

The musical heritage of the Flying Elbows **B6**

Walk amid Irish folk art in the Chilmark woods **B14**

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A spate of cocaine arrests amid an 'alarming' rise in use

Four arrests in recent weeks, and three high-profile arrests in the past year. **BY NICHOLAS VUKOTA**

Law enforcement officials fear they are seeing "a very high increase" in cocaine-related arrests and seizures across the Island in the past year, including four arrests made in the past two weeks. Simultaneously, local drug-treatment counselors say they are seeing disturbing levels of people seeking treatment for cocaine use and addiction.

Oak Bluffs Chief of Police Jonathan Searle sees reason to believe an ongoing cocaine problem echoes a prevalence not seen since the 1980s and 1990s, and in his personal experience, there seems to be an increase that has occurred over the last few years on Martha's Vineyard.

"We are seeing less of the heroin and fentanyl now, and more cocaine again," said Searle. "There's definitely a resurgence, and there is a risk, as we do see some [cocaine] is cut with fentanyl."

The rise in cocaine arrests on the Island appears to be a part of a broader rise in arrests and cocaine usage across the Cape and Islands, with the Cape and Islands branch of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) assisting the Island's local departments in multiple arrests in the past year, and Nantucket reporting higher averages of cocaine in its wastewater than the rest of the country.

Searle said the rising number of arrests on-Island may also be the result of an increase of investigations into the activity. "The upper-level, dangerous dealers are our focus," he said.

In the past year alone, multiple large-scale cocaine-trafficking attempts have been thwarted by local, state, and federal law enforcement efforts, with recent arrests and seizures. One dramatic case included a March 2025 federal sting operation, assisted by the Martha's Vineyard Drug Task *Continued on A15*



Rare sighting of endangered blue whales

The 90-foot leviathans were spotted just south of the Island.

BY HAYLEY DUFFY

Two observers from the New England Aquarium looked out either side of a small twin-engine, four-seater airplane late last month, and saw two endangered blue whales in Southern New

England waters, just 15 miles south of the Island. It was a first for the aquarium.

The largest animal known to have lived, the blue whale is elusive. It has a body that can grow up to 90 feet and

weigh more than 100,000 pounds, and its patterned blue-gray color appears light blue underwater. But with a small current population size between 400 *Continued on A8*

NEW ENGLAND AQUARIUM

How much will you pay for the high school?

A town-by-town cost analysis for a renovated high school building has been drafted.

BY SARAH SHAW DAWSON

The staggering price tag of a renovated regional high school has represented the biggest concern for taxpayers since the project's start, and now the tax burden that Islanders will shoulder in each town is becoming more clear.

On Monday night, the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) Committee held several key votes on the financial aspects of the more than \$300 million capital project. The amount that property-owning town residents will pay over the next 30 years was drafted, and a debt-repayment *Continued on A9*

Warren Doty, former Chilmark Select Board member, dies at 82

Doty was a fierce supporter of the Island's commercial fishing industry. **BY HAYLEY DUFFY**

Warren Doty, a Chilmark leader and active member of the fishing industry, died on Tuesday, March 3. He was 82. He is survived by his wife, Nan, and children, Alexander Morgan Doty and Laura Doty Indigo.

Doty came to Martha's Vineyard as an outsider, Nan said. He's remembered, though, as someone who left a huge mark on the Island, and especially on the up-Island town of Chilmark. Doty was embedded in the Island's fishing industry, especially on Dutcher Dock in Menemsha. He was also involved in town politics, and his work for Chilmark spanned more than 30 years.

He was on sabbatical when he came to the Vineyard; he'd finished all the coursework for his Ph.D. from the University of *Continued on A7*



Nan and Warren Doty singing folk songs on the patio of the Chilmark library.

DENA PORTER



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Ted Gavin appointed as next SSA rep

Three finalists were interviewed by the Dukes County Commission.

BY EUNKI SEONWOO

Amid changing tides at the Steamship Authority (SSA), a new representative was chosen to represent Martha's Vineyard on the ferry line's board.

The Dukes County Commission, the appointing authority for the Island's board representative, unanimously selected Ted Gavin to be the next Steamship Authority board member during its March 4 meeting.

"I am deeply honored, very humbled, and excited to get to work," Gavin said. "I'm also very grateful for everything Jim Malkin has done. He's a tough person to take the baton from, but we're going to do it."

Malkin, the current board representative, decided not to pursue a third term in December, and Gavin will be entering the role in a time of significant change at the ferry line. The SSA hired a new general manager, Alex Kryska, in December. Kryska is making plans to improve the ferry line, following a scathing report from the Massachusetts Office of the Inspector General, also issued in December, on the failure of the Steamship Authority's shelved website project. This report included the board's lack of oversight on spending, which the state agency estimated wasted between \$2 million and \$4 million in public funds. Gavin's appointment also comes as the SSA undertakes major replacement of its vehicle reservation system, a major part of the ferry line's operation.

The decision to appoint Gavin followed interviews with three finalists, including Gail Barmakian, an attorney and former Oak Bluffs Select Board chair, and Cameron Naron, director of the federal Office of Maritime Security and a retired U.S. Coast Guard captain, at the Martha's Vineyard Hebrew Center in Tisbury on March 3.

Gavin is the founder of Gavin/Solmonese,

an advisory firm that helps turn around struggling companies. In his interview, Gavin said he has had experience running shipping lines. He also serves on the board of the Martha's Vineyard Camp Meeting Association and as board treasurer for the Martha's Vineyard Hebrew Center. These experiences, Gavin said, made him an expert in delineating the roles of board and management and the "proper exercise of fiduciary duties."

A call to serve the Vineyard community drove Gavin to seek the position, and he hopes to bring long-term improvements at the ferry line. He highlighted the ferry line's role as a lifeline and said that there was a need for trust to be repaired between the Steamship Authority and Islanders, who "deserve their trust back." As a part of restoring that trust and gaining feedback from the community, Gavin said he plans to attend Vineyard towns' select board meetings and host monthly Zoom sessions with the public.

"This is a time of unprecedented need for the Steamship Authority," Gavin said. "I will bring a collaborative approach, a commitment to careful decision-making, and a bias toward listening to those that depend on the service every day."

Additionally, Gavin underscored that there was a need to bridge understanding between the port communities, such as the economic considerations and the differing ways the ferry line is utilized by residents of the Vineyard and Nantucket.

"We are far more like a city bus line and far less like destination travel," he said.

Gavin also noted a need for the board to improve clearer feedback to Steamship management, calling back to the inspector general's report, and to establish require



Ted Gavin being interviewed by the Dukes County Commission at the Martha's Vineyard Hebrew Center.

ments for corrective action. Particularly, Gavin said the annual evaluations of the general manager can't have "the repeat of the lackadaisical approach" that can lead to high scores merely for having a good personal relationship between the manager and board members.

"That's not how you help a manager be the best manager of a critical lifeline for the Islands," Gavin said. "That doesn't help the mission."

Last Wednesday, commissioners noted several key characteristics they wanted in the new board member, including an ability to communicate with the community, keep an eye on the operations and finances of the ferry line, and hit the ground running. More specifically, West Tisbury Commissioner Doug Ruskin said he felt "business expertise trumps anything else" because of the SSA's operational shortcomings, while Oak Bluffs Commissioner Peter Wharton said that, considering the Vineyard representative holds only 35 percent of the voting power, the new board member's priority would be building consensus within the board to move initiatives forward and repair the communities' trust with the ferry line.

Although cases were made for each candidate by commissioners on Wednesday — from Barmakian's experience dealing with

state legislators to Naron's maritime experience — Gavin's experience as a certified turnaround professional, a role that helps stabilize troubled companies, was stressed by his supporters. Ruskin noted how Gavin described his career of entering organizations, at times without knowing the people there or with little to no knowledge of the industry, and still bringing about consensus.

"To me, that alone elevated him to the top of my list," he said.

The commissioners also expressed gratitude for Malkin's years of work on the board.

"It has been immensely important to all of us, and brought a lot of attention to the Steamship Authority that I think was ... sorely needed," Christine Todd, commission chair, said.

Malkin told The Times he respected the selection process undertaken by the commissioners and those who applied to the position. He wished Gavin the best in balancing the at times conflicting interests of those who use the ferry service.

"There's work to be done, but I think the Steamship Authority is on a really solid path to the future," Malkin said. **MVT**

news in brief

Island superior court clerk honored in Boston

T. George Davis, clerk of the Dukes County Superior Court and Oak Bluffs resident, was honored at the annual Black Excellence on the Hill awards ceremony on Friday.

The ceremony, which recognizes Black leaders across the commonwealth for exemplary service, leadership, and commitment to their communities, was hosted by the Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus (MBLLC) in the Great Hall of Flags at the Massachusetts State House in Boston. More than 100 leaders were recognized at this event, which is also the MBLLC's closing ceremony of Black History Month.

Davis was "recognized for his dedication to public service and his longstanding commitment to fairness, access, and integrity within the judicial system," said a press release from the office of Thomas Moakley, state representative for Martha's Vineyard, who nominated Davis for the award.

"Having worked alongside George at the courthouse in Edgartown, I have witnessed his professionalism and compassionate sense of justice," Moakley said. Moakley also put forward West Tisbury resident Arielle Faira in 2025.

Davis' 30-year legal career began at Georgetown Law School. He started a private law practice on the Island in 2000, and was elected to his current position in 2018. He decisively won all six Island towns and Gosnold, the release said. Davis also performs on concert stages across the Island, DJs on MVY Radio, and volunteers his time for Island causes.

"It is an honor to be recognized in this way by the MBLLC, and I am thankful and humbled to be included in this esteemed group of honorees," he said in the press release.

The release said he is "beloved by courthouse staff, and has uncovered hidden



COURTESY OFFICE OF REP. MOAKLEY

Rep. Thomas Moakley and T. George Davis.

historic gems as part of a project to catalogue and preserve Dukes County records that span hundreds of years."

Pulse Project donates five more AEDs to Island orgs

The MV Pulse Project, a nonprofit initiative focused on making automated external defibrillators (AEDs) more accessible on the Island, announced in an update last week that the group had donated five AEDs to local organizations.

An AED is a device that delivers an electric shock to the heart to restore a natural rhythm during a cardiac episode. The locations that received AEDs were Featherstone Center for the Arts, First Congregational Church of West Tisbury, MVY Radio, Stillpoint, and Old Whaling Church.

These donations are a part of the project's goal to purchase 10 AEDs for locations that

don't have the devices. The initiative has exceeded its fundraising goal, and already donated two AEDs to the Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society and the United Methodist Church of Martha's Vineyard last month.

Lou Quattrucci launched Pulse Project after suffering a severe heart attack called a "widowmaker" in July. Quattrucci, an Island resident, survived because he was fortunately near an AED and medical personnel.

Along with distributing AEDs, the Pulse Project provides CPR training to the recipient organizations. Quattrucci, in his update, commended retired Island paramedic Chuck Cummens for volunteering his time to provide the training.

"The more trainings that he donates, the more AEDs we can donate," said Quattrucci.

Cummens has taught some individuals to become CPR instructors themselves, such as MVY Radio host Ray Whitaker. Quattrucci told The Times that Whitaker plans to offer public CPR classes at the radio station soon.

Currently, Quattrucci is working on registering Island locations with AEDs with a national registry called Pulse Point AED. The registry displays these locations on a public online map. He also went door-to-door to Island businesses to hand out flyers explaining what to do if someone suffers cardiac arrest. The flyers include a list of known AEDs in each town.

Quattrucci said that he hopes to speak with more Island businesses in the spring.

There are around 120 AEDs on the map of the Island now, compared with only 29 listed in October. Quattrucci estimates that there are a total of 150 AEDS publicly available on the Island.

Those interested in acquiring an AED have to fill out a basic application, order the defibrillator, and schedule CPR training.

For more information, you can email mvpulseproject@gmail.com. **MVT**

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SSA considers selling the Governor

The freight vessel has sailed on the Vineyard route since 1998.

BY EUNKI SEONWOO

The Steamship Authority (SSA) might sell the oldest ferry in its fleet: the Governor, a 72-year-old freight vessel that has sailed between Martha's Vineyard and Woods Hole since 1998.

On Tuesday morning, the Port Council unanimously approved authorizing the SSA board to market the Governor for sale. That decision hinges on the results of a risk analysis by the ferry line staff that will be shared with the board at its meeting on March 17.

Alongside the Governor, SSA General Manager Alex Kryska also pitched selling another freight ferry, the Sankaty. Both vessels are currently used on a standby capacity, which means they're used as needed rather than on a regular schedule.

"It's a high cost to maintain both boats," Kryska said. A staff report from early March highlighted that maintaining the vessels annually costs around \$1.5 million each.

The discussion arose as the Monomoy, one of three freight ferries the SSA purchased in 2022, undergoes preparations at the SSA's repair facility in Fairhaven to be added into service. This would be the second time the ferry service has sold freight vessels since 2024, when it sold the Katama and the Gay Head as part of an effort to replace its aging fleet.

Of the two vessels discussed on Tuesday, the Governor was seen as the riskier vessel to keep. Mark Amundsen, SSA chief operating officer, said the vessel has an outdated anchor

chain-driven rudder system, and carries roughly 2,000 vehicles less per month compared with the new freight vessels. Amundsen said a final inspection and value assessment run by Marine Safety Consultants, a Fairhaven-based company that specializes in marine surveys and compliance, also came to a similar conclusion about the risk due to its older system.

Additionally, Kryska said, the Governor can sail only on the Woods Hole-Vineyard Haven route, as opposed to the Oak Bluffs and Hyannis harbors, and is more susceptible to the weather. Waves just over four feet are enough for water to get aboard the boat.

"I appreciate it's painful to a lot of Vineyarders, and I apologize for that, but when you come down to nuts and bolts, the Governor's the least versatile of the backup boats," Kryska said.

The Sankaty is also an aging vessel, built in 1981, but its usage as a spare boat was rated higher. Its design is closer to the newer vessels that have been entered into service, such as the Aquinnah, which sails on the Vineyard route. Nat Lowell, councilor from Nantucket, also highlighted that the Sankaty was used to get trucks to his community as a part of a recent storm response.

Eric Dawicki, councilor from Fairhaven, noted that selling the Governor should be "promulgated by numbers," so the public understands the SSA's decision.



The MV Governor has had a history of "mechanical issues." This one, as reported by the MV Times, kept it "grounded" in May 2021.

MV TIMES

"I also know the folks on the Vineyard absolutely love the Governor," Dawicki said. "It's been consistent. It's been rock-steady. I have not heard everybody say they love the other vessels, but I have not heard anybody say they hate the Governor."

The Governor was assessed to be worth \$325,000. Kryska said a survey of the market hasn't been done, but said that there could be demand for a boat like the Governor in the Caribbean to transport vehicles. However, he noted that many vessel operations across the U.S. were selling

dinner cruise boats at a recent passenger vessel conference, which "kind of pushed the market down a bit on used boats."

The Governor's "life began in 1954" when it sailed from San Diego to Coronado in California, according to the SSA website. After a bridge was built on its original route, the Governor sailed as a part of Washington State Ferries, and later with the U.S. Coast Guard in New York, where it received its current name. It joined the SSA fleet in 1998 as a backup vessel for the Vineyard route. **MVT**

After three years of searching, and just a month after several staff and volunteers left the organization, the only shelter for unhoused individuals on the Island has secured a permanent location for its shelter.

Harbor Homes purchased a new building, located at 515 Edgartown-Vineyard Haven Road in Vineyard Haven, in partnership with Island Housing Trust, a nonprofit that builds affordable housing, on March 3. Leadership at the nonprofit said in a press release that they plan to expand their year-round accommodations once the shelter opens. They added that the space will become a "comprehensive resource hub," and will serve as a center for much of their administrative operations.

The \$1.5 million property was paid for by private donors, Island Housing Trust, and a short-term loan from Martha's Vineyard Bank. Harbor Homes' board president said the nonprofit has made requests from each town's community preservation committee to fund the loan from the bank. Harbor Homes is continuing to fundraise for renovation costs, but 30 percent is already covered by donors.

The announcement comes at a time of significant staff turnover. Winter shelter director Lisa Belcastro and several other employees left the organization last month. Harbor Homes has also had seven executive directors in the past six years.

A former volunteer for the shelter, Mary Ellen McElroy, left after Belcastro resigned in February. She said it was largely Belcastro who advocated for a new building and paved the way for this new space.

"She really did provide so much," McElroy told The Times. "She was the shelter."

Last month, Harbor Homes leadership ensured that programming continued through the change in personnel. They appointed two new co-directors, Pat and Polly Toomey, to Belcastro's role. Both appointees will be running the shelter in the new location eventually.

An interim zoning allowance last year made it possible for Harbor Homes to convert its women's congregate housing at 111 New York Ave. in Oak Bluffs into the current winter shelter, after the previous location at Martha's Vineyard Community Services was demolished due to a planned renovation project. That interim allowance will be up in

Harbor Homes secures new location for shelter

After three years of prospects that fell through, and in the midst of leadership changes, Harbor Homes has nailed down a permanent spot.

BY SARAH SHAW DAWSON



SARAH SHAW DAWSON

The new Harbor Homes building on Edgartown-Vineyard Haven Road that was recently purchased for a permanent shelter.

April, so a permanent location couldn't come at a more crucial time for the nonprofit and the unhoused people it helps.

After April, the 25-bed shelter in Oak Bluffs will revert to its original purpose. The temporary New York Ave. space opened in November and operates overnight, with guests checked in at 6 pm and gone by 8 am the next morning. Occasionally, on cold days, they host warming centers in the building.

"This is a great leap forward for Harbor Homes and the community we serve," Maura FitzGerald, president of the board, said in the release. "Harbor Homes Center will allow our dedicated staff to continue providing exceptional care while expanding programming to better meet the needs of our clients."

Homelessness has been a touchy topic for Islanders for decades. On an Island with stark wealth disparities, as well as a seasonal boost in population, many of the unhoused people are not known by visitors who vacation on Vineyard shores.

For year-round Islanders, there has been a mix of pushback for a new permanent shelter and support for more housing initiatives to assist unhoused people. A previous hopeful location for a permanent shelter on Hudson Ave. in Oak Bluffs fell through due to abutters' concerns.

In the past, many unhoused people who lived in each town were known by name to year-rounders. But many more, such as co-workers, friends, and classmates, were never

suspected to be without housing at all. All the while, homelessness has increased on the Vineyard, and affordable housing has become more difficult for locals to obtain.

An annual data collection for the Cape and Islands that tracks homelessness on a specific day in January each year, called a Point in Time Count, showed a record number of unhoused people on the Island in 2025. There were 23 unsheltered individuals that year, compared with just one person the year prior, and a previous high of 14 people in January 2020. The data from this year have not yet been released.

More than 340 individuals were unhoused in the Vineyard in the summer of 2025, according to data from Harbor Homes. In the winter, the shelter offers a respite for those who are without stable housing. Historically, unhoused individuals are on their own in the summer, with outreach and lunches the only offering by Harbor Homes due to the closing of its shelter doors in the spring.

During the hot and humid months of the year, homelessness on the Vineyard is hidden deep in wooded areas, with tents peeking through the trees. One of those tented communities was cleared by police last summer due to an increase in calls reporting violence and fights to law enforcement in the area.

A permanent, year-round location has been the planned next step for Harbor Homes for years, largely because of those considerations.

The property is centrally located on Edgartown-Vineyard Haven Road, and is just under 5,500 square feet. It's a large home with a sprawling yard, as well as a wrap-around driveway that is a short distance from a nearby bus stop on the same street. It will eventually include Harbor Homes' winter shelter, staff accommodations, and administrative offices.

Harbor Homes also plans to add six new congregate housing units, funded by private donors and the Community Preservation Act in five of the Island's six towns. The act allows towns to add a small tax for the purpose of housing developments, preservation of historic property, and other similar initiatives.

"In addition to serving as a hub for services and homelessness prevention, we envision Harbor Homes Center as a place of peace and healing," Jeannette de Jesús, interim executive director of Harbor Homes, said in the press release. **MVT**

EDITORIAL

The chorus of spring after a long winter

The week started with an audible sign that perhaps spring has actually arrived: The beloved pinkletinks, our local name for spring peepers, were heard through their signature chorus of high-pitched shrill chirping sounds that sound roughly like a “peep” or “pweet.”

These tiny, quarter-sized brown frogs (specifically, *Pseudacris crucifer*) are renowned for their ability to make massive, piercing noises that can be heard up to a mile away from the source of a chorus. A mating call for the males of this species of frog, the wonderful racket is like a chorus of thousands of tiny whistles.

We want to thank Gail Barmakian, Oak Bluffs resident and former select board chair in the town, who called The Times on Monday afternoon to report that she heard the signature peeps near Farm Pond on Monday afternoon. These amphibians typically live near shrub swamps and around brushy pond edges, and the cry of the pinkletink is something Islanders look forward to each year. Barmakian said she'd been paying close attention, since the persistent cold weather and snowstorms that hit the Island made her worried about how the small frogs fared.

I think it is fair to say we have all been worried about each other, not just these beloved frogs, and how we've fared this long, hard season. This has indeed been an unusually harsh winter, because of weather as well as the devastating loss of so many beloved Islanders. The list of those who passed away through tragedy seemed unusually long and was felt across the Island. The list included fishing boat captain Roy Scheffer and Patricia Bergeron, his beloved partner who headed up the Martha's Vineyard Hospital emergency room for decades and served as a pillar of the Portuguese-American community. They were both killed on Jan. 1 when their scalloping boat capsized in frigid waters during a sudden squall off Cow Bay in Edgartown. And there was Nathaniel (Natty) Schneider, who died on Dec. 26 after being buried in an avalanche while backcountry skiing on Teton Pass in

Wyoming. He was the son of Paul Schneider, a writer and the longtime editor of Martha's Vineyard Magazine, and Nina Bramhall, a photographer and tennis coach. Natty hailed from the Island's Bramhall family, who have had a long-standing passion for the outdoors through several generations, and Natty's death devastated many corners of the Island where he grew up and was well-known. John Forté suddenly died in January. He was a Grammy-nominated musician who came of age in Brooklyn and moved in 2010 to the Vineyard, where he produced music in his Chilmark studio and became a fixture on the Island music scene with Carly Simon and Ben Taylor, both of whom he regarded as family. He is survived

suddenly March 1 in New York City.

And there is an even longer list of those who died further on in their lives. In this edition of the paper, as one example, we've published a piece on Warren Doty, a beloved local leader in Chilmark and an active member of the fishing industry in Menemsha. He died on Tuesday, March 3, and is survived by his wife, Nan, and children, Alexander Morgan Doty and Laura Doty Indigo. He was 82.

We try our best to mark every life on the Island, and the loss is always profound for families and loved ones, but this year it seems we have had quite a series of losses that brought us all together in shock and in mourning. The yearning for spring and the renewal it promises feel somehow more prominent this year.

The pinkletinks are the sound of that promise of renewal. They're an annual sign for the Island that we're leaving winter behind and entering spring. They signal a hope for warmer days moving forward, and also herald a goodbye to a time that has brought a great deal of distress — including over the violence most recently expressed in the U.S. and Israel's war on Iran, which has cast a shadow of uncertainty over the Middle East. The war lands amid an ongoing rise in energy costs that were tangibly felt during this frigid winter of 2026. And now with war in the Strait of Hormuz, the price of heating oil and gasoline has spiked, and there are fears of a global energy crisis. The welcome sound of the chorus of chirping is also coming just on the heels of the historic blizzard last month that dropped up to two feet of snow on the Island. Now, the piles of melting snow are finally evaporating, and runoff is funneling into the Island's small ponds that nourish the wetlands

and thick underbrush where the pinkletinks thrive and celebrate with their shrill calls.

Barmakian, who helped us first hear the welcome sounds, observed, “They're a little late this year.” She said that, considering the chaotic world broadcast in national and international headlines recently, hearing the peeps of the pinkletinks feels like “there's hope.”

We couldn't agree more.



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“They're a little late this year.”
Gail Barmakian of Oak Bluffs said that,
considering the chaotic world broadcast
in national and international headlines
recently, hearing the peeps of the
pinkletinks feels like “there's hope.”

by his former wife Lara Fuller, a photographer, and their two young children, Wren Zazie and Haile. Last Friday, there was a memorial at the Agricultural Hall for John that celebrated his life and brought together an extraordinary array of friends and family from all corners of his life. He was 50 years old. The community also grieves the tremendous loss of musician Mark Grandfield of West Tisbury, who died

LETTERS

A statement from the M.V. Family Child Care Network

To the Editor:

We are a group of licensed early education and care professionals who offer home-based programs on Martha's Vineyard to nurture and care for young children. Some people call it daycare — but our licensing credential is for “Family Child Care,” which is a more apt description of our work. We care for children and their families.

We have an important message for the community.

The community has been rocked twice in the past year by reports of alleged gross negligence involving children, with one incident causing the tragic death of a child, and a recent report of a caregiver neglecting children in her care. We are deeply shocked and saddened by these events.

As dedicated and licensed family child care providers, we work tirelessly to maintain high-quality programs that offer the best possible environments for the children in our care. We follow Massachusetts EEC licensing regulations for safety and protocol. These

regulations guide everything from child ratios to safe environments to developmentally appropriate curriculum.

A licensed childcare provider is required to care for NO MORE than six children under the age of 5 (for one provider). We are required to use strict safety protocols when transporting children, and to NEVER leave any child unattended in a car. We are required to participate in ongoing continuing education in child growth and development, and to be certified in CPR and first aid annually. There are many other requirements, based around safety and best practice.

As members of the Family Child Care Network, we go beyond these basic regulations by participating in this professional organization of colleagues. We meet monthly and take training workshops to stay current on early-education topics. Thanks to the support of MVYouth and the M.V. Family Center, we share high-quality curriculum supplies across our programs. We call on each other to collaborate, and we work together to strengthen our work with children. We also work with state and local grants and subsidies, which are only available for licensed programs, to help parents with the cost of childcare.

Like everyone in our community, we are flabbergasted by these reported incidents of gross negligence, and we struggle to understand how anyone can neglect or endanger a child in their care. We work closely with the local EEC office, and the licensor who regulates programs on the Island. In our experience, our programs are frequently monitored and inspected, and the licensor gives us constant feedback to ensure safety.

