only been here 14 years. At least 50 more to go before I become a townie!

As an avid reader of your excellent newspaper, I just read the letter in this week's edition, penned by Ed Marsh — a really thoroughly articulated letter.

I've not heard any dispute of the facts. I believe that Mr. Marsh is absolutely on target in all the issues:

- Chief Nikas' contract was negotiated in good faith; both parties were operating within the parameters of their designated authorities.
- The contract has, I understand, been confirmed by all parties as being legally valid.
- The contract terms were validated by appropriate legal counsel.
- Nobody did anything wrong!

Mr. Marsh then addressed where we go next. I agree with his perspectives.

The board (select board) is responsible for setting the high-level goals and direction. Day-to-day operations are, and must be, the responsibility of the CEO (town manager). The board provides advice, support, and input to the CEO.

The town manager's senior team must be CEO hires and not select board hires. Having said that, it is, however, quite reasonable to adopt a "one up" hiring review process. I want to hire X. I take my decision but review the big picture, includ-

ing compensation, with my "boss" — maybe a sub-committee of the select board?

In summary, the optimal approach should be for the board and town manager to agree terms of reference, and the board needs to figure how to live with those delegated authorities. Then all parties live within that framework.

Let's remind ourselves: though the select board was uncomfortable with their lack of foreknowledge of the contract with our chief of police, no rules were broken. Nobody exceeded their authority.

Despite this, the consequent and very public damage to Chief Nikas' reputation is utterly inappropriate.

The select board and their supporters need to acknowledge this and back off. Chief Nikas likely deserves, as a minimum, a formal commitment of support from the select board.

Ipswich needs a professional, experienced executive as town manager; someone who can operate at high level within a reasonable and balanced trust framework.

In contrast, a new town manager who's happy to tolerate select board micro-management is unlikely to have sufficient executive experience and operational seniority to be effective in this challenging role.

So let's move forward and, as the Outsidah suggests, end this hue and cry and proceed with professionalism on all sides.

Justin Wright
Ipswich

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SERVICE DOG PROJECT

Donkeys aren't really stubborn; all they need is a good explanation

by Carlene White

More than service dogs are at Crazy Acres.

In my past, I have had 30 to 40 miniature donkeys at our farm on Boxford Road. To support us at that point, I drove eight of them very much like the Budweiser beer hitch. My harness was made by the Queen Elizabeth's harness maker from Toronto, and I drove the same Bennington vehicle as Prince Phillip — mine was red, his was blue.

One year, to my fancy hitch, Channel 4 added antlers for a commercial for Children's Hospital with Bob LaBelle, Liz Walker etc. After that commercial, I had the perfect setup for Santa Claus.

I hauled Santa Claus in many parades at many parties as eight tiny reindeer — with those antlers. My most spectacular job was delivering Santa into the fourth floor ballroom of the Weston hotel in Boston.

Donkeys, in general, are very bright and extremely sensible. We'd do things — like go into an assisted living place loose — that I would never attempt with a horse. If a horse is afraid of something, they will run uncontrollably, often killing themselves and other people around.

I have never seen a horse pulling a carriage without blinders blocking his rear vision of the cart he is pulling.

Having my eight donkeys totally loose in Boston or working with



It's not just Great Danes at the farm on Boxford Road. The above picture demonstrates how to move an untrained donkey (photo courtesy of the Service Dog Project).

extremely expensive Hollywood actors was absolutely no problem, and from Cambridge to Boston to Haverhill, we did many jobs requiring the donkeys to be loose.

However, to be able to do that, I had spent considerable time explaining to the donkeys that this sort of thing was necessary if I was to be able to pay the hay bill.

They were very obedient and would jump in and out of the trailer without a ramp, then carefully step over and around whatever wheelchairs, wiring, or paraphernalia were necessary for whatever we were doing.

Training donkeys are born with one word in their head, and that is "Why?" ... followed by, "I was perfectly happy where I was," and

"If you can't explain to me why I should move, then I'm not going to."

If a donkey is afraid of something, they'll stand still. People think they're stubborn and often resort to hitting them (which, by their nature, scares them), so then they really don't move. Plus, "hurry" is not in their vocabulary. "Steady," yes. "Hurry," no.

The donkeys I now have here in Ipswich have not been required to do anything. Consequently, even moving them between pastures requires considerable effort — which happened today.

I just have to share the photo (above) I took of how to move an untrained donkey.

As in dressage, impulsion must come from the rear.

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IPSWICH RECYCLES

Aluminum is the most recyclable of all materials; companies are starting to use more of it

by Paula Jones

It's been a hot and dry one in Ipswich this August, and that can of flavored water, Coke, or cold True North or Ipswich Ale craft beer is likely to be packaged in an aluminum can.

When you finish that drink, will it be headed for your recycling bin?

Aluminum is certainly a material that should go into the recycling bin. Some are even calling it the "green metal."

Anything made of aluminum can be recycled repeatedly — not only cans, but aluminum foil, food trays, window frames, and automotive components. There is no limit to how many times aluminum can be recycled.

Aluminum cans are 100% recyclable, making them the most recyclable (and valuable) of all materials. The aluminum can you toss into

your recycling bin today will be completely recycled and back on the store shelf in a few months. That's right — the can of Coke you recycle today could be back in your grocery bag in a couple months.

Well, maybe not that exact one, since over 45 billion cans are recycled a year in just the United States.

Making recycled aluminum only takes around five percent of the energy needed to make new aluminum, reducing carbon emissions and saving money for businesses and consumers. As a result, nearly 75 percent of all aluminum ever produced is still in use today.

