

Unknown North Shore

Explore Your Backyard for Best-Kept Secrets, Places Worth the Trip, and Experiences You Can't Miss!

northshore

THE BEST OF THE NORTH SHORE

The HIDDEN GEMS

With

Farm-Fresh
Cooking
at Phat Cats
in Amesbury

Salsa Dancing
at Rockafellas
in Salem

Star Gazing at
Lynn's High
Rock Tower and
Observatory

Art Making
at Montserrat
College of
Art in Beverly

Unexpected
Shopping
in Downtown
Haverhill

**And Much
More!**

By ALEXANDRA PECCI

CLASS ACT
The Gloucester
Stage Company
Hits its Mark

By JULIE BATTEN

CANINE UNIT
A World-Class
Training Center
in Methuen

By ANDREW CONWAY

**SOUTH OF
THE BORDER**
The Area's Best
Mexican Food

By BRANDY RAND

**PRETTY AS
A PICTURE**
Summer Fashion
at the Peabody
Essex Museum

Photographs by
BOB PACKERT





MY OFFICE

THE ZOO-KEEPERS

BRANDI BAITCHMAN AND DAN MCLAUGHLIN, SENIOR ZOOKEEPERS, FRANKLIN PARK ZOO'S TROPICAL FOREST

Where they're from: Rockport. **What they do:** Take care of many different animals, ranging from Panamanian golden frogs to gorillas. **Why gorillas?** "Gorillas are incredible animals. They're smart, kind, and caring," Baitchman says. "Gorillas have many human-like qualities, like laughter and a strong sense of family. They are really amazing to work with." Adds McLaughlin, "After studying evolution in college, I had the most interest in working with primates." **Best part of the job:** For Baitchman, it's greeting the gorillas in the morning. "The gorillas are always happy to see us, she says. "They let out a loud 'gorilla purr.'" For McLaughlin, it's "getting to watch the baby animals, especially Kimani and Kambiri (both western lowland gorillas), grow up." **A surprising fact about gorillas:** Gorilla nose prints are unique to each gorilla. Just like a human's fingerprints, one can identify a gorilla by his nose print. zoonew-england.org. —L.L.