We understand firsthand the difficulty parents are having with finding high-quality childcare on our Island. Our programs offer many options, along with the eight licensed, center-based programs. We advise every family to visit and explore many options before choosing a program for your child. Information about all these programs is available for parents at mvcommunityservices.org/child-care.

There is nothing more important to a parent than their children. We want to assure the community: We take our responsibility seriously, and we value the trust placed in us to provide the best care possible for the Island's children. We encourage community members to reach out to us with questions about childcare, or to join our meetings and learn more about what we do.

The Family Child Care Network is supported by ACE MV, MVYouth, and M.V. Community Services. Please contact joanne@acemv.org.

Donna Creighton, Linda Coito, Stephanie DaRosa, Courtney Fitzgerald, Beth Healy, Mary Johnson, Joanne Lambert, Nancy Salon, Drielle Santos Neta, Luciana Almeida, Sandra Rosa

Members of the M.V. Family Child Care Network

Thank you to Edgartown

To the Editor:

Thank you, town of Edgartown, Edgartown School, Police Chief Chris Dolby,

In the midst of the cold and power outages, it was a great relief to find shelter, warm food, a place to power devices, cots for resting, safety, and welcoming greetings from Chief of Police Dolby, Rebecca LaMarche, Danny Townes, and several other kind helpers. Your neighborly warmth and community service (and delicious chili) were very appreciated. On to spring!

Lynn and Mike Ditchfield Edgartown

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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



DAVE PLATH

ESSAY

Emergency communication needs improvement

BY DOUG RUSKIN

I want to acknowledge and thank the uncountable numbers of folks on the Island who worked long, hard hours to dig us out, plow the roads, and do many unseen acts of kindness for those less able to help themselves. The Eversource crews did a terrific job of restoring power, and by all accounts were always courteous and helpful when they had every right to be frustrated by very trying conditions.

Yet the latest storm has once again illuminated for me the shortcomings of the emergency management model here on the Vineyard. Before the storm even started, I received multiple alerts from West Tisbury, where I live, and from the county, apprising me of the oncoming storm, including

a list of things to do to be sure I was prepared. And I received some follow-ups as the storm wore on, to my phone and via email. Sounds good, right? But I only got them because I knew where to sign up, at my town website (West Tisbury) and at the county site.

A good friend who always pays attention didn't know those sign-up options existed, and received nothing. Others in Oak Bluffs received just one alert, not aware of the countywide system. I have no doubt many, many others didn't as well. I heard of multiple instances of people not knowing we had warming shelters, or where they were. And although the messaging stated shelters were open, there was no information about how to get to them if you couldn't get your car on the road.

With the forewarning we had for days in the news, this was perhaps a less critical issue this time, but imagine something occurring without much forewarning — a fast-spreading fire, for example. Time is of the essence in those situations. We need to do a much

better job of coordinated and widespread messaging to the general public. That includes advance warnings and ongoing updates.

While notifications are extremely important, having ready-to-use plans and protocols in place is necessary to actually help people, as is a well-coordinated response when Island-wide events occur. However, the Island lacks an adequate preparedness plan or a central command infrastructure for such events. In this most recent event, I heard about a generator at a public building that was useless because it had insufficient fuel.

We do have the Martha's Vineyard Emergency Management Association, a group of first responders and others from all Island towns. Those folks do a more than commendable job dealing with various incidents that occur every day around the Island, both minor and major. But when a widespread event occurs, they must come together and figure out what to do in the moment — not the best time to start planning. That proved to be


quite difficult during this storm, because of loss of internet and cell services. In other words, those charged with coordinating the response to the event found it more than challenging just communicating with one another.


The good news is that last year, the county engaged a professional emergency preparedness consultant, who has spent the past months engaging everyone involved to craft a long-range plan to better prepare the county and its residents. A preliminary plan is due by spring. Once it's final and accepted, we will then have the challenge of implementation.

In the meantime, I urge everyone to go to the Dukes County website, click "Emergency Alert Signup" below the map, and sign up. And there should be a similar link at your town's website.

To be clear, I write as a local taxpayer and resident, not in any official capacity.


Doug Ruskin is a 25-year Island resident, and serves on the Dukes County Commission.





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obituaries

Margaret Price Williams



We mourn the passing of **Margaret Price Williams**, a Good Samaritan, whose kindness touched many.

A proud alumna of Hampton and Howard universities, Margaret Price Williams relocated from New York, N.Y., to Martha's Vineyard, and lived a life here shaped by service to Union Chapel, the Polar Bears, and the Oak Bluffs Council on Aging. Her legacy of kindness and service will continue to live in all who had the good fortune to know her.

A celebration of Margaret Price Williams will be held at 11 am on Thursday, June 11, at Union Chapel, 55 Narragansett Ave., in Oak Bluffs.

A repast immediately following the celebration will be held at the Portuguese-American Club, 137 Vineyard Ave., in Oak Bluffs.

May her memory be a blessing.

Visit chapmanfuneral.com for online guestbook and information.

Tanya Lea Stum



Tanya Lea Stum, 58, of Upper Strasburg, Pa., departed this life peacefully with her sister holding her hand, on the evening of Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2026, at the Mercy House in Chambersburg, Pa. The cause of death was breast cancer.

Born April 17, 1967, in Chambersburg, she was the daughter of Louie and Lily (Rife) Stum of Upper Strasburg, Pa. Her undergraduate degree was in voice performance from Carnegie Mellon University, and graduate degree in elementary education from the University of

Pittsburgh. She continued her education at Holy Names University, earning a master's degree in music education.

Tanya performed with the San Francisco Opera Chorus, Pittsburgh Opera Chorus, Pacific Mozart Ensemble, and Nevenka. She was a vocalist and trainer for Aswat, an ensemble specializing in Arabic music. She served as the preparatory director for the San Francisco Boys Chorus, and was a beloved music teacher at Love Elementary School in Alameda, Calif.

Tanya, a multitalented and multifaceted individual, was as beautiful on the inside as she was on the outside. She had a voice so rich and soulful it could, even if only briefly, stop the world on its axis. She was a talented artist, a nature girl, an enthusiastic birder, a rescue dog mom to her sweet babies (rest in peace, Trix, Fudgie, and Scooter), a wild-life rehabilitator, a runner, a paddleboarder, and an ocean swimmer. She loved to dance, and joined groups both in Oakland, Calif., and Martha's Vineyard, where she spent most of the past 18 months living with dear friends Michelle and Rich.

Tanya was funny, with a cheeky sense of humor and a musical laugh that rose easily to the surface. In the spirit of her humor, Tanya requested that at some point in the future, if you ever find yourself looking for something to do, watch "Waking Ned Divine" or another similarly charming dramedy in her honor.

Tanya was a light-filled soul who lived life fully and shared her brilliance readily, warming everyone in her presence. The world will be a duller and dimmer place without Tanya in it.

Tanya navigated two cancer diagnoses, 16 years apart, along with ensuing treatments and surgeries, with grace and courage.

She is survived by her loving parents, Louie and Lily; and her devoted sister, Tami, who together cared for her tenderly, attentively, and tirelessly during the final weeks of her life (brother-in-law, Gary Vincent); as well as her brother, Kevin (sister-in-law, Barbara Brookens); her nephews, Curtis Myers (Vasilisa), Dustin Miracle (Kalee), and Greg Miracle; and great-nephews Esben and Ethan Myers. Also surviving are sister-in-law, Michele, and her family, Richard Beasley Maloney and their children, Edward Beasley Maloney, Caty Maloney, and Matthew Maloney; adoring students and countless friends who will carry her memory in their hearts always.

In honoring Tanya's love for nature, she requested that in lieu of flowers, a native tree or shrub be planted and lovingly tended (this part was very important to Tanya). One example she shared was planting a native viburnum or serviceberry for cedar waxwings. (For those wishing to honor her request, the funeral home has provided a link, bit.ly/FBFH_MemorialTree.)

Tanya also expressed gratitude for those who have made or may wish to make donations in her memory to the Mercy House in Chambersburg, online at bit.ly/MH_Chambersburg_donate, or to conservation organizations such as Ocean Conservancy, a local Audubon, or the Center for Biological Diversity.

Her celebration of life was held at Fogelsanger Bricker Funeral Home in Shippensburg, Pa., on Feb. 28. She will be sorely missed, and her absence will be felt deeply by everyone she touched.

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

Frieda (Pearlson) Rabinovitz



Frieda Rabinovitz, a school psychologist and strong advocate for children, died peacefully on March 2, 2026, at her home in Chilmark. She was 99 years old.

She was adorable, and genuinely nice, with never a mean thing to say about anybody. Yet underneath that warm demeanor was spirit and resilience. Frieda worked with children who had lost their parents, who had immigrated from other countries, who lived in abusive homes. She pushed hard for them to get the services they needed to thrive.

Frieda was born July 14, 1926, in Cambridge, the youngest of three daughters, and older sister to a brother. Her parents came to the U.S. from Lithuania. Her oldest sister, Jeanne Henry, encouraged Frieda to go to college. She graduated with a degree in psychology from Jackson College, which was later absorbed into Tufts University.

While at Jackson, Frieda met Jason at a party in his dorm at the Harvard Business School, and she described it as love at first sight. She said she had already had other boyfriends, but she knew he was the one. A year or two later they were engaged and moving to New York City. She earned a master's degree from Teachers College at Columbia University, and gave birth to their first child, Abby, in 1950.

Frieda pursued her professional career while raising Abby and the three children who followed, Judy, Daniel, and Jonathan. Her first job was as a social worker in Manhattan with the New York Association for New Americans. After the family moved to Ardsley, N.Y., she began working at Abbott House, a nonprofit child welfare agency. As Jason's work required moves to Glenview, Ill., then Mamaroneck, N.Y., and ultimately Los Angeles in 1976, she diligently submitted the paperwork necessary to obtain certification in those states, working in the Skokie public schools, the Yonkers public schools, and then the L.A. Unified School District. Her tenure in Los Angeles extended more than 20 years.

During the 1990s and first decade of the 2000s, Frieda and Jason enjoyed traveling around the country to national parks, vacationing in the Caribbean, and entertaining at their home in Los Angeles. Above all, though, Frieda's favorite activity was playing with her four grandchildren, Conrad, Tia, Callie, and Joshua.

When Jason developed Lewy body dementia, Frieda cared for him until his death in 2012. Afterward, her children encouraged her to move to Chilmark, next door to her daughter Abby. There she lived in the house built by her late sister, Eleanor Pearlson.

She arrived just as the pandemic hit. Frieda was first cared for by Elaine King, who kept her safe while expanding her world of limited interactions with drives around the Island. During her last years, Frieda became increasingly frail. She was lovingly cared for by her new caregiver, Julie Abbe, who could always make her laugh. In addition to Julie and Elaine, Frieda was fortunate to have Thenzel Thomas and other wonderful part-time caregivers.

In addition to daughter Abby and her husband Richard Stuart, Frieda is survived by her daughter, Judy Rabinovitz of New York City; her son, Daniel Rabinovitz, and wife Effie Chan of Brookline; and

her son, Jonathan Rabinovitz, and wife Katherine Jennings of Bainbridge Island, Wash.; grandchildren Conrad Rabinovitz of Los Angeles, Tia Rabinovitz of Los Angeles, Callie Rabinovitz of New York City, and Joshua Rabinovitz, currently studying in Heidelberg, Germany; and her sister-in-law, Margaret Pearlson.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a gift in Frieda's memory to the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society; the LAUSD Education Foundation; or her alma mater, Tufts University.

A funeral service will be held on Sunday, March 8, at 11 am at the Martha's Vineyard Hebrew Center at 130 Center St. in Vineyard Haven.

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

Russell Edmund Swartz



Russell Edmund Swartz, 87, of Edgartown and Bonita Springs, Fla., passed away peacefully on Feb. 28, 2026, following a brief illness. He was also known as "Russ," "Rusty," and affectionately known as "P" (for Grampy) to his grandchildren.

Russell was born in Oak Bluffs on March 26, 1938, to William and Ida Swartz, and grew up in Vineyard Haven. He graduated from Tisbury High School in 1955, and went on to earn his associate's degree in small engine repair from the Franklin Institute in Boston. He was drafted into the Army on Sept. 18, 1961. He served two years' active duty, primarily as a weapons specialist in Germany, or as he described it, "guarding the wall," and two years in the Army Reserves.

In 1965, Russell met his future wife, Joyce ("Jay") Johnson. They married on Dec. 2, 1967, in New Hampshire, and spent 58 wonderful, very happily married years together. They had a daughter, Amy, in 1973, and he gained a sidekick who would go anywhere and do anything with him.

Russell worked for Carroll Trucking, the Cape & Vineyard, and Machine and Marine before opening Island Repair Service

in 1975, where he repaired cars, boats, and anything else the neighborhood boys brought over. There he became the "master mechanic" of Martha's Vineyard. On any given day, he could be found in "the shop" in his coveralls, whistling while he worked, and surrounded by friends who stopped by to say hello throughout the day. He sold the shop in 1996, and continued to work at Tashmoo Boatyard for many years, until he retired and spent his time with his family and friends, out on his boat, the Amy, in Tashmoo, and working in his garage at home in Edgartown.

When Amy married Greg Ellrodt in 2006, Russell gained a son, and they bonded over their shared humor and love of building and fixing things, spending many hours in his garage together. Amy and Greg have two children, Charles William ("Charlie"), born in 2008, and Lily Joyce, born in 2011, who were the apples of Russell's eye. He spent all the time he could with them, planting raspberries for them, taking them fishing, teaching them how to drive a golf cart, sharing with them his love of animals (except skunks) and birds (especially hummingbirds), and spending endless hours playing with them, and patiently building and fixing and tinkering with things with them by his side.

Russell was predeceased by his parents, William Joseph Swartz and Ida Silva Swartz, as well as by his sister, Barbara, and brother, Caton, who both died in childhood. He is survived by his loving wife, Joyce Swartz; his daughter, Amy Ellrodt, and her husband, Greg; his nieces and nephews, and his grandchildren, Charlie and Lily, who were the light of his life.

Russell lived his life to the fullest, with humor, patience, and kindness, and he will be missed by many. A memorial service is planned in the spring or summer of 2026 on Martha's Vineyard. **MVT**

OBITUARIES

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

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

e-mail: 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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Warren Doty

Continued from A1

Pennsylvania, and was in the middle of his dissertation on fishing in Chilmark in the late 1800s. Nan said he was about nine-tenths of the way through the body of work.

But, like many others, Doty fell in love with the Island and decided to stay. He was an academic, and worked as a teacher and headmaster in Philadelphia, but Nan said he thrived on the Island as much as he did in a classroom. On the Island, though, he “became more himself,” she said. And so, the dissertation was never finished.

Instead, Doty lived the life he researched about fishing in Chilmark, and did so several hundred years after the period he studied. He brought his passion for history and American civilization into becoming an integral part of the Island’s contemporary fishing community. It was 1976 when the Dotys moved to the Island; Alexander was 8 years old, and Laura was 6.

The Island, Nan said, was reminiscent of Doty’s childhood on the Jersey Shore. He and his neighborhood buddy would take off at 5:30 or 6 am and run down the beach to see the boats and haul come in. “It was not a big transfer to love that here,” she said.

Doty wasn’t built for an of-

ice job, because he didn’t like meetings. (“Dead fish don’t talk” was one of his favorite phrases.) But he also wasn’t built for long days at sea.

“He didn’t do well on a boat, but he really loved being in Menemsha and being part of that fishing world,” Nan said. Instead, Doty became a wholesale buyer and a huge advocate for the industry.

Doty founded the Dukes County Fishermen’s Association in 2009 to unify the voices of commercial fishermen, and in 2011 became a founding board member and board president of the Martha’s Vineyard Fishermen’s Preservation Trust (MVFPT).

“Warren will be deeply missed by our fishing community. His steady advocacy helped our Island maintain its solid, independent commercial fishing businesses,” Shelley Edmundson, executive director of the MVFPT, said. She added that Doty also established the Menemsha Fishermen’s Development Fund to assist with micro-loans for necessary waterfront space and infrastructure needed for the Island’s fishing fleets.

Doty was also a friend and mentor to Edmundson during her Vineyard Vision fellowship on the ecology of channeled whelk, or conch.

“During my studies, Warren and Nan were like family, having me over to discuss my research over a cup of tea or a

warm meal. Warren’s honest and straightforward feedback was invaluable, offering guidance that benefited me both personally and professionally,” Edmundson said. “His thoughtful leadership and kindness made a lasting impression. While his presence will be missed, the inspiration he provided will continue to encourage others, including myself, to keep advocating for the fishing community with the same firmness and compassion that he exemplified.”

Even in regulatory affairs around commercial fishing, Doty was involved. Daniel McKiernan, director of the state Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF), said Doty was a “highly informed advocate for Island fishing interests” and “understood the pulse of the fleet.”

“In the 1980s and 1990s, his advice was often incorporated into our decisions to improve management of squid, fluke, sea bass, and scup,” McKiernan said. “His was always a voice of reason, and he was an advocate for conservation, looking to sustain for the long term the legacy fishing industry on the Island.”

Wayne Iacono of the fishing vessel Freedom out of Menemsha remembers in the late 1970s when Doty would buy all his codfish. On days when Doty’s business was closed, he would set up a place for Island fishermen to sell in New Bedford. He even

set up Iacono to sell lobster in the winter at a fish market in Monument Beach in Bourne, because there was no fish market open on the Island.

“He just helped in so many ways to help fishermen and the town,” Iacono said.

Doty always liked to fix things, Nan said. “When he was fixing something, he’d often just put his hands on it, and it would sort of come to him what needed to be fixed.”

Doty took that skill to town politics as well. He served Chilmark on the school committee as well

While Doty achieved many milestones through his work for the town, including helping to see through the construction of a new school, a complete rebuild of the library, an overhaul of town hall, and conversion of the old schoolhouse to a police station, among many others, his concerns were the people and character of the small up-Island town.

James (“Jim”) Malkin, who served three terms on the select board and on the town’s finance committee, said Doty “had huge devotion

for people being able to live without income, and that really disturbed him.”

The second disagreement was about the construction of Beetbung Farm, which went from a small family farm owned by the Fischer family to a large, “very nice operation,” Malkin said.

Doty, Malkin said, worried that the size and scale of the building was out of character for the town.

Doty retired from town affairs in 2023, and a retirement party, where he himself performed live music, was held for him in April that year.

Nan said they thought the party was just for town staff, but as is “very typical in Chilmark,” word spread and many more came.

Nan said she has a lot of gratitude for people’s generosity of spirit, especially to those who came to help in the blizzard late last month when Doty wasn’t well. She wanted to thank not only the nurses from Visiting Nurse Association of Cape Cod Hospice & Palliative Care, but also those around the Island, and especially in Chilmark, who plowed the roads that allowed nurses to come in to help Doty.

“Nobody thinks about it. They just do it,” Nan said.

A service and potluck for Doty at the Chilmark Community Center is scheduled for Saturday, March 21, at 2 pm. **MVF**

“His was always a voice of reason, and he was an advocate for conservation, looking to sustain for the long term the legacy fishing industry on the Island.”

– DANIEL MCKIERNAN

as the planning board, then went on to be a select board member for 24 years.

Nan wasn’t sure what drove him to run for the Chilmark Select Board other than that he had a vision for the town, which helped preserve Chilmark’s character through years of changes.

“Warren was exceptionally committed to public service, and provided steady leadership to the town for many, many years. He will be missed,” a statement from the town said after his death.

and heartfelt concern for the town and the fishing village of Menemsha.” They had only two disagreements over the years, he said, “and they both involved character and compassion.”

One disagreement occurred in April 2020, when the Island was under lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was difficult for Doty to agree to shut down the Island and install a shelter-in-place policy, because he worried this would put people out of work. He had a “deep concern

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Rare sighting of endangered blue whales

Continued from A1

and 600 individuals and a range over large swaths of ocean unseen by scientists, sightings, other than in Canadian feeding grounds, are uncommon. Yet on two separate surveys a day apart and 170 miles apart, aquarium scientists spotted three off the East Coast.

"Seeing blue whales outside of their Canadian feeding grounds is rare in the Atlantic," Katherine McKenna, associate scientist in the aquarium's Anderson Cabot Center and aboard both survey flights, said in a press release. "Finding them in two different areas of the ocean just 24 hours apart was a first for us."

Scientists with the aquarium's Anderson Cabot Center for Ocean Life do survey flights pretty frequently. On Feb. 27, they flew over the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument, a previously protected and nearly 5,000-square mile area that the federal government recently reopened to commercial fishing. It was on this trip that they spotted a blue whale at the base of Lydonia Canyon.

Then, just a day later, the same team saw two other blue whales south of Martha's Vineyard.

Orla O'Brien, a research scientist for the center who oversees all survey flights, said trips to the Monument, primarily used to document biodiversity and mark the assemblage of animals seen out there, are flown at 1,500 feet once a quarter. Pilots follow a set of track lines, like waypoints, as observers look for animals and mark each sighting down as a data point. In this latest survey, they saw whales and dolphins only, but in the summer and fall, they'll sometimes spot oceanic rays and whale sharks. They saw three endangered fin whales, three endangered sperm whales, about 50 pilot whales,

and hundreds of dolphins on that late February survey.

These sightings are significant in the Monument, O'Brien said. "It reminds us that there are a lot of animals out there that need a safe space, and so the best way to protect these animals is to give them spaces where they're free of the risk of something like entanglement in fishing gear."

The aquarium has spotted blue whales in the Monument only once before, in 2020. It's also seen only one other blue whale off the coast of Maine, in 2023. Other partners have "sporadically" spotted blue whales in New England, the press release said. Migratory routes of blue whales aren't well-known, but they have been spotted in the waters off Eastern Canada and the U.S.

O'Brien, who was on the Feb. 28 survey flight, was hesitant to say that sightings are rare, because really the animal is rare, but said that a lot has to go right for the scientists to see them. And between large stretches of coast and hundreds of miles of ocean offshore, sightings are uncommon.

And the aquarium has never spotted one on record in the Southern New England survey area, 170 miles from the Monument.

The surveys south of the Islands, done twice a month, are flown at 1,500 feet because of the several offshore wind projects right off the coast that host turbines just below the 1,000-foot threshold. The main priority is to document large whales and turtles; in the winter months, scientists mostly exclusively see North Atlantic right whales, but in the summer months, they can document large aggregations of humpback, fin, and minke whales, as well as different species of dolphins, leatherback sea turtles, and hammerhead and basking sharks. Weather, like fog and what's colloquially

known as scud, or low clouds, as well as wind speeds that can produce whitecaps, can really impact visibility on these surveys.

But on Feb. 28, O'Brien said, "the conditions were right, that the whale was up at the surface at the exact time the plane flew by." That's what makes the sighting really special or unusual, she said.

The whales were "decently close," O'Brien said, to the offshore wind farms south of the Island. There are several offshore wind projects slated to be built south of the Island, though only one, South Fork

the farms.

"Pile-driving is something that could have the largest possibility of a displacement or disturbance in the moment," O'Brien said, though there is research underway to test this theory. Pile-driving involves a vertical, column-like structure hammering into the seabed, and is used to install offshore wind turbines. And blue whales are one of the loudest animals on the planet; their sounds, used to communicate and navigate, can be heard by other whales up to 1,000 miles away.

O'Brien said, however, that there is also consideration that the pilings or turbines could disrupt water flow and affect, good or bad, whales' prey. "We

don't know," she said.

Developers of the Vineyard Wind 1 project entered an agreement in 2019 to protect right whales. It includes vessel speed restrictions and a construction timeline that favors the whales' migratory patterns, especially for installation. This agreement was specifically made for the right whale, but consequently benefits other marine mammals.

Blue whales are found in all oceans but the Arctic Ocean, though their population was significantly reduced by commercial whaling in the 1900s. Michael Moore, emeritus research scholar at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, said that as the largest animals in the world, blue whales were attractive and profitable tar-

gets in the whaling days.

But at between only 400 and 600 individuals today, the population still hasn't recovered. Ship strikes, entanglement, and human-caused climate change have degraded the ecosystem and prevented a rebound. Moore calls this "whaling by mistake."

O'Brien added the idea that maybe the whaling industry disrupted the ecosystem in a way that the same number of blue whales can't be supported anymore.

Moore, who has a Ph.D. in the relationship between humans and marine animals, said he's only seen five blue whales in his career, and one was a mortality after a 486-foot tanker struck the whale in March 1998 near Nova Scotia. (The skeleton of that 66-foot juvenile blue whale is now at the New Bedford Whaling Museum.)

Meanwhile, Moore, who wrote a book on right whales, said he's had thousands of right whale sightings over the years, even though there are only about 380 individuals left of that species. That's because he knows where they are.

"If you talk to any whale biologist who isn't focusing on blue whales, their involvement with the animal is rare, because they are a very rare species," he said. **MVT**

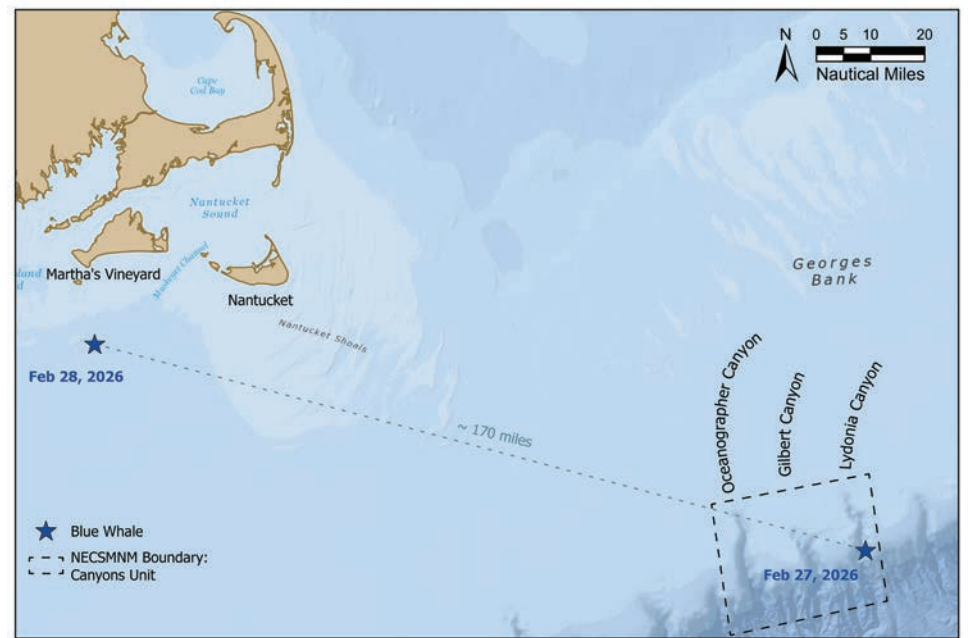


Scientist Katherine McKenna taking images on an aerial survey.