According to a recent Can Manufacturers Institute (CMI) survey, only 38% of U.S. consumers are aware that the aluminum in beverage cans can be infinitely recycled.

Without a doubt, aluminum is a growing trend in packaging, and there is a wave of beverage brands

asking for "sustainable" packaging. Eco-conscious consumers want to get away from plastic. While the soda and beer industry have long used the aluminum can as one of their primary packages, now the water, wine, alcoholic beverage, and craft beer companies are adopting aluminum cans because of the superior attributes of sustainability, convenience, performance, and taste.

PepsiCo recently announced that it'll start using more sustainable packaging for its water brands, and so has Coca Cola's Dasani brand. Check out the grocery water aisle, and you will see more sparkling water in aluminum cans — brands such as Aquafina, Bubly, Spindrift, and Soleil.

Many companies are now putting some of their beverages into taller, thinner cans that still hold 12 ounces. Once used primarily for energy drinks, the skinny cans are meant to stand out on crowded store shelves and suggest characteristics such as quality or healthfulness. In addition, thinner cans also tend to sell better (people find the shape more elegant), take up less shelf space, and help save on freight costs.

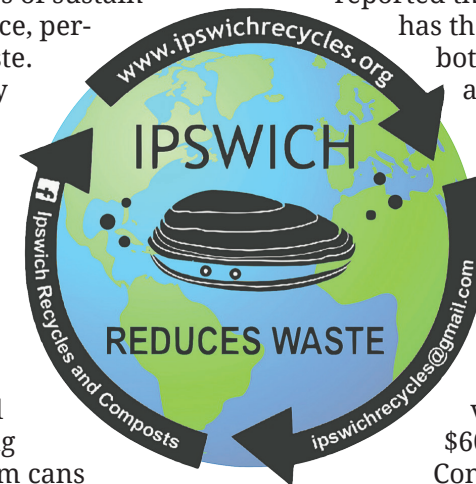
CMI says it expects to see a surge in demand and growth for alumi-

num bottles and cans over the next five to 10 years. Production isn't able to keep up with demand. There is currently a worldwide shortage of aluminum. The pandemic, labor shortages, and a reduced supply of aluminum from China is causing problems.

Also, the *Boston Globe* in July reported that Massachusetts has the lowest can and bottle redemption rate among the 10 states with bottle bills. In 2021, approximately 36 billion aluminum cans were landfilled in the U.S. The cans that were thrown away had an estimated scrap value of more than \$600 million.

Considering all the aforementioned information, it's important to recycle aluminum products. Besides beverage cans, the following aluminum products can also go into your Ipswich recycling bin: aluminum foil baking trays, aluminum foil boxes with serrated blades, aluminum foil pie pans, aluminum foil take-out containers, and aluminum foil wrap (just rinse off all food).

Send questions you have about recycling to ipswichrecycles@gmail.com or visit the Facebook page at Ipswich Recycles and Composts.



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DROUGHT from page 1

droughts before.”

While some farmers in 2016 were able to establish a healthy crop early on in the summer season, the same cannot be said for this year. The early onset of the current drought hamstrung harvests from the get-go.

The young Christmas trees at Chickadee Hill never stood a chance against the heat, according to Head. “The baby trees we planted this year are all toasted.”

He added, “The spruce trees are tougher. The firs are the ones getting hit hard.”

Ponds running dry

Alongside average expected precipitation, Head usually takes advantage of on-site ponds and wells to maintain crops. This year, he has had to partially rely on friends with access to natural springs and other sources of groundwater. He also collects water in 250-gallon tanks that sit below the roof of his barn, but he noted that they hadn’t been of much use. The constant heat has been evaporating dew before it can condense and drip.

Marini Farms and Russell Orchards run similar systems.

“We have two ponds that have completely dried up, and the rest of the water levels are extremely low,” said Russell.

“We just rely on our ponds,” Marini said. “We’ve never had an issue where we have run out of water. This is the first year where we are heading towards that.”

“The home farm pond is empty, so I’m drawing water from another pond, and we’re pumping it a half a mile to that pond to fill that one up,”



Chickadee Hill Farm owner Jeff Head gestures at Christmas trees suffering in the drought (Tristan Ashlock photo).

he said.

Along with ponds drying up, wells in the area are running dry, too. Recent droughts coupled with low winter snowfall amounts have prevented groundwater from reaccumulating in local aquifers. The aquifers that are failing to fill back up are often the same ones the farm wells draw from.

Smaller harvests

Down the road from Chickadee Hill Farm, the Three Sisters non-profit community farm is exploring new options for well water while continuing the fight to keep crops healthy.

Elizabeth Green, executive director of Three Sisters said, “It’s been a shock to the system. It’s been super challenging. We’re getting fewer harvests, and the harvests we are getting are smaller and smaller.”

“We are actually drilling a second well on the property,” Green said. She hopes to alternate between the existing well and the potential new water source in an effort to light-

en the load of the overburdened systems.

While resources could once be spread out on farms, they are now more directed. “A lot more of our paid crew’s time has been dedicated to trying to keep up with irrigation,” she said.

Most farms in the area use a drip irrigation system. This method delivers controlled amounts of water to each plant’s root system while losing little of the precious liquid to evaporation.

What it means for farmers

According to the NIDIS, farms in extreme drought conditions like the ones affecting Essex County can expect smaller harvests, widespread loss of crops, and increased costs to maintain livestock.

As a result of the drought, hay costs have increased and there will be fewer cuts each season. The quality of hay is often lower, which affects livestock health and further drives up livestock maintenance costs.

“We are definitely seeing reduced yields from crops because the plants are so stressed,” said Green. “Less quantity, less quality, and fewer pounds per plant.”

