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'THE GREAT THAW'

COURTESY NORTH COUNTRY SNOW AND ICE MANAGEMENT



SATURDAY

M.V. TIMES

A snowmelter deployed; tree removal underway.

BY EUNKI SEONWOO

Warming temperatures and steady rain this week are melting away mountains of snow left by a historic blizzard. To help nature along in the process of evaporating all that snow, which now resembles blackened slush, an industrial snowmelter, like a giant Jacuzzi, was brought in to reduce the piles. In Oak Bluffs, this operation was in full swing over the weekend, all under the watchful eye of the Union soldier statue standing as a silent sentry near the Steamship Authority terminal, and a small crowd of Islanders mesmerized by the process.

For now, we might call it "The Great Thaw." *Continued on 21*



TUESDAY

M.V. TIMES

Childcare provider arrested for reckless endangerment

EXCLUSIVE

Facing seven counts of child endangerment, Deir Cogill voluntarily gave up her license in October.

BY SARAH SHAW DAWSON

One of only three locally listed Portuguese-speaking daycare centers on the Island has lost its license, and The Times has learned that the provider is facing seven criminal charges of child endangerment after an alleged incident, last October. The provider, Deir Freitas Cogill, allegedly left children alone, one in a locked car and six in her home, on Oct. 21. She now faces seven separate charges of reckless endangerment of a child.

Cogill, 61, is believed by local officials to be a new provider who mainly catered to Brazilian families, at a time when new parents across the Vineyard are extremely strained for childcare, especially within the Island's immigrant communities.

The incident was first flagged by police officials only months after the death of Frank ("Frankie") Rodenbaugh, a 2-year-old who was allegedly left in a car by his babysitter, Aimee Cotton, last March. Cotton's case is in process in superior court in Edgartown, where she faces charges of manslaughter and reckless endangerment of a child. Cotton was not a licensed provider.

The case against Cogill, which will be continuing in court proceedings later this month, has raised profound concerns in the community of organizations that support and regulate childcare on the Island.

Joanne Lambert, the Martha's Vineyard *Continued on 22*

Drone survey zeroing in on deer population

Results will determine health threat from ticks. BY HAYLEY DUFFY

A quadcopter, a drone with four propeller blades, launched vertically from a small, circular, red helicopter pad. It hovered for a moment above the field near the shops at the Aquinnah Cliffs, then took off toward the South Shore and became a fleck on the horizon as the sun started to set.

For a three-week period that started in mid-February, three drones are launched daily from more than 100 preapproved spots, and flown from dusk to dawn above the Island to collect and mark the heat signatures of deer. It is one part of an escalated, multipronged effort to establish the magnitude and whereabouts of the Island's deer population, and thereby address the health risk of tick-borne conditions that are more prevalent on the Island than anywhere else in the state.

This aerial deer survey, a project commissioned and paid for by the nonprofit Tick Free Martha's Vineyard, and performed by independent conservation nonprofit White Buffalo, is almost complete; as of Tuesday, March 4, only 13 percent of the Island was left to survey, which is about two more full nights of drone flights. Weather, especially from the

blizzard, hampered the effort for only a day last week. However, on Tuesday this week, pilots didn't fly in the rain; wind gusts higher than 35 mph can also halt work. The snow actually produces a better contrast for the thermal cameras to track the deer, which is the reason drone surveys are normally done in the winter for East Coast states.

Still, the survey, conducted west to east, should be done by the projected deadline of Saturday, March 7. White Buffalo, which specializes in deer management, uses infrared thermal drone and camera technology, flown at below 400 feet, to determine both the size and distribution of the Island's deer population. Pilots certified by the Federal Aviation Administration from White Buffalo performed a demo for reporters in Aquinnah on Monday.

The final report, estimated to be completed and handed to Tick Free MV by the end of March, will include all the electronic data, such as individual points where deer are located, as well as a spatial statistical analysis that can map out deer density. The *Continued on 21*



The quadcopter drone hovers above the field near the shops at the Aquinnah Cliffs.

HAYLEY DUFFY

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MYTimes CORPORATION



news in brief

Roy Scheffer posthumously awarded for aquaculture contributions

The Massachusetts Aquaculture Association posthumously honored Roy Scheffer as a “founding father” of the aquaculture industry on Martha’s Vineyard. The Golden Oyster award was presented in his memory and accepted by two of his children, Isaiah and Martha Scheffer, at the group’s annual meeting on Friday in Wareham.

Roy Scheffer and his partner, Patricia (“Trish”) Bergeron, died on New Year’s Day in a boating accident while dragging for bay scallops off Edgartown.

“This year’s award, I’m very sorry to say, will be awarded posthumously to one of the founding fathers of oyster farms on Martha’s Vineyard,” the association’s speaker said.

Scheffer was a commercial fisherman for 27 years offshore, but when regulations tightened in the mid-1990s and the industry virtually collapsed, he turned inshore, and was one of the first four displaced fishermen that worked through a grant from the Island’s shellfish group to test different shellfish that could grow in shallow waters. Now, oyster farming is a multimillion-dollar industry on the Island.

Martha Scheffer, who now runs her father’s Katama Bay oyster farm, said in a social media post, “It’s such an honor for him to be recognized as a great fisherman, farmer, and human being. He had touched so many lives, spread so much knowledge, helped many fishermen and fellow farmers, as well as being a great dad.” She added in an interview with The Times that the oyster farming business on the Island wouldn’t be where it is today without him.

The plaque on the award reads, “In recognition of his enduring contributions to shaping the character and direction of aquaculture on Martha’s Vineyard; his unwavering commitment to supporting his community; and his generous willingness to share his deep knowledge of aquaculture and fishing over decades of involvement in the growth and development of shellfish aquaculture in Massachusetts.”

Local vessel makes final berth in Mystic Seaport

A vessel built on the Vineyard joined the country’s largest maritime museum.

Late last month, the Mystic Seaport Museum’s watercraft operations committee unanimously voted to induct the Sheldrake, a 19-foot gaff sloop designed by Nat Benjamin and built by Gannon & Benjamin Marine Railway in Vineyard Haven, into the Connecticut institution’s permanent collection. The vessel will be a part of the museum’s Wells Boat Hall, and featured in the “Wooden Boat Revival Neighborhood,” according to a press release from Gannon & Benjamin.

“We are honored that Mystic Seaport Museum has accepted Sheldrake into its permanent collection. We are grateful for the recognition, and delighted that one of our favorite boats will be represented in America’s finest maritime museum,” the Island boatbuilders said in the release. The release also states that the addition of the Sheldrake into the collection was a “meaningful recognition of the enduring work of Gannon & Benjamin — and of Benjamin’s lifelong dedication to the art of wooden boat design and building.”

The world-renowned boatbuilders have called the Vineyard Haven waterfront location home since early 1980. While the duo that founded the boatyard, Benjamin and Ross Gannon, retain ownership, they handed the reins of the daily operations to the next generation of leaders at the organization last year.

The Sheldrake was built in 2015 for Steve and Maureen Corkery of Shelter Island, N.Y., who commissioned the vessel the



The Golden Oyster honors the memory of Roy Scheffer.

same year. The Corkery family also owned two other boats built by Gannon & Benjamin, a 2021 bella named Daybreak and a 2025 canvasback named Lucky Duck.

“She was built by G&B the same year, and sailed by the Corkery family until old age required them to reluctantly give up a long and inspiring life on the water,” Benjamin told The Times.

Benjamin said the vessel is “traditionally built,” with “white cedar planking fastened to steam-bent white oak frames.” The stem, backbone, and rudder are made out of white oak and black locust. The raked transom is built with wana, a tropical hardwood from Suriname. The vessel has no auxiliary motor.

“Sheldrake is nimble and quick, and a joy to sail,” Benjamin said. “We would love to build another.”

Dana Hewson, former vice president of watercraft preservation and programs, and the Clark senior curator for watercraft, was quoted in the release as highlighting the marine railway as a “highly respected yard” that has built many “beautiful, high-quality, high-performing yachts of a variety of sizes.”

“They have been true to a style of building that has all but disappeared in our times,” Hewson said. “All of this [was] made possible due to the knowledge and experience of the principles. I have heard there is a movement afoot to preserve their yard along the waterfront. In the past, the collection has included representative boats of significant designers/owners/builders, and I suggest that be done in this case.”



The Sheldrake was inducted into the permanent collection of the Mystic Seaport Museum in Connecticut.

COURTESY GANNON & BENJAMIN MARINE RAILWAY



MVTimes
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correction

In the story titled “Islanders make the most of heaviest snow in years,” published on Feb. 25, The Times reported that Harbor Homes was closed because of a power outage. That is incorrect. There was a power outage and no generator, so the nonprofit relocated some of their staff and clients to the West Tisbury library. Some guests opted to stay overnight at the shelter. The West Tisbury emergency warming center at the library was also open for 50 hours, not 15.

Flock euthanized for bird flu in Dukes County

The first case in January was the largest in the Island's history.

BY EUNKI SEONWOO

Another flock of birds was euthanized Thursday in Dukes County, the only area in the state that has had an outbreak of bird flu in domestic flocks so far this year.

The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources announced in a press release that it "safely depopulated and disposed of a non-commercial backyard flock in Dukes County" because of the detection of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), also called bird or avian flu.

"Birds on the affected premises exhibited clinical signs consistent with HPAI, and tested positive for the disease," the release states.

Phu Mai, spokesperson for the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, told The Times that it was a small flock consisting of five chickens and three geese. Mai said the department's animal health officials received the "sick bird call" on Feb. 19, and the positive test results came in on Feb. 20.

"We did not find any other nearby animals exhibiting

symptoms of HPAI, and aside from the infected birds themselves, did not dispose of any other items," Mai said in an email.

But it remains uncertain where this flock is in Dukes County. Mai said the department would only specify the county for positive cases of bird flu. And local health officials are following suit.

"Local boards of health align with the multiagency HPAI response plan and MDAR's policy of identifying by county only," Edgartown Health Agent Brice Boutot said.

Tisbury Health Agent Drew Belsky said likewise, but he highlighted that HPAI was spread by wild birds "that could stop anywhere on the Island."

"Regardless of the depopulation location, all Islanders should be protecting their flocks from potential outbreaks," Belsky said.

This is the second time a domestic flock tested positive for HPAI in Massachusetts this year, accord-

ing to the state agricultural department. The first outbreak of bird flu occurred last month in Slough Farm in Edgartown, when 350 chickens had to be euthanized because of the disease — the largest euthanization of birds for avian flu in the Island's history.

State officials advised backyard and commercial poultry owners to take measures to prevent their birds from coming in contact with wild birds infected with avian flu. This includes eliminating standing water, and preventing domestic birds from bodies of water that attract wild waterfowl.

"Allowing domestic flocks to have 'free range' poses substantial risk of exposure to HPAI," the release states. "The consequences can be deadly."

The state department says waterfowl and aquatic birds are the most at risk of contracting avian flu, but any bird species can be infected. Mammals can also be susceptible, and pet owners are advised to leash dogs and



Chickens on a local farm.

DAVE PLATH

keep them away from areas where wild birds gather, or where a dead waterfowl was found. Meanwhile, cat owners in areas that may have HPAI present should "consider keeping their cats indoors," and discourage farm cats from eat-

ing their prey.

Although rare, humans can also be infected by bird flu, and people at risk are those who have "prolonged close contact with sick or dead animals."

More information about

avian flu is available on the FAQ document (bit.ly/MA-gov_AvianFlu) created by Massachusetts' Department of Agricultural Resources, the Division of Fish and Wildlife, and Department of Public Health. **MVT**

news in brief

Vineyard Wind construction nears completion

Iberdrola officials announced to investors last week that construction of Vineyard Wind 1, the offshore wind project located 15 miles south of the Island, is almost complete.

Officials of Iberdrola, the Spain-based parent company of Avangrid, which is one of the project's developers, said last Wednesday that 60 of the 62 turbines are installed, and between 52 and 55 are operational.

"For me, as an engineer, the farm is already completed. In this moment, we have more than 60 turbines, of the 62, which are fully installed," Ignacio Sánchez Galán, executive chairman of Iberdrola, said to financial analysts in an earnings call. He added that he believes 55 are "in operation" or "exporting electricity."

Pedro Azagra, CEO of Iberdrola, added, "In the next days, we will install the two remaining ones. And I think from an operation point of view, 52 of the 62, that's 80, almost 85 percent of them are right now allowed for operation." Turbines, once constructed and installed, still have to be commissioned to actually operate and generate electricity.

Vineyard Wind officials haven't announced an update as of March 4 on the construction status beyond what Iberdrola shared in its earnings report.

The last update from project developers before the earnings call came in court documents in January that said the project was 95 percent complete, and needed to only do blade replacement to complete 18 remaining turbines; 44 turbines were able to send power to the grid. The company was in court after the federal government issued the project, and four others, a suspension order due to classified national security concerns, and work was paused for more than a month.



JENNETTE BARNES/CAI

Work on blades at Vineyard Wind 1 in July.

A federal judge allowed the project to resume construction in late January.

Temporary relief, and ability to continue construction, were necessary in the eyes of the Vineyard Wind officials, even as the case continues on in the background. Part of the developers' argument included that the project requires a specialized jack-up vessel called the Sea Installer, which is one of the few in the world able to install GE

Vernova's Haliade-X wind turbines. An attorney for the company said that landing contracts for this type of vessel can take months or years, and the current contract expires on March 31.

The Vineyard Wind attorney also added in a hearing Jan. 27 that failure of the project to be commercially operational, which is when an energy resource generates electricity for sale, by the end of March, or the end of the

Sea Installer's contract, exposes the project to a full default, accelerated repayment of the loan, and foreclosure of the project.

A scheduling order filed Feb. 5 set a status conference for the suit on April 14 at 11:30 am.

The other wind farm visible from the Island, Revolution Wind, has 59 of 65 turbines completed, as of the developer Ørsted's most recent earnings call in early February. **MVT**

EDITORIAL

There's a difference between climate change and global warming

In the past two months, the Island's seen more than one snowstorm or full-on blizzard, frigid temperatures that froze ponds, and wind chills that drew tears from the eyes. In this moment, climate change feels impossible. That's because what students from kindergarten through college-level courses are told — or what they really take from a science class — is that human-induced climate change, colloquially interchanged with global warming, is a result of the greenhouse effect, when an increase in greenhouse gases in the atmosphere causes a rise in temperatures. It's not completely illogical to take the bare-bones concept of climate change in one hand, and the several feet of snow from two snowstorms that derailed the Island in the other, and come up blank. They don't seem to quite mesh together. And that's because this really is a paradox, a logically contradictory situation. The Earth's temperature is on the rise, but we can't seem to catch a break from the snow.

But there are secondary signals of climate change. It's not just warmer temperatures, and there is an important distinction to be made between climate change and global warming. Global warming is the rise in global temperatures, while climate change is the increase in changes in measures of climate, such as precipitation, weather, and wind patterns, over the long term.

And though the concept of climate change goes all the way back to the 1850s, when Eunice Newton Foote, a U.S. amateur scientist or natural philosopher, tested the effect of different atmospheric gases on heat from the sun, there is a real denial of climate change and global warming,

even by this country's leaders. In fact, at the end of January, when a snowstorm battered much of the country, President Donald Trump, who recently revoked a scientific finding that climate change is a danger to public health, took to Truth Social on Jan. 23 and wrote, "Record Cold Wave expected to hit 40 States. Rarely seen anything like it before. Could the Environmental Insurrectionists please explain — WHATEVER HAPPENED TO GLOBAL WARMING???"

But this can be explained.

The reason that last week's blizzard — also called a nor'easter or extratropical cyclone — that dumped nearly two feet of snow on the Island and produced 70-something mph winds continues to support the idea of climate change is because warmer air can hold more water vapor. This means that up in the atmosphere, there's more potential precipitation, which can take the form of rain, ice, hail, or snow. Warmer air is the result of the greenhouse effect and global warming, and more water vapor means more precipitation. It needs only cold Arctic air to collide with warm air from the subtropic Atlantic to manifest.

It was Foote who foreshadowed the existence of the greenhouse effect about 175 years ago, filling glass cylinders, each holding a mercury thermometer, with gases and moisture, and found that through sun exposure, temperature rose higher in moist air than dry air and was the greatest in the cylinder that contained carbon dioxide. Then, three years later, Irish scientist John Tyndall's more sophisticated experiments showed that the Earth's greenhouse effect is caused by water vapor and gases like carbon dioxide that absorb and emit thermal infrared energy, or heat, and change the atmosphere's temperature. Foote, who attended the first women's rights convention in Seneca Falls, N.Y., wasn't recognized as a climate pioneer until the early 2010s.

What Foote and Tyndall didn't explain

through their experiment is how weather works and changes because of the greenhouse effect.

Timothy Hall, senior scientist in S&P Global's Sustainable1 division, who previously worked for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Goddard Institute for Space Studies, said that climate change isn't as easy as just, "Temperatures are warmer." No, in fact, he likes to say that all weather, not just temperature, is a climate signal. "Weather sits on top of climate," he said. His take is reminiscent of an analogy popularized by climatologist Dr. James Hansen, who also worked at Goddard, which uses a weighted, or loaded, die to show that an increase in greenhouse gases in the atmosphere increases the chance of warmer temperatures and extreme weather. It doesn't negate the possibility of cold winters, just changes the probability.

Hall lives full-time on Martha's Vineyard, and was here for last week's storm. He creates hazard and risk models of extreme weather and climate for S&P, and also was a lead author on the 2017 National Climate Assessment Report. The paradoxical snow this season, he explained, is because there's more water vapor in the atmosphere because the air is warmer. But as long as the days are cold enough, precipitation takes the form of snow. And even as the global average surface temperature of the Earth rises, there's still variability in day-to-day and month-to-month temperatures.

Down the line, though, days won't be so cold, and precipitation may take the form only of rain, Hall said. That may be way, way down the line, though. James Booth, an atmospheric scientist at the City College of New York, said that snowstorms are possible in the Northeast for the next 60-plus years. Manmade global warming is real, he said, but seasonal cycles still lead to cold temperatures in the winters. A blizzard doesn't discredit the existence of climate change and global warming. In fact, the extremity supports the idea.

ESSAY

A historic blizzard, and how we delivered the first draft of history

BY CHARLES M. SENNOTT

In the aftermath of the blizzard, temperatures are warming this week, and steady rain is in the forecast, which means the memory of the blizzard of '26 will likely be evaporating into history. But I don't think any of us will forget this winter anytime soon. It has indeed been brutal.

But through the fierce nor'easter that brought us up to two feet of snow, I wanted to give a shout-out to my colleagues here at The Times who dug their way out of their homes and trudged through the snow to report on and put together our special coverage of the winter storm. For those who received the paper in your mailbox a day late, we apologize for the delay, but that was due to trucking routes, USPS challenges, and forces beyond our control.

