

VINEYARD

Island of Martha's Vineyard, seven miles off southeast coast of Massachusetts. Winter population, 20,530; in summer, 94,650. Twenty miles from city of New Bedford, 80 miles from Boston and 150 miles from New York.



GAZETTE

Devoted to the interest of the six towns on the Island of Martha's Vineyard, viz.: Edgartown, Oak Bluffs, Tisbury (Vineyard Haven), West Tisbury, Chilmark and Aquinnah. These, with Gosnold, constitute Dukes County.

Don't Forget
to Turn
Your Clocks
Back One Hour
Saturday Night

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1972



Margaret Hall

Show opened this week in Cambridge.

Rock Opera Has Many Vineyard Roots

By EMMA KILBRIDE

1972, an original reproductive rights rock opera, made its official theatrical debut Tuesday at the American Repertory Theatre in Cambridge, where it will run through Nov. 22. Written by Chadwick Stokes of the bands Dispatch and State Radio, the show follows 19-year-old Hannah, who train-hops across the country in search of an abortion.

The journey that brought the show to Cambridge began a decade and a half ago, with all roads leading back to Martha's Vineyard.

The Gazette spoke this week with Mr. Stokes, his wife and collaborator Sybil Gallagher, producer Laurie David and Island actor-musician Darby Patterson, whose Island ties brought them together to create 1972. Mr. Stokes and Ms. Gallagher have a family home on the Vineyard, as does Ms. David. Ms. Patterson is a born-and-raised Islander.

"This show was made in our kitchen in Boston and in our living room on Martha's Vineyard with friends and family," Ms. Gallagher said. "So many of the people in this crew in their own right are activists."

Fifteen years ago, 1972 was a germ of an idea. Mr. Stokes, who grew up listening to the musicals Hair, Tommy and Jesus Christ Superstar, knew he wanted to write a rock opera. He also wanted it to have a female protagonist, and it needed to involve trains.

"When I was jumping freight trains around the country, I was so inspired by that world," he said.

In 2022, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, ending federal protection of abortion rights and returning jurisdiction over abortion care to the states. It was then that Mr. Stokes had an epiphany: The show needed to be about a young woman hopping trains to escape her abusive boyfriend and secure an abortion. And she'd do it with the help of the Jane Collective, a real underground group that helped connect people with abortion care between 1969 and 1973.

Ms. David met Mr. Stokes and Ms. Gallagher on the Island during the pandemic, amid the resurgence of the Black Lives Matter movement in response to a police officer murdering George Floyd in Minneapolis. At a kneel-in protest at Beetlebung Corner for Mr. Floyd, which were happening daily at the time, Mr. Stokes and his brother played a song that captured the attention of Ms. David.

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Ray Ewing

The scary season is here, from the moon above to the ghosts and goblins who roam below.



Tim Johnson

Boys soccer in action this week — on Saturday the football, boys and girls soccer and field hockey teams compete on Nantucket.

Island Sports Pride Is on the Line

By CHARLES LEITNER

The Island Cup and Golden Anchor trophies will be up for grabs this weekend during the annual Battle in the Atlantic.

Originally a clash between the two football teams, the tradition has grown in recent years and on Saturday, the football, field hockey and soccer teams will all take the ferry over to Nantucket to compete in the inter-Island rivalry.

And they won't be alone. The fan ferry leaves at 7:30 a.m. from Vineyard Haven on Saturday and returns at around 6 p.m. from Nantucket.

"We've got about 700 people going over to the game and it's just an exciting day when you have everybody playing on the same day," said Mark McCarthy, the regional high school's athletic director.

Last year the varsity football team was not able to field a team, so just being able to suit up has been a win this year under new head coach Zeke Vought. The team has been struggling this year to make everything click, they are currently 1-4, but Mr. Vought said he is proud of the work the team has put

in this season.

"We're young," said Coach Vought. "If the [team] comes in believing they can pull it off, then they will."

"I think that we have enough talent and I think it's going to come down to mindset," he added. "Who's going to want it more?"

Up and coming sophomore quarterback Adam Parchment will be leading the team on Saturday alongside seniors Matthew Macmillan, a slotback and safety, and Griffin Buehler, a tight end and defensive end.

Both soccer teams are looking to defend their Golden Anchor trophies after a decisive win last year by the girls team and a close victory by the boys team, decided on penalty kicks.