Chickadee Hill Farm is seeing similar yields. “You’re not getting two ears of corn per stock — you’re getting one,” said Head.

He also added that customers shouldn’t be surprised if the size of produce is smaller than usual — another characteristic of the drought.

Big picture

For most farmers, the focus remains on the season at hand and the days ahead. However, the future also looms large.

Green said, “It just feels like climate change is really taking a toll, and we need to be more flexible.”

Head was more optimistic in his outlook, “We’ll get it done. All us farmers will.”

While the business side of farming hasn’t shown any signs of letting up, and customers are in no short supply, the farmers are taking stock of what they have.

Green said, “The community has just been so supportive and amazing. The local farm network here is really special, and a lot of other farms have offered their support.”

“It’s nice to know misery loves company, because you can always talk to one another,” said Russell. “You’re sort of in the same club and often have the same problems.”

The heat may have eased, but the drought persists. However, so do the farmers.

“We just try to do our best,” said Russell. “Put your head down, do the work, and know tomorrow is another day and next season is another season.”



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Leah Bartnik (now Leah Crespi) married John Crespi this past Saturday, Aug. 13, at the Boston Museum of Science. The bride is originally from Buffalo, N.Y., while the groom is from Marblehead. They bought their first house in Ipswich in March of this year on Cottage Street. "We are so excited to fully settle down in Ipswich," Leah said.



Jenny Bodenstab and Andres Figueroa of Brooklyn, N.Y., were married July 9 on her parents' Great Neck deck in front of family. There were many lovely Ipswich touches, such as hand-picked bouquets from Northern Lights Farm, chairs borrowed from the Heard House, lobster rolls from Choate Bridge Pub, violin music by Keigan Iwanicki, and the Ipswich sunset.

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ORA from page 1

conditions of approval.

Board member Helen Weatherall came down strongly against Ora's application. Board member Carolyn Britt said she had a number of concerns that could be handled as conditions. The other board members — Mitchell Lowe, Jeff Anderson, and Mooradd — said they thought the criteria had been met.

The public speaks

Most of those who attended appeared to be against the project. However, before attendees began, Lowe said, "There is no Plan B in front of us. There is only on application in front of us."

He was referring to a FOW proposal to buy the land and maintain it as it is. The Friends also offered to acquire Ora's right to buy the property for \$200,000, but the offer was rejected.

"It's not a beauty contest. It's not American Idol. It's not even an RFP," or request for proposals, Lowe said.

He said that if the board started entertaining alternate plans, someone could come along with a Plan C and a \$250,000 offer to acquire rights to buy.

Weatherall said Ora showed how many houses were allowed by right on the property early in the application process. However, planning director Ethan Parsons said that is required.

Speaking for the Friends, attorney Tad Heuer of Foley Hoag LLC said the group had collected more than 400 names in a petition. That was more than the number of residents who voted to change the great estate preservation development bylaw in 2021, he added.

Heuer said zoning applications require "detailed, definitive, and credible information" but charged that Ora failed to provide that.

He said the legal burden is on Ora to outline the project's benefits rather than on opponents to prove its adverse effects.

Heuer also claimed the 30,000-square-foot gross floor area requirement has not been met and that the area has not been measured by any town officials.

He said Ora provided different estimates of floor area throughout the process. "It's hard to believe a number when it's been certified

multiple times," he said.

"The board is on the cusp of making a decision on multiple fronts that is contrary to the evidence and testimony before it and will make that decision legally vulnerable," Heuer said.

After he was interrupted by calls of "time," a Friends supporter gave over her time to Heuer.

He then went on to dispute the planning board's view that demolition and rebuilding a gatehouse with an addition is a renovation rather than new construction.

New construction is not allowed in a 250-foot setback, Heuer noted.

After board alternate called time, Heuer interjected angrily, "Madame Chair, I believe I have been interrupted four times."

"But not by us," Mooradd replied.

Resident Joni Soffron was next and spoke on behalf of the FOI, "friends of Ipswich." "Never has a group made up of many, many non-taypaying non-residents of our community had the privilege of speaking on and acting on an application before you," she said.

Soffron said this is an "opportunity for a well-respected, worldwide company" to become a neighbor. It will offer "opportunities to our community way beyond what the tax base may be."

She charged that the Friends "illegally" put signs on town property and that the group "throws out exaggerated innuendoes and untruths."

"They are ready and willing to cost our community thousands of dollars in legal fees just because they didn't get their way," Soffron said.

Disclosing that he is married to Weatherall, project opponent Chris Florio said Weatherall has been accused of having a conflict of interest.

He said he checked with the state ethics commission and was told that being married to a board member does not take away his right to speak at meetings.

"My personal opinion is this whole project should be rejected," he opined, but said that if the board goes ahead, it should withhold approval of phases two and three.

That way, the board would be able to see if Ora had lived up to its previous commitments, Florio argued.

Resident Thomas Gregory said there were "too many variables, too many unknowns, and too many unanswered questions from the community."

Elizabeth Massey of Hamilton handed in a petition signed by 421 Ipswich residents.

Jack Whittier, whose property straddles the town line, noted he sent in a 11-page rebuttal to the draft decision drawn up by Parsons.

"I exhort you as board members to respect what the community wants," he said.

Back again

Returning to the lectern and his comments on the setback, Heuer cited the U.S. Secretary of the Interior's standards on rehabilitation to historic properties.

Claiming the standards would not be met, he said Ora wants to demolish a 4,000-square-foot building and replace it with something four times larger.

Resident Crocker Snow said he had voted in favor of the zoning change a year ago but, "I wasn't very well informed."

This time around, he started looking into the application, including three meetings with Ora's CEO, Stuart Abelson.

