

Celebrations of love and Black history **B2**

MVRHS students reimagine the underworld in 'Hadestown' **B14**

MV Times

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Health: At what cost?

Many Islanders struggle with surging insurance rates.

BY SARAH SHAW DAWSON

As young professionals navigate higher healthcare costs than ever before and remain on long waitlists for primary care physicians, some of them are asking: Is insurance worth it, and at what cost?

Despite funds diverted last month by the Massachusetts governor's office to alleviate the staggering costs of health insurance premiums, made higher by recent federal legislative changes, many Islanders haven't seen any reprieve.

Now, individuals and families are faced with some difficult financial choices, especially because the nature of living on an island means other costs, such as food and housing, are already more expensive than elsewhere.

The bottom line for Vineyard residents, said Dukes County health access representative Sarah Kuh, who works directly with locals to navigate their health plans, is that "people with higher incomes still can't qualify for tax credits [subsidies], and people with the lowest incomes still can't [afford] the ConnectorCare plans." ConnectorCare is the state's basic insurance plan for residents of the state who make under \$62,000 a year. It offers low annual deductibles and co-pays for appointments and medication.

In an interview with The Times, state Sen. Julian Cyr said locals are only beginning to see the "catastrophic effects of federal legislation" on the state's health insurance, known as Massachusetts Health Connector, which is used by thousands of Vineyarders.

"I'm afraid this is only the start," Cyr added. The Times spoke with people who work in the restaurant industry, retail, and coffee shops — places where insurance isn't usually offered as a benefit to employees. Many of the locals who work for the few establishments that stay open year-round said they feel burdened by the cost of health insurance.

"It's insane," said Julia Zephir, the manager of Bunch of Grapes Bookstore, after seeing how much her insurance costs shot up last month. "I was paying a good amount for *Continued on A9*



NICHOLAS VUKOTA

West Tisbury residents Alex Avakian, left, and Kevin DeGulis playing pond hockey on Duarte's Pond.

Pastimes on frozen ponds

The recent cold snap is a blessing to the Island's hockey and fishing communities. BY NICHOLAS VUKOTA

The freezing temperatures that have gripped the Island in the past couple of weeks made roads impassable and walkways treacherous, but they also brought about a unique and joyous expression of winter: pond hockey.

Pond hockey has drawn families and friends from around the Island to makeshift rinks, like on Duarte's Pond on Lambert's Cove Road, where West Tisbury resident Brian Donnelly and other locals have turned daily upkeep into a

labor of love, clearing the surface, shoveling snow to form rink boundaries, and squeegeeing the rink as the sun sets for a new sheet of smooth ice the next day.

Families come and go from ponds *Continued on A8*

Study says offshore wind decreases blackout risk

Regional grid needs highlighted by recent storms and weeks of cold weather.

BY HAYLEY DUFFY

The past few weeks have been cold, brutally cold, especially on an Island surrounded by the frigid Atlantic where the winds, which gather speed and blow faster over the ocean, have reached up to 60 miles per hour. But these low temperatures and wind gusts don't just cause involuntary tears to stream down people's faces as they race from their car to Stop & Shop, they also *Continued on A15*

Light snow, heavy shovel sales

Islanders cleared the shelves of hundreds of snow shovels in preparation of a nor'easter. BY EUNKI SEONWOO

With a foot of snow already covering the Island, it's understandable that Vineyarders may have overreacted a bit to the dire forecasts that were warning of another half-foot on Sunday. As it turned out, Islanders experienced a blustery weekend that came with only a light dusting of white. And even though there was less than an inch on the ground by the end of Sunday, that did not stop a run on shovels and ice melt at Island stores.

Jesse Steere, owner of Shirleys True Value Hardware in Vineyard Haven, told The Times on Monday that his store had already sold 500 shovels and 20 pallets of salt this year. (A pallet can hold around 49 bags of salt that weigh roughly 50 pounds each.) Shirleys also ran out of ice melt. But another shipment of 300 shovels and 14 pallets of salt arrived Tuesday to meet demand.

And it wasn't just Shirleys that had *Continued on A7*



Shirleys True Value Hardware restocked snow shovels after Islanders purchased them all following weeks of freezing and snowy weather.

NICHOLAS VUKOTA



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SARAH SHAW DAWSON

Gabriel Bengtsson, a junior at the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School, made a documentary about the housing crisis for his Capstone project.

'Priced Out of Paradise'

Capstone project highlights housing crisis.

BY SARAH SHAW DAWSON

Gabriel Bengtsson, a junior at Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS), knew housing was a local issue that needed attention. But until one early morning boat ride after a family trip, when he saw dozens of people commuting to their on-Island jobs from the mainland, he hadn't grasped the magnitude of the local housing crisis or the many creative ways people deal with it.

"That's when I knew what my project was going to be about," Bengtsson said. "The housing crisis isn't a headline, it's life. It's what some people have to go through daily."

To grapple with the reality he was now aware of, Bengtsson decided to film a documentary about the local housing crisis for a Capstone project, which is an optional semester-long venture for students who want to pursue knowledge outside their structured classes. He interviewed local experts as well as a student and teacher who had both experienced housing insecurity firsthand.

Bengtsson presented his finished documentary, which he titled "Priced Out of Paradise," the afternoon of Jan. 23 to a panel of three judges and a small audience of his peers. He tenaciously outlined his research in the MVRHS library, the lights dimmed to better show his homemade film on a pull-

down screen in the front of the room. His own life experience, and that of his friends, had compounded all the data he found and made it personal.

There was one central question that guided his research: "In a system that favors property over people, what happens to a community when the people can't afford to stay?"

Bengtsson said he watched multiple friends leave the Island they loved because their families couldn't find affordable housing or afford basic necessities, such as groceries, which are priced higher on the Island than on the mainland. Some people he knew even moved out of the country. "Every goodbye felt temporary, until it wasn't," Bengtsson expressed.

What Bengtsson found after scouring articles and conducting interviews was that low- to middle-income earners across the U.S. are struggling with housing. His personal insight came after he immersed himself in the data, and it was one he asked the audience to grapple with during his presentation.

"Think about housing not as a market but as a human right," he said.

Bengtsson's documentary — about a half-hour in length — was filmed primarily under the bright, fluorescent lights of MVRHS classrooms and hallways, with cut-out clips of news articles about the housing crisis colorfully

collaged on the screen. There was music in the background of each scene, along with cuts between the interviewees and photo sets, when Bengtsson's narration would come in with facts and figures about housing.

Bengtsson explained that more than 40 percent of Islanders are "cost-burdened" by housing costs, meaning they spend over half of their monthly income on rent or mortgage payments. He pointed out that rental assistance, land trust, and zoning are all relevant pieces of the housing puzzle, but the center of all of it is the people.

To better illustrate the reality of the Island's unique housing situation, Bengtsson brought in some local experts — Philippe Jordi of Island Housing Trust (IHT) and David Vigneault of the Dukes County Housing Authority.

Jordi is the chief executive officer of IHT, a nonprofit organization that builds affordable housing projects on the Vineyard. He spoke in the documentary about local housing from his perspective, and mentioned the affordability gap between what an Islander who makes 150 percent of the area median income, or about \$168,500 yearly, can afford to pay for a home, and the median price of a house. The gap ranges from \$391,000 in Tisbury to more than \$1.1 million in Aquinnah.

While Jordi said Island Housing Trust receives funding from private donors and the town, the crisis of affordability has prevailed, and developments cannot match the need. He added that personal stories make a difference.

"More than anything, people hearing your stories or other people's stories is critical," Jordi said to Bengtsson.

A student who was interviewed for the project, junior Kayo De Oliveria, was one of those.

"Ten years ago, we were searching for housing, and that was awful," Kayo said in the interview conducted by Bengtsson. "A lot of people take it for granted if they already have it."

Kayo said as his family navigated housing insecurity and moved from place to place, he asked himself, "Who is really being affected, and are there any solutions? What could someone like me do?"

Bengtsson also interviewed Sheila McHugh Hazell, a guidance counselor at MVRHS. Hazell said she had lived in a shack that had no running water for years with her partner.

"It's hard to invite somebody to your shack with no bathroom," Hazell said. "I didn't realize the impact that would have socially."

For Hazell, it was the little things that she still remembers after eventually moving into

a house, like keeping her toothbrush in the center console of her car since she didn't have a sink at home. She acknowledged how hard it was to live like that, and at times, she questioned whether to leave the Island. But she's ingrained in the community here, and decided to keep moving forward.

"This is my community. This is home," Hazell said. "My everything is here."

Bengtsson highlighted the community that is grappling with the housing crisis in an effort to understand his peers, his teachers, and his own family after they were in housing transitions for a few years. What he discovered was a system that is indiscriminately built for a higher income bracket, while much of the year-round population makes far less.

But he said he will keep pushing to tell the stories of people who are navigating their own housing crisis in quiet moments, so that people he knows are less likely to leave home before asking for help.

"Home is not a place, it's the people who are there. This documentary is my attempt to make sure fewer people disappear quietly, and that their stories stay," Bengtsson said. **mvr**

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news in brief

SSA to hold public forum on waitlist, standby line

The Steamship Authority announced it will be hosting two virtual information sessions focused on the waitlist and standby lines, topics that have become a source of frustration for some Islanders.

The ferry line had recently made proposals to amend how the waitlist and standby line works, but Islanders have objected, and said it would be too restrictive and did not reflect the flexibility needed for some people to get on and off the Vineyard. The potential changes were a part of the SSA's ongoing efforts to replace its reservation system.

"The ultimate goal for both the waitlist and standby programs is to make managing the necessities of life easier for island residents while delivering an improved customer experience and more efficient operations," General Manager Alex Kryska said in a press release. "We know flexibility is key for Islanders, and we have and will continue to keep that top-of-mind during this process."

According to a press release from the ferry line, team members who are leading the reservation system revamp, called the True North Initiative, and Steamship personnel will be available to "discuss the process for both the waitlist and standby and to address misconceptions about the new reservation system."

The information session will be held on

Zoom from 5:30 to 7:30 pm on Wednesday, Feb. 11, and on Thursday, Feb. 12. The release states the sessions will address both the Vineyard and Nantucket routes, and the "opening presentation will be the same at each session." Those who wish to attend can do so by visiting bit.ly/TrueNorthInfosession at the time of the sessions, which will also be recorded and posted on the SSA YouTube page.

Those who attend will be able to ask questions about the functionality of the reservation system and view examples of booking screens made by E-Dea, the firm contracted to build the Steamship's reservation system.

For more information on the project, visit steamshipauthority.com/TrueNorth.

Tisbury Select Board chair resigns

After months of absences from public meetings, Tisbury Select Board Chair Christina Colarusso resigned from her position on Jan. 28.

"This resignation will now allow the town to move forward in selecting a new member of the Tisbury Select Board," Joseph LaCivita, Tisbury town administrator, said in a Friday email.

Colarusso had missed meetings since September, and the select board conducted its business without her. LaCivita said select board members Roy Cutrer and John Cahill will continue to serve the town so

that there is "business continuity in the day-to-day operations of the board."

"At this time, we would also like to acknowledge Ms. Colarusso and her contributions to the board and to the town of Tisbury," LaCivita's email reads.

Colarusso said she resigned to focus on herself and her health. She said it's been a pleasure to serve the town. "I'm proud of the work I've done for the residents of Tisbury," Colarusso said.

Colarusso was elected to the select board in 2023, and has a long history with Martha's Vineyard. She was a seasonal resident from 2000 until she moved to the Island full-time in 2012 after earning her bachelor of science degree in marine engineering from Massachusetts Maritime Academy and spending five years at sea, working on vessels for Military Sealift Command and Transocean Deepwater Inc. as a third assistant engineer. Colarusso was also a facilities manager and the water and wastewater operator at Martha's Vineyard Airport. Her most recent position was as facilities manager for Avangrid, an owner of the Vineyard Wind 1 offshore wind project.

As a board member, Colarusso advocated for improvements in how the Steamship Authority operated.

In December, Colarusso was charged

Continued on A3

Vineyard delegates call for increased hunting access

They say the measure would help to combat deer overpopulation and curb the spread of ticks. **BY EUNKI SEONWOO**

As the tick crisis continues on the Vineyard, a group of Islanders traveled to the mainland this week to urge state officials to expand hunting accessibility in order to help deal with deer overpopulation and tick-borne diseases.

At a listening session held by the state Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife) at the Massachusetts Maritime Academy in Bourne on Monday, Feb. 2, several Vineyarders came to speak in favor of potential changes to hunting laws.

For the Vineyard, which has one of the highest deer densities in the state, the primary concern is the proliferation of ticks, which feed on deer and other mammals.

“Deer are the primary reproductive hosts of ticks, and the high deer densities on Martha’s Vineyard are contributing to the tick overabundance that is driving the health crisis,” Virginia Barbatti, executive director of the new nonprofit Tick Free MV, said.

State officials are looking at the possibility of changing three statutory limitations, all of which would need legislative action to change. These include the allowance of hunting on Sundays, a reduction of the setback limits for hunters that is currently regulated at 500 feet from a dwelling or building and 150 feet from a road, and the expansion of crossbow use to include not only those with a permanent disability.

During the listening session, Eve Schlüter, acting director of MassWildlife, noted how much more restrictive the states’ laws are compared with those of its neighbors. Schlüter said that the prohibition on Sunday hunting is a 19th century law, and that Massachusetts, alongside Maine, is one of only two states that still practice an outright ban. Meanwhile, she said only around 15 percent of Massachusetts hunters have crossbow permits, and several Northeast states recently changed laws to

allow crossbows for more seasons.

Schlüter also highlighted how far away the setbacks are, comparing the 150-foot setback from roads to the height of the Statue of Liberty and the 500-foot setbacks from buildings to the length of seven semi-trailer trucks. In New Jersey, the state most densely



EUNKI SEONWOO

From left, Patrick Roden-Reynolds, Virginia Barbatti, Leah Hamner, and Bret Stearns traveled to Bourne to support changes to hunting regulations.

populated (by people), the setback limit from buildings is 150 feet.

The proposed changes follow extensions to the hunting season for shotgun and primitive firearms users that the state approved as a measure to deal with deer overpopulation and ticks. In December, State Sen. Julian Cyr and State Rep. Thomas Moakley came to the Island to share their support of expanding hunting accessibility to protect communities. A high deer density not only helps spread ticks but contributes to coastal erosion and habitat loss for other species.

Barbatti told MassWildlife officials that the Island has the highest rate of tick-borne conditions in the state, which has risen alarmingly, and that the amended hunting regulations would help tackle the issue.

“Like many communities in New England, we’ve been living with the sometimes-devastating impacts of Lyme and other tick-borne diseases for far too long,” Barbatti said. “On top of that, we are now experiencing the explosion of alpha-gal syndrome, a potentially life-threatening allergy to red meat and dairy, resulting from tick bites.”

There are other Vineyard efforts to get ahead of ticks, including one by Tick Free MV to do drone surveillance of deer on the Island, anticipated to start on Feb. 15 for a three-week period.

Other Island experts at the listening sessions echoed support of the proposed expansions for hunting. “I think the proposed changes will modernize deer management, which in the end will benefit food-insecurity issues on the Island as well as advance our public-health goals for tick-borne illnesses,” said Patrick Roden-Reynolds, a biologist who leads the Martha’s Vineyard Tick Program.

Bret Stearns, director of natural resources for the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah), said safe hunting measures can be eas-

ily taught in a classroom setting, and changes to hunting access is an important way to “gain control” of tick-borne diseases.

Tick-borne illnesses are “actually responsible for one in every 10 emergency room visits on Martha’s Vineyard,” Stearns said.

Leah Hamner, the epidemiologist who studies tick-borne illnesses on the Cape and Islands and who spoke as an individual, highlighted that many people have been impacted by tick-borne conditions like Lyme and alpha-gal syndrome on the Island.

“I also overheard the misery in the grocery store, in the Post Office, over a meal,” Hamner said. “We talk about Lyme disease, about alpha-gal syndrome, about Powassan virus. We have nine diseases and allergies caused by ticks, and these ticks thrive on overabundant deer.”

In Bourne, roughly 75 people came from across the state, from Martha’s Vineyard to Pittsfield, and most of them were in favor of the expansion of hunting accessibility. The event was part of a series of listening sessions held by MassWildlife, the first of which was held virtually and hosted 500 attendees, according to a division official. Some Vineyard hunters joined in that session to express support for the changes to the hunting regulation.

At the Maritime Academy, supporters of the changes said that the proposals would allow more people to hunt, and would protect agriculture, prevent the spread of ticks, and potentially bring more revenue to the state by dissuading residents from traveling to neighboring states, like Rhode Island, with less restrictive regulations.

A small number of property owners and nature enthusiasts objected to the potential changes, saying the current laws were sufficient, and worried about safety issues that might arise with allowing hunters closer to roadways.

State Rep. Steven Xiarhos, a Barnstable Republican, called on attendees to send emails to their legislators to share their thoughts about the possible changes to hunting laws. “They need to listen to you; that’s their job,” Xiarhos said. “And a copy-and-paste email is not as good as a personal email.”

Those who missed the sessions can still provide feedback through an online form or by mail to Attn: Hunting Laws, 1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA 01581 by 5 pm on Friday, Feb. 6. **MVT**

news in brief

Continued from A2

for several offenses from an incident the previous month, when she illegally entered a Steamship Authority vessel. After a subsequent encounter with Tisbury Police that turned physical in Vineyard Haven, she was taken to the hospital for what the officer cited as mental health issues.

Mocha Mott’s property sold for \$2.4 million

The sale of the longtime Vineyard Haven home of Mocha Mott’s has been finalized.

The building at 15 Main St. in Vineyard Haven was sold by Good Coffee LLC to Toccopuro LLC for \$2.4 million on Jan. 30.

Toccopuro owns coffee shops in Edgartown and Oak Bluffs, where specialty coffee, breakfast and lunch items, and bubble tea are sold.

It remains unknown what plans Toccopuro has for its new property. A representative of Toccopuro wasn’t immediately available for comment.

Mocha Mott’s inhabited the Main Street location starting in 2004. The property includes a basement and upstairs apartments, and houses the next-door smokeshop Island Puff n Pass.

The building went on the market in September for \$2.9 million after Mocha Mott’s co-owner, Tim Dobel, who had been in the Vineyard restaurant industry for nearly 50 years, retired and handed the business over completely to business partner Meredith Aldrich. Aldrich decided

to downsize, and will operate only out of Circuit Avenue in Oak Bluffs, where Mocha Mott’s was originally established in 1994, for a longer season.

Mocha Mott’s was a beloved coffee shop in Vineyard Haven, and held a heartfelt goodbye for its customers last month.

Hallahan not seeking re-election to select board

After one term on the Oak Bluffs Select Board, Thomas Hallahan has decided to forgo another run for the town’s governing group.

The decision was confirmed by Amy Del Torto, Oak Bluffs town clerk.

“Although I have enjoyed my time on the [select board], I have decided not to run for another term,” Hallahan wrote in a Jan. 7 email to Del Torto.

Hallahan told The Times it was a difficult decision. “Simply put, it felt like it was time to step down and be available for other opportunities that may be out there,” he said.

Hallahan was voted to the board in 2023, alongside Dion Alley. The two took the seats of former select board members Ryan Ruley and Brian Packish, who did not seek re-election that year.

Hallahan is also currently the senior director of administration, advancement, and finance at Sheriff’s Meadow Foundation. He previously led Hospice of Martha’s Vineyard for five years as executive director before becoming associate provost of the Colleges of Health Care Technologies at the American University of Iraq, Baghdad, in 2021.

Hallahan lived or worked in various countries before taking his position at Sheriff’s Meadow Foundation, largely in the Middle East, including as a Fulbright scholar at the University of Jordan in Amman, in teaching positions at Hamad Medical Corp. in Qatar and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in Palestine, and doing consultation work in Saudi Arabia.

On the board, Hallahan said, he worked with a dedicated group, and received mentorship on stewardship from former longtime members Gail Barmakian and Jason Balboni.

“Each of the current members is committed and working toward what is best for the town,” Hallahan said.

Reflecting on what had been accomplished during his time on the board, he highlighted working with the harbor advisory committee to minimize the impact of personal watercraft in town waters and advancing the repairs underway to the jetty for Oak Bluffs Harbor. He also mentioned supporting Wendy Brough, Oak Bluffs assistant town administrator, to implement “a number of coastal resiliency projects,” hiring a new fire chief, and chairing the annual town fireworks “with my friend and colleague, Dion Alley.”

Del Torto said so far nobody has taken out nomination papers for a select board position except Alley, who’s running for re-election in the town election on April 16. Nomination papers will be available to pick up at Oak Bluffs Town Hall until Feb. 24. Nomination papers will be accepted until Feb. 26, and Del Torto said those interested

in running for the select board need to get at least 24 signatures to be added to the ballot.

Hallahan isn’t the only select board member on the Vineyard who has decided not to seek re-election. Last week, Chilmark Select Board Chair Marie Larsen announced she would not seek re-election.

Ferry temporarily sidelined by piping leak

The sidelined Steamship Authority ferry Nantucket returned to service Tuesday afternoon.

There was a piping leak on the vessel’s fire mains, which was repaired on Tuesday, the same day the ferry line stated it was out of service, and the ferry started sailing again with a 1:15 pm departure from Woods Hole.

The Sankaty, a smaller freight ferry, sailed in the Nantucket’s place in its absence. Due to the Sankaty’s smaller carrying capacity, the ferry line warned customers Tuesday morning that some cutoffs might occur for passengers, and that some vehicles would likely need to be accommodated on other trips. “Some cutoffs may occur, but we don’t expect many based on [vehicle] bookings,” Driscoll said.

The 8:15 am departure from Woods Hole was packed with passengers, some people opting to stand rather than squeeze next to another person.

The ferry line stated it would provide updates as they become available.

The Steamship Authority also opened general summer reservations for the Vineyard route on Tuesday. **MVT**

EDITORIAL

To the unsung heroes of the storm

heavy amounts of snow fell on the Island, the most it's seen in years. From town employees to freelance plow drivers, a determined, collective effort was undertaken during and after the snowstorm a couple of weeks ago to clean up the Island enough to allow for safe transportation.

Some Islanders were trapped by the heavy snowfall, and snowplow drivers made a heroic, tireless effort to free the community onto the road.

"I think Edgartown looks really good," Edgartown Town Administrator James Hagerty said in a Monday meeting in praise of his town's highway department for clearing the roads of snow.

Hagerty said the town had around 10 pieces of equipment out on the streets, including plows, sanders, and dump trucks.

And while it isn't fully clear how many subcontractors were out plowing the roads, their efforts helped keep everyone safe.

It's not just Edgartown. Main roadways on the Island were, for the most part, cleared almost immediately, and the rest were rid of snow not long after. And as households were trapped by

During the day and into the night, trucks barreled through Vineyard roads to plow slippery roads after

the snow that piled high in their driveways, with some Islanders searching for last-minute help, snowplow drivers came to the rescue. Chris Mayhew and Matteus Scheffer stopped by a house on Tabor House Road in Chilmark and helped free a family there, as did Bettencourt's, a landscaping service company in Edgartown, who were booked out by those looking to clear snow from their homes. We can't name them all, but many drivers worked tirelessly through the nights to plow the roads.



NICHOLAS VUKOTA

Snowplows operate in Oak Bluffs after a snowstorm.

Of course, we can't forget the various other services and Islanders who stepped up to help their neighbors. Warming centers were opened to supply reprieve from the cold, Harbor Homes provided some Islanders refuge from the elements, and others took time to shovel the driveways of neighbors in a spontaneous expression

of generosity and spreading of goodwill. First responders diligently supplied guidance ahead of the storm, and helped cars that were stuck.

While those who helped during and after the storm deserve to be praised, the storm cautions us to be prepared for extreme weather events, especially for those of us who had difficulty getting our driveways cleared ourselves. And people seem to have taken it to heart, with Shirleys True Value Hardware Store selling hundreds of shovels so far this year, and

even selling out of ice melt, although they were able to restock. An orange sign on the door on Saturday, just hours before the second of the two storms was about to descend, read: "Sold Out of Ice Melt." Other hardware stores, like Granite Stores of MV and Edgartown Hardware, experienced similar supply issues. And for Edgartown Hardware, there may be no more rock salt for a while, because its distributor ran out of product.

This may not be the only snowstorm we experience this winter, so let's remember that as we enter February, the Island is a unique place of finite area and resources, and while weather can surprise us and force us to re-evaluate how prepared we are, the Island is not short of people who are willing to help.

LETTERS

Bunch of greatness

To the Editor:

It's Dec. 12, 2025. A cold and blustery day. My sister Jenifer Stockdale was having a book signing for her book, "Trigger," at the Bunch of Grapes. They moved from the old location to a building across the street. Jen came across on the boat about 4 o'clock and met us there. After the presentation, we helped Molly Coogan put all the chairs away and move the cabinets back. That's when it hit me — all the toys we fell in love with as children — the Magic 8 Ball, the big pencil. I went from 72 back to 6 in nothing flat, and it was a magical moment as I reminisced. If you need a gift for your grandchild, you can go back, too. Drop by and check it out.

Albie Clements III
Oak Bluffs

Fight the waitlist changes

To the Editor:

To the powers that be at the Steamship Authority: Please listen to the public outcry from Islanders regarding the proposed changes to the reservation and waitlist system. If you are, as you claim, our lifeline (and make no mistake about it, you are!) We are completely beholden to you and your whims, I beseech you to keep the waitlist. Without it, year-round Islanders will feel trapped and panicked, unable to reliably attend important family functions (weddings, funerals, birthdays, reunions), make flights, attend sporting events, etc. Please, with so many things demanding our attention and activism as Americans right now, I beg you, do not add this to the list of items demanding public outcry and response. It's too much for our minds and hearts.

To my fellow Islanders: If the powers that be at the SSA do not heed our call, we must show up at public meetings, write to board members, and make any

and all noise necessary. We love living on this Island too much to allow our "lifeline" to make us feel as though we are being held hostage on it. With all of the other challenges that come with living here (housing crisis, tick crisis, environment crisis, etc.), this change could be the one that pushes many of us over the edge. It will push community members (think teachers, doctors, nurses, emergency responders, etc.) who fear not being able to physically get off-Island, to finally make the permanent decision to leave.

If you are engaged in current events right now, there is no doubt your energies are being pulled in many different directions. However, this issue demands our immediate response. If the proposed waitlist changes are made, it will have dire ramifications on our daily lives in the very near future.

Tonya Katz
Oak Bluffs

Counting blessings

To the Editor:

I have a really strong memory of Dorothy Poole, my grammar school teacher at Menemsha School, making a strong statement that our country is a "melting pot" of people from all over the world. They all brought something new to our growing country. They would bring different ways of family life, work ethics, new recipes, languages, different religions, etc.

Most of all they would want the freedom that we enjoy of practicing their religion, voting for who they felt should lead our nation, freedom traveling, and most of all free speech.

Our nation is in a lot of trouble. My dad, Onslow Robinson, was with the Corps of Army Engineers during World War II. He quit and we moved back to the Island where he was born. I was my dad's shadow, and whenever I could, I

would go where he went. One day I asked him why he gave up government work, and he stated, "I could not take the graft and corruption. Show me a politician and I will show you a crook." As young as I was I thought, "That's my dad!"

I don't think a lot of us can figure out our world today. It's a mess, and all I can do is continue to be thankful for my family, friends, and all my blessings.

Diane Leonard
Tisbury

A heartfelt thanks to local police and hospital staff

To the Editor:

As last weekend's winter storm swept across Martha's Vineyard, our hospital — like so many essential services on the Island — depended on people showing up for one another so patients could continue to receive the care they needed.

I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to the Island's police departments for their extraordinary support during the storm. Between 3:30 pm on Sunday, Jan. 25, and 2 am on Monday, Jan. 26, officers from the Oak Bluffs, Edgartown, Tisbury, and West Tisbury police departments safely transported nine hospital employees, whose presence was critical to keeping the hospital running.

Because of this support, staff from Patient Access, Acute Nursing, Radiology, and Environmental Services/Housekeeping, as well as physicians, were able to reach the hospital during some of the most challenging conditions of the storm. Their arrival ensured that care continued without interruption for our patients and their families.

I also want to recognize our hospital staff, who balanced concern for their own safety and their families while still answering the call to care for others. Their professionalism, teamwork, and quiet determination are what sustain our hospital every day — and

especially in moments like this.

This storm was yet another reminder of what makes our Island special: people looking out for one another when it matters most. On behalf of Martha's Vineyard Hospital, thank you to our police departments, and to every staff member who helped us weather the storm. We are deeply grateful.

Claire Seguin, president and chief operating officer
Martha's Vineyard Hospital

Ferry availability for Islanders needs improvement

To the Editor:

Vineyarders cannot plan a necessary off-Island event such as essential meetings, family needs, or work obligations months in advance. Yet by the time we know we must travel, ferry reservations are already filled by vacationers who booked long ago.

Islanders are left scrambling on waitlists, constantly refreshing screens and hoping for cancellations. This is unnecessary and avoidable.

The Steamship Authority should reserve a small number of Islander excursion-only spaces, for example 10 per boat per day, released back to the general pool 48 hours before sailing. The exact number can be adjusted, but the principle matters. Additionally, shifting large freight traffic such as fuel, trash, and commercial deliveries off the Woods Hole route to New Bedford would immediately free capacity for Islander travel.

The Steamship Authority was created to serve Islanders first. It's time to honor that mission.

Alysha Norbury, Amy Cody,
Beth O'Connor, Margaret Hannemann,
Nat Trumbull
SSACAG Steering Committee

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Charles M. Sennott • Publisher

Note to Readers

The Times welcomes Letters to the Editor on subjects of interest to Islanders. Each letter must include the name, address, and phone number of the writer. No exceptions, no anonymous letters, no pen names. All letters are subject to editing for style, taste, sense, and conciseness. A thousand words is the outer limit. We publish most letters, but not all. The editor chooses. Letters will normally be published in the week they are received, but not always. The Times accepts letters by mail, e-mail, and posted online at mvtimes.com (click on Submissions link). **MVT**

obituaries

Theodore Walter Box Jr.



Theodore Walter Box Jr., affectionately known as Ted, passed away peacefully of natural causes on Jan. 18, 2026, lovingly cared for by his brother Tom.

Ted was born in 1945 in New York. A longtime resident of Seaford, N.Y., Ted earned the distinction of Eagle Scout. After graduating from Seaford High School, he continued his education at the University of Miami, followed by the University of Hawaii. From there, Ted chose a life path guided not by convention, but by curiosity, passion, and artistry — spending close to 50 years in Vineyard Haven, where he became a deeply respected and beloved creative force.

Ted lived a richly imaginative life as an artist, craftsman, sailor, diver, builder, teacher, and lifelong lover of water, movement, and beauty. Art was not merely something he created; it was how he experienced the world. His career included artistic furniture design and boatbuilding, fields in which his vision and skill were widely admired. One of his most remarkable accomplishments was building the largest boat constructed on Martha's Vineyard in more than 100 years, a fearless and historic achievement. His distinctive wooden furniture, known for its organic, sea-bearing aesthetic, was featured multiple times in Vineyard Home & Garden.

The water shaped Ted's life in profound ways. He spent countless hours on it, under it, and over it as a boat captain, hard-hat diver, and accomplished sailor. The sea was not simply a setting for Ted; it was a companion, a teacher, and an endless source of inspiration. Even in his senior years, he continued to challenge himself, completing accelerated training with friends, demonstrating his lifelong belief in growth, learning, and possibility.

Movement was another vital expression of Ted's spirit. As a dance instructor, he believed deeply in the power of rhythm, embodiment, and motion. To Ted, movement was art in motion — a joyful bridge between body and imagination. His interests were many, too numerous to list, and each was infused with whimsy, playfulness, and originality.

Ted had a rare gift for inspiring others. Whether

building boats, crafting furniture, teaching dance, making music, or simply sharing ideas, he encouraged people to see differently, move differently, and imagine more boldly. His life was a testament to following one's passions fully and without apology.

In his later years, Ted turned to writing, completing a book shortly before his death. His final creative work, "Harbor Tales," reflects the adventures, insights, and imaginative depth of his youth in Seaford. Reading is believing.

Ted is survived by the mother of his sons, Christine McLean; his sons, Jacob Box and Garret Box; and his siblings, Trudy Runyan, Tess August, Tom Box, Tiara Boysen, and Todd Box. He was preceded in death by his siblings, Terry Box and Tim Box. He is remembered with deep love by extended family, friends, students, and all who were touched by his creativity, generosity, and adventurous spirit.

Ted lived boldly, simply, and beautifully. His legacy lives on in the boats he built and restored, the art he created, the people he taught, those he joined in surf and sail, the intense movement on trapeze and floor, and the stories he left behind — "Harbor Tales," and many other tales.

To read the complete obituary, go to mvtimes.com.

Woodrow W. Williams



Woodrow W. Williams ("Woody"), born March 24, 1951, passed away peacefully at home on Nov. 10, 2025, the Marine Corps' birthday, surrounded by his wife of 43 years, Phyllis, his daughter, Vanessa, and their beloved rescue animals, Dixie and Alfie, who never left his side. On the day he passed, he was also visited by his friend John Schilling, who stood outside Woody's window and played the "Marine Corps Hymn."

Woody was raised in Edgartown, the oldest of five children. He graduated from Martha's Vineyard Regional High School in 1969, and immediately enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. He proudly earned the infantry MOS he sought, and graduated from boot camp with the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor, an achievement that meant everything to him.