PHOTOS: LNEW ENGLAND AQUARIUM

Wind, is completed. Two under construction, Vineyard Wind 1 and Revolution Wind, are almost complete. O'Brien guessed that the whales were spotted between those two wind farms to be finished soon.

Anecdotally, O'Brien said she hasn't seen "anything specifically that makes me concerned that the presence of the wind farms" has displaced the whales, though this is currently a topic of research for the aquarium as well as for other entities. She's seen humpbacks and fin whales close to some of the installations in the summer months, and has seen a lot of right whales south of



A map of blue whale sightings at the end of February.

Speed zones for right whales may go

Regulations put in place more than 15 years ago to reduce the risk of lethal vessel strikes on endangered North Atlantic right whales in waters off the East Coast may change soon.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service announced in early March a request for information to modernize the 2008 vessel speed rule that currently prohibits vessels longer than 65 feet to travel faster than 10 knots (about 11 miles per hour) in management areas along the East Coast at certain times of the year. The rule was put in place to reduce the likelihood that ships could strike right whales and cause serious injury or death.

The right whale population, severely depleted by commercial whaling in the early 1900s to only a few hundred whales

or fewer, never fully recovered. They were called right whales because they floated after they were killed, i.e. the baleen whales were the right ones to catch. And recent data show that there are approximately 380 individuals left, which is actually an increase of about 20 since 2020.

They've been listed as endangered since 1970, and though there are various protections for the species, human-caused mortalities and serious injuries, such as ship strikes and entanglement, continue to occur. Between 2017 and 2026, NOAA Fisheries reports that at least 26 died by entanglement or vessel strikes, and 108 were injured.

The seasonal management areas are mostly off big ports from Florida to Boston, and were based on information on the whereabouts of right whales in the early 2000s. Compliance is enforced by NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement. Dynamic management areas are also created when visual and acoustic sensors document right whales, though the speed restriction in those areas is voluntary. For a

period of 15 days, boaters are encouraged to avoid those areas or reduce speeds.

A new rule was proposed by the administration of former President Joe Biden in 2021 because the species faced extinction, and science on the 2008 rule was old. It would've applied to an even smaller class of boats. A "firestorm of opposition," Erica Fuller, senior counsel at Conservation Law Foundation (CLF), said, came from recreational fishermen, yachting groups, and offshore wind developers. The new rule never came to be.

And now, the administration of President Donald Trump wants to review and possibly deregulate the current rule.

"NOAA encourages economic prosperity in our oceans, and advancements in technology are increasingly allowing maritime commerce to coexist with endangered species," Neil Jacobs, NOAA administrator, said in a press release. "This action is an important step in implementing the president's vision of adopting modern technologies, supporting American industry, and pro-

moting efficient and effective regulations."

But Fuller from CLF, an environmental advocacy organization, said that the species can't afford to lose a single whale, and the administration's suggestion that new technology can better detect whales doesn't reduce the need for speed zones. Technology can detect whales, but not mitigate vessel strikes, she said in an interview.

The March 6 announcement from NOAA Fisheries is an advance notice of a proposed rule. It asks that industry experts, coastal communities, and other stakeholders provide information "to reduce unnecessary regulatory and economic burdens" while ensuring conservation practices. After a 90-day comment period for the public through June 2, should NOAA move forward, then another public comment period would take place on the proposed rule.

"I don't think we're looking at changing the rules this year," Fuller said. "But anything's possible."

-Hayley Duffy

How much will you pay for the high school?

Continued from A1

model was decided on. The increased tax burden to pay for the school will not be easy for most families. Estimates based on median-priced homes will put tax increases at just under \$500 in Edgartown and just under \$1,000 in Aquinnah annually over the next 30 years. While a multimillion-dollar reimbursement from the state will provide some relief, the district share for the building project is expected to be \$258 million, which will be divided among the towns. The school committee is planning on introducing a tax calculator on the MVRHS building project website soon, so residents can find out exactly how much they would pay based on their property value.

For taxpayers, the price of the project is substantial, and may be a hefty addition to an already high cost of living. For school officials, the planned renovation is a necessity, given the current state of the building and the risk the deficiencies pose to students.

At Monday's meeting, the school committee decided on a level debt-funding model for the \$333.4 million building project, meaning the debt for the cost of a rebuilt school will be distributed in a near-equal manner across the next 30 years, while the tax rate will vary from town to town. With a slight increase in the first few years and a gradual dip toward the end, the middle two decades have the respective towns paying a consistent share through the years.

The other option on the table was a level principal model, which would have been more expensive for taxpayers in the first few years, with a drop later on. This option featured a lower interest rate overall, but less leeway for other funded initiatives in the near future, like a building project for a new town hall in Tisbury. Officials in the down-Island towns were divided on the options, and representatives gave their recommendations to the school committee for consideration.

"We believe it would be inappropriate to structure this borrowing in a way that requires current taxpayers to disproportionately shoulder the project's cost in its earliest years in order to subsidize future taxpayers," the Edgartown Select Board wrote in a letter to the school committee.

But Tisbury representatives disagreed. They pointed out that the level principal payment structure allowed for taxpayers to pay \$47 million less overall, and finish the payments more quickly.

"I'm just concerned for the residents of the town of Tisbury. Now, we're probably double any other municipality on this Island with

tax burden," Joe LaCivita, Tisbury town administrator, said in the school committee meeting on Monday.

Other town representatives also noted the maintenance costs required for a building over a 30-year period.

"One of the things that a level of principal debt arrangement allows you to do is to make room for what you're going to need to borrow to maintain this very large facility," Rachel Orr, a member of the Tisbury finance and advisory committee, said at Monday's committee meeting.

of the cost over with sooner might be moot.

The MVRHS building was built in the 1950s, and has been slated for a renovation for more than a decade by school leaders. The current building has mold in the walls, asbestos under floorboards, frequent flooding, dated mechanical systems, no central air system, and classroom sizes that don't meet state standards for learning.

School committee members are urging the school project to move forward, and are hoping that Islanders will vote to approve the

existing property taxes. The calculations were done based on the median home price in each town in 2025, as reported by CBS News:

TISBURY: A taxpayer with a property valuation of the 2025 median home price (\$1.25 million) will pay \$775 annually for the level debt over 30 years, but will pay a significantly lower amount during the first and last five years.

- Percentage of project costs: 22.9 percent
- Monetary value of the town's share: \$59,082,000
- Increase on residential tax rate at peak, per year: \$0.62

zeroing in on a town hall upgrade, and an old waterworks building was approved by voters for renovation to house LaCivita.

According to Tisbury finance committee chair Nancy Gilfoy, Tisbury has the highest tax impact because of the smaller number of properties, and the already steep tax rate in the town.

OAK BLUFFS: A taxpayer with a property valuation of the 2025 median home price (about \$1.29 million) will pay \$672 annually for the level debt over 30 years, but will pay a significantly lower amount during the first and last five years.

- Percentage of project costs: 22.89 percent
- Monetary value of the town's share: \$59,056,200
- Increase on residential tax rate at peak, per year: \$0.52
- Increase for each \$100,000 of a property, per year: \$52.18

A spokesperson for the Oak Bluffs town administrator, Deborah Potter, stated that the town, which will be paying a nearly equal amount to Tisbury, was a proponent of the level principal as well. Due to the lower interest rate in the principal debt payment, Oak Bluffs was more interested in the financial savings of that option.

"For the town of Oak Bluffs, she can't overlook the significant savings of interest that would, for us, equate to \$12 to \$15 million over that time period. So even though it costs more up front, it will be felt for years to come," the spokesperson said of Potter's position.

EDGARTOWN: A taxpayer with a property at the 2025 median home price (\$1.7 million) will pay \$493 annually for the level debt over 30 years, but will pay a significantly lower amount during the first and last five years.

- Percentage of project costs: 30.13 percent
- Monetary value of the town's share: \$77,735,400
- Increase on residential tax rate at peak, per year: \$0.29
- Increase for each \$100,000 of a property, per year: \$28.70

The residents of Edgartown will be taking on the highest portion of the debt, at 30.13 percent of the total. But they'll pay the lowest annual amount per taxpayer, because of the high number of residents, slightly lower property values than up-Island, and a lower town tax rate. The town was in favor of the level debt. Sarah Murphy, the Edgartown representative on the school committee, said, "The level debt allows for better stable, long-term planning for all towns" at Monday's meeting.

"Instead of front-loading the cost from a level principle approach, it allows us to spend those dollars on other projects that are currently happening, and in addition, make better planning for longer-term funding for the town," Murphy continued.

CHILMARK: A taxpayer with a property at the 2025 median home price (about \$2.5 million) will pay \$503 annually for the level debt over 30 years, but will pay a significantly lower amount during the first and last five years.

- Percentage of project costs: 8.26 percent
- Monetary value of the town's share: \$21,310,800
- Increase on residential tax rate at peak, per year: \$0.20
- Increase for each \$100,000 of a property, per year: \$20.07

While no representatives for Chilmark spoke at Monday's meeting, members of the select board in the up-Island town have had some frustrations with the process so far. They're in support of a new building for students, but have asked for more of a voice in the funding and voting measures.

WEST TISBURY: A taxpayer with a property at the 2025 median home price (\$1.5 million) will pay \$600 annually for the level debt over 30 years, but will pay a significantly lower amount during the first and last five years.

- Percentage of project costs: 13.42 percent
- Monetary value of the town's share: \$34,623,600
- Increase on residential tax rate at peak, per year: \$0.40
- Increase for each \$100,000 of a property, per year: \$40.28

AQUINNAH: A taxpayer with a property at the 2025 median home price (\$2.75 million) will pay \$990 annually for the level debt over 30 years, but will pay a significantly lower amount during the first and last five years.

- Percentage of project costs: 2.4 percent
- Monetary value of the town's share: \$6,192,000
- Increase on residential tax rate at peak, per year: \$0.36
- Increase for each \$100,000 of a property, per year: \$36.34

At 2.4 percent of the high school building project, Aquinnah property owners will pay the smallest share of the project, but the highest annual rate. While they have the lowest enrollment in the regional high school, the property values and town tax rates are higher, and there are fewer residents in the town. ■■■



A rendering of the renovation and addition of the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School.

RENDERINGS COURTESY MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE

In a draft breakdown of costs, which was presented to the school committee by its bond counsel, UniBank, the tax rates are higher for the down-Island towns, which will be paying a few million dollars each year, and lower for up-Island. This disparity is due to a funding formula that was decided on in 2022. The formula was based on school enrollment, property values, and insight from town representatives.

While attendees of Monday's meeting were largely split between the level debt and level principal options for funding, the decision came down to what each town can handle initially, with the consideration that inflation will essentially lower the burden as the years go on, and they landed on the level debt option. For example, in 2045, with current inflation rates of about 3 percent, the purchasing power of roughly \$3 million would likely be cut in half. With those considerations, the school committee decided that getting the bulk

funding model this summer. The committee members have pointed to reimbursement funding from the state that makes this proposal more feasible. More than \$71 million has been allotted for the construction of the MVRHS building by the Massachusetts School Building Authority, an organization that funds capital projects statewide.

An Island-wide vote is scheduled for June 2, when Vineyard residents will go to the polls to decide on the fiscal future of their own tax rates and the educational future of young Islanders. It's a lofty call when other capital projects, tax burdens, and personal considerations are all at play.

Below are what the towns' tax burdens are expected to be over the next 30 years, based on draft data by UniBank. All information below was calculated based on the highest peak represented in said data, and would be an additional amount on

- Increase for each \$100,000 of a property at peak, per year: \$62.10

Representatives in the town of Tisbury have been concerned about their impending tax-rate increases since the funding formula was finalized.

Town residents are already paying for the Tisbury School building renovation, which cost \$82 million. The project did not receive MSBA reimbursement after a few residents voted the project down, so taxpayers are responsible for the full cost of that school. That school is being paid for through a level principal payment model.

Tacking on another school building project has, for some, seemed a monumental addition to an already higher tax rate. Tisbury has the lowest median income of any Island town, at a salary of about \$70,724 a year in 2023, according to the towns' 2025 Housing Production Plan.

Town leaders are also



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The Vision Fellowship empowers Islanders who are committed to the environmental and social sustainability of Martha's Vineyard. If you have excellent nonprofit leadership, management, and budgeting skills, as well as discretion and a commitment to Martha's Vineyard's future, please visit www.vineyardvision.org to apply.

FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER PROGRAM MANAGER, MVCS DISABILITY SERVICES

(\$63,000 - \$78,000 PER YEAR)
We're looking for a compassionate, culturally responsive leader who honors families lived experiences, diversity, and cultural values. In this role, you'll direct programming and support families in navigating complex systems, accessing resources, and exploring self-directed options across the lifespan. Experience preferred but paid on the job training may be provided. Apply at: mvcommunityservices.org/employment

HELP WANTED

communityservices.org/employment

FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER SERVICE NAVIGATOR, MVCS DISABILITY SERVICES

(\$23.07 - \$27.40 PER HOUR)
Do you love helping families thrive? We're seeking a compassionate and resourceful Service Navigator to support families in identifying resources, solving problems, and building strong community connections. Join a team that values family strengths, diversity, and self-direction across the lifespan. Experience preferred but paid on the job training may be provided. Apply at: mvcommunityservices.org/employment

FLOWER GARDEN MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR

Excellent opportunity for hard working individual to work with a well established landscape maintenance team. Specializing in planting and maintaining flower gardens, plantbeds. Pots/ Planters/ Window Boxes. Knowledge of plants and arranging pots and design skills a plus. Great pay rates, benefits, paid vacations and holidays. MA Driver's License or Working Papers a plus. We speak Brazilian Portuguese please give us a call today! Call Landscape at (508) 696-8812 ask for John or Marcelo.

GRADE 1 TEACHER

The Martha's Vineyard Public Charter School seeks a Full-Time Grade 1 teacher beginning September 1,

HELP WANTED

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 MVPCS.org.



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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HELP WANTED



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Edgartown restaurant entering its 10th season is hiring Cooks and Dishwashers/Kitchen Assistants (prep). Busy, high-volume kitchen. Seasonal positions with housing available!

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.

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Elderly lady with mobility issues, year rounder, looking for help running errands. Picking up groceries, food, mail, etc. 2-3 times per week. Janice 508-696-8976.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

Open coaching positions
Varsity Head Football
Head Boys Tennis
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
4 Pine Street, Vineyard Haven, 02568
508-693-2009
Return completed application to the Superintendent's Office
No person shall be excluded or

HELP WANTED

discriminated against on the basis of race, color, sex, age, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability. EOE.

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, 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. EOE.

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Job is a consistent weekly delivery route schedule.
Must have a valid drivers license with clean driving record. Must have your own vehicle - suv preferred.
Job requires some technical skills- Applicant should also be able to lift minimum of 50 pounds.
This is a 1099 position.
Aprox. 10-15 hours/week depending on schedule.
Pay is approximately \$550. week - depending on availability and combination of deliveries.
Looking to train and fill the position by May 2026 - possibility to start earlier.
If interested email : vineyardcourier@gmail.com

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

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 Bachelor's degree preferred. Application and full job description available at www.edgartown-ma.us or contact lfamari@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.
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OCEAN PARK REALTY
 Welcome to Lagoon Ridge.....Oak Bluffs' newest and most sought-after neighborhood! Build your 3-bedroom dream home with M Duffany 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.

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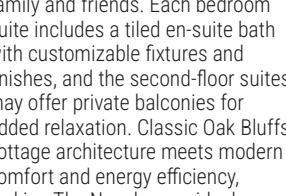
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 With toilet, stove, water, and outdoor shower. Rent is \$1,000/month. Trailer is usable year-round except during deep freeze months (January–February); during those two months a nice indoor space will be provided instead. No cigarette smokers please. Also available as a summer rental (June–September) for \$2,000/month. Call or text Lisa at 310-213-5472.
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 Two full baths. laundry two secretary offices and doctors with huge basketball court siaze work space. Kitchenette. Ample parking (15 cars) Coy pond. Outdoor space. \$6,500 per month. Contact Lisa 310-213-5472.
YEAR ROUND APARTMENTS
 One person only, full-time, day-worker preferred. West Tisbury. No smokers, no pets. Partially furnished or not. Start April-1st. \$1,750 one-bedroom or studio. Some utilities included. Application & references, first/last/security. 508-693-9199.

PETS/LIVESTOCK
 other large 18-hand chestnut, Enzo's companion, offered for an inexpensive full lease for pleasure riding. Suitable for advanced riders only. Lease is \$1,000/month each (negotiable). Owner pays board, vet, and shoes—an exceptional opportunity to ride truly stunning horses. Text (310) 213-5472 for videos and more information.
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

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.

HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS

2 HOPE'S WAY SOLD FOR \$665,000 BY MARILYN MOSES 3 BEDROOM LOT
 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.

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!

PRIME DOWNTOWN VINEYARD HAVEN RETAIL/COMMERCIAL SPACE OFF MAIN ST. 850 SQ FT, 1/2 BATH.
 Surrounded by popular new restaurants. Utilities not included. Text/call (774) 310-1018.
COMMERCIAL RENTAL WANTED
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.

YARD SALES
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.
PETS/LIVESTOCK
HORSE AVAILABLE FOR HALF LEASE
Enzo, a stunning 18-hand chestnut with beautiful floating gaits and excellent movement. Son of the Olympic dressage sire Glock's Johnson. Available May 1 through next winter at a beautiful farm in Vineyard Haven, currently training with a well-known trainer off-island with access to an indoor arena. Enzo also jumps beautifully. Also available is Diamond, an

SITUATIONS WANTED
LOOKING FOR PRIVATE POOL IN VH OR WEST TISBURY TO SWIM MORNING LAPS.
 Will pay to do so. Janice 508-696-8976
SERVICES
HANDYMAN HOME SERVICES
 Property management/Carpentry/Painting/Decks/Outdoor Showers 508-221-2796 stephenhartdesign-build.com
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.myhandyman@maninmv@gmail.com
CHILD CARE
BABYSITTER WANTED IN AQUINNAH, LATE JUNE THROUGH MID-JULY. TWO YOUNG CHILDREN (AGES ~2 AND INFANT).
 Experience with toddlers preferred. Flexible hours. Contact mv_2026@googlegroups.com.

HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS

\$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

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.

BargainBox

<p>BOGEN DB-114 MONO TUBE AMPLIFIER, 1950'S. Project for restoration. No tubes. Chappy. \$10 508-939-9571.</p> <p>FREE 3 large bags of compostable foam packing material. Panels can be composted or dissolved in water. Please text 774-563-0951.</p> <p>FREE Attention ebay sellers, four bags of clean, compostable packing panels. Can also be dissolved in</p>	<p>water. Pack green! Text please 774-563-0951.</p> <p>JIGSAW PUZZLES SCRABBLE, PARCHEESI, ETC. Good/Excellent condition. \$3-\$12. 508-693-7472 -Call anytime, 7:30am-12:30pm is best.</p>	<p>water. Pack green! Text please 774-563-0951.</p>
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MY Times
the minute

The free daily MV Times newsletter, delivered straight to your inbox every weekday.

Real Estate

HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS



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

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

See What You Can Build for 33% less!

Schedule Your Free In-Person or Video Walk Through Today!

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

HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS

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

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



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

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

HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS



ONE LOT AVAILABLE 35 DOUBLE OX \$700,000 CALL OR TEXT MARILYN MOSES 617-462-0381

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 Sengkontacket 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.



OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY MAY 25TH 11:00-AM-1:00PM 46 KENNEBEC AVENUE OAK BLUFFS, MA \$1,590,000

CALL OR TEXT ALAN SCHWEIKERT 508-221-1708 OR MICHAEL SCHWEIKERT 774-563-9112

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



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.



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 \$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.



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.

HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS



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

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

Real Estate Transactions March 2 - 6, 2026

Edgartown

March 5, Dinah K. Virgulto, trustee of Dinah K & Vincent Virgulto Formula AB Nominee Trust, sold 104 Marthas Way to Dinah D. Virgulto, trustee of Survivors Trust Under The Dinah K & Vincent Virgulto Formula and Family Trust Under the Dinah K & Vincent Virgulto Formula AB, for \$1.

Gosnold

March 6, Amanda Defazio sold 0 Road to the Cemetery to Michael D. Parker and Allen Berry for \$400,000.

Oak Bluffs

March 2, James R. Reidy and Deborah E. Reidy sold 14 Chapman Ave. to John A. Kotsopoulos and Cheryl A.

Kotsopoulos for \$1,775,000.

March 6, Charles McKinney, also known as Charles A. McKinney, and the Estate of Ulysses Joseph Lear, also known as Ulysses J. Lear, sold 24 School St. to Isaac Starr for \$782,000.

March 6, Lagoon Ridge MV LLC and CapeBuilt Lagoon Ridge LLC sold 2 Hopes Way to Christopher Lynch and Ellen Lynch for \$665,000.

Tisbury

March 3, Kent A. Ormondroyd sold 515 Edgartown Road to Harbor Homes of Martha's Vineyard Inc. for \$1,500,000.

March 3, Harbor Homes of Martha's Vineyard Inc. sold 515 Edgartown Road to Island Housing Trust Corp. for \$500,000.

Show your support this school year!

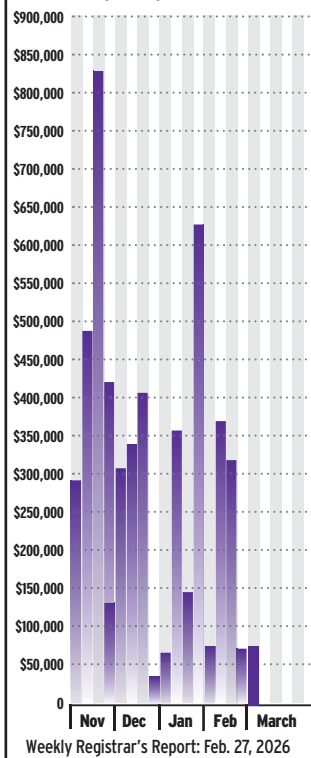
The High School View



To advertise call 508-639-6100 or email adsales@mvtimes.com.

LAND BANK WEEKLY INCOME

FY 2026, Year to Date: \$13,861,823.59



Real Estate

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
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-OAK BLUFFS



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

Stylish, sunlit, and superbly located — this architecturally designed end-unit townhouse offers 2 bedrooms, a flexible third-floor loft, and 1.5 baths across 1,323 sq. ft. Enjoy a sleek chef's kitchen with stone countertops, custom built-ins, and a 288 sq. ft. private deck ideal for entertaining. With upgraded flooring, windows, systems, and a successful rental history, this property is perfect for year-round living or as a strong investment. **Community amenities include:**
 • Access to fresh & saltwater ponds
 • Ocean access dock + boat ramp
 • Clubhouse, tennis/pickleball courts
 • Kayak storage + potential mooring
 • Minutes to Farm Neck, bike paths & beaches
Offered \$1,149,000
Exclusively by: Marilyn Moses | REALTOR®
 617-462-0381 | marilyn@oceanparkmv.com

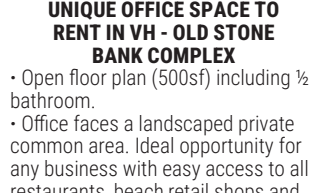
HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS



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

This delightful home is on a scenic lot nestled within the Senkонтacket 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 Senkонтacket. 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 Senkонтacket 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.

COMMERCIAL-VINEYARD HAVEN



UNIQUE OFFICE SPACE TO RENT IN VH - OLD STONE BANK COMPLEX
 • Open floor plan (500sf) including ½ bathroom.
 • Office faces a landscaped private common area. Ideal opportunity for any business with easy access to all restaurants, beach, retail shops and ferry terminal.
 \$3000 including parking. Utilities not included.
 Email globavalentina@gmail.com

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.

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MV Times

READ ONLINE: MVTIMES.COM

Legal Notices

LEGAL NOTICES



PROPOSAL TO PROVIDE A LIMITED INTERISLAND PASSENGER ONLY SERVICE BETWEEN NANTUCKET AND MARTHA'S VINEYARD

Woods Hole, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket Steamship Authority ("the Authority") will hold a public hearing on the application of Helen H Offshore Fishing Corp ("Helen H") to operate a limited passenger service between Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard for school athletics and select community events, commencing on or about April 4, 2026, and ending on or before May 21, 2026. The hearing will take place on March 26, 2026, at 4:00 PM. The Authority's staff will be available and present at its Administrative Office's first floor meeting room, located at 228 Palmer Avenue, Falmouth, Massachusetts 02540. The public is invited to attend and be heard virtually. Pursuant to Section 20 of Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, the hearing be held virtually. The public is requested to participate at the hearing via the Zoom conferencing application, by visiting zoom.us and using meeting ID 856 2472 3841. Participants may also use the same meeting ID and join telephonically by calling one of the following numbers: (305) 224-1968, (309) 205-3325, (646) 931-3860, (929) 436-2866, or (301) 715-8592.

LEGAL NOTICES

The Authority also encourages the public to submit written comments regarding Helen H's application. All comments from the public must be received by the Authority's General Manager, Alexander T. Kryska, no later than the close of business on March 31, 2026, either at the following address: Steamship Authority, 228 Palmer Ave, Falmouth, MA 02540, or by email at akryska@steamshipauthority.com.