Snow said. "The more and more informed I became, the more and more against I became," he said, "to the point that I think it's a very bad project for Ipswich."

Snow said he was also "troubled" that the Friends efforts at outreach to the town have been rebuffed. He said officials did not show up at a walk on Waldingfield Road and a meeting at True North Ales were "democracy in action."

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Please go to our website (bit.ly/iln-events) for more information about each item. Have an event that you'd like us to feature? Send the information to news@ipswichlocalnews.com.

— Wednesday, August 17 —

Wednesday Walks: Meet at the Town Wharf at 9:25 a.m. to explore Ipswich. Contact Ed Murphy (978 500 9523) for information.

Grief support: The Immanuel Baptist Church hosts a community spousal/partner loss grief support group at 6:30 p.m.

Family film series: Catch *How to Train Your Dragon* for only \$1 at the Cabot in Beverly at 6:30 p.m.

Grand Horizons: Gloucester Stage Company puts on this Tony Award-nominated play with performances at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday and 3 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

— Thursday, August 18 —

Over-50 basketball: Come enjoy spirited but not aggressive basketball every Thursday from 4 to 5:30

p.m. at the Ipswich Town Hall on Green Street. All are welcome!

Beer Garden and Concert: The Ipswich Masonic Lodge hosts a beer garden from 6 to 9 p.m. and live music starting at 7. This week, the Ken Clark Organ Duo.

Family film series: Catch *The Goonies* for only \$1 at the Cabot in Beverly at 6 p.m.

West Newbury Summer Concerts: Guitar/piano duo Ann Marie and Marquis are at the town bandstand on Main Street at 6:30 p.m.

Castle Hill Concerts: Soul City performs at Castle Hill at 7 p.m.

Once: An Irish musician and a Czech immigrant are drawn together by their love of music. Performances Thursday at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday at 3 p.m. at the Firehouse Center in Newburyport.

Kundalini yoga, meditation, and gong bath: Acupuncture Health and Wellness hosts Kundalini yoga, meditation, and a deep-relaxation gong bath with Ravi Sirois from 7 to

8:15 p.m. on Thursday evenings.

Lyceum Thursdays: Bob Waite presents "You Can Take the Boy out of Ipswich, but You Can't Take Ipswich out of the Boy" at 7:30 p.m. on the Riverwalk.

Matsiyahu: The alt-rocker is at the Blue Ocean Music Hall in Salisbury at 8 p.m.

— Friday, August 19 —

Hamilton-Wenham Farmers' Market: The Community House on Bay Road hosts the market from 3 to 7 p.m. through October 28.

Friday Night Wine Down: Mill River Winery on Route 1 in Rowley hosts this event from 5:30 to 8 p.m.

DJ Beach Party: A night of oldies (with special guest vocalists) on Salisbury Beach with DJ Ralphie B starting at 7:15 p.m. From 9 p.m., DJ Jeff B leads kid-friendly activities (hula hoops, bubbles, karaoke, etc.).

Tusk: Fleetwood Mac tribute band is at the Cabot in Beverly at 8 p.m.

Music on Meetinghouse Green: Come to 10 Church Street in Gloucester to see Persistence of Memory Orchestra at 8 p.m. Non-profit partner is Grace Center. Food vendor is Crêpes du Jour.

— Saturday, August 20 —

Group run: Meet fellow runners at Jetties Bagels at Depot Square in Ipswich for a three-mile run from 9 to 10 a.m. Come early or stay after for a free bagel (toppings not included). Four-legged friends and walkers are always welcome.

Om Drum Circle: Drum up a storm at the Ipswich Town Hall at

11 a.m.

Saturday Sessions at Appleton: Live music and farmhouse picnics from 2 to 4 p.m. This week, see Orville Giddings perform.

Chris Smither: The Americana musician is at the Cabot in Beverly at 6:45 p.m.

Free Beachfront Concert: Enjoy some fun summer tunes at 7:30 p.m. at the Salisbury Waterfront Stage. At 10:15, there's a fireworks show!

Echoes of Floyd: The tribute band is at the Blue Ocean Music Hall in Salisbury at 8 p.m.

— Sunday, August 21 —

Meet the Democratic Candidates: Meet and mingle with the candidates at the Newburyport Brewing Company at 12:30 p.m.

Cape Ann Symphony Concert: Special outdoor concert at 179 Hesperus Ave. in Gloucester at 4 p.m.

Session Americana: This group of musicians' musicians is at the Cabot in Beverly at 5:45 p.m.

— Monday, August 22 —

Food and fellowship: The Dinner Bell staves off hunger at the Masonic Hall from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Hot, nutritious meals are free to all.

— Tuesday, August 23 —

Jazz at the May Flower: Jazz is back at the Depot Square restaurant from 6 to 9 p.m.

DownTown Tuesdays: The concert series on the RiverWalk continues with Deep Blue at 7:30 p.m.

Cantemus: The chorus performs a free concert at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Topsfield at 9 p.m.



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'Demystifying the process' through art demonstrations



Ipswich artist KT Morse paints in oils during a "Third Thursdays" demonstration in July (Amy Palmer photo).

by Amy Palmer

IPSWICH — A small group sat completely mesmerized in the George Morse Gallery last month as painter KT Morse took to her canvas, bringing a dazzling sunset over Fox Creek to life right before their very eyes.

For Morse, creating paintings like this one help her to see her surroundings in a whole new light.

"The world begins to look even more beautiful — it really does," she said. "Painting changes the way you see the world."

KT Morse and her husband, Paul George, have just started present-

ing painting demonstrations in the George Morse Gallery on Essex Road.