After boot camp, Woody

traveled throughout the Mediterranean aboard the USS Chilton, including a formative period of training with the French Foreign Legion in France. In Vietnam, he served as a lance corporal with Kilo and Lima Companies, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division, carrying an M79 grenade launcher.

Woody struggled profoundly after returning to civilian life. He carried the physical and psychological effects of combat for the rest of his life, including severe PTSD and illnesses later linked to Agent Orange exposure. Woody spent several years living among other Vietnam veterans off the grid in the woods of Oregon.

Eventually, he returned to Martha's Vineyard, where he met his soulmate, Phyllis. Upon seeing her at Lou's Worry, Woody walked up and said, "I hope you don't have any future plans for the rest of your life, because I'm going to marry you one day." She thought he was crazy — but after 43 years of marriage, it was clear they were both right.

Wanting a better life for himself, his wife, and eventually their daughter, Vanessa, Woody sought treatment, and with the help of Thomas Bennett formed a combat veterans' support group that continues today through Martha's Vineyard Community Services.

Woody became known on the Island for his tireless, practical help of fellow veterans. After painstakingly learning the VA system, he helped dozens of veterans successfully secure the benefits they had earned. Vanessa remembers it as "a walk-in legal clinic" at the Williams home. In 1989, Woody, along with JoAnn Murphy, Conrad Kurth, and Kevin Nichols, began providing military funeral honors for Island veterans. He also played a central role in establishing the first VA Outpatient Medical Clinic on Martha's Vineyard, enabling veterans to receive care locally rather than travelling off-Island.

The family extends profound gratitude to the extraordinary team at Martha's Vineyard Hospice, whose compassion and skill made it possible for Woody to remain at home, surrounded by love, in his final days. Heartfelt thanks are also offered to the Rev. Stephen Harding of Grace Church for his presence, comfort, and spiritual support.

Woody is survived by his wife, Phyllis; his daughter, Vanessa, and her husband Evan; his niece, Tabitha Devine, husband Kevin, and daughter Kylee; his sister, Kathy Spiro, and her husband Phillip; and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

In his honor, Phyllis and Vanessa have established the Woody Williams Veterans Advocacy Project, a donor-advised charitable initiative

dedicated to continuing his lifelong mission of helping veterans and their families navigate the systems meant to serve them. More information is available at williamsadvocacyproject.org. You may donate in lieu of flowers.

A funeral with full military honors will be held on June 5, 2026, at noon at Oak Grove Cemetery in Vineyard Haven. A memorial service celebrating Woody's extraordinary life will be held at the Agricultural Hall in West Tisbury directly following the funeral service.

To read the complete obituary, go to mvtimes.com.

Nancy H. Evoy



Nancy Hoffman Evoy passed away peacefully on Jan. 3, 2026, at Crosslands in Kennett Square, Pa., aged 95. Nancy was born in Williamsport, Pa., and had lived in Abington, Bryn Mawr, and Villanova, Pa., as well as West Tisbury. She retained her curiosity, sharp mind, sense of humor, and ability to connect with almost everyone she met.

Nancy attended Skidmore College, graduated from Penn State, and later earned her master's in library science from Villanova University.

She was proud of her 21 years (1972-93) as head librarian of Gladwyne Free Library. Nancy was instrumental in establishing the library as the first in the township system to offer videos and compact discs, and using her business acumen, she helped develop an excellent business reference section. She saw the library through multiple major additions and renovations to the building. Nancy was an invaluable collaborator and supporter on Gladwyne Library League endeavors. A Gladwyne Library Board member said, "If Gladwyne Library is the 'heart of the village,' then Nancy is the heart of the library."

Nancy was a past active member of the Interschool Council of Lower Merion School District, the Lower Merion Scholarship Fund, the Bryn Mawr Home and School Association, the Easter Seal Society of Philadelphia, the Southeast Chapter of the Pennsylvania Library Association, the League of Women Voters, Rotary Club of Ardmore, Pa. (one of their first female members), Rotary Club of Martha's Vineyard, and Martha's

Vineyard Garden Club.

She traveled extensively, was an inveterate conversationalist on many subjects (including stocks), and an avid reader of mysteries, the New Yorker and the New York Times — solving the crossword puzzles in ink. Nancy listened to NPR, and rarely missed "60 Minutes" or a PBS/Masterpiece series.

Nancy was a seasonal resident of West Tisbury from 1998 to 2019. Every summer, her daughters and their families and friends took turns visiting. Her favorite beach was Lambert's Cove. She enjoyed art, gallery openings, fundraisers, the Howes House discussion group, and of course, a good yard or estate sale, apple fritters, chicken salad sandwiches from Humphreys, the Galley, and Chilmark Chocolates. She had a succession of faithful cats who loved the Vineyard as well.

Nancy is survived by three of her daughters and their families — Barbara and Jeff, Susan and Jeff, and Amy and Don; four grandchildren; and two great-granddaughters. Her husband Nelson and daughter Debbie predeceased her.

The memorial service will be on Feb. 14 at 2 pm in the William Penn Room at Crosslands, located at 1660 East St. Road, Kennett Square, Pa. For those unable to attend in person, the service also will be available live on Zoom: bit.ly/Zoom_NancyEvoy, Meeting ID: 839 7734 3733, Passcode: 1660.

Contributions in memory of Nancy can be made to the West Tisbury Library Foundation, online at wtlibraryfoundation.org; to Polly Hill Arboretum, pollyhillarboretum.org; to Friends of the Up-Island Council on Aging, friendsofupislandcouncilonaging.org; to American Friends Service Committee, secure.afsc.org; to the League of Women Voters Education Fund, donate.lwv.org; or to Planned Parenthood Federation of America, weareplannedparenthood.org.

Marcelle Claudette Paquet BenDavid



Marcelle Claudette Paquet BenDavid peacefully passed away in her home on Jan. 31, 2026, surrounded by the family she loved so deeply. She was 90 years old. She was a quiet, steady presence — a silent caregiver who gave endlessly and never asked for

anything in return. To be near Marcelle was to feel safe, cared for, and quietly understood.

Marcelle was born and raised in St-Georges-de-Beauce, Quebec, Canada, on March 23, 1935, growing up as one of the youngest of her 10 siblings. Family was never just important to her — it was everything. That foundation followed her throughout her life and shaped the way she loved, cared, and showed up for the people around her.

She later came to Martha's Vineyard as a nanny, not knowing that one small moment would change her life forever. While ordering a slice of pizza at the window of Giordano's, she met Arthur BenDavid, who was working there at the time. From that simple exchange grew a love that would last a lifetime.

They were married on June 21, 1958, and shared 58 beautiful years together.

Marcelle showed love in the most genuine ways, especially through her cooking. If you were lucky enough to be in her life, you were fed. Her hot pepper jelly, American chop suey, artichoke dip, and Kahlua cake weren't just recipes — they were how she said "I love you," and how she brought everyone together.

She was the heart of her family, and took immense pride in her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. She was a devoted mother to Rene and his wife MaryEllen ("Mel") BenDavid; Eric BenDavid; Lisa and her husband Steve Scannell; and Gary and his wife Joellen BenDavid. She was a loving grandmother to Krista BenDavid; Alex and his wife Sasha BenDavid; Jessica and her husband Paul O'Reilly; Jaime Forend and her fiancé Adam Karwiel; Ava BenDavid; and Nicholas BenDavid. She was a great-grandmother to Kai BenDavid; Leo BenDavid; and Emmet O'Reilly. She is also survived by her beloved sister and last living sibling, Jacqueline Fortin.

Marcelle was a constant presence around Oak Bluffs Harbor — a familiar face and an icon to those who knew her. Like the harbor she loved, she was steady and enduring, a place people returned to again and again. Her kindness, strength, and quiet grace left a lasting mark on everyone she met.

She was predeceased by her beloved husband, Arthur Walter BenDavid. Her love lives on through her family, her memories, shared meals, and the many lives she touched.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations kindly be made in Marcelle's memory to Hospice of Martha's Vineyard, 455 State Road | PMB 244, Vineyard Haven, MA 02568. Those who wish may also send flowers to the BenDavid family at 63 Naushon Ave., Oak Bluffs, MA 02557. A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Cotton sued over toddler's death

The family of Frankie Rodenbaugh has filed a civil suit separate from the ongoing criminal case. **BY NICHOLAS VUKOTA**

The parents of a 2-year-old boy who died after allegedly being left unattended in a vehicle by his babysitter filed a wrongful death lawsuit against the woman in Dukes County Superior Court last month.

Julie and Matthew Rodenbaugh filed the civil complaint on Jan. 28 against Aimee Cotton of Oak Bluffs, seeking damages for negligence, wrongful death, punitive damages, conscious pain and suffering, medical expenses, and compensation for the loss of the companionship, love, guidance, and affection they suffered due to the loss of their child, 2-year-old Frank ("Frankie") Edward Rodenbaugh. Cotton is accused of allowing the death of Frankie through her negligence while babysitting.

The civil complaint filed by the Rodenbaughs against Cotton is a separate lawsuit from the state's ongoing criminal case against her. Cotton was indicted by the state on charges of manslaughter and reckless endangerment of a child in September. According to the civil complaint, the Rodenbaughs are seeking compensation and



NICHOLAS VUKOTA

justice for the damages and loss they suffered as a result of Frankie's death, in the amount of at least \$260,000 plus punitive damages.

While the state aims to punish Cotton criminally, the civil case is between the Rodenbaughs and Cotton, and aims to hold her financially accountable, said the Rodenbaugh family's attorney, Benjamin Zimmermann. "The state doesn't do compensation, financial accountability, or financial punishment really," he said.

The Rodenbaughs are also requesting a jury trial for the civil complaint, meaning they want a panel of 12 jurors to decide the outcome, rather than a decision made solely by a judge.

"Our family's priority has always been, and will continue to be, awareness and accountability. This is about ensuring that what happened to our son is fully examined so that preventable failures are not ignored or repeated. No family should ever have to experience this kind of loss, and we hope that increased awareness leads to meaningful responsibility and change. Our focus remains on honoring our son and protecting other children," said Matthew Rodenbaugh, Frankie's father, in a statement shared with The Times.

The civil complaint submitted on behalf of the Rodenbaughs by Zimmermann states that on March 13 of last year, Cotton was providing

childcare services to Frankie and another young child at her home in Oak Bluffs when she left Frankie strapped in a car seat of her SUV for hours outside her home. The complaint claims Cotton left Frankie in the car with inadequate clothing and no food or water, resulting in him suffering hypothermia and going into cardiac arrest.

According to police reports from the initial incident, Cotton called 911 around 1:15 pm. Police arrived shortly after the call while Cotton was attempting to administer CPR to Frankie, who was unresponsive. Frankie died six days later, on March 19, at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston after being in intensive care.

The suit further alleges that Cotton misled first responders about the circumstances of Frankie's death.

According to a police report from the initial incident, written by Massachusetts State Police Trooper Dustin Shaw, Cotton initially claimed she left the 2-year-old in her car for about 15 minutes. But after investigators reviewed surveillance footage from Cotton's driveway, they found evidence that contradicted her initial account to police. The footage revealed Frankie remained in the vehicle from around 9:22 am until shortly after noon — a period of roughly three hours. According to the police reports, surveillance footage showed Cotton returned to the car at 12:15 pm before heading back inside for another hour.

"Ms. Cotton then exacerbated and further breached her duties by lying to first responders about the circumstances of Frank's distress, delaying the care he received," wrote Zimmer-

mann in the civil complaint.

Assistant District Attorney Ailey Kirwin argued in the Edgartown District Courthouse on March 20 of last year that Cotton's actions showed an "intentional, callous disregard for human life."

In the state's criminal case against her, Cotton pleaded not guilty in October at the Dukes County Superior Court in Edgartown, and currently remains free after posting a \$23,800 bail. She has conditions to stay away from and not contact the victim's family. She also wears a GPS monitoring device. A pretrial conference is scheduled for Cotton's criminal charges on Feb. 18, where all discovery made throughout the investigation will be made available to the defense counsel.

Zimmermann said he expects Cotton and her attorneys to respond to the civil complaint in the next several weeks. "I think Matt and Julie have made their position articulately and eloquently," he said. **MVT**

Trustees receive grant for invasive beetles

The conservation group plans to remove pitch pines from 28 acres on Wasque Reservation. **BY EUNKI SEONWOO**

The Trustees of Reservations received a state grant to help Vineyard conservationists in the fight against Southern pine beetles.

The state Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (Mass-Wildlife) awarded a \$75,000 grant to the Trustees so the nonprofit can "thin pitch pine and scrub oak barrens at Wasque Reservation" on Chappaquiddick Island to "reduce the risk of an invasive Southern pine beetle outbreak," according to a press release.

Southern pine beetles are insects that have become a scourge on Vineyard woodlands. The females of the species chew into pine trees and carve tunnels inside to lay eggs and release pheromones to attract males, a process that ultimately overwhelms the plant. They have encroached on various parts of the Island, and in December, forced the Sheriff's Meadow Foundation to close trails in West Chop Woods in Vineyard Haven because of dead trees killed by the beetles. The beetles have even been found in some residential areas.

While the Trustees haven't detected the beetles on Wasque, the conservation group is removing pitch pines on about 28 acres as a proactive measure to protect the habitat. Sheriff's Meadow also thinned the woods at Caroline Tuthill Preserve in Edgartown to enable the mature pine forest to survive a potential outbreak.

"Martha's Vineyard has already experienced the significant loss of over 1,000 acres to this pest, which



SHEA FEE/TRUSTEES OF RESERVATIONS

Pitch pine on Wasque Reservation.

is spreading north due to climate change," Mary Dettloff, Trustees director of public relations, said. Dettloff added that "Wasque's pitch pine stands are very dense," and create ideal conditions for the beetles to spread and kill mature trees. This can make the forest more susceptible to wildfires and impact wildlife that depend on the forest.

"Selective thinning of the pitch pine will reduce tree crowding, improve airflow (which is key to preventing beetle infestations and resulting tree mortality), lowers competition for water and nutrients, strengthens remaining trees, and helps them withstand both insect and climate stressors," Dettloff said in an email.

The award was a part of \$343,985 in grants doled out from the MassWildlife Habitat Management Grant Program to private and municipal owners of conservation properties across the state to "improve habitat for wildlife, steward biodiversity, enhance climate resiliency, and promote outdoor recreation." Also in Dukes County, the Buzzards Bay

Coalition received \$74,000 to restore sandplain grassland on Cuttyhunk Island.

"Partnership and collaboration will be essential for meeting our ambitious biodiversity goals. We rely on conservation organizations, cities and towns, private landowners, and other partners to greatly expand our impact," Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game Commissioner Tom O'Shea said in the release. "Together, we can improve habitat for wildlife while also boosting outdoor recreation opportunities."

The release states that the grant program has funded 125 projects since 2015 that have restored more than 4,900 acres of wildlife habitat. According to the Department of Fish and Game, over 28 percent of the state is permanently protected, but "many habitats that species rely on require ongoing stewardship and care." Many habitats, the department said, are degraded, and "vulnerable wildlife face increasing threats from extreme weather and destructive pests and pathogens fueled by climate change." **MVT**

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INFORMATION SESSIONS FOR WAIT LIST AND STANDBY

WHAT: Virtual information sessions focused on wait list and standby functionality in the company's new reservation system.

WHEN: February 11 & 12, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

WHERE: Via Zoom; to join, visit <https://bit.ly/TrueNorthinfosession>

WHAT TO EXPECT: The True North project team and SSA personnel will be available to discuss the process for both the wait list and standby and to address misconceptions about the new reservation system.

Attendees will be able to ask questions about the functionality and view examples of booking screens from the E-Dea reservation system.

Questions?

Online: www.steamshipauthority.com/TrueNorth

Email: truenorth@steamshipauthority.com

Light snow, heavy shovel sales

Continued from A1

to meet increased demand. Granite Stores of MV in Edgartown is sold out of shovels and rock salt. Edgartown Hardware also sold out of both products, although another shipment of shovels was expected for Tuesday.

While there wasn't much snow this past weekend, a mere half-inch to an inch across the Island, customers' rush for equipment came after the shock from the

most snowfall the Vineyard had seen in years on Jan. 25 and 26. That snowstorm dumped a foot of snow on the Vineyard and led to slippery roads, blocked driveways, and requests by individuals desperate for snowplowing services.

Jonathan Polleys, manager at Edgartown Hardware, said the store had sold around 120 shovels and roughly 250 bags of rock salt since a little



Strong and freezing winds struck the Island on Sunday, Feb. 1.

NICHOLAS VUKOTA

before the late January snowstorm. While shovels can still be stocked, Polleys said his store's distributor had run out of rock salt, and it seemed unlikely Edgartown Hardware would be supplied for the remainder of the season. But Polleys said some people have used pool salt as an alternative to make ice less slippery.

Steere hypothesized that the large number of people who moved to the Island in the past few years likely hadn't thought about the need to buy a shovel because there hadn't been this heavy of a snowstorm recently. He added that some products, like specific brands of rock

salt or certain pet-friendly brands, are on back-order, or not as readily available now, because most of the East Coast experienced the same type of damage.

"At this point, if something comes up, you just grab it," Steere said. "Everybody on the East Coast is grabbing stuff."

Steere underscored that this can be exacerbated on the Island, where residents have a limited number of places they can buy supplies. He highlighted that there's a network of businesses that work to get what people need, like Carroll's Moving and Storage, which works out of

the Vineyard and Cape Cod, and transported shovels to Shirleys from New York.

Steere said consideration of how much inventory to buy for the next winter season will be made in the next couple of months.

Initially, the Vineyard was forecast to experience up to seven inches of snow on Sunday from the nor'easter that crawled up the East Coast. But the storm moved east faster than originally predicted by the U.S. National Weather Service, and only grazed the Vineyard with a dusting of snow and high winds. Some states saw heavy snowfall from the storm

system, and parts of North Carolina saw the most snow the state's seen in decades.

Still, in the absence of snow, there were powerful gusts. Francis Tarasiewicz, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service's Norton office, said the Island experienced wind gusts of up to 60 miles per hour. On Sunday, Feb. 1, the Steamship Authority canceled multiple trips due to the weather, and warming centers were opened to give people reprieve from the cold. Meanwhile, the lack of snow allowed Edgartown to lift its street-parking ban early. **MVT**



CHARLES SENNOTT

On behalf of the Scheffer Family

We would like to thank this community for its endless support and generosity during this difficult time since New Year's Day.

Every message, every spoken word, every written note, and every other way in which people have helped us means more than we can express.

We are forever grateful.

We are truly blessed to be surrounded by a community that has shown us — in ways we never could have imagined — just how caring and supportive it can be.

Thank you to both newspapers for the beautiful articles, and to The MV Times for providing space for this message of thanks.

We are honored to be part of this beautiful Island.





Islanders skating on Duarte's Pond in West Tisbury.

COURTESY BRIAN DONNELLY

Pastimes on frozen ponds

Continued from A1

like Duarte's all day for pick-up hockey, where all are welcome anytime. The rare extended freeze this season, prolonging thick and safe ice, sparks nostalgia for Islanders who remember a time when temperatures were consistently colder and pond hockey was an annual rite.

"When I was a kid, it was every year. It's one of those things you grew up with, and you don't get it every year now, so it's sweet when it does come," said Alex

Avakian as he skated on Duarte's Pond Tuesday. He's an Island-born-and-raised Martha's Vineyard Regional High School hockey player, and a 2006 graduate.

Kevin DeGulis, a West Tisbury resident of five years, who joined Avakian on the ice on Tuesday as they played pass and skated, said his whole family comes out for pond hockey when it freezes — including his 13-month-old daughter, Maxine, who isn't quite ready for skates,

but enjoys being guided along the ice by her father and getting familiar with the slippery surface.

For Avakian, who looks forward to the coldest and snowiest weather every year, it's best to embrace the seasons fully. "We all like to look forward to the springtime, but hey, it's winter, so what do they say? 'Make hay when the sun's shining,'" said Avakian.

The Island's freezing temperatures have also pulled local ice fishermen onto locations like Seth's Pond, Duarte's Pond, Head of Pond, and Squibnocket Pond. Cameron Maciel



Kevin DeGulis playing hockey on Duarte's Pond in West Tisbury.



Cameron Macie, left, and Mike O'Brien ice fishing on Seth's Pond in West Tisbury.



West Tisbury resident Kevin DeGulis and his 13-month-old daughter Maxine on a frozen Duarte's Pond.

PHOTOS BY NICHOLAS VUKOTA, UNLESS NOTED

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"We all like to look forward to the springtime, but hey, it's winter, so what do they say? 'Make hay when the sun's shining.'" —ALEX AVAKIAN

of Edgartown and Mike O'Brien of Vineyard Haven have been out frequently since the ponds started to freeze last week.

On Tuesday, Maciel and O'Brien trekked roughly 80 yards into the center of Seth's Pond, where they augured multiple holes, placing tip-up flags over them to indicate when a fish was biting, set up lawn chairs and a cooler, and hooked some pond shiners onto their lures before fishing for pickerel, largemouth bass, yellow perch, and bluegills.

"They stock it with trout too, but I don't think they make it through the winter," said Maciel on the ice Tues-

day. "It'd be cool to catch one of them through the ice." The town of West Tisbury owns Seth's Pond, but the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife) fills it with trout every spring, said Emily Stolarski, communication director for MassWildlife.

"They can hold over, but it depends on the temperatures, and if they can find deep enough water to survive," she said of the trout's chances of surviving through winter.

Maciel said he usually ice-fishes a few times a week when the ponds freeze, but being blessed with the prolonged freezing

temperatures this season, he's going out every day.

"We never get ice, so when you get it, you want to fish the whole time," said Maciel. "I'll be going every day this month if weather permits."

On Tuesday, Maciel shouted "Flag!" to O'Brien as he walked over to check the bait. No fish yet, but Maciel and O'Brien said despite the slow day, this ice-fishing season has been better than most.

"It feels great, because we've been waiting for it for a while," said O'Brien. "There's always this awkward stage where it'll be too cold to go normal fishing, but the ice will be too thin to go out on. That's where we usually find ourselves: too cold to fish regularly but not cold enough to freeze, and it just finally decided to get cold, which is great." **MVT**

Health: At what cost?

Continued from A1

health insurance before this. But at least it felt manageable at the time. But this bump has been ... significant."

The crisis of affordability for healthcare many Islanders face now is partly due to the expiration of enhanced federal subsidies. These were Biden-era initiatives through the American Rescue Plan Act that broadened the scope of financial assistance for those enrolled in the Affordable Care Act, commonly known as Obamacare.

Instead of a cutoff at 400 percent of the federal poverty level, which is \$62,000 for a one-person household and \$128,600 for a family of four, the enhanced subsidies widened the threshold, making health insurance more accessible to middle-income earners countrywide.

But those cost buffers expired on Dec. 31, and were not extended by Congress. The recent (and longest in history) government shutdown in October was caused by a bipartisan stalemate over the possibility of that extension.

At the same time that the subsidies expired, some legislative acts through a Republican spending bill, called the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, went into effect. Since then, over 10,000 people across the state have dropped insurance, including some Vineyard residents who were interviewed.

The bill, signed into law by President Donald Trump in July, cut over \$900 billion from affordable healthcare coverage, and significantly reduced access for millions of Americans, including restrictions on Medicaid. It also ended coverage for anyone without U.S. citizenship. Many changes to the health insurance marketplace through the bill are yet to pan out, and state legislators say the future of health insurance could be far worse.

In interviews with The Times, Vineyard residents of varying income levels said they have seen increases in their premiums and higher deductibles during open enrollment this year, which was from Nov. 1 to Jan. 23. Deductibles are the out-of-pocket costs for healthcare services before insurance starts to pay, and are a complex system themselves.

Back in October, when locals first saw changes to their plans, Kuh told The Times she received calls from hundreds of Islanders who were navigating premium hikes.

Kuh said the federal legislative changes "leave a lot of people out in the cold."

Waitlisted for care, Islanders still pay exorbitant insurance premiums

A rising number of Islanders are now questioning whether the cost of insurance is worth it, as long waitlists for primary

care physicians on the Island remain staggering, though there have been some recent efforts to curtail them, and off-Island trips to specialty doctors are a costly venture.

"If I can't use it, then what am I paying for?" asked Alex Wright in an interview with The Times. Wright, 36, is a freelance photographer who works the counter at Mo's Lunch in Oak Bluffs.

Wright doesn't currently have a primary care physician on the Vineyard, and gets his insurance through Massachusetts Health Connector. His monthly premium nearly tripled in January.

Zephyr, the manager of Bunch of Grapes, pointed out that living on Martha's Vineyard is a privilege, but also creates a unique dilemma. "You can't get a doctor on the Island, so I don't really know what I'm paying for," Zephyr, 32, added, echoing Wright's sentiment.

"I take care of myself. I have a place to live. I have a good job. I can't imagine having to make these decisions as somebody with dependents, or as an older person, or any of the other factors or variables that go into making these decisions worse," said Zephyr.

Zephyr's premium with Massachusetts Health Connector was about \$175 a month in 2025. Now, it's \$600 a month. That's \$7,200 yearly for coverage she only sporadically uses.

Mac Young, 41, works at Mocha Mott's, and is an actor. His premiums went up, but he said the increase was mostly manageable. Still, he's only insured for some doctor's visits, since most Vineyard dentists don't accept the state health insurance plan.

"There was a period of time where I got dental insurance through [Health Connector] and was told flat out by more than one dentist and/or assistant at a dentist's office, 'Don't bother,'" Young said.

The only dentist on the Island who takes the state's insurance plans is at Island Health Care's dental office in Edgartown, which opened a year ago and has cited high waitlists.

Some locals are choosing to be uninsured completely

While many locals navigate higher monthly bills, some have decided to drop coverage.

Heather Mangione is one Islander who earns a higher yearly income and has had to grapple with untenable insurance costs. Mangione, 40, is a small business owner who spoke to The Times a few months ago about her rising premiums. She and her wife, Cay Mangione, own Al-Fresco Tails, a dog-walking business. The couple recently decided to forgo health insurance completely.



SARAH SHAW DAWSON



ROBYN TWOMEY



ARLETTA CHARTER



SARAH SHAW DAWSON



COURTESY HEATHER MANGIONE

1. Alex Wright works behind the counter at Mo's Lunch. 2. Dukes County health access representative Sarah Kuh stands outside her office, where she helps hundreds of Islanders navigate their health insurance plans. 3. Bunch of Grapes Bookstore manager Julia Zephyr makes sure the day-to-day operations at the shop are running smoothly. 4. Al-Fresco Tails owners Heather and Cay Mangione walk in a Pride March, wearing business T shirts and walking a dog. 5. Actor Mac Young working in his studio.

"We explored every option available to us — marketplace plans, private plans, and plans through brokers — and none of them were even remotely affordable. The monthly costs simply aren't something we can sustain as small business owners," Mangione said. In December, her monthly premium rose from \$300 a month to \$1,500 monthly (or \$18,000 a year) for herself and her partner.

Mangione reached out to state representatives and advocated for change. She received verbal support from Massachusetts lawmakers, but many of the changes to the insurance marketplace were federal, and some state officials said their hands were tied.

"There's a constant sense of uncertainty and vulnerability that comes with being uninsured, especially knowing that one accident or illness could be financially devastating," Mangione said. "The emotional toll of that shouldn't be underestimated, and I'm hopeful that our advocacy will amplify the situation with a positive outcome soon."

Others said they haven't been covered for a long time. "I've applied and just got rejected," Jonathan Perez, the manager at Espresso Love, told The Times. "I worked two jobs and made too much money, and then in the off-season, I just have one job and still don't [qualify]."

Perez's job in the service

industry doesn't offer coverage. When he and his wife were thinking of starting their family, they realized they couldn't unless they were enrolled in a plan. After being quoted thousands of dollars a month, they decided to wait to have children. "It was just way too expensive," Perez said.

Health access representative Kuh said she's heard many similar stories this year: Islanders who have navigated huge life changes and decisions in the face of rising insurance costs, especially residents who are married without dependents, or work seasonally, and are pushed over the income limit for financial help.

"The only thing we can do is be empathetic to people's situations, but we're the messengers. We're not the policymakers. And even the Massachusetts policymakers are constrained by federal changes, and so we just do our best to listen to everybody's case and see if there's anything we can suggest that might help. And there is not always something that's going to help," Kuh said. "So, yeah, it's sobering."

State relief programs can't cover all federal cuts

A state grant of \$250 million was filed by Gov. Maura Healey's administration on Jan. 8 to make up for some of the gap created by the subsidy expiration, but

it doesn't cover everyone. There are nearly 50,000 people statewide who qualify for financial help but won't see any relief.

Jason Lefferts, a representative from Massachusetts Health Connector, said the state grant "mitigates the effects of the loss of federal enhanced premium tax credits for about 270,000 people who are in Health Connector coverage." With 319,000 individuals enrolled in the plan, according to data from Health Connector, there are some who won't see lower premiums at all.

The complicated nature of these recent changes has given some locals pause.

"I wish they would just give health insurance without you having to become an expert in multilevel bureaucracy," Young said. He's been enrolled in ConnectorCare since Health Connector was started 20 years ago.

The Massachusetts health insurance marketplace has been described by experts as the best in the country. But even with efforts from state lawmakers to keep it that way, locals are still struggling to manage the changes and understand them. And those tasked with understanding the system said the recent policy changes have made an already complex marketplace much more difficult to navigate.

"It's a very complicated system, and it's always

changing, and people's circumstances change, and it's just a result of our health insurance system, which is very imperfect," Kuh said.

Lefferts said some people who have ConnectorCare may see a financial buffer through the new state grant. But those who make more than \$62,000 won't see a decrease in their estimates.

And on an Island where the cost of living is much higher, a salary of \$62,000 pans out differently for an individual. According to the Dukes County Regional Housing Authority's 2025 income chart, the area median income for a single person household on Martha's Vineyard was \$105,100 last year. The threshold for "middle-income" is higher in places with soaring expenses across the board.

Sen. Cyr said many Island residents simply make too much to qualify for state relief. While he added he's proud that Massachusetts lawmakers are stepping up with financial initiatives, a large portion of locals will still be left to their own devices.

"Often the Islanders and Cape Cod are caught between, given the cost of living here," Cyr said. "The lack of concern for affordability on healthcare and so much else by the Trump administration and Washington is yet another depressing chapter in this very trying time in our country." **MVT**



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Help Wanted

HELP WANTED

BUILDING COMMISSIONER / ZONING OFFICIAL TOWN OF OAK BLUFFS

Appointed by the Select Board, the Building Commissioner is responsible for the overall leadership, administration, and operation of the Building Department. This role includes planning, organizing, and supervising all inspectional activities related to building, plumbing, gas, and electrical work, and ensuring consistent enforcement of the Massachusetts State Building Code, Chapter 22, Section 13A to 780CMR, and applicable local bylaws to ensure compliance with life safety, structural integrity, light, ventilation, and related standards. Conducts plan reviews for zoning compliance and serves as the enforcement officer for the ZBA in accordance with MGL Ch. 40A. Candidates required five years' experience working in municipal inspectional and enforcement services, and State Certification as Local Inspector. Ability to obtain State Certification as Massachusetts Building Official and Inspector of Buildings within 18 months from appointment. Negotiable salary range \$112,500 - \$145,283 commensurate with experience. To access full description of duties and application process, visit oakbluffsma.gov/jobs or contact Human Resources at wbrough@oakbluffsma.gov or call 508-693-3554 ext: 149. Applications reviewed as received. Oak Bluffs is an EOE.

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED
CASHIERS PART TIME
MOBIL XTRA MART
BEACH ROAD VH NEAR 5 CORNERS.
508-693-9316.

INTERN - VINEYARD PRESERVATION TRUST
May-Aug at the Carnegie Heritage Center & Vincent House (Edgartown). Work with the steward of Martha's Vineyard historic buildings, supporting programs, tours, exhibitions, and events. Students in history, museum studies, arts administration, or communications. Competitive pay. No housing. Join a vibrant summer community. Contact: thecarnegie@mvpreservation.org



SAFE HARBOR - VINEYARD HAVEN

WE ARE LOOKING FOR A SEASONAL FORKLIFT OPERATOR TO RUN OUR VALET IN/OUT SERVICE.
Must be proficient operating boats to 40' & familiar with operating machinery. Must be able to work weekends. May - October. Will train and license the right person. Email Chris.cscott@shmarinas.com outlining your experience.

HELP WANTED

LANDSCAPE CONSTRUCTION
Established Landscape Design and Build company is looking for landscape builder with at least 2 years experience. Candidate must be able to work well with a team in all phases of landscape construction. Bobcat experience helpful. A valid drivers license is required. Must speak fluent English and have legal working papers. Please email office@indigofarm.com



LOCAL COMPANY LOOKING FOR PART TIME OFFICE MANAGER

To provide general office and administrative support. Must be familiar with PC operating system and well versed in Outlook, MS Word, MS Excel & QuickBooks. Must be able to follow direction and must be a self-starter. Email your resume to office@warrenelectricmv.com.

SHERIFF'S MEADOW FOUNDATION SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT

Sheriff's Meadow Foundation is currently hiring for multiple seasonal positions including Summer Ranger and Land Steward Assistant. For job descriptions please visit sheriffsmeadow.org/jobs

HELP WANTED



MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY

Are you interested in contributing to the well-being of our Island's older adults? If so, this could be the opportunity for you. We are looking for an Associate Director to join the team at Healthy Aging Martha's Vineyard. You will partner with the Executive Director to oversee existing agency coalitions and pilot programs, represent HAMV in our community and collaborate with the ED to identify and find funding for new opportunities. Light administrative tasks. This position is part-time (20-25 hours per week). Please contact Cindy Trish, (508)9540357 or at ctrish@hamv.org.

THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL HAS AN IMMEDIATE OPENING FOR A PART-TIME SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPIST.

This position is an ideal opportunity for an experienced therapist who is either recently retired or who benefits from flexible, part-time work hours and is seeking an interesting, well defined position within a small, supportive school environment. Please email resume, letter of interest, and completed application to Peter Steedman, Director. psteedman@mvpchs.org Applications can be found on the school website. MVPCHS.org

HELP WANTED



VINEYARD COURIER IS LOOKING RELIABLE, CONSISTENT, MOTIVATED DELIVERY DRIVER TO FILL ONE YEAR ROUND/PART TIME POSITION.

Weekends a must, early mornings, Thursday-Sunday, lots of flexible schedule possibilities and other deliveries not time sensitive/specific. Job is a consistent weekly delivery route schedule. Must have a valid drivers license with clean driving record. Must have your own vehicle - suv preferred. Job requires some technical skills- Applicant should also be able to lift minimum of 50 pounds. This is a 1099 position. Aprox. 10-15 hours/week depending on schedule. Pay is approximately \$550. week - depending on availability and combination of deliveries. Looking to train and fill the position by May 2026 - possibility to start earlier. If interested email : vineyardcourier@gmail.com

LOCAL CONSTRUCTION COMPANY SEEKS RELIABLE, MOTIVATED JOB SITE SUPERVISOR.

Hands-on position, fast-paced, collaborative environment. Excellent attention to detail, coordinate smoothly with office, clients, and trade professionals. Strong communication & organizational skills, Ability to handle multiple projects at once, Dependable. Immediate start available for the right person. Competitive compensation melanie@colonialrepro.com

HELP WANTED



Senior Interior Designer (housing available)-

we are looking for an experienced Interior Designer. Qualified candidates will have a bachelor's degree in Interior Design or Architecture and a minimum of 10 years of experience. Strong project management, time management & customer service skills required. Must be proficient in AutoCAD & construction based design. Benefits include 401k, paid vacation & health insurance. Very competitive salary package. Full time, year-round. Housing available if needed. Email resume to sophia@vineyarddecorators.com

Design Consultant (housing available)

— learn from the ground up and start building your career in the Interior Design industry today! This is a hybrid retail & design position in our furniture store showroom for someone with an eye for color and sense of design & willingness to learn. No previous experience required. After 6 months of employment you will have the opportunity to take online courses in Interior Design to further build your career. Benefits include 401k, paid vacation & health insurance. Very competitive salary package. Full time, year-round. Housing available if needed. Email resume to sophia@vineyarddecorators.com

Front Desk -

we are looking for a driven and organized individual to join our team managing and running the front desk at Vineyard Decorators - an expanding company with career growth opportunities. If you are interested in interior design this could be a great first step in your career. Email resume to sophia@vineyarddecorators.com

THE TOWN OF EDGARTOWN IS HIRING FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS FOR THE 2026 SEASON:

Head Lifeguard, Assistant Head Lifeguard, Lifeguard, Park Patrol Rangers, and Night Rangers for South Beach and Norton Point. Full and part-time positions available. Not a certified lifeguard? We have options to help get you certified. Applications are available at www.edgartown-ma.us or in the Human Resource Office at Town Hall. Questions related to current openings and job descriptions may be directed to parks@edgartown-ma.us or by calling 508-627-6145. All positions are open until filled. The Town of Edgartown is an equal opportunity employer. Please submit completed applications to HR@edgartown-ma.us

TOWN OF TISBURY EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

The Town of Tisbury is looking to fill the position of Executive Assistant to the Town Administrator. This is a Management and Professional Position, Grade M-2 step 1 \$44.23 or commensurate with experience. Generous benefits package including retirement. Provides administrative support to the Town Administrator. Some duties include but are not limited to; licensing application, Open gov, Answering phones, assisting the public, Invoicing



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Stop by a branch and ask for an application, or email resume to ecottle3@yahoo.com.



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- Clinician (CBHC) \$56,492.80 - \$85,510.40/year
- Daybreak Staff Generalist \$23.00 - \$27.60/hour
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- PRSC Community Engagement Coordinator/Recovery Coach \$50,000 - \$53,000/year
- Thrift Store Director of Operations \$70,000 - \$78,000/year

We offer a competitive benefits package that includes health, dental and life insurance and retirement programs.

Apply today: mvcommunityservices.org/employment



Help Wanted

HELP WANTED

, Turnover, Assisting with the budget processes, Town Warrant and Report and attending Select Board meetings. For full job description please email pbennett@tisburyma.gov. Town of Tisbury is EOE. Applicants should submit an application (found on the Town website www.tisburyma.gov under Human Resources Department), resume and cover letter to pbennett@tisburyma.gov. Please submit by February 13, 2026. Position open until filled.

SUMMER OPENINGS:

Summer Supervisor - supervise summer staff, make schedules, payroll. Work closely with the public. Water safety/lifeguard certification, CPR and First Aid training a plus. Starting salary \$31.06
 Assistant Supervisor - Assist supervisor when needed. Cover duties when supervisor is not available. Must have 5 plus years' experience. Starting salary \$29.38
 Lifeguard - must have water safety/lifeguard certification, CPR and First Aid training. Assist with beach patrons, ensure that proper beach and safety regulations are followed. Starting salary \$23.79
 Parking Lot Attendant- ensure cars entering the lot or parking in designated areas have a valid sticker or pass. Assist the public with information, policies and expectations of beach use. Starting salary \$17.68

HELP WANTED

Beach Sticker Seller- responsible for organization and sale of beach stickers and passes for Lambert's Cove Beach. Responsible for tennis court reservations and sale of tennis keys. Collecting money and keeping accurate records of all sales. Starting salary \$20.97
 Recreation Instructors - must have basic knowledge of basketball skills and drills. Responsible for organizing activities for students grades four through nine. Starting salary \$23.79
 Limited positions available. Application can be found at Town Hall or www.westtisburyma.gov. Application deadline is April 1, 2026. West Tisbury is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



ISLAND HOUSING TRUST IS SEEKING A FULL-TIME PROJECT & ASSET MANAGER

to support the creation and stewardship of permanently affordable housing on Martha's Vineyard. View the job description at ihmtv.org/job-openings. Interested candidates are invited to send their resume to jlincoln@ihmtv.org.

HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS



\$1,790,000 CALL OR TEXT ALAN SCHWEIKERT 508-221-1708 OR MICHAEL SCHWEIKERT 774-563-9112

Oak Bluffs: Waterfront Property at Vineyard Haven Outer Harbor** This is an exceptional opportunity to acquire a stunning white sandy beach property on Vineyard Haven Harbor. This charming Island cottage boasts breathtaking panoramic views of the harbor and sound, showcasing magnificent sunsets each evening over the West Chop Peninsula. You can enjoy the lively boating scene, with yachts from around the globe and ferries arriving at port, all in the company of your favorite guests. This picturesque setting is enhanced by the delightful scent of vibrant rugosa roses that adorn the sandy landscape. Experience the unique convenience of storing your paddleboard, kayak, windsurfer, and other watercraft right in your backyard, allowing you to indulge in refreshing swims at your leisure. There is potential for mooring a motor or sailboat, pending approval from the Harbormaster. This property epitomizes the classic Martha's Vineyard experience—creating timeless memories. Additionally, it has a solid rental history. Please note, our information suggests that the adjacent lot is unbuildable; however, we recommend verifying this with the town.



\$2,100,000 MARILYN MOSES 617-462-0381

OCEAN PARK REALTY
 ESTEEMED BUILDER READY TO BREAK GROUND! Purchase this exceptional lot in Lagoon Ridge and start building your dream home today! Execute a BUILDING CONTRACT or choose your own builder... Call for details and schedule a tour! Welcome to Oak Bluffs' newest and most sought-after neighborhood, where you can construct your 3-bedroom home on a lofty setting, 95 feet above Lagoon Pond. Enjoy sweeping sky views, colorful sunsets, and refreshing salty sea breezes. This outstanding building lot is among the last remaining opportunities in this thriving community. Utilities are already at the site, including town water, electric, and a private Amphidrome wastewater system, saving you the cost and inconvenience of a septic system. Lagoon Ridge borders acres of pristine conservation land, with easy access to scenic biking and hiking trails, providing the perfect blend of privacy and outdoor adventure. Located in desirable Oak Bluffs and central to all down-Island towns, this active and vibrant community is experiencing significant construction momentum. Don't miss the chance to be part of this attractive neighborhood! Call for details and to schedule a tour of existing homes in Lagoon Ridge. Price is for the lot only; the home pictured is a sample of what can be built. Contact us today for a private tour of this exceptional offering!

HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS



\$2,250,000 MARILYN MOSES OCEAN PARK REALTY 617-462-0381

NEW CONSTRUCTION
 Welcome to Lagoon Ridge, Oak Bluffs' newest and most sought-after neighborhood. Build your 3-bedroom dream home in this elevated enclave, set 95 feet above Lagoon Pond and capturing sweeping sky views, colorful sunsets, and refreshing sea breezes. This exceptional home site represents one of the final opportunities in this thriving new community. To be built - The Naushon - features 3 bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms, and over 2,400 square feet of thoughtfully designed living space. A grand wrap-around covered porch provides a welcoming entry and the perfect place to enjoy morning coffee or cool evening breezes. Inside, the open-concept floor plan connects the chef's kitchen with spacious living and dining areas, ideal for entertaining family and friends. Each bedroom suite includes a tiled en-suite bath with customizable fixtures and finishes, and the second-floor suites may offer private balconies for added relaxation. Classic Oak Bluffs cottage architecture meets modern comfort and energy efficiency, making The Naushon an ideal year-round or seasonal retreat. Lagoon Ridge offers direct access to conservation lands with walking and biking trails, and nearby Lagoon Pond invites kayaking, sailing, and shell fishing. All utilities—electric, town water, and a private, state-of-the-art Amphidrome wastewater system—are located at the street. This innovative system serves the entire neighborhood, providing convenience and peace of mind. Lagoon Ridge is a covenant-protected community with architectural review and professional management by First Property Management Co. This beautiful home site is ready for the construction of your Vineyard dream home. Eleven lots have sold—only two remain available. Call for details!



\$500,000 SOLD BY MARILYN MOSES 617-462-0381 .. WONDERING WHAT YOUR COTTAGE IS WORTH? CALL OR TEXT ANYTIME!

Experience the charm of 21 Rock Avenue, nestled in the Historic Martha's Vineyard Camp Meeting Association. This year-round cottage features 1 bedroom and 1 bath, and is just moments away from Oak Bluffs Harbor, ferry ports, sandy beaches, art galleries, and delightful restaurants. Recent exterior enhancements include cedar fencing, refreshed house trim, new paint, and an upgraded roof. Please note that the heating system is currently not functioning. Enjoy the convenience of on-site parking. This cottage is also featured in both the Eisenstaedt and Painter Ladies books, adding to its unique appeal.



HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS



\$699,000 EXCLUSIVE CALL OR TEXT MARILYN MOSES 617-462-0381

Presenting a unique opportunity to acquire a wooded level lot located on Holmes Hole Road in Oak Bluffs, encompassing a .49-acre parcel situated within a Residential Urban (RU) zoning district. This property offers a serene environment ideal for constructing a home while remaining conveniently close to the town's amenities. There is potential for developing a 3-bedroom residence utilizing either an Enhanced Septic System or Advanced Treatment System, or alternatively, a 2-bedroom home equipped with a Title 5 septic system. Prospective buyers are encouraged to confirm building options and requirements with the Town of Oak Bluffs. Preliminary engineering assessments have been carried out by Schofield Barbini and Hoehn.



BEING OFFERED BY RENE' BEN DAVID, REALTOR @ AT OCEAN PARK REALTY INC. CALL OR TEXT 508-847-4864. \$999,999.00

Location, Location, Location! This unique property on the beautiful island of Martha's Vineyard presents an incredible opportunity for the buyer with vision to complete and personalize a home full of potential. The original residence, built in 1920, offers 2 bedrooms and 1 bath and has been expanded with a substantial newer addition, creating increased living space and a finished garage area suitable for storage or future use. Above the garage, another 2 bedrooms and a full bath await final town approvals - providing the perfect framework for an Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) or additional living quarters. With creativity and planning, this property could be transformed into a spacious single-family home or a multifamily residence. Set on a large corner lot within walking distance to town, the ferries, and the harbor, the location alone makes this a must-see. The property also features a newer 4-bedroom septic system installed in 2006, which has already been inspected and passed. After being lovingly cared for by the same family, the three siblings who inherited the home are now ready to pass it along to new owners who can bring their own vision to life. This year-round residence is truly a property you need to visit in person to fully appreciate its possibilities. Seller is offering buyer's broker compensation.



IMPROVED PRICE: \$1,795,000 CONTACT MARILYN MOSES AT 617-462-0381 FOR MORE DETAILS!**

OCEAN PARK REALTY
 Discover the beauty of **THE PRESERVE at THE WOODLANDS** in the highly coveted Oak Bluffs community! This is your chance to own one of the last remaining building lots in this prime location, just moments away from town, beaches, harbor, ferry ports, and the Farm Neck Golf & Tennis Club. Underground utilities are already in place, making this rare offering perfect for developing your dream family compound. Enjoy a peaceful and private setting, surrounded by conservation land and trails ideal for hiking, walking, and biking. Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to embrace the Oak Bluffs lifestyle!

HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS



IMPROVED PRICE \$4,999,000 CALL ALAN SCHWEIKERT 508-221-1708 OR MICHAEL SCHWEIKERT 774-563-9112

FARM NECK GOLF & TENNIS CLUB :
 The original 1780 Farmhouse was tastefully restored in 1985 to honor the land and legacy of Farm Neck. This serene 3.7-acre oasis of rolling greenery with a variety of mature trees and lots of natural privacy has an up Island feel with the down Island convenience to fine dining, shopping, ferry, airport, bike paths and includes Stockholder Membership in the popular Farm Neck Golf Club. This exceptional property is situated between the 7th and 8th fairways and is just a short walk to the clubhouse restaurant, tennis courts and pro shop. For water enthusiasts there is the opportunity to have a mooring, with Harbor Master approval, off the private beach on Sengekontacket Pond giving you direct boating access to Nantucket Sound. Although this historic home features 5 bedrooms with 4.5 bathrooms and lots of intimate spaces, there is still plenty of room on the property for expansion of the main residence..... with the existing detached garage/apartment, this country estate is truly an Island treasure that will provide lots of recreational enjoyment for family and friends throughout the years.



IMPROVED PRICE \$700,000 CALL OR TEXT MARILYN MOSES 617-462-0381 OCEAN PARK REALTY

Welcome to Lagoon Ridge.....Oak Bluffs' newest and most sought-after neighborhood! Build your 3-bedroom dream home with M Duffy Builders on this lofty setting, 95 feet above Lagoon Pond, featuring sweeping sky views, colorful sunsets, and refreshing salty sea breezes. This exceptional building lot is among the last of the remaining opportunities in this thriving new community. Utilities are already at the site, including town water, electric; and a private Amphidrome wastewater system that will save you the cost and inconvenience of a septic system. Lagoon Ridge borders acres of pristine conservation land with abutting access to scenic biking and hiking trails providing the perfect blend of privacy and outdoor adventure. Located in desirable Oak Bluffs, and central to all down Island towns, this is an active and vibrant community with plenty of construction momentum—don't miss the opportunity to become part of this attractive neighborhood! Easy to show - contact us today for a private tour of this exceptional offering! Price is for lot only, home pictured is a sample of home to be built..call for details.

Classifieds

COMMERCIAL RENTALS

COMMERCIAL SPACE AVAILABLE VINEYARD HAVEN

11 A Evelyn Way. 675 square foot unit, bathroom, back deck, plenty of parking. Year-round lease. All electric heat and utilities. \$3500 a month, available November 1. First and last month rent & security deposit required. Contact Chris 508-627-2895 for appointment.

STORAGE UNITS AVAILABLE

- Near Edgartown Triangle
 - Multiple Configurations
 - 24 Hour Access
 - Secure Location
 - Professionally Managed
 Text or call: 617-659-2417

OFFICE SPACE VH

Suitable for office use only. Includes conference room, 2 offices & reception area. Utilities not included. Includes 2 parking spaces. email kategrillo9@gmail.com.

YEAR ROUND RENTALS

WEST TISBURY

2 BEDROOM 1 BATH HOUSE
 Wrap around farmers porch and decks great for outdoor living secluded and peaceful gardens and orchard perfect for professional couple no more than 2 people available ion spring 4,000 a month plus utilities call for more details 508 294 7792.

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2 BR, 1 BA. Available Feb. 15th. \$4800/month. 978-852-1270.

WINTER RENTALS

INCREDIBLE COMMERCIAL / RESIDENTIAL SPACE FOR SALE IN WEST TISBURY OFF THE ROAD ACROSS FROM CRONIGS.

\$3 million - nothing else like it on the market - take a look. Ready to move

WINTER RENTALS

in. Beautiful 2 bedroom apartment above. Text Lisa 310 213 5472.

HOUSES FOR RENT

WEST TISBURY HOUSE FOR RENT
 One-bedroom 1,000 SF guest house. Fully furnished, new construction, gourmet kitchen, 1.5 baths, HVAC, all electric, wood stove. Covered parking, large deck. \$4,200 per month, first, last, security. Ready to move in. Call Debbie at 617-921-6584.

APARTMENTS/ROOMS

ROOM FOR RENT VINEYARD HAVEN

\$1500 winter includes utilities, internet and trash. New laundry, tub shower - for one or two people. Text Lisa 310 213 5472.

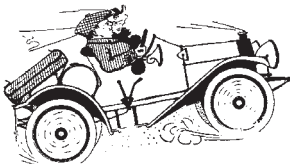
ROOMS FOR RENT MONTHLY \$1000 OR STUDIO \$1600.

Quiet Edgartown development with tennis court. Text 508.2210300 if interested.

AUTO SALES

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80,000 mi. Spray-On Bed. Bed Extender. Chains. Pioneer Receiver, Apple Car Play, Kenwood Speakers, Amp, Sub-Woofers. Dealer-serviced on West Coast. Seller has longtime connections to Vineyard. Perfect Vineyard Truck, if buyer wants to ship from Ore. \$20,000. vineyardtoyotatacoma@gmail.com



BargainBox

Jigsaw Puzzles

Scrabble, Parcheesi, etc. Good/Excellent condition. \$3-\$12. 508-693-7472 -Call anytime, 7:30am-12:30pm is best.

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All leather waterproof insulated. Org. \$140.00, now \$65.00. Never worn, photos.

Rich 508-221-4312.

PLASTIC LAMINATING MACHINE, FOR UP TO 8X11 SHEETS.

Works well. Free. Allan 617-676-8160.

POT GROW LIGHTS

\$95.00. Photos, Rich 508 221 4312

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Real Estate

HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS



NEW LISTING IN OAK BLUFFS \$999,000
ALAN SCHWEIKERT
OCEAN PARK REALTY
508-221-1708

Oak Bluffs: Home Sweet Home Situated on over a quarter acre of beautifully landscaped, level grounds with colorful perennial plantings and mature trees, this sun-filled ranch offers a perfect blend of comfort and charm. The open kitchen, dining, and living areas feature cathedral ceilings, classic vertical knotty pine walls, and a cozy brick fireplace. Enjoy a convenient first-floor bedroom and a spacious second-floor primary bedroom with a private deck. The finished basement provides additional living or hobby space. Updates include a 2017 oil burner and Roth oil tank. An inviting outdoor shower completes this well-maintained home, offered furnished and ready for your personal touches. Located in a quiet residential neighborhood close to all that Oak Bluffs has to offer.

SOLD \$4,075,000 CALL OR TEXT JAYNE ISFORD 203-962-4317

Spectacular waterfront home with stunning water views from every room. Situated in a private location in the Sengkontacket Association, this is an exceptional property in a rare setting. In addition to the breathtaking water view of Major's Cove and of Felix Neck throughout the home, the front of the property faces serene pastoral views. This home offers four bedrooms with a main floor master and ensuite, exquisite craftsmanship throughout and a unique setting on the water. Great care was taken in the planning of this home to ensure maximum enjoyment of the tranquil surroundings and views. Each of three bedrooms on the second floor has a water view. The quality of materials used in the construction of this home is outstanding. As you walk through the property, the landscaping and gardens are impeccable and have been featured in MV Magazine. The back yard gently slopes down to the water. Carefully planned by the owners, this home was constructed to follow net zero design principles which provide an energy-efficient retreat. Completely renovated in 2014 and lovingly maintained, this property is a true one-of-a-kind sanctuary on the Vineyard.

HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS



SOLD \$500,000 by Rene Ben David/ Ocean Park Realty Inc CELL 508-847-4864.

Location, Location, Location. Rare Opportunity to own a 10,000 sq ft South facing level corner lot on a paved road that may accommodate up to 3 bedrooms with Board of Health approval. A sandy beach on Lagoon Pond is just a short stroll (about 1500 ft.)enjoy the beach, walk your pet, watch the stunning sunsets, and GREAT shell fishing . How nice would little necks on the half shell or baked scallops sound for dinner! Have a boat? With permission from the Oak Bluffs Harbormaster, you could be steps away from your own private mooring. A convenient bike path nearby links your access to miles of safe paved trails leading to downtown Oak Bluffs, Edgartown, Vineyard Haven, West Tisbury and 6000 acres of the State Forest. Martha's Vineyard Hospital and Oak Bluffs Elementary School are a 5-minute drive away. This established neighborhood is perfect for both vacation or year round living. The seller is working on securing an engineer to begin the process for a survey, perc test and septic design.

HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS



OFFERED BY RENE' BEN DAVID/ REALTOR @, OCEAN PARK REALTY INC. 23 Circuit Ave Extension Cell 508-847-4864

3 bedrooms/1 bathroom, Rare Opportunity with Endless Possibilities – Unmatched Harbor & Vineyard Sound Views. Location, Location, Location! A truly rare offering in the heart of Oak Bluffs, where properties like this seldom become available. Positioned directly across from the iconic Oak Bluffs Harbor, this property boasts unobstructed harbor views and sweeping vistas of Vineyard Sound—a setting that captures the very best of island living. From your front yard, watch ferries come and go, boats drift through the harbor, and enjoy the stunning backdrop of open water stretching toward Vineyard Sound. This is a property that puts you right in the middle of everything, while still offering the charm and character of a classic island home. Zoned B-2 Commercial, the opportunities are truly endless. Continue the legacy of a successful tourist-oriented business like the longtime Anderson Bike Rentals, create a new commercial venture, or reimagine the property as your personal dream home. Whether you renovate the existing structure or build from the ground up, you'll benefit from one of the most visible and vibrant locations in Oak Bluffs. Walk to everything—ferries, beaches, the marina, restaurants, movies, shopping, Ocean Park concerts, the OB fishing pier, and the beloved Oak Bluffs Fireworks. This is a must-see, legacy property with rare potential in a location that can't be beat. Very easy to show. Pre-approval or proof of funds required with all offers.

HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS



SOLD \$815,000 AND CLOSED IN LESS THAN 30 DAYS
MARILYN MOSES 617-462-0381

Welcome to 17 Siloam Avenue, a delightful cottage nestled in the historic Martha's Vineyard Camp Meeting Association, offering spectacular sunset views of Sunset Lake and the distant harbor from its inviting porches. The current owners have cherished this home year-round for 13 years, and it's easy to see why. This spacious residence features an open living and dining area that seamlessly flows into a beautifully renovated kitchen, perfect for both family gatherings and entertaining. The first floor also includes a delightful partially renovated bathroom adorned with attractive painted wood beam ceilings, adding a touch of elegance to the space. Venture to the second floor, where you'll find three comfortable bedrooms filled with natural light thanks to the abundant windows. Located just steps away from the harbor, beaches, ferry ports, and all the vibrant attractions that Oak Bluffs has to offer, this cottage is the perfect retreat for those seeking both tranquility and adventure. Don't miss your chance to own a piece of this picturesque location! Most of the furniture is included and personal items will be removed prior to closing.



SOLD \$839,000 CALL OR TEXT MARILYN MOSES 617-462-0381
OCEAN PARK REALTY

Just steps from the iconic Tabernacle and Trinity Park, this charming cottage is nestled in the heart of the historic Martha's Vineyard Camp Meeting Association—a designated National Historic Landmark District. Surrounded by colorful gardens and picturesque pedestrian walkways, it offers an easy stroll to Oak Bluffs Harbor, beaches, ferries, art galleries, restaurants, and all the vibrant charm of town. This delightful two-bedroom, one full bathroom cottage blends historic character with thoughtful updates, making it an ideal 3-season or extended seasonal retreat. With additional insulation under the house, a buyer could potentially make it suitable for year-round use. An expansive wraparound farmer's porch with classic gingerbread trim invites you to relax and soak in the community's unique atmosphere. Inside, painted wood-beam ceilings, arched windows, and timeless built-in details enhance the welcoming living spaces. A versatile bump-out area offers flexible use as a guest sleeping nook or office, with direct access to the porch for summer breezes. The dining room provides an inviting space for dinner parties and entertaining, while the kitchen with adjoining laundry and pantry adds convenience and charm. The cottage comfortably sleeps seven, including two bedrooms, a single bed in the bump-out, and a sleep sofa in the living room. The property is partially insulated and features propane forced hot-air heat in the kitchen, bathroom, dining room, and one bedroom, with a new furnace installed in 2019. Additional features include an electric stove, refrigerator, washer, dryer, garbage disposal, 50-gallon propane hot water heater, and approximately 200 sq. ft. of storage. Mature gardens and lawn with irrigation further enhance this special offering. Best of all, the cottage is offered TURNKEY and FULLY FURNISHED, ready for you to enjoy from day one.

HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS



SOLD \$899,000 NEW SPRING LISTING
CALL OR TEXT MARILYN MOSES 617-462-0381

Experience the charm of this exquisitely renovated Victorian Gingerbread Cottage, nestled within the historic Martha's Vineyard Camp Meeting Association. Just moments away from Oak Bluffs Harbor, ferry terminals, art galleries, restaurants, public beaches, and vibrant shopping areas, this cottage offers an unparalleled location next to all of Oak Bluffs' picturesque parks. This rare gem features two side yards adorned with vibrant landscaping, enhancing its curb appeal. Step inside to discover a breathtaking chef's kitchen, designed with chic shiplap walls and custom cabinetry. Recent updates include a brand-new roof, modern electrical and plumbing systems, a state-of-the-art HVAC system, and energy-efficient, high-quality Blomberg appliances. The cottage showcases gleaming hardwood floors throughout, complemented by a fresh coat of paint and designer finishes that add a touch of elegance. This three-season home is move-in ready, making it the perfect place to enjoy a fantastic location where everything is within walking distance.



SOLD BEING OFFERED BY RENE BEN DAVID/OCEAN PARK REALTY INC. CELL 508-847-4864
\$1,250,000

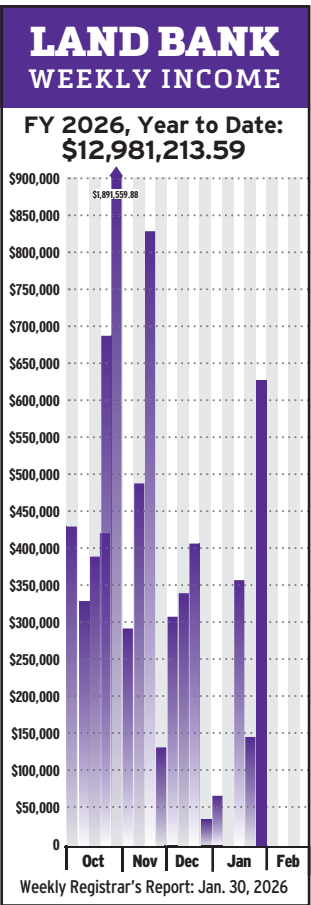
11 ONONDAGA AVE, OAK BLUFFS OPEN HOUSE
 Comfortable Island Home on a Quiet Dead-End Road in Oak Bluffs: Welcome to 11 Onondaga Avenue, the second home on the left on a short, quiet dead-end road in a well-established Oak Bluffs neighborhood enjoyed by both year-round and seasonal residents. This well-cared-for 3-bedroom, 2.5-bathroom home offers space, comfort, and a truly inviting island lifestyle—just a short walk to the Oak Bluffs Sailing Camp Park and beach, where beautiful sunsets over the water await. Inside, the open-concept layout connects the kitchen and dining area to the living room, creating a bright and functional space perfect for both entertaining and relaxed daily living. An inviting deck off the dining room extends your living space outdoors into a serene landscaped setting ideal for enjoying meals in the fresh Vineyard air. The home is set on a peaceful lot with both front and back yards offering a sense of seclusion and space to enjoy. Upstairs, the primary bedroom features an en suite with a shower, providing a comfortable and quiet retreat. Two additional bedrooms and a full bath complete the upper level, and a half bath with washer/dryer is conveniently located on the main floor. The full basement includes both indoor and outdoor access, offering flexibility and additional potential. A finished room in the basement is ready for your creative touch—whether as a media room, home office, playroom, or guest overflow. The property also includes a spacious storage shed and a driveway that easily fits three to four cars. A new roof installed in 2023 adds peace of mind and value. Located minutes from downtown Oak Bluffs, local beaches, ferries, and all the charm the Vineyard has to offer, this home is ready to be your island getaway, year-round residence, or next investment.

HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS



SOLD & CLOSED IN 30 DAYS \$1,995,000 CALL OR TEXT MARILYN MOSES 617-462-0381
HOUSE & STUDIO ABOVE GARAGE~

Welcome to 26 Tia Anna Lane! This exquisite residence is immaculate, stylish, and fully renovated, ready to welcome its new owners! Situated on a beautifully landscaped 0.30-acre lot adorned with vibrant plantings, the home boasts pristine conditions both inside and out, featuring newer Hardi Plank siding. The inviting farmer's porch, complete with Mahogany decking, sets the tone for this charming property, while a lovely pergola graces the back of the house. Upon entering, you are welcomed by a whitewashed wood with high ceiling that enhances the warm ambiance. The flooring throughout the home is first-growth Southern Pine, meticulously crafted with pegged and bunged details. The expansive entrance leads into the living and kitchen areas, which are bathed in natural light, creating an airy atmosphere. Uncover the charm of the wood-burning stove nestled in the family room, equipped with a circulating fan adds warmth, efficiency and focal point for gatherings. Culinary enthusiasts will appreciate the kitchen, which is outfitted with stainless steel GE Cafe Series appliances, attractive quartz countertops, walk in pantry and ample cabinet space to store all your cooking essentials. The screened porch offers an ideal setting for entertaining guests or enjoying a peaceful morning coffee amidst the lush surroundings. All bathrooms in the home have been meticulously renovated, ensuring modern elegance and functionality, while custom window treatments elevate the aesthetic. Additional updates include, a hot water heater (installed in 2020), pull-down stairs to a fully insulated attic (upgraded in 2021), energy-efficient heat and air conditioning with mini-splits, in ground sprinkler system for easy maintenance and a forced hot water boiler for optimal comfort throughout the year. The beautifully landscaped yard provides ample space for outdoor enjoyment, and deeded access to the Lagoon from Gull Landing opens up opportunities for kayaking, swimming, fishing, boating, clamming or simply savoring the picturesque waterfront scenery. Call now for your private tour!



PRICE IMPROVEMENT 46 KENNEBEC AVENUE OAK BLUFFS, MA \$1,495,000
CALL OR TEXT ALAN SCHWEIKERT 508-221-1708 OR MICHAEL SCHWEIKERT 774-563-9112
OCEAN PARK REALTY

This exquisite Victorian home, lovingly preserved by the same family for over a generation, stands in outstanding condition and is perfectly situated in the vibrant heart of Oak Bluffs Center. Enjoy the convenience of being just steps away from the Public Beach, Steamship Authority, Oak Bluffs Harbor, a supermarket, and a variety of charming restaurants and shops that contribute to Oak Bluffs' allure as a premier summer destination on Martha's Vineyard. This delightful three-season cottage has been carefully modernized over the years, offering a rare investment opportunity. Located within the highly sought-after B1 Zone, this residence has been cherished as a family home while also providing the potential for commercial endeavors. The property features a well-designed floor plan that includes four bedrooms-one conveniently located on the first floor-along with a full bathroom, two half bathrooms, a laundry storage area, an eat-in kitchen, and a cozy living room. The home is adorned with stunning wood flooring throughout, bright and airy rooms with original windows, a new hot water on demand system, and a charming front porch, perfect for leisurely afternoons. With its four bedrooms and prime in-town location, this property offers substantial rental potential, making it an exceptional opportunity for both personal enjoyment and investment.

Real Estate Transactions Jan. 26 - 30, 2026

Edgartown
Jan. 28, Edgartown Harbor LLC sold 177 Katama Road to 177 Katama Road LLC for \$24,000,000.
Jan. 28, Edgartown Harbor LLC sold 173 Katama Road to 173 Katama Road LLC for \$3,750,000.
Jan. 30, Marie Bishop sold 0 Harborside Inn Condo Unit 212 Week 42 to Rebecca Holly Filiatraut and Christopher David Filiatraut for \$1,000.
Jan. 30, Susan Walpert Hass sold 0 Harborside Inn Condo Unit 215 Week 42 to Danielle Ripple and Raymond M. Ripple for \$27,000.
Jan. 30, Susan Walpert Hass sold

0 Harborside Inn Condo Unit 203 Week 30 to Andrea Baer and Kevin J. Baer for \$28,000.

Oak Bluffs
Jan. 30, Emily W. Woodworth and Christopher Woodworth sold 67 New York Ave. to Thomas P. Morrissey and Janis Morrissey, trustees of Morrissey Family Trust, for \$1,400,000.