Getting the paper to the printer on time, and getting copies here on the Island for distribution at several key locations, was quite a heroic task, at a time when so many newspapers around New England were caught in the spiral of this fierce nor'easter and were not able to get their print editions out. Even the venerable Boston Globe, my

alma mater, notably was not able to print on Monday, Feb. 23, when the blizzard brought snowfall that rivaled the infamous blizzard of '78, making the following Tuesday the first time in the Globe's 153-year history that it failed to get a print edition out for delivery.

We are proud here at The Times that we were able to maintain our track record for delivery, and that we managed to come through with a paper. We want to thank you for your patience in understanding we were a day late with the print edition, and we want to thank you for your support.

So how did we get this done? Well, the reporting team was out there braving the blizzard, forag-

ing for power and internet connections, and working around the clock to keep you updated on this historic snowstorm through our online coverage.

We worked against the odds to deliver a paper to TCI Press. And we decided to make this edition one section rather than our usual two sections, one for News and one for Community & Calendar. We are thinking of it as a keepsake to remember the blizzard of '26, and the design with a yardstick marking 24 inches of snow is meant to be recorded in history. All of the elements of both coverage areas were still in your paper, just combined into that one 24-page section. And we thought that worked so well,

we are trying it again this week; we hope you will let us know what you think about this single-section approach. We won't be doing it all the time, but we do see it as a way to save trees, and some costs.

I wrote about this process and how we got the paper out in our online edition, and we realized this is a process most of you do not know about. That is, our all-week newsgathering, editing, and layout operation, which ends on our deadline at exactly 3 pm every Wednesday. The editing effort was led by News Editor Hayley Duffy and our whole reporting team, but special shout-outs to Sarah Shaw Dawson and our Features Editor Nicole Galland, who braved the elements to get the story.

By Wednesday afternoon, design and layout were completed under the leadership of Kristofer Rabasca and Nicole Jackson, and we met our deadline. That's when we have to ship electronic files, or PDFs, to TCI Press in Seekonk, where the parking lot had 38 inches of snow, which took a full day to be plowed. That far surpassed the '78 "storm of the century," as it became known.

Inside the printing plant, our PDF files are scanned onto plates, and then an experienced printing team runs the plates through the web of a four-color Rockwell printer. The pressroom is loud; enormous rolls of newsprint are moved around with forklifts to



NICOLE JACKSON

The Times office was without power until the evening of Feb. 23.

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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**

VINEYARD GALLERY



CHESLEY WISEMAN

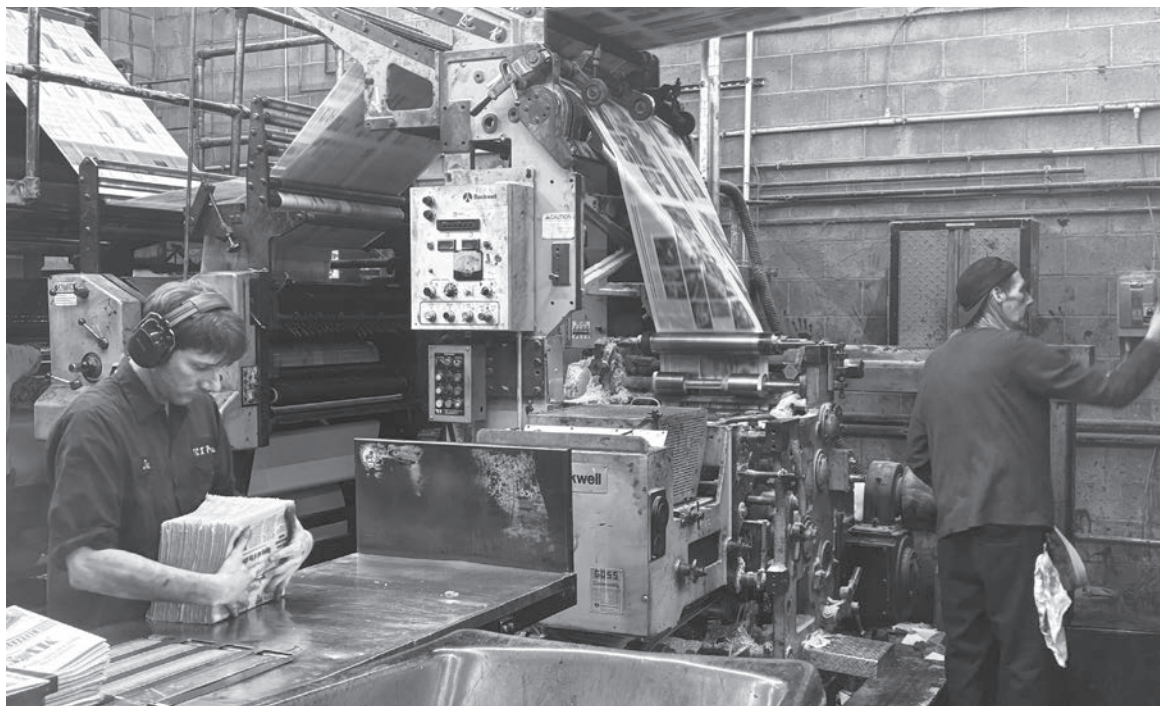
ESSAY

Continued from 4

be fed into the rumbling weave of the printer. It sounds like a freight train. The floors are sticky with ink. It is all straight out of another century, and, maybe because I have loved working in print newspapers for most of the past 40 years, I am fond of all that noise and the ink-stained floors and smell of those rolls of paper. It smells like, well, news.

One of our intrepid staffers, Reporter and News Editor Eunki Seonwoo, drove 67 miles from his home in Falmouth to Seekonk to fill up the trunk of his sedan with about 1,000 copies so that we could get them here on the Island. At TCI Press, there were still two more pallets stacked with approximately 3,500 copies of The Times, which arrived on the Island Friday through our trucking depot in Warwick, R.I., as is done every week. The trucks, which carry fresh produce, and allow us to squeeze in our pallets stacked with the print editions, were then brought over on the Steamship Authority ferry at 6 am Friday, and arrived at the loading dock at Cronig's Market in Vineyard Haven. I love the fact that our newspaper arrives on the Island in a produce truck, as fresh and nutritious as the vegetables that are loaded in all around it!

I shared this behind-the-scenes look at our operation



EUNKI SEONWOO

Top, The Times being printed in Seekonk at TCI Press. Left, The Feb. 26 edition ready for delivery to the Island. Right, News Editor Eunki Seonwoo's car full of papers served as a substitute delivery truck.

because I truly believe that if all of our readers had a better understanding of how this process unfolds every week — the heart and the grit and craft — they would have a better appreciation for their local news. I think all of us need to be sure we are thinking about that in light of the dramatic decline in local news across America. In my other job as the founder of GroundTruth, which launched the public service program Report for America, I am taking a journey through other newsrooms as we count down to Local News Day on April 9. It is a newly declared day to support your local news organization, and we will be filling you in more on my journey as it continues along.

So in the aftermath of the blizzard, we hope you might find a new appreciation for all the very human effort that goes into getting you the print edition, and the trust you can have in us to keep delivering reliable and useful news every day, and especially during an emergency, through our online edition. Thanks for your patience last week, and please join me in a tip of the hat to the whole editorial and production team at The Times for getting the paper to you.

Thank you most of all to you, our readers, for your support.

Charles M. Sennott is the publisher and editor of The Martha's Vineyard Times.



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GREENHOUSE ASSISTANT
 PHA seeks a Greenhouse Assistant to propagate and care for plants, trees and shrubs in our greenhouse and nursery. Part-time, seasonal position March thru November (flexible), \$25/hour. Job description and application instructions found at <https://www.pollyhillarboretum.org/get-involved/employmentopportunities/>. Priority given to those who apply by 2/27/26.

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GRADE 1 TEACHER
 The Martha's Vineyard Public Charter School seeks a Full-Time Grade 1 teacher beginning September 1, 2026. Must hold a BA/BS; teaching experience and licensure preferred. Please email resume, letter of interest, and completed application to Peter Steedman, Director, psteedman@mvpccs.org. Applications can be found on the school website at MVPCCS.org.



HELP WANTED

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 View the job description at ihtmv.org job-openings. Interested candidates are invited to send their resume to jlincoln@ihtmv.org.

JOIN OUR TEAM!
 East Chop Beach Club is seeking a dedicated supervisor, activities director/senior beach staff, and lifeguards for the summer of 2026. Visit our website for more details: EastChopBeachClub.com.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
 Seeks Head Field Hockey Coach. Application of Support Staff can be found on our website at: www.mvyps.org under "Employment" forms or at the Office of the Superintendent of Schools,

HELP WANTED
 4 Pine Street, Vineyard Haven, 02568 508-693-2009
 Return completed application to the Superintendent's Office
No person shall be excluded or discriminated against on the basis of race, color, sex, age, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability.
E.O.E.
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 sheriff-smeadow.org/jobs

THE TOWN OF TISBURY HARBOR DEPARTMENT IS SEEKING SEASONAL STAFF FOR THE 2026 SEASON, INCLUDING ASSISTANT HARBORMASTER (\$26.33-\$30.39/HR), HARBOR ATTENDANT (\$20.37-\$23.40/HR), AND DOCK ATTENDANT (\$16.79-\$19.20/HR).
 Employees will work on the water, manage the docks, assist boaters with moorings and docking, operate Town vessels, support harbor maintenance, and provide excellent customer service. Applicants should be comfortable working outdoors in all weather and performing physical tasks. Boating experience is preferred. Town of Tisbury is EOE. Applicants should submit application (found on the Town website www.tisbury.ma.gov under Human Resources Department), to pbennett@tisbury.ma.gov. Open until filled.

TOWN OF EDGARTOWN COUNCIL ON AGING PART-TIME OUTREACH WORKER \$34.99/HOUR
 The Town of Edgartown seeks to fill the temporary position of Part-Time Outreach Worker. With weekly schedule to be determined, the position requires 12-18

HELP WANTED
 hours/week. Position is non-benefitted and limited-term based grant funding (approximately March '26 through September'26). Responsibilities include maintaining contact with Edgartown older adults and facilitating access to services, transportation coordination, and other support and administrative functions. Minimum of two years' experience in gerontology, social work, a related field required; or any equivalent combination of education and experience. Familiarity with Microsoft and Google suites necessary. Bachelor's degree preferred. Application and full job description available at www.edgartown-ma.us or contact lfamariss@edgartown-ma.us. Please return completed applications to the Human Resource Office in Town Hall, PO Box 5130, Edgartown, MA 02539, or to HR@edgartown-ma.us. Position will be open until filled. Town of Edgartown is EOE.

TOWN OF WEST TISBURY AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEE & TRUST ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
 The Town of West Tisbury is seeking an Administrative Assistant for a 15 hour/week position. This position provides general administrative support for the Affordable Housing Committee and Affordable Housing Trust. Minimum qualifications are a High School diploma and 2-4 years of administrative experience. The position starting rate begins at \$ 40.54/hour. The hiring process will be conducted in open session. A full job description and application can be found on the website at westtisbury-ma.gov or email townadmin@westtisbury-ma.gov. Applications may be submitted by email, mailed to the Town Administrator at P.O. Box 278 or hand

HELP WANTED
 delivered to Town Hall at 1059 State Road. Completed applications are due March 19, 2026 at noon. Call 508-696-0102 with questions. EOE.



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. Approx. 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



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.



E.C. COTTLE, INC.
 BUILDING MATERIALS

E.C. COTTLE, INC. IS HIRING FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

- FRONT DESK
- YARD HAND
- CDL & DELIVERY DRIVERS

WILLING TO TRAIN THE RIGHT CANDIDATE

- Positions are full-time, year-round.
- Monday thru Friday hours with immediate start.
- Competitive pay.

Plus, E.C. Cottle offers full benefits including, Health Insurance, Dental Insurance, matched 401k, paid time off and paid holidays. All benefits earned after completion of probationary period.

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

Join the Martha's Vineyard Bank Team!
Financial Advisor

MARTHA'S VINEYARD BANK

Martha's Vineyard Bank and Martha's Vineyard Investment Advisors are excited to be adding a Financial Advisor to our investment team. This position is responsible for developing and maintaining client relationships while actively promoting strategic financial solutions for individual and institutional clients. Investment licenses are preferred but willing to support individuals who have the desire to obtain licenses.

Please visit www.mvbank.com for detailed information or to apply. We offer an exceptional benefits package, growth opportunities and a competitive compensation package that includes incentive compensation.

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Equal Opportunity Employer: Vets/Disabled

Best of the Vineyard
2025 Martha's Vineyard

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MVTimes

Classifieds

COMMERCIAL RENTALS

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

AVAILABLE TO RENT: FOUR PUSH-CARTS AT PUSHCART ALLEY 38 MAIN ST DOWNTOWN TISBURY

Get a great location for a very reasonable cost. The four pushcarts at iconic "Pushcart Alley" at 38 Main Street in downtown Vineyard Haven have become available to rent after a 25 year run that provided a good income for one family who still live on MV. Very reasonable triple net terms. See MarthasVineyardRentals.net Call 508-627-5900 or email pushcarts@marthasvineyardrentals.net and cc pushcarts@mshup.com

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 immediately. First and last month rent & security deposit required. Contact Chris 508-627-2895 for appointment.

OFFICE SPACE VH

600 SQ FT. Suitable for office use only. Includes conference room, 2 offices & reception area. Utilities not included. Includes 2 parking spaces. 508-221-0858.

PRIVATE OFFICE SPACE WITHIN OUR REAL ESTATE OFFICE AT TISBURY MARKET PLACE.

Features large windows with Lagoon Pond views, built-in desk, bookshelves, and conference table. Includes access to shared bathroom, kitchenette, copier, outdoor space, and parking. Ideal professional workspace. \$1,500/month. Email admin@viewpointsmv.com. Schedule a viewing today for more information.



COMMERCIAL RENTALS

ADDITIONAL BEAUTIFUL TWO BEDROOM APARTMENT.
 \$1500 plus utilities. 1-2 people. Thank you Lisa nagy. Available immediately. Year round.

STUNNING OFFICE 2000 SQ.FT. WEST TISBURY ACROSS FROM CRONIGS.

Two full baths. laundry two secretary offices and doctors with huge basketball court size work space. Kitchenette. Ample parking (15 cars) Coy pond. Outdoor space. \$6,500 per month. Contact Lisa 310-213-5472.

YARD SALES

ESTATE / YARD SALE - VINEYARD HAVEN

30 Water Gate Rd, Vineyard Haven Sunday March 7, 9am-2pm Furniture, kitchenware, artwork, home décor, tools, books, linens & more. Everything must go! Cash preferred.

ESTATE SALE

Antiques, Vintage, Island Collectibles, Tools, Shop Equip, Art, Furniture, Glassware, Holiday Decorations, Unique Items, Something for Everyone Sat/Sun 3/14 & 3/15 10a-2p NO early birds 17 Mariner Rd, Vineyard Haven 850-293-4345.

BOAT SALES



MARSHALL SANDERLING 18' SAILBOAT - CLASSIC CENTERBOARD CATBOAT WITH TILLER.

Sails beautifully in shallow water and can be beached - the quintessential Cape Cod/Martha's Vineyard boat. Includes trailer, sail, cushions, life vests, bronze step - fully equipped and ready to enjoy. Stored under tarp; needs wash and fresh bottom/cockpit paint. \$6,400 OBO. Vineyard sale preferred. Must pick up; seller cannot transport. Text for details (407) 625-1475

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PUBLIC NOTICE: ISLAND-WIDE AERIAL DEER SURVEY

Tick Free Martha's Vineyard (Tick Free MV) will launch an Island-wide aerial deer survey from February 15-March 7, 2026, weather permitting, using thermal drones. Flights will occur dusk to dawn to collect deer population data. Operators White Buffalo, Inc. will follow FAA regulations, and takeoff and landing locations are pre-approved by landowners. Thermal imagery will only be used to identify and count deer; it does not capture identifiable images of people, faces, or property. Residents may notice nighttime drone activity. Questions: info@tickfreemv.org.

SERVICES

MY HANDYMAN SERVICES/PROPERTY

PAINT, DUMP RUN, TILE/STONE WORK, CARPENTRY, WINDOWS/DOORS, SHINGLES, GUTTER CLEANUP, DECK REJUVENATE, POWER WASHER, ROOFS, BASEMENT/GARAGE CLEAN UP, Certified Mold Inspector & Remediator, French Drain Installation. 508-684-0242., RENATO myhandymanmv@gmail.com

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Real Estate

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

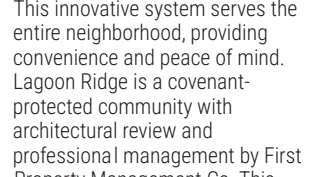
ESTEEMED BUILDER READY TO BREAK GROUND! Purchase this exceptional lot in Lagoon Ridge and start building your dream home today! Execute a BUILDING CONTRACT or choose your own builder... Call for details and schedule a tour! Welcome to Oak Bluffs' newest and most sought-after neighborhood, where you can 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 YOU 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



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.



The MV Times is seeking summer INTERNS

We have openings in the newsroom, features department (arts and culture, events, profiles), photography, social media, and graphic design.

Ideal candidates will have some college experience, but we will consider enthusiastic, capable high school students. All interns perform real newspaper tasks (research, reporting, writing, photography, design) on our deadlines, participate in editorial and design meetings, and contribute to our print and digital publications.



Please email hayley@mvtimes.com with a resume and cover letter.



VINEYARD VISITOR

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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.

HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS



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.

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 urist-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
\$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



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!



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.



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.

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

Stylish, sunlit, and superbly located — this architecturally designed end-unit townhome 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

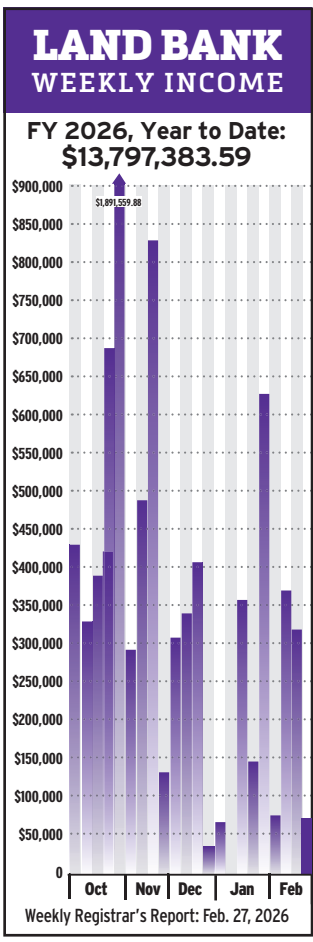
Offered \$1,149,000
Exclusively by: Marilyn Moses | REALTOR®
 617-462-0381 | marilyn@oceanparkmv.com

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YOU CAN AFFORD TO BUILD ON MARTHA'S VINEYARD

Save 1/3 off convention 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



Island news daily

MYTimes

THE minute

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SALE PENDING
\$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.