Currently, the public can view documents regarding Helen H's application on the Authority's website, www.steamshipauthority.com, and selecting the ABOUT tab on the home page, followed by selecting the NEWS tab and then clicking on "Ferry License Requests." All documents will be available for inspection during regular business hours at the Authority's General Offices, located at 228 Palmer Avenue, Falmouth, Massachusetts 02540. For further information, you may contact the Authority's General Counsel, Terence G. Kenneally, at (508) 548-5011, ext. 301 or by email at tkenneally@steamshipauthority.com

SHERIFF'S MEADOW FOUNDATION REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

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

LEGAL NOTICES TISBURY

TISBURY PLANNING BOARD HEARING NOTICE

Pursuant to MGL c. 40A, Section 5, the Tisbury Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Thursday March 26, 2026 at 4:30 pm** to receive public comment on the following amendments to the current Tisbury Zoning Bylaws. **PLACE: Hybrid-** in person at 66 High-point Lane Town Hall Annex. Additionally, this meeting will be held remotely via Zoom platform. The Public can attend and participate in the meeting by the following method-MVPSIS Conf3 is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting:
 Topic: TPB Public Hearing- warrant article review
 Time: Mar 26, 2026 04:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
 Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83101887204>
Meeting ID: 831 0188 7204
Passcode: 747091
 One tap mobile
 +13017158592,,83101887204# US (Washington DC)
 +13052241968,,83101887204# US

ARTICLE XX- LAND CLEARING AND GRADING

Replace existing Section 07.12 in its entirety with the following:
07.12 LAND ALTERATION
07.12.01 Purpose
 To protect the health, safety, and property of Town residents by regulating clearing and grading; preserving

LEGAL NOTICES TISBURY

trees and vegetation; preventing erosion; controlling stormwater; maintaining contiguous forested areas; and avoiding impacts to native, rare and endangered species.

07.12.02 Definitions

For the purposes of this section:
Certified Arborist: An arborist holding current International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) certification.
Clearcutting: Removal of all or substantially all trees and woody vegetation from an area.
DBH (Diameter at Breast Height): Diameter of a tree trunk measured at 4.5 feet above mean natural grade.
Grading: Excavation, filling, leveling, or other alteration of existing land contours.
Soil Disturbance: Any activity that exposes, removes, compacts, or relocates soil, including excavation, trenching, and stripping of topsoil.
Vegetation Clearing: Cutting, removal, or destruction of trees, shrubs, or ground cover, excluding routine mowing of a maintained lawn.

07.12.03 Applicability

This section applies to the R10, R20, R25, R50, and R3A residential zoning districts. It does not apply to the B1, B2, or Waterfront/Commercial districts. A Special Permit from the Planning Board is required before any clearcutting, vegetation clearing, soil disturbance, grading, or alteration of topography exceeding the thresholds in Table 1 is undertaken, unless exempted under 07.12.05.

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Table 1

District R10- Max 60%
 District R20- Max 50%
 District R25- Max 40%
 Districts R50 / R3A Max 30%

Clearing includes all such activity for building footprints, construction access, utility trenching, paving, and topographic alteration and landscaping. The minimum front, side, and rear setback areas designated in Section 13.01 Schedule A shall be preserved from clearing, disturbance, paving, and grading, except for purposes of access and exemptions under 07.12.05.

07.12.04 Relationship to Other Permits

Where a project requires a Special Permit under this section and another Special Permit under this bylaw, the Planning Board may consolidate review. A separate Special Permit under this section is not required where the Board determines the standards of 07.12.08 have been addressed in another Special Permit review for the same project. This section does not alter any Conservation Commission approval requirement under MGL c. 131.

07.12.05 Exemptions

1. Removal of hazardous trees as determined by the Tree Warden or a Certified Arborist.
 2. Routine maintenance of native vegetation, including containment of species prohibited by state law or

LEGAL NOTICES TISBURY

regulation.

3. Maintenance of a 30-foot fire protection zone around any structure, which may encroach into setback areas.

4. Maintenance of public streets and utilities within Town-approved layouts and easements.

5. Work reviewed under another Special Permit where the Planning Board has applied the standards of 07.12.08.

6. In the R10 district, on lots of 11,000 square feet or less, clearing may encroach into setback areas.

07.12.06 Review Procedure

The Planning Board shall transmit a copy of each completed Special Permit application to the Conservation Commission, who shall submit comments within 35 days of receipt. The Planning Board shall give due consideration to the Conservation Commission's comments, particularly regarding wetlands, buffer zones, and habitat. If no comments are received within the 35-day period, it shall be deemed a lack of opposition by the Conservation Commission.

07.12.07 Submission Requirements

Applications shall include the following, unless the Board determines specific items are inapplicable:

1. Stamped site plan showing: vegetational communities (referencing the then current Martha's Vineyard Commission Vegetation Communities Map or successor map); soil conditions; trees greater than 6" DBH (size, height, species); rare/endangered

Legal Notices

LEGAL NOTICES TISBURY

species habitat within the property per the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program; proximity to conservation land, wetlands, waterbodies and wetland buffer zones; applicable overlay zoning districts; and existing and proposed topography.

2. Narrative: explaining the purpose of proposed clearing, disturbance, or grading, and identifying any departures from the standards in 07.12.08.

3. Development and landscaping plans; including all impervious surfaces.

4. Erosion and sedimentation control plan; describing Best Management Practices to be employed.

07.12.08 Review Standards

The Applicant shall demonstrate compliance with the following:

1. Minimize alteration; Preserve natural topography and drainage by siting buildings and parking to blend with the landscape. Limit utility clearing to the minimum necessary; utilize tunnels where feasible.

2. Minimize impervious surfaces; Control runoff through natural storm-water systems.

3. Protect scenic views; Site structures so as not to detract from the property's scenic qualities.

4. Protect wildlife habitat; Where the site is within Priority Habitat as mapped by the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, the applicant shall provide evidence of compliance with M.G.L. c. 131A. Further, the site activity/project shall be designed to maintain contiguous forested areas.

5. Preserve trees; Protect retained vegetation with temporary fencing encompassing the root zone, maintained through construction. Retain native trees contiguous with those on adjacent sites to the greatest extent practicable.

6. Minimize cut and fill; Limit grading for structures, driveways, and utilities. Stage construction equipment/facilities in areas planned for permanent improvements. No topsoil stockpiling near protected trees or wetlands.

7. Work with natural contours/elevations; Minimize retaining walls.

8. Erosion control; Per the Massachusetts Stormwater Handbook published by the Department of Environmental Protection.

9. Revegetation: Revegetate disturbed areas promptly, using native species.

07.12.09 Monitoring

The Planning Board or its agent shall inspect the site before clearing or grading begins to confirm erosion controls and tree protection are in place per the approved plan.

07.12.10 Enforcement

Erosion controls shall remain until disturbed areas are stabilized. The Board may require inspection before removal of temporary controls. Violations of this section are subject to enforcement under Section 10.01.

Or take any other action relative thereto

Sponsor: Planning Board

ARTICLE XX – PLUMBING IN ACCESSORY STRUCTURES

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning Bylaw, section 04.02, RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS, Uses Permitted, by revising subsection 04.02.05 as shown below (additions in bold and deletions in strikethrough)

Accessory uses normally incidental to a permitted use, including **no more than one (1) only garage accessory structure unless more than one is otherwise specifically allowed under another provision of this Bylaw**, but otherwise not including additional structures unless specifically stated in this Bylaw. **Plumbing facilities may be installed in the accessory structure, subject to the following conditions: a) the structure will not be used for habitation, and the owner shall certify that restriction in writing to the Inspector of Buildings before issuance of any permit for installation; b) the Board of Health makes a written determination that the use of**

LEGAL NOTICES TISBURY

the proposed plumbing facilities will not have a detrimental impact on the wastewater disposal system serving the property (including the Tisbury Wastewater Collection and Treatment System, as applicable) and will comply with all applicable Board of Health regulations.

Or take any other action relative thereto

Sponsor: Planning Board

ARTICLE XX – ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS

To Existing TZBL 04.02.01 - Update the ADU bylaw to comply with the Attorney General's directive, remove principal dwelling setback requirements for an ADU and "single family".

Replace -"Single Family Dwelling" with **"Principal Dwelling"**

(a) In addition to the principal **single-family** dwelling, one accessory dwelling unit ("ADU") is permitted, subject to the following restrictions and requirements:

i. No ADU shall exceed 50% of the gross floor area of the **single-family residence principal dwelling** or 900 square feet, whichever is smaller.

ii. The ADU may be created within the principal **single-family residence dwelling** or within a detached accessory structure, provided that any such accessory structure shall comply with **the setback requirements applicable to principal structures and all other requirements of this Bylaw applicable to accessory structures. either with all applicable requirements of this Bylaw for principal dwellings or for accessory structures, whichever are less strict.**

ARTICLE XX- WATERFRONT COMMERCIAL DISTRICT

To Existing TZBL 06.05.00 - Uses permitted in the Commercial Management Area

Change 05. - one (1) detached single-family dwelling On a lot with a principal dwelling structure, one ADU shall be allowed as an accessory to such use, subject to the restrictions and requirements of Section 04.02.01

ARTICLE XX- SCHEDULE A

In 13.01 Schedule A - change for the R10 District Detached Accessory structure Side & Rear Setbacks to 10' from 5'

ARTICLE XX- MUNICIPAL USES

To Existing TZBL 05.00 - Add Municipal Uses to the B1 and B2 districts w/ Site Plan Review and exempt from parking requirements set forth in the bylaw.

Add - 05.11.03 Municipal Uses with Site Plan Review. Municipal Uses are exempt from Parking requirements in this Bylaw.

ARTICLE XX – FLOODPLAIN DISTRICT

To Existing TZBL 09.04.02 – Floodplain District Boundaries:

The Floodplain District is herein established as an overlay district to all other districts. The District includes all special flood hazard areas within the Town of Tisbury designated as Zone A, AH, AO, AE or VE on the Dukes County Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) dated July 20, 2016 issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the administration of the National Flood Insurance Program.

Remove - The map panels of the Dukes County FIRM that are wholly or partially within the Town of Tisbury are panel numbers 25007C0082J, 25007C0083J, 25007C0084J, 25007C0101J, 25007C0102J, 25007C0103J, 25007C0104J and 25007C0111J dated July 20, 2016.

Change TZBL 09.04.15 - Floodplain Administrator:

The **Building/Zoning Inspector-Conservation Agent** shall be the official Floodplain Administrator for the Town of Tisbury.

ARTICLE XX- DESIGNATED SPECIALWAYS

LEGAL NOTICES TISBURY

Add – Mud Puddle Road: Within twenty feet of either side of the centerline of Mud Puddle Road, from Edgartown Road to the Power line Utility easement.

Sailor's Burying Ground Road/Great Rock Road: Within twenty feet of either side of the centerline of Sailor's Burying Ground Road / Great Rock Road between the Power line Utility Easement and parcel 20-A-21.

Sailor's Burying Ground Road: Within twenty feet of either side of the centerline of Sailor's Burying Ground Road from the intersection with Canterbury Lane on parcel 20-A-22 to the Oak Bluffs Town Line.

To Existing TZBL 09.03.02.04

There shall be no removal of existing vegetation within a Special Way Zone other than to keep the Special Way clear of debris and overgrown vegetation, except as permitted as part of a Special Permit or where the width of a Special Way Zone extends beyond a pre-existing fence or beyond where a fence may be allowed.

Add – To clear the travel way of vegetation the following method may be used for administrative approval from the Planning Board:

For sections of the Special Way less than 12 feet wide, any tree located within the following dimensions may be removed with on-site approval from a Planning Board representative. The Applicant must obtain written permission from the property owners of the land where the trees are located and provide it to the Planning Board before any cutting. The measurement begins vertically from the outer edge of the level travel way:

- Starting Height: From 3 feet high.
- Outward: Extending up to 1 foot 6 inches horizontally.
- Ending Height: Reaching a maximum vertical height of 13 feet 6 inches from the travel way.

Using the above methodology, the removal of the trees that impede the Special Way's travel ability will leave the root ball and stump intact to

avoid destabilizing any embankment.

LEGAL NOTICES W. TISBURY

WEST TISBURY BOARD OF SELECTMEN

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING VINEYARD TAKE OUT INC DBA VINEYARD PLANE VIEW

The Select Board will hold a public hearing in the Select Board Meeting Room (2nd floor Town Hall 1059 State Rd) and on zoom on Wednesday, March 25, 2026 at 4:30 pm to act on the application of Vineyard Take Out Inc 71 Airport Rd, West Tisbury for Tisbury for an alcoholic beverage license for retail sale of wine and malt. Contact the Select Board at 508-696-0102 or townadmin@westtisbury-ma.gov. Written comments will be accepted into the record upon receipt by Friday, March 20, 2026 2:00 pm at the Select Board Office 1059 State Road, PO Box 278, West Tisbury, MA 02575.

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 person 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 "recreational 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:

LEGAL NOTICES W. TISBURY

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) Join instructions <https://us06web.zoom.us/join/82197658463?invite=wbQbNFI3hQFGPJqM> H_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 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.

WEST TISBURY ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On **Thursday, March 26, 2026, at 5:15pm** the ZBA will hold a public hearing at the TOWN HALL-2 nd floor meeting room on an application for a Special Permit from **Abigail Leighton**, to allow the operation of a service business (dog walking/sitting), under Sections 3.1-1, 8.5-2, and 14.2 of the West Tisbury Zoning Bylaw at **24 Flint Hill Rd., Map 15 Lot 31.2**, 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.**

PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The West Tisbury Planning Board will hold a public hearing via Zoom, on

Monday, March 30, 2026 at 5:00 pm on Zoom, to amend the zoning bylaws at annual 2026 Town Meeting as follows:

Section 8.5-2 H Moratorium on Service Businesses
Section 3.1, Section 14.2, and Section 8.5-2D Pool House
Section 10.1-2 Demolition Delay Bylaw
Section 3.1, 4.4-2D1, 4.4-2D3, 8.6-3A and 14.2 Sport Court

LEGAL NOTICES W. TISBURY

Section 8.5-4 Swimming Pool Section 4.4-5 Employee Dormitories Section 4.4-7C1 Homesite Lots

A copy of the proposed bylaw amendments is available on the 2nd floor of the Town Hall Monday through Thursday 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Interested parties are invited to send comments and/or attend the meeting. Please address any comments to:

Leah Smith, Chairman
Planning Board
P.O. Box 278
West Tisbury, MA 02575
Fax: 508-696-0103
planningboard@westtisbury-ma.gov
Join Zoom Meeting <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87823359030?pwd=UhfCdbW7nJLzTAfj53MC7Mb3csf42.1>
Meeting ID: 878 2335 9030
Passcode: 937298
+1 305 224 1968 US
+1 309 205 3325 US

LEGAL NOTICES OAK BLUFFS

OAK BLUFFS CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, and the Oak Bluffs Wetlands Bylaw, the Oak Bluffs Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing for a Notice of Intent filed by Christopher Alley of Schofield, Barbini, & Hoehn on behalf of The Declaration of Revocable Trust of Stephen Wesley London and The Declaration of Revocable Trust of Diane F. Carr for the upgrade of an existing septic system serving an existing single family dwelling. This is located within a Coastal Dune and the Velocity Zone at 12 Anchor Way, Oak Bluffs, Map 5 Parcel 21. The hearing will take place at 3:30PM on Thursday March 26, 2026. The hearing will take place at Oak Bluffs Town Hall, 56 School Street, Oak Bluffs.

OAK BLUFFS CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, and the Oak Bluffs Wetlands Bylaw, the Oak Bluffs Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing for a Notice of Intent filed by George Sourati of Sourati Engineering Group, LLC on behalf of North Rose, LLC and Next Level Water View, LLC for the removal of hazardous Pitch Pines and other trees that are at risk of collapse due to poor root foundations and erosion. This is located within a Coastal Dune and its buffer zone and the 100 year flood zone and its buffer zone at 107 & 109 Barnes Road, Oak Bluffs, Map 15 Parcels 12 & 13. The hearing will take place at 3:30PM on Thursday March 26, 2026. The hearing will take place at Oak Bluffs Town Hall, 56 School Street, Oak Bluffs.

OAK BLUFFS CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, and the Oak Bluffs Wetlands Bylaw, the Oak Bluffs Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing for a Notice of Intent filed by Matthew Ladewig of TRC, on behalf of the Hidden Cove Property Owners Association for an aquatic vegetation and water quality management program in the Hidden Cove Duck Pond. This is located within Land Under Waterbodies and Waterways at 43 Hidden Cove Road, Oak Bluffs, Map 57 Parcel 88. The hearing will take place at 3:30PM on Thursday March 26, 2026. The hearing will take place at Oak Bluffs Town Hall, 56 School Street, Oak Bluffs.

OAK BLUFFS CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Pursuant to the Oak Bluffs Wetlands Bylaw, the Oak Bluffs Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing for a Request for Determination of Applicability filed by Edward Pesce of Pesce Engineering & Associates, Inc. on behalf of Martha's Vineyard

LEGAL NOTICES OAK BLUFFS

Hospital, Inc. for the construction of a new emergency electric generator for the Martha's Vineyard Hospital. This is located within the buffer to the 100 year flood zone at 1 Hospital Road, Oak Bluffs, Map 7 Parcel 1. The hearing will take place at 3:30PM on Thursday March 26, 2026. The hearing will take place at Oak Bluffs Town Hall, 56 School Street, Oak Bluffs.

TOWN OF OAK BLUFFS, MA PLANNING BOARD

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Nt Lot 1 LLC
Map 24 Parcel 2.1

39 Holmes Hole Road
SPECIAL PERMIT APPLICATION

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L Chapter 40A, Section 11, and Oak Bluffs Zoning Bylaws **10.3 (Special Permits); 3.1.3 (Table of Use Regulations – Appendix A); and 8.2.6 (Water Resource Protection Overlay District – Uses By Special Permit)**, the Planning Board will open a virtual public hearing on **Thursday, March 26, 2026 at 5pm via Zoom** on the application of Nt Lot 1 LLC for the property located at 39 Holmes Hole Road, Oak Bluffs; Map 24, Parcel 2.1 in the R3 District. Applicants seek to construct 5750 square feet of boat storage within the R3 District. The application, plans, and relevant documents are available online. See: <https://oakbluffsma.gov/567/39-Holmes-Hole-Road>

Please forward comments to Planning Board Administrator, PO Box 1327, Oak Bluffs MA 02557 or via email: planningboard@oakbluffsma.gov.

To join Zoom meeting: <https://oakbluffs.zoom.us/j/83703125450?pwd=51kJKWGDct1He9dYoHrmLsd4lYKIS6.1>

Meeting ID: 837 0312 5450
Passcode: 710683

One tap mobile
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+16469313860,83703125450# US

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)

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Carroll's Self-Storage, located at 475B Edgartown Road Vineyard Haven, hereby gives notice of the intent to enforce its lien pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 105A, Self-Storage Facilities, on the personal property stored at the facility by the following tenants:

• **Tara Anderson Self-Storage Building located at 475B Edgartown Road Vineyard Haven Unit #3073. Balance Due \$944.00**

The contents of the storage units may include, but are not limited to, personal items, furniture, and other household or business goods. These items will be sold at public auction to satisfy the outstanding balances unless payment in full is received prior to the auction.

Auction Details:
Date: March 25th, 2026
Location: Online Auction Bid13

This notice is being published in compliance with the Massachusetts lien law. All tenants are urged to settle their balances immediately to avoid the sale of their property.

For further information or to make payment, please contact:

Carroll's Self-Storage (508)338-2976

PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED AD TODAY!
EMAIL VALERIE@MVTIMES.COM, OR CALL 508-693-6100.

A spate of cocaine arrests amid an 'alarming' rise in use

Continued from A1

Force and Oak Bluffs Police, which linked Island residents to Primeiro Comando da Capital — a transnational criminal organization that started in the prison system of São Paulo in Brazil, and is known for committing violent crimes like murder, armed robbery, kidnapping, and transnational drug trafficking. Two other smaller street gangs, identified as the Tropa de Sete and Trem Bala, were also linked to the investigation. West Tisbury resident Joao Victor Da Silva Soares, 21, and Gustavo Augusto Mroczkoski, 29, were arrested for their trafficking of illegally assembled firearms, often referred to as “ghost-guns,” as well as their link to alleged cocaine trafficking on Island. Mroczkoski was arrested by ICE in September 2023 in Oak Bluffs, and Soares was most recently held at the Worcester House of Corrections before he was released to the U.S. Marshalls in August of 2025, according to the house of corrections.

Police reports detailed how, as early as 2023, Mroczkoski coordinated with Soares on multiple occasions, often meeting him in Woods Hole to receive what police suspected was contraband. According to police, Mroczkoski would arrive empty-handed, enter Soares’ vehicle for several minutes, and then leave carrying a steel water bottle, which investigators believe concealed drugs or firearm components.

Also in August of 2025, Edgartown resident Travis J. Viera was arrested by the Oak Bluffs Police coming into Oak Bluffs on a Steamship Authority ferry. A search warrant of his body, motorcycle, and home resulted in the recovery of a brick-shaped package believed to be a kilogram of cocaine, estimated to be worth \$100,000, one of the largest seizures in Island history, as well as \$19,000 in cash. According to police reports, a confidential source told police that there was another large quantity that had been missed by officers in their initial warrant execution. The confidential source said they failed to search an unregistered vehicle at Vieira’s Edgartown home’s driveway. Officers were informed that David M. Viera, Travis Viera’s father, towed the vehicle to his shop on 20th Street in Edgartown. According to reports, David told police he had initially

towed the car because there were tools in it, and he himself had also found and used an “8-ball” (3.5 grams) of cocaine that he recovered from the vehicle; but David told police that that was all he found. According to reports, officers surmised from a phone call between David and Travis Viera that David broke into the vehicle through the trunk to retrieve whatever was in it, as the keys were still on Viera’s

amounts of cocaine that local officers say are up there with the most they have ever seen on the Island. Kesley Luiz Xavier, 32, and Mateus Souza De Oliveira, 33, both Edgartown residents, were stopped in Falmouth on March 5 for speeding. A search conducted on the vehicle with a K9-unit revealed that the two were allegedly carrying 407.85 grams of cocaine, pills, and other narcotic paraphernalia, as they headed south on Route

as Adrian Junior Rodrigues Dos Santos, 19, as he traveled to Martha’s Vineyard on a Steamship Authority ferry last week, and just over a week ago, police recovered 8.4 grams of alleged cocaine from an Edgartown man, identified as Douglas Da Silva, 24, who was caught with the drug in his black Dodge Charger as he was parked near Medeiros Cove on Barnes Road. Dos Santos was arrested on counts of trafficking a Class B substance and for having an active arrest warrant, and Da Silva was charged with possession of a Class B substance with intent to distribute.

In August of 2022, working with the Martha’s Vineyard Drug Task Force and the DEA Office, Oak Bluffs Police seized what Chief Searle called the largest cocaine bust in Island history at the time, recovering 850 grams of cocaine, nearly a kilogram, along with \$8,500 in cash, a scale, and cutting materials from an Oak Bluffs business and residence. Shamar Hyatt, 33 at the time, was arrested on charges of trafficking 100 to 200 grams of cocaine, distribution of a Class B substance, and possession with intent to distribute.

A detective with the Martha’s Vineyard Drug Task Force, speaking on condition of anonymity as ongoing investigations continue, said the drug dominates the local narcotics scene.

“I’d say a very high increase of cocaine,” said the task force investigator. “I feel like that’s all we are really seeing right now.”

While police note a rise in cocaine usage, admittance to the hospital for cocaine use has remained relatively low. According to information provided by Martha’s Vineyard Hospital, between

2023 and 2026, there were a total of 38 hospital admissions documented related to cocaine, with only eight cocaine-related visits in 2023, 13 in 2024, 13 in 2025, and four so far this year.

“Based on the data available to us, we are not seeing an increase in prevalence,” said the hospital’s statement. “This information reflects hospital encounters only and does not represent overall community prevalence, usage, or law enforcement activity.”

The MV Times filed a records request to the Cape and Islands District Attorney’s office to confirm an increase in cocaine-related prosecutions on the Island. While the office has not yet responded to the records request, they shared a statement with The Times.

“The Cape & Islands District Attorney’s Office is committed to supporting effective drug enforcement strategies that protect public safety while addressing the complex factors that contribute to substance misuse. This includes working collaboratively with law enforcement, utilizing enhanced investigative techniques to support narcotics enforcement, and working with community partners to hold traffickers accountable and promote intervention efforts,” said Danielle Whitney, director of community programs and public relations at the Cape and Islands District Attorney’s office.

The Times reached out to the Cape and Island DEA office, but it has not immediately responded to requests for comment.

The trend comes as our neighboring island, Nantucket, is seeing an apparent rise in cocaine use. Last year, Island officials reported high levels of cocaine in their wastewater. An eight-month wastewater survey conducted by Nantucket’s health department found that in October and December of 2025, cocaine

levels in the water had risen to nearly three times the national average, according to the Nantucket Current’s Feb. 19 reporting. According to the Current’s report, Nantucket found nearly 3,000 nanograms of cocaine per liter of water; the national average is approximately 1,000 nanograms. In contrast, drugs like fentanyl, meth, and nicotine levels were far below regional and national averages. The data are emerging after a year in which Nantucket Police conducted an uncovered the largest cocaine bust in the island’s history, and with the Current reporting that “Island police have made numerous high-profile cocaine busts” recently.

Back on the Vineyard, Robert Cropper, director of recovery management services at the Red House, said he has noticed an “alarming” increase in people seeking help for cocaine use and addictions.

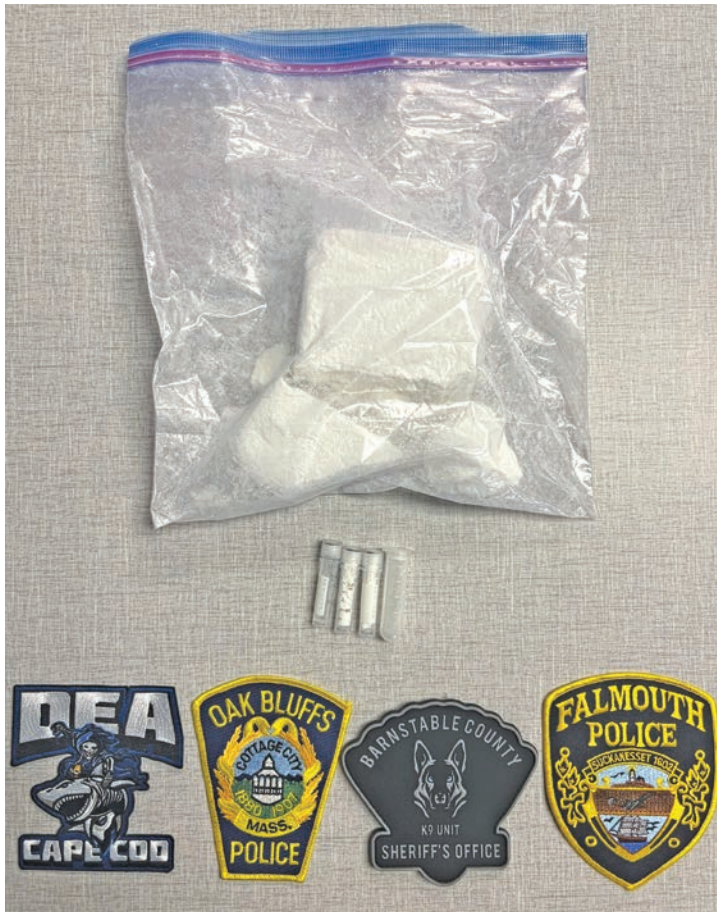
“I wasn’t seeing people reaching out about services for cocaine until about a year and a half ago. The interesting part is that it’s rare that someone is just doing cocaine. Usually it’s alcohol and cocaine,” said Cropper. “To me, it’s alarming. It’s also, I guess, being cut with fentanyl right now, which can be very dangerous, and often fatal.”