Tisbury
Jan. 30, Good Coffee LLC sold 15 Main St. to Toccopuro LLC for \$2,400,000.

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Save 1/3 off conventional building methods. New homes and additions. High-end home shells are custom designed, constructed in a controlled environment, and delivered to your MV site for about \$135/sq.ft. (Estimated price for finished house: \$550/sq.ft.) Packages include: Custom design, post and beams, roof and walls, doors and windows, siding and trim, insulation and floors. The pre-construction wall and roof panels go up in about 3 weeks. View model in Aquinnah by appointment. (508) 645-3572 Broker participation invited Posner@MVPostAndBeam.com



Real Estate

HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS



SOLD
COASTAL CHIC CONDO
PRICE IMPROVEMENT \$1,149,000
SENSEKONTACKET WATERFRONT
COMMUNITY | MARTHA'S
VINEYARD

Stylish, sunlit, and superbly located — this architecturally designed end-unit townhouse offers 2 bedrooms, a flexible third-floor loft, and 1.5 baths across 1,323 sq. ft. Enjoy a sleek chef's kitchen with stone countertops, custom built-ins, and a 288 sq. ft. private deck ideal for entertaining.

With upgraded flooring, windows, systems, and a successful rental history, this property is perfect for year-round living or as a strong investment.

Community amenities include:

- Access to fresh & saltwater ponds
- Ocean access dock + boat ramp
- Clubhouse, tennis/pickleball courts

- Kayak storage + potential mooring
- Minutes to Farm Neck, bike paths & beaches

Offered \$1,149,000
Exclusively by: Marilyn Moses |
REALTOR®

617-462-0381 |
 marilyn@oceanparkmv.com

HOUSES-VINEYARD HAVEN



15 MAIN STREET VINEYARD
HAVEN \$2,900,000
OCEAN PARK REALTY
CONTACT ALAN SCHWEIKERT
508-221-1708 OR MICHAEL
SCHWEIKERT 774-563-9112

Prime Commercial Building – Main Street, Vineyard Haven Exceptional opportunity in the heart of downtown Vineyard Haven. This well-maintained mixed-use property offers over 3,100 sq ft of versatile space, featuring two ground-floor retail storefronts with excellent street visibility and two updated 1-bedroom apartments above—ideal for staff housing or rental income. A full basement provides flexible storage or utility space, and deeded rear access allows for deliveries and logistical ease. Recent updates include plumbing improvements and a fully renovated apartment. Whether you're an investor seeking steady income, a business owner looking for a flagship location, or a developer exploring mixed-use potential, this property delivers exceptional value in one of Martha's Vineyard's most desirable commercial corridors.

HOUSES-WEST TISBURY

Incredible commercial / Residential Space for sale in West Tisbury off the road across from Cronigs. \$3 million - nothing else like it on the market - take a look. Ready to move in. Beautiful 2 bedroom apartment above. Text Lisa 310 213 5472.



WEST TISBURY \$1,485,000
CALL OR TEXT MARILYN MOSES
617-462-0381

This coastal contemporary residence is located on a private 1.60-acre lot in WestTisbury, with convenient access to Long Point Wildlife Refuge. The home features four bedrooms and two full bathrooms. On the first floor, you'll find two bright bedrooms, a modernized bathroom, and sliders from the living area that lead to a new AZEK deck and enclosed fenced gardens, perfect for outdoor enjoyment. The open floor plan includes attractive beadboard ceilings that create a sense of space and light. Recent upgrades feature a remodeled kitchen with a tiled backsplash, granite countertops, and an LG induction stove along with matching stainless-steel appliances. The first-floor bathroom has been fully renovated with a tiled shower and glass door, tiled floor, new toilet, vanity/mirror, rainfall showerhead and all new hardware. Additional updates include a newer roof, Azek window trim, an outdoor shower enclosure, and gutters with leaf guards. The basement has a 9-foot ceiling with four windows, providing potential for further finishing with town approval. Other improvements include updated plumbing and electrical systems, a new well pressure tank, new Culligan Water Filtration and Conditioning system, and a Generac whole-house generator installed in 2022. Partially furnished and with additional updates available in the documents, this property is well cared for and ready for new owners. Potential to be a STRONG RENTAL PROPERTY.



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LEGAL NOTICES

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court

Estate of: Mary Wolverton
 Date of Death: 12/24/2025
 Docket No. DU26P0016EA
 Dukes Probate and Family Court
 PO Box 237
 81 Main Street
 Edgartown, MA 02539
 (508)627-4703

To all interested persons:
 A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Susan Wolverton of Marion IA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that:

Susan Wolverton of Marion IA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 02/24/2026.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC) A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Susan L. Jacobs, First Justice of this Court.
 Date: January 27, 2026
 Daphne DeVries, Register of Probate

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Adam Robinson to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for EverBank, dated January 26, 2007 and recorded in the Dukes County Registry of Deeds in Book 1109, Page 671, as modified by a certain modification agreement recorded on April 13, 2018, and recorded with said Dukes County Registry of Deeds in Book 1465, Page 395, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for EverBank its successors and assigns to U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee for MASTR Adjustable Rate Mortgages Trust 2007-HF1, recorded on May 20, 2011, in Book No. 1246, at Page 99 for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosure, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 12:00 PM on February 24, 2026, on the mortgaged premises located at 83 North William Street, Vineyard Haven (Tisbury), Dukes County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, TO WIT: A certain parcel of land with the buildings thereto situated in the Town of Tisbury, County of Dukes County, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, being Lot No. 1 as shown on a plan entitled, "Plan of Land in Tisbury, Mass., prepared for Nathan Mayhew Seminars of Martha's Vineyard, Inc. November 15, 1984, Scale 1"= 40', Dean R. Swift, Registered Land Surveyor, Vineyard Haven, Mass.", the said plan being recorded with the Dukes County Registry of Deeds, Book 423, page 67, and the said Lot No. 1 being bounded as follows: On the west by North Williams Street, 80 feet; On the north by land now or formerly of The Nathan Mayhew Seminars of Martha's Vineyard, Inc., 150.94 feet; On the east by land now or formerly

Legal Notices

LEGAL NOTICES

of The Nathan Mayhew Seminars of Martha's Vineyard, Inc., 51.85 feet; On the south by land now or formerly of The Nathan Mayhew Seminars of Martha's Vineyard, Inc., 70 feet; On the east by land now or formerly of The Nathan Mayhew Seminars of Martha's Vineyard, Inc., 28.21 feet; On the south by land now or formerly of The Nathan Mayhew Seminars of Martha's Vineyard, Inc., 80 feet; Containing about 10,048 square feet. For mortgagor's(s') title see deed recorded with Dukes County Registry of Deeds in Book 1078, Page 1034. These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed. TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of Fifteen Thousand (\$15,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication. Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale. CITIBANK, N.A., AS SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE TO U.S. BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR MASTR ADJUSTABLE RATE MORTGAGES TRUST 2007-HF1, MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2007-HF1 Present holder of said mortgage By its Attorneys, HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C. 150 California St. Newton, MA 02458 (617)558-0500 26583

Sheriff's Meadow Foundation Request for Proposals

Sheriff's Meadow Foundation is accepting proposals for a 6-acre agricultural lease at Nat's Farm located off Old County Rd in West Tisbury. Proposals must be submitted by March 2nd. The RFP is available by visiting sheriffsmeadow.org/jobs, calling 508-693-5207, or emailing geagan@sheriffsmeadow.org

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT

Docket Number: 25 SM 002911 ORDER OF NOTICE To: Adam Robinson and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq); Citibank, N.A., as Successor Trustee to U.S. Bank, National Association, as Trustee for MASTR Adjustable Rate Mortgages Trust 2007-HF1, Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2007-HF1 claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Vineyard Haven (Tisbury), numbered 83 North William Street, given by Adam Robinson to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for EverBank, dated January 26, 2007, and recorded in the Dukes County Registry of Deeds in Book 1109, Page 671, as modified by a certain modification agreement recorded on April 13, 2018, and recorded with said Dukes County Registry of Deeds in Book 1465, Page 395 and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status. If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before November 10, 2025, or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act. Witness, Gordon H. Piper, Chief Justice of this Court on September 26, 2025. Attest: Deborah J. Paterson Recorder 26583

LEGAL NOTICES TISBURY

TOWN OF TISBURY Office of PLANNING BOARD PO BOX 602 VINEYARD HAVEN, MASSACHUSETTS WWW.TISBURYMA.GOV NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to MGL Ch. 40A, s. 9; The Tisbury Planning Board will hold a virtual public hearing on February 18, 2026 at a regularly scheduled meeting to consider an application for a Special Permit pursuant to **TZBL 04.04.02; Multiple Family Dwelling and Structures.** The Applicant is Eric Frederick as representative of the Estate of Jay Frederick.

The application is presented by Robert M. McCarron, Esq. The locus of the proposed project is **140 Midland Avenue, Tisbury, Ma., 02567 in the R10 Zoning District., Assessor's Parcel 25-C-10** Topic: TPB regular meeting Time: Feb 18, 2026 04:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada) Join Zoom Meeting <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81723351782> Meeting ID: 817 2335 1782 Passcode: 490932

One tap mobile +16468769923,81723351782# US (New York) +16469313860,81723351782# US A copy of the application and plans are available to review. Please send an email to the Planning Board Administrator tisburyplanningboard@tisburyma.gov with your request. Interested parties are invited to send comments and/or attend the virtual meeting. Please address any comments to the Planning Board Chairperson, Casey Hayward, and send to the aforementioned email.

LEGAL NOTICES OAK BLUFFS Copeland Plan District Review Board NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Monday February 23, 2026 at 5:00 PM

RE: 1 Rowland Av Map 8 Parcel 224.1

This is a HYBRID meeting with both in person & Zoom participation available. The meeting will be held in the downstairs meeting room at the Oak Bluffs Town Hall, 56 School Street, Oak Bluffs MA or Join Zoom Meeting <https://oakbluffs.zoom.us/j/81545175334?pwd=xwupzyPaeEY4fZijSAKxKbrZCY5B82.1> Meeting ID: 815 4517 5334 Passcode: 178353 Construct a new foundation beneath the older/historic section of the house, reconstruction of the porch, add back historic details, remove the non-historic porch addition to the south. Replace and reconfigure all windows and doors. The design of the windows and doors, exterior trim, brackets, roof trim/rafter tails and dormers will match or add back the original details. The south facing gable of the historic portion of the house will be extended 6'8" south. An 8' kitchen bumpout will be added on the south side. The historic bay window will be restored. New mechanical, electric & plumbing systems will be added.

Proposed plans are on file in the Building Department at Town Hall. Written correspondence can be addressed to: Copeland Plan District Review Board Attn: Lee Ann Tavares, PO Box 1327, Oak Bluffs - 02557 [email: buildingadmin@oakbluffsma.gov](mailto:buildingadmin@oakbluffsma.gov)

Copeland Plan District Review Board NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Monday February 23, 2026 at 5:00 PM RE: 26 Sea View Av Map 9 Parcel 56

This is a HYBRID meeting with both in person & Zoom participation available. The meeting will be held in the downstairs meeting room at the Oak Bluffs Town Hall, 56 School Street, Oak Bluffs MA or Join Zoom Meeting <https://oakbluffs.zoom.us/j/81545175334?pwd=xwupzyPaeEY4fZijSAKxKbrZCY5B82.1> Meeting ID: 815 4517 5334 Passcode: 178353 Installation of a 33 panel roof mounted solar array Proposed plans are on file in the Building Department at Town Hall. Written correspondence can be addressed to: Copeland Plan District

Review Board Attn: Lee Ann Tavares, PO Box 1327, Oak Bluffs 02557 [email: buildingadmin@oakbluffsma.gov](mailto:buildingadmin@oakbluffsma.gov)

TOWN OF OAK BLUFFS, MA PLANNING BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO TOWN OF OAK BLUFFS ZONING BYLAWS Pursuant to the provisions of MGL ch. 40A §5, the Oak Bluffs Planning Board will open a virtual public hearing at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 12, 2026, for the purpose of accepting public comments on the following proposed additions and amendments to the Town of Oak Bluffs Zoning By-laws:

- Item 1:** To see if the Town will vote to add Section 7.5 to the Zoning By-laws, governing short-term rentals.
- Item 2:** To see if the Town will vote to amend Section 5.4 of the Zoning By-laws to provide further clarification and add requirements to the existing bylaw for environmental performance standards.
- Item 3:** To see if the Town will vote to amend Section 5.4.5 of the Zoning By-laws to provide further clarification and add requirements to the existing bylaw for Erosion Control.
- Item 4:** To see if the Town will vote to amend Section 10.4 of the Zoning By-laws to provide further clarification and add requirements to the existing bylaw for Site Plan Review.
- Item 5:** To see if the Town will vote to amend Section 3.2 of the Zoning By-laws to provide further clarification and add requirements to the existing bylaw for Accessory Uses.
- Item 6:** To see if the Town will vote to amend Appendix A of the Zoning By-laws to provide for oversight by the Planning Board on Non-Exempt Agricultural use.

Relevant documents are available online. See: <https://www.oakbluffsma.gov/561/Proposed-Zoning-By-Law-Changes-April-2> Please forward written comments to Planning Board Administrator, PO Box 1327, Oak Bluffs MA 02557 or via email: planningboard@oakbluffsma.gov. To join Zoom meeting: <https://oakbluffs.zoom.us/j/85260130378?pwd=yWdKh0NlflakNGYf8i4YqbtazTzGKMw.1> Meeting ID: 852 6013 0378 Passcode: 285843 One tap mobile +13092055325,85260130378# US +13126266799,85260130378# US (Chicago)

LEGAL NOTICES EDGARTOWN Martha's Vineyard Commission Public Hearing

The public is invited to a public hearing concerning whether the proposed amendments to the regulations governing the Coastal District in the Town of Edgartown conform to the guidelines for the development of the District specified in the Commission's designation of the District. Amendments to Articles 5.1.C.1. Permitted Uses in the Shore Zone, 5.1.D.1. Conditionally Permitted Uses in the Shore Zone, and a change in title of Article 5.1.E are proposed. Annotated changes are available on the MVC website: mvccommission.org Date & Time: Thursday, February 19, 2026 at 6:35 p.m. Place: Hybrid Meeting **MVC Office - 1st Floor**, 33 New York Ave, Oak Bluffs, MA and Zoom **Meeting ID: 893 8861 4995; Password: 648697** Written testimony may be submitted prior to or during the hearing. Check for updates on the online calendar.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EDGARTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION February 11, 2026 at 4:30 p.m.

the Edgartown Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on the second floor of Edgartown Town Hall at 70 Main St, Edgartown on a **Request for Determination** filed by **James Moffat from Greenwater Architects** on behalf of **MV Home LLC** under the Edgartown Wetlands Protection Bylaw and the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act. The applicant is seeking a determination for the relocation of

Continued from A5

obituaries

Karen Ann MacPhail, RN



Karen Ann MacPhail, RN, of Woodside Village in Vineyard Haven died peacefully at home, surrounded by loved ones, at age 78.

Karen graduated from Wareham High School, and went on to achieve her degree in nursing at Labouré College. She spent decades as an emergency room nurse, sharing memories of her time at Carney, a small but busy hospital outside Boston. After retirement she was drawn to the Vineyard beaches and small Island community. Karen jumped into volunteering, joining the Island Health Council, Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), Salvation Army, American Red Cross, the Disaster Animal Response Team (DART), and the Community Emergency Response Team.

Karen was instrumental in getting DART off the ground with her friend Marina, and during COVID, she worked with

public health nurse Lila Fischer doing contact tracing, as well as making dozens of calls to medical staff to rebuild MRC during COVID.

Karen was also a diligent personal nurse for any of her friends, checking in daily if they were recovering from illness or surgery. If anyone needed help, she was there.

Karen was a pet lover and advocate for adoption. She and her friend Kristen volunteered together at Second Chance Animal Shelter, where Kristen found her forever pup BBE, and Karen later got her cat Fiona. She loved spending quality time in the cat room at Second Chance Rescue.

She also loved the unexpected friendship between her cat Fiona and her friends' big dog Lucy, a Cane Corso, impressed with their calm confidence despite their size differences.

Karen also enjoyed playing mah jong and attending luncheons at the MVRHS prepared by the culinary students. She frequented events at Howes House, and loved trips to Providence to see musicals.

Karen was funny, quick-witted, spunky, and friendly with a dash of stubborn. She was small but mighty, and oh so stylish!

In her last days, Karen wanted to be home. She was surrounded by the loving care of her friends Jennie, Bernadette, Kristen, Marina, Ilona, her son Shawn, and Hospice staff, all supervised by her cat Fiona.

Rest in peace, Nurse Karen. You made a difference. Thank you!

Karen is survived by her brother, Bruce Kelenosy of Wareham; her son, Shawn McPhail; and her granddaughters, Olive and Violet MacPhail, all of Martha's Vineyard.

Donations in her honor can be made to Second Chance Animal Rescue of Oak Bluffs, online at secondchanceanimalrescuemv.org/donate, where Karen deeply enjoyed volunteering.

Eugene Erez



Eugene Erez ("Gene") passed away suddenly on Dec. 27, 2025, while on vacation in Bangkok, Thailand. He was 62 years old.

Gene was born on July 21, 1963, in Ukraine (now Russia). As a young child, he immigrated to the U.S. with his family as a Russian refugee, eventually settling in Texas before they moved to Boston. Through

determination, resilience, and hard work, Gene built a life defined by craftsmanship, loyalty, and generosity.

He pursued his education at Northeastern University before finding his way to Martha's Vineyard, a place that would become his true home. Gene began working as a carpenter and quickly discovered his passion for building. That passion grew into a successful career as a general contractor and owner of Dukas County Builders, spanning more than 25 years. During that time, Gene renovated or built more than 100 homes across Martha's Vineyard.

Beyond his work, Gene lived life fully. He was an avid tennis player who loved the game's challenge and camaraderie. He enjoys gardening, and had a deep love for travel, embracing new cultures and experiences with curiosity and enthusiasm.

Gene will be remembered for his infectious laugh, his strong work ethic, and his unwavering devotion to family and friends. He leaves behind a legacy not only in the homes he built, but also in the many lives he touched.

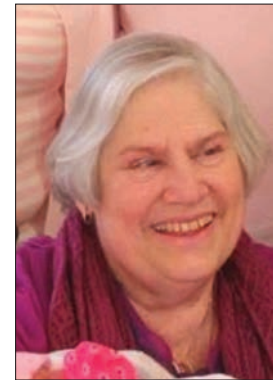
He is survived by his beloved wife, Mew Mutita Chumee; his children, Yelana, Alex, Isabella, and Aelita; his father, Dr. Victor; his brother, Dimitri; his niece, Elena; his nephew, Nickoli; and countless friends and clients who will miss him dearly.

Gene's memory will live on

through the love he shared, the homes he created, and the laughter he brought wherever he went.

A private family memorial service will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Cottagers Inc. of Martha's Vineyard, Building Fund, P.O. Box 2595, Oak Bluffs, MA 02557, or to the American Heart Association, online at bit.ly/AHA_donate.

Susan Thurber



Susan Thurber passed away on Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2026, at Cape Cod Hospital, surrounded by her loved ones.

Susan was born in Boston on Jan. 31, 1942, the daughter of Walter and Elizabeth Stacy.

She grew up working summers in the family-owned Hilliard's candy store on Martha's Vineyard, where she met her future husband, Adelbert E. Thurber Jr. ("Buddy"). She's also known for being the friendly

receptionist at Edgartown National Bank for more than 20 years.

She is survived by her son, Chris Thurber; granddaughter, Samantha Thurber; great-granddaughter, Aliyah Diaz; and sisters, Diane Murdock, Joan Dunn, and Brenda Mastromonaco. She was predeceased by her husband, Adelbert E. Thurber Jr., in 2011, and by both parents, Walter and Elizabeth Stacy; also by her sister Janet, and brother Ray.

She lived a long, happy life. She will greatly be missed.

A private graveside service was held on Jan. 30 in the Smith family cemetery in Oak Bluffs, and a celebration of life will be held this summer.

Visit chapmanfuneral.com for online guestbook and information. **MVT**

OBITUARIES

The Martha's Vineyard Times publishes obituary information and photos at no charge for current and former residents of Martha's Vineyard and for persons with significant ties to the Island community. The submission deadline for full obituaries is 5 pm Tuesday, for publication on the following Thursday. The Times reserves the right to edit as needed.

If you have questions or need assistance writing an obituary, please call (508) 693-6100 and ask to speak to the Community editor. Obituary information may be submitted by

e-mail: editor@mvtimes.com
mail: PO Box 518
Vineyard Haven, MA 02568

by hand: The Times office on Beach Road in Vineyard Haven (opposite the ArtCliff Diner).

Legal Notices

LEGAL NOTICES EDGARTOWN

a stairway and the reconstruction and relocation of brick piers under an existing deck within a FEMA Flood Zone (VE12).

The property is located at **111 N. Water St (AP 20D-276.2)**.

For a copy of the application or for questions related to observing the meeting via Zoom, please contact: conservation@edgartown-ma.us

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EDGARTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION

On **Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at 4:35 p.m.** the Edgartown Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on the second floor of Edgartown Town Hall at 70 Main St, Edgartown on a **Request for Determination** filed by **Chris Alley (SBH)** on behalf of **Jeffrey L. Naftulin** under the Edgartown Wetlands Protection Bylaw and the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act. The applicant is seeking a determination for the construction of a guest house and associated site work within the 100-foot buffer zone to the floodplain.

The property is located at **41 N. Neck Rd (AP 18-32.4)**.

For a copy of the application or for questions related to observing the meeting via Zoom, please contact: conservation@edgartown-ma.us

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EDGARTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION

On **Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at 4:40 p.m.** the Edgartown Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on the second floor of Edgartown Town Hall at 70 Main St, Edgartown on a **Notice of Intent**

LEGAL NOTICES EDGARTOWN

filed by **Chris Alley (SBH)** on behalf of **The Stephen W. Potter Trust** under the Edgartown Wetlands Protection Bylaw and the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act. The applicant is seeking permission for the upgrading of underground utilities, construction of a sunroom and covered entry, and replacement of a deck within the 100-foot buffer zone to a Coastal Bank.

The property is located at **4 Armstrong Lane (AP 30-19)**.

For a copy of the application or for questions related to observing the meeting via Zoom, please contact: conservation@edgartown-ma.us

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TOWN OF EDGARTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS 2025 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND Community Development Block Grant

The Town of Edgartown invites competitive proposals from qualified consultants to provide Housing Rehabilitation Services for a Community Development Fund FY25 CDBG grant awarded by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing & Livable Communities through its Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG). Complete specifications and proposal requirements are available on Friday, February 6, 2026, at 9:00am online at www.baileyboyd.com/ services or by emailing the town's Grant Administrator, Cassie Boyd Marsh at cboyd@baileyboyd.com. Proposals must be received no later than, 2:00pm on Wednesday, March 4, 2026, at the offices of the Grant Administrator Bailey Boyd Associates, Inc., 9 Hillside Road, Scituate,

LEGAL NOTICES EDGARTOWN

MA 02066 in the manner and format as required in the Request for Proposals, and should be addressed to Cassie Boyd Marsh, Grant Administrator. The Town reserves the right to waive any informalities in the proposal procedure, to cancel this Request for Proposal or to reject any and all proposals received deemed not in the best interest of the Town. The Select Board shall award contracts under this procurement. The Town encourages Women and Minority-owned businesses to submit proposals.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EDGARTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION

On **Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at 4:45 p.m.** the Edgartown Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on the second floor of Edgartown Town Hall at 70 Main St, Edgartown on a **Notice of Intent** filed by **Doug Hoehn (SBH)** on behalf of **Edward Jepsen** under the Edgartown Wetlands Protection Bylaw and the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act. The applicant is seeking permission for renovations and additions to an existing dwelling and garage, construction of a pool and spa, construction of an elevated walkway to an existing pier, reconstruction/repair of an existing elevated platform, landscaping, and related site activities, all within resource areas and buffer zones. The property is located at **81 S. Water St (AP 29B-14)**.

For a copy of the application or for questions related to observing the meeting via Zoom, please contact: conservation@edgartown-ma.us

PUBLIC NOTICES

Durante a semana de 2 a 6 de março de 2026, o Escritório de Aquisição de Língua (OLA) do Departamento de Educação Elementar e Secundária de Massachusetts

(DESE) realizará uma Revisão de Monitoramento Focado em Níveis das Escolas

Públicas de Martha's Vineyard.

O Escritório de Aquisição de Língua revisa o programa ELE (Educação de Língua Inglesa) de cada distrito e escola charter a cada seis anos para monitorar a conformidade com as leis e regulamentos federais e estaduais de educação de alunos que estão aprendendo inglês. As áreas de revisão incluirão avaliações dos alunos que estão aprendendo inglês, identificação desses alunos, programas nos quais eles são colocados, envolvimento dos pais e da comunidade, currículo e instrução, serviços de apoio aos alunos, requisitos de licenciamento para professores, funcionários e administração, planos do programa e avaliação e manutenção de registros.

Além da visita ao local, o contato com os pais é uma parte importante do processo de revisão. O distrito enviará uma pesquisa aos pais dos alunos cujos registros serão examinados pela equipe de revisão. A pesquisa se concentra em áreas-chave do programa de educação de alunos que estão aprendendo inglês. Os resultados da pesquisa serão analisados pela

PUBLIC NOTICES

OLA e contribuirão para o relatório de monitoramento.

Os pais e outras pessoas podem enviar um e-mail para Andy McDonie, presidente do Escritório de Revisão de Aquisição de Língua, em d.andrew.mcdonie@mass.gov para solicitar uma entrevista pelo Zoom. Se uma pessoa precisar de alguma acomodação, como tradução, para participar de uma entrevista, o DESE tomará as providências necessárias.

No prazo de aproximadamente 60 dias úteis após a visita ao local, o presidente da comissão de revisão fornecerá ao (distrito ou escola charter) um relatório com informações sobre as áreas em que o (distrito ou escola charter) cumpre ou excede os requisitos regulamentares e as áreas em que o (distrito ou escola charter) necessita de assistência para corrigir ou melhorar as práticas. O relatório estará disponível ao público em <https://www.doe.mass.edu/ele/cpr/>.

During the week of March 2- March 6, 2026 the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's (DESE's) Office of Language Acquisition (OLA) will conduct a Tiered Focused Monitoring Review of Martha's Vineyard Public Schools.

The Office of Language Acquisition reviews each district's and charter school's ELE (English Language Education) program every six years to monitor compliance with federal

PUBLIC NOTICES

and state English learner education laws and regulations. Areas of review will include English learners' student assessments, identification of English learners; what programs English learners are placed in, parent and community involvement, curriculum and instruction, student support services, licensure requirements for faculty, staff and administration, program plans, and evaluation and recordkeeping. In addition to the onsite visit, parent outreach is an important part of the review process.

The district will send a survey to the parents of students whose records the review team examines. The survey focuses on key areas of their child's English learner education program. Survey results will be reviewed by OLA and they will contribute to the monitoring report.

Parents and other individuals may email Andy McDonie, Office of Language Acquisition Review Chairperson, at d.andrew.mcdonie@mass.gov to request a Zoom interview. If an individual requires an accommodation, such as translation, to participate in an interview, DESE will make the necessary arrangements.

Within approximately 60 business days of the onsite visit, the review chairperson will provide the (district or charter school) with a report with information about areas in which the (district or charter school) meets or exceeds regulatory requirements and areas in which the (district or charter school) requires assistance to correct or improve practices. The report will be available to the public at <https://www.doe.mass.edu/ele/cpr/>.

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Study says offshore wind decreases blackout risk

Continued from A1

stress out the tangled web of infrastructure that keeps all of New England powered: the energy grid.

The grid, a network of transmission lines between energy resources and homes and businesses, is understandably under a lot of stress in the winter. Weather is the biggest driver of electricity demand, and so in the winter and summer, when extreme weather temperatures and events are more common, operators of the grid must work harder and smarter to maintain energy supply and normalcy, i.e. no outages.

Over the past two weeks of extreme cold, two storms were in the forecast — one that lived up to promises of a foot of snow, and another that moved away from the Island earlier than anticipated, but still brought heavy winds. Despite alarms for back-to-back storms, the grid remained reliable, and the Island was largely unaffected in terms of power. There was only one small outage in Aquinah, which was serviced by the Island's utility company, Eversource. And while millions lost power across the country, most outages were caused by snow and ice on poles and wires, not because demand exceeded supply.

The grid experienced the toughest conditions in almost a decade in the past two weeks and survived, though under tight constraints, and so the question remains: Is the grid prepared for a continued rise in electricity usage, as people buy more electric vehicles, use heat pumps, and manufacture data centers, or in the event of more catastrophic weather?

To stay ahead of a true crisis, there's a push across the country to bring on more energy resources, especially alternatives to oil and gas. And a study from the Cambridge-based Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) released Wednesday argues that offshore wind energy can help small grids, like in New England and New York, endure the surges in demand that come from cold weather.

Analysts studied wind speed data on the Outer Continental Shelf in the New England offshore wind lease area last winter, and found that the energy that could've been delivered by two projects that are now almost complete might have significantly lowered the risk of power outages.

Susan Muller, senior energy analyst for the UCS and previously counsel for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, authored this study, and compared offshore wind energy to the ridgeline of a mountain range, where the highest peaks are off the coast of New England and New York. It's a variable resource, she said, and fluctu-

ates as winds do.

"But people get so focused on the variability that they miss the more important point, which is the scale," Muller said in a press conference prior to release of the study. She added that the scale of offshore wind has the potential to help problems of grid reliability as well as cost of energy, especially in the winter months when the air is denser and wind speeds higher.

Wind speeds, in meters per second, were collected by researchers from the start of December 2024 to the end of February 2025, then translated into power that could've been delivered by a 1,500-megawatt offshore wind fleet comprised of Vineyard Wind 1 (806 megawatts) and Revolution Wind (704 megawatts), had they been fully operational in those three months. Suspension and stop-work orders at the federal level as well as a manufacturer problem for one of the wind farms have continuously delayed the construction process.

For purposes of this study, a turbine model, developed by the National Laboratory of the Rockies in Colorado, appropriate for these two projects, was used for projections. Each farm, however, uses different turbine manufacturers, and so the relationship between wind speed and power output, what's called the power curve, can vary. Muller said that the turbines start to produce power at wind speeds of four meters per second, and reach maximum output at 11 meters per second and above. She added that at about 25 meters per second, they shut down.

Muller also took the capacity factor of a wind farm into account for her analysis. Capacity factor is an average over time, often talked about as an annual

percentage. For example, Vineyard Wind 1 has a capacity factor, the project's annual power production to the nameplate production potential of 806 megawatts, that exceeds 45 percent. But that's an annual number, and she said the capacity factor in the winter months is actually higher. And for the study, they looked at much smaller units of time, even at the hourly level.

It is less important in terms of the grid, she said, that energy is consistent. Instead, she said, what the grid really needs right now are large energy deliveries, even ones that aren't constant.

Between Dec. 1, 2024, and Feb. 28, 2025, total daily energy demand rose above 350,000 megawatt-hours, a threshold for elevated risk

of blackout tracked by ISO New England, on 53 of the 90 days. It exceeded 400,000 megawatt-hours, a marker for an even higher risk of blackout, on four of those 53 days. ISO New England is the nonprofit corporation that manages the grid for

or once time's run out, are actually forced to square up to said issue. Icons that flash on a car's dashboard are only an annoyance right before the car is stuck on the side of the highway, and there's no cell phone signal.

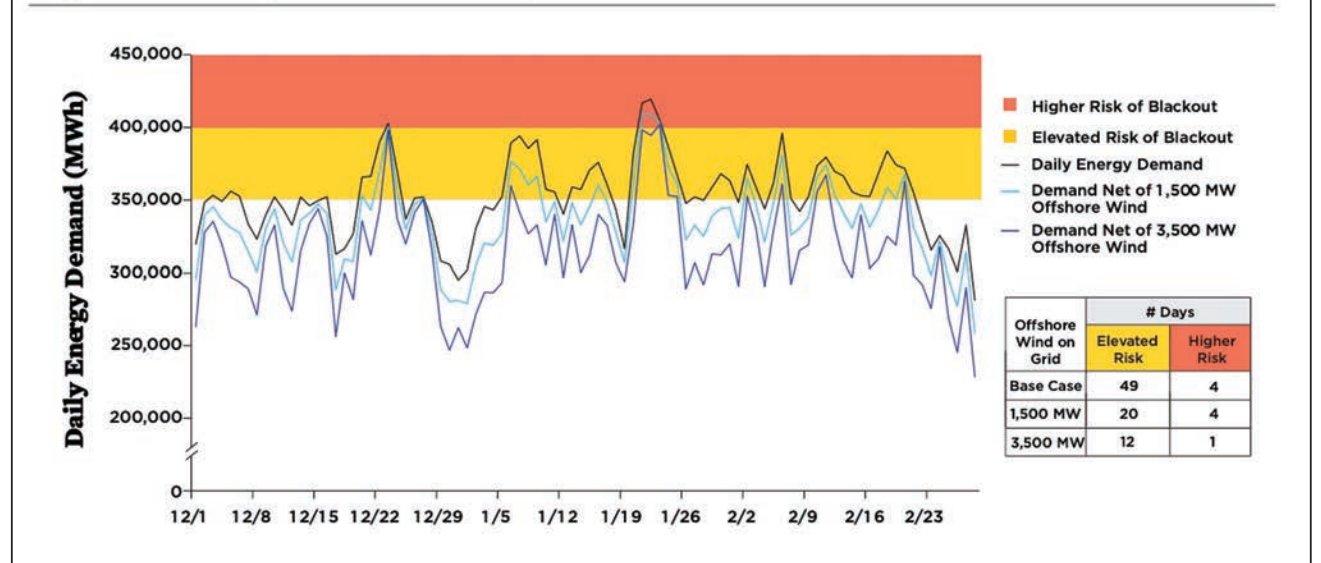
And although ISO spokesperson Mary Cate Colapietro said the regional grid is over-

filed for exemptions to allow a specific list of resources to "run in ways that keep the grid reliable, even if that temporarily overrides regulatory or emission requirements." This emergency order, first approved before on Jan. 25, was extended last Friday to last through Feb. 14.