MYTimes

Real Estate Transactions Feb. 16 - 27, 2026

Edgartown

- Feb. 19,** Osbourne51 LLC sold 131 North Water St. Osborne Cottage and O Harbor View Hotel Condo Suite 51 to Osbourne Realty LLC for \$1,987,500.
- Feb. 19,** North Water Street Corp. sold 37 Main St. to Joseph V. Amato and Lisa M. Amato for \$2,800,000.
- Feb. 19,** John C. Blake sold 76 Norton Orchard Road to Middle Road Partners LLC for \$1,450,000.
- Feb. 20,** Sean D. Ready and Erin B. Ready sold 28 Marthas Road to Osbourne51 LLC for \$2,475,000.
- Feb. 25,** Gregory Knapp and Angela Knapp sold 10 Dory Circle to Paulo Muniz and Adrianna Deoliveira Khouri for \$1,510,000.
- Feb. 27,** Christina M. Seiler sold 32 Flamingo Drive to Nick Emmanuel Noel and Carrie Matthews Noel for \$1,817,500.

Oak Bluffs

Feb. 20, John A. Kotsopoulos sold 13 Wayland Ave. to Timothy Charles Hanna for \$1,600,000.

Tisbury

Feb. 18, Barkay386 LLC sold 386 State Road to Steere Realty LLC for \$1,500,000.

West Tisbury

- Feb. 19,** Marc J. Fleischmann and Shelley Einbinder-Fleischmann sold 97 Longview Road to Thomas J. Rapone, trustee of Lambert's Cove Holdings Nominee Trust, for \$4,150,000.
- Feb. 26,** Candace Brooks McGuire sold 34 Pine Lane to Samuel R. Carolan and Julia C. Scully for \$1,075,000.

Real Estate

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 banded 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!

HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS



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 OAK BLUFFS SENGEKONTACKET \$1,995,000 CALL OR TEXT JAYNE ISFORD 203-962-4317

This delightful home is on a scenic lot nestled within the Sengokontacket Association. Every room in the home is filled with natural light and beautiful views. It is a very short walking distance to the community boat dock and kayaking, as well as the walking trails of Sengokontacket. Updated in 2008 by the architect owner, this home has 3 bedrooms in the main house and a lovely bedroom and bathroom in the studio that is attached to the main home by a stunning overhead trumpet walkway. Cathedral ceilings in the main family room and kitchen with light from every angle. The renovated kitchen, living room and addition of a screened porch complete the main floor of the home. The lower level of the home has 3 sets of sliding glass doors that walk out to the gardens. There are 2 large bedrooms, one full bathroom and a separate washer and dryer room. The top floor has a completely updated and very large master and ensuite with lovely views of the property and surrounding woodlands. This property has an intimate feel because of the care taken with the design but also allows for everyone to have their own private space for relaxation due to the large square footage and open floor plan. There is also an outdoor fire pit and large wrap around deck off of the main floor. Solar panels on the main home. Family members and friends leave after their visits to 26 Box Turtle each year saying, "When can we come back". A special home in a special location. The Sengokontacket Association has an active group of pickleball and tennis residents who will welcome you on the courts. Owners will offer a 1997 Island Jeep Wrangler to be included in the sale of this property with roughly 55,000 mileages.

HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS



SOLD 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.

HOUSES-VINEYARD HAVEN



SOLD \$2,400,000 Marilyn Moses 617-462-0381, Michael Schweikert 774-563-9112, Alan Schweikert 508-221-1708 15 Main Street Vineyard Haven \$2,900,000

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



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.



Legal Notices

LEGAL NOTICES EDGARTOWN

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EDGARTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION

On Wednesday, March 11, 2026 at 4:00 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 Joanne Gosser of Synergy MV, Inc. on behalf of Douglas & Catherine Halbert under the Edgartown Wetlands Protection Bylaw and the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act. The applicant is seeking a determination regarding the construction of a 282 sq ft (+/-) addition to an existing one story garage. The property is located at 35 North Neck Road (AP 18-28.2)

LEGAL NOTICES W. TISBURY

WEST TISBURY SELECT BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING SUBDIVISION APPEAL

On Wednesday, March 18, 2026, at 4:30 pm the Select Board, acting as the Subdivision Appeals Board will hold a public hearing at the TOWN HALL-2nd floor meeting room in per-

LEGAL NOTICES W. TISBURY

son and on zoom to act on an appeal to the Subdivision Appeals Board from Philip Murray on behalf of **Robert JC Murphy** seeking to APPEAL the Building Inspector's refusal to grant a building permit for **14 Pine Lane, Map 10 Lot 268** (also known as "Lot 14") in the RU district. In that determination dated January 29, 2025, the Building Inspector stated he is not satisfied that the Planning Board's "recreation lot" designation has been satisfied or waived. Appellant further requests that the Board grant him something akin to a variance to allow Lot 14 to be improved with a single-family residence. The Appeal is made under M.G.L. c.41 §81Z **Interested parties are invited to send comments via email to: townadmin@westtisbury-ma.gov or mail comments to: Select Board, PO Box 278, West Tisbury, MA 02575. Please call 508-696-0102 for information on the application. Join Zoom Meeting: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82197658463 Meeting ID: 821 9765 8463 Dial by your location +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)**

LEGAL NOTICES W. TISBURY

Join instructions https://us06web.zoom.us/join/82197658463/invitations?signature=wBQbNFI3hQFGPJqMH_ihYs3YoCOMj8etVb75tPCD-Y

WEST TISBURY ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On Thursday, March 12, 2026, at 5:30pm the ZBA will hold a public hearing at the TOWN HALL-2nd floor meeting room on an application from Adam Brailard of Prince Lobel Tye LLE on behalf of **T-Mobile Northeast LLC** and American Tower Company, to AMEND Special Permit 2012-19 and Special Permit 2021-32 granted Dec. 16, 2021, to extend the height of a monopole tower from 75' to 95' and place panel antennas and remote radio units on the tower as well as appurtenant equipment at the base of the tower, under Sections 8.8-2B4, 8.8-4, and 9.3-3 of the West Tisbury Zoning Bylaw at 21 New Ln., Map 31 Lot 48, in the RU district. **Interested parties are invited to send comments via email to: zba@westtisbury-ma.gov or mail comments to: Zoning Board of**

LEGAL NOTICES W. TISBURY

Appeals, PO Box 278, West Tisbury, MA 02575. Please call 508-696-0107 for information on the application.

WEST TISBURY ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On Thursday, March 12, 2026, at 5:45pm the ZBA will hold a public hearing at the TOWN HALL-2nd floor meeting room, on an application from **Jane Hawkes** to Amend Special Permit #2007-14. The applicant seeks, pursuant to Chapter 150 of the Acts of 2024 (the "Affordable Homes Act"), to remove the affordable housing restriction imposed as a condition of approval on the attached accessory apartment authorized by the Board on April 4, 2007, under Section 9.3-3 of the West Tisbury Zoning Bylaw, at **188 Vineyard Meadow Farms Road, Assessors' Map 37, Lot 26**, in the RU District. **Interested parties are invited to send comments via email to: zba@westtisbury-ma.gov or mail comments to: Zoning Board of Appeals, PO Box 278, West Tisbury, MA 02575. Please call 508-696-0107 for information on the application.**

BargainBox

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obituaries

Erin Geddis Cummings



Erin Geddis Cummings died peacefully on Feb. 24, 2026, at Martha's Vineyard Hospital, surrounded by her family. Her death was a result of stomach cancer, complicated by the effects of her childhood battle with cancer.

Erin was born in Summit, N.J., in 1957 to Donald Geddis and Mary Todd Everett. As a high school freshman she was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma. Even as a teenager, Erin faced her illness with courage, humor, and a fierce determination to survive — qualities that defined the rest of her life. However, the treatments used to save her life had long-term effects on her health.

After graduating from Summit High School in 1975, she earned a degree in chemistry from the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester in 1979. As a premed student, Erin discovered that she was most fulfilled by connecting with patients and supporting them in their care. She earned a master's degree in social work from Simmons College, and focused her career on supporting patients and families navigating medical challenges.

Erin and her husband, Rich, started their family in Needham after adopting their first child, Elizabeth, from South Korea. They then moved to Natick and adopted Theodore, Claire, and Martin. They later lived in Sherborn and Concord before moving to Martha's Vineyard, in Oak Bluffs and Vineyard Haven. Erin poured herself into motherhood with love, warmth, and unwavering energy. She gave her time, her creativity, and her heart to everything — family, school, and community. Even while navigating ongoing health issues, Erin lived actively and fully, driven by a deep appreciation for life.

In addition to being a devoted mother, Erin had many interests and hobbies. She loved to paint and write. She rode and cared for horses, and was a dedicated volunteer at Lovelane, a therapeutic riding center. A special passion of hers was running. She completed eight Boston and New York

City marathons, raising significant funds for pediatric cancer research as part of Fred's Team.

After her children were grown, Erin turned her lived experience into advocacy. Connecting with other long-term cancer survivors, she saw how many people were struggling with the later effects of their treatment. In 2016, following the death of a close friend with whom she had shared the vision, Erin founded Hodgkin's International — organizing, fundraising, educating, and building a global community that now provides support and guidance to thousands of survivors worldwide.

In 2024, Erin realized a lifelong dream by hosting a national survivorship conference in Boston, which was a huge success in bringing together survivors and clinicians. Before cancer returned, she ensured her foundation's work would continue, with the next conference scheduled for October 2026 in Cincinnati.

Erin loved taking long walks with Rich, especially near the ocean. She found joy in nature — especially the sky, the clouds, the water, and flowers. She loved conversation and connection. She was warm, compassionate, and instantly welcoming — someone who made others feel seen and understood. Erin's strength and ability to love were constant, steady, and felt by everyone who knew her.

She is survived by her beloved husband, Rich; her children, Elizabeth and her husband John, Theodore, Claire, and Martin; her siblings, Kathleen McDonough, Deirdre Kennedy, Eileen Dexheimer, Christopher Geddis, Kevin Geddis, Megan Avitto, and Kathleen Ismail; and was predeceased by Clinton Everett and Patrick Everett. Erin was deeply loved, and she loved deeply in return.

Her family will hold a private service in the coming days, with a celebration of Erin's life to be announced later; details will be available at forevermissed.com/erin-cummings.

Jonas Miles Kumpitch



Jonas Miles Kumpitch, 54, of New York City and Chappaquiddick, passed away peacefully in

his sleep on Jan. 22, 2026, after a courageous battle with ALS.

Known for his dry humor, gentle presence, and steadfast curiosity about the world around him, Jonas lived a life defined by humor, intellect, and deep appreciation for both people and experiences.

Born on Jan. 28, 1971, at Yale New Haven Hospital, Jonas was raised in St. Croix, USVI, where he attended Good Hope School. He attended Eaglebrook School and Loomis Chaffee School, where he forged close friendships that continued throughout his life. He earned an undergraduate degree from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and an MBA from the Simon Business School.

As a senior manager at Deloitte, Jonas traveled the world, consulting with clients across a variety of industries. He realized his dream of working in media when he joined NBC Universal, and most recently Versant Media, where his insight and empathy earned him the respect of colleagues. Known for his calm demeanor, sharp wit, unwavering reliability, and mathematical mind, Jonas brought a quiet strength to every team and project he joined.

Jonas often lamented that he should have pursued standup comedy. In the style of Jackie Mason and Mel Brooks, his humor was self-deprecating, focused on the vagaries of everyday life. Living on the Upper West Side provided material around every street corner. Jonas reveled in creating an awkward situation, if only to amuse himself. His conversations were sprinkled with quotes from movies and politics. It was often difficult to keep up with his facile mind.

Jonas could be found most summer afternoons sailing his Marshall Sanderling catboat, Lulu, in the waters surrounding Edgartown. As ALS gradually robbed him of his ability to move about freely, he devised ever more creative ways to continue to sail. In what was to be his final summer, he lashed a shower chair to his inflatable dinghy.

Outside of his professional life, Jonas' passions spoke volumes about his character. His love of travel and exploration took him around the world many times, always eager to experience new cultures and cuisines; his travel and restaurant recommendations were legendary. He enjoyed perfecting recipes; clam pizza was his speciality.

Jonas faced the challenges of ALS with the same stoicism that characterized his entire life. He was never angry about his diagnosis, nor did he question why he was stricken; he accepted his fate with great bravery.

Though the disease took its toll physically, it never dimmed his wit, compassion, or perspective. Those who spent time with him in his final years were witnesses not only to his courage but also to his enduring belief in the beauty of living fully and authentically.

Jonas will be remembered for his sense of adventure, his thoughtfulness in conversation, his knack for finding irony in everyday moments, and his ability to make those around him feel seen and valued. His absence leaves a profound void in the lives of those fortunate enough to have known him.

A private memorial will be held in the spring. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to ALS Network, as there is currently no cure.

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

James Cleary Jr.

James Cleary Jr. ("Jay"), 73, a lifelong resident of Taunton, passed away on Feb. 10, 2026.

Born in Taunton to the late James and Joanne (White) Cleary on Oct. 16, 1952, Jay graduated from Taunton High School, and was a man of loyalty and tireless work ethic. He began working for Trucchi's Supermarkets as a teenager, and dedicated his entire 50-year career to the company, deeply valuing friendships he had there.

A devout Catholic and member of St. Jude the Apostle Parish, Jay served as a Eucharistic Minister, lived his Cursillo, and found strength in many spiritual retreats. His faith was the foundation of his character. He was always ready to help anyone at any time.

For Jay, family was No. 1. He was a constant presence in his children's lives, coaching youth hockey, baseball, and basketball. A longtime YMCA member, he shared his passion for fitness by training his children at the gym. He loved car rides down the Cape with his wife and children, and cherished summers visiting family on Martha's Vineyard. In his later years, his greatest joy was being Grampa and cheering on his grandchildren.

Beloved husband of Maryellen (Courcy) Cleary, he is survived by his children: Patrick Cleary and his wife Nicole, Jackie Cleary, and Peter Cleary and Christina Sawyer; and his two cherished grandchildren, Alana and Killian. He was the brother of Janice Cleary of Oregon, Jeffrey Cleary (Noreen), and Jerilyn Dube (Ray Rochon); uncle of James Cleary (Libby), Heather Sola, and Brian Dube, and nephew of Paula Driscoll, all of Oak Bluffs. He was pre-

ceded in death by his parents, and brother, Joseph Cleary of Oak Bluffs.

Jay visited the family cottage in the Campgrounds every summer from birth, and made many Island friends.

Beverly Jane Matthews



Beverly Jane (Shores) Matthews died peacefully on Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2026, at the Henrietta Brewer House in Vineyard Haven, with her close family by her side. She was preceded in death by the love of her life, her best friend and husband of 60 years, James Arthur ("Pete") Matthews Jr. Her family was comforted in her final moments by a few quiet chuckles, knowing full well that Pete was there with her; no one could make her laugh like him.

Forever a child of the spring, Bev was born April 13, 1939, and lived a life surrounded by blooms. She and Pete were avid gardeners, and they proudly showcased their green thumbs on the garden walking tour in their hometown of Whitman. Bev loved the smell of lavender, making dried flower arrangements, and watching the goldfinches visit her backyard. She raised three children, Donna, John, and Jimmy, and, some would argue, also her husband Pete, in Whitman.

Later, Bev and Pete would live in Punta Gorda, Fla., for a few years with other New England snowbirds before settling in Carver together until Pete's passing. Bev then joined her family on Martha's Vineyard after the pandemic, a spot she had loved visiting for decades to see her grandchildren, but begrudgingly accepted as "home" due to the absence of a Taco Bell on the island. ("You can't win 'em all," she would tell you.) She will be remembered fondly as a person with a soft spot for dogs, a desire to own every Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Fair T shirt in existence, and a voracious appetite for books.

Bev leaves behind her daughter and son-in-law, Donna and Warren Holmberg of Oak Bluffs; her son, James ("Jimmy") Matthews of Oak Bluffs; her son, John; granddaughter Jennifer, her husband Kyle, and their children, Alison and Jacob of

Oak Bluffs; granddaughter Michelle, her husband Michael, and their daughters, Maisie and Lucy of Acton; grandson David and his husband Leo, and bonus grandson Thiago of Edgartown; her sister Barbara; and her siblings-in-law, Wayne Matthews and Jayne Badore, and their loving families; as well as friends, caregivers, and neighbors. Her family wishes to extend special thanks to Sandy, Rachel, Nicole, Jay, and the other sweet souls at the Henrietta Brewer House, as well as Katherine at the M.V. Hospital — your compassion and kindness are appreciated more than you can know.

Per her wishes, there will be no funeral service. Instead, her family encourages you to have a glass of wine, watch whatever is on Ion television at this moment, and consider making a donation to Hospice & Palliative Care of Martha's Vineyard, 455 State Road, PMB 244, Vineyard Haven, MA 02568.

Leo A. Willoughby

Leo A. Willoughby of Oak Bluffs died peacefully on Feb. 19, 2026, at the age of 68.

A full obituary will follow in another edition of this paper.

Leonard Donaroma

Michael Lyons and the Donaroma family announce there will be a celebration of life for Leonard Donaroma ("Lenny") on Sunday, March 8, from noon to 4 pm at the P.A. Club. All are welcome. Some food will be provided, but we are also asking that people bring some small, ready-to-serve snacks and desserts.

Frieda Rabinovitz

Frieda Rabinovitz of Chilmark died peacefully at home on March 2, 2026, at the age of 99.

A funeral service will be held at the Martha's Vineyard Hebrew Center on Sunday, March 8. For information on when the service is, call the Hebrew Center, or Chapman Funerals and Cremations. **MVF**

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: community@mvtimes.com

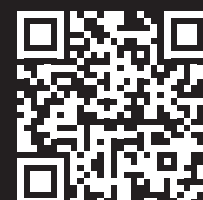
mail: PO Box 518
Vineyard Haven, MA
02568

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

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community & calendar

THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2026



The band Blue Yonder playing at the Portuguese-American Club.

Behind the band: BLUE YONDER

For nearly a decade, a band of locals has played on Island stages. **BY SARAH SHAW DAWSON**

Every project needs a spark, and only the truly nurtured ones keep on burning. For the local band Blue Yonder, that spark is a longtime musician, Rick O’Gorman, whose bandmates call him the glue of their group. Now nearly a decade into playing together, their love for the craft shines brightly, and they perform all year.

On Monday nights, the four musicians who make up Blue Yonder have a residency on the Portuguese-American Club stage. Islanders regularly go out to see them and dance enthusiastically to their covers of ageless tunes, such as “Crying Time,” by Buck Owens, “Walking After

Midnight,” by Patsy Cline, and “Cathy’s Clown,” by the Everly Brothers. O’Gorman is the front person, on vocals and acoustic guitar. He’s also a busker in downtown Oak Bluffs during the summers, and is a steady presence at the Chilmark Potluck Jams, an off-season



Jim Orr plays the lap steel guitar.