"It's something that they should be proud of because they played a hell of a game last year," said boys head coach Rodrigo Honorato, who had the Golden Anchor trophy placed on the sideline during their 6-0 win against Cape Cod Regional High School on Monday.

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Rendering Courtesy Edgartown Cove

The 40B development would be just west of Codman Spring Road.

Edgartown Cove Housing Project Sent to MVC

By ETHAN GENTER

The Edgartown zoning board of appeals referred plans for a new housing development to the Martha's Vineyard Commission this week despite the developer's assertion that the Islandwide planning agency shouldn't have jurisdiction over the project.

The zoning board voted unanimously Wednesday in favor of sending the 40-unit Edgartown Cove proposal to the commission, which for decades has reviewed so-called 40B housing projects ahead of the town boards.

This marks the first 40B project to be referred to the Martha's Vineyard Commission since the Massachusetts Housing Appeals Committee, a state body that adjudicates housing disputes, ruled that the MVC should not have its own review process for 40B projects. The referral could set off a new fight between the town, MVC, developer William Cumming and the Housing Appeals Committee, which are all currently in the middle of litigation over prior 40B projects from Mr. Cumming.

During Wednesday's 90-minute hearing, which drew about 50 people, there was little discussion among zoning board members about if they should or shouldn't pass the project along to the MVC for review as a development of regional impact, or DRI. The only comment came from zoning board member Pam Dolby, who said the board should

keep with its past practices before making the motion.

"I truly feel this is a DRI, and I think it should be referred," she said.

In the weeks before the hearing, Mr. Cumming argued that the MVC did not need to review the project, in light of the Housing Appeals ruling. The dispute centers around language in the state's affordable housing laws, which are commonly referred to by their statute number of 40B.

The law was created in 1969 to encourage more affordable housing in communities that had few opportunities. Under 40B developers can have a streamlined permitting process if they make proposals that dedicate at least a quarter of the units in a development to people who make up to 80 per cent of the area median income.

While other developments would have to get several approvals from different town boards, a 40B proposal would have a singular application with the local zoning board.

The question on the Vineyard is whether the Martha's Vineyard Commission, which oversees large developments in the six Island towns, should be considered one of the local boards that is bypassed in the streamlined application.

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mad martha's
FLAVOR OF THE WEEK

Happy Halloween!

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Land Trust Recieves Largest Ever Donation

By LILY ECHEVERRIA

This week, the Vineyard Open Land Foundation gifted 335 acres of land to the Sheriff's Meadow Foundation in what marks the largest conservation land acquisition in the organization's history.

The properties span several locations across the Island, including Squibnocket Farm and Eddy Farm in Chilmark and Cranberry Acres, an organic cranberry bog in Vineyard Haven.

The bog is expected to be open for cranberry sales and picking this fall, said Adam Moore, president of Sheriff's Meadow, in an interview with the Gazette on Friday.

"This week we harvested 1,600 pounds of cranberries, so those berries will be sorted, and when the sorting is complete, there will be sales of cranberries to customers, and then there will be hopefully a schedule of pick-your-own dates," Mr. Moore said.

The cranberry bog will remain under the supervision of the Vineyard Open Land Foundation [VOLF] for the remainder of the year.

"This transition year, we're working really closely. But then after the first year, Sheriff's Meadow will take it over entirely and run it going forward," Mr. Moore said.

In addition to the land, the Vineyard Open Land Foundation gifted Sheriff's

Meadow four conservation restrictions: two in West Tisbury, one in Chilmark and one in Edgartown. Conservation restrictions are agreements between a landowner and a conservation organization or government agency that limit land development rights.

"The gift from VOLF is for charitable purposes, so these will never be sold and never be developed," Mr. Moore said. "They will always remain in conservation, and I think that's the most critical thing. Aside from that, we will study them and write a management plan for how they'll be managed going forward."

Eric Peters, chairman of the Open Land Foundation, and Carol Magee, the foundation's executive director, will continue to provide advice and guidance on the properties. But the foundation itself expects to wind down and close later in the spring.

"We've given away the bulk of the land, except for two small pieces that we're trying to figure out what to do with. If we can't figure out what to do with them differently, we'll probably give them to Sheriff's Meadow later," Mr. Peters said. "We're probably going to continue into the spring, slowly wind down and close things down."

Sheriff's Meadow was founded in 1958 with a mission of conserving the land-

scape and character of the Vineyard. The Vineyard Open Land Foundation was founded later, in 1970, with a similar goal of assisting in and promoting the preservation of the Island's natural beauty and rural character.