The two opened the gallery, where they offer lessons and display their brilliant landscape paintings on every wall, in October of 2020.

They only began the demonstrations last month, hosting the first one on July 21.

"One of the reasons I wanted to start doing demos is to bring people in," KT Morse said.

For her first demonstration, Morse created an oil painting of the Fox Creek sunset.

With her apron on and materials in hand, she explained her process

as she went. Attendees sat, snack and drink in hand, to watch her make magic happen.

"It's a very unique opportunity to see ... the process of painting," Betsy Kelly, an attendee who also takes lessons from Paul George, said.

Carolyn Detato, an attendee from Topsfield, said she found the demonstration captivating.

"Even if you're not trying to do a painting, just listening to what she has to say and how you make a color— it's fascinating," Detato said.

By inviting the community in, KT Morse said she hopes people will make time to watch the magic of painting and maybe even try it out themselves.

"I remember the first time I was in a museum as a little girl and looking at a painting and saying, 'Somebody made that? I want to do that,'" Morse said. "I just thought it was magical."

And now she gets to create that magic. After studying art education

at the University of Massachusetts, Morse decided to pursue watercolor painting. About twelve years ago, she began oil painting.

Morse said she was drawn to creating landscapes because of their beauty.

"We love painting this area," she said. "There's so much to paint, between the river and the beaches and the marshes. The whole Cape Ann area is beautiful."

Painting is ultimately about learning to see the world, Morse said.

"It's a lifelong learning process, and it has so many more gifts than just creating a painting," she said.

One of painting's many gifts, according to Morse, is that it gives you a sense of peace.

Through her demonstrations, Morse has been able to extend that peace to others.

"If you're having a hectic day, this is the place to come, because it takes you into a whole different world," Detato said.

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"The Great Marsh at Dusk" by KT Morse

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Word search: Folk heroes and creatures!

August 17 is the birthday of Davy Crocket — “king of the wild frontier.” America has lots of folk heroes, both real and fictitious. Can you tell fact from fiction while finding these uniquely American figures?

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- Betsy Ross
- Johnny Appleseed
- Daniel Boone
- Davy Crockett
- Harriet Tubman
- Mike Fink
- Calamity Jane
- Wild Bill Hickok
- Jigger Johnson
- John Henry
- Molly Pitcher
- Molly Brown
- Buggalo Bill Cody
- Annie Oakley
- Pecos Bill
- Paul Bunyan
- Cordwood Pete
- Babe the Blue Ox
- The Lone Ranger
- Tonto
- Bass Reeves
- Johnny Kaw
- High John the Conqueror
- Pecos Bill
- Captain Stormalong

- Bigfoot
- Champ
- Punxsutawney Phil
- Jersey Devil
- Maid of the Mist
- Mothman
- Hodag
- Old Black Eyes
- Jackalope
- Wendigo
- Chessie
- Chupacabra
- Headless Horseman
- Rip Van Winkle
- Casey Jones
- Uncle Sam
- Br'er Rabbit
- Hugh Glass
- Kiviuq
- Stack-O-Lee
- Huck Finn
- Lozen
- Bud Billiken
- Railroad Bill
- John Brown

COLONIAL TRIVIA

illustrated by Ed Colley

How many British prison ships were used during the Revolutionary War?



Send your answers to news@ipswichlocalnews.com.

Answer to the last trivia question:

Back before he became an American legend, John Chapman — better known as Johnny Appleseed — was born (not created) in Leominster in 1774. Not much is known about his early life, but it seems Johnny took to the road early. In 1800, in Licking River, Ohio, Johnny became an apprentice to a orchardist ... and began his life in apples.

In the early 1800s, land speculators on the move westward offered 100 acres of land to settlers ... with a catch. Homesteaders had to plant 50 apple trees and 20 peach trees to prove they were in it for the long haul (it takes fruit trees approximately 10 years to bear fruit). For Johnny, this was a business opportunity. He would do the difficult job of planting and cultivating these orchards in advance and sell them for a profit.

Quick sidebar on orchard propagation: a seed from a MacIntosh apple won't necessarily grow into a tree that produces MacIntosh fruit. Orchard farmers grow their desired fruit through a process known as grafting — joining a branch from a tree that already produces the desired apples onto another tree.

Johnny was a member of the Swedenborgian Church, which forbade the practice of grafting (in case it hurt the plant). Johnny grew his trees directly from seed, which meant the apples were small, hard, and generally inedible. But that's okay, because most apples grown in the United States at this time were solely for making hard cider.

According to contemporary witnesses, Johnny was a small man with long, dark hair and a beard. He lived rough in the woods and went barefoot even in the winter. But he was also eloquent with quick intelligence. He preached the gospel as he traveled and converted many Native Americans, who regarded him as someone who had been touched by the Great Spirit. Even hostile tribes left him alone.

John Chapman died in 1845, and only one of his trees survives to this day, on a farm in Nova, Ohio. Most of the trees that produced sour, bitter apples were chopped down by FBI agents during Prohibition, as the fruit was only good for making hard cider.



RIVER from page 5

kyl substances, are also known as “forever chemicals.” Their presence in water is closely monitored by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

The DEP limit is 20 parts per trillion (ppt), before a well is shut down, and it monitors wells with levels higher than 10 ppt.

The Dewberry report said Topsfield recorded levels higher than 20 ppt.

Ipswich also had one high reading, but that was found to be an error on re-testing. Manchester had one reading of 19.8 ppt.

Regional solutions

While Dewberry looked at towns near the mouth of the river, state Sen. Bruce Tarr (R-Gloucester) is heading a task force of all communities drawing from the Ipswich.