PHOTOS: SARAH SHAW DAWSON

event run by Alex Karalekas that features local musicians. “I’ve been knocking on the musical door of Martha’s Vineyard since 1970,” O’Gorman said with a chuckle, right before a show last Monday. He radiates passion for music, and he’s dedicated much of his life to it. But outside of the sporadic jam sessions that occur at Island dinner parties and social gatherings, O’Gorman played alone. At least until 15 years ago, when he met George Davis, and the pair started playing Americana and blues covers together informally. Davis, a clerk at the Dukes County Courthouse, plays the electric guitar. “Rick is like a walking jukebox,” Davis said as he glanced at his bandmate with a smile. “A lot of how we got started was just filling in around him.” A few years later, while they were working on their sound and collaborating with other Island musicians, they met Jessie Leaman, who had just moved to the Island, where she spent summers for most of her life, from Brooklyn, N.Y. Their band was beginning to form. “We were just jamming. We weren’t really playing out or anything,” Leaman recalled. A bass player, vocalist, and copy editor at The Martha’s Vineyard Times, Leaman was described by the duo as a grounding

Continued on p.12



DENA PORTER

Behind the band: **BLUE YONDER**

George Davis, Rick O'Gorman,
Jessie Leaman, and Jim Orr
of the Blue Yonder band.

Continued from p.12

force, for both her personality and the resonant notes of her instrument. It wasn't long until the trio got in a groove and decided to take to the stage. They brought in a friend who played pedal steel guitar, which added a soulful, country twang. After that person moved off the Island, however, they found a steady replacement in Jim Orr.

"I bribed George to let me into the band," Orr joked.

Orr had just purchased a lap steel guitar at Island Music, where he worked until they closed their doors for good recently. When he joined the band, he was still figuring out his recent purchase.

"It was a great way to learn the lap steel," he said while O'Gorman and Davis set up on the stage behind him. "They were kind enough to let me sit in. And I just kept sitting in."

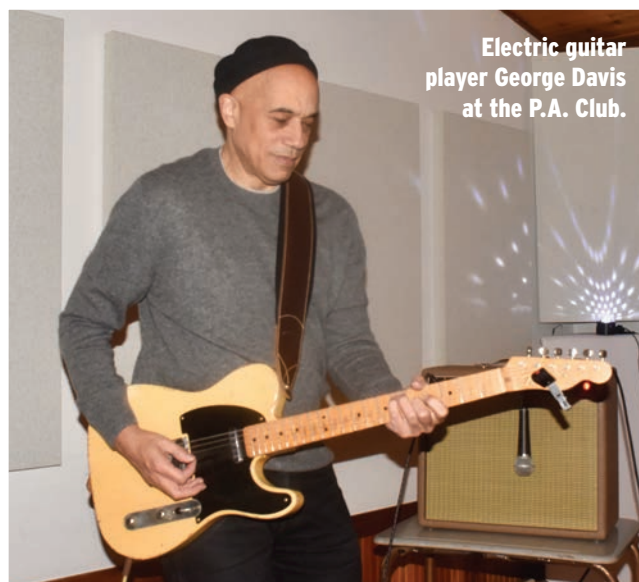
"We get a lot of practice here on Monday nights," Leaman added.

The name of the band, Blue Yonder, was coined by Leaman, who felt it fit them well. It's a little bit country, just like many of the songs they play, "and a little bit out there," said Leaman.

Leaman added that O'Gorman's cache of songs includes a lot of picks from the country genre.

"Rick throws some songs to the band that I would normally turn away from, and he makes them sound great," Leaman said. "He puts a different spin on them."

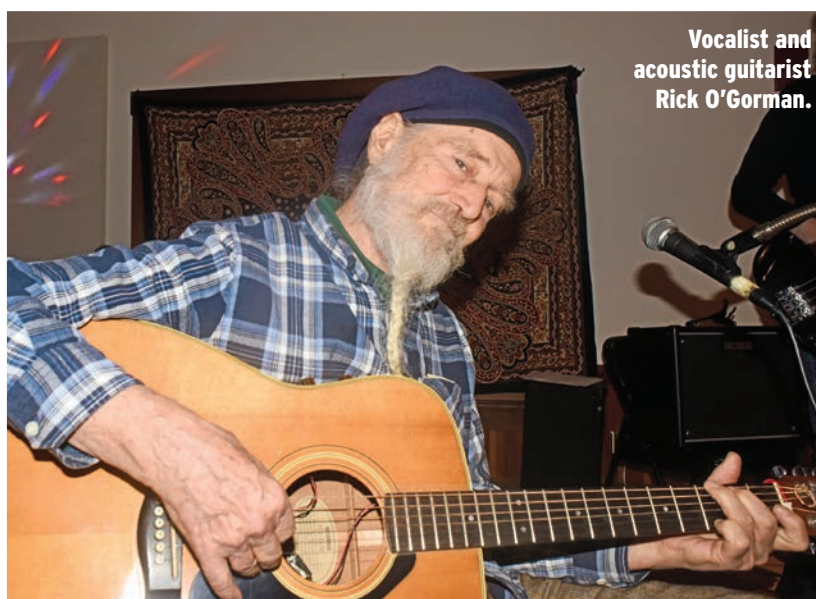
Their music is rooted in what some may call an "old-school" vibe of the Vineyard. But that energy never really left: Local bands like Blue Yonder have kept its spirit



Electric guitar
player George Davis
at the P.A. Club.



Jessie Leaman,
the bass player for
Blue Yonder.



Vocalist and
acoustic guitarist
Rick O'Gorman.



Jim Orr
on lap steel
guitar.

PHOTOS BY SARAH SHAW DAWSON, UNLESS NOTED

"Rick is like a walking jukebox. A lot of how we got started was just filling in around him."

-GEORGE DAVIS

alive. They have a loyal following of year-rounders, and their repertoire is geared toward upbeat, classic songs that are recognizable within the first few plucks of guitar strings on a faded acoustic. The band pulls from a variety of genres — rock, jazz, country, folk, reggae, and occasionally one of O'Gorman's originals. O'Gorman, Leaman, and Orr all sing lead and harmonize; local musicians are invited to sit in; and the crowd has a blast.

The band said they're extremely grateful to Charlene Alley, the manager at the P.A. Club, for bringing them back every week.

"We're extremely fortunate," Davis said. "It's done wonders for our cohesion, and just our general playing."

In the summers, Blue Yonder plays at a variety of other venues as well, like the Agricultural Fair, the Farmers Market, and other bars and restaurants. But in the off-season, the intimate, small-town comfortability is the fire that drives them forward. Their care for their listeners is second to only one thing: music.

"The Monday night scene is so nice, the way it feeds back with the audience," Leaman said. "It's all about the music." **MVT**

Wild Side

BY MATT PELIKAN



Inimical weather may not win after all.

Ready to fight

Well, that was interesting. The blizzard of Feb. 22–23 was not the worst one I’ve experienced in the 28 years I’ve lived on the Vineyard. But its intensity and impact put it on a very short list. Powerful winds raged for a full day, as gusts flirted with hurricane strength. Snow accumulation seemed to vary considerably with location, and drifting made snow depth hard to assess. But 18 or 20 inches seems like a fair overall guess, and it was wet, sticky stuff. Countless trees were downed or damaged, and I don’t even want to think what the beaches of Chappaquiddick must look like. Human impacts were, inevitably, severe. As I write this, hundreds of Islanders remain without power, and during the storm itself, nearly all of us experienced a taste of de-electrified life. In typical Vineyard fashion, everybody chipped in, checking on neighbors or digging out complete strangers. It’ll take awhile, but we’ll recover.

This column, though, inevitably asks the question of how wildlife fared. While the final word on that will be apparent only with time, I can tell you now that it’s a complicated question. No doubt many species experienced serious mortality, especially since this storm was merely a

semicolon (albeit in boldface type) in a run-on sentence of a nasty winter. But for other species, the snow was probably irrelevant, or possibly even a blessing.

Humans, of course, had the benefit of accurate weather forecasts, giving us a couple of days to prepare. Wild animals enjoy no such technology, though some kinds of animals do appear to be able to sense the approach of a storm. The key is the dropping barometric pressure associated with incoming bad weather, a physical change in the environment that at least some kinds of birds apparently respond to with hormonal changes. Experiencing the storm approach as stress, they feed vigorously and competitively, taking on extra calories that will help them survive cold temperatures and reduced food access due to snow cover.

A day or two before the storm, I enjoyed a flock of common grackles perched in a tall tree across the street from our Oak Bluffs home. Singing their hearts out (if you can call grackle squawks a song), these were individuals that had gambled. Moving north early, they were instinctively banking on the hope of arriving early on their breeding grounds, staking out the best territories before competing males and, especially, females arrived.

The risk for these birds, of



Risk-taking common grackles before the storm.



Sparrow: Tougher than it looks.

PHOTOS: MATHEW PELIKAN



Huron sachem: Expect reduced numbers in 2026.

For wildlife, impacts of the epic blizzard will be mixed. Yes, there will be enduring negative consequences for some species. But others were back to their usual routine even before we humans, with all our technology, had completed digging out.

course, is exactly what happened: running into a bout of inimical weather. I’m sure they all had second thoughts about their early-season travel, and it’s likely that some of them failed to survive the storm, succumbing to cold and starvation. But as I shoveled our driveway the morning after the storm, what flew over but a small flock of grackles! Whether guided by instinct, intelligence, or previous experience, those birds had found sufficient food and shelter to survive.

And it wasn’t just grackles. A few red-winged blackbirds, also risk-taking early migrants, sang from the top of a distant tree. Such behavior, expending energy on song and exposing the singer to possible predation, does not suggest precarious survival: These birds didn’t just survive the storm, they came out of it ready to fight.

Some resident or overwintering birds, as well,

emerged from the storm and simply resumed their late-winter routine. At least four song sparrows, year-round local residents for sure, surrounded me with descant accompaniment as I shoveled. A flock of American robins flew overhead, in direct flight and presumably headed toward some known resource. Two male cardinals retained enough moxie for a territorial squabble among the snow-laden branches of a cedar tree.

To be sure, there will be avian impacts from the storm. Marginally hardy species like the Carolina wren often exhibit serious diebacks after hard winters, or even extreme single events. Preferentially glean-ing insect eggs and larvae from leaf litter and twigs close to the ground, these spunky little birds find their main food sources inaccessible after a snowstorm. Barn owls, likewise, are notorious for suffering from the combination of cold, which stresses them, and snow cover, which conceals the voles and mice that constitute the vast majority of their prey. The coming year will likely reveal reduced numbers, perhaps approaching temporary extirpation, of these unfortunate residents.

For insects, the news is likely also mixed. But it is sustained cold that is likely to be the issue for invertebrates, not the amount of snow. Snow cover effectively insulates overwintering eggs, larvae, pupae, and adults, protecting against prolonged or extreme cold, and providing the relatively uniform conditions that are easiest for dormant invertebrates to deal with. A few cold-sensitive species will surely show effects; the Huron sachem butterfly, for example, a recent colonizer from the South, will likely show reduced abundance this coming season. But it will be prolonged cold, not the blizzard, that was the issue.

So for wildlife, impacts of the epic blizzard will be mixed. Yes, there will be enduring negative consequences for some species. But others were back to their usual routine even before we humans, with all our technology, had completed digging out. **MVT**



Martha's Vineyard

ARTS & IDEAS

An eye-catching magazine filled with art, photography, engaging articles and essays. A beautiful keepsake covering Vineyard arts and culture.

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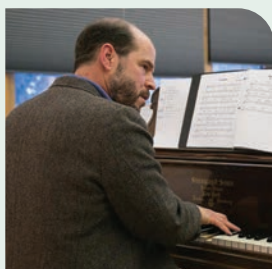
calendar

Event spotlight for the week of 3-5 - 3-12

THU 3/5

Jazz at Sweet Life with Jeremy Berlin

Enjoy good food, drinks, and the music of Jeremy Berlin every Thursday, as he plays jazz piano at Sweet Life, 6:30 to 8:30 pm. sweetlifemv.com, Sweet Life, 63 Circuit Ave., Oak Bluffs.



MV TIMES

'Oscar-Nominated Short Films: Live Action'

The M.V. Film Society presents the Oscar-nominated live-action short films. Catch "Butcher's Stain" (26 min.), "A Friend of Dorothy" (21 min.), "Jane Austen's Period Drama" (12 min.), "The Singers" (18 min.), and "Two People Exchanging Saliva" (36 min.), 7:30 pm. M.V. Film Center, 79 Beach Road, Vineyard Haven, mvfilmsociety.com.



FRI 3/6

Kid's music class

Do you have a budding musician at home? Bring them to the West Tisbury library for child-centered music time, led by Lydia Fischer. Instruments will be provided, but feel free to bring your own as well! Recommended for ages 0-5, open to all, 10:30 to 11 am. 1042 State Road, West Tisbury.



KID'S MUSIC CLASS AT THE WEST TISBURY LIBRARY

Music at Pathways Arts

This week's music evening at Pathways Arts features a solo performance by Erik Peterson, and a vocal jazz set by duo Darby Patterson and David Mintz. Doors open at 6:30 pm. Free, but donations are appreciated. Pathways Arts at the Chilmark Tavern, 9 State Road, Chilmark.



MV TIMES

SAT 3/7

'Cloisonné Enameling' course

Cloisonné involves designing with silver wire using transparent enamels on fine metals. In this three-class course, you will learn how to design and enamel a two-inch fine silver disk. Course dates are March 7, 14, and 21. \$165; 10 am to 1 pm. Register at featherstoneart.org. Featherstone Center for the Arts, 30 Featherstone Lane (off Barnes Road), Oak Bluffs.

MVRHS College Fair

The College Fair provides students, families, and adults looking to continue their education with a unique opportunity to explore higher education options, speak directly with admissions representatives, and begin building connections that will help guide their post-secondary plans. 11 am to 1 pm. Martha's Vineyard Regional High School gym, 100 Edgartown-Vineyard Haven Road, Oak Bluffs.

SUN 3/8

'Lent Together'

Join the Rev. Mary Leahy for prayer, ritual, sharing, and music in commemoration of the pre-Easter season. It is Catholic/Christian-based, but everyone is welcome to attend. From 9 to 10:30 am, Stillpoint, 20 Stillpoint Meadows Road, Vineyard Haven, stillpointmv.org.



MV TIMES

'Growing Beans and Peas'

This workshop with Ethan Buchanan-Valenti will start with an overview on growing, looking at different methods and practices, and focus on growing regeneratively. Discussion will include allium specifics, as well as sowing and growing to harvesting, serving, and storing. An open Q and A will conclude the class. Free, registration required, 1 to 2:30 pm. Beetlebung Farm, 410 Middle Road, Chilmark. Sign up at marthasvineyardagriculturalsociety.org.

MON 3/9

'Writers Read'

The West Tisbury library will host its monthly "Writers Read" evening. This event, led by Niki Patton, features community members reading short original prose pieces. Both fiction and nonfiction readings are welcome. Free and open to the public. Email Niki to be a reader or listener at this event: gaia1muse@gmail.com. From 7 to 8 pm, West Tisbury library, 1042 State Road.

'Core Stability, Strength, & Balance'

This is a dynamic full-body workout with Alyson Parker that is highly customizable for all ages and abilities. The focus of this class is core stabilization, strength, and balance, targeting all the major muscle groups and including some intermittent cardio as well. 8:30 to 9:30 am, \$20 for youth 14 to 17, and \$25 for adults. Free for club members. Airport Fitness, 24 Airport Road, West Tisbury.

TUES 3/10

'Basics of Silversmithing'

In this bracelet and ring class, participants will twist and manipulate wire to create either a triple-band design for a cuff, or use wire to design a braided or twisted ring design. \$95. From 3 to 6 pm, Featherstone Center for the Arts, 30 Featherstone Lane (off Barnes Road), Oak Bluffs, featherstoneart.org.



AARP free tax help

AARP certified and trained volunteers from the AARP Tax Aide Program, will be offering free income tax preparation assistance at the library for taxpayers, with a special emphasis on those 60 years and older.



WED 3/11

'Little Island Voices'

Bring your kids to a sensory-friendly, inclusive music circle for children ages 0-5 and their caregivers at the West Tisbury library. Through singing, gentle movement, and playful rhythm games, every child can make music in their own way. The sessions are led by the Disability Services Family Support Center program manager, Melissa Knowles. Free. 10 to 10:45 am. 1042 State Road, West Tisbury, westtisburylibrary.org/publiclibrary/calendar.



Soup Social

On these bitter cold days, nothing hits the spot quite like a bowl of warm soup. Head to Up-Island Council on Aging, and enjoy warm soup, while socializing with other community members. Free, at noon, Up-Island Council on Aging, 1042 State Road, West Tisbury. Contact Susan Merrill at coa-staff@westtisbury-ma.gov.



MV TIMES

THU 3/12

'Ukulele Jam'

The Ukulele Jam formed more than 10 years ago, with participants ranging any given week from eight to 30 in number. All ages and abilities are welcome. Brief instruction is provided, with the emphasis on strumming and having fun. The library has ukuleles that can be borrowed, or bring a guitar or banjo. Free. West Tisbury library, 1042 State Road.



MV TIMES

Poetry games for kids

Bring your kids to the Chilmark library for an afternoon of family-friendly poetry games and exercises. Local poet Donald Nitche will lead this class. Ideal for ages 8-plus, but all are welcome. Free, from 3 to 4 pm, 522 South Road, Chilmark.



Events

THURSDAY, MARCH 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, hyperflexible 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.

Little Island Voices

10-10:45 am, West Tisbury Library. Sensory-friendly, inclusive music circle for children ages 0-5 and their caregivers. Thursdays 10-10:45, WT Library 508-693-3366, hburbridge@clamsnet.org.

Children's Book Characters Scavenger Hunt

10 am-5:30 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Have fun while celebrating well known children's book characters. Find all the characters and get a small prize. For kids of all ages. 508-693-9433, mlynch@clamsnet.org.