Cropper noted the Red House’s efforts are to help people “who are using it and insist on using it.

“We have fentanyl test kits. Clearly we don’t want them to use it at all, but if they are going to use it, we definitely want them to live,” he added.

Cropper said cocaine is a drug that is difficult to rehabilitate and detox medically.

“There’s no medical detox for cocaine and marijuana, some places will do it but it’s more of a psychological addiction and not a physical addiction,” said Cropper. “But there’s been a lot of people coming to me for recovery services who say cocaine is a part of their daily lives now.” **MVT**



The more than 400 grams of cocaine found when Kesley Xavier and Mateus Souza de Oliveira were arrested in Falmouth.

motorcycle at the station. According to police reports, investigators monitored jail calls made by Travis Viera to other members of his family as well, including his brother Nicholas C. Viera and his cousin Jessica Donahue. Officers learned of a joint effort among the family to recover a backpack from the car, which they believed was in David’s possession, and secure it for future distribution. According to the police report, the suspects said on the phone that whatever was in the car was worth about \$20,000 to \$30,000, which would be equivalent to 200 to 300 grams of cocaine.

In November of 2025, a Dukes County grand jury indicted David M. Viera, Nicholas C. Viera, and Jessica Donahue on counts of conspiracy to violate drug laws, acting as accessories after the fact and committing interference with a police officer. All three pleaded not guilty at a superior court hearing at the Edgartown Courthouse on Feb. 18, and are currently released on personal recognizance. Their next joint hearing is scheduled for April 13. Travis J. Viera faces drug trafficking charges and remains in custody.

The latest wave of arrests that occurred in the last couple of weeks uncovered

28. Xavier and De Oliveira have both been charged with trafficking over 200 grams of cocaine, and are being held on \$10,000 bail at the Barnstable County Correctional Facility.

Separate arrests that took place recently also netted 18 grams of alleged cocaine from an East Falmouth resident identified



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Vineyard falls to Littleton in quarterfinals

In uncharted waters, the Vineyarders struggled to find their groove.

BY NICHOLAS VUKOTA

The Martha's Vineyard Regional High School boys' varsity hockey team fell to the second-seeded Littleton High School Lions 6-1 in the quarterfinals of the MIAA Division 4 State playoffs on Thursday night. With only three seniors on the roster, and a brand-new coaching staff, the seventh-seeded Vineyarders (12-9) were navigating their first appearance in the quarterfinals.

At the game, played at the John A. Ryan Skating Arena in Watertown, the Vineyarders struggled to find their groove early on, which was enough for Littleton (19-1) to establish a commanding lead, capitalizing on

The Vineyarders finally broke the Littleton goalie's shutout when the third period came around and senior captain Griffin Callahan (No. 2) found the back of the net. He was assisted by Donnie Gregory (No. 12). But an air of concern filled the rink as everyone realized the clock was no longer stopping for whistles. According to the MIAA rulebook, if a playoff game enters the third period with a six-goal or more lead, then it switches to running time, meaning the clock no longer stops for whistles for the remainder of the game, regardless of score changes.

"This senior group is truly special. They will take great pride in knowing they laid the foundation for the future success of their program." - Head Coach Mike Snowden

multiple breakaways to go ahead 4-0 in the first period.

The Vineyarders started to settle in, but in the second period, Littleton tacked two more on to go up 6-0.

With running time and a 6-1 deficit, the Vineyarders gave their best effort, but Littleton showed no signs of relenting, and sealed the deal with a 6-1 finish.

Littleton played against Dover-Sherborn



JZSPORTSIMAGES

Vineyard hockey defends the net against Littleton in the quarterfinals.

High School in the final four and won 5-4. They now head to the championship game at TD Garden on March 15.

The Vineyarders, who beat Bourne 5-2 in the round of 16 just three days earlier, ended their season with the deepest postseason run this group of players has achieved. They will be saying goodbye to their senior captains, Callahan and Joseph Medeiros (No. 15), as well as defensive anchor Wyatt Wiggin (No. 20).

"We as a coaching staff could not be more proud of this team and what they accomplished in such a short period of time," said Head Coach Mike Snowden in a message to

The Times. "From day one, we introduced a new culture, a new style of play, and a demanding approach to practice. These players stayed the course, trusted the process, and fully bought into our approach to better the program. The result was an elite eight opportunity that they earned together, every single day."

Snowden said they wish the results had been different, especially for the seniors on the team.

"This senior group is truly special," he said. "They will take great pride in knowing they laid the foundation for the future success of their program." **MVT**

Rise dancers showcase their art

Two senior company dancers say goodbye to the program.

BY NICHOLAS VUKOTA



Teagan D'Arcy performs in the Senior company's "Eleanor Rigby."

NICHOLAS VUKOTA

Sparkling costumes, aerial flips, and sharp choreography lit up the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School's Performing Arts Center stage at the 2026 Rise Dance Company Showcase on Sunday afternoon.

The event, which started around 3:30 pm, featured solo, duo, and group performances from dancers in the Nugget (ages 7-10), Mini (10-12), Junior (12-17), and Senior companies (13-18).

Owner and director of Rise Jill Matrisciano Loughman said on Sunday she was excited by the growth she witnessed on the stage from the dancers.

"At this performance on the Island, I was really happy to see people taking chances, taking

risks," said Matrisciano Loughman. "I think at this show, I saw a lot more attention to detail, and I saw kids who normally are a little blank, based on their performance quality, trying new things, and that makes me really excited."

She emphasized that the hometown crowd invigorates dancers, who have been practicing the same routines behind closed doors for months now.

"When you are watching them practice, you're doing the same thing over and over again, and sometimes I think they can get into just the routine, and it loses some of its spark," said Matrisciano Loughman. "The live audience and being home and around their friends and their family, I think it re-

ally kind of gave them a nice boost of confidence for where we go next."

She noted the studio has an emphasis on building a supportive and inclusive environment.

"I really do make it a point to promote sisterhood, and just a family atmosphere. I always tell them the world is hard enough on you; be good to each other and support one another," she said.

After the show on Sunday, all dancers took to the stage to thank the crowd and introduce themselves. A bittersweet tone swept over two Senior dancers, who had just performed their last dance showcase as Rise students.

Teagan D'Arcy and Grace Bennett-Rock, who have been students in the program since they were young children, and now participate as teachers as well as Senior company dancers, teared up onstage as they said goodbye to their second family.

"I'm really proud of my Seniors," said Matrisciano Loughman. "I do think they will continue to dance into college, and knowing I was able to foster that kind of love for our artform is really special."

Matrisciano Loughman emphasized that dance is an all-encompassing sport, requiring athleticism and acting. More important, she said, it teaches qualities that benefit dancers throughout their lives.

"The company's commitment is year-round for dancers. Unlike other sports, they keep themselves in a dance-ready condition, and it takes constant attention. Especially on the Island, there's a heavy emphasis on team sports, and the arts I feel like have always struggled. But what they have to demand of themselves as athletes and as communicators and actors is such an all-encompassing path," said Matrisciano Loughman. "I tell them all the time, it takes a special human to be a dancer, because there's a lot to endure and a lot of patience and perseverance, and we have a word at this studio, and it's 'tenacity.' You need a lot of it to be a competitive dancer."

Matrisciano Loughman recalled a moment from Sunday night when one young dancer ran offstage at the start of her solo, only to overcome her nerves and deliver a beautiful performance.

"The little girl who ran offstage last night, I told her parents in the end, half of what you pay for is dance-related, and the other half is that part where she ran off the stage and came back and now showed the grit and tenacity to go back out there," Matrisciano Loughman said. "That self-confidence is worth its weight in gold."

The Rise Dance Company's next showcase is scheduled for May 31, where dancers from 3 years old through the Senior company will take the MVRHS Performing Arts Center stage. **MVT**

MY Times

community

calendar

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2020

IRISH FOLKLORE IN THE CHILMARK WOODS

Spirit beings, mythical scenes, and an Irish wolfhound serve as the muses for artist Bill O'Callaghan.

Bill O'Callaghan enjoys making sculptures in his studio.

ISLANDERS WRITE

This has certainly been a winter to write about, and The MV Times hopes to inspire you to do just that. Our second mid-winter Islanders Write will be a weekend of writing workshops, conversations about publishing, and a celebration of Vineyard authors. These events will take place on Saturday, March 14, and Sunday, March 15, at Featherstone Center for the Arts. They're all free to attend; however, preregistration is requested for Saturday's writing workshops.

Registration is still open for Saturday, but many of the workshops are now full

Islanders Write takes place at Featherstone Center for the Arts. Join us over the weekend for writing workshops, a book fair, and the group exhibit, "Featherstone Blue."

and are waitlist only. What does that mean? Since we have limited space for these workshops, we asked people to register in advance. One of the lessons we learned by doing that last year was that not everyone who registers shows up. People get sick; people get busy; people get lazy; things happen.

Because we often DON'T find out in advance if someone is not going to make it to a workshop they have preregistered for, those of you on a workshop waitlist will not find out in advance if you are going to get into the work-

shop you are waitlisted for. The only way to know if you're off the waitlist is to come to Featherstone and find out. We recommend getting there at least 15 minutes before the workshop be-

cause you will not be able to let you know in advance if you're off the waitlist. But not all the workshops have waitlists. As of this writing, there are still a few spaces available in Nicole Galland's playwright-

during either day of the event. We will have coffee and water, but you should bring your literary lunchbox for your nourishment and snack needs. After the final workshop,

Center for the Arts, and is an opportunity to come meet and talk to Vineyard authors and purchase their books. We are also delighted to announce that there will be live music at the event with singer and songwriter Sarah Shaw Dawson, who is also the first recipient of The MV Times' Island Writer program.

There is no advance registration for Sunday, March 15. Feel free to come for the day, or for an hour or two, to hear about the path to publication from authors, a literary agent, and an author/publisher, and to ask your questions.

Sunday's schedule:

- 10 am: Tom Dresser
- 10:45 am: Jennifer Smith Turner
- 11:30 am: Nancy Slonim Aronie
- 12:15 pm: John Abrams
- 12:45 pm: Carole Hopson
- 1:30 pm: Rosemary Stimola
- 2:15 pm: Marc Favreau
- 3 pm: Charles Sennott

We are extremely grateful to the M.V. Community Foundation, the M.V. Cultural Council, and the Farm Neck Foundation for grants we received so we can continue to keep Islanders Write events free to attend. We are also incredibly grateful for the generous donations that we have received. To help support Islanders Write, please make a tax-deductible donation through the M.V. Community Foundation. **MVT**

For more information, visit islanderswrite.com, or email Kate Feiffer at kate@mvtimes.com.



DENA PORTER

Islanders Write returns

March 14 and 15. **BY KATE FEIFFER**

gins and check in with me, so I know you're there.

So what happens if you arrive at Featherstone and you don't get into a workshop? What does one do? We will be providing writing prompts and space for you to sit and write. We encour-

stone Blue" in the Francine Kelly Gallery that we encourage everyone to see.

The workshops that are now **WAITLIST ONLY** are clearly marked on the workshop registration form. If you do register for one of the waitlisted workshops,

ing workshop, from 10:15 to 11:45 am, Duncan Caldwell's research and writing with research workshop, from 12:30 to 2 pm, and James Jennings' journaling workshop, from 1:30 to 3 pm.

Please note: This year we will NOT have food for sale

The MV Times will be partnering with Edgartown Books, and we invite everyone from the Vineyard community to join us for the Vineyard Authors Book Fair. This will take place on Saturday, March 14, from 5 to 7 pm at Featherstone



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- ✓ **Admission to our newsroom to join our 2026 quarterly readers' forum**

A little humor: White, goatlike hair

The reality of aging comes in waves.
BY ALLISON ROBERTS

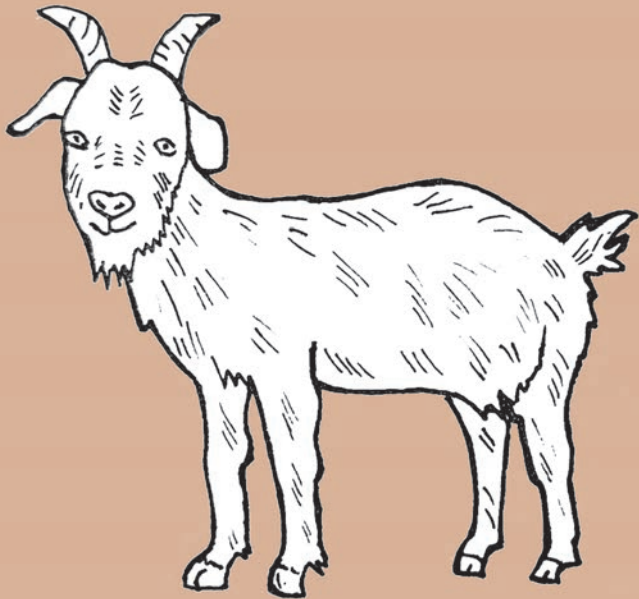


ILLUSTRATION: ALLISON ROBERTS

My birthday is in a few days. I try not to get too hung up on age. Complaining about it is like complaining about the weather —

can't do a thing to change it. Yet, one thing I knew I'd never do is talk about age-related foibles with my friends. Until I did.

Not long ago, my husband and I were having breakfast in a restaurant and happened to be seated

next to a table of "men of a certain age." I wasn't trying to eavesdrop, but because three of these gentlemen were shouting so the two wearing hearing aids could hear them, I inadvertently gleaned a heap of information about bum elbows, skin

tags, and constipation.

Though I loved these men's camaraderie, puns, and deep dive into flatulence, I swore right then and there that when my friends and I reached their age, we wouldn't sit in a diner discussing ailments. And in a way, I did make good on that promise. My friends and I didn't start sharing health-related issues when we reached these gentlemen's ages. We're sharing them now, and we're at least 20 years younger.

Once you start down this road, it's hard to turn back. I think this in part because pain, fallen arches, and forgetfulness take us by surprise. It's disconcerting to discover a white, goatlike hair sprouting from your chin, and wonder just how long this free-spirited strand has been dancing in the wind.

For many of us, our younger days consisted of Herculean-level multitasking — making dinner, working, scheduling appointments, cleaning up cat vomit, providing free transportation, and unloading groceries while breastfeeding. As we age, it becomes increasingly more challenging to function as efficiently as we once did. Suddenly, we're adding Metamucil to our gin and tonics, buying multiple heating pads, and helplessly watching as our jawline begins to resemble a cow udder.

I'm no expert, but I think the trick to aging gracefully is radical acceptance. Facelifts only fool people for a

while. Once you start wearing blue Crocs with striped socks, and using a walker to get from your couch to your recliner, you're not really fooling anyone — least of all yourself.

For me, there is relief in getting older. Unlike when my jawline and buttocks were firmer, I've become nearly invisible. I can walk down the street and not hear, "Hey, baby, can I drink your bathwater?" screamed at me by men in cars. If this question were posed to me now, my response would be, "I guess so, but it's going to taste like Epsom salt."

There are other benefits to aging. Yeah, we're more vulnerable in some ways, but we're also braver, mouthier, and bounce back from disappointment more

do things that no longer serve us. Maturing allows us to take stock of all we've done, and feel proud of our achievements (except for maybe that one time involving a bong). And because we're braver, if there's something we wished we'd done, we might still have time to do it. I mean, there are 87-year-old women skydiving! Bravo to them for hurling their osteoporosis-laden selves out of an airplane. I wouldn't. I'm too scared.

Now, all this being said, I'm not going to lie: My back is killing me right now, and I can't tell if I'm hungry or experiencing a bout of GERD. I'll also admit that this last summer, I felt more than a little jealous of my young neighbor lying peacefully in his hammock. All I could think

Facelifts only fool people for a while. Once you start wearing blue Crocs with striped socks, and using a walker to get from your couch to your recliner, you're not really fooling anyone — least of all yourself.

quickly. We've experienced decades of losses, broken bones, and stupid decisions, and come to accept the fact that our phones are going to upgrade without our consent, all of which makes the phrase "This too shall pass" a little easier to swallow.

Aging doesn't mean we stop trying new things. It means we stop trying to

was, How did he get in it? Is he comfortable? There's no back support! Gosh, he looks so flexible. I bet he can squat down and grab a 30-pound box of cat litter from the bottom shelf in the store and stand right back up without requiring an ambulance. And how in the world can he be old enough to own a house? **MVT**

Writing From The Heart

BY NANCY SLONIM ARONIE



Shoes look great when they are a 6, 7, or even an 8 ... but a 10?

If the shoe fits ...

hate shoes. However, that hasn't kept me from constantly buying them. I recently cleaned out my closet, and it turns out I have more shoes than my friend with a shoe fetish.

Years ago in Amsterdam with friends, all the women went shoe-shopping. I remember thinking, "You're going to buy shoes in

Amsterdam? Are you nuts?" I didn't go with them. I did what any normal American would do in Amsterdam; I bought something called Pineapple Express and sat at an outdoor cafe, stoned, finally understanding the phrase "the munchies," and people-watching.

Now I think what a judgmental sod I was, considering

I had just as much of a shoe-buying habit as my friends.

As I was trying to organize the mess in my closet, I realized two things. Most of the shoes I had worn only once or twice and most of them were variations on the White Sneaker. The ones that were normal-looking shoes anyone would wear. I realized another thing. Most of my purchases have been online. And shoes look great when they're size 6, or 7, or even 8. But I'm a 10. And when you actually see a shoe in size 10, it's more like a dinghy or a catboat, or in my case a full-size cruise ship.

The bigger the shoe, the less attractive it becomes. That's just a plain fact.

What I find interesting about myself is that I have fallen into that "doing the same thing and expecting a different result being the definition of insanity" stereotype. Because buying on the net, receiving the box, opening the lid, taking out the shiny new pair of whatever, knowing they will be ugly, and continuing the exact same behavior has me wondering: Why? Why do I think this time will be different?

As I pulled shirts and skirts and jackets and dresses

(yes, I own dresses, but it's true you have never seen me in one — or in a skirt, for that matter), I have even more reason to question my sanity. It appears I have done the same thing with clothes. They look adorable on the model in size petite (that's the point of 6-foot-tall models who weigh 37 pounds), but once the item arrives, it's bigger and longer, with seemingly so much extra fabric, the thing loses its adorableness, and there it hangs, unworn and definitely unloved.

I just listened to Anne Patchett, one of my favorite

I think the big question is, Why? Why am I buying so much stuff?

When you ask yourself questions where the answers might lead to some deeply hidden psychological information and you want to keep that information hidden from yourself, it's tempting to find a quick distraction. And what better distraction than scrolling is there? And shopping is even better. And buying, well, oh my, buying is a bottle of dopamine wrapped in an immediate-gratification bow. Ok, so why all this shopping? Without

Fridays, as part of her commitment to reduce her carbon footprint, wore her red coat, saying, "This is the last article of clothing I will ever buy, and I will wear recycled items from my own wardrobe."

I knew if I ever said to Joel, "I'm not going to buy anything for a year," he would jump for the end of my consumerism joy.

Because he owns almost nothing, I have always figured I get his allotment. But now after listening to Anne and remembering Jane, I'm kind of rethinking my own

How much do I scroll? How much do I shop? How much do I buy? How much do I need? But I think the big question is, Why? Why am I buying so much stuff?

writers, read an essay called "My Year of No Shopping." She made a commitment to not shop for one full year.

While listening, I kept imagining what that would look like if I were to try to do the same thing. It made me ask myself, How much do I scroll? How much do I shop? How much do I buy? How much do I need? But

skipping a beat I answer myself: Because I can. The girl who grew up with the mantra, "Honey we'd love to buy you (pick your item), but we can't afford it now." Simple as that. Healing a wound.

With that realization perhaps the wound is healed. And I can move on.

I remember in 2019 Jane Fonda on her fire drill

shopping addiction. If anyone ever saw my Amazon "order again" history, I'd be mortified.

I don't know quite how to get out of this dilemma. First, I could make the one-year commitment à la Anne. And second, I could give Jane a bunch of my white Reebok hightops, and see if she'd let me borrow her red coat. **MVT**

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

Tisbury



By Kay Mayhew
tashmoorock@gmail.com

Heard on Main Street: The journey of a thousand miles begins with a broken fan belt and a leaky tire.

I just spent a few days in our hospital, but I am very pleased to be home. And to enjoy my son and daughter, who came immediately.

A friend brought lovely yellow tulips to the hospital. A cool day near that window caused the blooms to avoid standing tall, but to spread out to the side. I assume it was to search for warm sun

and avoid the cold window. Now on stretching out at the sides on my table at home, the tulips are all reaching away from the center. Still pretty, but a few curling

sideways enough to seem a bit odd. But still very pretty.

It seems funny because the vase of pink tulips she had brought me earlier at home for my birthday are still standing tall.

Enjoy live music and dancing with Jessie and Rick of Blue Yonder Duo on Sunday, March 15, from 4 to 5:30 pm at the Unitarian Church on Main Street. Go to dance or just enjoy the music.

The M.V. Film Society

offers the National Theatre Live presents "Hamlet" on Sunday, March 15, at 1 pm. They say, "This is exactly the kind of 'Hamlet' you would hope to see."

They offer "Metropolitan Opera Live presents 'Tristan und Isolde'" on Saturday, March 21, at noon. Open Mic Night at the Cornell Theatre, 51 Spring St., at 6 pm on Tuesday, March 17. Performers sign up on arrival. No food or drink allowed.

And Science on Screen presents "When Harry Met Sally," on Friday, March 27, at 7:30 pm. Free admission for all if you stop by and get your pass.

"The Genius of Marion," sponsored by the M.V. Center for Living will be shown on Saturday, March 28, at 4 pm. This explores the heartbreak of Alzheimer's disease. The film follows a woman in the early stages of Alzheimer's as her son, the filmmaker, documents her struggle to hang on to a sense of self. Free.

Our Vineyard Haven library will welcome Shelley Edmundson, executive director of the Martha's Vineyard Fishermen's Preservation Trust, and Catherine Walthers, cookbook author and culinary instructor, for a discussion about the making of "The Sea Table." This new

Martha's Vineyard cookbook is a collaboration between local chefs, fishermen, and photographers. Learn more at the Cornell Theatre on Tuesday, March 31, at 6 pm for an inspiring and delicious way to eat locally.

Big bunches of birthday balloon wishes go out today to Mark Daniels. Tomorrow, wish the best to Kevin Voyer. Happy birthday to Kelsey Ivory on Saturday. Sunday belongs to Jay Segel and Jib Ellis. Birthday greetings go to Austin Chandler and Bow VanRiper on Tuesday. And more good wishes to Matthew Barton on Wednesday, the same day as his cousin Ben Bartolini from Eastham.

Heard on Main Street: Kids in the back seat cause accidents. Accidents in the back seat cause kids. **MVT**

The M.V. Film Society offers the National Theatre Live presents "Hamlet" on Sunday, March 15, at 1 pm. They say, "This is exactly the kind of 'Hamlet' you would hope to see."

Edgartown



By Marnely Murray
marnely@gmail.com

Someone out there promised me that by the time I was back on-Island, the snow would have completely melted. What are all these snow piles I still see?! You guessed it — I'm back and writing this column from my cozy Edgartown abode, and after 47 days of being on the road, I will say it: Edgartown, you were missed! Now that I'm back, I'm diving back into all things Edgartown right away. First up, since in the last column

I didn't mention any birthdays, let me start by catching up on congratulations: March 7, Simon Athearn; March 8, Jackie Korell, Quad Okuns, Nancy Shai; March 9: Naomi Paulson; March 14, Ben Post, Taylor Ashtyn Buckley, Alex Schilcher; March 16, Allison Roberts, Joe Monteiro, Brianna Rodrigues Bertoni; March 17, Erin Nicole Goldson, A. Bowdoin Van Riper; March 18, Wesley Sullivan; and March 19, Bobby Ball.

Here's the thing about

birthdays: I honestly don't think we are celebrating one another enough. You read that right — I do not think we are celebrating our lives enough, and when birthdays come around once a year, we do the ritualistic birthday actions. The cake, the signing, the blowing out the candles if we're lucky. But in a world — and even smaller, on an Island — where the death of friends

and family members seems to be at every turn, I think celebrating one another more and more is key in 2026. I know I might be preaching to the choir — I'm barely 41 years old, and compared with some of my readers, have barely been faced with tragedy. But recently I've had the realization that this is the one life we get: Why not celebrate everything? May

it be your homework this week: Celebrate the uncommon, the unusual. Email me at marnely@gmail.com and tell me about it — I'd like to celebrate with the community as well.

Which leads me to the one event this week I'd like to showcase: Daffodil Days, by the Martha's Vineyard Cancer Support Group. On March 14, from 9 am until 12:30 pm (or sold out), the

group will be selling daffodils at the Edgartown Stop & Shop (also at down-Island Cronig's Market and Reliable Market in Oak Bluffs). Every purchase helps Island families meet emergency and temporary needs during cancer treatment, and it's the perfect time to buy extra flowers and celebrate with friends and family. Want to get involved with the work the group does? Email them at mvcancersgroup@gmail.com for details.

With that, I leave you, dear reader — with homework to celebrate the unexpected, and to also shop for fresh daffodils and brighten someone's day. Two very simple things that if everyone reading this would do, would make for a very happy Island community. **MVT**

Daffodil Days, by the Martha's Vineyard Cancer Support Group: On March 14, from 9 am until 12:30 pm (or sold out), the group will be selling daffodils at the Edgartown Stop & Shop (also at down-Island Cronig's Market and Reliable Market in Oak Bluffs).