Two possible alternatives to

groundwater are an MWRA connection for emergency supplies and a new reservoir in Topsfield on land that has already been bought for that purpose, Tarr said in an interview with 1623 Studios.

“This is likely going to continue to be an issue, and that’s before you get to the need to build more housing,” he said.

Calling the task force proactive, he added, “That’s why we are not sitting back and trying to react to drought conditions.”

Tarr said all the communities on the task force are ready to agree to a charter. “That may not seem like a lot, but it’s been a monumental accomplishment,” he said, “because all of these stakeholders have different perspectives and different issues.”

Castonguay agreed with the challenge. “It will require everyone to work together,” he said.

DEATH NOTICE: Dorcas K. Rice

Dorcas K. (Blair) Rice, 91, wife of Donald H. Rice, died on Saturday afternoon, August 13, 2022, in her home in Ipswich after a long illness.

Born in Cleveland on March 17, 1931, she was the daughter of the late Theodore P. and Charlot G. (Gilbert) Blair.

In addition to her husband, Donald, of Ipswich, Mrs. Rice is survived by two children: daughter Melissa Rice of Columbia, S.C., and son Christopher Rice of Guilford. She is also survived by her adopted son, William Perry, of New York City.

Services will be private. Assisting is the Morris Funeral Home of Ipswich. To send a letter of condolence, please go to MorrisFH.com.

DAD JOKES

What’s the difference between a dog and a marine biologist?

One wags a tail, while the other tags a whale.



illustration by Ed Colley

TIDE CHART OF PLUM ISLAND SOUND (south end) SPONSORED BY



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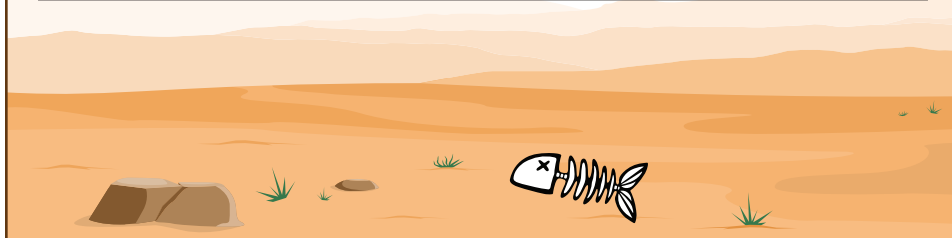
DATE	TIDE SET	HIGH TIDE	LOW TIDE
Wednesday, August 17	one	4:03 a.m.	10:19 a.m.
	two	4:28 p.m.	10:51 p.m.
Thursday, August 18	one	4:54 a.m.	11:08 a.m.
	two	5:18 p.m.	11:45 p.m.
Friday, August 19	one	5:48 a.m.	12:00 a.m.
	two	6:10 p.m.	
Saturday, August 20	one	6:44 a.m.	12:41 a.m.
	two	7:05 p.m.	12:54 p.m.
Sunday, August 21	one	7:41 a.m.	1:38 a.m.
	two	8:00 p.m.	1:49 p.m.
Monday, August 22	one	8:37 a.m.	2:34 a.m.
	two	8:54 p.m.	2:44 p.m.
Tuesday, August 23	one	9:31 a.m.	3:28 a.m.
	two	9:46 p.m.	3:36 p.m.

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IPSWICH DROUGHT STATUS SEVERE: WATER BAN

What does this mean?

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Democrat Kristin Kassner kicks off canvassing in Ipswich

by Ella Niederhelman

IPSWICH — Local Democrats convened at Gathr last Sunday for an early-morning canvassing launch supporting Kristin Kassner’s campaign for state rep. There was a brief meeting before supporters scattered to complete various campaigning tasks across town.

Following the recent redistricting, Ipswich’s previous home within the district of Fourth Essex has been shifted. In the race for the position of state representative for the Second District of Essex, Kassner, a Democrat, will face off against Lenny Mirra, a Republican.

The redistricting move puts Ipswich in a district with Hamilton, Rowley, Newbury, Georgetown, and a third of Topsfield.

Kassner has been using her background of nearly 20 years as a town planner in Burlington to tie these



Kristin Kassner speaks with her supporters at her canvassing launch last Sunday morning at Gathr. (Ella Niederhelman photo).

towns together, holding multiple meet-and-greets.

After hosting her launch party at the Grove in Rowley back in July to introduce herself to the towns, Kassner organized her supporters to canvass Ipswich voters last Sunday morning.

Canvassing begins

The launch began at 9 a.m. Supporters were given the chance to partake in the quick training to use an app called “miniVAN,” which allows for efficient, mobile canvassing at a larger scale. They then applied these skills to Kassner’s campaign, designating specific roles to help gain supporters.

“The point of today was to get everybody on board for the canvassing effort, for the get-out-the-vote,” said Elizabeth Kilcoyne, advisor to Kassner. She believes this app and training will help supporters do just that.

As for Kassner herself, she has been going door-to-door for the past two months, hoping to encourage the super-voters — Democrats who voted in the last four elections — that she is the right candidate. She then attempts to recruit them to be volunteers for the campaign.

Many have gladly joined the

effort.

With dozens of supporters and organizers, Kassner hopes to lift the burden and stress before the campaign — at least partially.

Door-to-door in a small community

Before supporters headed off to all corners of Ipswich to use their newly canvassing skills, Kassner gave a quick speech to over two dozen residents from across all six towns within the district, including her own husband and son, who dropped by for a visit.

After supporters had dispersed, Kassner said, “You go find the key place that you can be the most effective in making positive change.

“Really understanding the difference between community, community consensus, how a community is interacting and working, what their goals are, and how regulations interact with that ... planning is what brings us to the whole.”

