



# The High School View

The High School View is staffed and prepared entirely by students from the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School, and published on their behalf by The Martha's Vineyard Times, with the generous assistance of the sponsors whose names appear below.

## On a course for change

BY CASSIE CASEY AND ALEXIS CONDON

Leadership, an elective taught by history teacher JoEllen Meuse, is unlike any other course offered by the high school. The class enables students to practice leadership skills through activities and projects. In October, Mrs. Meuse organized a trip to Ghost Island Farm, where students assisted by picking up plastic, readying the fields for winter, and

harvesting cherry tomatoes. A couple of students even went out to the road and suited up in gorilla and chicken costumes to encourage drivers to come to the farm stand. An employee at Ghost Island Farm, Sarah Crittenden, said, "You can do what you set out to do; farming is hard work and valuable, and you really need to put your whole heart and soul into it to be successful." Students also visited Felix Neck, where they got plenty of



Two leadership class senior students dress up to promote the Ghost Island Farm stand in October.

practice leading a class for preschoolers on identifying bats. Principal Peg Regan

important characteristic you have to have in leadership is to be able to listen." Senior Brenda DeOliveira is an active participant in the class. She said, "I think that the importance of the class is to find a group of students who want to learn about becoming a leader. The field trips we go on often have us interacting with toddlers, and having those children look up to you requires leadership skills." The class has been working on individual service projects. Senior Aidee Espino's project focuses on the awareness of homeless people on the Island.

Aidee said, "Homeless awareness is a bigger problem than people realize. Many have no idea that over 150 Islanders are homeless. My project is about coming together as a community and giving things to the people who truly need them." Mrs. Meuse said, "I hope students see that they have the potential to be leaders in their own right. Leadership is difficult, and there are many obstacles. But you can be successful if you are willing to adapt. If you run up against a challenge, you overcome it." **HSV**

## Reggae hits the airwaves

BY CHRISTOPHER ARING

The sixth reggae radio station in the continental U.S. is located right here on the Island. We're Your Oak Bluffs Radio Station (WYOB), 105.5, was created by radio club president Skip Finley and is instructed by both Skip and Bill Narkiewicz. Skip received a low-power radio station licence with some of his colleagues and friends. They applied for the licence on his behalf two years ago. Once Skip received the licence, he decided to create a noncommercial and nonprofit radio station at the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School. He started building the space and gathering the equipment in July 2015. Skip said, "I thought that even though it is not technically a professional radio station, it could still be operated as a professional station by the students at the high school." WYOB had its first air date on Oct. 10, and plans to run 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Currently, the station is

entirely prerecorded, set to play reggae music and a few essential announcements. The club members are learning how to speak on air so that in two to three weeks, the students can begin speaking live on the station. Skip said, "The students will rotate through the different jobs just like in a real radio station. Once they settle down into an area that interests them most, they can

more and more student-driven. Senior Miles Thornton said, "We will be running the station ourselves, which is exciting because we have helped from the beginning to build this great project." The station is not allowed to run commercials because it is a nonprofit station; however, revenue will be generated through sponsorships so that the station can raise the



Left to right: Bill Narkiewicz assists junior Matt Delorenzo with the equipment while Skip Finley looks on.

stay in that area and learn more about it." The club currently has 16 members, but is looking for any other students who may be interested in radio communications. Once the students have gained the essential knowledge needed to run the station and have settled into their chosen roles, the club will be necessary funds to keep itself running. Skip hopes to use the leftover money to give student scholarships to any student pursuing a communications degree. Pending approval from the state, Skip is hoping to get the radio station to be an official Career Technical Education program at the high school. **HSV**

## Columbus Day questioned

BY KAEA VECCHIA-ZEITZ

Most students welcome school holidays — though Columbus Day seems an increasingly difficult one for many to celebrate. Opposition dates back to the 19th century, according to the History Channel website. In many Latin American nations, closer to where Columbus landed, the holiday is celebrated to honor Hispanic culture and its roots, not Columbus's accomplishments. In America, Columbus Day is celebrated not just for the Italian explorer's achievements, but also to honor Italian-American heritage. History department chair Elaine Weintraub has another idea for the day's intent. She said, "Columbus Day is a relatively recent invention intended to unify a nation of diverse people." Somewhere along the way, this attempt at unification was lost. Senior Emerson Mahoney is a member of the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah). He said, "It definitely feels like we — Native Americans — are given less credit than we should for being a part of the first civilizations in the United States. The countrywide celebration of Columbus Day gives students

the idea that Columbus was the first person in America, which isn't fair to natives; it makes people think that Native American tribes were insignificant compared to Columbus." Senior Aquinnah Hill, also a member of the Tribe, said, "Columbus Day just adds to the hurt. The Wampanoag tribe and its culture are constantly overlooked. I have friends that know I'm Native American and genuinely celebrate Columbus Day, not knowing of its history and its meaning towards me." Some states have begun to replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples Day. Ms. Weintraub believes in honoring both cultures. She said, "We have to acknowledge the past because it happened. That includes Spanish exploration and heritage, along with the crimes that were committed against the native peoples." Aquinnah talked about the issue in terms of the Island community. She said, "I feel that the student body should be educated on holidays and their history, especially if we have the audacity to think we all deserve a day off. Holidays like Cranberry Day make me appreciate my nationality and my people." Senior Nils Aldeborgh has

a different outlook on the holiday. He said, "I believe in America's celebration of Columbus Day. Founding America is a worthy basis of celebration. People say that it was done by accident or through bloodshed, but it was the start of this country, and I think we should all celebrate that." Emerson said, "The tribe does not celebrate Columbus Day at all, and the day is still considered a regular workday. However, students are exempt from school on the day. Some tribal members who can find the time petition at the Statehouse in an attempt to replace the day with Indigenous Peoples Day and to bring awareness to the misconception." In school, students are taught that Columbus didn't actually discover anything, but that he introduced a "new world" to Europe in ways not always clearly depicted. Emerson said, "I think that Columbus Day should bring awareness to Columbus' cruelty, but it does the opposite. A lot of people think he did nothing, and Native Americans don't deserve the rights they have. But because of the emerging switch from Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day, people will have to recognize the rights of natives and see the wrongs that were done by Columbus." **HSV**

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