Oak Bluffs



By Joanne Lambert
joannelamber@gmail.com

"Always remember to forget the things that made you sad. But never forget to remember the things that made you glad."

—Irish proverb

St. Patrick's Day is March 17, the day to celebrate Irish culture. Mo's will reopen that day to serve us corned beef and cabbage, and you can stop in to the P.A. Club for the craic and some traditional Irish music. Slainte!

Did you survive the time change to daylight savings? It is nice to have a longer afternoon and evening, though the later sunrise takes some getting used to, especially for school kids. The warming weather ahead is a huge relief, and

the melting snow is showing the destruction left behind by the blizzard of '26. Prepare for the sound of humming chainsaws as the Island cleans up!

Start looking for daffodils — in stores, that is, being sold to benefit the M.V. Cancer Support Group. March 14 is the official start date of this great fundraiser that helps to continue the support for Island families dealing with cancer and related illnesses. The challenges these families face are enormous, and the support is invaluable. So clean out

those vases, and fill your house with the bright yellow flowers. Flowers will be sold at Reliable Market, or if you venture out of town, at Cronig's in V.H. and Stop & Shop in Edgartown.

Saturday, March 14, is also the day for the Community Climate Discussion "Ponds Under Pressure," with Emily Reddington, executive director of the Great Pond Foundation. Learn how our ponds are our "canaries in the coal mine" for understanding the destructive effects of our actions on land. Join this important conversation from 1:30 to 3 pm at the Oak Bluffs library.

The library is also hosting book discussions on Thursdays with Marge Harris, Island educator and everyone's favorite high school history teacher. The group will be examining "Team

of Rivals" by Doris Kearns Goodwin, a modern classic about the genius of Abraham Lincoln's presidency and his Cabinet of political foes. The next session is March 19, 4 to 5:40 pm.

Congratulations to Sandi Gagne Hakala on her retirement! Sandi was the calming voice on the phone at the MVH call center for the past 6 years. You may remember Sandi from Amelia Bloomers, the fabulous women's lingerie and apparel shop that she co-owned in Vineyard Haven. In a second career, she was the manager of the famous Edgartown Inn (Did you have mustard squirted on you at breakfast by Henry?). Wishing Sandi much happiness in this next phase of enjoying life!

Birthday balloons go to Jesse Thomas and James Taylor on March 12. Happy

birthday to Janet Sylvia on March 13! Pi Day birthdays include Lisette Williams, Alise Eve, and the infamous Schilcher brothers: Alex, Duncan, and Nigel. Happy birthday to every

dog's best friend, Jeremy Jones, on March 16. I am thinking of Roger Thomas on March 17, and Sarah Mattson celebrates on St. Patrick's Day also.

Send me your news! **MVT**

Happy birthday to every dog's best friend, Jeremy Jones, on March 16.

Cribbage Club results

BY MARY ALICE RUSSELL

Eighteen members of the Vineyard Cribbage Club met on Wednesday night to play our favorite game! One of our guests over the past month took the plunge and joined: Welcome to Andrew Berry! The result of the night are as follows:

- First**, Collin Evanson with a 13/6 card
- Second**, Suzane Cioffi with a 12/5 +92 card
- Third**, Bill Russell with an 11/5 +83 card
- Fourth**, David Christensen with a 10/4 +70 card

Fifth, Samatha Cron with a 104 +69 card

We had only one 24-point hand, by Samantha Cron, and 12 skunks were suffered.

We meet on Wednesdays at the American Legion in Katama. If you like cribbage, we have a potluck every week at 5:30 pm, and we start playing at 6pm SHARP. If you'd like more info, feel free to email, call, or text: maonmv@mac.com, 508-524-1220. **MVT**



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

Chilmark



By Claire Ganz
cganz@live.com

The debris, ruts, and potholes on the roads and driveways are impressive. A friend advises, “You need a support bra.”

Melting snow reveals more downed trees, branches, and widowmakers hanging in the canopy, waiting for a gust to bring them down. It is hard when the big trees fall.

The community mourns the passing of Warren Doty. He is buried near a tree in Abel’s Hill. A memorial gathering will be an-

nounced. There are beautiful articles of remembrance in the papers.

Many are mourning the sudden death of Island musician Mark Grandfield in New York. Holding his beloved wife, Tova, and their daughter, Ava, in the light.

So many powerful losses and changes. Moments where there is no going back. We will never experience the world the same way, and cannot avoid profoundly changed. May these transformations bring strength and peace.

When you see something, do something.

I’d been hearing the idea that the war with Iran was a holy war, and that Chabad was behind it. Before I had a chance to pick up the phone, an email from Rabbi Tzvi Alperowitz arrived:

“The Third Temple, according to Jewish belief, will be rebuilt only in the messianic age, through direct intervention of G-d, and not through wars waged by modern militaries.

“In 1983, Rabbi Avraham Shemtov, the director of Chabad in Washington, D.C., and a leading Chabad rabbi, was asked by a journalist about Chabad’s messianic goals.

“Here’s the piece from the Washington Post: ‘Asked if he was working to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem —

which pious Jews believe will coincide with the coming of the Messiah — Shemtov smiled. “We have to build a better world,” he replied with an impish twinkle in his eyes. “G-d will take care of the Temple.””

“The messianic age described by the prophets will come not through military campaigns, but through divine intervention, and it will be brought about not by warfare, but by the good deeds and mitzvot we perform every day.”

The island is full of people who do good deeds without accolades or thanks.

Thank you, Priscilla Warner, for soothing and healing us with a sound bath at Stillpoint. The room was filled with beloved faces.

North Tabor Farm’s head farmers, Ruby and Kyle,

are looking for year-round housing. Email northtaborfarm@gmail.com, or text or call Ruby at 508-240-4072.

“Slow Stitching” with Rebecca Gilbert and me, Fridays, 1 to 3 pm, at Pathways, will continue through March into April. The conversations are wonderful, and there are inspiring supplies and projects.

The Chilmark Library Book Club will meet Tuesday, March 31, at noon. Thank you, Peter Cook, for recommending Donal Ryan’s “The Spinning Heart.”

Pizza night at the Chilmark Community Church is back, Tuesdays at 6 pm. Please join us for food and fun! Bring your appetite, or food that might go with pizza, and help with setup at 5:30 is always welcome. See you on Tuesday! **MVT**

Thank you, Priscilla Warner, for soothing and healing us with a sound bath at Stillpoint. The room was filled with beloved faces.

West Tisbury



By Hermine Hull
hermine.hull@gmail.com

Every time I drive into or out of my driveway, I’m afraid my car will be sucked into a muddy trench that seems deeper by the minute. Same thing on our lawn. The snow is melting, so at least I can see some green, but every step leaves footprints and pawprints that show our perambulations around the property.

Out on the road there are potholes everywhere. It’s really noticeable, as the Island roads are usually in good repair. Between mud, potholes, and broken branches, everything will need attention in the coming months.

Kathy Logue and I attended a presentation by Elsbeth Todd and Sally Rizzo about the building plans for the Martha’s Vineyard Regional High School. About a dozen people attended, and although a small group, we had lots of questions and comments. It was a good discussion.

I haven’t been inside the high school building, except for the Performing Arts Center, since my niece, Charlotte, graduated in 2004. Listening to the speakers, I realized that I knew very little about the condition of the high school,

about serious leaks, outdated systems, issues with accessibility, inadequate classrooms and lab spaces, communal areas, and energy efficiency.

The plans seem well-thought-out, both the functioning of the structure itself, and the implementation of the building process over 36 months to minimize the disruption to students and teachers. Better than having to rent trailers for classrooms, saving that expense.

It’s really important that we educate ourselves before all six towns vote on June 2. It is a lot of money we will be spending. I urge everyone to

go to one of the upcoming public information sessions. They are Saturday, March 14, 11 am, at the Oak Bluffs library; Sunday, March 22, 2 pm, at the West Tisbury library; Thursday, March 26, 7 pm, at the Edgartown Town Hall; Monday, April 6, 10:30 am, at the West Tisbury library.

Another issue we need to learn about before our annual Town Meeting is the purchase and installation of rapid food-waste recyclers at town dumps in Aquinnah, Chilmark, and West Tisbury. Sophie Mazza, Vision Fellow and community food waste

director at Island Grown Initiative, will be at the West Tisbury library Thursday afternoon, March 19, at 4:30 pm, to discuss the articles, and answer our questions.

There will be a reception at the library this Saturday, March 14, 1 to 3 pm, for artist Fae Kontje-Gibbs. Her exhibition is called “Wishing Flags.” In her own words, “Each wishing flag is a wish for healing, for freedom, for joy. Each flag is in gratitude for the gifts of my life and the urge to share them.” Seeing them in single and multiple arrangements on the Program Room walls makes

a powerful statement, gentle images softly rendered, wishing kindness and care for all the world’s children.

Other special library programs are “Creating a Volunteer Community Care Circle for Post-Death Care,” with Heather Massey, Joyce Maxner, Beth Kramer, and Laurisa Rich, this Sunday, March 15, at 2:15 pm; a Community Tea and Workshop to honor the legacy of Dorothy West on Wednesday, March 18, at 3 pm; and needle-felting for young adults on Friday, March 20, at 3 pm. Register for needle-felting with lhearn@clamsnet.org.

If you are tired of living inside a damp, gray cloud, the weather is expected to improve this week. May warm temperatures and sunshine start to dry things out, and may we finally see snowdrops and crocuses and other signs of spring. **MVT**

There will be a reception at the library this Saturday, March 14, 1 to 3 pm, for artist Fae Kontje-Gibbs. Her exhibition is called “Wishing Flags.”

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Camden Neary Kokozka

Jennifer Kokozka and Mark Kokozka of Oak Bluffs announce the birth of a son, Camden Neary Kokozka, on Feb. 15, 2026, at Martha’s Vineyard Hospital. Camden weighed 8 pounds, 0.09 ounces.

Dennis Joseph Rose IV

Arianna Rose and Dennis Rose of Oak Bluffs announce the birth of a son, Dennis Joseph Rose IV, on Feb. 24, 2026, at Martha’s Vineyard Hospital. Young Dennis weighed 6 pounds, 5 ounces.

Gael Bragança Siqueira Lobo Deoliveira

Maralys S. Loro and Josmar M. Deoliveira of Edgartown announce the birth of a son, Gael Bragança Siqueira Lobo Deoliveira, on March 3, 2026, at Martha’s Vineyard Hospital. Gael weighed 9 pounds, 5.2 ounces.

Ellis de Franca Paiva

Claudiane Paiva and Alvaro Paiva of Oak Bluffs announce the birth of a daughter, Ellis de Franca Paiva, on March 6, 2026, at Martha’s Vineyard Hospital. Ellis weighed 7 pounds, 12.7 ounces.

COMMUNITY NOTE

Cookbook talk: The making of ‘The Sea Table’

The Vineyard Haven library welcomes Shelley Edmundson, executive director of the Martha’s Vineyard Fishermen’s Preservation Trust, and Catherine Walthers, cookbook author and culinary instructor, for a discussion about the making of the new Martha’s Vineyard-based cookbook “The Sea Table” — a collaboration between local chefs, fishermen, and photographers.

“The Sea Table” is a tribute to local hard-working fishermen. It is filled with 75 recipes by Island cooks, chefs, and fishermen, using 19 seafood species found in Vineyard waters, and profiles 21 local fishermen. “The Sea Table” was created by the Martha’s Vineyard Fishermen’s Preservation Trust, in partnership with Walthers. The photography is by Randi Baird and Brook Bartletta. Other contributing photographers include Claire Callagy, Alison Shaw, Ben Scott, Larry Glick, Bob Avakian, Parker Bradlee, Susie Middleton, and Lisa Vanderhoop.

This event will be held at 6 pm on Tuesday, March 31, at the Katharine Cornell Theatre, located at 51 Spring St. in Vineyard Haven (above Tisbury Town Hall). Free and open to the public. No registration required. For more information, please contact the library at vnhpl_programs@clamsnet.org or 508-696-4211. **MVT**

Aquinnah



By Kathie Olsen
aquinnahcolumn@gmail.com

Kathie’s column will return next week.

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JOSHUA ROBINSON-WHITE

The Flying Elbows still play contradances, like this one at the Grange. From left, Nancy Jephcote, Brian Weiland, Tom Hodgson, and Paul Thurlow.



JOSHUA ROBINSON-WHITE

The Flying Elbows

Musical heritage on Martha's Vineyard.

BY DAVID P.B. STEPHENS

The Flying Elbows is a foot-stomping string band that has kicked butt around Martha's Vineyard for the past half-century. Its roots go back to Gale Huntington.

Huntington is a legend among Vineyard musicians for his lifelong fascination with sea chanteys and fiddle tunes. Starting in 1928, an up-Island group of fiddle aficionados, helmed by him and including Artie Look and Hollis Smith, played square dances, parties, and weddings. As time passed, others joined in — even Thomas Hart Benton, when he wasn't painting. They all played together through the decades.

When he was 18 years old, Bob Hammond, who plays banjo and fiddle, watched Peter Huntington as part of a band called the Menemsha Bighters. "They were playing at a party up in Chilmark," Hammond recalls. "It would have been around 1970."

Nancy Jephcote, the fiddler, nods and says, "This band has a lot of roots from previous bands. We knew we were continuing something that had been here before us. And those who were alive knew about us, and were glad that it was being perpetuated."

Guitarist Tom Hodgson says, "Coming up, I heard Gale playing with Mike Athearn and Ernie Correllus.

They were the Flying Elbows of their day. That's our folkloric link to the past here."

Martha's Vineyard in the 1960s and '70s, still largely undiscovered by vacationers, celebrities, and real estate moguls, was a refuge for artistic off-Islanders of all talents, who landed here without fame, connections, or status. They included woodworkers, pottery throwers, avant-garde

play at the Sea View back in the late 1970s. It was a great scene. The thing about the scene back then was that everybody took what they could get. We were playing bebop and Mingus, and people got up and danced."

Brian Weiland, percussion and mandolin, recalls, "I played every band I could get invited to."

Island life was not



COURTESY THE FLYING ELBOWS



COURTESY THE FLYING ELBOWS



MARION HAMMOND

painters, freeform dancers, stained-glass window crafters, and musicians.

Lots of musicians. Hodgson remembers, "In the early 1970s, there was this whole wonderful music scene that I started getting involved with. I grew up participating in the up-Island tradition of 'musicales.' We would get together to play two, three, four times a week."

If you wanted to play, there were lots of opportunities. Bassist Paul Thurlow played in a rock band with his brother and some friends. Their first gig was a dock dance in Edgartown around 1969. "We used to

cushy in that era. The unemployment rate was high; people took whatever work they could and held on tight to it, doing what they had to in order to pay the bills.

But they lived for their art. Jephcote remembers, "My first job was at Morning Glory Farm as the greenhouse manager. I was a marginal young person trying to get by on as little work as possible so I could be the creative individual that I wanted to be in my life. Work was not my focus." Hammond was a carpenter, who played when he could steal the time. Thurlow painted houses. Hodgson

did too, until he trained in sign-carving and painting. Then his hard-earned self-employment gave him the freedom to adjust his schedule. "I think there are a lot of people on Martha's Vineyard, they may have other

remembers, "I started playing with a group of musicians one summer, and we called ourselves the Flying Elbows. We started jamming at the Ritz with whoever showed up. The name stuck, but the

passions, but they are here because they can be independent, work for themselves, and do what they love," he says. "That kind of independence has always made a sane life possible for me."

Weiland taught at the Oak Bluffs School: "I think most year-round Vineyarders choose a certain quality-of-life experience, often of a time-honored vein, at the expense of serious modern professionalism."

Out of that swirl of talent and commitment came the Flying Elbows.

Bob Hammond, the sole remaining original Elbow,

contest [which Hammond had created, at the fair], and I grabbed my fiddle and got up onstage. I played a tune." That fiddle contest, profiled on NPR, almost immediately became a mecca for mainland musicians. "Off-Island fiddle groups were given permission to camp at the Fisher Farm [Flat Point Farm], which made for great all-night sessions around the fire!" says Jephcote.

Meanwhile, Hammond and David O'Brien, another early member of the group, asked Jephcote to play dances with them, "so I became an Elbow. Our most regular gig in those days was playing the monthly Saturday contradances, up at the Chilmark Community Center."

"The contradance was a big part of the next step in our development," Hammond agrees. "We played every month regardless of whatever else was going on. We weren't looking for work. We all had these other lives. We weren't playing popular music and cover music. It had to be people who wanted us, specifically."

The Flying Elbows remain true to their lineage. Jephcote defines them as "an agricultural niche band." They play the Pumpkin and Strawberry festivals at Morning Glory Farm, the Felix Neck Fall Festival. They welcome people who want to learn. Jephcote teaches fiddle and other bowed instruments; Hammond oversees free old-timey music sessions on Tuesday nights. Of course, they still play the contradances. Jephcote would love to "bring a bunch of us together into an informal contradance 'orchestra' of sorts ... This way, some potential dance fiddlers could get their feet wet without exhaustion, and possibly get a taste for it."

1. Elbows, with Walter Cronkite sitting in on washboard, late '70s.

2. Flying Elbows, 1979: From left, Mike Diamond, Jim Weber, Bob Hammond, Bruce Diamond (Chip Smith, sitting in), and Chris Lyons.

3. Flying Elbows, 2009: From left, Bob Hammond, Nancy Jephcote, Paul Thurlow, Tom Hodgson, and Brian Weiland.

This Island is not what it was in Gale Huntington's days. There are fewer, if any, all-night camping jam sessions around farmland bonfires. Yet, dotted across the Vineyard, little pockets of fiddlers still gather. "We fiddlers all know each other. We are part of a culture of traditional music on the Island," says Jephcote. From Chilmark to Chappy, musicians of all levels come together, rarely belonging to a single group.

Fifty years ago, Gale Huntington dropped a fiddle-shaped rock into the becalmed musical waters of Martha's Vineyard. Those ripples still expand, on and on.

The Elbows still fly. **MVT**

calendar

Event spotlight for the week of 3-12 - 3-18

THU 3/12

V.H. art markets info

Whether brand-new, or participating for years, all artists are welcome to join in a conversation and learn more about how/where/when to apply to annual markets, and what updates might be in store for the 2026 season. This gathering is hosted by the V.H. Harbor Cultural District, and will feature Art-

ist Resource Tribune, Circuit Arts, Edgartown Village Market, First Fridays V.H., Vineyard Artisans Festivals, and a new VHHCD call for art! Free. 6 pm, Katharine Cornell Theater, 51 Spring St.



FRI 3/13

Jazzfest 2026

Be sure to catch the fourth annual Jazzfest, presented by the MVRHS M.V. Big Band. This concert features local musicians Jeremy Berlin, the Brian Nelson Trio, the Lucas Ostinato Quartet, and the M.V. Big Band, composed of students at MVRHS. It's at 6 pm, free with a suggested donation between \$5 and \$10. Mar-

tha's Vineyard Performing Arts Center, 100 Edgartown Road, Oak Bluffs.



SAT 3/14

Daffodil Day 2026



Shop Daffodil Day, and support Martha's Vineyard Cancer Support Group. Daffodils can be purchased in person on Saturday morning from 9 am to 12:30 pm. Participating places

to buy: Down-Island Cronig's Market, Reliable Market, and Edgartown Stop & Shop. Every purchase helps Island families meet emergency and temporary needs during cancer treatment.

SUN 3/15

BrunchBQ and Beats with DJ Smooth B

Black Joy Kitchen is bringing the Island heat all year long on Martha's Vineyard with BrunchBQ and Beats. From 10 am to 1 pm (brunch service ends at 2), the legendary @djsmoothb is spinning the soundtrack while our kitchen serves smoky, soulful plates that taste like love, community, and pure joy. This isn't just brunch — it's a whole vibe. ALL are welcome at the joyful table — always!

Reserve your seats now under Reservations at blackjoykitchen.com. 7 Oakland Ave., Oak Bluffs.



MON 3/16

Guiding Good Choices

Guiding Good Choices (GGC) is an evidence-based program for parents and caregivers to learn how to promote healthy development and reduce risky behavior in the teen years. GGC aims to strengthen and clarify family expectations for teen's behavior and build strong family bonds, which motivate preteens to follow family guidelines, and teaches

skills that help children to resist substance use and other risky behavior successfully. Free, 3 to 5:30 pm, West Tisbury library, 1042 State Road.



MV TIMES

TUES 3/17

Bingo and Bites!

Join the Bingo fun and win some fabulous prizes. A variety of yummy treats will be available, and opportunities to make connections with other Island com-

munity members. From 1 to 2:30 pm, Up-Island Council on Aging, 1042 State Road, West Tisbury. Contact Susan Merrill with any questions: coa-staff@westtisbury-ma.gov.

WED 3/18

Tarot exploration

If you've ever been curious about Tarot cards, or if you already work with cards, but want to deepen your understanding, join CUUPS MV for its new Tarot and Divination Gathering.

Meet monthly for a fun and casual get-together to learn the tools that help you tap into your intuition, 5 to 7 pm. Stevens Chapel, 238 Main St., Vineyard Haven, cuups.mv@gmail.com.

Events

THURSDAY, MARCH 12

Dance Fitness and Strength Training with Kris Martin

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

Virtual Kripalu Flow Yoga

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

Mindfulness & Meditation Open Practice Group

8-9 am, Aquinnah Town Hall. Mindfulness & meditation practice group, open to anyone interested in being more intentional and practicing with others. 413-575-0110, ruthfolchman@me.com.

Kaiut Yoga

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

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.

Fit for Flow with Maggie Bucci

9-10 am, Stillpoint, West Tisbury. This fitness class, led by Maggie Bucci, is designed to get you fit to flow with the journey of life info@stillpointmv.org.

Little Island Voices: inclusive music class

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.

Thursday Play Kitchen and Store

10 am-12 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Come enjoy watching your kids be creative and solve problems! For ages 2-6. Drop in between 10am-noon. 508-693-9433, mlynch@clamsnet.org.

Painterly Painting Workshop with Marston Clough

10 am-2 pm, Featherstone Center for the Arts, Oak Bluffs. Starting with the basics, we will discuss value, big shapes, composition,

color harmony, and variations of edges, patterns and brushstrokes. 508-693-1850, featherstone@featherstoneart.org.

Wiggle with the Words Storytime

10:30-11 am, Edgartown Library. Fun props and interactive stories.

Geared for ages 1-5, but all are welcome. No sign-up. programs@edgartownlibrary.org, 508-627-4221.

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.

Learn to play Mah Jong

1-3 pm, Tisbury COA, Vineyard Haven. If you've been meaning to learn Mah Jong, this welcoming four-session series is the perfect place to start. 508-696-4205, amcdonough@tisburyma.gov.

Red Dragon Mah-Jong

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

Community Knitting Circle

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

Lego and Magnatile 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.

Ukulele Jam

3:30-5 pm, West Tisbury Library. All ages and abilities. The library has ukuleles to borrow, or bring a guitar or banjo, or come to sing. wt_mail@clamsnet.org, 508-693-3366.

Book Buddies

3:30-4:30 pm, West Tisbury Library. High Schoolers reading to elementary-aged children Thursdays 3:30-4:30. 508-693-3366, hburbridge@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.

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.

Stitch Society Crafting Group

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

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

5-6 pm, St. Augustine's Church Hall [handicap accessible], Vineyard Haven. GSP Community Supper, Thurs Jan thru Mar, 5-6pm. St. Augustine's Church 56 Franklin St. VH call 508-684-6270 by 6pm on Monday to record your request 860-992-7012, burkewg@comcast.net.

Table Tennis

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

Living with Chronic Illness: Support - IBS, Chronic Migraine, Chronic Pain

5:15-6:15 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Living with Chronic Illness: Support & Connection - IBS, Chronic Migraine, Chronic Pain 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.

ART NIGHT! Stamped Ring Workshop

5:30-7:30 pm, Featherstone Center for the Arts, Oak Bluffs. Students will learn how to file, sand, solder, stamp and polish to create a one of a kind ring! 508-693-1850, featherstone@featherstoneart.org.

VH Cultural District Community Conversation: Art Markets

6-7 pm, Katharine Cornell Theater, Vineyard Haven. VH Cultural District

Continued on B8

Connecting paradise and hell

"Sirat" playing at the M.V. Film Center.

BY ABBY REMER

The exact meaning of writer-director Oliver Laxe's new film, "Sirat," playing at the Martha's Vineyard Film Center, dances just out of reach. Before the opening credits roll, the words we read onscreen leave us pondering about what we are about to see: "The Sirat bridge connects paradise and hell. Whoever ventures across its path is narrower than a strand of hair and sharper than a sword."

The visuals in the film's first scene are arresting. We wander through hundreds of dancers moving with almost trancelike abandon to the pulsing beats of techno music that booms off the canyon walls at a massive three-day rave in the Moroccan desert. These events, held in unconventional settings, feature loud electronic dance music, lasers, and often psychedelic visual effects. For this rave, Laxe organized an authentic three-day party advertised throughout Europe, with the intention of filming true-to-life scenes for his film.

Amid the throbbing crowd, a Spanish father, Luis (Sergi López), and his young son, Esteban (Bruno Núñez), wander about, asking repeatedly if anyone has seen Luis' daughter, who has been missing for five months. Luis believes she might be at a rave, and has thus outfitted a van for him, Esteban, and their endearing dog to search for her, but no one has seen her so far.

Soon an unidentified military force appears, declaring a state of emergency and ordering all E.U. citizens to evacuate the site because of an unnamed eruption between warring countries. Laxe keeps the threat vague, creating an atmosphere of destabilization and uncertainty that runs

throughout the narrative. Tensions between the military and ravers run high before a long line of caravan buses starts to depart. Suddenly, two vans carrying five hardcore ravers, played by a nonprofessional cast from Europe's vibrant free party movement, make a break for it, seeking another rave far deeper in the desert, near Mauritania. Thinking his daughter might be at this next party, Luis and Esteban join in the getaway.

The evolving dynamics between the father and son, and the ravers, play out against the techno music and visually striking desert landscapes.

During the journey, there seem to be nods to paradise as we get to know the ravers, who are seeking something abstract and intangible. Laxe explains, "They are looking for radical coherence, which is to say they have placed their egos beneath their own overriding value system, achieving control over themselves in a way that telegraphs the ultimate freedom." But there is also the ever-looming presence of hell, as the peripheral conflict bears down upon the group and the story takes unexpected turns.