While she is focusing on the environment, reproductive freedom, transportation, housing, and education equality, Kassner values community above all.

Kassner “really understands people and how they connect with their communities, and I think that comes from their planning background. That makes it easy for her to understand where they are coming from,” Kilcoyne said.

Kassner’s campaign will continue up until the midterms on November 8.

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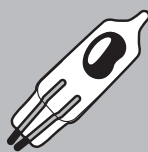
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Obituary: Drew Ann Beedle

Drew Ann Beedle, 28, departed this world peacefully after a 10-year struggle with substance-use disorder and surrounded by her loving family and friends at Boston Medical Center on August 2, 2022.

Drew was born to Tracy Comeau-Beedle and John Beedle in Beverly on June 10, 1994.

She was a lifelong resident of Ipswich, graduating from Ipswich High School in 2012.

Most recently, Drew was employed as behavioral health technician at Serenity at Summit in Haverhill.

Drew is survived by the joy of her life, her four-year-old daughter, Camryn (Cammy) LeVie.

In addition, Drew is survived by her loving parents; her sister, Ashley Comeau, and her partner, Daniel Perry, of Ipswich; her brother, Casey Beedle, of Dover, N.H.; her grand-

mother, Mary Crall, of Scarborough, Maine; aunt Renee Comeau of Ipswich; aunt Karen and uncle James Hurley of Cape Elizabeth, Maine; many cousins; and her darling niece

and nephew, Rylee Perry and Owen Perry, of Ipswich.

Drew is predeceased by maternal grandparents Clifford (Mokie) and Pamela Comeau, uncle Michael Comeau, and uncle Mark Walker, all of Ipswich.

Drew will be remembered for her unwavering strength and fierce resilience. She never gave up.

Drew was a strong, independent, and beautiful young woman who could light up a room with her smile and energy.



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She inspired and gave hope to many of her patients and co-workers.

Drew will be lovingly remembered for her bluntness with her family members and close friends.

Drew was very outgoing and always up for a new adventure. Drew was happiest when she shared these precious and joyful moments with her daughter, Cammy. Drew was a devoted and loving mother who will be forever missed by her sweet Cammy.

Drew's family takes comfort in knowing that Drew inspired and helped people along her journey and is now at peace. Drew will be forever loved in our hearts.

There will be a celebration of life in memory of Drew on September 17, 2022, at 2 p.m. at The VFW Hall, 19 Bradford Street, Rowley.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the UTMA account that has been established for Drew's daughter, Camryn A. LeVie, at the Institution for Savings.

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Obituary: Frances Glennon

Frances Glennon, of the Riverbend Residence in Ipswich, died peacefully after a long and lovely life of 102 years on Wednesday, August 3, 2022, in the Blueberry Hill Rehabilitation Center in Beverly.

She was the wife of the late William J. Glennon, who passed in 1997.

Frances was born in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, on July 17, 1920, one of the five children of the late Franciszek and Marianna (Rydrik) Lachowicz.

She was raised in South Attleboro, where she lived with her family on their farm.

She graduated from Attleboro High School in 1938 and then married the love of her life, William, in 1946.

Frances and William settled in South Attleboro to raise their two boys next door to her family farm.

They loved traveling together, visiting many European countries and the eastern coast of the United States.

She was a lifelong member of Polish National Church, where she enjoyed conversing in Polish and embracing her Polish culture.

Gardening and walking were her passions well into her late 90s, and Frances' greatest joy was in her role as grandmother and great-grandmother.



She is survived by two sons: William “Mickey” M. Glennon and his wife, Linda, of Harrisville, R.I., and T. Glennon and his wife, Kristine, of Ipswich; four granddaughters: Cynthia Glennon and her husband, Michael, of Salem; Stephanie Murray and her husband, Daniel, of Ipswich; Nicole Twomey and her husband,

Matthew, of Ipswich; and Pamela Glennon and her husband, Kevin, of Tahoe, Calif.; five great-grandchildren: Isla and Carys Murray, Henry and Jack Twomey, and her newest great-granddaughter, Sophie Phillips; and many nieces and nephews.

She was the sister of the late Anna, Josephine, Stacia, and Bella.

A private burial service will be held in South Attleboro at a later date. Arrangements are under the direction of the Whittier-Porter Funeral Home of Ipswich.

To leave a condolence, please visit www.whittier-porter.com.

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Obituary: Marcia M. Dalton

Marcia M. Dalton, 78, passed away surrounded by family and friends on August 8, 2022, in Salem Hospital.

Born in Ipswich on March 9, 1944, she was the daughter of the late John J. and Viola (Sucharski) Michon Sr.

A graduate of Ipswich High School, Marcia made many life-long friends around Ipswich.

She attended Boston University and received her bachelor's degree in education.

She later received her master's degree from Salem State University.

Marcia taught at Endicott College and Northern

Essex Community College for many years, touching the lives of hundreds of students.

She enjoyed traveling with her family to many countries across Europe and the Caribbean. With friends, she made pilgrimages to Medjugorje, Fatima, Lourdes, and Garabandal, Spain.

In May 2001, Marcia was received into the Secular Order of the Discalced Carmelites of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Danvers. She made definitive promises on December 11, 2004.



Marcia had a very special devotion to Our Blessed Mother Mary and to Saint Therese of the Child Jesus Discalced — “The Little Flower.”

Marcia is survived by her two wonderful sons: Clinton Dalton and his wife, Nicole, of Ipswich and Curtis Dalton and his wife, Kimberly,

of Middleton; five grandchildren: Trey, Cyrus, Camren, Vivien, and Xavier; and many cousins, nieces, and nephews.