The founding members of VOLF thought there was an unfulfilled niche in Vineyard conservation work.

"They felt that given what was going on in the real estate market and larger tracts of land, there was a need for what we called conservation land planning," Mr. Peters said.

Conservation land planning prioritizes the protection of natural resources while acknowledging human use. It creates structured opportunities for public access while guarding land from degradation.

Since its founding, VOLF has helped preserve over 2,035 acres of land across the Island. It had previously conveyed a number of properties, totalling 274 acres, to Sheriff's Meadow.

Now, with VOLF's guidance, Sheriff's Meadow will carry forward its legacy of conservation.

"These lands are going to remain forever conserved, so that's really the most important thing," Mr. Moore said. "We're honored to be the stewards of these properties."

Cape Pogue Trails in the Crosshairs Again

By ETHAN GENTER

A new appeal from a Chappaquiddick land owner is questioning if The Trustees of Reservations has the proper permits for its oversand vehicle trails on Cape Pogue.

Richard Murray, a retired oceanographer whose family has owned property on Cape Pogue for decades, rekindled the long-running debate over the Trustees management with his appeal, which is set to go before the Edgartown zoning board of appeals on Nov. 4.

Mr. Murray filed his appeal late last month, and he is asking the board to consider if the Trustees needs a special permit to sell oversand vehicle stickers to drivers who wish to take their four-wheel drive vehicles out on the prized beaches on the eastern edge of the Vineyard.

The sandy spit has been the subject of several lawsuits and appeals in recent years, as some Chappy residents claim the Trustees are violating town zoning bylaws by operating without municipal sign offs.

In his appeal, Mr. Murray wrote that his challenge was not simply based on a disagreement with the Trustees or over public beach access. His family, in fact, has donated many acres on Chappaquiddick to the Trustees over the years, he noted.

Instead, the request was intended to secure compliance with zoning, and should include a review of the existing sandy vehicle paths, parcels, operations and conditions deemed necessary to protect the fragile barrier beach, Mr. Murray said.

"I'm not asking to judge whether the Trustees are doing the right thing or the neighbors are too much up in arms," he said in an interview last week.

Instead, he just wanted to determine what the Trustees need permit-wise, he said.

"You have to follow the process," he said. "This part of it, I just don't understand why it's controversial...In the modern era, they've never applied [for a permit], they've never received [a permit]."

Questions over the permits for oversand vehicles have taken a long and winding path to get to Mr. Murray's appeal. The Trustees have been operating the trails on Chappaquiddick since the 1950s, and seemed to have received formal authorization from Edgartown officials in the 1990s.

But during the recent legal battles, which include lawsuits that debate which trails and easements the public can drive over, it was discovered that the original '90s permit was missing. Town officials couldn't find it and the Trustees had no copies.

With no permit in hand, the zoning board ruled in 2024 that the Trustees needed to apply for a new permit.

The Trustees was granted a special permit for several of its buildings on Chappaquiddick this past May, though several Chappy land owners argued that the Trustees needed to get a special permit for the operation of the oversand vehicle trails — a claim the conservation nonprofit has denied in the past.

Early this year, William Gaille filed an appeal similar to Mr. Murray's that questioned if the Trustees needed another layer of review. But the merits of that argument were never dealt with

after the zoning board determined that Mr. Gazeille, who doesn't own land on Chappaquiddick, didn't have standing and wasn't aggrieved by the alleged transgressions.

A former select board member in Scituate, Mr. Murray said he had watched the process play out in the past, and decided to take a more active role in this appeal to attempt to settle things.

"I'm just asking, go through the process for [the land]," he said.

Mr. Murray's challenge is formally appealing a decision of Edgartown building inspector Matt Rossi from Sept. 1.

In August, a group of Chappaquiddick residents asked Mr. Rossi to issue a cease and desist to the Trustees for the lack of a special permit, claiming there was an increased intensity of use over the years that necessitated a new review process.

Mr. Rossi determined that there was no violation of the zoning bylaw and there was no special permit needed.

"Additionally, no evidence was provided to indicate the number of OSVs utilizing the properties has increased to a level that would constitute an 'increased intensity of use,'" Mr. Rossi wrote in his denial.

The Trustees declined to get into the details of Mr. Murray's appeal, but said in a statement last week that the organization has done everything the town has required.