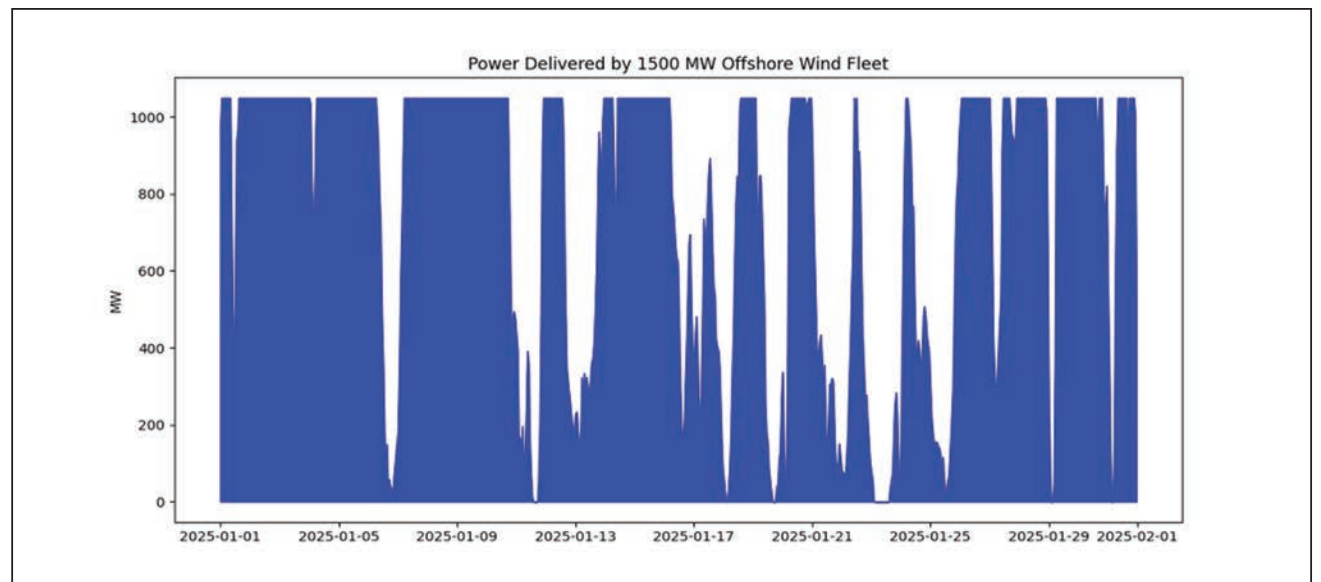
"The ISO did not make

the commercial operation date. For Vineyard Wind 1, recently issued a suspension by the federal government and then allowed to continue construction by a federal judge last week, that date should come by March 31. Commercial operation is when the power purchase agreement, a contract be-

Figure 1. New England Blackout Risk, Winter 2024–2025



NEW ENGLAND'S OFFSHORE WIND SOLUTION



NEW ENGLAND'S OFFSHORE WIND SOLUTION

the six New England states.

But through subtraction, Muller deduced that energy from the two offshore wind projects visible off the coast of the Island would have reduced the load on the system and cut down risky days by

all well-positioned for the season, the past two weeks were a challenge.

"Over the past two weeks, New England's power system experienced its most challenging operating conditions since the winter of

these requests lightly, and recognizes the importance of environmental permit limits. However, the prolonged nature of this cold weather made the initial request and subsequent extension necessary to ensure adequate gen-

tween the developer and utility companies, can be effective.

In court for Vineyard Wind against the federal government on Jan. 27, Nathaniel Haviland-Markowitz, assistant attorney general for Massachusetts, said that agreement provides a fixed, stable price for energy.

"The electricity that is currently being generated by Vineyard Wind is being sold and purchased on the wholesale open market, and those prices are much, much higher than the stable price that would have been guaranteed by the power purchase agreement," Haviland-Markowitz said.

Vineyard Wind 1 is the only project currently under construction that already sends power to the grid, but that stable price, reported to be around \$74 per megawatt-hour in a decades-long contract, isn't yet the reality.

And the cold isn't over yet, for the Island or the region. Early forecasts from ISO predict below-normal temperatures throughout the month of February, as well as another cold front expected this weekend. **MVT**

"Over the past two weeks, New England's power system experienced its most challenging operating conditions since the winter of 2017-2018." –ISO New England

more than half. Days that crossed the elevated risk threshold would've capped out at 24 days. And in an offshore wind fleet of 3,500 megawatts (had South Coast Wind and New England Wind 1 been operational), which under the President Donald Trump's administration doesn't currently seem feasible, only 13 days would've sat at an elevated risk of blackout.

Although there were days of elevated and high risk of blackout in 2024 and 2025, ISO didn't have to direct any controlled outages. The nonprofit said they couldn't comment on the figure or metrics named in the report.

Oftentimes, a problem isn't a problem until people start to see physical manifestations, feel the ripple effects,

2017–2018," an update from the nonprofit on Tuesday read. "Prolonged cold temperatures drove consumer demand for electricity sharply upward, both at peak moments and in overall usage, placing sustained pressure on the power system."

Grid operators needed to bolster fuel supplies, and both high demand and limited capacity to transport gas to the region meant high prices. This was compounded by cold temperatures across the country that limited imports to this region, as well as a reduction in solar production. Many generators were forced to turn to oil as an economical alternative.

The nonprofit was also forced to turn to the U.S. Department of Energy on behalf of generators, and

erating resources are at hand to keep power flowing in the region," a news release reads.

When ISO New England calls on resources to provide power, it uses the most cost-effective resource first, regardless of fuel type or technology. But high demand, like in the winter, can drive prices up. Offshore wind, though, has the potential to lower energy prices. It could displace the high costs of resources, like gas or oil, and suppress wholesale market prices. Imported liquified natural gas, used to supplement energy demand in New England winters, for example, is especially vulnerable to global price shocks and world events.

But that won't necessarily be true until projects reach

Island swimmers win league championship



The MVRHS swim team at the Cape and Islands league championship.

COURTESY JEN PASSAFIUME

The boys are champions, and the girls made MVRHS history with a third-place finish.

BY NICHOLAS VUKOTA

The Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) swim team capped off a dominant season on Saturday at the seventh annual Cape and Islands League Championships. The boys team won their third consecutive league title, and the girls earned a historic third-place finish.

The boys amassed 375 points, outpacing Nantucket at 288, Sandwich with 211, Nauset at 151, and Barnstable at 118, to secure their fourth championship in the past five years. The girls, in their strongest showing to date, gathered 169 points for a third-place finish behind Nantucket at 442 and Sandwich at 330, beating Nauset, who scored 121.

"This team has grown into quite the family this season," said Head Coach Jen Passafiume in an email to The Times. "Walking into Sandwich Middle High School, the team spirit was high as 'I am awesome, I am loved' was being chanted by the team. We were ready to go."

Aside from the Vineyard league win, highlights from the league championship meet included a new school record in the boys' medley relay, as well as in the

100-yard breaststroke.

The girls' team also made history, placing third in a Cape and Islands League meet for the first time. The girls had experienced roster shortages in the past, and this is the first season in Passafiume's high school coaching career the girls roster has been filled out.

"The girls brought home a trophy for the first time in team history, placing third," said Passafiume in her email. "Great job, everyone — I am so proud of you."

The meet kicked off with the boys' 200-yard medley relay, where Grady Stalgren, Michael Calheta, Ronan Mullin, and Moses Thomson stormed to first place and set a new Vineyard high school school record with a time of 1:45.52, which also qualified them for the Division 2 state meets.

Claus Smith was also a standout in individual events, qualifying for South Sectional championships in the 50-yard freestyle with a new personal best of 24.23, placing third in the meet. Thomson followed closely in fourth at 24.94, also setting a new personal best.

Calheta etched his name in the

Martha's Vineyard record books again at Saturday's league championship meet. Calheta broke his own school record in the 100-yard breaststroke with a new personal best time of 1:12.12, winning the event.

The boys' 200-yard freestyle relay team, made up of Thomson, Calheta, Smith, and Mullin, also clinched Division 2 state qualification with a first-place finishing time of 1:37.91.

On the girls' side, standout performances included Kyla Webster's fourth-place finish in the 500-yard freestyle and Leah Thomson's new personal best time of 1:05.01 in the 100-yard freestyle, where she placed fifth. The Vineyarders also had a strong performance in the girls' 400-yard freestyle relay, placing third with a time of 4:38.54.

The MVRHS swim team's Division 2 South Sectional championship qualifiers will travel to Boston University on Sunday, Feb. 8, to compete, and state qualifiers will travel to Massachusetts Institute of Technology to compete in the Division 2 state championships the following weekend on Saturday, Feb. 14. **MVT**

MARTHA'S VINEYARD SWIM TEAM POSTSEASON QUALIFIERS

SOUTH SECTIONALS

50-YARD FREESTYLE:

Ronan Mullin

200-YARD FREESTYLE:

Ronan Mullin

500-YARD FREESTYLE:

Ronan Mullin

100-YARD BUTTERFLY:

Ronan Mullin, Grady Stalgren

100-YARD BACKSTROKE:

Grady Stalgren

200-YARD

INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY:

Ronan Mullin

200-YARD

MEDLEY RELAY:

Grady Stalgren, Michael Calheta, Ronan Mullin, Moses Thomson/Claus Smith

200-YARD

FREESTYLE RELAY:

Michael Calheta, Claus Smith, Moses Thomson, Ronan Mullin

400-YARD

FREESTYLE RELAY:

Grady Stalgren, Claus Smith, Moses Thomson, Ronan Mullin

D2 STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

100-YARD FREESTYLE:

Ronan Mullin

200-YARD FREESTYLE:

Ronan Mullin

500-YARD FREESTYLE:

Ronan Mullin

200-YARD

INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY:

Ronan Mullin

200-YARD

MEDLEY RELAY:

Grady Stalgren, Michael Calheta, Ronan Mullin, Moses Thomson

200-YARD

FREESTYLE RELAY:

Moses Thomson, Michael Calheta, Claus Smith, Ronan Mullin

400-YARD

FREESTYLE RELAY:

Grady Stalgren, Claus Smith, Moses Thomson, Ronan Mullin

West Tisbury sweeps middle school basketball championships

BY NICHOLAS VUKOTA

For the second season in a row, the West Tisbury Hawks swept the middle school basketball championships, held at Martha's Vineyard Regional High School's Pachico Gymnasium.

West Tisbury's girls' and boys' teams both played against the Oak Bluffs Blazers in the championship games on Friday. The West Tisbury girls' team won 48-38, and the boys won 79-72, both teams taking home the trophy for the second consecutive season.

The girls' game kicked off at 6:15 pm on Friday, and the Hawks defeated the Blazers in a close matchup for the title. After being neck-and-neck the first three quarters of the game, West Tisbury started to establish a small lead late in the third, heading into the fourth quarter with a 30-25 advantage. The Blazers tried to mount a comeback in the fourth, but the Hawks responded with baskets of their own, pulling away with the lead for a 48-38 victory. West Tisbury student Izzy Keats (No. 1) was a

dominant force on the court for the Hawks throughout the game.

After the girls' game finished, the West Tisbury and Oak Bluffs boys' teams took the court for another intense game.

Oak Bluffs stunned the gymnasium full of Island families at the end of the first quarter with a buzzer-beating half-court shot to take the lead 18-17. The two teams continued to clash throughout the second quarter, tying the first half 35-35. The Hawks gained control in the third quarter, taking a 57-48 lead going into the fourth. Despite a desperate attempt to come back, with multiple consecutive three-pointers from Oak Bluffs players late in the game, the Hawks maintained their advantage, quelling the Blazers' spirited effort, to finish the game 79-72.



NICHOLAS VUKOTA

The West Tisbury Hawks are the Martha's Vineyard middle school boys basketball champions.

Last season, the West Tisbury girls' team defeated the Oak Bluffs Blazers for the title 35-33, and

the boys positively dominated the Edgartown Eagles by a score of 73-52. **MVT**

THE PEOPLE, TOWNS, AND STORIES OF ISLAND LIFE + RESTAURANTS, GALLERIES & ENTERTAINMENT

MVTimes

community & calendar

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2026



The HADESTOWN musical cast with Ken Romero.

THE UNDERWORLD REIMAGINED

MVRHS spring musical: 'HADESTOWN' **SEE B14**

the grapevine

Just before we welcomed February on Martha's Vineyard, we were blanketed with the most snow the Island had seen in a very long time. This is typically the quietest month of the year for us anyway, but the severe weather forced us into a time of rest and reflection ... for 24 hours, and then we had to work together to uncover ourselves from the 12 inches of winter wonderland. And work together we did; the scene on our street of neighbors helping neighbors is one I continued to see on most streets throughout the Island.

This altruism and respect for one another is fitting, as February holds both Black History Month and Valentine's Day. At first glance, one may feel heavy while the other feels light. One asks us to remember struggle, injustice, and resilience; the other invites sweetness, romance, and affection. But these observances are not opposites. They are companions. Because at the heart of Black history — on this Island and beyond — is love. Love as resistance. Love as preservation. Love as the quiet, daily choice to care for one another when systems failed to do so. And on the Vineyard, love has always been a communal act.

Long before February was marked on calendars as a time of remembrance, Black families were shaping the Island through care, craftsmanship, faith, labor, and leadership. They built homes, ran businesses, taught children, cooked meals, healed neighbors, and carved out spaces of belonging in a world that often denied them one. Their love was not always loud. It did not always come wrapped in celebration. But it endured — and because it endured, so did the community.

Black History Month invites us to look back, but it also asks us to look around. To recognize the ways Black history is not confined to museums or textbooks, but lives in kitchens, churches, barbershops, beaches, and front porches. It lives in the stories passed down quietly, the recipes perfected over decades, and the traditions held with care.

This Island has long been a place where Black joy, creativity, and refuge found room to breathe. A place where families returned summer after summer, generation after generation — not just to vacation, but to reconnect with something deeper: a sense of safety, a sense of ownership, and a sense of being seen.

Valentine's Day tends to focus our attention more inward, on ro-



The Island welcomed February with a thick blanket of snow.

PHOTOS: JENNA SYLVIA



A beacon of light in the depths of winter.

Love thy Legacy

This month, celebrations of love and black history intersect.

BY JENNA SYLVIA

mance, on partnerships, on hearts and gestures and cards. But love is broader than roses and reservations. Love is communal. It is historical. It is the decision to show up — for your family, your neighbors, and your town — even when it would be easier not to. Love looks like mentorship. It looks like story-

telling. It looks like creating space for the next generation to thrive. It looks like remembering.

When we honor Black history, we are honoring the love that carried people through unimaginable hardship. The love that said, "We belong here, too." On the Vineyard, that love shaped neigh-

borhoods, seasonal rhythms, and cultural life in ways that continue to ripple outward.

And when we celebrate Valentine's Day, we are participating — whether we realize it or not — in that same tradition of care. We are choosing connection over isolation, warmth over distance,

and presence over passivity. February asks us to do both at once. And there is something powerful about this overlap; a month that reminds us love is not passive or simple, but layered and earned. That love can be romantic, but it can also be ancestral.

Black history is full of love stories that rarely get told. Not just stories of famous figures, but of everyday people who loved deeply in the face of uncertainty. Parents who loved their children enough to imagine better futures. Partners who loved each other enough to build lives despite barriers. Communities who loved themselves enough to insist on joy. And that insistence matters, now more than ever.

History is the foundation of humanity, and it is cyclical until the collective pays attention, notices the patterns of oppression, and insists on change.

While the local events calendar is relatively quiet this time of year, there is an incredibly meaningful happening I want to highlight:

Each February, a coalition of Island organizations — including the League of Women Voters of Martha's Vineyard (LWV MV), the NAACP of Martha's Vineyard, the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), the Martha's Vineyard Diversity Coalition, the Martha's Vineyard Museum, and leadership from one of the Island's local libraries — comes together to create a meaningful program in honor of Black History Month. This year's event will take place on Saturday, Feb. 7, from 11 am to 2 pm at the Edgartown library. Organized by Lorna Andrade, Marie Araujo, and Thelma Johnson, the program promises to be both engaging and thought-provoking. Attendees will view the PBS documentary "Reconstruction: America After the Civil War," followed by a panel discussion featuring historians, educators, and members of the medical community. A two-minute preview of the film, hosted by Dr. Henry Louis Gates Jr., is available to watch in advance. A potluck brunch will also be shared during the event. Be sure to mark your calendar for this important community gathering. For more information, contact the LWV MV at info@leagueofwomentv.org.

As we move through February — through snowstorms and stillness, remembrance and romance — we are invited to practice love with intention. Love thy legacy, and honor the rich Black history this Island holds. Love thy neighbor, and show up for the events honoring impact, and the businesses that are minority-owned. And most important, love thy Vineyard, and celebrate the community we are so fortunate to share all year long. **MVT**

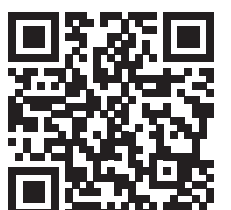
Black History Month invites us to look back, but it also asks us to look around. To recognize the ways Black history is not confined to museums or textbooks, but lives in kitchens, churches, barbershops, beaches, and front porches.



A monthly newsletter dedicated to Martha's Vineyard events and eats.



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BOOKS

Back in the day, 2,000 years ago, when Christianity was supplanting heathen gods, Christians took pagan holidays and “Christianized” them. The Roman Lupercalia, a fertility festival, slowly, over time, morphed into Valentine’s Day. Saint Valentine was a real person, who was executed by the Romans, although the historical evidence is sparse when it comes to who he was and why he was executed.

Geoffrey Chaucer, author of “The Canterbury Tales,” helped link Valentine with courtly love and written messages of love, exchanged on Valentine’s feast day of Feb. 14. Thanks, Chaucer! You created an industry: \$27.5 billion last year in the U.S.

But what has this to do with books? Well, a good book is a great way of showing love, a thoughtful sharing of words with someone you care about. How about sharing some poetry? Anything by **Mary Oliver** comes to mind. Love, love her work. **Pablo Neruda’s “Twenty Love Poems and a Song of Despair”** is absolutely right when you’re feeling intense. Or how about “**The Sun and Her Flowers**,” by **Rupi Kaur** — love, heartbreak, healing?

If you’re in search of a happier story on Valentine’s Day (and this year, I am), try some fiction by **Emily Henry**, who is becoming the mistress of confused love stories ending well. Maybe “**Happy Place**” or “**Great Big Beautiful Life**”?

Or try **Nicholas Sparks’ “The Notebook.”** The story crushed me: grand, emotional, a classic story of love, really deep love, with all its joys and pains over time.

It’s impossible to ignore the massive success of the **Game Changers series by Rachel Reid**. HarperCollins can’t print them fast enough. Two of the books, “**Heated Rivalry**” and “**Game Changer**,” are the basis for the runaway hit series on HBO Max, “**Heated Rivalry**,” about gay, closeted pro hockey players working



goes to an orphanage in the Cerulean Sea to investigate it. He finds both family and love.

Or pick up “**The Life Impossible**” by **Matt Haig**, he of the hugely popular “Midnight Library.” Grace Winters, a widow in the winter of her life, inherits a house in Ibiza from a friend she hasn’t seen in decades. Grace is touched by a power from another world, strangers become family, and her new gifts save the island and guide her to a happiness she’s long denied herself.

“**The Correspondent**,” by **Virginia Evans**, is a story told entirely in the letters and emails of Sybil Van Antwerp, an older woman who has lived a very full life, finding in her correspondence ways to face grief, age, loss, acceptance, the past. It was a hit no one saw coming, rising by word of mouth to the bestseller lists.

“**Theo of Golden**” by **Allen Levi** fits that description, too. Self-published, its success has seen it picked up by Simon & Schuster. Theo, a Portuguese man, arrives in Golden, Ga. At a coffee shop, he finds portraits in pencil of many Golden residents. He begins to buy them and give them back to the people depicted. His wisdom and kindness ripple through the town, a town he has come to for his own secret reasons.

Romantasy is doing wonders both in terms of sales and in terms of helping couples have better sex lives. As you can imagine, that’s made headlines. One of the latest books in the genre is “**The Everlasting**,” by **Alix E. Harrow**, on some “best of” lists of 2025. Owen Mallory, warrior turned scholar, studying Sir Una Everlasting, suddenly finds himself centuries back in time, confronted by Sir Una with her sword at his throat.

Yes, Valentine’s Day is mostly associated with romance. It’s more, too: a celebration of friendships and found family, the people who encircle our lives and uplift them, holding us up when romance breaks down. **MVT**

Around the Bookstore: Valentine's Day

Books are a great way of showing love.

BY MATHEW TOMBERS

their way to happiness. It’s become a phenomenon. Read and watch.

The mention of Valentine’s Day evokes images of candlelight dinners, poetry, gifts of jewelry, two

people caught up in romance. It’s love in all its forms — lovers, yes, but also friends, relatives, self, siblings, parents, and children. Anyone who matters to us is worth a

Valentine’s thought.

Perhaps give “**The House in the Cerulean Sea**” by **TJ Klune**? **Linus Baker**, a caseworker in the Department in Charge of Magical Youth,

Celebrating Our MVRHS Grads

Duncan Pickard

International social justice warrior.
BY MARGE HARRIS

Duncan Pickard, class of 2006, has wonderful memories of the high school, especially of teachers like **Corinne Kurtz**, **Lynn Ditchfield**, and **Dan Shar-kovitz**: “They taught me not

only content but also social justice.” Duncan was active in student government, soccer and basketball, the Minne-singers, and the school newspaper, where he shared the position of co-editor in chief with **Simone McCarthy**.

After high school, he pursued a major in history and

Middle Eastern studies at Tufts University. He studied Arabic in Jordan, and was an intern at the U.S. Embassy in Damascus, Syria. Duncan contributed to the embassy’s human rights report, and witnessed efforts at Middle East peace. Duncan then earned a master’s from the Harvard Kennedy School. He recalls that he “received so many wonderful opportunities to study and travel to the Middle East and North Africa.” This was the time of the Arab Spring, and Duncan supported constitutional reform in Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, and Yemen.

Inspired by the lawyers with whom he worked, Duncan studied international law at Stanford Law School. He then worked in the Hague for a year before starting his practice in international law at **Debevoise & Plimpton LLP** in New York, where he remains

today. Some of the work he has found most meaningful has been working with nine small island nations in the Caribbean and the Pacific — some of which face extinction due to sea level rise — to clarify the international law of climate change. His clients have achieved significant victories at the International Court of Justice and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea.

Bravo, Duncan — you began your interests as a high school student, and you followed them through with passion and brilliance, always seeking to learn, taking every opportunity that you could. Thank you for continuing to represent MVRHS! You make us so proud! **MVT**

Marge Harris was a teacher at MVRHS for 27 years. You can contact her at margeharris@comcast.net. This column appears twice a month.

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T O W N C O M M U N I T Y

Tisbury



By Kay Mayhew
tashmoorock@gmail.com

Head on Main Street: When you are dissatisfied and would like to go back to youth, think of algebra.

Children should plan on M.V. Museum Storytime, Saturdays in February at 10:30 am. All ages can choose Game Time at the Museum on Fridays from 1 to 4 pm in the museum's First Light Café. Free and open to all; pay-what-you-can donations support

museum programs. Go with friends or join a table. Free and open to all.

Celebrate Black History Month on Saturday, Feb. 7, at 11 am at the Edgartown library for a community program exploring the legacy of Reconstruction and its lasting impact. This includes a screening of "Reconstruction: America After the Civil War," followed by a discussion and shared potluck brunch at the library.

Students, please note that Tisbury Waterways announces its 2026 Environmental Studies Scholarship. Students from Martha's Vineyard majoring in subjects such as marine biology or environmental science who will enter their junior or senior year of undergraduate school, or graduate school, are invited to apply for the \$3,000 award. Apply at tisburywaterways.org.

I recently received a new book, coming out in April. It

is about the life of Katharine Hepburn, "The Original" by Priya Parmar. This was an introduction to me of a beautiful movie star who grew up in Connecticut as the second child of six. She was very close to her slightly older brother, who died in his teens. It is the life of an accomplished and serious actress whom the studios tried to present simply as America's sweetheart, though there is a lot to learn about the person she was.

After reading her story I feel as if I should apologize for not remembering much about this lovely movie star, and only rather vaguely about her movies. This book does not mention something I had heard about, the friends she made on the Island.

I was happy to read that regular exercise has been shown to strengthen brain regions that are vulnerable to aging and Alzheimer's disease. Think of your brain

like a muscle: the more you use it through movement, the stronger it becomes.

And that exercise can therefore make your brain more resilient, preventing or delaying cognitive decline. Plus, exercise can help treat depression, anxiety, and stress. Of course, I believe a little chocolate helps as well.

Big bunches of birthday balloon wishes go out to James O'Donnell and Jainaba Burton-Sundman on Tuesday. Happy birthday to Judy Pachico on Wednesday.

Heard on Main Street: Sometimes we just don't realize what real friendship means until it is too late. Friends are like balloons; once you let them go, you might not get them back. **MVT**

Exercise can help treat depression, anxiety, and stress. Of course, I believe a little chocolate helps as well.

Edgartown



By Marnely Murray
marnely@gmail.com

Here I am writing to you from chilly Key West, Fla., where the temperature is in the low 50s, but who am I to complain when I know my beloved Edgartown is feeling temps in the lower 10s? Sending my friends all the warmth I can muster up this week — stay safe, stay warm, stay connected! Here are a few ways how this week.

On Friday, Feb. 6, from 6 to 8 pm, the annual Edgartown School Eighth Grade Silent Auction will take

place. This auction raises money so that every student in the graduating class can go on their end-of-year trip to New York City and Phila-

delphia. Students will visit the Museum of Natural History, the Statue of Liberty, see "Hamilton" on Broadway, and explore historic Philadelphia. Help support them by heading to the P.A. Club and bidding on items such as jewelry, clothing, gift cards to incredible Island businesses, and much more!

Also, I just was made aware that Tisbury Waterways announced its 2026 Environ-

mental Studies Scholarship. Students from Martha's Vineyard majoring in subjects such as marine biology or environmental science who will enter their junior or senior year of undergraduate school, or graduate school, are invited to apply for the \$3,000 award. Apply at tisburywaterways.org and find out more details there — what a fantastic opportunity!

On the 7th at 9 am, join

Colleen at the Edgartown library for a Vinyasa Power Yoga class. I've done this class before, and it's definitely a great way to start the weekend and warm up the body in this winter weather. Vinyasa (a practice designed to help you heal while keeping you in peak physical shape) incorporates elements of strength-building, making it a dynamic experience. This class is free and open to the public, and has been generously funded by the Friends of the Edgartown Free Public Library. Maybe in a future column I'll chat with a "friend" and learn more about the work they do for the library. I know some friends read this column — hi, Ann!

Talking about friends, this "Sisterhood and Seafood: A Galentine's Pasta Night,"

happening on the 12th at 5:30 pm at the FARM Institute, is a great event to do with girlfriends! Gather for a hands-on culinary experience, learning step by step how to shuck shellfish with the women experts from M.V. Shellfish Group. Using fresh clams and scallops, you'll prepare a delicious pasta sauce, followed by a demonstration from Katie Leaird of Martha's Vineyard Pasta on how to make pasta from scratch. Register online: <https://thetrustees.org/event/44326>.

Casey Smith on Feb. 6, Camden Townes on Feb. 8, Nicole Mejia and Lisa Belcastro on Feb. 10, Arielle Reid Faria on Feb. 11, and Taylor Stone on Feb. 12: May your February birthday week be filled with health, delicious eats, and good times! **MVT**

On the 7th at 9 am, join Colleen at the Edgartown library for a Vinyasa Power Yoga class. I've done this class before, and it's definitely a great way to start the weekend and warm up the body in this winter weather.

Oak Bluffs



By Joanne Lambert
joannelamber@gmail.com

"Kindness is like snow — it beautifies everything it covers."

—Khalil Gibran

This is quite a wintry winter! You know the weather is extreme when Islanders Talk is taken over by discussions about plowing and shoveling. It is a nice moment for the group, with neighbors helping neighbors and sharing info about warming shelters and ride-shares. The snow and cold is fun for kids and difficult

for older folks, so bundle up, and check on your friends.

You may have noticed, by the overflowing candy and heart-shaped things in the stores, that despite the snow — Valentine's Day is coming! But don't worry, the P.A. Club and Mo's Lunch have you covered. This Saturday, Feb. 7th, there will be a pop-up Valentine's shop from 11 am to 3 pm, where you can find sweets and treats for everyone on your list. And you can grab a drink and great food, and catch up on town

gossip, while you're there!

The MVRHS varsity girls' basketball team is having a great season, under the leadership of coaches Mary Korba and Emily deBettencourt. On Tuesday, Feb. 10, they're playing a home game against Sandwich at 4:30 pm. Head over to the high school gym and witness this excellent team!

Say this three times fast: Sheep Shearing Shindig. It's happening at the Ag Hall on Saturday, Feb. 7,

from 10 am to noon. Shearing demos and fiber arts, free for the community.

The Ag Hall partners with the M.V. Family Center to offer Barn Buddies on Sundays. It is a chance for little ones to run, ride, and play throughout the big hall, getting some of that big energy out! The next Barn Buddies is Sunday, Feb. 14, 2:30 to 4 pm.

We are very lucky to have the YMCA in our community. It is such a warm,

bright, and welcoming place! The lobby features a sunny space, with Aquila offering delicious coffee, smoothies, and food. Classes go on all day for people of all ages and abilities, or you can just drop in for the workout room or pool. Membership is reasonable, and financial aid is available.

Happy birthday to Jeremy Driesen on Feb. 5! He shares the day with Debbie Grant. Alyssa Sylvia will blow out her candles on Feb. 6! She

shares the day with Melody Parlos, the youngest of the Parlos pack. Lana Schaefer and Marc Rivers celebrate their day on Feb. 7.

Two Polar Bears share Feb. 8 birthdays: Sabrina Bayne and our fearless aerobics leader, Brenda Davenport! Angelina ("Ani") Topalievna gets birthday hugs on the 8th also! Happy birthday to George Valentzas on Feb. 10. He shares the day with Lisa Belcastro and Nico Pizzano. Bunches of balloons are going to Judy Pachico on the 11th. Judy shares the day with Juanita Espino and Kristen Tidmarsh Araujo. What do Brad Tucker and Abraham Lincoln have in common? Honest men with a birthday on the 12th! Sandy Pratt celebrates on the 12th as well.

Stay warm, and send me your news! **MVT**

Valentine's Day is coming! But don't worry, the P.A. Club and Mo's Lunch have you covered. This Saturday, Feb. 7th, there will be a pop-up Valentine's shop from 11 am to 3 pm.

MVTimes

THE minute

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O W N C O M M U N I T Y

Aquinnah



By Kathie Olsen
aquinnahcolumn@gmail.com

I was truly sad to learn that Jay Smalley will no longer be a town employee, having resigned after helping the town of Aquinnah for nearly 18 years. Jay is the guy who always did whatever needed to be done, with stoic good cheer and impeccable skill. His talents are wide. He mowed our circle, and created safe parking spots at the library. He maintained the cemetery and our roads. He fixed whatever was broken in town buildings, found what was lost, and never made us feel bad about asking for his help. Jay, thank you for taking care of us. Thank you. Last week, there were

a couple of outstanding basketball games played by the kids at West Tisbury School. The varsity boys' and girls' West Tisbury Hawks teams each played the Oak Bluffs Blazers for championship titles. The

games were fast and fierce. The high school gym was packed with family and fans, and the crowd was wild. The scores were close, but both the Hawks girls' varsity and the Hawks boys' varsity came out the champions. Make sure to cheer for the outstanding basketball stars from Aquinnah who helped make it real: Lewis Moore, Lyle Vanderhoop, Nanawusuwee Vanderhoop Powell, William Vanderhoop, Charlotte Bologna, and Tillie Taylor.

Just in time for Valentine's Day, the Up-Island Council on Aging has come up with a special treat. On Tuesday, Feb. 10, John and Selena, owners of Hollywood Nails in Oak Bluffs, will be at Howes House to provide a nail soak, filing, hand massage, and choice of polish with colors ranging from neutrals to va-va-voom red. The polish they use is vegan, and contains no harmful chemicals, so sign up and get gorgeous. Call the council at 508-

693-2896 to book your appointment, and make sure to thank John and Selena for volunteering their time.

