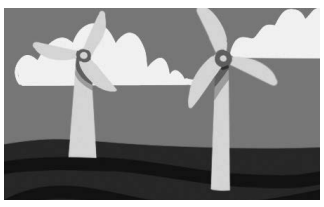

The High School View

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.

Vineyard Wind visits career pathways class

BY FINN ROBINSON

Over the past few months, representatives from the offshore wind project Vineyard Wind and Vineyard Power, a local nonprofit organization focused on the renewable energy transition, have visited Nell Coogan's "Career Pathways" class at Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS). "Career Pathways" is one of four rotations of Junior Seminar, a semester-long course in which juniors explore different aspects of the post–high school world and take steps to plan for their futures. Representatives from Vineyard Wind and Vineyard Power each visited for a 70-minute class period.

In 2022, according to the Department of Energy, wind energy accounted for 3.8 percent of U.S. electricity. This number is small, but it is growing rapidly. The Department of Energy has set a goal to have 20 percent of U.S. energy produced by wind by 2030. This rapid growth is impacting many places around the country, including Martha's Vineyard.

The Vineyard Wind project, located off the south shore, is one of multiple large-scale offshore wind projects under development in federal waters off the East Coast. When completed, Vineyard Wind is estimated to produce 806 megawatts annually, enough energy to power 400,000 homes in Massachusetts. Vineyard Wind also plans on hiring 100 maintenance and operations employees from Martha's Vineyard, who will be trained with the technical skills required to service the turbines and keep operations running smoothly.

Ms. Coogan said, "[Vineyard Wind] wanted to figure out how they could get in and explain what they were doing, and how there might be job opportunities in the future."

A representative of Vineyard Wind, Jeannine Louro, explained what their visit entailed. "Students learn about the project, they map and design their own offshore wind development area, and then they learn about the job opportunities and career pathways," she said.

Junior Rodeo Purves-Langer is a student in Junior Seminar, and was present when Vineyard Wind representatives visited the class. "I think the overall goal of it was to educate us about what was going on with the project, because it's a big topic of discussion on the Island, and there's a lot of controversy over it. But it was also to talk to us about what some of the career pathways are, in terms of what this project is creating," he said.

Even as construction of Vineyard Wind headquarters on Beach Road in Vineyard Haven continues, opposition remains. For example, some fishermen oppose the project because of concern over the impact on local fisheries, due to construction of the turbines, noise pollution, and other factors.

In addition to being enrolled in Junior Seminar, junior Mason Warburton is an avid fisherman who expressed reservations about Vineyard Wind. "My concerns are definitely about wildlife and fishing. If the wind turbines were there, it might not have the worst effect, but the thing that's going to have an effect is building them," he said.

Mason cited his experience being out on the water, off the island's south shore, and observing the magnitude of the project and hearing the noise from construction. Mason thinks that the wind farm project will have a negative effect on the fishing industry, but is trying to remain open-minded. "One of the things [Jeanine Louro] told me that stood out was that they were letting fishermen do research on how it affects wildlife populations. That seems reasonable," he said.

Offshore construction seen through telescope.

ZEB ATHEARN

Vineyard Power's renewable development manager, Luke Lefeber also visited Ms. Coogan's class. In a recent interview, he outlined the level of research and analysis that went into the ultimate approval of the Vineyard Wind project in 2021. Lefeber explained that the Bureau of Ocean and Energy Management, under the Department of Interior, examined all aspects of the project — from construction to the 25-year operations life of the project, through until decommissioning. He said that the federal government then went to a third-party consultant who studied how the project would impact the environment — from marine and coastal ecosystems to the air, to the economic impact.

"It's not that this project happened overnight; this project is 14 years in the making," said Lefeber. "Every aspect of the project has been thoroughly considered at the local, state, and federal level."

Junior Elliot Stead, a student in Career Pathways, was especially interested in Vineyard Wind. He enjoyed an activity that allowed students to experience what working on a wind farm is like by using virtual reality goggles that simulate the experience of climbing a wind turbine and operating a boat. "It was very cool to see everything with my own eyes, and interact with the virtual world as if it was the real world," he said.