"It would be premature for The Trustees to comment on the Murray appeal before the ZBA meeting, other than to emphasize that the Trustees are in compliance with all town zoning bylaws and requirements," said Darci Schofield, the director who oversees the Trustees' Vineyard and Nantucket properties.

"We look forward to the meeting on Nov. 4 to discuss what is at the heart of our work — protecting and providing public access to Cape Poge, one of Massachusetts' most special places, as the Trustees have done for over a half century," she said.

Though not directly connected, Mr. Murray argued that the town should consider a recent court order that found the Trustees had overburdened an easement on the northern end of Cape Pogue.

Last month, Land Court Judge Sarah Turano-Flores granted Victor and Dawn Colantonio, a pair of Cape Pogue homeowners, a preliminary injunction that halted public access on a trail just north of Tom's Neck.

"The court further concluded that the public OSV program impermissibly intensified use because the unconstructed, shifting sandy trails cross fragile wetlands and are susceptible to erosion, flooding, compaction and deterioration," Mr. Murray wrote in his appeal. "The Court's decision further outlines other matters relative to overburdening on the particular private ways for which [the Trustees] has no Special Permit to operate."

That injunction and the potential for another appeal was concerning to several beachgoers and fishermen, who worried about losing the ability to drive their vehicles out to the remote parts of Cape Pogue.

Joshua Benton, an Edgartown homeowner, said his grandmother was born and raised on Chappaquiddick and he grew up driving out to Cape Pogue with his father to fish and scallop. As he grew older, he said he loved to take his daughter out to the same spots.

After the court decision, he said he was devastated.

"My father is heartbroken by what has happened. I am heartbroken by it," he told the Gazette. "Our entire family is. And I worry that my daughter's generation may be the first in our family that cannot experience Cape Pogue the way my grandmother's generation, my father's generation and my generation did."

The Martha's Vineyard Beachgoers Access Group, which has rallied in defense of keeping the oversand vehicle trails open to the public, wrote to the zoning board and asked the members to support the building inspector's decision.

The group's president Peter Slivkowski argued that the appeal was searching for a potential zoning violation, and wasn't based on a new trail being created or a new use on the Cape Pogue land.

"We are not asking this Board to take sides in the larger dispute between the private landowners and The Trustees," Mr. Slivkowski. "We are asking the Board not to make the community collateral damage in the dispute."

The zoning board will hold its hearing on Mr. Murray's appeal on Nov. 4 at 4:45 p.m.

SSA Considers Second Look at New System

By ETHAN GENTER

The Steamship Authority is looking to bring in an outside company to see if its plan to roll out a new reservation system is plausible over the next year.

Leaders at the ferry line this week said they were considering firms that could help guide the process, which was initially aimed at wrapping up with a new reservation system this year. Issues with the existing 1990s ticketing system have been one of the largest customer complaints, but the new system has been hit with delays.

"We are looking at trying to find an outside assessor to take a look at our system, take a look at where we are now and give us some guidance on, you know, are we on the right path," Steamship general manager Alex Kryska said at a technology subcommittee meeting Tuesday.

The ferry line head also explained his frustrations and hopes to Islanders who attended a budget forum at the Martha's Vineyard Hebrew Center that same day. An attendee asked if the Steamship was satisfied with the system being developed by E-Dea, an Italian company hired by the authority last year for \$5.7 million.

"To be perfectly honest, we're not satisfied," said Mr. Kryska. "We're not happy where we are. We should be a lot further along. We're not there."

The Steamship staff have worked to create a recovery timeline for the project, and are now estimating that the system could be partially rolled out for the Nantucket fast ferry in February. But board members have also floated delaying the system further to make sure it is actually ready when it comes to customers.

"We had another conversation about that today. Do we need to take another step back and really make sure we're doing the right thing?" Mr. Kryska said at the budget forum on the Island.

Vineyard Steamship board member Ted Gavin had suggested delaying the launch of the reservation system earlier this month after testing it and staff this week said Steamship specific programs, such as the excursion tickets for Islander vehicles, Head Start tickets and freight bookings, were giving E-Dea trouble.

"Those are things we want to get right because they're unique to the Steamship," said Mark Rozum, the Steamship's treasurer and comptroller, and one of the people spearheading testing.

The Steamship wants to test the fast ferry first because it has the simplest transactions and doesn't have to deal with vehicle deck space or the vehicle discount programs. Having those test results will help the other programs, which, on the projected timeline, would all be live by November 2027.