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

'A Private Life' at the M.V. Film Center

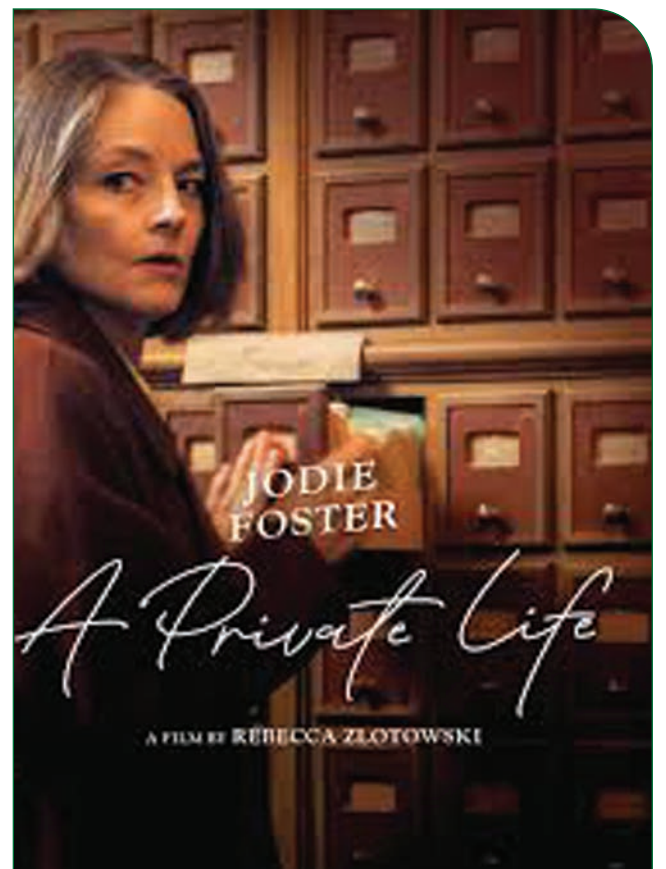
BY ABBY REMER

In Rebecca Zlotowski's new feature film, "A Private Life," screening at the Martha's Vineyard Film Center, we learn about multiple private lives. It opens with the short-tempered American psychiatrist Lilian (Jodie Foster), who has been living in Paris for a long time. She is methodically, with an exasperated air, preparing for her next client in her private home office. Aside from Lilian's occasional English curses, she, and thus Foster, conducts her life entirely in fluent French. A surprise visit from a client without an appointment annoys Lilian, but she takes him in. He is furious. He has been coming for countless years, hoping to stop smoking, to no avail. But he angrily tells Lilian that in a single visit to a hypnotist,

he's been cured, and so has come to terminate his and Lilian's work together. As he shuts the door, the phone rings. Another client's daughter tells Lilian that her mother, Paula (Virginie Efira), is dead. Lilian is bewildered, and when she shows up at the gathering for Paula, Paula's husband flies into a rage, inexplicably screaming at Lilian to get out. Walking away, Lilian dictates into her ever-present cassette recorder: "The husband's reaction is unexpected. Aggression toward me, redirected guilt toward the therapist, and unprocessed emotion." Lilian, ever the distant psychiatrist, goes through life emotionally removed. However, the next thing Lilian knows, she is crying tears she cannot control. They stream unbidden

down her face on the train, as she walks through the streets, and even when treating patients. Baffled because she purports to feel no emotion about the death of her patient, Lilian visits her ex-husband, Gaby (Daniel Auteuil), an ophthalmologist, convinced it is only because something is wrong with her eyes, only to find out they are fine. Even more mysterious is a visit from Paula's daughter, who tells Lilian that her mother died from suicide, using drugs that Lilian had prescribed. Lilian, shocked and unable to fathom why, is even more nonplussed when the daughter, urging Lilian to find out what happened, leaves her with a note from Paula containing what appears to be a secret message. The plot thickens when Lilian reluctantly seeks out the hypnotist to try to cure

her unending tears. Sceptically, Lilian agrees to the hypnotist's memory-based therapy session, which, through a dreamlike sequence, indicates Lilian had a past life with Paula during the German occupation in World War II. As Lilian becomes convinced that Paula was murdered, the film takes off into a twisting psychological thriller with a playful streak of comedy, revealing much more about Lilian's private life, as well as that of Paula and her husband. Interestingly, at one point, Lilian, in her search for the truth, says, "Psychologist. Knowing people's lives and secrets, without being able to act. Not being able to do anything." Yet that's not quite true. Lilian transforms as she learns more about herself by confronting her



"A Private Life" screens at the M.V. Film Center. For more information, visit mvfilmsociety.com.

most deeply held beliefs and the foundations of her personality — and Foster, captivatingly, in French no less, expresses every nuance of the journey. **MVT**

Continued from 14

Events

Room. Our knitters love to share their knowledge and beginners are welcome! 508-645-3360, chil.programs@gmail.com.
Virtual Writing Series: Writing a Mini-Memoir with Caroline Joy Adams
 2 pm, Vineyard Haven Public Library. Explore various writing topics and creative pathways in a supportive writing community led by creative writing coach Caroline Joy Adams. 508-696-4211, vhpl_programs@clamsnet.org.
Lego and Magnatle Club
 3-5 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Drop in anytime between 3 to 5pm. For kids ages 5-11. Duplos, original size Legos and Magna-tiles will be provided. 508-693-9433, mlynch@clamsnet.org.
Poetry Games for Kids
 3-4 pm, Chilmark Library. Kids poetry games and activities 508-645-3360, adubno@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, vhpl_programs@clamsnet.org.
'A PRIVATE LIFE' at the MV Film Center
 4 pm, MV Film Center, Vineyard Haven. A PRIVATE LIFE— at the MV Film Center 508-696-9369, mvfilmsociety.com.
Book Discussion - Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln
 4:30-5:30 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Book Discussion - Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln 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.
Common Thread Social Needlework Meetup (formerly Stitch Society)
 5-6 pm, West Tisbury Library. Thursdays from 5:00pm to 6:00pm, for the Common Thread: Social Needlework Meetup 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, 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.
Living with Chronic Illness: Support & Connection - Alpha-Gal
 5:15-6:15 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Living with Chronic Illness: Support & Connection - Alpha-Gal 508-693-9433, cphelan@clamsnet.org.
Pilates Flow with Camille Beauzile
 5:30-6:30 pm, Stillpoint, West Tisbury. This upbeat Pilates class blends preventative medicine, mind-over-matter focus, and joyful movement info@stillpointmv.org.
Fourth Amendment Business Training
 6-7:30 pm, West Tisbury Library. Learn your rights if federal agents enter your workplace. 508-693-3366, mv4aProject@Proton.me.
Brazilian Portuguese for Beginners
 6-8 pm, Haven, Vineyard Haven. Learn the essentials for everyday conversation. info@acemv.org.
Jazz at Sweet Life with Jeremy Berlin
 6:30-8:30 pm, Sweet Life, Oak Bluffs. Jeremy Berlin plays jazz piano every Thursday at the Sweet Life starting at 6:30 617-835-3756, emhaggerty@gmail.com.
'Oscar-Nominated Short Films: LIVE ACTION.' at the MV Film Center
 7:30 pm, MV Film Center, Vineyard Haven. Oscar-Nominated Short Films: LIVE ACTION— at the MV Film Center 508-696-9369, mvfilmsociety.com.
Adult Board Game Night
 7:30-10 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Adults are welcome to join us at the Barn and Bowl Bistro for a variety of board games and socializing. 508-693-9433, cphelan@clamsnet.org.
Art Reception with Debbie Black
 Tisbury COA, Vineyard Haven. Debbie Black Art at the Tiz COA 508-696-4205, amcdonough@tisburyyma.gov

FRIDAY, MARCH 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.
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.
Turtle Time
 10 am-4 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Turtle Time! Biofacts, a story and a craft all about turtles. There will be turtles to touch! Program led by Josey from Felix Neck. Ages 4-8. 508-693-9433, mlynch@clamsnet.org.
Children's Book Characters Scavenger Hunt
 10 am-4:30 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Have fun while celebrating well known children's book characters. Find all the characters and get a small prize. For kids of all ages. 508-693-9433, mlynch@clamsnet.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.
Mini-Maker Craft Club
 10:30 am-2 pm, Edgartown Library. A different-themed craft will be offered every week, drop in and get creative! 508-627-4221, programs@edgartownlibrary.org.
Vineyard Haven Library Story Circle with Aria
 10:45 am, MV Family Center. 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, chilmarklibrarykids@gmail.com.
Hawaii's Pickle Lady: Live Pickling Demonstration & Tasting
 12:30-1:30 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Hawaii's Pickle Lady: Live Pickling Demonstration & Tasting 508-693-9433, cphelan@clamsnet.org.
Tai Chi with Shaka Fridays
 1-2 pm, Tisbury COA, Vineyard Haven. Tiz COA Tai Chi Mondays at 8:15AM and Fridays at 1PM 508-696-4205, amcdonough@tisburyyma.gov.
Memory Training - MV Center for Living
 2-4 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Memory Training - MV Center for Living 508-693-9433, cphelan@clamsnet.org.
Rose Coloured Glasses Concert
 3-4 pm, West Tisbury Library. Spanning genres from rock, jazz, pop, country, to deep cuts and hits, Rose Coloured Glasses presents a show that will have something for everyone. 508-693-3366, vt_mail@clamsnet.org.
Nerf Battle at the Library!
 5-7 pm, West Tisbury Library. After hours NERF Battle at the West Tisbury Library. Ages 11-17, Friday 3/6 5-7pm REGISTRATION REQUIRED. 508-693-3366, lhearn@clamsnet.org.
'Tom Maley: Dancing in the Field' Exhibition Opening Reception
 5:30-7 pm, Martha's Vineyard Museum, Vineyard Haven. Opening reception honoring Vineyard artist Tom Maley, featuring sculptures, paintings, photographs, wine, and community celebration. 508-627-4441, events@mvmuseum.org.
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.
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. tbdimprovmv@gmail.com.
Music Series: Erik Peterson & Darby Patterson / David Mintz
 7-9 pm, Pathways Arts at The Chilmark Tavern. Vocal Jazz renditions by duo Darby Patterson and David Mintz. Original music by Vocalist, Pianist, Producer Erik Peterson 508-645-9098, tanya4pathways@gmail.com.

SATURDAY, MARCH 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.
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.
Hoisting 2A/1C License Prep Course
 9 am-3 pm, VTA, Edgartown. 6 hour class to give the applicant information to pass the state hoisting exam info@acemv.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, vsonnenthal@gmail.com.

Children's Book Characters Scavenger Hunt
 10 am-3:30 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Have fun while celebrating well known children's book characters. Find all the characters and get a small prize. For kids of all ages. 508-693-9433, mlynch@clamsnet.org.
Three-Week Cloisonné Enameling Course
 10 am-1 pm, Featherstone Center for the Arts, Oak Bluffs. Join us for a three-week course and learn how to design and enamel with silver! 508-693-1850, featherstone@featherstoneart.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! 508-693-9433, mlynch@clamsnet.org.

For events for the full week scan code or visit mvtimes.com/things-to-do

MARTHA'S VINEYARD film society	
The MV Film Society • Now celebrating 28 years • 1999-2026	
Thurs 3/5	A PRIVATE LIFE OSCAR-NOMINATED SHORT FILMS: LIVE ACTION 4:00 PM 7:30 PM
Fri 3/6	OSCAR-NOMINATED SHORT FILMS: 4:00 PM DOCUMENTARY 7:30 PM SIRAT
Sat 3/7	A PRIVATE LIFE 1:00 PM OSCAR-NOMINATED SHORT FILMS: 4:00 PM DOCUMENTARY 7:30 PM SIRAT
Sun 3/8	SHORT FILMS: ANIMATION 1:00 PM SIRAT 4:00 PM A PRIVATE LIFE 7:30 PM
MON & TUES, MARCH, 9 & 10 - FILM CENTER IS CLOSED -	
Wed 3/11	SIRAT 7:30 PM
Thurs 3/12	A PRIVATE LIFE 4:00 PM OSCAR-NOMINATED SHORT FILMS: 7:30 PM LIVE ACTION
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	

Ca Phe

Vietnamese coffee, and how to make it at home.

BY ELLA MUNNELLY



1. A coffee stand in Ho Chi Minh.

2. Iced milk coffee served at a roadside stand in Hoi An.

3. Iced milk coffee in Ho Chi Minh.

4. Egg coffee in Ho Chi Minh.



PHOTOS: ELLA MUNNELLY

After a monumental blizzard whipped the Island, the drifts and icy roads are conducive to hanging up your keys and staying indoors. For coffee enthusiasts stuck sitting in their homes watching the icicles drip from the gutters, do not fret: You

can make a delicious and unique cup of joe to keep you cozy as the snow melts. Vietnam has a storied history with coffee. The beverage was first introduced to the country by French colonists and missionaries, but its success is credited to Vietnamese laborers who cultivated the robusta bean after the Vietnam War, or, depending on whom you're

asking, the American War.

In an effort to climb out of extreme poverty after the war ended in 1975, Vietnam turned toward the coffee industry. With the postwar boom in coffee production, the industry became a pathway to recovery, and helped to rebuild the country's economy. By the early '90s, Vietnam was one of the world's top producers. Today, Vietnam is the world's second-largest coffee exporter after Brazil.

The robusta coffee bean is grown primarily in Vietnam, and flourishes in the Central Highlands and the south of the country. It brews an earthy and slightly bitter cup of coffee with twice the caffeine content of the typical arabica bean, which is more commonly found in South America.

In the 20th century, fresh milk was scarce and refrigeration limited. Creative alternatives including condensed milk, whipped egg yolk, and coconut cream became staples. The result was not substitution but invention, and the drinks born then are now cultural icons.

Often enjoyed on low red plastic stools along busy sidewalks, coffee in Vietnam is a record of everything the country has been through. Cafés across the country invite locals and travelers alike to linger over a sweet, creamy egg coffee or a bold, slow-dripped black brew, watching motorbikes buzz past. Luckily, you don't need a plane ticket to Saigon to experience it. Many of Vietnam's most beloved coffee drinks can be easily recreated at home.

White Coffee – Ca Phe Su'a

White coffee is traditionally made with aphin filter, which is a small metal brewing tool that sits atop a mug for a slow-drip process that produces a more concentrated coffee. This zero-waste process is the opposite of the instant Nespresso machine, and the patience required to make it becomes part of the joy of drinking it. Black coffee makes up two of the ingredients in this cup; however, a portion of the coffee is rapidly whipped, creating a foamy and light texture, and poured over the drink, adding volume and texture.

- 1.5 Tbsp. strong black coffee, whipped until creamy
- 3.5 Tbsp. strong black coffee
- 1.5 Tbsp. sweetened condensed milk
- ½ cup ice

Combine condensed milk and coffee in a glass over ice. Top with whipped coffee and stir.

Egg Coffee – Ca Phe Tru'ng

Egg coffee originated in the 1940s during the first Indo-

china war. It's said to have been created by a bartender in Hanoi, a city in the north of the country, who used egg yolk as a creamy alternative to milk. The egg yolk is whisked with sugar and condensed milk and poured over black coffee, creating an airy, custard-like cream that complements the rich brew.

- 1 egg yolk
- ⅓ tsp. vanilla
- 1 tsp. honey or rice wine
- 1.5 Tbsp. sweetened condensed milk
- 3.5 Tbsp. hot black coffee

Whisk egg yolk, vanilla, honey or rice wine, and condensed milk until thick and creamy. Pour hot coffee into a ceramic cup, then spoon the egg mixture over the top.

Salt Coffee

Robusta coffee is dark, and a pinch of salt folded into the thick cream on top softens the bitterness, making the layered drink taste almost like caramel.

- ⅓ tsp. salt
- 1.5 Tbsp. whipping cream
- 1.5 Tbsp. fresh milk
- 3.5 Tbsp. sweetened condensed milk
- 3.5 Tbsp. black coffee
- ice
- cocoa powder for garnish

Whisk salt, cream, and fresh milk until foamy. Pour condensed milk and coffee over ice, then top with salted foam. Dust with cocoa powder if that's how you like it.

Coconut Coffee

Although delicious, coconut coffee is not a drink you'll find someone having in the morning to start the day. Falling closer to a dessert, the drink, sometimes blended with ice, is perfect for a hot afternoon.

- 1.5 Tbsp. whipping cream
- 2 Tbsp. coconut cream
- 2 Tbsp. sweetened condensed milk
- ice
- 3.5 Tbsp. black coffee

Shake cream, coconut cream, condensed milk, and ice until chilled. Whip the coffee separately until frothy. Pour over the coconut mixture and serve.

From whipped-egg foam to salted cream to coconut sweetness, Vietnam's coffee drinks tell a story of creativity born from necessity. What began as improvisation has become a defining part of the country's culture, and a delicious one at that. So take out a carton of eggs and attempt to separate the yolk from the white, put some salt in your coffee, and if you have it in your pantry, add some coconut cream — try something you've never tried before. Who knows? It might become part of your morning ritual. **MVT**

Celebrating Our MVRHS Grads

Mark Bettencourt

A joyful life of local service.

BY MARGE HARRIS

I remember Mark Bettencourt as one of the most joyful, funny, and enthusiastic students I have ever known. He was a delight, and he still is. Mark appreciated high school "as a supportive and good experience, a real community." I remember that he was one of the students who traveled to Russia with Ben Kindzia and myself in 1987. What a trip that was for our Island kids, to visit Russia under Mikhail Gorbachev, who was trying to restructure the Russian economy to make it more like Europe. We even heard sounds of American jazz as we traveled about the cities. It was a trip that Mark would never forget.

After graduation, Mark went to the Franklin Institute in Boston. He studied basic practical electricity so he could get licensed. He worked with Jimmy Rogers at first, and later with his brother Paul, whom he still works with today, 35 years later! Mark wanted to stay on the Island and give back to the community that nurtured him. He is truly an Islander, who loves hunting, farming, and serving his town.

He originally volunteered on Engine 4 in Oak Bluffs, working with Denny Alley and Billy Norton. Years later, Denny didn't want to lose Mark, and tried to figure out a way to make an exemption to the town bylaws that say whatever town you live in is where you serve, so he could keep him on the O.B. Fire Department. However, Mark strongly believed in that bylaw, and when he and his wife, Becky (Cournoyer), moved to West Tisbury, he began volunteering for the West Tisbury Fire Department instead. Today, Mark and Becky still live in West Tisbury, with their three sons, on Becky's family farm, Meadowbrook, where they (Mark says mainly Becky) raise chickens, goats, and geese, and maintain a garden. Mark credits his wife Becky as the true Islander, with her Portuguese, French, and Scottish roots.

Mark loves living on Martha's Vineyard. Today, you can find him working full-time as an electrician and serving as captain of the West Tisbury Fire Department, because he truly believes in giving back. Thank you, Mark, for your strong values and consistency in service to our Island — but also, Mark, thanks for being such a joy! **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.

POET'S CORNER

Why We Live Here

By Donald Nitchie

We like to say a day without tennis is a waste, even in January when the balls barely bounce. We have to shovel off the court, and Lane wears snow gloves to hold on to his racket.

One time the owners showed up for a surprise winter visit — we skedaddled before they caught us, but not before we'd gotten in three sets, despite the sleet. Maybe not our best tennis, Lane said, but definitely our greatest escape.

Another time, after we were done playing, holding on to their deck railing as if it were ours, looking out over the million dollar view of salt marsh and surf beach, one of us said This is why we live here and we shared the moment. Though now that the caretaker's on to us, we need a new court. Thankfully there are more.

Donald Nitchie leads poetry drop-in meetings — group writing sessions — on Zoom once a month; check the Edgartown library schedule. His chapbook, "Driving Lessons," was published in 2008. He mostly plays on public courts.

Poets with a connection to Martha's Vineyard are encouraged to submit poems to m@mwest.com. Please also include a two- to three-sentence bio at the end of your poem.

the grapevine

March on Martha's Vineyard always feels like a beacon of hope, offering more sunlight and bringing the first day of spring. I have been searching for that reassuring feeling, but I think it must be buried somewhere under two feet of snow. I'd love to speak about the comfort of the off-season stillness, and the beauty of the frosty landscape, but I'd be lying if I didn't say that I am entirely sick of all of it. I think many of us are a little extra-fatigued by this winter, but the companionship of pets is one thing that consistently lights those darker days for many of us.