On Thursday, Feb. 12, from 3 to 5 pm, bring the kids to an indoor scavenger hunt at the Aquinnah library. This fun event is an example of the terrific work being done by Gabby Wilbur, the program coordinator at our library. Gabby is always truly pleased to hear ideas for things that people would like to see happen there, so drop by and let her know your wishes. If you aren't already on the Aquinnah library mailing list, sign up so you don't miss anything.

This news may be of interest to the many outstanding students Aquinnah has sent on to college. Tisbury Waterways announces its 2026 Environmental Studies Scholarship. Students from the Vineyard

majoring in subjects such as marine biology or environmental science entering their junior or senior year of college, or graduate school, are invited to apply for the \$3,000 award. Apply at tisburywaterways.org.

We are all coping with piles of snow and sheets of ice. On Islanders Talk, Isaac Taylor posted the following bit of good advice. He says that if your car has a "traction control" button, turn it off. When it's on, which is by default, power gets distributed in "smart" ways, which, as he says, "ain't as smaht as we ah." I trust Isaac to know these things. Anyway, bundle up and stay safe out there. It won't last forever.

If you see him, give a special hug to Jim Newman, who celebrates his birthday on Feb. 8. And if you think of something positive to do to help heal our country, step up. **MVT**

Jay Smalley will no longer be a town employee, having resigned after helping the town of Aquinnah for nearly 18 years. Jay is the guy who always did whatever needed to be done, with stoic good cheer and impeccable skill.

Chilmark



By Claire Ganz
cganz@live.com

What a week. It started with snow drifts topping 20 inches. Temperatures dropping to the low teens, low enough to turn the sea near the shore to slush, and coat boulders with thick layers of ice and snow. And it ended with large clumps of snow dotting roads, and high winds blowing what was a mere dusting of snow into 10-inch-deep drifts across the driveway, a beautiful full moon reflecting off the iced-over snow covering the

ground, and more shoveling. Years ago I realized that tall insulated boots, ankle-length suede skirts, a well-insulated parka, shearling hat, and knitted wool gloves will keep me warm outside even if they get wet.

Curtains hang over unused doors to the outside. Flannel sheets and four layers of heavy, soft, napped wool blankets cover the bed tucked next to the warmed-by-the-woodstove chimney bricks in the otherwise unheated attic bed-

room. It is hard to sleep in hot rooms, and delightful to snuggle under covers in a refreshingly crisp room.

Grateful to have a roof over my head, indoor plumbing, a kitchen with hot water, heat, and food on the shelves and in the fridge — soups and eggs from North Tabor Farm.

Grateful to the Chilmark Community Church for the community suppers Tuesday nights.

Last Tuesday, our houseless friend, Will Steranka, died in his car. He was

reserved and had a gentle laugh. He loved candy, deserts, pizza, and evenings of music at Pathways.

I don't know his story, but I enjoyed the easy rhythm of friendship that develops around a dinner table when we come as we are, and for that moment just enjoy good food and company without the weight of expectations or worries.

I developed the habit of slowing where Tabor House and North Road meet to see if he needed a ride. Folks cared and checked in.

Kristen, his daughter, called to let us know she's thankful for everybody who was kind to him, and hopes to do a memorial service at the end of May.

Harry Beach reported that the rufous hummingbird, Rufina, the miracle bird that first visited on Dec. 13, has not been seen at their heated feeder since Wednesday afternoon.

May their memories be a blessing.

Grateful to all of the musicians and poets; sorry we had to cancel the first Sun-

day in February Offering of Music and Light, and look forward to cooking for the next one on March 1.

The Chilmark Community Church suppers and Pathways events continue, and I will miss Will's presence.

On Feb. 5, Julie Jaffe and Heather Sommers' show, "Invasions," goes up in the Chilmark library.

Though they work with different mediums and approaches, each artist interprets recent history in order to call attention to the atrocities and assault on world order and democratic norms.

These bodies of work remind us we are living in unprecedented times. And call us to unite in order to restore human decency and peace. **MVT**

It is hard to sleep in hot rooms, and delightful to snuggle under covers in a refreshingly crisp room.

West Tisbury



By Hermine Hull
hermine.hull@gmail.com

What a winter we are having. I had mixed feelings, as the snowstorm we were promised for the second weekend in a row turned out to be nothing more than light flakes blowing past the windows. Folks of a certain age have memories of weekly snowfalls that rose over our heads and canceled school. Those were real winters. But being practical, I was grateful that Mike wouldn't be out shoveling and snowblowing for another week.

The Jan. 25 Book Review section of the Sunday New York Times had a lovely es-

say by Elisabeth Egan titled "Snow Daze." It was about beloved children's books of snowfalls and snowmen, the magic and mystery of snow. Some titles are familiar. "The Snowy Day" by Ezra Jack Keats. "Katy and the Big Snow" by Virginia Lee Burton. "The Snowman" by Jim Erskine and

Raymond Briggs. "Snow" by Uri Shulevitz. Then there are books I have never heard of or read — so many to explore. "Snowflake Bentley" by Jacqueline Briggs Martin sounds most fascinating, the story of a man who spent his life photographing snowflakes. I need a trip to the library.

While there, I am eager to see the rug-hooking exhibition in the Program Room that is February's art show. Seeing the talents of our neighbors and friends amazes me, and the exhibitions of rugs and quilts are among my favorites.

Especially nice is sitting in that room with art on the walls and listening to live music. This Saturday at 3:30, David Mintz will perform show music and popular songs from the 1930s and 1940s, all my favorites: Cole Porter, George Gershwin, Irving Berlin, Jerome Kern. The Second Sunday Jazz Concert will begin on Sunday afternoon at 2, featuring Eric Johnson, Jeremy Berlin, and Taurus Biskis.

If you are feeling housebound and in need of company, there are community suppers around the Island

every night of the week. The West Tisbury Church has dinners for pickup on Wednesdays between 4 and 5 o'clock. Registration is required. Call 508-693-2842. Stillpoint is offering free community suppers Sunday evenings through the month of February. Dinner is served between 5:30 and 8 o'clock. Betsy Carnie is the chef. She uses ingredients from local farms and friends provide the music. They have vegan, gluten-free, nut-free, and alpha-gal-friendly recipes. Preregister or volunteer at [deb@still-](mailto:deb@stillpointmv.org)

deb@stillpointmv.org. Take a look online to find out where to get dinner other nights.

West Tisbury parks and rec is planning a free family skate at the M.V. arena from 11 to noon on Feb. 28. Plan ahead. More details to follow.

Kathy Logue brought her dog, Finley, over for a visit with Abby on Saturday afternoon. They have been friends since they were puppies, and had a grand time chasing each other around the yard, wearing each other out. They were eventually allowed inside, where they both fell to the floor for a rest by our feet. **MVT**

Kathy Logue brought her dog, Finley, over for a visit with Abby on Saturday afternoon. They have been friends since they were puppies, and had a grand time chasing each other around the yard.

Martha's Vineyard
ARTS & IDEAS
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Students rehearsed scenes with Ken Romero.

DENA PORTER

The joy of performing

Music is always around for Ken Romero.
BY ABBY REMER

Ken Romero makes deeply personal connections with every performer he works with, and directly with audience members when he is onstage himself. Emma Burt, one of Romero's former students, says, "Something I always noticed about Kenny is that he loves making people feel a part of his world. This is always fun, since his world consists of musical numbers, years of experience, and a lexicon of musical knowledge." Romero's joy in the performing arts was born on the Vineyard: "I got bitten by the music bug at a very young age. My grandmother and grandfather used to dance around the kitchen. Music was always around. But I was the only one who decided it was more to me than the rest of the family."

An important early influence was at the Tisbury School: "Dorothy Bangs was my music teacher, and really got the bug in me for singing. When I was in seventh grade, we did 'My Fair Lady,' and I thought doing a musical was just so exciting." Romero participated in Island Theater Workshop's (ITW) children's theater with Lee Fierro for many summers, eventually becoming a junior coun-

selor. In high school, music teacher Bob Nute nurtured his talent in singing and dancing. Romero says, "I was part of the Minnesingers, but in that first year, I was just an apprentice, doing lights and other backup tasks. At the time, they didn't allow freshmen, but I guess Mr. Nute saw something in me and pulled me in." Romero performed

with the group from his sophomore year on, traveling to Germany during his senior year: "That was my first time out of the country, which was very exciting."

Having earned a music scholarship to Westfield State, which emphasizes classical music, Romero realized his true tribe was the musical theater crowd, and began doing summer stock. After

college, he performed on the Holland America Cruise Line, then got a three-year stint in a German production of "Starlight Express," which required him to both perform on roller skates and learn the show phonetically, since it was in German. "The connection of being in Germany in high school and going back and living there was wonderful," Romero recalls.

He returned to the States and, while performing in a Las Vegas production of "Starlight Express," gained his first experience teaching youth. The Las Vegas High School Academy of Performing Arts hired him to choreograph a production of "Fame," and it turned out he was a natural: "I didn't have any experience working with kids, but my best friend owns a dance studio. I have been going to their recitals and studios for years. I feel like I've been trained without being [formally] trained. I really learned by watching what they did."

Romero returned to the Holland America Cruise Line for a decade. "Cruise ship entertainment is fast and furious, like a theme park on the ocean. You did an 8 pm and 10 o'clock seating. In a seven-day cruise, you did three different productions, and an opening-and closing-night show." But Romero loved the life: "Performing on a ship is so gratifying, because you get to mingle and have dinner with your audience. You become human to them."

When the economy tanked in 2008, so did the work, and Romero came to take care of his grandmother on the Vineyard. He says, "My intention was to move to New York. But the universe had a different plan. I stayed here, and resigned myself to the fact that I wasn't going to be in the performing arts anymore."

As it turned out, that couldn't have been farther

from the truth. Romero was one of the original members of the Wicked Good Musical Revue at the Martha's Vineyard Playhouse. The Revue's creator, Molly Conole, says, "That first season, we did six completely different shows, about four to six weeks apart. It was hugely ambitious, exhausting, but fun, and Kenny always showed up prepared. He was also great fun to work with as a choreographer, coming up with movement ideas that were easily adaptable to the range of abilities in our cast. We encouraged him to show off his dancing skills in our shows, so a tap number became a staple."

Conole speaks about his generosity as a performer: "He is such a giving performer onstage, right there in the moment. When I sing duets with Kenny, our voices become one, feeling the phrasing and emotion in total sync. We joked, the last time we sang together, that we were so in sync that we were running out of breath on the same phrases."

Romero is involved in the First Congregational Church's Bell Choir and Quartet, recently appeared in Circuit Arts' "Christmas Carol," and choreographs for and sometimes performs with Island Theatre Workshop. Leandra Seward recalls choreographing an ITW production of "Little Shop of Horrors," with Romero in the lead: "Ken absolutely knocked it out of the park. It was the first show I choreographed for ITW on my own, and, as the experienced professional he is, Ken was incredibly supportive and encouraging of my vision. One of my favorite memories was during a dress rehearsal, when I was marking the opening number, and Ken came out from backstage and danced alongside me. He knew all the choreography for numbers he wasn't in."

Romero's impact on Island youth can't be overestimated. For the past 11 years, he has

Kenny's been helping me with some personal things lately. I can always come talk to him." Brian Weiland, who works with Romero when he directs and choreographs at the Oak Bluffs School, says, "When I watch him interact with all of these students, it really is clear to me that he cares just as deeply about the youngest students with the smallest roles as he does about the oldest students with the largest roles, and everyone in between." And for Weiland, the impact is personal: "Both of my sons were members of the Minnesingers, and thus they worked extensively with Ken, who went above and beyond to teach them as much as he could, including giving them challenging individual parts and leadership roles which he then worked hard to help them succeed at. And when each of my boys graduated from MVRHS, Ken was among the proudest and most supportive voices encouraging them to continue to be creative, artistic people even after they had graduated, whatever that meant to them. Without a doubt, both of my boys' lives are better and more creative and more successful for having had Ken as a teacher and mentor."

Romero's mentorship has extended some of his students' experiences beyond high school productions. Burt, now a sophomore at Smith College, says, "Back in 2023, Kenny invited me and my good friend Aiden Weiland to participate in the Playhouse's Wicked Good Musical Revue. It was fun to learn from him outside the high school, and performing in that show is, to this day, some of the most fun I've had on the stage. Talking to my dad after the show, he told me that my grandmother had whispered in reaction to Kenny's introduction of us, 'But Emma can't tap-dance,' only for us to spring into the number. And it's true, I couldn't tap-dance before Kenny's guidance."

Romero says, "The question I get all the time is, 'How did you do that with them?' Well, you have to give kids a chance. They don't know what they can do." When the youth doubt themselves, Romero says, "I tell them, 'How about you let me decide what you can do instead of limiting yourself?' It's always a big plus to watch these kids grow."

Asked what fuels his enthusiasm, Romero replies, "It's to be able to give back to the kids. They really want it. Some kids need that connection, and to be able to reach them and give them a space to be their true selves, and to find a tribe, as I did in the theater in high school — it's a full-circle moment. Starting here, being inspired by music on the Vineyard, then being able to transition into it as a career for so long, and then to come back to the Island and give back to what was given to me." **MVT**



COURTESY KEN ROMERO



COURTESY KEN ROMERO



ZYLAR FLANDERS



ZYLAR FLANDERS



COURTESY KEN ROMERO

"The question I get all the time is, 'How did you do that with them?' Well, you have to give kids a chance. They don't know what they can do." -KEN ROMERO

calendar

Event spotlight for the week of 2-6 - 2-11

FRI 2/6

Sweets by the Sea

Sweets by the Sea is a gathering for kids in grades K-8 to enjoy an afternoon of sweet treats, creativity, and connection. Um encontro comunitário para crianças de 5 a 14 anos, onde elas poderão

se reunir para uma tarde de guloseimas, criatividade e interação. Free, 3:30 to 5 pm at the Chilmark Community Center, 520 South Road, Chilmark; campbythesea@hospiceofmv.org.



Sweets By The Sea Friday, Feb. 6, 3:30 - 5PM
Doces à beira-mar Sexta-feira, 6 de fevereiro das 15h30 às 17h
 At the Chilmark Community Center
 Contact: campbythesea@hospiceofmv.org

SAT 2/7

Sheep-shearing shindig



MV TIMES

Yankee Rock Farm's Siri Swanson will be visiting the Island again to shear Slough Farm's Tunis flock. Learn all about shearing and wool processing, while enjoying warm cider. All ages are welcome. Co-

hosted by Slough Farm and the Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society. Free, no preregistration required, 10 am to noon at the Agricultural Hall, 35 Panhandle Road, West Tisbury; marthasvineyardagriculturalsociety.org.

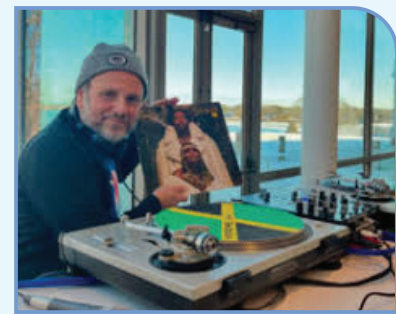
SUN 2/8

Sunday B-Side Brunch

Sunday B-Side Brunch takes place every Sunday in the Martha's Vineyard Museum's First Light Café, and includes delicious food and nonalcoholic beverages. Enjoy the

friendly atmosphere and beautiful views from the Linnemann Pavilion while enjoying a vinyl DJ set by Vincent Patricola. If you can't make it in person, you catch the live stream online. Free, 11

am to 2 pm, at the Martha's Vineyard Museum, 151 Lagoon Pond Road, Vineyard Haven; mvmuseum.org/event/sunday-b-side-bites.



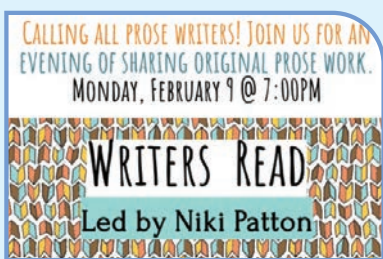
MARTH'S VINEYARD MUSEUM

MON 2/9

Writers Read

Writers Read is led by Niki Patton, and features community members reading short fiction and nonfiction original prose pieces. Each reader is allotted eight minutes to share their work. Critique is optional. Free and open to the public, but email Niki to be a reader or listener at this event, and to

learn whether the group is meeting at the library or online via Zoom: gaia1muse@gmail.com. https, 7 pm at the West Tisbury library, 1042 State Road, West Tisbury; westtisburylibrary.org/publiclibrary.



CALLING ALL PROSE WRITERS! JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF SHARING ORIGINAL PROSE WORK. MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9 @ 7:00PM
WRITERS READ
 Led by Niki Patton

TUES 2/10

'Membership Down!' live variety

Cousins Abby Bender and Molly Coogan spearhead "Membership Down!" Watch as three contestants compete to win funds for the local charity of their choice. Each show features original interactive games and loads of entertainment. February's Valentine's theme is the first "couples" edition, and will feature Sean Roach and Heather Dyas-Fried,



MV TIMES

Darby Patterson and Charlie Davol, and Allyson and Rizwan Malik, plus the "Membership Down!" motley crew. Free with suggested donations toward the players' nonprofits, 7 to 8:30 pm, at the P.A. Club, 137 Vineyard Ave., Oak Bluffs; abbybenderworks.com/membership-down-live-game-shows.

WED 2/11

Kids' Half-Day Karaoke

If you have a child who loves to sing, let them spend the half-day off from school singing their favorite karaoke songs and hanging with friends. All ages welcome. Anyone under 8 must

be accompanied by an adult at all times. Free. No sign-up or singing experience required, 1:30 to 2:30 pm at the West Tisbury library, 1042 State Road, West Tisbury; westtisburylibrary.org.



KARAOKE AT THE LIBRARY
 WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11
 1:30-2:30

Events

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5

Dance Fitness and Strength Training with Kris Martin

7-8 am, Airport Fitness, West Tisbury. A creative blend of rhythmic resistance, cardio conditioning, manageable mobility and core strength exercises all set to crazy-FUN music. 508-696-8000, info@airportfitnessmv.com.

Virtual Kripalu Flow Yoga

7:30 am, West Tisbury Library. On Zoom with Yogijay. Sign up at https://www.wholesomemv.com/classschedule 508-693-3366, wt_mail@clamsnet.org.

Kaiut Yoga

8:30-9:30 am, Peaked Hill Studio, Chilmark. Kaiut Yoga works through chronic pain and injuries, general aches and stiffness, and is good for the inflexible, hyper flexible and the aging body. 774-563-8282, valerie@peakedhillstudio.com.

Balletics

9-10 am, Up Island Council on Aging, West Tisbury. Total body conditioning, learning body's strengths & weaknesses, how to prevent injury. coa-staff@westtisburyma.gov, 508-693-2896.

Wiggle with the Words Storytime

10:30-11 am, Edgartown Library. Fun props and interactive stories. Geared for ages 1-5, but all are welcome. No sign-up. programs@edgartownlibrary.org, 508-627-4221.

Family Yoga

11-11:30 am, West Tisbury Library. For children ages 0-5 and their caregivers. Supportive and fun. hburidge@clamsnet.org, 508-693-3366.

HEART COHERENCE MEDITATION HOUR

12-1 pm, Pathways Arts at the Chilmark Tavern. Join in a guided meditation to open and amplify light through the heart, for self and global healing. 802-989-9992, rachelbaird9@gmail.com.

Needlework Group

1-3 pm, Up Island Council on Aging, West Tisbury. Needlework Group @ Up Island Council on Aging. Thursdays 1-3:00 508-693-2896, coa-staff@westtisburyma.gov.

Red Dragon Mah-Jong

1-3 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. A fun weekly Mah-jong meetup! Bring your board or use one of ours, subject to availability. 508-693-9433, cphelan@clamsnet.org.

Community Knitting Circle

1-3 pm, Chilmark Library. Join us for a relaxed afternoon of knitting in the Martha's Vineyard Room. Our knitters love to share their knowledge and beginners are welcome! 508-645-3360, chil.programs@gmail.com.

Virtual Writing Series with Caroline Joy Adams: Writing About Love

2-3:30 pm, Vineyard Haven Library. Explore various writing topics and creative pathways in a supportive writing community led by Caroline Joy Adams. Register on library event calendar. 508-696-4211, vhp1_programs@clamsnet.org.

Lego and Magna-tile Club

3-5 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Drop in anytime between 3 to 5pm. For kids ages 5-11. When playing, children develop creativity, problem solving, spatial reasoning and teamwork. 508-693-9433, mlynch@clamsnet.org.

Naptime with David Stanwood

3:30-4:30 pm, Stillpoint, West Tisbury. Experience the calming effect of harmonic vibration, with pianist and acclaimed piano technician David Stanwood. info@stillpointmv.org.

String Games Club!

3:30-5 pm, Grace Church, Vineyard Haven. Remember playing Cat's Cradle with friends? Kids & nostalgic adults, learn classic solo figures like Cup and Saucer, Eiffel Tower, and Jacob's Ladder! 508-696-4210, vhp1_programs@clamsnet.org.

'Song Sung Blue' at the MV Film Center

4 pm, MV Film Center, Vineyard Haven. SONG SUNG BLUE - at the MV Film Center 508-696-9369, mvfilmsociety.com.

Book Discussion - History Matters by David McCullough

4:30-5:30 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Come join a small group discussing David McCullough's book "History Matters". Of all times in our history, it surely does matter! 508-693-9433, cphelan@clamsnet.org.

Stitch Society Crafting Group

5-6 pm, West Tisbury Library. Drop-in and work on your project. Needle felting, embroidery, needlework, and more. 508-693-3366, lhearn@clamsnet.org.

Good Shepherd Parish Community Suppers [Dine-in or Take-out]

5-6 pm, St. Augustine's Church Hall [handicap accessible], Vineyard Haven. GSP Community Supper, Thurs Jan thru Mar, 5-6pm.

St. Augustine's Church 56 Franklin St. VH call 508-684-6270 by 6pm on Monday to record your request 860-992-7012, burkewg@comcast.net.

Table Tennis

5 pm, Tisbury Senior Center, Vineyard Haven. Table tennis for all ages and skill levels. 508-728-5898, raeobmv@gmail.com.

Mid-Winter's Glow: A Talk & Tasting

5-6:30 pm, Martha's Vineyard Museum, Vineyard Haven. An evening talk and tasting exploring how communities use food, ritual, and gathering to bring warmth and light to midwinter. 508-627-4441, rpierce@mvmuseum.org.

Pilates Flow with Camille Beauzile

5:30-6:30 pm, Stillpoint, West Tisbury. This upbeat one-hour Pilates class blends preventative medicine, mind-over-matter focus, and joyful movement info@stillpointmv.org.

Origami Masu Box Workshop with Caroline Drogin

5:30-7 pm, Edgartown Library. Registration required. Sign up at edgartownlibrary.org. 508-627-4221, programs@edgartownlibrary.org.

Brazilian Portuguese: Conversation & Culture

6-8 pm, Haven, Vineyard Haven. Deepen your speaking skills through real dialogue, cultural exploration, and community engagement 508-693-9222, sonja@acemv.org.

Trivia Night at The Black Dog Bakery Café

6-8 pm, The Black Dog Bakery Café, Vineyard Haven. Weekly trivia night hosted by Johnny Showtime, held Thursdays from 6-8 pm at The Black Dog Bakery Café. bdbakerycafe@theblackdog.com.

'Hamnet' at the MV Film Center

7:30 pm, MV Film Center, Vineyard Haven. HAMNET at the MV Film Center starring Jessie Buckley and Paul Mescal 508-696-9369, mvfilmsociety.com.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6

Cardio and Conditioning with Alyson Parker

7-8 am, Airport Fitness, West Tisbury. Cardio and strength work with weights and conditioning using your own body weight for resistance. 508-696-8000, info@airportfitnessmv.com.

Continued on B8

'The Voice of Hind Rajab'

A fierce docu-fiction about the cost of war.

BY ABBY REMER

Kauther Ben Hania's "The Voice of Hind Rajab," which begins screening at the Martha's Vineyard Film Center on Friday, Feb. 6, conveys the emotional toll of war on a visceral level. The film's power to pierce our hearts lies in her ability to jump the boundaries between fiction and documentary by blending archival audio and documentary footage into an intimate narrative.

The story, based on real events, unfolds over just a few hours, all set within the Palestine Red Crescent Emergency Call Center in Ramallah, on Jan. 29, 2024. On this sunny day, despite the seriousness of the work as calls of distress come in and ambulances are dispatched, the staff remains efficient and good-natured.

However, the tenor changes when we are thrust almost immediately into a very personal tale. Omar (Motaz Malhees), one of the rescue operators, is on the phone with a terrified young woman

trapped in a car under fire by the Israeli Defense Forces in northern Gaza. Words scroll across the screen, informing us that the recorded call we are hearing is real. While watching Omar's face, we hear the young woman pleading for help, then, after deafening machine guns, there is silence. Although we are watching a fictionalized version of events, the fact that the recordings are real makes a visceral impact. We feel Omar's horror in our very being.

His supervisor gets the counselor from the call center to help him. She gives Omar a sticker with a silhouette of an anonymous woman to display on his cubicle wall, a ritual staff does when they are on the phone and lose someone. Within moments, though, Omar is back on the phone, this time with a 5-year-old girl named Hind, who had been in the car and is now the only one left alive. The actual recordings of the conversations with Hind punctuate the retelling of the heroic efforts to save her. We hear her pleading, "I'm so scared, please come,"

and that she is terrified of the descending darkness, as those around her, she initially says, "are asleep."

Hania keeps the pace brisk as the staff unravels, hitting endless roadblocks to the rescue effort, which is needlessly complicated by political protocol. We must remember to breathe as time ticks away, the situation grows more desperate, and the actors, script, and voice of Hind grow increasingly frantic.

In a recent interview, Hania explains that the moment she first came across a clip of the call recording, "Something inside me shifted. I felt an overwhelming wave of helplessness and sorrow: not intellectual, but physical, as if the world tilted slightly off its axis. Hind's voice, in that moment, became something more than a child's desperate plea. It felt like the very voice of Gaza itself, calling for help into a void, met with indifference, met with silence. It was a metaphor made painfully real: a cry for rescue that the world could hear, but to which no



"The Voice of Hind Rajab" begins at the M.V. Film Center on Friday, Feb. 6. For tickets and information, visit mvfilmsociety.com.

one seemed willing or able to respond." Hania continues, "From their words, and from the haunting presence of Hind's voice itself, I began to build a story. A story rooted in truth, carried by memory, and shaped by the voices of those who were there."

Ultimately, "The Voice of Hind Rajab," which last year received a 23-minute standing ovation after its premiere at the Venice Film Festival, might not be an easy film, but it is a profoundly important one. **MVT**

Continued from B7

Events

Pumped Up Intervals with Maria McFarland

8:30-9:30 am, Airport Fitness, West Tisbury. A class alternating cardio intervals and weight work intervals using heavier weights, body bars, loops bands, and weighted balls. 508-696-8000, info@airportfitnessmv.com.

Seasonal Kids Crafting

10 am-4 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Imaginative and varied craft projects for ages 3-11. New craft each week. Drop in. 508-693-9433, mlynch@clamsnet.org.

Painting Still Life with Liz Taft

10 am-1 pm, Featherstone Center for the Arts, Oak Bluffs. This class is about learning to see things simply and translating that into a painting. Open to anyone who has done a little bit of painting. 508-693-1850, featherstone@featherstoneart.org.

Kid's Music Class

10:30-11 am, West Tisbury Library. Sing fun songs and play instruments with friends! Ages 0-5 508-693-3366, hburbridge@clamsnet.org.

Friday Crafting

10:30 am-4:30 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Craft projects for ages 3-11. New craft each week. Drop in. 508-693-9433, mlynch@clamsnet.org.

Fri-YAY Crafts

10:30 am-2 pm, Edgartown Library. DIY craft station in the Children's Room. 508-627-4221, programs@edgartownlibrary.org.

Vineyard Haven Library Story Circle with Aria

10:45 am, MV Family Center, Vineyard Haven. Weekly story circle with Children's Librarian

Aria on Tuesdays and Fridays - now at the MV Family Center on Greenwood Ave following 9:30am playgroup. 508-696-4211, vhlpl_programs@clamsnet.org.

Toddler Time

11-11:30 am, Chilmark Library. We'll read classic and current children's literature, and sing, move, and play together. Ideal for preschool ages. chilmarklibrarykids@gmail.com 508-645-3360, chilmarklibrarykids@gmail.com.

Online Balance with Kanta Lipsky

11:30 am-12:30 pm, West Tisbury Library. To strengthen our connection to Earth and maintain balance. To sign up, email wt_mail@clamsnet.org. 508-693-3366.

Cannabis and Brain Health

1-2 pm, Tisbury COA, Vineyard Haven. Friday, Feb 6th at 1PM. Free. No registration. 508-696-4205, amcdonough@tisburyma.gov.

Island Rug Hooker Exhibit

3-4:30 pm, West Tisbury Library. The Island Hookers will be exhibiting a wide variety of hooked rugs during a month-long show starting February 2 at the West Tisbury Free Library. 508-693-3366, wt_mail@clamsnet.org.

Kid's Magic: The Gathering Club

3:30-4:30 pm, West Tisbury Library. Learn to play Magic: The Gathering for ages 8+. Cards provided, drop-in's welcome 508-693-3366, hburbridge@clamsnet.org.

Sweets by the Sea

3:30-5 pm, Chilmark Community Center. A community gathering for kids in grades K-8 to come together for an afternoon of sweet treats, creativity, and connection. 508-693-0189, campbythesea@hospiceofmv.org.

'The Choral' at the Film Center

4 pm, The MV Film Center, Vineyard Haven. THE CHORAL at the MV Film Center. Peter Boak former director of the Island Community Chorus for a discussion afterwards on Jan 25. 508-696-9369, mvfilmsociety.com.

Pub Night & Live Music

4-8 pm, The Black Dog Tavern, Vineyard Haven. On Friday nights, our special Pub Night menu will be available from 4-8 pm, and live music will be from 6-8 pm.

Dog Bakery Café

6-8 pm, The Black Dog Bakery Café, Vineyard Haven. Weekly music bingo hosted by Johnny Showtime, held Fridays from 6-8 pm at The Black Dog Bakery Café. bdbakerycafe@theblackdog.com.

Magic the Gathering: Gaming Club

6-9 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. All skill levels are welcome. You can bring food and drink. Under age 14 should be with an adult. mdaniels@clamsnet.org, 508-693-9433.

Friday-Night Forum: Gun

Violence Prevention 7-8:30 pm, Stillpoint, West Tisbury. Ben Robinson will facilitate an exploration of the topic "Gun Violence." info@stillpointmv.org.

Comedy with TBD Improv

7-8:30 pm, The Barn Bowl & Bistro, Oak Bluffs. Unscripted and spontaneous, Vineyard-based improvisers bring the laughs using their wits and suggestions from the audience. For mature audiences. tbdimprovmv@gmail.com.

'THE VOICE OF HIND RAJAB' at the MV Film Center

7:30 pm, MV Film Center, Vineyard Haven. THE VOICE OF HIND RAJAB - Academy Award nominee for Best International Picture - at the MV Film Center 508-696-9369, mvfilmsociety.com.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7

Dance Fitness with Kris Martin

8:30-9:30 am, Airport Fitness, West Tisbury. A creative blend of rhythmic resistance, cardio conditioning, manageable mobility and core strength exercises all set to crazy-FUN music. 508-696-8000, info@airportfitnessmv.com.

Vinyasa Power Yoga

9-10 am, Edgartown Library, Edgartown. Therapeutic and creative, with elements of strength building. programs@edgartownlibrary.org, 508-627-4221.

Acrylic Painting

9 am-12 pm, Featherstone Center for the Arts, Oak Bluffs. Perfect your painting techniques during this weekly intermediate/advanced class! 508-693-1850, featherstone@featherstoneart.org.

Kaiut Yoga

9-10 am, Peaked Hill Studio, Chilmark. Kaiut Yoga is works through chronic pain and injuries, general aches and stiffness, and is good for the inflexible, hyper flexible and the aging body. 774-563-8282, vsonenthal@gmail.com.

Sheep-Shearing Shindig

10 am-12 pm, Agricultural Hall, West Tisbury. Sheep Shearing Shindig at the Ag Hall Animal Barn 508-693-9549, programs@mavagsoc.org.

Free Family Mini Golf

10 am-12 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Bring the entire family for guaranteed fun! Both floors of the library will be transformed into a spacious 18 hole course. Clubs for all sizes. 508-693-9433, mlynch@clamsnet.org.

Baby and Toddler Storytime

10:15-10:45 am, Oak Bluffs Library. A fun-filled storytime with stories, songs, and shakers! Play-based! Tummy time for our smallest pals! 508-693-9433, mlynch@clamsnet.org.

Adult Community Dance with Jesse Keller Jason

10:30-11:30 am, West Tisbury Library. For adults and seniors of all levels. No sign-up. wt_mail@clamsnet.org, 508-693-3366.

Pilates Flow with Camille Beauzile

10:30-11:30 am, Stillpoint, West Tisbury. This upbeat one-hour Pilates class blends preventative medicine, mind-over-matter focus, and joyful movement info@stillpointmv.org.

Storytime

11-11:30 am, Chilmark Library. We'll read classic and current children's literature, and sing, move, and play together. Ideal for ages 3-6. adubno@clamsnet.org, 508-645-3360, chilmarklibrarykids@gmail.com.

Birth Story Sharing Circle

12-1:30 pm, MV Family Center, Vineyard Haven. Share your birth story or listen to others at the Family Center 2/7/26 12-1:30 snack plates and crafts provided 508-693-3366, hburbridge@clamsnet.org.