The Steamship Authority has been in talks with other ferry services that have used E-Dea, including the British Columbia system and the Caledonian MacBrayne ferries in Scotland.

Those ferry lines have pointed to things that didn't work, or were snags at launch. The Scottish ferries struggled mightily when they launched the system in 2023 — something the Steamship is trying to avoid.

"As challenging as it is and as disappointing as it is to delay, they went through what we all refer to as the 'Big Bang,' which was essentially switching on overnight, with little preparation, with little communication to their workforce, with little education to their general public," said Stephen Colman, the Steamship's director information technology, at the subcommittee meeting. "And they paid dearly for the next year or more."

Board members supported delaying the launch of the new system if it meant being able to avoid the replication of the Scottish nightmare.

"I think it's important that we take a step back and we aren't rushing to meet an arbitrary deadline that we set for ourselves," said Peter Jeffrey, the Falmouth board member, at the meeting.

Still, the longer the Steamship waits to move over, the more dependent it is on the system that was created by David Cox, a Wisconsin-based developer who is looking to retire, Mr. Jeffrey described the current system as past its prime and "limping towards its death."

"I don't want to lose sight of the risk we have of continuing on that reservation system that we currently have," he said.

It's not clear what an outside assessment may cost. If the price goes above a certain threshold, management would need to get approval from the board. Mr. Kryska at the meeting told Steamship officials that quotes have ranged widely, and he was hoping for a quick turnaround to keep the project moving.

John Cahill, Tisbury's member on the Steamship's advisory port council, was in favor of doing an assessment, and wondered if there was any way to find someone who has had experience in this area.

"My concern is if [we] turn this over to a, let's say a McKinsey type, it could cost us six figures and six months," he said.

Mr. Jeffrey hoped there was someone who could do strong work quickly, but felt it was essential to do it right, even if it takes extra time.

"It's worth the time to get the good result so we deliver the best experience to the user once we go live with E-Dea," he said.

Delaying implementation could bring a little more than \$800,000 in additional cost, though some of that may already be baked into the existing budget.

Islanders did get a sneak peek of the new system at the budget Hebrew Center forum. Mr. Rozum walked the 20 attendees through booking a passenger and vehicle ticket, while noting areas where the developer is still making fixes and changes.

At the earlier subcommittee meeting, Robert Ranney, the Nantucket Steamship board member, said it may take some getting used to, but likely would be familiar to the traveling public.

"Some of those changes aren't as bad as they first seem like they will be," he said at the subcommittee meeting. "If anybody has booked a recent airline trip, or something of that nature, it's not too different from that."

With the new reservation system, the Steamship is eyeing several potential changes, such as dynamic pricing, where lesser booked trips could be sold for cheaper than more popular ferries. The Steamship is also hoping to close the loop on discrepancies between what the website says is available and the actual space on the ferry decks.

"One of the big goals is, and one of the frustrations we've heard, you go online, you call on the phone, [and there is] no space available," said Mr. Rozum. "You go to the terminal, and it doesn't match. The goal is to have what's online... and what's actually happening to all be the same."

Training has started for employees on the new system, and workers in Woods Hole and on the Vineyard got to take it for a spin this week. Mr. Kryska told Vineyarders at the forum there was a chance that the system could all be implemented by next November, but he wanted to leave wiggle room to get it right.

"We're fairly confident we can do that, but I'm saying it's in pencil," he said. "It's in heavy pencil, but it's still in pencil."



Brittany Giles-Jones and Lisa Reagan of the Boys and Girls Club.

Martha's Vineyard Bank Celebrates Giving Back

By LILY ECHEVERRIA

The annual celebration of the Martha's Vineyard Bank Charitable Foundation took place on Tuesday evening at Camp Jabberwocky in Vineyard Haven. The event acknowledged the bank's community giving for the year, which totaled more than \$2.3 million.

The goal of the evening was to recognize nonprofit organizers, educators, students and community partners on the Vineyard and in Falmouth. President and CEO of Martha's Vineyard Bank, James Anthony, opened with remarks.

"It's the time of year when we all get together, and we give recognition to the folks that are really doing some wonderful work to benefit everyone who surrounds us, our community and our social fabric, which is I think extremely important," he said.

The bank gave grants to both individuals and 10 local nonprofits, including \$1 million to the Martha's Vineyard Boys and Girls Club and \$500,000 to Harbor Homes of Martha's Vineyard.