As a student who is already interested in the sciences, Elliot was intrigued by the prospect of a career with Vineyard Wind. He said, "I was definitely very interested, and the people around me were too, because looking at the jobs and seeing the pay, you're like, 'Woah, I could make a sustainable and lucrative career off this' ... [while] helping the planet move forward, and our country move forward." HSV

The Vineyard team defends against Nantucket.

ZAK POTTER

Boys basketball shoots for TD Garden

BY NIKEYA TANKARD AND ZAK POTTER

On Sunday afternoon, the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School boys basketball team tipped off against longtime rival Nantucket High School in a special appearance at the TD Garden. Two fan buses transported students to the game to cheer on the Vineyard, joining many alumni in the area who took the opportunity to sport their Vineyard pride.

The two schools were invited to the Garden to participate in one of 10 high school basketball games on Sunday that raised money for the Andrew James Lawson Foundation. The foundation's mission is to support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities through programming, scholarships, and advocacy.

The two Island schools were each required to sell at least 400 tickets, and the Vineyard easily surpassed that number, filling most of the seats behind the team benches.

The two teams competed in an aggressive back-and-forth affair, with Nantucket prevailing 67-59.

Senior center Tysean Thomas reflected on the game and the team's performance. "[We needed to get] more rebounds on defense," he said. "They got too many second chances, and we took some really forced shots."

Fellow senior Jack Bettencourt added, "We could've played a little bit better, worked a little bit harder."

Senior Porter Moehnke said, "I wish we would've come out on top so we'd have less stress heading to Nantucket, but overall it's a good lesson."

Despite the loss, Martha's Vineyard is still in the midst of an impressive regular season, with a current record of 7-3. The Vineyarders will have another crack at the Whalers on Feb. 3 at Nantucket. HSV

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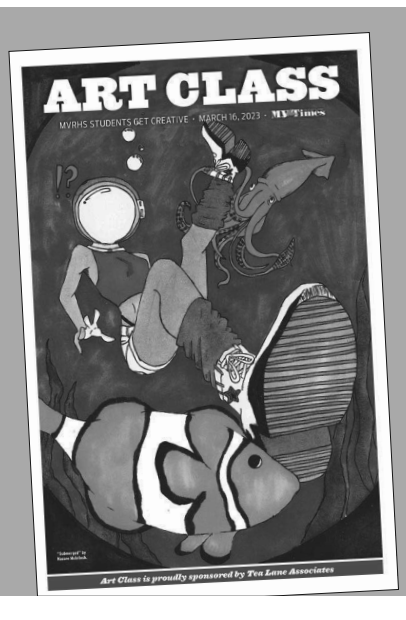

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A collaboration between MVRHS and The MV Times showcasing student artwork

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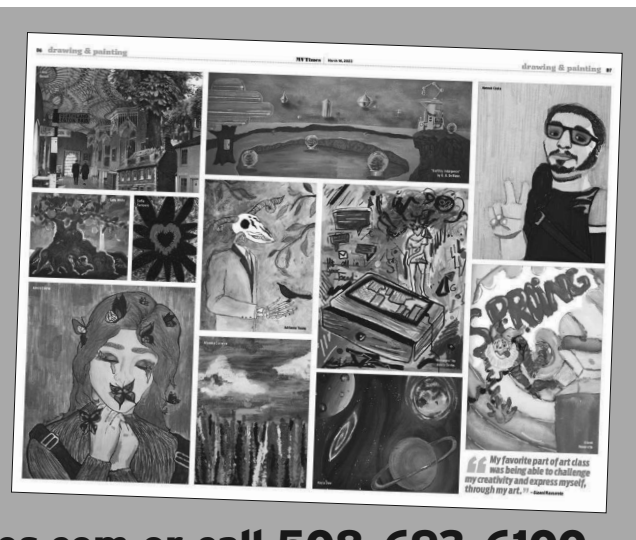

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