Block Print Valentines

12-3 pm, Featherstone Center for the Arts, Oak Bluffs. Learn the art of block printing while creating your own personalized Valentines in the Printmaking Studio! 508-693-1850, featherstone@featherstoneart.org.

Art Class for Kids w/Miss Lani

12:30-2:30 pm, Chilmark Library. Kids Art Class w/Miss Lani: Mosaics 508-645-3360, chilmarklibrarykids@gmail.com.

Lego Club

1-3 pm, West Tisbury Library. Build a racecar, a monster or the castle of your dreams. Come with friends or make some here. All legos provided! 508-693-3366, hburbridge@clamsnet.org.

Significant Objects Memory Collages, with Emily Davis & Jennifer Langhammer

1-3 pm, Stillpoint, West Tisbury. Join artists Emily Davis and Jennifer Langhammer for a two-hour session of artmaking based on your personal memories info@stillpointmv.org.

'THE VOICE OF HIND RAJAB' at the MV Film Center

1 pm, MV Film Center, Vineyard Haven. THE VOICE OF HIND RAJAB - Academy Award nominee for Best International Picture - at the MV Film Center 508-696-9369, mvfilmsociety.com.

Pokemon Club

1-2 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. This is a club to talk about Pokémon, look at cards, and draw! To keep things positive for everyone, there is no trading allowed. Ages 5-11. 508-693-9438, mlynch@clamsnet.org.

All Ages Chess Club

2-3:30 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Join us in a fun and welcoming environment. oak_mail@clamsnet.org, 508-693-9433.

Enameling on Copper Workshop

2-5 pm, Featherstone Center for the Arts, Oak Bluffs. Learn to sift, stencil, stamp and appliqué enamel to create a one-of-a-kind piece - all levels welcome, this class is beginner friendly! 508-693-1850, featherstone@featherstoneart.org.

Model Railroad Group

3-4 pm, West Tisbury Library. Meets the first Saturday of each month! Share ideas, tips, projects, and more. This group is led by long time model railroad enthusiast Rick Fischer. 508-693-3366, wt_mail@clamsnet.org.

Music Video Series

3-4 pm, Chilmark Library. Music Video Series 508-645-3360, chilmarklibrarykids@gmail.com.

MARtha's VINEYARD film society
The MV Film Society • Now celebrating 28 years • 1999-2026

Thurs 2/5	SONG SUNG BLUE HAMNET	4:00 PM 7:30 PM
Fri 2/6	THE CHORAL THE VOICE OF HIND RAJAB	4:00 PM 7:30 PM
Sat 2/7	THE VOICE OF HIND RAJAB JURASSIC WORLD: FALLEN KINGDOM INTERACTIVE SCREENING A fundraiser for student trip to Scotland.	1:00 PM 4:00 PM
	NO OTHER CHOICE	7:30 PM
Sun 2/8	HAMNET THE VOICE OF HIND RAJAB	1:00 PM 4:00 PM
MON & TUES, FEB., 9 & 10 - FILM CENTER IS CLOSED -		
Wed 2/11	THE CHORAL SONG SUNG BLUE	4:00 PM 7:30 PM
Thurs 2/12	THE VOICE OF HIND RAJAB HAMNET	4:00 PM 7:30 PM

WINNER BEST ARTS AND CULTURE ORGANIZATION 2025
Voted by the Vineyard Community

The MV Film Center is open to the public and masks are optional for all individuals. Please join us for an in-person movie experience soon!

scan code for complete schedule

Information & Schedules mvfilmsociety.com 508.696.9369

Continued on B9

Continued from B8

David Mintz Concert: The Great American Songbook
3:30-4:30 pm, West Tisbury Library. On Saturday, February 7, at 3:30pm, join us for a concert by local musician David Mintz. 508-693-3366, wt_mail@clamsnet.org.

'JURASSIC WORLD: FALLEN KINGDOM' at the MV Film Center
4 pm, MV Film Center, Vineyard Haven. JURASSIC WORLD: FALLEN KINGDOM (INTERACTIVE SCREENING with Theatre on the Blue). Goodie Bag included with ticket! 508-696-9369, mvfilmsociety.com.

Live Music, Roman Pinsa Pizza, & \$3 PBR Night
4-8 pm, The Black Dog Bakery Café, Vineyard Haven. An evening featuring Roman pinsa pizza and \$3 PBRs from 4-8 pm, with live music scheduled from 6-8 pm. bdbakerycafe@theblackdog.com.

Teens Only! Mini Golf at the Library
4-5:30 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. This time is set aside for ages 12-18 only. Both floors of the library will be transformed into a spacious 18 hole course. Show up for free fun. 508-693-9433, mlynch@clamsnet.org.

The Farmer and The Shark
5-6:30 pm, Martha's Vineyard Museum, Vineyard Haven. A final exclusive screening followed by a conversation on Craig Kingsbury's influence on Jaws and its enduring connection to Martha's Vineyard. 508-627-4441, rpiece@mvmuseum.org.

Community Supper
5:30-7 pm, Trinity Parish House, Oak Bluffs. Community Supper 508-693-4424, umcmv@outlook.com.

Putts & Pints - Mini Golf at the Oak Bluffs Library
6-9 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Putts & Pints - Mini Golf at the Oak Bluffs Library 508-693-9433, cphelan@clamsnet.org.

Music Series: Red Night Delight & Honey & Gravel
7-9 pm, PathwaysARTS at The Chilmark Tavern, Chilmark. Red Night Delight is Allison Roberts, Perry Dripps, Andy Herr, Luke Lefebber, Andy Herr, David Bouck, Mason Fischer / George Agnew & Jen Maxner open. 508-645-9098, tanya4pathways@gmail.com.

'No Other Choice' at the MV Film Center
7:30 pm, MV Film Center, Vineyard Haven. NO OTHER CHOICE - at the MV Film Center 508-696-9369, mvfilmsociety.com.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Free English Classes
8-9 am, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Vineyard Haven. Free English Classes offered by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Basic conversational classes offered. To register text 774-563-0460, brentbrown81@gmail.com.

"Imbolc: A Service of Anticipation & Awakening" by CUUPS MV
10 am, Unitarian Universalist Society of Martha's Vineyard, Vineyard Haven. Please join us in person or online on Sunday at 10 am! 508-693-8982, uu.society.mv@gmail.com.

BrunchBQ & Beats with DJ Smooth B @ Black Joy Kitchen
10 am-2 pm, Black Joy Kitchen, Oak Bluffs. Sunday BrunchBQ & Beats with DJ Smooth B @ Black Joy Kitchen 508-338-7750, hello@blackjoykitchen.com.

Meditating With The Body
11 am-12:15 pm, Stillpoint, West Tisbury. You'll learn to rest your attention in the body, relax habitual tension, and cultivate a grounded resilience that supports you on and off the cushion. awakening.thewildheart@gmail.com.

Adult Craft - Heart Shaped Hand Warmers
11 am-1:01 pm, EMS Building, Vineyard Haven. Make these sweet little handwarmers to keep or gift. 508-696-4211, jrapuano@clamsnet.org.

Sunday B-Side Brunch
11 am-2 pm, Martha's Vineyard Museum, Vineyard Haven. Sunday B Side Brunch: 11-2 at First Light Café. Great food, views, and soulful vinyl by DJ Vincent Patricola. Free and open to all. 508-627-4441, rpiece@mvmuseum.org.

Poultry Biosecurity Basics with Dr. Erin Masur
1-2:30 pm, Online, West Tisbury. Poultry Biosecurity Basics with Dr. Erin Masur on Zoom 508-693-9549, programs@mvgasoc.org.

'Hamnet' at the MV Film Center
1 pm, MV Film Center, Vineyard Haven. HAMNET at the MV Film Center starring Jessie Buckley and Paul Mescal 508-696-9369, mvfilmsociety.com.

Opera Club: Rossini's "La Donna del Lago"
1-4 pm, Edgartown Library. Sung in Italian with English subtitles. 3 hours including intermission. 508-627-4221, programs@edgartownlibrary.org.

Second Sunday Jazz Concert
2 pm, West Tisbury Library. "on the funkier side" with Eric Johnson on guitar, Jeremy Berlin on keyboard, and Taurus Biskis on drums. 508-693-3366, wt_mail@clamsnet.org.

Local Off-Season Dancing & Johnny with live music by Delanie & Johnny
4 pm, Unitarian Universalist Society of Martha's Vineyard, Vineyard Haven. Join the MV Ballroom Dancers for an afternoon of music and dancing with Delanie & Johnny. Come to dance, or just to listen. Everyone is welcome! 508-696-4211, vhppl_programs@clamsnet.org.

'THE VOICE OF HIND RAJAB' at the MV Film Center
4 pm, MV Film Center, Vineyard Haven. THE VOICE OF HIND RAJAB - Academy Award nominee for Best International Picture - at the MV Film Center 508-696-9369, mvfilmsociety.com.

'The Winter Table' Community Suppers
5:30-8 pm, Stillpoint, West Tisbury. An opportunity for the Island community to get together and share a meal during the coldest months info@stillpointmv.org.

'Song Sung Blue' at the MV Film Center
7:30 pm, MV Film Center, Vineyard Haven. SONG SUNG BLUE - at the MV Film Center 508-696-9369, mvfilmsociety.com.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9
Dance Fitness and Strength Training with Kris Martin
7-8 am, Airport Fitness, West Tisbury. A creative blend of rhythmic resistance, cardio conditioning, manageable mobility and core strength exercises all set to crazy-FUN music. 508-696-8000, info@airportfitnessmv.com.

Virtual Chair Yoga with Yogi Jay
7:30-8:30 am, West Tisbury Library. Accessible to all levels and ages. Sign up for free at wholesomemv.com/classschedule. 508-693-3366, wt_mail@clamsnet.org.

Tai Chi with Shaka
8:15 am-9:15 pm, Tisbury COA, Vineyard Haven. Tai Chi starting Monday, Jan 5th at 8:15AM 508-696-4205, amcdonough@tisburyyma.gov.

Core Stability, Strength and Balance with Alyson Parker
8:30-9:30 am, Airport Fitness, West Tisbury. A class featuring core stabilization, strength and balance; we target all major muscle groups and include some intermittent cardio. All levels welcome 508-696-8000, info@airportfitnessmv.com.

Pint-Sized Picassos
10:30-11:30 am, Edgartown Library. Drop-in painting. Children under 8 must have adult present. 508-627-4221, programs@edgartownlibrary.org.

Online Balance with Kanta Lipsky
11:30 am-12:30 pm, West Tisbury Library. To strengthen our connection to Earth and maintain balance. To sign up, email wt_mail@clamsnet.org. 508-693-3366.

Mah Jong
1-3 pm, Tisbury COA, Vineyard Haven. Friendly Monday Mah Jong game starting at 1PM. Bring your American Mah Jong card! 508-696-4205, amcdonough@tisburyyma.gov.

Drop-in Mah Jong
1-3 pm, Edgartown Library. Mats, tiles, and cards provided. No formal instruction. programs@edgartownlibrary.org. 508-627-4221.

Switch Games for kids and teens
3-5 pm, West Tisbury Library. Switch club Mondays from 3-5pm in the Community Room 508-693-3366, lhearn@clamsnet.org.

SketchUp Basics Class
5:30-7:30 pm, Haven, Vineyard Haven. Learn how to use SketchUp, a 3D modeling tool 508-693-9222, sonja@acemv.org.

Cancelled: Writers Read
7 pm, West Tisbury Library. Email Niki Patton to be a reader or listener, and to learn if the group is meeting at the library or online via zoom: gaiatmuse@gmail.com. 508-693-3366, wt_mail@clamsnet.org.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Cardio and Conditioning with Alyson Parker
7-8 am, Airport Fitness, West Tisbury. Cardio and strength work with weights and conditioning using your own body weight for resistance. 508-696-8000, info@airportfitnessmv.com.

Kaiut Yoga
8:30-9:30 am, Peaked Hill Studio, Chilmark. Kaiut Yoga works through chronic pain and injuries, general aches and stiffness, and is good for the inflexible, hyper flexible and the aging body. 774-563-8282, valerie@peakedhillstudio.com.

Pilates Flow with Camille Beauzile
9-10 am, Stillpoint, West Tisbury. This upbeat one-hour Pilates class blends preventative medicine, mind-over-matter focus, and joyful movement info@stillpointmv.org.

Little Naturalists
9:30-11:30 am, Felix Neck Wildlife Sanctuary, Edgartown. Spark your child's curiosity at Felix Neck's Education barn with hands-on free play-water play, sensory bins, experiments, and more. 508-627-4850, felixneck@massaudubon.org.

Play Kitchen and Store
10 am, Oak Bluffs Library, Oak Bluffs. Come enjoy watching your kids be creative and solve problems! For ages 2-6. Drop in between 10am-noon. 508-693-9433, mlynch@clamsnet.org.

AARP Free Tax Help
10 am-3 pm, Edgartown Library. Call the Edgartown COA at 508-627-4368 for an appointment. 508-627-4221, programs@edgartownlibrary.org.

Free Range Fun
10:15-11 am, West Tisbury Library. Enjoy a room filled with parachutes, scarves, bubbles, music and more to explore! Recommended for ages 0-5 508-693-3366, hburbridge@clamsnet.org.

Drop-in Play-Doh Group
10:30 am-12 pm, Edgartown Library. Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult caregiver. 508-627-4221, programs@edgartownlibrary.org.

Vineyard Haven Library Story Circle with Aria
10:45 am, MV Family Center, Vineyard Haven. Weekly story circle with Children's Librarian Aria on Tuesdays and Fridays - now at the MV Family Center on Greenwood Ave following 9:30am playgroup. 508-696-4211, vhppl_programs@clamsnet.org.

SQUAD FITNESS with Triva Emery • BeWell-MV
11 am-12 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. SQUAD FITNESS with Triva Emery • BeWell-MV 508-693-9433, cphelan@clamsnet.org.

Mah Jong
2-4 pm, Chilmark Library. Multiple tables for all levels and ages. Instruction on first Tuesday of the month. chil.programs@gmail.com, 508-645-3360.

Lego Club
2:45-4 pm, Chilmark Library. Kids Lego Club 508-645-3360, chilmarklibrarykids@gmail.com.

Environmental Explorers Afterschool
3-5 pm, Felix Neck Wildlife Sanctuary, Edgartown. Environmental Explorers is a weekly drop-off program, that connects students to nature at Felix Neck. Each week students dig into a new topic. 508-627-4850, felixneck@massaudubon.org.

Basics of Silversmithing: Twisted Wire Bracelet or Ring
3-6 pm, Featherstone Center for the Arts, Oak Bluffs. In this class you will manipulate wire to create either a triple band design for a cuff, or use wire to design a braided or twisted ring design. 508-693-1850, featherstone@featherstoneart.org.

Drop in for our Teen and Tween Art & Craft Class
3:30-4:30 pm, West Tisbury. Teen and Tween Art & Craft Class at the library-meets every Tuesday, from 3:30-4:30pm. ages 10-18, supplies provided. 508-693-3366, lhearn@clamsnet.org.

Writer's Workshop with Amy Reece
3:30-5 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. All levels of writers are welcome to join in a weekly writer's workshop with local author, Amy Reece. 508-693-9433, cphelan@clamsnet.org.

Knitting Group
5-6 pm, West Tisbury Library, West Tisbury. Creativity and conversation. Use supplies provided or bring your own. Adults and teens. No sign-up. wt_mail@clamsnet.org, 508-693-3366.

Table Tennis
5 pm, Tisbury Senior Center, Vineyard Haven. Table tennis for all ages and skill levels. 508-728-5898, raeobmv@gmail.com

American Sign Language Practice Group
5-6 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Drop in on our conversational practice group. No experience necessary. anelson@clamsnet.org, 508-693-9433, 508-693-9433, anelson@clamsnet.org.

Local Food Community Potluck
5:30-7 pm, Agricultural Hall, West Tisbury. Local food community potluck at the Ag Hall 508-693-9549, programs@mvgasoc.org.

ART NIGHT! Mixed Media Valentines
5:30-7:30 pm, Featherstone Center for the Arts, Oak Bluffs. Join us for a fun evening where you will be able to create beautiful, custom cards for Valentine's Day with artist Bricque Garber! 508-693-1850, featherstone@featherstoneart.org.

More Traditional Storytelling for Adults with Nancy Binzen
6 pm, Katharine Cornell Theatre, Vineyard Haven. Join traditional storyteller Nancy Binzen for another wildcrafted evening of folktale and myth from around the world-especially for adults. 508-696-4211, vhppl_programs@clamsnet.org.

Chilmark Church Free Community Suppers
6 pm, Chilmark Church Fellowship Hall, Chilmark. Church members and friends provide a homemade potluck meal, free for the community. 508-645-3100, pclarkgoff@comcast.net.

Membership Down! Live, variety, fundraising game show
7-8:30 pm, PA Club, Oak Bluffs. Three contestants compete to win funds for the local charity of their choice. Free with suggested donations encouraged. 508-717-2887, builtontilts97@gmail.com

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Barre Fusion with Maria McFarland
8:30-9:30 am, Airport Fitness, West Tisbury. Ballet styled flows, barre work, balance and weights using disks, loop bands and Bender balls. Come with sneakers, barre sox, or bare feet 508-696-8000, info@airportfitnessmv.com.

Play Reading at Tisbury Senior Center
9 am-12 pm, Tisbury Council on Aging, Vineyard Haven. Play Reading for Artistic, Literary and Dramatic Pleasure 201-207-7568, monahennessyl@gmail.com.

Oak Bluffs Public Library Storytime
10:15-10:45 am, Oak Bluffs Library. A fun-filled story time with stories, songs, scarves, and a parachute. Stories are geared toward kids 1.5 to 5 years old; all ages welcome. 508-693-9433, mlynch@clamsnet.org

Children's Storytime
10:30-11 am, West Tisbury Library, West Tisbury. Join Hannah for silly songs and stories. Ages 0-5 508-693-3366, hburbridge@clamsnet.org.

Creautre Feature
10:30-11:30 am, Edgartown Library. Learn about the animals of Martha's Vineyard and their seasonal activities through stories, biofacts, and crafts. 508-627-4850, felixneck@massaudubon.org.

Tumble Bugs
10:30-11:30 am, Edgartown Library. Drop-in movement program geared toward ages 1-5. 508-627-4221, programs@edgartownlibrary.org.

Open House: Island Futures
11:30 am-1:30 pm, Mo's Lunch, Oak Bluffs. Learn about career exploration, training opportunities, and community resources. 508-693-9222, sonja@acemv.org.

Knitting Studio with Jo
12-1:30 pm, Tisbury COA, Vineyard Haven. Come stitch, chat, and be inspired in a cozy, creative space! 508-696-4205, amcdonough@tisburyyma.gov.

Kids Card Club
12-4 pm, Chilmark Library, Kids Card Club at the Chilmark Library 508-645-3360, chilmarklibrarykids@gmail.com.

Mah Jong
1-3 pm, Up Island Council on Aging, West Tisbury. Come join us for Mah Jong every Wednesday from 1-3:00 @ The Up Island Council on Aging . 1042 State Rd West Tisbury 508-693-2896, coa-staff@westtisbury-ma.gov.

3-Week Rug Hooking Fine Shading Workshop
1-3 pm, Featherstone Center for the Arts, Oak Bluffs. Refine your shading skills in this 3-week workshop with Island Hookers and create a detailed chair pad. 508-693-1850, featherstone@featherstoneart.org.

Virtual Reality for Tweens & Teens
3-5 pm, West Tisbury Library. For ages 10-18. Each participant's time depends on the turn-out. lhearn@clamsnet.org, 508-693-3366, 508-693-3366, lhearn@clamsnet.org.

Drop-in Knitting Group with Cindy Bonnell
3-5 pm, Edgartown Library, Edgartown. All levels are welcome to bring their projects for support and inspiration. programs@edgartownlibrary.org, 508-627-4221, 508-627-4221, programs@edgartownlibrary.org

Kids' Knitting
3:15-4:15 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Kids' Knitting for Ages 7-11. Bring a project you're working on! Or come and learn! There will be snacks and supplies to share. 508-693-9433, mlynch@clamsnet.org.

Kids Crafts - Mardi Gras Masks
3:30-5 pm, EMS Building, Vineyard Haven. Make a fun mask for Mardi Gras! jrapuano@clamsnet.org.

'The Choral' at the Film Center
4 pm, The MV Film Center, Vineyard Haven. THE CHORAL at the MV Film Center. Peter Boak former director of the Island Community Chorus for a discussion afterwards on Jan 25. 508-696-9369, mvfilmsociety.com.

Home Grown Club
5-6 pm, Agricultural Hall, West Tisbury. Home Grown Club at the Agricultural Hall 508-693-9549, programs@mvgasoc.org.

Quilting Circle
6-7:30 pm, West Tisbury Library. All are welcome. For details, email Wendy at wgnierenberg@yahoo.com or call the library at 508-693-3366.

Free English Classes
7-8 pm, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day saints, Vineyard Haven. Free English Classes offered by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Basic conversational classes offered. To register text 774-563-0460, brentbrown81@gmail.com.

'Song Sung Blue' at the MV Film Center
7:30 pm, MV Film Center, Vineyard Haven. SONG SUNG BLUE - at the MV Film Center 508-696-9369, mvfilmsociety.com.

Great Decisions 2026: America's largest discussion group on world affairs
Tisbury EMS Facility, Vineyard Haven. Organized by the Foreign Policy Association. Register on library event calendar. 508-696-4211, vhppl_programs@clamsnet.org

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12
Dance Fitness and Strength Training with Kris Martin
7-8 am, Airport Fitness, West Tisbury. A creative blend of rhythmic resistance, cardio conditioning, manageable mobility and core strength exercises all set to crazy-FUN music. 508-696-8000, info@airportfitnessmv.com.

Virtual Kripalu Flow Yoga
7:30 am, West Tisbury Library. On Zoom with Yogi Jay. Sign up at https://www.wholesomemv.com/classschedule. 508-693-3366, wt_mail@clamsnet.org.

Kaiut Yoga
8:30-9:30 am, Peaked Hill Studio, Chilmark. Kaiut Yoga works through chronic pain and injuries, general aches and stiffness, and is good for the inflexible, hyper flexible and the aging body. 774-563-8282, valerie@peakedhillstudio.com.

Balletics
9-10 am, Up Island Council on Aging, West Tisbury. Total body conditioning, learning body's strengths & weaknesses, how to prevent injury. coa-staff@westtisbury-ma.gov, 508-693-2896.

Wiggle with the Words Storytime
10:30-11 am, Edgartown Library, Edgartown. Fun props and interactive stories. Geared for ages 1-5, but all are welcome. No sign-up. programs@edgartownlibrary.org, 508-627-4221.

Family Yoga
11-11:30 am, West Tisbury Library. For children ages 0-5 and their caregivers. Supportive and fun. hburbridge@clamsnet.org, 508-693-3366.

Deer Damage Permits (DDPs): Information Session and Consultations
11 am-1 pm, Agricultural Hall, West Tisbury. Deer Damage Permits (DDPs): Information Session and Consultations with Martin Feehan of Mass-Wildlife 508-693-9549, programs@mvgasoc.org.

9992, rachelbaird9@gmail.com.
Needlework Group
1-3 pm, Up Island Council on Aging, West Tisbury. Needlework Group @ Up Island Council on Aging. Thursdays 1-3:00 508-693-2896, coa-staff@westtisbury-ma.gov

Red Dragon Mah-Jong
1-3 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Come join us for a fun weekly Mah-jong meetup! Bring your board or use one of ours, subject to availability. 508-693-9433, cphelan@clamsnet.org.

Community Knitting Circle
1-3 pm, Chilmark Library. Join us for a relaxed afternoon of knitting in the Martha's Vineyard Room. Our knitters love to share their knowledge and beginners are welcome! 508-645-3360, chil.programs@gmail.com.

Chef Look Cooks - Patron Favorites: Ramen
2-3:30 pm, Edgartown Library. Registration required. Sign up at edgartownlibrary.org. 508-627-4221, programs@edgartownlibrary.org.

Slow Stitching Circle: Rebecca & Claire Gantz
2-4 pm, Pathways Arts at Chilmark Tavern. Hands on with fabrics & trims for small projects. Bring materials or use those provided. 508-645-9098, tanya4pathways@gmail.com.

Lego and Magna-tile Club
3-5 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Drop in anytime between 3 to 5pm. For kids ages 5-11. When playing, children develop creativity, problem solving, spatial reasoning and teamwork. 508-693-9433, mlynch@clamsnet.org.

Ukulele Jam
3:30-5 pm, West Tisbury Library. All ages and abilities. The library has ukuleles to borrow, or bring a guitar or banjo, or come to sing. wt_mail@clamsnet.org, 508-693-3366.

Book Buddies
3:30-4:30 pm, West Tisbury Library. High Schoolers reading to elementary-aged children Thursdays 3:30-4:30 at the West Tisbury Library 508-693-3366, hburbridge@clamsnet.org.

'THE VOICE OF HIND RAJAB' at the MV Film Center
4 pm, MV Film Center, Vineyard Haven. THE VOICE OF HIND RAJAB - Academy Award nominee for Best International Picture - at the MV Film Center 508-696-9369, mvfilmsociety.com.

Prime Rib Night
4-8 pm, The Black Dog Tavern, Vineyard Haven. Thursday nights are Prime Rib Night at the Black Dog Tavern from 4-8 pm.

Artist Reception - Rocco Vitelle
4-6 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Artist Reception - Rocco Vitelle 508-693-9433, cphelan@clamsnet.org.

Stitch Society Crafting Group
5-6 pm, West Tisbury Library. Drop-in and work on your project. Needle felting, embroidery, needlework, and more. 508-693-3366, lhearn@clamsnet.org.

Good Shepherd Parish Community Suppers [Dine-in or Take-out]
5-6 pm, St. Augustine's Church Hall [handicap accessible], Vineyard Haven. GSP Community Supper, Thurs Jan thru Mar, 5-6pm. St. Augustine's Church 56 Franklin St. VH call 508-684-6270 by 6pm on Monday to record your request 860-992-7012, burkewg@comcast.net.

Table Tennis
5 pm, Tisbury Senior Center, Vineyard Haven. Table tennis for all ages and skill levels. 508-728-5898, raeobmv@gmail.com.

Pilates Flow with Camille Beauzile
5:30-6:30 pm, Stillpoint, West Tisbury. This upbeat one-hour Pilates class blends preventative medicine, mind-over-matter focus, and joyful movement info@stillpointmv.org.

Another Way: Storytelling + Creative Writing Project
5:30 pm, Bunch of Grapes Bookstore, Vineyard Haven. Join us for an evening of inspiration as writers share their visions for a vibrant, care-centered future. Light refreshments provided. 508-221-2131, projectionotherway@gmail.com.

Weekly Adult Improv Course
5:30-7:15 pm, Martha's Vineyard Playhouse, Vineyard Haven. Weekly Adult Improv Course 508-560-2134, boxoffice@circuitarts.org.

Continued on B10

Continued from B8

Events

Sisterhood & Seafood: A Galentine's Pasta Night
5:30-7 pm, Farm Institute, The Trustees, Edgartown. Join the MV Shellfish Group and Katie from MV Pasta for a delicious Galentine's event at the Farm Institute! Pre-registration required. 508-627-7007, lbrown@thetrustees.org.

Brazilian Portuguese: Conversation & Culture
6-8 pm, Haven, Vineyard Haven. Deepen your speaking skills through real dialogue, cultural exploration, and community engagement 508-693-9222, sonjia@acemv.org.

Trivia Night at The Black Dog Bakery Café
6-8 pm, The Black Dog Bakery Café, Vineyard Haven. Weekly trivia night hosted by Johnny Showtime, held Thursdays from 6-8 pm at The Black Dog Bakery Café. dbbakerycafe@theblackdog.com.

Weekly Adult Improv Course
7:15-9 pm, Martha's Vineyard Playhouse, Vineyard Haven. Weekly Adult Improv Course 508-560-2134, boxoffice@circuitarts.org.

'Hamnet' at the MV Film Center
7:30 pm, MV Film Center, Vineyard Haven. HAMNET at the MV Film Center starring Jessie Buckley and Paul Mescal 508-696-9369, mvmfilmsociety.com.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Cardio and Conditioning with Alyson Parker
7-8 am, Airport Fitness, West Tisbury. Cardio and strength work with weights and conditioning using your own body weight for resistance. 508-696-8000, info@airportfitnessmv.com.

Pumped Up Intervals with Maria McFarland
8:30-9:30 am, Airport Fitness, West Tisbury. A class alternating cardio intervals and weight work intervals using heavier weights, body bars, loops bands, and weighted balls. 508-696-8000, info@airportfitnessmv.com.

Seasonal Kids Crafting
10 am-4 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Imaginative and varied craft projects for ages 3-11. New craft each week. Drop in. 508-693-9433, mlynch@clamsnet.org.

Painting Still Life with Liz Taft
10 am-1 pm, Featherstone Center for the Arts, Oak Bluffs. This class is about learning to see things simply and translating that into a painting. Open to anyone who has done a little bit of painting. 508-693-1850, featherstone@featherstoneart.org.

Kid's Music Class
10:30-11 am, West Tisbury Library. Sing fun songs and play instruments with friends! Ages 0-5 508-693-3366, hburidge@clamsnet.org.

Friday Crafting
10:30 am-4:30 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Craft projects for ages 3-11. New craft each week. Drop in. 508-693-9433, mlynch@clamsnet.org.

Fri-YAY Crafts: Drop-in Valentines Making
10:30 am-2 pm, Edgartown Library. Any time during library open hours. All supplies provided. 508-627-4221, programs@edgartownlibrary.org.

Vineyard Haven Library Story Circle with Aria
10:45 am, MV Family Center, Vineyard Haven. Weekly story circle with Children's Librarian Aria on Tuesdays and Fridays - now at the MV Family Center on Greenwood Ave following 9:30am playgroup. 508-696-4211, vhpl_programs@clamsnet.org.

Toddler Time
11-11:30 am, Chilmark Library. We'll read classic and current children's literature, and sing, move, and play together. Ideal for preschool ages. chilmarklibrarykids@gmail.com 508-645-3360.

Online Balance with Kanta Lipsky
11:30 am-12:30 pm, West Tisbury Library. To strengthen our connection to Earth and maintain balance. To sign up, email wt_mail@clamsnet.org. 508-693-3366.

Drop-in Tech Help at the Anchors
12-1 pm, Edgartown Council on Aging (The Anchors), Edgartown. To help with your laptop, smartphone, iPad, or other devices. Tech help is also available at the library. programs@edgartownlibrary.org. 508-627-4221.

Pal-entine's Day celebration!
3-4:30 pm, West Tisbury Library. Pal-entine's day celebration Friday 2/13/26 from 3-4:30pm - nail salon, hair tinsel, decorate your own cupcake and more! For ages 0-18 508-693-3366, lhearn@clamsnet.org.

Kid's Magic: The Gathering Club
3:30-4:30 pm, West Tisbury Library. Learn to play Magic: The Gathering for ages 8+. Cards provided, drop-ins welcome 508-693-3366, hburidge@clamsnet.org.

Pub Night & Live Music
4-8 pm, The Black Dog Tavern, Vineyard Haven. On Friday nights, our special Pub Night menu will be available from 4-8 pm, and live music will be from 6-8 pm.

Music Bingo at The Black Dog Bakery Café
6-8 pm, The Black Dog Bakery Café, Vineyard Haven. Weekly music bingo hosted by Johnny Showtime, held Fridays from 6-8 pm at The Black Dog Bakery Café. dbbakerycafe@theblackdog.com.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14
Dance Fitness with Kris Martin
8:30-9:30 am, Airport Fitness, West Tisbury. A creative blend of rhythmic resistance, cardio conditioning, manageable mobility and core strength exercises all set to crazy-FUN music. 508-696-8000, info@airportfitnessmv.com.

Vinaya Power Yoga
9-10 am, Edgartown Library. Therapeutic and creative, with elements of strength building. programs@edgartownlibrary.org. 508-627-4221.

Acrylic Painting
9 am-12 pm, Featherstone Center for the Arts, Oak Bluffs. Perfect your painting techniques during this weekly intermediate/advanced class! 508-693-1850, featherstone@featherstoneart.org.

Kaiut Yoga
9-10 am, Peaked Hill Studio, Chilmark. Kaiut Yoga is works through chronic pain and injuries, general aches and stiffness, and is good for the inflexible, hyper flexible and the aging body. 774-563-8282, vsonenthal@gmail.com.

MV Dems Monthly Meeting
9:30-10:30 am, Democratic Council of MV, West Tisbury. Guest speakers, discussion, outreach for national, state and local Democratic leaders and issues. Email dems_mv@gmail.com for Zoom link. 774-563-0467, dems_mv@gmail.com.

The Great Annual Edgartown Sidewalk Sale
10 am-4 pm, Edgartown School Gymnasium. Sales up to 75% off! Shop local, support the 8th Grade trip-coffee & baked goods on site! 603-489-9155, edgartownvillagemarket@gmail.com.

Chocolate Candy Making with Jan Campbell
10 am-12 pm, Farm Institute, The Trustees, Edgartown. Learn the art of chocolate candy making in this hands-on class with Jan Campbell, founder of Chilmark Chocolates! Pre-registration required 508-627-7007, lbrown@thetrustees.org.

Baby and Toddler Storytime
10:15-10:45 am, Oak Bluffs Library. Join us for a fun-filled storytime with stories, songs, and shakers! Play-based! Tummy time for our smallest pals! 508-693-9433, mlynch@clamsnet.org.