Mr. Anthony referenced the bank's long-standing history in the community, and its dedication to giving back.

"For 117 years, Martha's Vineyard Bank has been part of the communities of Falmouth and Martha's Vineyard," he said. "We've grown alongside generations of shopkeepers, business people, community organizers and families."

Martha's Vineyard Bank is one of a dozen banks nationwide to earn the title of a Certified B Corporation.

"One hundred per cent of our non-retained earnings go into the foundation and get donated out to local 501(c)(3) nonprofits," Mr. Anthony said. "It's a

remarkable model, and I think it's really wonderful to be associated with."

Mr. Anthony introduced Jennifer Ray, the community engagement director at the Martha's Vineyard Bank Charitable Foundation. She spoke about her work and her appreciation for the local nonprofits.

"Throughout the year, we receive grant applications that tell us about challenges facing our neighbors, but also the creative and thoughtful ways that organizations are solving these problems," she said.

Ms. Ray invited representatives from the nonprofits to share details about their work.

Lisa Reagan, director of resource development and advancement at the Martha's Vineyard Boys and Girls Club, took the stage with Brittany Giles-Jones, the new executive director at the organization.

"Everyone in this room, and I believe everyone I encounter on this small Island, is touched by the bank's generosity in some way," Ms. Reagan said. "At the club, we see it in our employee donations, the backpacks on our kindergartners, the golf balls for our tournaments, our donor-directed checks that keep arriving and your extraordinary grant award to our club that keeps us going."

This year's grant to the Boys and Girls Club helped the organization close the final funding gap for its new facility.

"You are ensuring that we are able to provide vital services to 400 families and over 1,000 Islanders each year," Ms. Reagan said.

Harbor Homes Names New Shelter Director at Season's Start

By EMMA KILBRIDE

With the Harbor Homes overnight winter shelter set to open for the season this weekend, the Island homelessness nonprofit announced today the arrival of a new shelter director.

Mary Alley will serve as the new head of the shelter, opening on Nov. 1 to assist Islanders experiencing homelessness through the cold winter months. Ms. Alley has a background in healthcare administration and is a former Harbor Homes volunteer, according to a statement from the organization.

"I believe deeply in Harbor Homes' mission and look forward to working with our team and community partners to help our clients find a path to stability," Ms. Alley said in the statement.

Harbor Homes' previous shelter director, Lisa Belcastro, left the organization in February. Volunteers Pat and Polly Toomey, who own Among the Flowers Cafe in Edgartown, took over for Ms. Belcastro for the remainder of last season.

This year's winter shelter will operate daily at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Edgartown from 6 p.m. to 8 a.m. through April 18, 2027. In addition to a place to sleep, the shelter will provide access to hot meals, laundry, showers and social services.

Harbor Homes said this is the last winter it expects to hold the overnight shelter in a temporary location. The organization purchased a building on 515 Edgartown-Vineyard Haven Road in Tisbury for a permanent overnight winter shelter in March, expected to open in fall 2027.

The nonprofit said it's looking to add volunteers and staff to help run the shelter, which served 58 individuals last winter.

"As the winter season approaches, Harbor Homes remains grateful to the congregations, volunteers, staff, and community members whose generosity makes this essential service possible," the statement reads.

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Escaped Parrot Story Has Happy Ending

By BILL EVILLE

Coco the Quaker parrot is a sociable sort. He likes to join his owners during meals, his custom made perch reserving him a spot at the dinner table. He plays tag with Huckleberry, the resident Chihuahua, and lets his owners know when he needs to go to the bathroom by croaking "Go potty."

At night, he sleeps in a cage a few feet away from Amos Sauer's bed, but during the day, when the family is home, Coco has the run of the house and often settles on the head of Amos or his mother Wenonah Madison as they sit on the couch or walk from room to room.

And that is where the problem started.

"He was on my head but I didn't notice, because he is there all the time," Ms. Madison said during a recent visit to their home in West Tisbury. "I walked outside to take out the trash, not knowing he was going outside with me, and then he got scared by a gust of wind and the leaves rustling."

Ms. Madison watched Coco fly higher and higher until he disappeared, starting a five-day frantic search for the parrot by the family, friends and an ever-expanding group of concerned Islanders.

When Coco flew away on Monday, Oct. 5, Amos, a senior at Martha's Vineyard Regional High School, was off-island on a college tour, his father, Dan Sauer, was at work, and Ms. Madison was due for knee surgery in Boston later that day.