I know I am not alone in this community with my deep love for animals. I see it when the whole Island comes together when a pet goes missing. I frequently see through my work in event coordination — how important so many people find incorporating or memorializing their furry friends during their most memorable moments.

I spoke with Alex Schilcher of Alex's PetCare MV about his work in this field, and his unique background in both events and caring for animals.

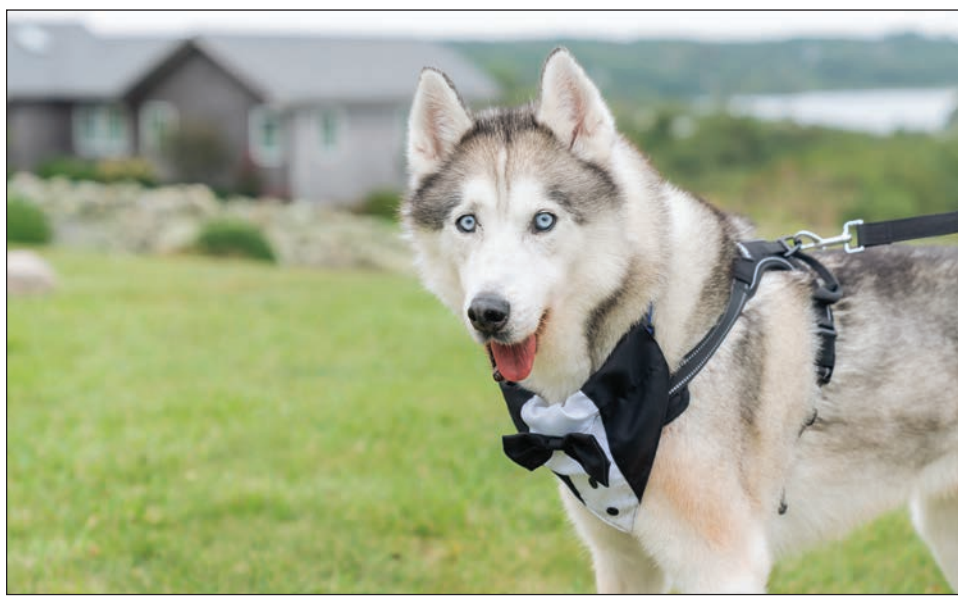
"I started Alex's PetCare MV with a unique perspective. For the past 30 years, I've been part of my family's catering company, V. Jaime Hamlin & Sons Catering, working as a chef and kitchen manager. Over the years, I've been part of thousands of weddings — many of which included, or even featured, the couple's beloved pets. I launched my pet-care company out of a true passion and love for our furry family members. I understand that on a couple's special day, they want to be sure their pets are well-cared-for so they can relax and enjoy every moment," Alex explained.

He went on to describe one of his favorite event pet stories: "A bride's dog had the important job of bringing the rings down the aisle. Everything was going beautifully, until the golden retriever decided to take off mid-ceremony, and couldn't be caught for 45 minutes! The delay set the wedding back by over an hour. Later that same night, the mischievous pup raided our catering tent, ate scraps off the floor, and, unfortunately, spent the next day sick at home. That experience

Bend in the Road Beach, near Cow Bay.



CHRIS CAJOLET



JENNA SYLVIA

Koda Bear Sylvia ready for his parents' wedding.

The ones who walk beside us

A reflection on loss, love, and how Vineyard celebrations make space for the animals.

BY JENNA SYLVIA

taught me one thing: It's best to have a professional handle your pets on the wedding day," he said.

My husband and I were lucky enough to have gotten pet help from Baylee Furtaw during our wedding day. She picked up my husky Koda and his little brother Doo-bie, dressed them in their tuxedos, and arrived just in time for them to help rid me of my pre-ceremony jitters. Then she walked them

down the aisle, and after the nuptials, safely back home to care for them for the night. It was incredible to be able to include them in that milestone, and equally as incredible to know they were in good hands so we could celebrate it.

I also spoke with Heather and Cay Mangione of Al Fresco Tails pet-care company. They specialize in dog walks, home stays, and wedding services.

"Having professional event-day care ensures those moments remain magical rather than chaotic, giving couples peace of mind while their pets enjoy a safe and happy guest appearance," Heather said.

"Al Fresco Tails wedding pet-care services are designed so couples can include their dogs without adding stress to an already busy day. We coordinate logistics, manage timing, and provide calm, dedicated care so each dog

can participate comfortably, whether that means walking down the aisle or simply being part of the photos," she added.

While I often call on these professionals when event pet-care is needed, I have also provided personal support to clients who wish to memorialize their furry loved ones during their weddings and events. This has looked like displaying photos, saving spots, or lighting a candle in honor of

my client's late pets. I believe deeply in the representation of this unique and pure love, and that holding space for grief is always important.

Last month, I lost my best friend. He was a four-legged friend, but deeply special to me and my family nonetheless. He was a husky too, so his passing indicated the loss of the only one in our family who thoroughly enjoyed this cold.

I could frame this entire article about my Koda Bear, and the incredible soul that he was. I could go on about the wonderful contrast in his personality between high emotional and general intelligence, and complete and utter lovable goofiness. I could talk about how he watched me and my husband grow up, and in many ways brought us together. I could reminisce about the (almost 14!) years he gave us, and the countless memories we shared. I could share how profound it is to hold your pet in your arms as they pass, and how a piece of your heart leaves with them too. But this isn't his eulogy, and like many of us, I am trying to pull myself out of this winter depression. So what I will do is talk about how getting to include him in my wedding was a memory I will cherish forever, and the personal and professional experience I have with integrating pets into events.

Animals remind us that joy is simple, presence is everything, and love does not need words to be deeply understood. On an island like Martha's Vineyard, where milestones are shaped as much by community as by scenery, it feels only right that the companions who walk beside us through ordinary days are included in our most extraordinary ones. Whether they are trotting proudly down an aisle, watching quietly from a framed photograph, or living on through the stories we tell, their presence grounds our celebrations and brings us together even more. As winter slowly loosens its grip and we move toward a new season of gatherings and events, I find comfort in knowing that love (of all kinds) never truly leaves the party. It simply changes form, lingering in memory, woven into tradition, and carried forward into every joyful moment still to come. **MVT**

Written in loving memory of Koda Bear Sylvia, and with gratitude for our animal-loving community

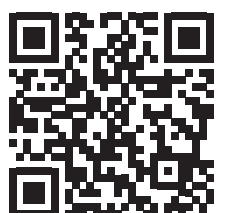
Whether they are trotting proudly down an aisle, watching quietly from a framed photograph, or living on through the stories we tell, our pets' presence grounds our celebrations and brings us together even more.



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



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TOWN COLUMN**Tisbury**

By Kay Mayhew
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Head on Main Street: Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach him how to fish, and he will sit in a boat and drink beer all day. Well, maybe not this week.

My favorite English cousin is enjoying life in Florida for the next month. She was complaining of heavy rainstorms at home in England. She told me they had “enjoyed” rain in England on every single day since January first this year, so was delighted to actually have a

few days with no rain at all. Not to mention the glorious warmth they are having.

I am so fortunate to enjoy my wonderful Island friends. One such just delivered fresh flowers and fresh hot clam chowder to me today. It is to celebrate my birthday, which happened last week amid the snow and all that stuff. It is now such a perfect time to count my blessings, and to enjoy something so very special and totally unexpected.

I'm not sure that I am ready for daylight saving

time, which starts on the second Sunday in March. That is this Sunday, but I am still coping with snow and early sunsets and all that other stuff. How could this happen? Anyway, spring ahead this Sunday, March 8, at 2 am local time.

I realize this is now Lent, but it just seems to have crept up on me. This is just not fair. I need a lot more time to prepare to even think of spring.

You are all invited to the Community Climate Discussion about “Ponds Under Pressure” at the Oak Bluffs library on Saturday, March 14, from 1:30 to 3 pm. Learn how much what we do on land affects our ponds, which are also especially sensitive to climate change.

The M.V. Film Center offers National Theatre Live, showing “Hamlet” on Sunday, March 15, at 1 pm. Olivier awardwinner Hiran

Abeyssekera (“Life of Pi”) is Hamlet in this fearless, contemporary take on Shakespeare's famous tragedy. Trapped between duty and doubt, surrounded by power and privilege, young Prince Hamlet dares to ask the ultimate question. Make a note to enjoy this.

Plan to find out “What's New at Martha's Vineyard Hospital?” at 6 pm on Tuesday, March 24, at the Cornell Theatre (above Tisbury

Town Hall). Professionals from the hospital will share information about some of the new services available, including a sleep studies service, an ambulatory pharmacy, and the new Community Health Improvement Plan.

Big bunches of happy birthday balloon wishes go out to Evan Kristal on Saturday. And on Sunday, wish the happiest to Michelle O'Donnell and Kasarah Bruni. Sorry you two lose an hour's sleep on your birthday. Maybe just go to bed early the next night.

Heard on Main Street: Before you criticize someone, you should walk a mile in their shoes. That way, when you criticize them, you're a mile away, and you also have their shoes. **MVT**

I'm not sure that I am ready for daylight saving time, which starts on the second Sunday in March. That is this Sunday, but I am still coping with snow and early sunsets and all that other stuff.

Edgartown

By Marnely Murray
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Checking in from somewhere in Oklahoma, and at this point you might think I'm missing home, but as I continue to see the snow-covered videos of Edgartown online, I'm not too excited to get back to it. Let me enjoy the trip through sunny Southern states until I have to make my way up to the Northeast, while we rejoice in the arrival of daylight savings this weekend.

On Friday, March 6, there are two happenings I want to

alert you to. First up, free ear piercings at Sea Legs. Grace, shop owner of Sea Legs, has this ongoing offering on Fridays for free ear piercings!

Pay only for the cost of the earrings (starting at \$25 per earring). Must be 18-plus, or have the signed consent of a parent or guardian. Sea Legs is located on 13 Dock St. And the second happening is a “Free Posture and Movement Screening” at Vineyard Complementary Medicine. They describe it as a session all about helping you move more comfortably and with less pain, improving posture

and overall movement quality using expert physical therapy and movement-screening techniques that focus on real function and everyday ease. Whether you're dealing with stiffness, chronic pain, tension, or just want to feel stronger and more confident in your body, this free screening gives you personalized insights and movement support you'll notice immediately. You

must reserve a spot to join, at vcmtpt.janeapp.com.

Nothing says daylight savings more than getting your hands in the dirt, and Donaroma's Nursery is helping you do just that, with its succulent planters class (\$95, includes succulent plant to take home) on March 7 at 1 pm. You'll join garden pros Iris and Sue, design a long-lasting planter, and learn the basics of watering, light, soil, and ongoing care for easy indoor gardening. Contact them directly at amy@donaromas.com, or call 508-627-8366 to sign up.

Another fun class you can sign up for is “Inkle Weaving” (\$55) at Slough Farm, also on March 7, but this one runs from 10 am to 4 pm, with lunch provided by Chef Charlie. This style of band weaving

allows the weaver to make interesting patterns that are remarkably easy. Inkle looms are a low-infrastructure way to start weaving, portable and fun. You'll weave colorfully patterned bands that will be perfect for belts, straps, or simply to hang on the wall. And you'll get to weave with a new batch of colorful yarn from Slough's flock of Tunis sheep! Sign up online at sloughfarm.org.

I won't lie — it's not the easiest to write a town column about a town you've been away from for more than a month. I know so many of my friends have struggled with losing power, heat, and access to everyday things; to all of you still dealing with the aftereffects of the blizzard, I send you strength. Spring is near. **MVT**

Nothing says daylight savings more than getting your hands in the dirt, and Donaroma's Nursery is helping you do just that, with its succulent planters class (\$95, includes succulent plant to take home) on March 7 at 1 pm.

Oak Bluffs

By Joanne Lambert
joannelamber@gmail.com

“I can calculate the motion of heavenly bodies, but not the madness of people.”

—Sir Isaac Newton

Hey, March is Women's History Month! This started with International Women's Day, which was designated

as March 8 back in the early 1900s. It has been recognized as a monthlong focus in the U.S. since 1987. I just wish it translated into more women in power, which has been one step forward, two steps back for too many years.

Daylight savings time begins this weekend! Set your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, March 7. Then enjoy the later sunset on Sunday! This change is the one that affects us the most, disrupting sleep cycles. It will be dark in the morning for the early risers, but the added light in the evening definitely seems to cheer everyone up (after they recover

from the sleep deprivation).

Also on Saturday, Pat Law and ESP are back at the P.A. Club on March 7. Bring your friends from 6 to 9ish to listen and dance to Pat, Merrily Fenner, Christine McLean, and Chris Seidel as they play your favorite tunes. Mo's Lunch is taking a break, but you can bring your own snacks, and get drinks at the bar.

News from our own beautiful and expanding YMCA: The annual figure skating show is this weekend, March 6 and 7. The show is “Skating on an Edge,” featuring the skills and talents of our fantastic young skaters. The shows are at 6 pm on Friday,

and 1 pm on Saturday.

The arena will then be closing as it usually does, on March 13. This year, the arena is going to become the fitness center, as the Y Wellness floor will be moving over to the Arena so that the renovation construction can move into the next phase. The pool will also be closing. Check ymcamv.org for info and scheduling changes during the next few months.

If you want to get in the mood for spring, head over to the Vineyard Greenhouse on New York Ave. It is time to renew memberships and help get the beds ready and planted for spring. Volunteer

hours are Wednesdays from 10-2. Remember, as a member you get discounted pricing on everything throughout the year. This winter, they have been harvesting herbs, lettuce, Swiss chard, and arugula. For more information on how you can help the team keep this community treasure thriving, check out marthasvineyardgreenhouse.org.

March 7 is the day to celebrate two of my favorite ladies, Leslie Frizzell and Martha MacGillivray, and to shout birthday greetings across the sound to Lynne Roderick. March 9 brings birthday hugs for some more very cool ladies: Sue Dawson, Linda LaBell, Shannon Rynd-Ray, and Kim Wright Jones. Vicki Ben David White celebrates on March 10, which happens to be the birthday of Harriet Tubman as well. Happy birthday to Laurel's mom, Sandra Redington, on the 11th!

Send me your news! **MVT**

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS**Oliver Reid Paulson**

Jocelyn Paulson and Tyler Paulson of Vineyard Haven announce the birth of a son, Oliver Reid Paulson, on Feb. 25, 2026, at Martha's Vineyard Hospital. Oliver weighed 7 pounds, 6.5 ounces.

Matheus Silveira Oliveira

Ana Paula Oliveira and Carlos Eduardo Oliveira of Oak Bluffs announce the birth of a son, Matheus Silveira Oliveira, on Feb. 26, 2026, at Martha's Vineyard Hospital. Matheus weighed 7 pounds, 11.5 ounces.

News from our own beautiful and expanding YMCA: The annual figure skating show is this weekend, March 6 and 7. The show is “Skating on an Edge.”

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

Aquinnah



By Kathie Olsen

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In so many ways, Aquinnah came through the big storm comparatively easily. Few of us lost power. At our house, we not only had electricity, we had internet. We couldn't make or receive phone calls, but we sent and received texts. We were warm and safe. We didn't lose any of our big trees. I am profoundly grateful that we were spared in these ways. Like the rest of the Island, however, Aquinnah folks were left with huge piles and drifts of snow. For days, many were unable to leave their houses even if they dug out their driveways, because piles of snow from the big street plows had left them blocked in. Many were unable to dig out their

driveways at all. Meanwhile, throughout the night and for five days afterward, those with plows of any sort were doing what they could. Our son-in-law, Isaac Taylor, was one of these heroes. He worked from 4:30 or 5 in the morning until 6 at night. He came home wet and exhausted, shaking his

head with worry about his equipment and about the folks he had not yet been able to reach. His trucks and a ditch witch, even an ATV, were all called into duty, fell apart one by one, and mostly got patched back together bit by bit in the early morning dark. He cut and hauled downed trees for people. He pulled a propane truck out of a ditch where it lay against a tree (no injuries reported, as far as we know). He plowed and plowed and plowed, and tried to get to everyone on his list and to everyone whose emergencies came to him. I know that he

was only one of hundreds all over the Cape and the islands who were giving everything they had to help, but he was ours. A hero. Up here in Aquinnah, even in normal times, it is a schlep to get to the next town down-Island. Given that State Road is our connector, and that it is a two-lane, winding highway that passes over Herring Creek, our former emergency management director had always warned us that we should be prepared to be cut off from services for as long as three days. We came close this time. Roads were dangerous during

this storm, and we were instructed to stay off them. Going to a shelter in West Tisbury would have been simply impossible for at least the first 24 hours, and still dangerous during the second. Our town needs to develop an emergency plan, so we are prepared for whatever comes at us next. We have a good start that was developed by Aquinnah CERT. Let's build on that now. As the ice melts, we will again be doing our outdoor stuff, and the ticks are a-waiting. On Thursday, March 12, at 4 pm, the Aquinnah library is sponsoring a talk by Patrick Roden-Reynolds, director of the Martha's Vineyard Tick Program. This talk is focused on important prevention tactics to help keep you safe. Cleverly titled a "Tick Talk," this is hoped to be the first of several informative tick-related events at the library. The library is also hosting

a talk by Shelley Edmundson of the M.V. Fishermen's Preservation Trust, and our own striped bass fisherman Buddy Vanderhoop. This event, to be held on Saturday, March 14, at 3 pm, is to celebrate the release of "The Sea Table," a cookbook featuring beautiful photography, stories from the fishermen who bring the ocean's bounty to our tables, and local recipes. Meanwhile, make your signs. Write to your legislators. Phone the White House. Say your prayers. Do whatever you can to try to stop this war. My heart breaks and my fury rises to think of yet another terrified populace, another ruined country, another set of our servicemen and -women in peril. We have been here before. We know what results, and how long those results last. We must stop this. Birthday greetings this week go to Reed Vanderhoop on March 7, and to Lisa Vanderhoop and Ken Wentworth on March 13. **MVT**

Throughout the night and for five days afterward, those with plows of any sort were doing what they could. Our son-in-law, Isaac Taylor, was one of these heroes. He worked from 4:30 or 5 in the morning until 6 at night.