Adult Community Dance with Jesse Keller Jason
10:30-11:30 am, West Tisbury Library. For adults and seniors of all levels. No sign-up. wt_mail@clamsnet.org. 508-693-3366.

Pilates Flow with Camille Beauzile
10:30-11:30 am, Stillpoint, West Tisbury. This upbeat one-hour Pilates class blends preventative medicine, mind-over-matter focus, and joyful movement info@stillpointmv.org.

Beginning Crochet (Drop-In)
10:30-11:30 am, Oak Bluffs Library. Beginning Crochet (Drop-In) 508-693-9433, cphelan@clamsnet.org.

Drop-in Fabric Bouquet Craft
10:30 am-4 pm, Edgartown Library. Fabric bouquet craft in the Children's Room. While supplies last. 508-627-4221, programs@edgartownlibrary.org.

Love Letters
10:30 am-5 pm, Chilmark Library. Love Letters at the Library 508-645-3360, chilmarklibrarykids@gmail.com.

Storytime
11-11:30 am, Chilmark Library. We'll read classic and current children's literature, and sing, move, and play together. Ideal for ages 3-6. adubno@clamsnet.org. 508-645-3360.

Ballroom/Partner Dance Class
11:30 am-12:30 pm, West Tisbury Library. On the second Saturday of the month, from 11:30am-12:30pm, come to a free Ballroom/Partner Dance Class led by Tom Carberry, from MV Ballroom Dancers 508-693-3366, wt_mail@clamsnet.org.

Sound Bath with Trish Ginter
11:30 am-12:30 pm, Edgartown Library, Edgartown. Registration required. Sign up at edgartownlibrary.org. 508-627-4221, programs@edgartownlibrary.org.

Pokemon Club
1-2 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. This is a club to talk about Pokémon, look at cards, and draw! To keep things positive for everyone, there is no trading allowed. Ages 5-11. 508-693-9438, mlynch@clamsnet.org.

Valentine's Day (Paint Your Partner's Portraits)
1:30-3:30 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Valentine's Day (Paint Your Partner's Portraits) 508-693-9433, cphelan@clamsnet.org.

All Ages Chess Club
2-3:30 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Join us in a fun and welcoming environment. oakb_mail@clamsnet.org. 508-693-9433.

Enameling on Copper Workshop
2-5 pm, Featherstone Center for the Arts, Oak Bluffs. Learn to sift, stencil, stamp and appliqué enamel to create a one-of-a-kind piece - all levels welcome, this class is beginner friendly! 508-693-1850, featherstone@featherstoneart.org.

Cookie Decorating for Kids
2:30-3:30 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Celebrate Valentine's Day by decorating sugar cookies with icing, sprinkles, and other toppings. For ages 3-14. Drop-in. 508-693-9433, mlynch@clamsnet.org.

Music Video Series
3-4 pm, Chilmark Library. Music Video Series 508-645-3360, chilmarklibrarykids@gmail.com.

Live Music, Roman Pinsa Pizza, & \$3 PBR Night
4-8 pm, The Black Dog Bakery Café, Vineyard Haven. An evening featuring Roman pinsa pizza and \$3 PBRs from 4-8 pm, with live music scheduled from 6-8 pm. dbbakerycafe@theblackdog.com.

Valentine's Day Murder Mystery Dinner at Honorary Tavern-VFW
5-9 pm, Honorary Tavern-VFW, Oak Bluffs. Whether you're bringing a date or a group of friends - Join us for an evening of Suspense, Secrets, and Murder! 302-602-6829, Htaverninc@gmail.com.

Community Supper
5:30-7 pm, Trinity Parish House, Oak Bluffs. Community Supper 508-693-4424, umcmv@outlook.com.

Paleface & Mo Live in Oak Bluffs
7-9 pm, Portuguese American Club, Oak Bluffs. A warm, upbeat, and feel-good show for valentines, singles, and everyone in between (including club-non-members) 508-693-9875, palefaceonline@gmail.com

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15
Free English Classes
8-9 am, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Vineyard Haven. Free English Classes offered by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Basic conversational classes offered. To register text 774-563-0460. littlemilestonesfalmouth@gmail.com

The Great Annual Edgartown Sidewalk Sale
10 am-4 pm, Edgartown School Gymnasium. Sales up to 75% off! Shop local, support the 8th Grade trip-coffee & baked goods on site! 603-489-9155, edgartownvillagemarket@gmail.com.

Meditating With The Body
11 am-12:15 pm, Stillpoint, West Tisbury. You'll learn to rest your attention in the body, relax habitual tension, and cultivate a grounded resilience that supports you on and off the cushion. awakening.the.wild.heart@gmail.com.

Sunday B-Side Brunch
11 am-2 pm, Martha's Vineyard Museum, Vineyard Haven. Sunday B Side Brunch: 11-2 at First Light Café. Great food, views, and soulful vinyl by DJ Vincent Patricola. Free and open to all. 508-627-4441, rpierce@mvmuseum.org.

Movimento Criativo Para o Parto
12:30-2 pm, West Tisbury Library. Um workshop gratuito e não esportivo para gestantes e seus acompanhantes. 508-693-3366, birthwithjesse@gmail.com.


Heart Health & Cardiac Emergencies
2:30 pm, West Tisbury Library. Presented by the WT Emergency Management Department. Learn practical steps you and your family can take to be prepared when seconds matter. 508-693-3366, wt_mail@clamsnet.org.

Local Off-Season Dancing & Music with live music by Serendipity
4 pm, Unitarian Universalist Society of Martha's Vineyard, Vineyard Haven. Join the MV Ballroom Dancers for an afternoon of off-season music and dancing, with live music by Serendipity, at UUSMV's Steven's Chapel. 508-696-4211, vhpl_programs@clamsnet.org.

'The Winter Table' Community Suppers
5:30-8 pm, Stillpoint, West Tisbury. An opportunity for the Island community to get together and share a meal during the coldest months info@stillpointmv.org.



For events for the full week scan code or visit mvtimes.com/things-to-do.



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D I N E

A cozy spot

State Road: A winter refuge serving delicious food.

BY ALLISON ROBERTS

Recently, my husband Eric and I went to State Road for dinner. This was not my first time eating there, but it had been a little while, so I was happy to get another opportunity to partake. It was a rainy, raw evening, so walking into the low-lit dining room and feeling the warmth from the hearty fireplace was just what I needed.

Every meal at State Road is prepared by Chef Jonathan Warnock and a talented culinary team. I have never experienced a meal at State Road that wasn't delectable, and the night Eric and I went was no exception.

The menu offers starters such as a bread board, braised beets, chopped salad, and mussels, and there are six main meals to choose from. I wanted comfort food, so I ordered Pan-Roasted Chicken with lemon-spice marinade, broccolini, feta, pine nuts, and herb wild rice. It was delicious. One of the issues I have when marinating chicken at home is that the marinade tastes a tad weak. But the lemon-spice marinade for this dish was savory without being overbearing. The chicken was moist and tender, and the herb wild rice was warm, tasty, and expertly cooked. It was the perfect meal for a cold night. The portion size was large enough to provide me with leftovers, which made me incredibly happy.

Eric chose the Wood-Grilled Burger,

"Much like cows, who have four stomachs, I think humans must have at least one extra stomach, just for dessert."

—ALLISON ROBERTS



Pan-Roasted Chicken with lemon spice marinade, broccolini, pine nuts, herb and wild rice.

PHOTOS: ALLISON ROBERTS



Wood-Grilled Burger, Wagyu beef, balsamic onions, bacon, cheddar and garlic dill pickles.

with balsamic onions, bacon, and a choice of Cheddar or Brie on a tasty roll. He didn't talk much while eating, which is how I know he's a happy camper. His burger came with crispy, perfectly cooked

fries and tasty garlic-dill pickles. He also couldn't finish the whole burger, but just like me, the idea of leftovers made him downright gleeful.

Much like cows, who have four stomachs,

I think humans must have at least one extra stomach, just for dessert. I mean, think about it: Why is it that even when we're full, we seem to be able to make space for a treat? So of course we ordered a piece of the Dubai Chocolate Cake to split, and two cups of decaf coffee. My Lord. The cake was a decadent piece of chocolate dreaminess — rich, thick chocolate frosting, a thin layer of coconut, and chocolate cake that made my mouth sing. And though this may sound odd, I think it was one of the best cups of decaf coffee I've ever had. In many food establishments, decaf coffee tastes tepid, weak, and a tad old, as if it's been sitting in the carafe for days. This cup of decaf joe was dark, strong, and freshly made — a perfect companion to the cake.

Some of the other dessert options (can you tell I love sweets?) include Basque Cheesecake, which consists of blood or-



Dubai Chocolate Cake.

anges, clementines, and olive oil citrus reduction; Olive Oil Cake, made with clementine, pomegranate seeds, marshmallow cream, mint, and cranberry coulis; and Affogato, which is vanilla gelato, espresso, and shortbread cookie.

Satisfied, we went home with our leftovers, looking forward to the next day, when we could dive into these delicious meals once more.

State Road offers Burger Night on Thursdays. Its dinner menu is available Fridays and Saturdays. And for something new — Soup & Sandwiches Thursdays through Saturdays, 11 am to 2 pm. Since some eateries on the Island change their menus and hours seasonally, it's best to double-check. 688 State Road, West Tisbury. stateroadrestaurant.com, 508-693-8582, info@stateroadmv.com. **MVR**

COMMUNITY NOTE

Prayer shawl program seeking knitters, crocheters

Rabbi Richard Backer, part of the Island Clergy Circle, has begun a prayer shawl ministry project. These hand-made shawls have been given out by churches, synagogues, hospices, and hospitals across the country. They are created for anyone undergoing a medical procedure, healing from surgery, experiencing bereavement, diagnosed with an illness or a terminal illness, or undergoing emotional or spiritual turmoil.

"This is something that I managed while I was a chaplain at Beth Israel and at mainland hospices prior to my retirement," Rabbi Backer says. "The project seeks Island knitters and cro-

cheters to support our effort to generate an inventory of shawls and lap blankets that will be distributed to our Island hospices, and churches and synagogues, Martha's Vineyard Hospital, and other Island organizations that support Island seniors. The shawls are a comforting gift to patients in hospice, who are recovering from an illness, and for those seniors who benefit from such warm and tactile crafts."

The beneficiaries of the shawls will be Island hospices, the Island hospital, Navigator Homes, Island facilities that serve the elderly, and all Island religious organizations that serve their congregants.

For more information, reach out to Richard Backer: inmass1@aol.com. **MVR**

ACADEMIC HONOR

DEAN'S LIST

Sofia McGroarty Sampaio of Oak Bluffs, at Stonehill College.

Cribbage Club results



BY SAMANTHA BURNS

Our Wednesday night Cribbage Club met this past week. Samantha Burns took the reins running the club, as our admin heads off to a well-deserved vacation. Fifteen players trucked through ice and snow all the way to Katama!

First, Merrily Fenner, with a *whopping* 14/6 +118 card. A newbie to the club, and she's coming for all the sharks! A grand slam, including two skunks!

Second, Samantha Burns with an 11/5 +94 card

Third (second week in a row), David Christiansen with a 9/4 +65 card

Fourth, Collin Evanson with a 9/4 +55 card

We had four 24-point hands, by Frank Fenner, Samantha Cron, Ron Ferreira, and George Giosmas. Ron Ferreira finished the evening with the elusive flush crib, a 23-point hand and a 24-point hand! Ten people were skunked — they lost the game by more than 30 points.

We welcome anyone who plays cribbage to join us on Wednesday nights at the American Legion in Katama. We share a potluck at 5:30 pm, and start play at 6 sharp! **MVR**

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Teague Daniel Patrick McCarthy

Elizabeth Clare McCarthy (née Leader) and Maj(s) Evan Patrick McCarthy, USSF, announce the birth of a son, Teague Daniel Patrick McCarthy, on Jan. 8, 2026. Teague weighed 5 pounds, 13 ounces, and is happily received by his grandfather Mark and step-grandmother Christina McCarthy of Oak Bluffs; his grandmother Claire McCarthy (née Lansing) of Rochester, N.Y.; and grandparents Daniel and Sally Leader of Falmouth.

Gael Hitalo da Silva Batista

Andressa da Silva Cardoso and Gustavo Hitalo Batista da Silva of Oak Bluffs announce the birth of a son, Gael Hitalo da Silva Batista, on Jan. 18, 2026, at Martha's Vineyard Hospital. Gael weighed 8 pounds, 6.6 ounces.

Winslow Shipley Brown

Lydia Ferber and Elias Brown of West Tisbury announce the birth of a daughter, Winslow Shipley Brown, on Jan. 28, 2026, at Martha's Vineyard Hospital. Winslow weighed 6 pounds, 1.7 ounces.

Elle Caroline Morgan

Lauren Morgan and Nate Morgan of Chilmark announce the birth of a daughter, Elle Caroline Morgan, on Jan. 31, 2026, at Martha's Vineyard Hospital. Elle weighed 7 pounds, 14 ounces.

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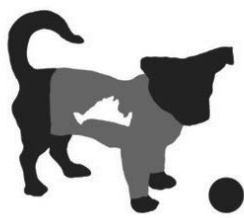
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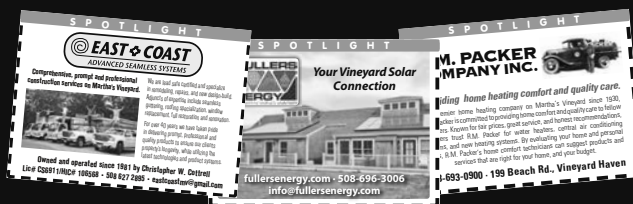
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The High School View

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.

Winter sports captains prepare teams for postseason play

BY JACOBY LIGHT

Behind every strong, well-disciplined sports team is strong leadership: the team captains. Captains are tasked with setting the tone for practices and games, leading by example, and holding their teammates accountable.

As winter sports approach the back half of their season, captains across the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) swim, hockey, basketball, and wrestling teams are focusing not only on winning, but on creating the confidence and consistency they will need to carry into the postseason.

Junior Leah Thomson and senior Nora Motahari serve as co-captains of the girls' swim team, which recently

placed third in the relay carnival, and had a strong showing at the Cape and Islands Championship.

Leah said, "We're hoping the girls can qualify for states and get a chance to compete at a high level. We're focused on keeping everyone confident, and supporting each other at every meet."

The boys' hockey team graduated 11 seniors last year, but currently has a strong young core frontlined by senior captain Griffin Callahan and junior captain Max Metell. The official Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) power ranking came out last Friday, and has the boys sitting at No. 5 in Division 4, with a 10-4 record.

"Setting the standard of

getting [to the rink] early, working, and giving our all is a big part of our recent success," said Max. "As a captain I try to lead by example to make sure everyone has the same mindset, especially with playoffs coming up."

The girls' hockey team is led by senior captains Elle Mone and Reese Malowski, and junior captain Abby Geary. The girls are 5-8 this season, and are looking to finish strong.

"We have a strong core and we're developing depth, and that's been a difference maker in some close games this season," Abby said.

The boys' basketball team is ranked No. 10 in Division 3, and is hoping to have two home games in the playoffs.

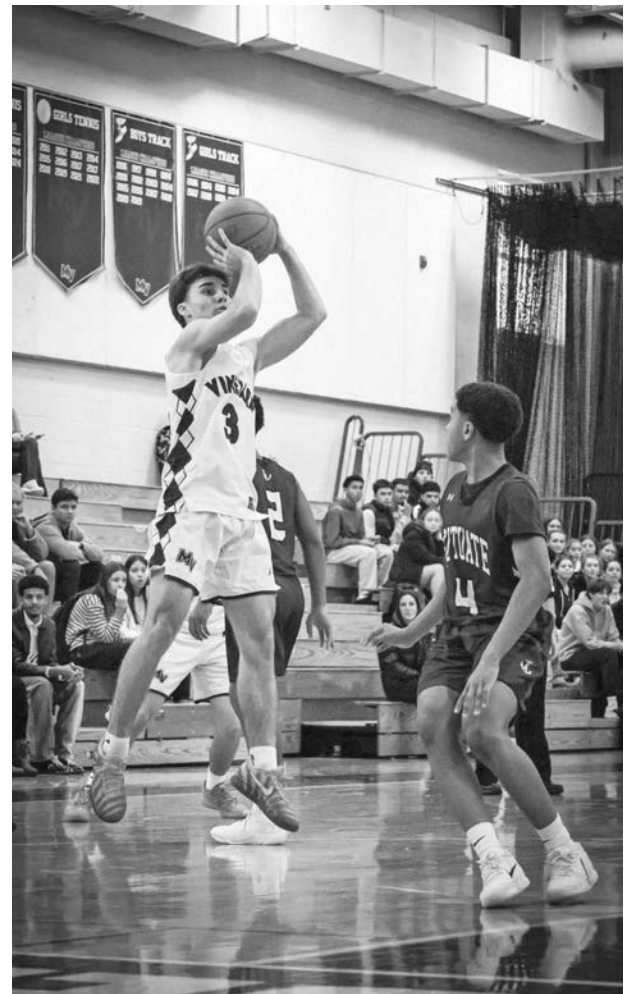
Led by junior captains Leo Napior, Landon Levine, and Jacoby Light, the team knows they have to resist playing down to their opponents.

"We have to play to our level of basketball," said Leo. "When we play Martha's Vineyard basketball, we are one of the best teams in the league. As a captain I value our team's chemistry, and we'll be working hard to keep that team chemistry strong heading into the playoffs."

The wrestling team had their first home match in 42 years this season. Senior Tripp Arciaga, who is new to the sport, led the team to a 54-24 win over Falmouth.

Senior wrestling captain Isaac Lefebvre said the team's success is mostly about effort. "Even if you don't have as much skill as your opponent, you can win with effort," he said.

All captains agree that when Vineyard fans show up in full support of the teams, it enhances their drive and makes all the hard work of the season worth it. **HSV**



COURTESY JEFF ZACK/F11 IMAGING

Winter sports captains prepare teams for post-season play.

Behind the curtain: Cecilia Ramirez

BY MILO SHAW



COURTESY CECILIA RAMIREZ

Freshman Cecilia Ramirez will play one of the Fates in this year's highly anticipated musical production of "Hadestown," which opens in two weeks.

Freshman Cecilia Ramirez will be taking the stage in her first official performance at the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) in the role of Fate 2 in the musical production of "Hadestown," which opens in two weeks.

"I was terrified at first," Cecilia said of auditioning. "I thought [this role] would be way too hard for me to do. But when I actually got [the part], I realized, 'Oh, I can do this.'"

Cecilia describes the role as being kind of like a person's consciousness: "I can't say a lot more, otherwise it would spoil the musical. But in terms of personality, I feel the fates are sort of sassy, persuasive, and all-knowing."

The combination of community building, the general attitude toward theater at MVRHS, and the choice of this musical in particular are what make Cecilia excited to put this show on for Island audiences.

"I've gotten to meet all these new people, and I've

become really confident performing," she said, adding that participating in theater has helped her grow her ability to connect with other people. "I've gotten better at being more comfortable and just walking up to someone and saying 'Hi.'"

Cecilia participated in the theater program at the West Tisbury School from fourth to eighth grade. Performing came naturally to her as a kid, and she said she has wanted to pursue acting and theater for as long as she can remember.

"I've always been the dramatic and talkative one of my family," she said, adding that she's been belting out songs since she could first speak. "I started getting into singing when I was 3. I really enjoy acting and the richness of the

community," she said. "I like bonding with peers."

Her family has been more than supportive of her performances throughout the years. "My mom actually gets upset if I say I'm not sure if I want to do something when the opportunity for an audition comes up," she said with a laugh.

Cecilia believes that theater has created incredibly valuable experiences for her, not only from the performance itself, but through bringing her into community and teaching her how to be comfortable with being herself around others.

"Preparing for this role and being able to act it how I see it is amazing," she said. "It's kind of freeing in a way to act someone else's story, even if it's only for an hour or two. I'm so thankful." **HSV**

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1

THE UNDERWORLD REIMAGINED

MVRHS spring musical: 'Hadestown' BY ABBY REMER



2

Performing arts students at Martha's Vineyard Regional High School have been hard at work since last September, fashioning a compelling performance of "Hadestown," which will run from Feb. 12 to 15 at the Performing Arts Center.

The show, by Anaïs Mitchell, is a Tony- and Grammy-winning musical that reimagines the ancient Greek myth of Orpheus and Eurydice, intertwining it with that of Hades and Persephone. Hermes narrates the tale, which is set in a bleak, Depression-era, post-apocalyptic America where people struggle, are impoverished, and live in unpredictable conditions. We follow Orpheus' quest to rescue his love, Eurydice, whom Hades lures to his underground sweatshop, where workers have food and shelter but lose their freedom. The musical, blending folk music and New Orleans jazz, explores the power of art, hope, and the beauty of perseverance, even in the face of inevitable failure.

Brooke Hardman Ditchfield, director of the high school theater department, says, "We know how the tale of Orpheus and Eurydice ends [when the lovers are forever separated]. But the myth, by definition, is a story that gets retold and reshaped by the shifts of time. It's been passed down, and when you retell it, you get to tell it your way, confident that the story will begin again."

She continues, "Hadestown" is a great way

to get our students up close and personal with Greek mythology, and its message is innately human: No matter how hard the journey might be, we begin again, because that's our nature, and where hope comes from — that this time, it will turn out different."

For the past several years, Ditchfield has been creating double casts for the musicals. "We like to give more students the opportunity to lead the cast and take on principal parts," she says. Speaking with several students from both casts after a recent rehearsal, it is clear that several of the show's themes touch them.

Scarcity versus security plays out with Eurydice, who falls in love with Orpheus. However, since life is tough and survival isn't assured, she makes a desperate decision and descends to Hadestown, trading her freedom for safety. Georgia DeRoche explains her interpretation of Eurydice: "She is a hungry young girl who has trouble trusting people. But she finds love. The show is her journey through that, and what happens along the way." Georgia notes that themes of friendship, letting go of people, and finding those who mean a lot to you also appear throughout the musical. Hyde Turner, who alternately plays Eurydice, finds that she personally relates to the role: "Eurydice is very vulnerable, but has a tough outer shell. Throughout the show, though, she lets people in, like Orpheus, and I can relate to that."



3

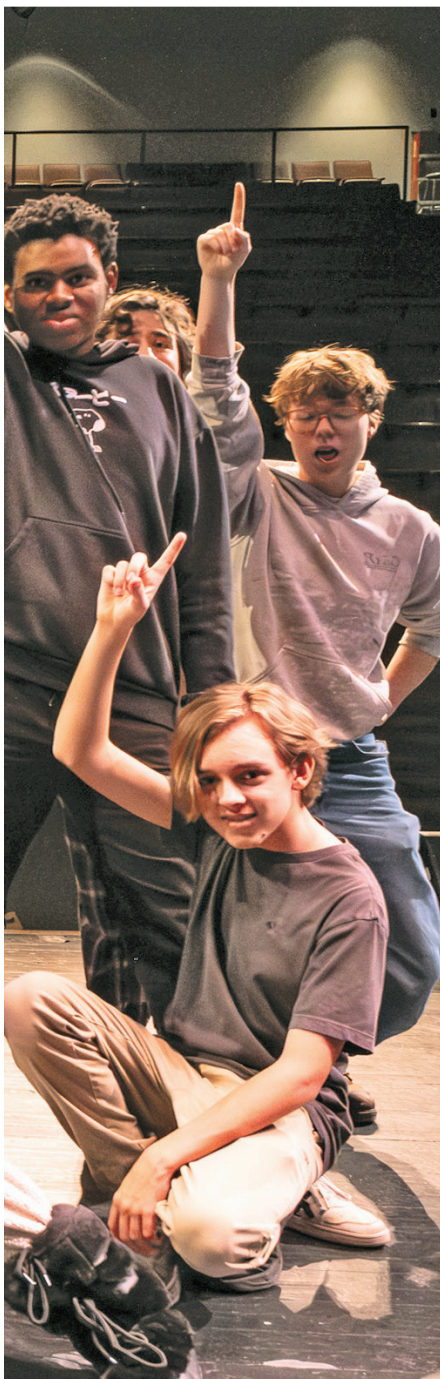
PHOTOS: DENA PORTER

Orpheus follows Eurydice into the underworld, convinced his music and love will be able to bring her back. Luiz Lacerda says about the role, "I connect with this character a lot. I feel his pain. This experience is bringing out a new emotional side that I had put down for many years. It's weird but interesting to see what comes out, and when."

Also playing Orpheus, Bryan Fernandes says, "It's an absolute blast getting to play a more emotional character than I've done before. It's also the first lead role I've ever had, so that's been a whirlwind of fun. Part of it is knowing that there is more responsibility, and that they trust me."

Brady Vought says

Continued on B15



PHOTOS: DENA PORTER



1. The "Hadestown" cast, with Ken Romero.

2. Ken Romero gave transition directions to students.

3. "Hadestown" will delight you!

4. Rayssa Moraes plays the role of Hermes in "Hadestown."

5. Students rehearsed scenes with Ken Romero.

6. Anthony Smith, playing the role of Hermes, greeted Luiz Lacerda (Orpheus).

7. Rayssa Moraes (as Hermes) greeted Bryan Fernandes (Orpheus).

8. Stage manager Jason Jarrell, left, was joined by some of the members of the crew, including Zoe Higgins, top right, Everley Montoya, and Roxy White.

9. Brooke Hardman Ditchfield helped the students take their positions onstage.



7



8



9

"Its message is innately human: No matter how hard the journey might be, we begin again, because that's our nature, and where hope comes from — that this time, it will turn out different."

—BROOKE HARDMAN DITCHFIELD

Continued from B14 of his role as ruler of the underworld, "Hades is the capitalist king of hell who keeps coming for his wife Persephone [the goddess of spring] early, which means winter comes early. So there's no spring, there's no food, and everyone's hungry." In the underworld, Persephone observes as

Hades, who confines workers and transforms love into ownership, becomes someone she barely recognizes. Playing Persephone, Lilli Claussen connects with the show's themes of togetherness, love, and loss. Cayhana Williams compares Persephone to Mother Nature, and the role reminds her "to be free. To be with nature and have fun."

Speaking about his role, Anthony Smith says, "I like to play Hermes as being very confident in the choices I make."

Rayssa Moraes, who also plays Hermes, adds, "It's been a lot of fun to be this character who does what he wants as Orpheus' mentor or parent figure." Moraes has found being in the show an important experience. "I've definitely learned to believe in myself more. Hermes is such a confident character, who must be there, in the moment, all the time, which is a good challenge."

In "Hadestown," the Fates function less like gods and more like manifestations of intrusive thoughts and anxiety. They don't directly control destiny, but Genevieve Wise, who plays one of them, notes, "I see the Fates as the personification of doubt. We are the storytellers and the orchestrators of the choices the characters make. We are almost like that little voice in the back of your head that whispers to do or not do things, except that we are physical beings in 'Hadestown,' and influence characters to make decisions."

Jason Jarrell, the stage manager, makes an astute comment about the parallel between the ancient oral tradition associated with myths and this production of "Hadestown": "We as a company get to do this show every night, and then we get to do it again. I think it's a real nod to theater where we get to tell the story repeatedly, and we have different experiences every time."

And what we see as the audience is that although hope is fragile and breaks, it keeps appearing anyway. ■■■

"Hadestown" will be at the Performing Arts Center on Feb. 12, 13, and 14 at 7 pm, and on Feb. 15 at 2 pm. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for students and seniors.

Wild Side

BY MATT PELIKAN



Small, secretive, and hard to spot.

Heleomyzidae family of flies

Given the roughly 110 families of flies (the order Diptera) in North America, and my twice-monthly publication schedule for this column,

I figure I could spend the next four years or so writing about nothing but flies. One family per column: I'd enjoy that! Flies are fascinating, with their astonishing diversity and the bizarre life histories of how some of them have evolved. And best of all, flies are poorly known: Every scrap of knowledge I gain feels like a triumph. But I expect that my readers, not to mention my editors, would rebel before I had even made it through the Nematocera. So I'll devote this column to the fly family that's currently on my mind, and then I promise to move on (for the short term, at least) to more charismatic critters.

That family, Heleomyzidae, is an interesting one, though it seems rather poorly represented on the Vineyard. And in many ways, it's a good representative of the whole order: What's true for Heleomyzidae is true for many other groups.

You can start, for instance, with the basic taxonomic status of the

argue that the subfamilies of Heleomyzidae are so different from one another that all should be elevated to family level. An excellent handbook of flies by the entomologist Stephen Marshall describes Heleomyzidae as "a bit of a grab-bag family made up of a number of distinct lineages of dubious relationships." I'm sorry to say that this situation is not unusual among flies.

On the Vineyard, at least, we avoid most of the complexity of this family. As far as I

many fly families, Heleomyzids are small, secretive, and hard to spot. In the absence of a focused study, which seems unlikely, it will take years before enough haphazard observations have trickled in for any convincing picture of our Heleomyzids to emerge.

While Vineyard records for this family span the full year, the bulk of my own observations have come during late fall or early winter. Again, while

even surviving through the winter at our latitudes. Some of these flies, seeking warmth, turn up indoors.

Indeed, our Heleomyzids appear to associate closely with humans. Virtually all of my records actually come from inside a building, and a high percentage of my Heleomyzid photographs show the insect perched on a window screen. Again, this is neither rare among flies nor inexplicable: The larvae of many flies, including many Heleomyzids, live in damp, dark settings rich with decaying matter, and ideal examples of such conditions can be found around human dwellings in compost bins, potted plants, or well-mulched garden beds. Prime fly habitat! Expanding on the idea of rot and moisture, many Heleomyzids associate with fungi, especially as a food source and substrate for larvae. Some members of the

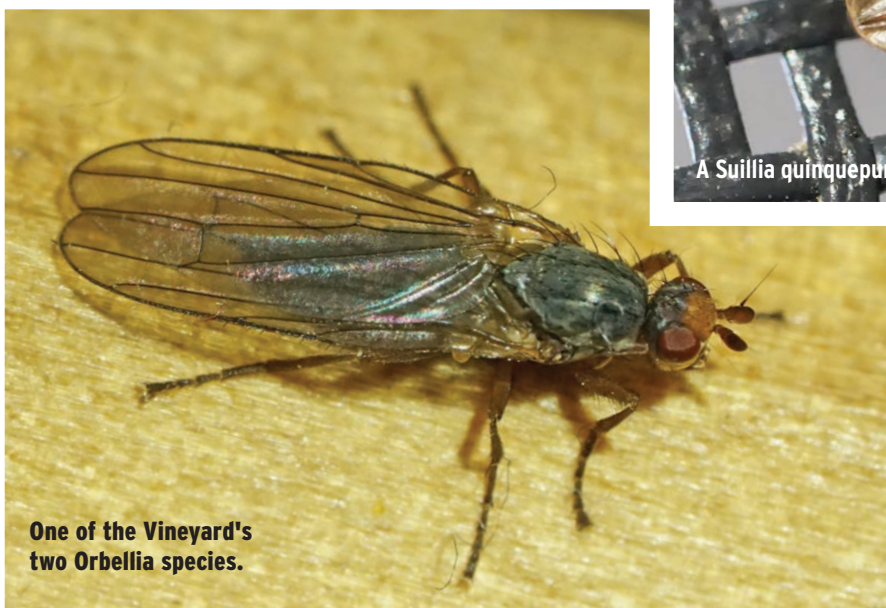
about a half-inch in length, and many Heleomyzids have bodies with some combination of gray and yellowish coloration.

Reflecting the taxonomic chaos of Heleomyzidae, there are few characteristics that define the family, and despite the hard work I've put in on flies, I often mistake Heleomyzids for members of several other groups. But while it's not an ironclad rule, one trait is common enough in Heleomyzids, especially in the subfamilies known to occur on the Vineyard, to be useful: The leading edge of the wing, called the "costa" by entomologists, is equipped with a row of robust bristles.

Almost all flies have bristles along the costa, but in Heleomyzidae, these can be robust, unmissable on a specimen, obvious in clear photographs, and occasionally even visible on a fly in the field.

In any event, so far I know the Vineyard boasts

"On the Vineyard, at least, we avoid most of the complexity of this family. As far as I know, only four species representing two subfamilies have been found here."



One of the Vineyard's two Orbellia species.



Pseudoleria, showing the wing-edge bristles typical of Heleomyzid flies.



A Suillia quinquepunctata.

family, which is untidy in the extreme. Some experts argue for subsuming all of Heleomyzidae into some other family; other experts

know, only four species representing two subfamilies have been found here. There are surely other representatives present, but again, like

this schedule isn't typical of flies, it isn't rare for this order, either: Many species of flies are amazingly hardy, with adults of some species

genus Sullia, for example, are said to associate with truffles, and harvesters searching for those valuable fungi can reportedly find their quarry by spotting swarms of Sullia.

So don't make the mistake I did and imagine that "Heleomyzid" means these flies are sun-lovers. The "Heleo-" (not "Helio-") part is actually a Greek root referring to marshes, so you might think of this family as the "swamp flies." These are small, shade-loving insects, ranging up to

two species in the genus Orbellia (one has dark legs, the other doesn't); one species (I have no idea which one) in the genus Pseudoleria, with yellow legs and especially robust costal spines; and the seemingly common and presumably fungus-loving Suillia quinquepunctata, with a mostly yellow body. So keep an eye out for a Heleomyzid sharing your living space this winter. And take a moment to be grateful that I don't plan to write another 109 consecutive fly columns! **mvr**

PHOTOS: MATHEW PELIKAN

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