Laxe says, "Cinematic art is about this balance of saying something and evoking something — and it was enough to evoke World War III off-camera, outside the story. We know what's happening in the world today — we've been talking about the end of the world for a long time. We had to find a way to evoke this energy of global crisis without recreating it onscreen."

The final image of "Sirat" is ambiguous, with characters heading toward an uncertain future. But despite the film's often dark turns, they move toward the light. As the



"Sirat" opens at the M.V. Film Center on March 13. For tickets and information, visit mvfilmsociety.com.

lead actor, López believes that light symbolizes hope that humanity will forge ahead, no matter what lies ahead: "Inside this runaway train we're all on, there is love, and we know it's the only thing that can save us. In the end, hope exists because we're not alone. We continue moving forward in our search for that better world." **MVT**

Continued from B7

Events

presents an info session for artists about local art markets Hello@vvhcd.org.

Community Talks with Culture Reframed

6 pm, MVRHS Library, Oak Bluffs. Help your child build resilience and resistance to the influence of pornography. info@mvyps.org.

'Scream 7!' at the Edgartown Cinema

6:15 pm, Edgartown Cinema. When a new Ghostface killer emerges in the town where Sidney Prescott has built a new life, her darkest fears are realized. 508-627-8008, yourneighborhoodtheatre.com.

'Hoppers' at the Edgartown Cinema

6:15 pm, Edgartown Cinema. A 19-year-old animal lover uses technology that places her consciousness into a robotic beaver to uncover mysteries within the animal world. 508-627-8008, yourneighborhoodtheatre.com

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.

FRIDAY, MARCH 13

Cardio and Conditioning with Alyson Parker

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

Pumped Up Intervals with Maria McFarland

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

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.

Painterly Painting Workshop with Marston Clough

10 am-2 pm, Featherstone Center for the Arts, Oak Bluffs. Starting with the basics, we will discuss value, big shapes, composition, color harmony, and variations of edges, patterns and brushstrokes. 508-693-1850, featherstone@featherstoneart.org.

Gray Matters : Conversation for Seniors 65+ on Zoom

10-11 am, PathwaysARTS / Zoom, Chilmark. Casual conversation on Zoom for Community Seniors 65+ on topics of interest to elders. Contact Keren4Pathways@gmail for Zoom link on the day of event. 508-645-9098, tanya4pathways@gmail.com.

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.

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, Vineyard Haven. Weekly story circle with Children's Librarian Aria on Tuesdays and Fridays — now at the MV Family Center on Greenwood Ave following 9:30am playgroup. 508-696-4211, vnhpl_programs@clamsnet.org.

Toddler Time

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

Online Balance with Kanta Lipsky

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

Drop-in Tech Help at the Anchors

12-1 pm, Edgartown Council on Aging (The Anchors), Edgartown. To help with your laptop, smartphone, iPad, or other devices. Tech help is also available at the library. programs@edgartownlibrary.org. 508-627-4221.

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@tisburyma.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

'SIRAT.' at the MV Film Center

4 pm, MV Film Center, Vineyard Haven. SIRAT (Academy Award Nominee for Best Int'l Picture and Sound)— at the MV Film Center 508-696-9369, mvfilmsociety.com.

Jazzfest 2026

6-8 pm, Martha's Vineyard Performing Arts Center, Oak Bluffs. Jazzfest, presented by the MV Big Band! 6pm at Performing Arts Center. Admission \$10 suggested donation. Featuring favorite local artists and students 508-693-1033, stephanie.aurenz@mvyps.org.

WE DANCE : Salsa Dance Class & DJ 1 LOVE Dance Party

7-11 pm, PathwaysArts at The Chilmark Tavern. 7-8pm: Free Salsa Dance Class. (No experience or partner necessary), followed by DJ 1 LOVE Tropical House Dance Party from 8PM till Late. All welcome. 508-645-9098, tanya4pathways@gmail.com.

'A PRIVATE LIFE' at the MV Film Center

7:30 pm, MV Film Center, Vineyard Haven. A PRIVATE LIFE— at the MV Film Center 508-696-9369, mvfilmsociety.com.

SATURDAY, MARCH 14

Pilates Flow with Camille Beauzile

8:30-9:45 am, Stillpoint, West Tisbury. This upbeat Pilates class blends preventative medicine, mind-over-matter focus, and joyful movement info@stillpointmv.org.

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.

Daffodil Day 2026 - Martha's Vineyard Cancer Support Group

9 am-12:30 pm, Stop & Shop, Edgartown. Daffodil Day 2026 - MV Cancer Support Groupmvancersgroup@gmail.com.

Vinyasa 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.

Islanders Write

9 am-7 pm, Featherstone Center for the Arts, Oak Bluffs. A day of writing workshops followed by an Island authors book fair 508-693-6100, kate@mvtimes.com.

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, vsonmenthal@gmail.com.

MV Dems Monthly Meeting

9:30-10:30 am, Democratic Council of MV, West Tisbury. Guest speakers, discussion, outreach for national, state and local Democratic leaders and issues. Email demsmv@gmail.com for Zoom link. 774-563-0467, demsmv@gmail.com.

Drawing with Colored Pencils 3-Week Course

10 am-1 pm, Featherstone Center for the Arts, Oak Bluffs. This 3-week course is designed for artists familiar with basic drawing techniques who want to take their drawing skills to the next level. 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.

Adult Community Dance with Jesse Keller Jason

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

Loving Kindness and Mindfulness Meditation: A 90-Minute Journey

10:30 am-12 pm, Stillpoint, West Tisbury. This class offers a blend of loving-kindness meditation, mindfulness practice, and shared experiences through personal reflection info@stillpointmv.org.

Beginning Crochet (Drop-In)

10:30-11:30 am, Oak Bluffs Library. Beginning Crochet (Drop-In) 508-693-9433, cphelan@clamsnet.org.

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.

Flower Arranging with Laurie, Linda and Aubrey

11 am-1 pm, Donaroma's Garden Store and Nursery, Edgartown. Create a lush seasonal arrangement using fresh flowers and sustainable techniques. Focus on balance, movement and design confidence. 508-627-8366, amy@donaromas.com.

Storytime

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

Ballroom/Partner Dance Class

11:30 am-12:30 pm, West Tisbury Library. On the second Saturday of the month, from 11:30am-12:30pm, come to a free Ballroom/Partner Dance Class led by Tom Carberry, from MV Ballroom Dancers 508-693-3366, wt_mail@clamsnet.org.

Sound Bath with Trish Ginter

11:30 am-12:30 pm, Edgartown Library, Edgartown. Registration required. Sign up at edgartownlibrary.org. 508-627-4221, programs@edgartownlibrary.org.

Continued on B9

MARtha's VINEYARD film society
The MV Film Society • Now celebrating 28 years • 1999-2026

Thurs 3/12	A PRIVATE LIFE OSCAR-NOMINATED SHORT FILMS: LIVE ACTION	4:00 PM 7:30 PM
Fri 3/13	SIRAT A PRIVATE LIFE	4:00 PM 7:30 PM
Sat 3/14	OSCAR-NOMINATED SHORT FILMS: ANIMATION LAST SHOWING OSCAR-NOMINATED SHORT FILMS: DOCUMENTARY SIRAT	1:00 PM 4:00 PM 7:30 PM
Sun 3/15	NT-LIVE: HAMLET OSCAR-NOMINATED SHORT FILMS: LIVE ACTION	1:00 PM 4:30 PM

Film Center is Closed — 98th Academy Awards Ceremony

MON & TUES, MARCH, 16 & 17 - FILM CENTER IS CLOSED -

Wed 3/18	OSCAR-NOMINATED SHORT FILMS: LIVE ACTION LAST SHOWING	7:30 PM
Thurs 3/19	OSCAR-NOMINATED SHORT FILMS: DOCUMENTARY LAST SHOWING SIRAT LAST SHOWING	4:00 PM 7:30 PM

WINNER BEST ARTS AND CULTURE ORGANIZATION 2025
Voted by the Vineyard Community

The MV Film Center is open to the public and masks are optional for all individuals. Please join us for an in-person movie experience soon!

scan code for complete schedule

Information & Schedules mvfilmsociety.com 508.696.9369

Continued from B8

Events

SINGING & PERFORMING CLASS

1-2:30 pm, Aquinnah Town Hall. Singers choose a song to cover and develop for a stage performance over the course of the 8 week session, with a performance on the last day. laurajordandecker@gmail.com.

Art Reception: Fae Kontje-Gibbs

1-3 pm, West Tisbury Library. "Wishing Flags" exhibit on display through the month of March. 508-693-3366, wt_mail@clamsnet.org.

'Oscar-Nominated Short Films: ANIMATION.' at the MV Film Center

1 pm, MV Film Center, Vineyard Haven. Oscar-Nominated Short Films: ANIMATION – at the MV Film Center 508-696-9369, mvfilmsociety.com.

Pokemon Club

1-2 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Bring your Pokémon cards to show to others! This is a club to talk about Pokémon, look at cards, and draw! Ages 5-11. 508-693-9433, mlynch@clamsnet.org.

Ponds Under Pressure: Nature's "Canaries in the Coal Mine"

1:30-3 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Climate Change Discussion - Ponds Under Pressure: Nature's "Canaries in the Coal Mine" 508-693-9433, cphelan@clamsnet.org.

All Ages Chess Club

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

'Oscar-Nominated Short Films: DOCUMENTARY.' at the MV Film Center

4 pm, MV Film Center, Vineyard Haven. Oscar-Nominated Short Films: DOCUMENTARY. – at the MV Film Center 508-696-9369, mvfilmsociety.com.

Corned-Beef & Cabbage Dinner

5-6:30 pm, Baptist Parish House, Vineyard Haven. Complete Corned-Beef dinner with beverage and dessert. Reservations strongly recommended 508-246-1729, bslopes@comcast.net.

Vineyard Authors Book Fair at Islanders Write

5-7 pm, Featherstone Center for the Arts, Oak Bluffs. Come meet and talk to Vineyard Authors. Get author signed books, and celebrate literary life on the Island. 508-627-8463, mtombers@edgartownbooks.com.

Community Supper

5:30-7 pm, Trinity Parish House, Oak Bluffs. Community Supper 508-693-4424, umcmv@outlook.com.

Paleface & Mo Live in Oak Bluffs

7-9 pm, Portuguese American Club, Oak Bluffs. Upbeat duo playing warm, engaging songs that spark good vibes and lift the spirit. Featuring prolific songwriter Paleface and his darling drummer Mo. 508-693-9875, palefaceonline@gmail.com.

ENOUGH

7-8:15 pm, Pathways Gathering Space, Chilmark. A collaborative multimedia performance rich with immediacy and intimacy 508-717-2887, shakes9999@yahoo.com.

Abby Bender's Multi-Media ENOUGH: Dance, Musings, Performance

7-9 pm, Pathways Arts at the Chilmark Tavern, Chilmark. Abby Bender's prompt motivated multi-media performance with 13 creatives. ENOUGH : Songs, Dances Musings & other Survival Tactics. 508-645-9098, tanya4pathways@gmail.com.

'SIRAT.' at the MV Film Center

7:30 pm, MV Film Center, Vineyard Haven. SIRAT (Academy Award Nominee for Best Int'l Picture and Sound) – at the MV Film Center 508-696-9369, mvfilmsociety.com.

SUNDAY, MARCH 15

"Showing Up for Each Other" with Rev. Polly Simpkins

10 am, Unitarian Universalist Society of Martha's Vineyard, Vineyard Haven. Please join us in person or online on Sunday at 10 am! 508-693-8982, uu.society.mv@gmail.com.

"Attending" with Rev. Vicky Hanjian

10 am, Unitarian Universalist Society of Martha's Vineyard, Vineyard Haven. Please join us in person or online on Sunday at 10 am! 508-693-8982, uu.society.mv@gmail.com.

BrunchBQ & Beats with DJ

Smooth B @ Black Joy Kitchen

10 am-2 pm, Black Joy Kitchen, Oak Bluffs. Sunday BrunchBQ & Beats with DJ Smooth B @ Black Joy Kitchen 508-338-7750, hello@blackjoykitchen.com.

Islanders Write

10 am-4 pm, Featherstone Center for the Arts, Oak Bluffs. The Path to Publication. A day of conversations with authors and publishing professionals about getting books published. 508-693-6100, kate@mvtimes.com.

Sunday B-Side Brunch

11 am-2 pm, Martha's Vineyard Museum, Vineyard Haven. Sunday B Side Brunch: 11-2 at First Light Café. Great food, views, and soulful vinyl by DJ Vincent Patricola. Free and open to all. 508-627-4441, rpierce@mvmuseum.org.

Growing Onions, Garlic, and Other Alliums with Ethan Buchanan-Valenti

11-2:30 pm, Beetlebung Farm, Chilmark. Growing Onions, Garlic, and Other Alliums with Ethan Buchanan-Valenti at Beetlebung Farm 508-693-9549, programs@mvgasoc.org.

Local Off-Season Dancing & Music with Jessie & Rick of Blue Yonder Duo

4 pm, Unitarian Universalist Society of Martha's Vineyard, Vineyard Haven. Join the MV Ballroom Dancers for an afternoon of music and dancing at UUSMV's Steven's Chapel. Come to dance or just to listen. Everyone is welcome! 508-696-4211, vhpl_programs@clamsnet.org.

'Oscar-Nominated Short Films: DOCUMENTARY.' at the MV Film Center

4 pm, MV Film Center, Vineyard Haven. Oscar-Nominated Short Films: DOCUMENTARY. – at the MV Film Center 508-696-9369, mvfilmsociety.com.

'Oscar-Nominated Short Films: LIVE ACTION.' at the MV Film Center

4:30 pm, MV Film Center, Vineyard Haven. Oscar-Nominated Short Films: LIVE ACTION – at the MV Film Center 508-696-9369, mvfilmsociety.com.

'The Winter Table' Community Suppers

5:30-8 pm, Stillpoint, West Tisbury. An opportunity for the Island community to get together, combat isolation and share a meal during the coldest months info@stillpointmv.org.

Radio show - Music of Mongolia

7:30-9:15 pm, WVVY - MV Community Radio, Vineyard Haven. Radio show "It's a Big World, Open Yer Ears". This week: the interesting, unusual music of Mongolia. 96.7 lpfm or www.wvvy.org 617-676-8160, egjk_egak_egoogimak@yahoo.co

MONDAY, MARCH 16

Dance Fitness and Strength Training with Kris Martin

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

Virtual Chair Yoga with YogiJay

7:30-8:30 am, West Tisbury Library. Accessible to all levels and ages. Sign up for free at wholesomemv.com/classschedule. 508-693-3366, wt_mail@clamsnet.org.

Core Stability, Strength and Balance with Alyson Parker

8:30-9:30 am, Airport Fitness, West Tisbury. A class featuring core stabilization, strength and balance; we target all major muscle groups and include some intermittent cardio. All levels welcome 508-696-8000, info@airportfitnessmv.com.

Pint-Sized Picassos

10:30-11:30 am, Edgartown Library. Drop-in painting. Children under 8 must have adult present. 508-627-4221, programs@edgartownlibrary.org.

Online Balance with Kanta Lipsky

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

Mah Jong

1-3 pm, Tisbury COA, Vineyard Haven. Friendly Monday Mah Jong game starting at 1PM. Bring your American Mah Jong card! 508-696-4205, amcdonough@tisburyma.gov.

Drop-in Mah Jongg

1-3 pm, Edgartown Library. Mats, tiles, and cards provided. No formal instruction. programs@edgartownlibrary.org. 508-627-4221.

Switch Games for kids and teens

3-5 pm, West Tisbury Library. Switch club Mondays from 3-5pm in the Community Room 508-693-3366, lhearn@clamsnet.org.

Guiding Good Choice (GGC)

3-5:30 pm, West Tisbury Library. Guiding Good Choices (GGC) an evidence based program for parents and caregivers. | Um programa baseado em evidências para que pais e responsáveis. 774-447-3072, littlefield@mvcommunityservices.org.

'Oscar-Nominated Short Films: LIVE ACTION.' at the MV Film Center

4:30 pm, MV Film Center, Vineyard Haven. Oscar-Nominated Short Films: LIVE ACTION – at the MV Film Center 508-696-9369, mvfilmsociety.com.

Sound Bath

5-6 pm, The Red House PRSC, Vineyard Haven. Immersive healing experience using sound vibrations to calm mind, body 508-693-2900, jtau@mvcommunityservices.org.

TUESDAY, MARCH 17

Cardio and Conditioning with Alyson Parker

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

Kaiut Yoga

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

Pilates Flow with Camille Beauzile

9-10:15 am, Stillpoint, West Tisbury. This upbeat Pilates class blends preventative medicine, mind-over-matter focus, and joyful movement info@stillpointmv.org.

Little Naturalists

9:30-11:30 am, Felix Neck Wildlife Sanctuary, Edgartown. Spark your child's curiosity at Felix Neck's Education barn with hands-on free play-water play, sensory bins, experiments, and more. 508-627-4850, felixneck@massaudubon.org.

Play Kitchen and Store

10 am, Oak Bluffs Library. Come enjoy watching your kids be creative and solve problems! For ages 2-6. Drop in between 10am-noon. 508-693-9433, mlynch@clamsnet.org.

Free Range Fun

10:15-11 am, West Tisbury Library. Enjoy a room filled with parachutes, scarves, bubbles, music and more to explore! Recommended for ages 0-5 508-693-3366, hburbridge@clamsnet.org.

Drop-in Play-Doh Group

10:30 am-12 pm, Edgartown Library. Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult caregiver. 508-627-4221, programs@edgartownlibrary.org.

Vineyard Haven Library Story Circle with Aria

10:45 am, MV Family Center, Vineyard Haven. Weekly story circle with Children's Librarian Aria on Tuesdays and Fridays – now at the MV Family Center on Greenwood Ave following 9:30am playgroup. 508-696-4211, vhpl_programs@clamsnet.org.

SQUAD FITNESS with Triva Emery • BeWell-MV

11 am-12 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. SQUAD FITNESS with Triva Emery • BeWell-MV 508-693-9433, cphelan@clamsnet.org.

Bingo and Bites!

1-2:30 pm, Up Island Council on Aging, West Tisbury. Bingo & Bites! 508-693-2896, coa-staff@westtisbury-ma.gov.

Learn to play Mah Jong

1-3 pm, Tisbury COA, Vineyard Haven. If you've been meaning to learn Mah Jong, this welcoming four-session series is the perfect place to start. 508-696-4205, amcdonough@tisburyma.gov.

Mah Jongg

2-4 pm, Chilmark Library. Multiple tables for all levels and ages. Instruction on first Tuesday of the month. programs@gmail.com. 508-645-3360.

Lego Club

2:45-4 pm, Chilmark Library. Kids Lego Club 508-645-3360, chilmarklibrarykids@gmail.com.

SINGING & PERFORMING CLASS

3:15-4:45 pm, Aquinnah Town Hall. Singers choose a song to cover and develop for a stage performance over the course of the 8 week session, with a performance on the last day. laurajordandecker@gmail.com.

SINGING & PERFORMING CLASS

3:30-5 pm, Aquinnah Town Hall. Singers choose a song to cover and develop for a stage performance over the course of the 8 week session, with a performance on the last day. laurajordandecker@gmail.com.

Drop in for our Teen and Tween Art & Craft Class

3:30-4:30 pm, West Tisbury. Teen and Tween Art & Craft Class at the library-meets every Tuesday, from 3:30-4:30pm, ages 10-18, supplies provided. 508-693-3366, lhearn@clamsnet.org.

ASL Practice Group

4:45-5:45 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Want to learn ASL? Come drop in on our conversational practice group! No experience necessary. 508-693-9433, sschofield@clamsnet.org

Knitting Group

5-6 pm, West Tisbury Library. Creativity and conversation. Use supplies provided or bring your own. Adults and teens. No sign-up. wt_mail@clamsnet.org. 508-693-3366.

Table Tennis

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

American Sign Language Practice Group

5-6 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Drop in on our conversational practice group. No experience necessary. anelson@clamsnet.org. 508-693-9433.

Open Mic Night

6 pm, Katharine Cornell Theater, Vineyard Haven. Open mic for musicians. Come to play, or just to listen. Sign up on arrival free and open to all. 508-696-4211, vhpl_programs@clamsnet.org.

Poetry & Prose Tuesday: OPEN MIC

7:30-9 pm, Pathways Arts at the Chilmark Tavern, Chilmark. All Writers & Poets Invited to read in-person, or on Zoom. Visit PathwaysMV.org for a link and more info. All writing forms welcome. Free. 7:30pm 508-645-9098, tanya4pathways@gmail.com

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18

Barre Fusion with Maria McFarland

8:30-9:30 am, Airport Fitness, West Tisbury. Ballet styled flows, barre work, balance and weights using disks, loop bands and Bender balls. Come with sneakers, barre sox, or bare feet 508-696-8000, info@airportfitnessmv.com.

Play Reading at Tisbury Senior Center

9 am-12 pm, Tisbury Council on Aging, Vineyard Haven. Play Reading for Artistic, Literary and Dramatic Pleasure 201-207-7568, monahennessy1@gmail.com.

Oak Bluffs Public Library Storytime

10:15-10:45 am, Oak Bluffs Library. A fun-filled story time with stories, songs, scarves, and a parachute. Stories are geared toward kids 1.5 to 5 years old; all ages welcome. 508-693-9433, mlynch@clamsnet.org.

Children's Storytime

10:30-11 am, West Tisbury Library. Join Hannah for silly songs and stories. Ages 0-5 508-693-3366, hburbridge@clamsnet.org.

Tumble Bugs

10:30-11:30 am, Edgartown Library. Drop-in movement program geared toward ages 1-5. 508-627-4221, programs@edgartownlibrary.org.

Tummy Time

11:30 am-12:30 pm, West Tisbury Library. Join Pediatric Physical Therapist Dr. Katy for a Circle Group Newborn-Walking 508-683-3366, hburbridge@clamsnet.org.

Knitting Studio with Jo

12-1:30 pm, Tisbury COA, Vineyard Haven. Come stitch, chat, and be inspired in a cozy, creative space! 508-696-4205, amcdonough@tisburyma.gov.

Mah Jong

1-3 pm, Up Island Council on Aging, West Tisbury. Come join us for Mah Jong every Wednesday from 1-3:00 @ The Up Island Council on Aging . 1042 State Rd West Tisbury 508-693-2896, coa-staff@westtisbury-ma.gov.

TRI Housing Rehabilitation Loans

1-2 pm, Tisbury COA, Vineyard Haven. TRI offers deferred-forgivable-0% interest loans for a wide range of home repairs. 508-696-4205, amcdonough@tisburyma.gov.

Virtual Reality for Tweens & Teens

3-5 pm, West Tisbury Library. For ages 10-18. Each participant's time depends on the turn-out. lhearn@clamsnet.org. 508-693-3366.

Dorothy's Corner Community Tea & Workshop

3 pm, West Tisbury Library. Hosted by Dorothy's Corner. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/dorothy-community-tea-writing-workshop-tickets-198342102641> 508-693-3366, wt_mail@clamsnet.org.

Drop-in Knitting Group with Cindy Bonnell

3-5 pm, Edgartown Library. All levels are welcome to bring their projects for support and inspiration. programs@edgartownlibrary.org. 508-627-4221.

Kids Drawing Club

3-4 pm, Chilmark Library. Kids drawing club 508-645-3360, chilmarklibrarykids@gmail.com.

Kids Crafts - Aquapuffs

3:30 pm, EMS Building, Vineyard Haven. Make one of these trendy puffy art pieces EMS Building across from the Tisbury School. 508-696-4211, jrapuano@clamsnet.org.

Homegrown Club Meeting

5-6 pm, Agricultural Hall, West Tisbury. Homegrown Club Meeting at the Ag Hall 508-693-9549, programs@mvgasoc.org.

Tarot Exploration

5-7 pm, Unitarian Universalist Society of Martha's Vineyard, Vineyard Haven. Join CUUPS MV to explore Tarot! Drop in: 2/17, 3/18, 4/17, and 5/16 at Stevens Chapel, 238 Main St., Vh, 5:00-7:00 p.m. Free! 508-479-6321, cuups.mv@gmail.com.

"Sonic Flow" Writing Workshop

5:30-7 pm, Stillpoint, West Tisbury. Enjoy a meditative sound bath followed by an invitation to write, draw, or engage in any personal creative practice. info@stillpointmv.org.

Restorative Reset with Jelisa Difo

5:30-6:30 pm, Edgartown Library. Postures close to the ground for deep rest and relaxation. programs@edgartownlibrary.org. 508-627-4221.

Continued from B9

Events

Lego and Magnatiles 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

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

'Oscar-Nominated Short Films: DOCUMENTARY' at the MV Film Center
4 pm, MV Film Center, Vineyard Haven. Oscar-Nominated Short Films: DOCUMENTARY. - at the MV Film Center 508-696-9369, mvfilmsociety.com.

Feather Cuff Bracelet Metalsmithing Workshop
4-6:30 pm, Featherstone Center for the Arts, Oak Bluffs. Make a feather cuff bracelet out of copper sheet metal. Learn the techniques of transferring an impression from a steel plate, sawing, and shaping 508-693-1850, featherstone@featherstoneart.org.

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.

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, ltheam@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, ltheam@clamsnet.org.

Good Shepherd Parish Community Suppers [Dine-in or Take-out]
5-6 pm, St. Augustine's Church Hall (handicap accessible), Vineyard Haven. GSP Community Supper Thurs Jan thru Mar 5-6pm. St. Augustine's Church 56 Franklin St. VH call 508-684-6270 by 6pm on Monday to record your request 860-992-7012, burkewg@comcast.net

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

Introduction to Canva
5-6 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Introduction to Canva 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.

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, embaggerty@gmail.com.

'SIRAT.' at the MV Film Center
7:30 pm, MV Film Center, Vineyard Haven. SIRAT (Academy Award Nominee for Best Int'l Picture and Sound) - at the MV Film Center 508-696-9369, mvfilmsociety.com.

FRIDAY, MARCH 20

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.

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.

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, Vineyard Haven. Weekly story circle with Children's Librarian Aria on Tuesdays and Fridays - now at the MV Family Center on Greenwood Ave following 9:30am playgroup. 508-696-4211, vhp1_programs@clamsnet.org.

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

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

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.