Chilmark



By Claire Ganz

cganz@live.com

The heavy snow and high winds brought down trees, and telephone and power lines, making safety a priority. The driveway was filled with the branches of holly trees, andromeda, pepper bush, and blueberry, bent and buried under snow the consistency and weight of wet cement. Thank you, Jennelle Gadowski, Iona Matell, Sharon Brown, and Jennie Gadowski for opening a warming center at the West Tisbury library. The opportunity to have conversations to think through the list of problems

and resources while enjoying a remarkably delicious warmed-in-the-microwave, Island-grown meal, and recharging my cellphone and chainsaw batteries was invaluable. Keeping the wood stove going to prevent pipes from freezing. A dog was too short to manage the walk through the snow, and too big for me to carry the distance. It was beautiful, and the exercise was wonderful. Thank you to all who worked to open the roads and paths. Thank you to Randy Ben David for his tractor with plow, and to

Mark Clements and his team for clearing trees that fell across the driveway and on power lines. Thank you to Jarret Brissette and his crew for having equipment that moved on treads over the snow, and sent out sturdy legs like something you would find on the moon, and a bucket the electrician rides up to fix and attach power lines to the tops of the poles. Thank you to the linemen from Eversource who worked late, hiked through the snow to double-check that the line was clear, and turned on the power before

11 pm on Friday. The Offerings of Music and Light at the Chilmark Community Church honored Warren Doty while he and his wife Nan listened via Zoom. Warren is at home, continuing with hospice. Merrily Fenner, Danny Whiting, and Mark Maizer, remaining members of the Stragglers, opened with Buck Owen's "Act Naturally," followed by Danny singing "Back Home Again," and closing with "Gone with Last." Seán McMahon, a talented musician and songwriter we are lucky to have as music

minister, has just released a new album, "Hymns and Homilies." You can listen, download, and pay what you like, on bandcamp.com. We were sorry Violet Stanwick wasn't well, and wish her a complete and speedy recovery. Adele Dreyer played Grieg's "Notturmo," Op. 54 No. 4, "Skylark" by Hoagy Carmichael, and closed with "Over the Rainbow." Donald Nitchie brought us together with his poetry that so exquisitely captures Island life. Warren picked "The Waltz

of the Wind" as the opening for the Loon Lane Players (Jack Cushman, Warren Doty, Jack Cushman, Andy Goldman, and Chuck Hodgkinson). Warren's daughter Laura joined on the flute. They closed with Warren's favorite song, one Laura remembered he sang to her at bedtime, "Passing Through," by Dick Blakeslee. The chorus says, "Passing through, passing through/ Sometimes happy, sometimes blue/ Glad that I ran into you/ Tell the people that you saw me passing through." We are a community with friends and family around the world, and the war in the Middle East caught us unaware, including travelers who were flying home from vacation with a connecting flight in Dubai and are stuck there. May peace come soon. **MVT**

The driveway was filled with the branches of holly trees, andromeda, pepper bush, and blueberry, bent and buried under snow the consistency and weight of wet cement.

West Tisbury



By Hermine Hull

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Colors of the sky when I woke up:

- Monday: Our woods were a scale of grays, from the white snow coating wet-darkened tree branches, bending them to the ground.
- Tuesday: The bluest sky, bright sun, dripping as the sun hit and melted the accumulated snow.
- Wednesday: Variable. A gray-lavender-blue sky first thing, which quickly changed to white. More snow was expected, which changed

to rain later in the day. I guess I was distracted by something Thursday morning, and forgot to enter my impressions. They come daily, as they always have, years of watching the woods outside our windows. They are the sheltering cocoon

I live inside. I notice the smallest changes. As I write this column on Sunday morning, my woods stand between me and the war our government has started in our name. Three Americans already have been killed, along with Iranian school-children, the Supreme Leader of Iran and several members of his government, surely many unknown Iranian people simply living their lives, looking out at the views that sustained them, as I look out at mine.

All I can think of is what we have done in the past. "Weapons of mass destruction" was the reason given for our invasion of Iraq. A similar reason has been given for this incursion. It never ends well. Back to West Tisbury, a comment about last weekend's blizzard, about our town's preparedness, about how all of our emergency services served our town with professionalism and compassion. Special kudos to Jennelle Gadowski, who organized the warming center at the library. She got

food, cots, bedding, everything. Jennelle deserves a lot of credit for all her contributions to our town. She is a certified EMT, fireman, and emergency management director, and fabulous at all of her jobs. We are lucky to have her. Lucky to have Library Director Alexandra Pratt and the library staff, who have kept the library open for anyone who needed a

place to get warm during the storm. I can't imagine anything better than spending the night at the library, with books everywhere. This column is short, intentionally so. I hope it will fit in the tight space The Times has allotted for our columns to appear in print. I would like you to be able to read it in one piece, and not have to finish reading online. **MVT**

Special kudos to Jennelle Gadowski, who organized the warming center at the library. She got food, cots, bedding, everything.

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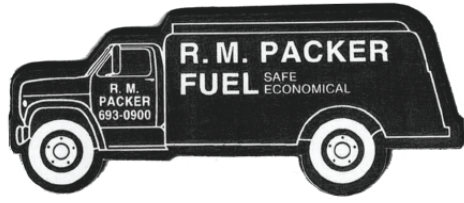
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'The Great Thaw'

Continued from 1

The snow piles may be dwindling, but memories of record snowfall, measuring nearly two feet up-Island, and the loss of power for some 10,000 Islanders, will not be disappearing anytime soon. State officials, meanwhile, are eyeing the possibility of declaring the aftermath of the fierce nor'easter a federal disaster, in hopes of qualifying for funding to assist in the cleanup.

The snowmelter operation was supported by the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), and conducted by New York-based North Country Snow and Ice Management and New Hampshire-based JSP Site Solutions, alongside personnel from Oak Bluffs and Tisbury.

The Trecon snowmelter was described by Michael Merrill, CEO of North Country, as a "tractor-trailer-size Jacuzzi" that melts snow with water heated to 33°F. Truckloads of snow and debris were brought to the site to be melted, ending up as a pile roughly 30 feet tall and a quarter-mile long. But the pile was too big for the company's loaders to safely start moving snow into the melter, so Oak Bluffs provided an excavator to crawl to the top of the snow mound. The process appears to have worked, as the 30-foot mountain of snow is gone.

"It's been really beneficial to us," Jennelle Gadowski, spokesperson for the Dukes County Emergency Management Association, said of the operation.

The Oak Bluffs excavator put snow into the tub of

heated water to be melted; the tub processed around 200 to 500 gallons of water per minute into the municipal storm drains. He also said there was a lot of water because it was "hard, compact snow."

The snowmelter ran near nonstop for 40 hours, Merrill said, and the Island had "relatively fresh snow," but there was some "organic sediment and pine boughs" that also went into the drainage system. And even though the machine ran on diesel almost constantly during the operation, Merrill said it was a better carbon footprint than having trucks moving back and forth to dump snow elsewhere.

"That pile would have been there until June," Merrill said. Following the weekend operation, the machine left the Island on Monday.

It is a longstanding tradition for Islanders to wager on when the big municipal snow piles will finally melt, but now all bets are off.

Any large solids mixed in with the snow, like road signs, temporary fencing, a shredded safety cone, and "a nice bike," were removed beforehand and given to the local public works departments to sort through.

Richard Combra, Oak Bluffs highway superintendent, said it was better to put the water through the municipal sewer system rather than dumping the snow into the harbor because of the debris. The snowmelter has a screen built into it to separate the larger pieces of debris from the melted snow. Combra said the snow mountain produced enough debris to fill three dump trucks.

He also highlighted the amount of work that remains with tree debris on every street.

"It was a real big challenge,"



A snowmelter was deployed to the Island as a part of the cleanup effort.

COURTESY NORTH COUNTRY SNOW AND ICE MANAGEMENT

Combra said. "We had a pretty big storm a few weeks prior, so that made it harder."

MEMA is currently assessing damage across Massachusetts to determine whether the state qualifies for federal disaster assistance.

The big mountain of snow may be gone, but the trenches of snow mixed with dirt and gravel pushed aside by plows and shovellers still line the Island's roads. At the bottom of these piles, frozen patches and shallow, slushy puddles meet the streets. And while many of the trees that blocked driveways and caused power lines to sag have been removed, bowed trees with broken branches, and the remains of upright trees with shattered trunks, are strewn across the Island. On some properties, the vegetation that hid homes from view has been stripped away.

The blizzard last week dumped at least 20 inches of heavy snow on the Island, and blew powerful gusts up to 71 mph, a combination of which led to power outages for more than 10,000 Islanders. The task of clearing the snow was tackled by the collective efforts of emergency responders, public works personnel,

and private contractors.

"It was a severe snow," Joseph LaCivita, Tisbury town administrator, said during a select board meeting on Friday.

Nicole Bilzerian, secretary and scheduler of Bilzerian Tree and Land in Vineyard Haven, said there's been a stream of people requesting tree and snow removal, sometimes 20 calls a day to the office. She highlighted that there was a lot of snow this time, so the plows had to be careful not to damage driveways. Bilzerian said tree management companies have been prioritizing the hazardous trees, like those leaning on homes or wires, before determining other arboreal debris to handle.

"They're out there every day," Bilzerian said of the company's crew.

Riley Dobel, owner of Tabor Tree Service, said he's been across the Island, and Oak Bluffs and Edgartown seem to have taken the worst of the damage. But while trees blocked roads, and hit some cars and houses, he said this was smaller property damage than some other storms he's cleaned up after. Dobel, who's done tree-service work for 13

years, recalled back-to-back nor'easters in 2018 that uprooted trees, especially pitch pines, and hit many houses.

Although it caused less property damage, Dobel said, the recent blizzard was still the highest amount of damaged trees he's seen. "I have never seen so much damage," he said. "This is the most destruction I've seen."

Now that the emergency work is done, Dobel said there's still cleanup to do on residential properties, particularly from pine trees and ornamental trees like Leyland cypresses, the "No. 1 driveway offender." But even after parts of trees have been cut down, more snow needs to melt so that crews can go in and clean and chip wood without getting equipment stuck. "It's difficult," he said.

While there is still a significant amount of work left, some contractors are looking forward to taking a break after the bulk of the critical debris has been cleared.

"I don't think many people have been resting much after the storm," Brian Beasley, owner of Martha's Vineyard Tree Care, said.

The blizzard even led some companies to add services.

Nicholas Peters, owner of Acme Excavation and Septic, said his company had cleared roughly 100 driveways since the blizzard. Acme normally doesn't clear driveways, "but people kept calling, so we had to keep up," Peters said. He said that was especially true for those who had no power.

The state is determined to get a handle on the extent of the damage as part of the process of qualifying for federal relief funds. Damage to private homes and businesses can be reported to MEMA's online survey, which will remain open through Friday, March 6. If you need assistance completing the form, want to submit information by phone, or need access in another language, call Mass 211, ext. 20, or 877-211-6277, ext. 20.

"Residents and business owners are strongly encouraged to document all storm-related damage with photographs and written records for insurance and potential federal assistance purposes," the release said.

Towns are currently reviewing the responses to the snow. While emergency responders have been applauded for their efforts, the Chilmark Select Board highlighted on Tuesday evening there was difficulty in determining whom to contact for certain tasks and that a post-storm plan was needed.

Dukes County officials have requested feedback from residents and business owners regarding the Island's "preparation, response, and recovery efforts" during the storm, which can be filed online. All answers will remain confidential, and be reviewed by local emergency management directors to improve planning and responsiveness in the future. **MVT**

Drone survey zeroing in on deer population

Continued from 1

program that White Buffalo uses takes all deer locations and determines "relative hot spots" across the Island, Jason Boulanger, head of research for the group, said. There could be micro-distribution changes, he said, seasonally, but because Martha's Vineyard is an island, the deer can only go so far. "It's a pretty safe bet that you'll be counting the deer that exist on the Island," he said. Tick Free MV plans to disseminate the report to the public.

This is important information in the eyes of those involved in Tick Free MV, established in December with the hope of reducing tick-borne diseases and allergies through a reduction of the number of ticks in the environment. But to do that, they have to target deer, one of the primary hosts of ticks. "I believe that our Islanders want as much information as possible to make informed decisions together," Virginia

Barbatti, executive director of Tick Free MV, said. It is a sentiment also shared by hunters who want to understand the extent of the problem here.

The drones are flown in a grid pattern, which Boulanger compared to a lawnmower: "You know, go forward and you turn around and you come back, you go forward, and you have this swath of freshly cut grass." It's the same concept for drone surveys. There are preprogrammed transects, a straight line or path used in a study, that the drone follows. When pilots see deer in an area, which is noticeable with a white heat signature on the controller from the thermal camera, then they can stop the drone and use the image-stabilizer camera to zoom in and out, and change angles, to investigate the area.

Then, as the pilot sees the deer in real-time, he can use the remote controller, which acts like an iPad that has

video-game-like toggles to steer, move, and zoom the camera, and the touch-sensitive screen to mark the location of a deer, which is then saved as a GPS waypoint. The pilots are trained in-house, and attend the latest drone technology conferences, and though they fly over people's homes, are skilled enough to focus only on the white signals of deer-size animals, which can be coyotes or dogs. Everything else is just noise, Boulanger noted about Islanders' concerns that the drones fly over people's homes. All sites, owned by the towns, tribe, and private landowners, were preapproved, and no identifiable images of people, faces, or homes are taken.



The quadcopter drone's controller, which uses infrared thermal technology.

ASTRID TILTON/TICK FREE MV

"What we're going to get, overall for the Island and all the different towns, is the actual locations of where deer were seen on that particular night," Boulanger said. These singular spots can be used together to determine overall density and hot spots.

White Buffalo works in areas where state wildlife agencies struggle to keep deer populations in check.

For decades, agencies utilized recreational hunting to manage the deer population, Boulanger said, but development and the expansion of suburbia created massive expanses of habitat perfect for white-tailed deer. "Deer don't prefer to be in the woods or the fields or in rural areas," Boulanger said. "They prefer to be in suburban environments, because there are few predators, and there's no hunting, and they're subsidized by all these wonderful ornamental plantings that they can feed off of."

This is where Boulanger said municipalities "run into trouble," and see an increase in vehicle collisions, tick-borne conditions, and damage to agriculture. In Massachusetts, and especially Martha's Vineyard, that's particularly true: As the Island becomes more

developed, there are virtually no predators, and laws for hunters are stricter here than in most of the country. There are, however, recent efforts to change that.

White Buffalo, a national organization that conducts conservation research, used to focus on sharpshooting efforts for deer management, but eventually expanded to nonlethal efforts, such as surgical sterilization of male deer through vasectomies, and oophorectomies for female deer. They also act as consultants for municipalities, and run focus groups and conduct internet and mail surveys in addition to the drone surveys.

The drone surveys are more popular now, Boulanger said. It was more than a decade ago that the last survey was conducted through traditional aircraft by the Martha's Vineyard boards of health. It found that there were roughly 50 deer per square mile, compared with 19 deer per square mile on the mainland. But this survey uses more advanced technology, Boulanger said. **MVT**

EXCLUSIVE Licensed childcare provider arrested for reckless endangerment

Continued from 1

Family Child Care Network coordinator, in a statement to The Times, said, "The licensing regulations are meant to provide a safety net that families can trust; in this case that trust was broken."

Longtime providers have also spoken up about new revelations around this ongoing case. "A licensed provider should have had enough background to know safety," said Donna Creighton of Children's Haven Family Preschool, which she has run out of her home for the past 36 years.

Creighton said she was shocked that a licensed provider had allegedly endangered children, and cited the extensive and necessary training that home-care hopefuls complete. "I would like people to know that there are trustworthy providers," she added.

A 2025 data collection by MVYouth, an Island grant organization, outlined an unmet need for infant and toddler care on the Island, with only 11 percent of the infant population and 33 percent of toddlers served by licensed providers. MVYouth found children ages 3 to 5 to be more adequately accounted for, with 83 percent in the care of a provider. There's a robust network of public schools in each town for children ages 5 and above.

Due to these considerations, new parents are advised to enter waitlists as soon as they find out they're pregnant. Before public school, the cost of care is substantial.

Some families turn to babysitters when they can't find a care center; some decide that the cost is so high that it would be more viable for one parent to quit working and stay home with the child; and many are relieved when they receive a call that their child has moved up on a waitlist and can finally be cared for by a professional.

The training for a childcare license is, according to local officials, rigorous, with random home checks. A background check and valid ID are required for licensure. Documents for licensure don't appear to require citizenship, and Cogill's immigration status is unknown.

Since her arrest on Oct. 21, Cogill seems to be hard to find. Her childcare license was pulled from a state portal that lists all providers, along with past reports, such as mandatory home checks by state officials and documents. She moved out of the space

where she operated her daycare, 48 West Tisbury Road in Edgartown, and the building was sold shortly afterward.

Data from MVYouth don't include Cogill's home daycare, or the effect of its closing.

At her former daycare, colorful stickers that spell out "All are Welcome" remain stuck to a door inside. Now that door opens to a single apartment. It's rented out to a person who said they had no knowledge of Cogill, or a former daycare. The tenant's landlord said he purchased the property on Jan. 13.

The outside of an apartment door at 48 West Tisbury Road in Edgartown, where the remnants of a daycare still linger.

"Someone told me it was a daycare, and I saw the paintings on the door," the current owner of the property, who asked to remain anonymous, said.

The incident with Cogill occurred on Oct. 21 of last year, when the Edgartown School resource officer, Det. Zachary Townes, was made aware of a small child left alone in a parked car in the school lot. In his account of the incident, which was obtained by The Times, Townes said the child had been in the backseat of a locked car for nearly 25 minutes. Cogill's home daycare was located just a block away from the Edgartown School.

"I attempted to open the car door to check on the child, but all doors were locked, and the windows were up. I attempted to speak with the child through the door, but was unsuccessful. The child appeared upset, and looked as though she may start crying," he wrote in the report in October.

While he was standing by

"I attempted to open the car door to check on the child, but all doors were locked, and the windows were up. I attempted to speak with the child through the door, but was unsuccessful. The child appeared upset."

-DET. ZACHARY TOWNES

the vehicle, Townes was approached by the child's mother, who was not named. She "looked panicked," he wrote, and said she was at the school to pick up her child from her daycare provider, Cogill. At this point, Cogill herself approached the vehicle, with eight other children in tow, and stated she had only been away from the car for five minutes. Townes spoke with



PHOTOS: SARAH SHAW DAWSON

Cogill through the use of a translator app.

The mother of the child in the car asked to speak with Cogill alone, and after the two had a brief conversation, the mother left the scene with her child.

Cogill then told Townes that she brought all the children to the nearby playground, but said she left the young girl in the car because the girl was "stubborn."

A short time later, Townes

returned to the vehicle with Det. John Dacey, and saw Cogill walking toward her car with two children. She told the detectives that the other children had been picked up by their parents, but before she could leave, one of the children with her asked to speak with Townes privately.

The child told the detective that there were more children in Cogill's house,

and that Cogill had told him not to tell the police anything. Townes and Dacey then walked with Cogill back to her home, where they found six children between the ages of 5 and 8 years old in a nearly empty apartment.

The case against Cogill, now under review in Edgartown District Court, is based on charges filed by the Edgartown Police Department. Although multiple local children

and parents were allegedly involved, it is not apparent to The Times that any of them are pressing separate charges, and none of their names were listed on any reports.

Cogill was arrested after the incident on seven counts of reckless endangerment to a child, and was arraigned on Oct. 24. She pleaded not guilty to the charges, and was held on \$300 cash bail, which she

paid. She was then released with an order of no contact with children under 10, aside from her own children. Cogill could not be immediately reached by The Times.