She was predeceased by her beloved brother, John Michon Jr.

A Mass of Christian burial was celebrated at Our Lady of Hope Church on Pine Swamp Road, Ipswich. Burial

followed in the New Highland Cemetery, Ipswich.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Secular Order of the Discalced Carmelites of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Danvers.

The Morris Funeral Home on 45 North Main Street assisted with the arrangements. Online condolences are available at www.MorrisFH.com.

Obituary: Arthur K. Ross Jr.

Arthur K. Ross Jr., 94, husband of the late Jane S. (Dockerty) Ross, died peacefully at his home on Thursday, August 11, 2022.

Born on February 19, 1928, he was the son of the late Arthur K. Sr. and Ida B. (Walker) Ross.

Mr. Ross was a lifelong resident of Ipswich. He was a veteran of World War II, having honorably served in the Army.

He and his wife started the Arthur Ross Law Office in Ipswich in the late 1950s.

Mr. Ross was clerk of the 3rd District Court of Essex County.

He was an avid trombone player.

Mr. Ross was predeceased by his wife Jane on June 29, 2018.

Mr. Ross is survived by his two sons and their wives: Peter M. and Dianne Ross and John W. and Susan Ross, all of Ipswich.

Also survived by his four grandchildren: James Ross, John Ross Jr., Alexandra “Dolly” Ross, and Samuel White.

In addition, he is survived by his sister, Priscilla Lindquist, of Hampstead, N.H., and many nieces and nephews.

Mr. Ross was also predeceased by his son, Timothy Burnham Ross; his daughter, Elizabeth Ross White; his brother, Philip Ross; and his sister,

Frances Norcross.

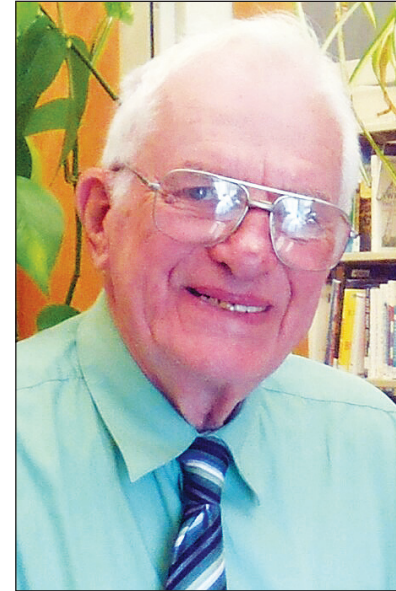
A graveside service, followed by military honors, will be held on Tuesday, August 16 at 10 a.m. in the

Cowles Memorial Cemetery, 29 Town Farm Road, Ipswich.

Visiting hours will be on Monday, August 15, from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Morris Funeral Home, 45 North Main Street, Ipswich. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation in Mr. Ross's name to First Church of Christ, Scientist, Ipswich, P.O. Box 408, Ipswich, MA 01938.

To send a letter of condolence to the Ross family, please go to MorrisFH.com.



LEGAL NOTICE

Residents of the Town of Ipswich please note the Select Board will conduct a public hearing on Monday, August 22, 2022, at 8:10 p.m. in Meeting Room A of Town Hall at 25 Green Street relative to the warrant for the Special Town Meeting to be held on Tuesday, October 18, 2022.

William Whitmore
Select Board

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- attorney at law -



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 3 Bedroom cape in highly sought after in-town location with private yard. Sited on a large corner .43 acres lot. Updated kitchen and central air.
\$699,000 Kristin Bouchard 617-571-8823



Newbury
 Centuries past and modern elegance seamlessly blend in this showpiece renovated property. 1.64 park-like acres on Newbury Upper Green.
\$2,975,000 Karen Bernier 978-807-5580



Gloucester
 Outstanding oceanfront townhouse overlooking Historic Gloucester Harbor! Designer quality throughout this amazing home.
\$1,695,000 Michael Beaton 978-884-9910



Manchester
 Experience the ultimate lifestyle in Manchester-by-The-Sea in this stunning 5 bedroom colonial sited on more than two scenic acres & pool.
\$2,498,000 Philio Cushing 978-884-9904



Gloucester
 Oceanfront Contemporary perched on the dramatic, rugged coast of Cape Ann's Folly Cove. Private gated acre of land with exceptional ocean views. Located in an exclusive, protected enclave close to Halibut State Park and Plum Cove Beach.
\$3,495,000 Karen Bernier 978-807-5580



Essex
 Don't miss this centrally located side by side two family in the heart of downtown Essex. Wide pine floors, and a beamed ceiling.
\$749,000 Bryan Shields 978-290-2497



Beverly
 Turn-key Prospect Hill 2nd and 3rd level condo! Delights with high ceilings, light-filled rooms and gleaming hardwood floors.
\$415,900 Kimberly Lorden 978-879-6746



Essex
 SPACIOUS multi-level home on a flat acre lot. Gleaming hard wood floors, a large living room with brick hearth wood burning fireplace.
\$775,000 Karen Bernier 978-807-5580



Topsfield
 Rare opportunity to own a piece of MA history in this 1850c Queen Anne Stick-Style gem, set back off Bucolic Country Road. 2 bay detached garage.
\$789,900 Gail Tyrrell 781-760-0670



Winchester
 This captivating single-level home offers much more than meets the eye! Located in one of North Beverly's sought after neighborhood.
\$2,195,000 Karen Bernier 978-807-5580

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Philio Cushing of Churchill Properties is the **Exclusive Listing Agent** for these properties.

Contact Philio at **978-884-9904** or **Philio.Cushing@ChurchillProp.com.**



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