Edgartown Public Library's 10th Anniversary Celebration
3-4 pm, Edgartown Library. This month we celebrate ten years in a beautiful, state-of-the-art library building that belongs to all of us 508-627-4221, programs@edgartownlibrary.org.

Build It, Build It Better: Online Poetry Workshop with Donald Nitchie
4:30-6 pm, Edgartown Library. Via Zoom. To register, visit the calendar at edgartownlibrary.org. 508-627-4221, programs@edgartownlibrary.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.

SATURDAY, MARCH 21
MV RADIO's Sixth Annual Night Out For Non-Profits
12 am, Portuguese American Club, Oak Bluffs. "MV RADIO's Sixth Annual Night Out for Nonprofits," on March 21st at the PA Club in Oak Bluffs (with a performance by Johnny Hoy and The Bluefish) 508-693-5000, ray@mvradio.org.

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

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

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

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

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.

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

Pilates Flow with Camille Beauzile
10:30-11:45 am, Stillpoint, West Tisbury. This upbeat Pilates class blends preventative medicine, mind-over-matter focus, and joyful movement info@stillpointmv.org.

Beginning Crochet (Drop-In)
10:30-11:30 am, Oak Bluffs Library. Beginning Crochet (Drop-In) 508-693-9433, cphelan@clamsnet.org.

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.

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

Seed Sorting & Tea
12-2 pm, West Tisbury Library. Come chat, sip some tea, and process/sort seeds for the next growing season. 508-693-3366, wt_mail@clamsnet.org.

SINGING & PERFORMING CLASS
1-2:30 pm, Aquinnah Town Hall, Aquinnah. Singers choose a song to cover and develop for a stage performance over the course of the 8 week session, with a performance on the last day! laurajordandecker@gmail.com.

Pokemon Club
1-2 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Bring your Pokémon cards to show to others! This is a club to talk about Pokémon, look at cards, and draw! Ages 5-11. 508-693-9433, mlynch@clamsnet.org.

Five Weeks in Palestine: A Personal Journey with Edward Zlotkowski
1-3 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Five Weeks in Palestine: A Personal Journey with Edward Zlotkowski 508-693-9433, cphelan@clamsnet.org.

Large Scale Floral Design with Jessica & Aubrey
1-3 pm, Donaroma's Garden Store & Nursery, Edgartown. Work with abundant seasonal flowers and professional mechanics to create a bold, large-scale arrangement with height, structure and impact. 508-627-8366, amy@donaromas.com.

Growing a Healthy Lawn
2-4 pm, Wakeman Center, Edgartown. The Vineyard Conservation Society invites the community to learn about growing a beautiful, organic, biodiverse lawn that supports our environment. lucas@vineyardconservation.org

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

Guided Somatic Art Meditation: Blooming into Spring with Sally Smith
3:30-5 pm, Stillpoint, West Tisbury. Bloom into Spring with this guided meditation that combines the breath with creativity as a healing modality info@stillpointmv.org.

Kids Glow + DJ Dance Party
5-7 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Kids 10+ DJ Dance Party 508-645-3360, chilmarklibrarykids@gmail.com.

10th Annual Meat Ball
5:30-8:30 pm, Agricultural Hall, West Tisbury. 10th Annual Meat Ball at the Ag Hall 508-693-9549, programs@mvaqsoc.org.

Community Supper
5:30-7 pm, Trinity Parish House, Oak Bluffs. Community Supper 508-693-4424, umcmv@outlook.com.

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

LENT TOGETHER - REFLECTION ON ASH WEDNESDAY
9-10:30 am, Stillpoint, West Tisbury. MINI ASH WEDNESDAY RETREAT OPEN TO ALL. EXPECT MUSIC, REFLECTION, PRAYER AND SHARING. ASHES WILL BE GIVEN. 781-929-2833, newseeds28@gmail.com.

Lent Together: Reflection, Reconciliation, and Rebirth
9-10:30 am, Stillpoint, Vineyard Haven. Please join the Reverend Mary Leahy for time together, during Lent, for prayer ritual, sharing, and music info@stillpointmv.org.

BrunchBQ & Beats with DJ Smooth B @ Black Joy Kitchen
10 am-2 pm, Black Joy Kitchen, Oak Bluffs. Sunday BrunchBQ & Beats with DJ Smooth B @ Black Joy Kitchen 508-338-7750, hello@blackjoykitchen.com.



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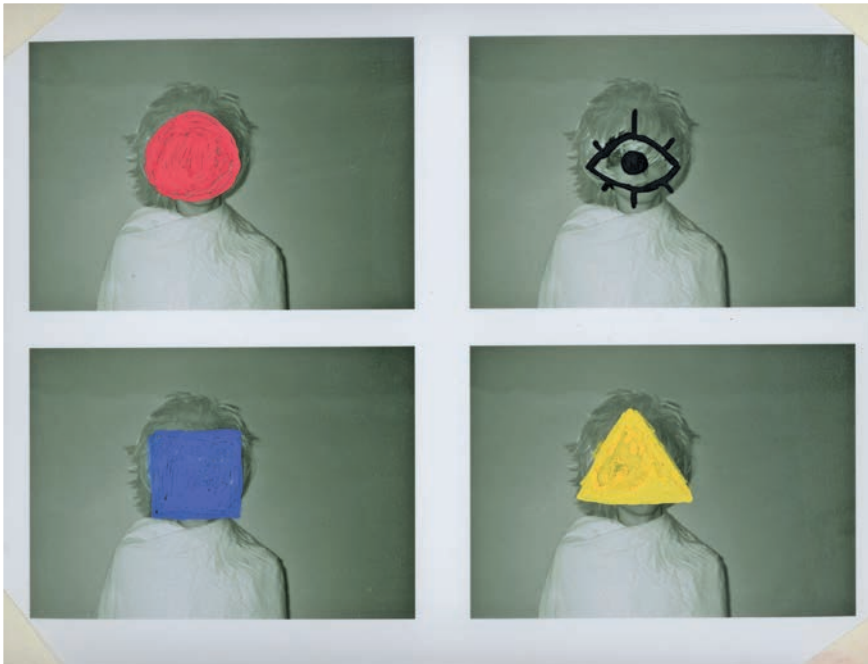
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A few of Isla's shrunken heads.



"Don't Miss!"

PHOTOS: ISLA FAIRSTEIN

Look again

Island student Isla Fairstein digs a little deeper.

BY ALLISON ROBERTS

Dabling in creative ventures helps with cognitive development, critical thinking skills, and encourages openness, experi-

mentation, and discovery. Also — not to sound too dramatic — art not only helps the artist's emotional well-being, but it can also push the viewer to think a little harder, dig a little deeper.

Martha's Vineyard Regional High School junior Isla Fairstein seems to understand that very well, and pushes herself to try new things. "I like creating art in weird ways," she says. "This year in photography class, I took a lot of photos where I would specifically either obscure or fully block out the face. The focal point of people is their face, because that's where emotions show up. The idea of removing the face and finding the

emotion behind the expression is harder, and makes the viewer have to look for more."

In her crafts and sculptures class, Isla also focused on faces, but in a very different way. "I have been



Isla Fairstein

making shrunken heads for the past year, which would fall under a mixed-media category," she says. "Sculpting faces is an interesting process, because there are so many parts of the face. The most fun is painting and

adding hair. I use different types of yarn, and I've used rope as well. I like to explore weird ways of making art, and I think that shows pretty well in what I make. I'm enjoying the process as much as the art itself."

Chair of the Art, Design, and Technology Department Chris Baer says Isla has a great sense of humor. "She can roll with just about anything. She is funny and fun-loving — which absolutely comes through in her art — but she's also quietly very ambitious, and utterly fearless. Very few teenagers have the bravery to apply for an overseas program in high school, and then go."

Last summer Isla went to Temple University's Tokyo campus, for its precollege summer program: "It was really interesting, mainly since I was surrounded by kids from all over the world,

and was able to make friends from the Philippines. I took an international affairs class, and that was really cool mainly since I got to learn about history outside the U.S. perspective and curriculum, and my teacher had some really cool pictures he had taken when he was in North Korea as well, which is something you definitely don't see every day.

I think overseas programs are over-all eye-opening, mainly as you are seeing another world's culture and learning to be more open-minded about things, as well as being able to meet new people and forming worldwide connections."

Isla also started a club at the school, while taking on a leadership role for two other clubs: "I founded the Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) club my sophomore year, alongside my friend Talia Young, which has been a really interesting club to run. Mainly because the Island has a very small Asian population, so trying to figure out things to do is kinda hard. We mainly do small group things where we try to teach about Asian culture."

Isla holds a leadership position at the school's magazine, Seabreezes, as well: "I am somewhat vice co-president, where Highley Marsh

is president, and Audrey Atkins is the other vice-president with me."

Last year Isla won two Silver Key awards, and this year she took home a Gold Key award. The Gold and Silver Key awards are prestigious regional honors in the Scholastic Art and Writing awards for teenagers in grades 7 to 12. It is the

"She can roll with just about anything. She is funny and fun-loving — which absolutely comes through in her art — but she's also quietly very ambitious, and utterly fearless."

—CHRIS BAER

longest-running and most respected program for creative teenagers in the U.S. and Canada. The awards recognize exceptional artistic and literary talent, with submissions judged based on originality, technical skill, and the emergence of a personal voice.

"I was pretty surprised," Isla says. "Mr. Baer sent me an email. I didn't think I was going to win with that one." The winning photograph Isla is referring to is "We Got a Runner," which depicts a young man running while wearing a lamp-

shade over his head: "It's pretty exciting. I like all the pictures I took, but this is one of my favorite ones."

Up next for Isla is a Capstone project, which is a comprehensive, multifaceted, and often yearlong assignment designed to bridge classroom learning with real-world application.

"I'm writing a book with my friend, Audrey Atkins," Isla explains. "We work together on the storyboarding and character development. I'm the main writer, she's the main editor, and then we come together and talk through the characters." Isla's hope is that when they are finished with the book, they will be able to publish it.

After graduation, Isla plans to attend college: "I'm not sure where I want to go yet, but somewhere in Massachusetts. I was thinking of going into research science, but I'm not sure yet. I'm also interested in conservation."

Though she is not going to focus on art in college, Isla recognizes the value and power of creativity. "Art gives you a different perspective on things," she says. "You take more time with what you see, and you see more. I think people may miss things because they don't look close enough, or find a second message hidden within." **MVR**

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AUDREY ATKINS

The High School View

The High School View is staffed and prepared entirely by students from the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School, and published on their behalf by The Martha's Vineyard Times.

Principal candidates visit campus

BY CHARLOTTE CRAMER, ALICE SMITH, AND ANINA GARVIN

This past week, two finalist candidates for principal, Dennis Mahoney and Bryan Lombardi, each visited Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) for a day to meet with students and staff, visit classrooms, and field questions from both the student body and the broader Island community.

Both applicants have experience as principals. Mr. Lombardi has been the principal of Stoneham High School since 2019, and was previously principal of North Hampton High School. Mr. Mahoney is coming back from a yearlong leave and, most recently, was the principal of Winchester High School from 2016 to 2025.

The principal search

committee is made up of a cross-section of students, staff, and community members who conducted interviews and narrowed down the applicant pool from 13 initial applicants down to seven who were interviewed, and eventually down to the two finalists. Sophomore Nora Duncheva, a member of the committee, explained the specific questions the candidates were asked in the meetings.

"[The questions] were about how they are going to deal with the building project, how they want to interact with kids, how they feel about Yondr [phone storage] pouches, how they are going to treat the special education department and the school, and how they plan to act as principal," she said.

Louis Hall, another

member of the search committee and science department chair at MVRHS, helped lead Mr. Mahoney around the building during his tour of classrooms.

"He engaged in dialogue, asked questions, and had some really honest answers about his experience as an educator and a principal," Mr. Hall said.

Sophomore Lillian Claussen sat in on the flex meeting with Mr. Mahoney, and appreciated his deep interest in MVRHS.

"What stood out to me is how much he wants to connect with the kids who go here, and how he really wants to try to bring the school together and wants to be an active participant. Like, he read up on the school, and he wore a purple tie," she said. Lilli also en-

gaged in a conversation with the candidate and fellow students from the Performing Arts Department (PAD) after the meeting, in which Mr. Mahoney expressed his interest in theater courses.

"He told us that he took tap for a few years, had done walk-ons for previous schools, and doesn't mind being laughed at onstage. He was very willing to be a part of that sort of stuff," Lilli said.

Mr. Lombardi, the other finalist candidate, started his career in 1991 as an adjustment counselor before transitioning to administration. His diverse experience in multiple roles in education stood out to representatives from the Best Buddies Club and the Gender Sexuality Alliance during the flex Q and A session.

Sophomore Pietro Amaral was in Ms. Scapelli's geometry class when Mr. Lombardi visited during his tour of classrooms. After Mr. Lombardi received a drawing from a student, Pietro noted his interest: "He was excited to talk about how he wants to be involved in a lot of [extracurricular] stuff. He was big on expressing yourself."

Both candidates met with



ANINA GARVIN

Principal finalist Dennis Mahoney answers questions for a group of students during his visit to campus.

members of the Aquinnah Wampanoag Tribe during their visits. Senior Soraya Randolph attended the meeting with Mr. Lombardi, and appreciated the way he created spaces for a diverse student body to feel accepted and welcomed. "In his past school, he allowed for Muslim students to pray in his room if need be," said Soraya.

Assistant Principal Justine DeOliviera played a key role in organizing the principal candidate visits. She worked with Superintendent Richie

Smith to organize rounds of interviews, served on the search committee, and is spearheading the next steps in the interview process. "I feel like both of them are really strong and really good fits, and could really bring a positive experience and a fresh lens to our school," Ms. DeOliviera said.

After two successful visits, the principal search committee will now be conducting interviews with the candidates' references before making their final decision in the coming weeks. **HSV**

Bailen Darack organizes first-ever college fair

BY MAPLE MARTONE, ISABELLE ANTHONY, AND PICKLE EVILLE

Senior Bailen Darack spent the past six months in her leadership elective class creating and organizing the first college fair to be held at the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS). Last Saturday, her vision came to life when the gym filled with eager students, parents, and college representatives from 22 participating schools.

Bailen said she benefited from going to the Barnstable College Fair during her time as a student at Falmouth Academy. "I know not everyone here [on the Island] has had the chance to go to a college fair, so I wanted to bring that here, to make it more accessible to everyone. So instead of us having to

travel to go to a college fair, we have the college reps traveling here."

Spanish teacher Erin Slossberg teaches the leadership class, and provided Bailen with guidance throughout this project. "I thought it was a fantastic idea and a major undertaking, but I fully supported it," said Ms. Slossberg. "Just to be able to walk around [our gymnasium] and get some college information and talk to prospective colleges and universities is fantastic. I think the school does a good job of providing college support, but this is one more thing to add."

Attending schools included a mix of state, private, and technical schools, providing students with the opportu-

nity to learn about and connect with a wide variety of postsecondary schools.

Bailen worked closely with the MVRHS guidance department for help contacting schools. Director of Guidance John Fiorito explained that he and administrative assistant Cindy Grant were able to share with Bailen emails and phone numbers for representatives who had visited the school in the past. "It's a huge list of schools," he said. "That was the major resource we could provide, and Bailen was able to do the rest from there."

Junior Keira Welch said, "I'm really passionate about my future, and I definitely want to go to college. I've already started looking,



TESSA SCHULZ

Junior Zoe Treitmen and her mother speak with a representative from Ithaca College in the school gymnasium.

and it's great to be able to ask questions about each college and really get to build connections."

Junior Gabi Furtado said, "I've been researching a bunch of colleges, and seeing that there was finally going to be a college fair here, I thought it was a great opportunity to come. I think all of [the colleges in

attendance] are great, and they have a lot of options for what I'm interested in."

Bailen has been reaching out to and working with schools since September, and hoped that at least 10 schools would be able to attend. "She was very persistent throughout the first semester, and received incredible feedback from the colleges and

universities. She pulled it off with 22 visiting schools," Mr. Fiorito said.

"A big thing I'm enthusiastic about is our community on the Island, and how we can better it," Bailen said. "I wanted to do this college fair to help bring opportunity for the Island to help students see different opportunities for their futures." **HSV**

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"The Listener"



As you approach the folk art trails, you see some of O'Callaghan's sculptures on the road.

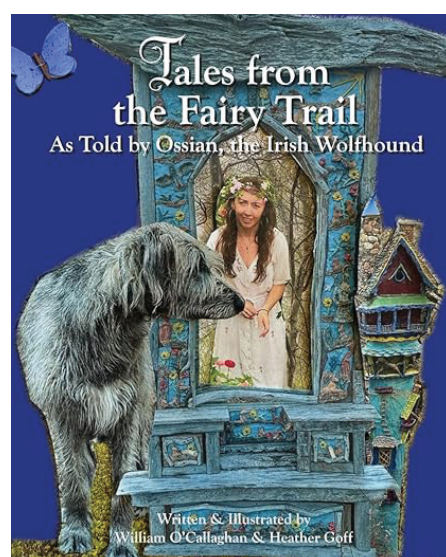
DENA PORTER

IRISH FOLKLORE IN THE CHILMARK WOODS

BILL O'CALLAGHAN

Spirit beings, mythical scenes, and an Irish wolfhound serve as the muses for artist Bill O'Callaghan. **BY ALLISON ROBERTS**

Island potter and cofounder of the Island Folk Pottery and Sculpture Trail (Fairy Trail) Bill O'Callaghan originally hails from Ireland. "I grew up in Cork. We were a big family, 11 kids. It rained — a lot," he laughs. "We didn't have much TV. So I spent a lot of time reading — fantasy, historical fiction — anything. That love of reading stayed with me. A lot of my reading transfers into my artwork."



Clay mask tucked in a tree.

ALLISON ROBERTS

a walk in the woods to see O'Callaghan's work. It features whimsical mixed-media and clay sculptures, including tree spirits, Earth guardians, fae musicians, clay masks and sculpted eyes peering from trees, as well as written stories and reflections.

"[The Fairy Trail] just kind of happened," says O'Callaghan. "I met Heather in 2019. I had sculptures, and she had four acres of unused land. We started by cutting a trail. Then COVID hit, and it gave me time to put together the trail. Then we built a shop. People heard through word of mouth, and through The Times and the

Continued on B15



Bill says, "People love to open drawers, and I put little sculptures in them for the kids to see."

BILL O'CALLAGHAN



Bill loves making pottery and figurines in his studio.

DENA PORTER



The "Raven Mystic" is a new piece for 2026.

BILL O'CALLAGHAN



Bill's pottery is inspired by his early years growing up in Ireland.

DENA PORTER



Bill and his Irish wolfhound Ossian (pronounced OSH-an) enjoy greeting visitors that come to his studio and folk art trail.

DENA PORTER

"I GET AN IDEA AND THEN I START MAKING SOMETHING, AND I'M NOT SURE WHAT IT WILL BE IN THE END. THE STORY EVOLVES, AND I FOLLOW." -BILL O'CALLAGHAN

Continued from B14 Gazette. People who came to visit the Island started finding us, as well. We've had a lot of nice people come. People are happy to be here. It brings us so much joy."

O'Callaghan's art is inspired by natural materials he finds on the Island, and a rich imagination fueled by the Irish folklore he grew up with: "I get an idea and then I start making something, and I'm not sure what it will be in the end. The story evolves, and I follow."

If you've ever been to the Fairy Trail or gone into Goff and O'Callaghan's shop on their property, where they sell their whimsical wares, you may have had the pleasure of meeting their dog, Ossian, who is a 4-year-old Irish wolfhound. "He's such a big part of the trail. He's 95 pounds and greets everyone. He's so big and friendly and loves everybody," O'Callaghan says.

O'Callaghan and Goff recently created a book, "Tails from the Fairy Trail." Goff brought the stories to life with words and arrangement, weaving in O'Callaghan's imaginative art with Ossian's voice. "The stories are told through Ossian's eyes," O'Callaghan says. "He's the fairy dog. I started putting together collages. I've never done collages before, but I saw something in artist Ruth Epstein's big collages. She

really inspired me. Heather and I used photos of our kids, grandkids, and nieces through the years for the book. It was so much fun."

The book and the sculptures aren't the only pieces of art visitors see when they arrive at the Fairy Trail. O'Callaghan worked as a mason and carpenter for years, and those skills came in handy as he began building whimsical furniture. "I was at the beach one day and saw a piece of driftwood. It sparked an idea," he says. "I started making stuff slowly — cupboards on the trail that you can open. Now having the trail, I have space that encourages me to make bigger things. People expect to see something new each year, which keeps me motivated."

New for 2026 is a raven. "He stands 5 foot 8. I named him the Raven Mystic. He is in my studio right now, watching over me," O'Callaghan says. "The raven will also have a sidekick — a centaur. I also have a big flying owl along the way." **MVT**

The trail is open daily from 9 am to dusk. To learn more about Island Folk Pottery and Sculpture Trail, visit islandfolkpottery.com. "Tails from the Fairy Trail" is available for purchase at the Island Folk Pottery and Sculpture shop, 16 Marion's Way, Chilmark, and on Amazon.

Garden Notes

BY ABIGAIL HIGGINS



Here are some Marching orders.

Spring awakening

*Moon is setting low,
Stars, snow glittering like gems
Dawn will be here, soon.*
-4:30 am haiku

One's winter MO is just becoming established when — oops — winter appears to be over, although on Martha's Vineyard that is a dubious assumption.

Mid-February brought the first distinctive male cardinal calls. Witch hazels like this weather, and are flaunting their funny little threads of flowers. They provide a spot of color and something uplifting at this "spring ahead" time, while we await brighter days and better news.

After the blizzard

Snowbanks are receding; the ensuing fog is likened to the ground's steaming breath, an exhale from the earth.

The Feb. 23 blizzard was well-forecast. Conditions approached what I recall as the routine winter blizzards of my childhood. (Life is different now; it is harder to accept being snowed in, or the inconvenience, or outright hardships, that that entails. Without the leverage to insist that all power lines belong underground, or other means to insure modern life as we know it can continue, this is where we are.)

The snow acted upon everything, protagonist turning all else into passive tense. Everything growing was coated with extreme

loads of heavy snow, the shrubbery and the trees, much of it unreachable due to snow's sheer deepness. Only trees' upper reaches were freed early by blizzard winds, while ground levels remained still and buried.

Downed trees, especially pines, damaged power lines and closed roads. The emergency travel ban allowed repairs and snow clearing to proceed, and demonstrated to many of us that much of our comings and goings are nonessential.

As melting commenced, the sinking snowloads pulled limbs down, some to the breaking point. Other growth miraculously survived, rebounding coltishly once freed. The puckerbrush sank, ever lower, until it disappeared into a flattened mass, safe refuge for smaller wildlife.

The departing snowbanks reveal the carpet of litter as bare and solid ground reappears. A welter of twigs, branches, and tufts of moss and lichen were scoured down by falling and melting snow and ice clumps.

The blizzard imposed a heavy branch burden, especially on broadleaved evergreens. Once it became possible to get around outside to check, it was revealed that hollies, rhododendrons, and Japanese maples were hit hard. Snowloads performed a great deal of pruning, most of it unwelcome. This is one of the "whys" of deciduous trees, evolved over millions of years of varying climates.

Positive aspects of snow to consider: Snow contains nitrogen. Snow acts like a mulch. Snow has been referred to as "the poor man's fertilizer," and this is true in part due to the dissolved nitrogen it contains. As it melts, snow slowly infuses this nitrogen into soils. Acting like a mulch, due to the amounts of air trapped in snowfall, it insulates what it covers like a big white blanket, preventing damage from freezing.

Where are the birds?

I heard the male cardinal, and downy woodpeckers are visiting the suet

2021) linking locations with accelerating decline of bird populations to agricultural practices and pesticide use as primary causes. Read it here: bit.ly/SCI_BirdStudy. As human populations and technologies have grown, so have their influences on our ecosystems. The study notes, "Using data from the North American Breeding Bird Survey, the authors found that about half of the 261 species analyzed showed significant declines from 1987 to 2021."

This news is not good. We are reliant upon birds (and bats) for an enormous amount of insect control.

March 4. They had been cooped since mid-January, the MLK weekend snow. In the deep snow, there was nowhere for them to go to be safe, and to be able to escape hawk attacks.

The birds were not happy about this; they responded with reduced laying and eating. Somehow, they realized the dust-bath possibilities of the box of wood ash and agricultural lime, and they dove for the stale bread and what other few goodies I had for them.

What really pleased the birds, though, were the branches of the large cala-

In the garden

Early spring: Light levels increase, despite dreary weather, and it is time to sow seeds. Prune storm-damaged trees and shrubs; prune red twig dogwoods — the brightest color shows on new growth. Plants wintered over indoors respond to the stronger light. They need more watering, and show new growth and signs of blooming. The renewed growth promotes whitefly and scale outbreaks.

The primula pictured, thought to be *P. kisoana*, the hardy primrose, sat dormant through the winter months — until suddenly, lime green



Snow-split holly branch.



Primrose thought to be *Primula kisoana*.



Prune red twig dogwoods.



Hybrid witch hazel 'Primavera.'

PHOTOS: ABIGAIL HIGGINS

Early spring: Light levels increase, despite dreary weather, and it is time to sow seeds.

we put out. And there are the handful of sparrows, one bluejay, and the three resident crows. It seems strangely silent nonetheless, at a time of year birdcall normally begins to increase.

Lots of bad weather is undoubtedly a factor. However, bird census-taking across the U.S. reveals alarming figures. The journal *Science* published a study (1987 to

Somehow human health, our food production, wildlife populations, and ecosystems must be brought into greater harmony. Is it not possible to harness AI to propose solutions for these kinds of problems? Instead of gaming AI-assisted warfare?

Henhouse

I let the chicken flock out for the first time on Wednesday,

mondin (pictured in Feb. 26 Garden Notes). I hard-pruned that plant to ready it for the coming season, and left the prunings in the henhouse. Every leaf was devoured and pecked away, down to the ribs. Come to find out that in the Philippines, calamansi foliage — but not the fruit — is fed to poultry to supply them with valuable vitamins and minerals.

foliage, and then pink daisies! Primroses in general, although non-native, make good subjects for Island spring and shade gardens, being avoided by deer and rabbits; they persist over many years. Propagation is by division after blooming. **MVT**

R.I.P. Warren Doty, earned for devotion to Island way of life.

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