Cogill attended a pretrial hearing on Dec. 19. The next court date, which is listed as a motion to dismiss, is scheduled for March 27.

The Times was directed to the Cape and Islands District Attorney's office by Edgartown Police, who have stated that they can't comment on the case, as it is ongoing and under investigation. The defense attorney for Cogill declined to comment.

Cogill's childcare profile is still visible on two non-state-sponsored sites, called Upwards and Winnie, that show various care providers in an area. However, her license and contact information has been deleted from the state childcare portal. After the incident in October, she voluntarily alerted the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) about what happened, and gave up her license.

A spokesperson from the state Department of Early Education and Care said while they were unable to com-

ment on Cogill's case, they have provisions in place in the state to ensure children have adequate care, such as expanded funding opportunities and sponsorship.

"We recognize that certain regions face greater challenges in maintaining an adequate supply of care, and remain committed to addressing those gaps," the spokesperson said.

But the gap on the Island remains substantial. The state limit is that one provider can care for six children between the age of 15 months and 5 years. Only three infants can be cared for at a time by one provider.

MVYouth estimates that about 150 babies are born each year on the Island. With eight available home-care providers, meaning the child is cared for at the licensed individual's home (Cogill was in this category), and nine center-based programs, such as Vineyard Montessori, Plum Hill, and Rainbow Place Preschool, many children don't get into programs at all, or remain on waitlists for years, sometimes even until they age out.

However, headway is being

The front door of 48 West Tisbury Road in Edgartown, where Deir Cogill's daycare used to be.

made. Lindsey Scott, the executive director of MVYouth, told The Times last spring, "MVYouth has committed \$3.2 million to the expansion of six programs. Once built, roughly 150 new childcare spaces will have been added."

Five years ago, Family Child Care Network was established to keep track of these programs and advocate for more resources. It put together a local portal, through Martha's Vineyard Community Services, of all licensed programs. Lambert, who runs the program, said the members of the childcare network are invested in children and family-care improvement.

Since the program was started, more centers have popped up, but the amount of facilities have mostly balanced out, because other providers have retired. Vineyard Montessori is currently funding an expansion of its infant-care program through fundraising, and has a plan in place for the project, and Martha's Vineyard Community Services expanded its childcare space and the ages it serves in 2021. **MVT**

This story includes reporting from MVTimes Reporter Nicholas Vukota.

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Boys hockey falls in tourney championship game

Team heads into playoffs with "one heartbeat." BY MATTHEW MACMILLAN

As the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) boys' varsity hockey's regular season neared its close, the team geared up to host the annual Fairleigh Dickinson tournament on Feb. 14 and 15.

The four-team, single-elimination format gave the highly competitive pool of teams — MVRHS, Dover-Sherborn, Essex Tech, and Lynnfield — a good test as they prepared for playoffs that start Friday for the Island's team. In turn, Island fans and guests enjoyed a weekend full of fast-paced, physical hockey.

The Vineyarders, who entered the tournament off a hard-fought stretch of games, were 1 and 3 in their previous four matchups, and looking for a swing in momentum before the postseason.

"A full three-period effort is what's going to be key to get us to win game in and game out," said Assistant Coach Joe Merry. "If we do, we can make some noise in the tournament."

The Vineyard kicked off the tournament weekend with a 4-2 win over third-ranked Dover Sherborn. MVRHS played fast and efficiently, exhibiting their potential.

In the first period, sophomore Ryan Heidt centered a pass to junior forward

Peter Williamson, who snapped off a quick shot for a goal.

The Vineyard tacked on another point when sophomore forward and Vineyard lead scorer this season Donnie Gregory flew by the Dover defense and threaded the puck into the top shelf of the net, earning his 38th point of the season.

The second period brought more action. This time Heidt scored from behind the net, with a ricochet off the goaltender's pads. Dover then responded after a well-executed breakout, and finally got on the board, making the score 3-1.

Later on in the period, Dover scored again, and the game was then a close contest. But the Vineyard sealed the win when junior defenseman Max Metell fired a shot from the point that just snuck in. The game finished



GABRIEL DIAS

The Martha's Vineyard hockey team lines up prior to a game in the annual Fairleigh Dickinson tournament.

with a final score of 4-2.

The first-round win put the Vineyard into the championship on Sunday, where they hoped to beat Essex Tech and win the tournament, a feat they haven't yet been able to accomplish in 13 years.

The championship game opened with a dominant per-

formance from Essex Tech from Danvers. They scored three goals in the first period while shutting down the Vineyard offense entirely, leading to a 0-3 score at the end of the period.

The Vineyard was able to slow down Essex Tech in the second and third periods,

holding them to one goal while also finding a little life in their offense, scoring one goal of their own to put them on the board. But it wasn't enough.

The game ended with a final score of 1-4, and a trophy ceremony for Essex Tech. "I think we've taken away a lot more from our losses than we have our wins," said Merry. The competition gave the Vineyard valuable takeaways for final changes and improvements necessary for success in the playoffs.

When interviewing the players about the team's identity this season, a trend emerged in the boys' responses, with the phrase "one heartbeat" repeatedly spoken.

The culture of unity and togetherness fostered under Head Coach Mike Snowden and Merry this year clearly sank in.

"We all work together. We have one heartbeat; we're on the same page," said junior forward Amos Sauer. "We're faster than any team out there. We're better conditioned, and when we play our game, no one can beat us."

The Vineyarders finished their regular season with a 6-3 win on senior night on Wednesday, Feb. 18, against the St. John Paul II School's team from Hyannis, rounding off the season with a 12-8 record and ranking seventh in Division 4.

Expectations and goals heading into the playoffs are clear. "Stay consistent," said Heidt. "And obviously make it to TD Garden," which is the venue of the state playoff finals.

The boys took on Dennis-Yarmouth in the first round of the playoffs on Feb. 27 at home. They moved through the first round as well as the round of 16 after they defeated both Dennis-Yarmouth and Bourne, at home. They are now preparing for the quarterfinals against Littleton High School, which is an away game at 5 pm on Thursday.

MVT

Oak Bluffs Tennis Club prepares for Labor Day comeback

With the blessing of the founding family, the Corams plan to revive the Oak Bluffs Tennis Club. BY NICHOLAS VUKOTA

On the cusp of the spring season, a cherished piece of Martha's Vineyard history is preparing to resurge on the tennis courts.

The Oak Bluffs Tennis Club, founded in 1959, was once a cornerstone in the Black community on the Island, where local families practiced excellence, competition, and unity. After a three-decade hiatus, the club's revival is set to be heralded in September by the re-launch of its historic Labor Day Weekend tournament.

Coram, a fifth-generation Vineyarder and seasonal resident, along with his wife Donella Coram, are stewarding the club's return. Their goal is not to reinvent the club, but to continue its service to the Island, and preserve its legacy by honoring its historic roots.

"I am a fifth-generation Vineyarder, and this work is deeply personal for me," Gatsby Coram told The Times in an email. "It is rooted in family history, responsibility, and a desire to give something meaningful back to a place that has shaped generations before me."

The club started as an impromptu round-robin tournament at Niantic Park in

1959, organized by Oak Bluffs residents Gloria Pope and Lincoln Pope Jr. What started as a small gathering of friends, including Island families like the Downings and Haylings, grew into a beloved annual Labor Day event that featured singles, doubles, and mixed-doubles play, drawing the increasing attention of families, competitors, and spectators to the competition from 1960 to 1980, before the tradition faded in the mid-1990s.

The Labor Day tradition started and grew amid the times of the Negro Motorist Green Book, a travel guide published from 1936 to 1967 aimed at helping Black travelers identify safe locations, accommodations, and work during the era of segregation and the Jim Crow laws. Oak Bluffs was noted by the Green Book as a welcoming and safe destination on Martha's Vineyard, with Black-owned inns listed, such as Shearer Cottage, a family-owned business that opened in 1903, according to the Smithsonian. Shearer Cottage was the first inn to serve as a sanctuary for Black visitors on the Island, and contributed to making Oak Bluffs a safe haven where

Black families could build communities.

With the blessing of Lance Pope, son of Gloria and Lincoln, the Corams are carrying the club's legacy forward. Coram said the club will be revived with a focus on a civic mission called "tennis with purpose," focused on creating opportunities for the youth and broader community through philanthropy, and community connection.

The Labor Day Weekend tournament is only the beginning of the club's revival. The goal is to create a more consistent presence on the Island by offering free or low-cost lessons, and clinics that introduce families to tennis in a welcoming way.

Coram, an artist, actor, and designer who runs Walker Noble Studios, believes it's important to introduce kids, and particularly children of color, to less mainstream sports, like ten-

nis or golf, early.

"Not every kid is going to be 6 [feet] 8 [inches] and be able to play basketball or football at a high level — the barrier for those sports is very high. It's very hard to make it, and that's not to say tennis isn't hard to make it at all, but if we introduce kids to these other sports, we will have more Serena and Venus Williams and Tiger Woods," said Coram. "I think it's just about possibilities and exposure. There are so many different avenues for all children to express them-



PHOTOS: COURTESY GATSBY CORAM

Above: Gatsby Coram, left, and his wife Donella, and their children. Left: The historic Labor Day tournament at the Oak Bluffs Tennis Club.



selves and find joy in sports ... Let the kids decide."

Coram's motivation to reestablish the club also stems from his family. He and Donella have two children, and he wants a space where they can grow up learning and competing in tennis on the Island.

"I have two young children, ages 3 and 4, and part of my motivation is building something they can grow up around. Tennis has the ability to open doors early, and I'd love to see more Island kids have access to that opportunity," said Coram.

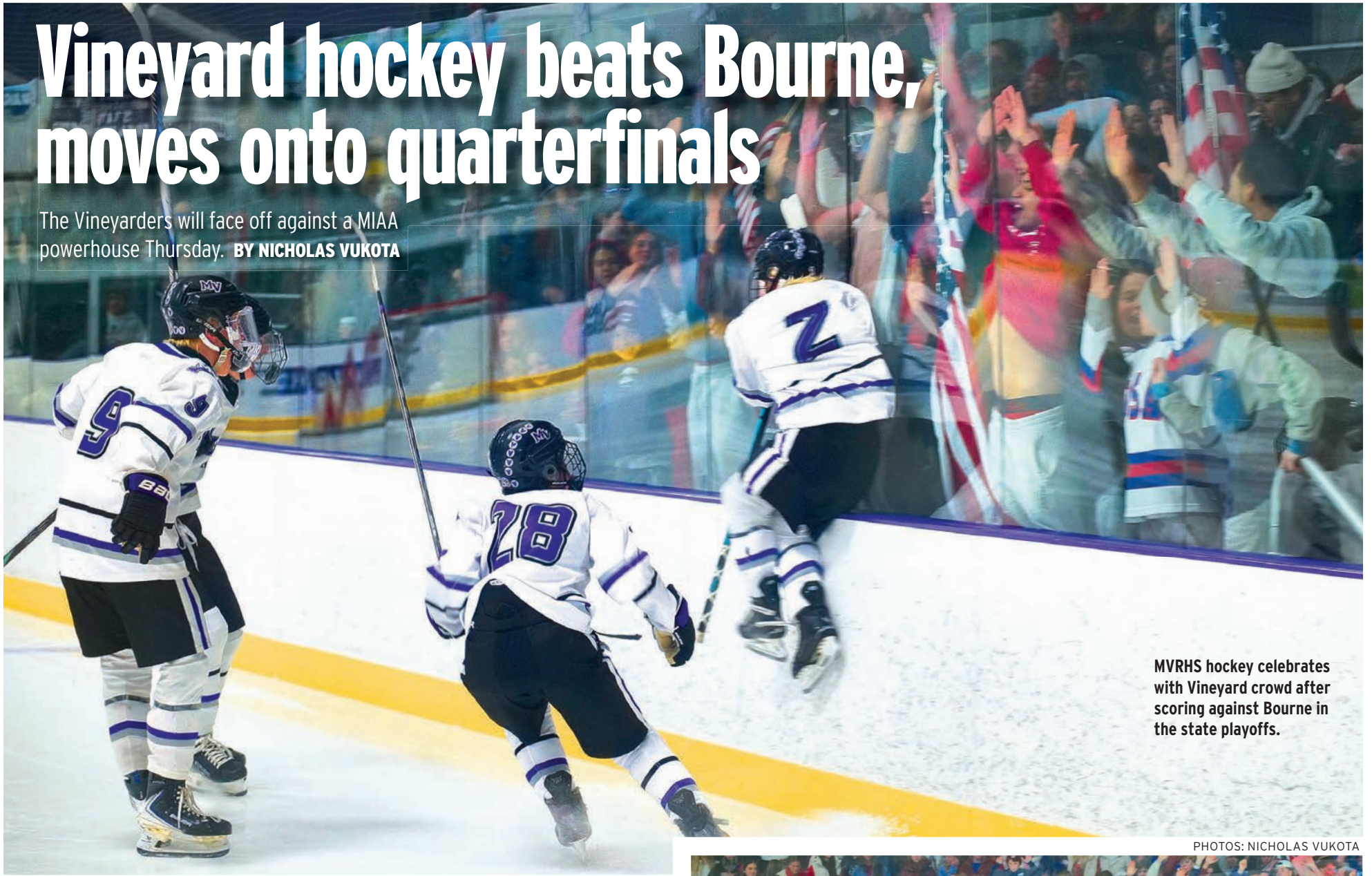
He said they are still finalizing discussions for locations

for the tournament on Labor Day Weekend, with a couple possible avenues available. Similar to the tournaments from the 1960s, this will include singles and doubles divisions, but also feature a kids' section. Time will be set aside for lessons, clinics, and providing gear to participants. Coram said they are also in talks with the American Tennis Association and the U.S. Tennis Association for the club's future with youth programming and long-term sustainability.

The revival of the Oak Bluffs Tennis Club has been underway since late 2025, with an official public presence on Instagram and the club's website. **MVT**

Vineyard hockey beats Bourne, moves onto quarterfinals

The Vineyarders will face off against a MIAA powerhouse Thursday. **BY NICHOLAS VUKOTA**



MVRHS hockey celebrates with Vineyard crowd after scoring against Bourne in the state playoffs.

PHOTOS: NICHOLAS VUKOTA

The high school's varsity hockey team, the last Island team standing among the winter sports postseason competitors, ignited the community's spirit on Monday when they defeated the Bourne High School Canalmen in round two of the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) state playoffs.

The Vineyarders, ranked seventh in Division 4, took down Bourne (ranked 23rd) 5-2 on Monday, in a game that attracted a massive fan turnout at the Martha's Vineyard Ice Arena, with at least 500 tickets sold. They also took down Dennis-Yarmouth (ranked

26th) 6-0 at home in the first round of the playoffs late last month, and are now preparing for the quarterfinals.

Going into the game, the Vineyarders had the same game plan as always: Play fast, hard, and tenacious. But knowing their season is at stake every game, a new sense of urgency drives them this week.

"I think our game plan was the same game plan we have every game," said senior captain Griffin Callahan (No. 2) after the game. "We come as a whole unit — if you're not playing, you're bringing the energy on the bench. And this is no different, except if

we lose, we're done for the season, so the boys know what's at stake, and we're kind of just doing us.

"When we came out and did warm-ups, that was probably the most people I've ever played in front of, and it was just, it was electric," he added.

Sophomore Ryan Heidt (No. 9) for the Vineyard opened the scoring in the first period. With six minutes left in the period, Heidt made a move on a Bourne defender and took a successful quick shot short-side high, assisted by sophomore Donnie Gregory (No. 12).

Going into the second period, the Vineyarders held a 1-0 lead, and only 24 seconds in, they lit up the scoreboard again. Sophomore defenseman Angus Cummings (No. 28) broke the puck out of the defensive zone with momentum, carrying the puck into Bourne's zone and sending a pass to the slot. Callahan recovered the puck amid Bourne pressure, and took a quick low shot to the left corner of Bourne's net, bringing the score to 2-0.

Cummings created multiple offensive plays on defensive breakouts, skating the puck the length of the ice and opening up scoring opportunities.

"When you gain speed around the net, for me, I either look up, see if anyone's open, and if not, I just wheel it up," said Cummings. "When I made one move on a defender on the left side of the net, I had all that room, so I just took it, and I knew that my captain Griff Callahan was there, so I just tossed in the middle, and we got the goal."



The Vineyard crowd thunders as Jason Alton (No. 24) finishes an open-net opportunity to defeat Bourne in the quarterfinals of state playoffs.

The Vineyarders scored again four minutes into the second, starting with another breakout by Cummings, who carried the puck deep into the corner in Bourne's zone, where he cycled it to Heidt. Heidt passed to junior Peter Williamson (No. 6) in the slot, who quickly redirected it between the Canalmen's goaltender's legs and gave the Vineyard a 3-0 lead.

Sophomore Joseph Alton (No. 24) continued the momentum minutes later. Senior captain Joseph Medeiros (No. 15) freed the puck up after winning a battle in Bourne's slot, and with Medeiros smothered by Bourne defenders, Alton swung in and buried it to increase the Vineyard's lead to 4-0.

"I was up high, and I saw the puck go loose, so I crashed the net hard. It just ended up on my stick, and I had it in the back of the net," said Alton after the game.

As the second came to an end, Bourne elevated the physicality, and through the chaos, snuck a goal in before the buzzer. A low shot from

the corner struck the Vineyard's far-side post and went into the net. It was 4-1 in the Vineyard's favor going into the third period.

"If it gets physical, we just try to respond on the scoreboard," said Callahan.

"They started to turn up the intensity, so we had to do the same thing," added Medeiros. "I think we just have to stick to our game, stick to what we know. We don't feed into their physical play. We just play our game."

A slight sense of worry fell over the Vineyard rink as Bourne scored a quick goal to open the third, but the Vineyarders still held a 4-2 lead. Intensity rose both on the ice and among the crowds as time dwindled. A penalty on the Vineyard with 3:32 left in the game increased fans' worries, but the Vineyarders' penalty kill held strong, and junior goaltender Russell Coogan (No. 1) stopped some strong scoring opportunities from Bourne.

Bourne pulled their goalie in the last minute, attempt-

ing to score and tighten the gap on the scoreboard, but Alton was able to find the back of the empty net from the Vineyarders' zone, setting the Vineyard up for the round of eight with a 5-2 finish.

The Vineyarders are set to play against Littleton High School (19-1), who are ranked second in Division 4, on Thursday at 4 pm at the John A. Ryan Skating Arena in Watertown.

"It feels great — we're not even close to finishing. We just have to focus on what's ahead of us and take it game by game," said Callahan of securing the quarterfinal game against Littleton. "We won this round, but we got three more to go. So we kind of just need to stay focused and not get too ahead of ourselves."

"Big props to our coaching staff," he added, "because they turned this program around, and the level of play compared with last year is just crazy, and we couldn't have done it without our coaching staff, and obviously the players." **MVT**

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