Her ferry was leaving in 45 minutes. "I Googled what to do and it said you have a very short window to get a bird back, and that they almost never come back without human intervention," she said.

But Ms. Madison didn't even have a short window. She had to go to the ferry immediately. Not knowing what else to do, she left all the windows and doors open, hoping Coco would simply fly back home. But Coco did not fly back home. Instead, he spent the next week fending for himself while the Madison/Sauers spent the week wandering the woods calling his name.



Lara and Joao Prata.

Ms. Madison texted Amos's friend group about what had happened and asked them to be on the lookout. She didn't tell her son the news yet, not wanting to ruin his college tour, but eventually let him know the next day.

"I called him on the drive back from surgery, and said, 'Oh, I have some bad news,' and he goes, 'Did you kill my bird?' and I go, 'Maybe.'"

When Ms. Madison returned home, now in a cast and hobbling on crutches, she encountered a driveway filled with cars and teenage boys who had been out looking for Coco, and also consoling Amos. Coco was still lost and as of yet there were no sightings.

There was still some hope, however. Internet searches revealed that escaped pet Quaker parrots, originally from South America, have survived, and even thrived, in the wild, building large populations in the U.S., from mingling with the retired seniors in Florida to the hipsters of Brooklyn. The parrots live on seeds and

Please Adopt Us

The adoption news of the week is that puppy Zeus has found his forever home with the perfect family. Everyone is delighted.

Our pet of the week is the wonderful Toosie, a four-year-old, male tuxedo cat with big green eyes. He is indoor/outdoor, friendly, playful and affectionate, yet we feel he would do best in a home without small children. Toosie has been here a while and is feeling lonely so we're hoping he finds his forever family sooner rather than later. And he also has a lovely purr. Toosie has been diagnosed with diabetes but at his last check-up his bloodwork was normal. We're hoping that he may be able to come off his insulin in a few weeks. Additionally, he is very food oriented so he would be easy to train and teach tricks. Come meet Toosie to experience how much fun he is and see if he could be the perfect cat for you.

The Animal Shelter of Martha's Vineyard is here for our community. We're always available and our door is always open should your adoption not be a perfect fit. Also, if anyone is in need of cat food, dog food or a crate, we have plenty and are happy to share. The Island Food Pantry also has pet food for those in need. Just give us a call during regular shelter hours: 508-627-8662.

Hours are: Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Thursday, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Friday 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday 9:30 to 5 p.m.



Amos Sauer with his pet parrot Coco.



Lara Prata.

berries along with insects and worms so food was still abundant.

But predators on the Vineyard abound and Tuesday, Oct. 6, ended with no sightings.

Then, on Wednesday afternoon, a text came in from Kristy Fletcher, a second grade teacher from the West Tisbury School.

"Are you missing a white parrot?" Ms. Madison immediately texted the family group chat: "Bird alert, bird alert, everyone meet at the West Tisbury school."

Family and friends converged and ran around the school and fields looking for Coco, all except Ms. Madison, who had to search from a mostly stationary position.

"I should not have been walking just after surgery, so Amos and Dan are out there running around and calling the bird," she said. "But there's a soccer game going on in the back field, another soccer game going on the front field, and a tennis match going on. It's so loud, and I just want to yell, 'Stop it, the bird can't hear us.'"

The evening ended in defeat. Thursday was no better, with no bird sightings of any kind.

Then, on Friday morning, Laura Marashlian, the director of the Plum Hill preschool, checked in.

"We just saw Coco," Ms. Marashlian wrote. "I heard the weirdest noise, and I knew it was the bird."

The preschoolers did their best, fanning out and craning their necks to look up into the tall trees around Nat's Farm. Ms. Madison sent an audio file of her saying Coco, so the bird would be attracted by a familiar voice.

Ms. Madison also sent another bird alert to her family text chat and everyone joined the search, but Coco was nowhere to be found.

"Amos kept walking around the ancient ways back there for hours," Ms. Madison said. "But it was getting dark and I told him to just come home."

The next day Ms. Madison received a new text message.

"I live in Vineyard Haven, and my daughter saw a post from you on Facebook about the parrot that flew away. She has something for you and for your kid," the text said.

The message sounded a bit cryptic, perhaps a prank or a scam, but Ms. Madison called the number.

"I call him back and he's like, I have something for you, can we meet? And I'm like, 'What do you have?'"

The text was sent by Joao Prata, who later said he was worried about being specific.

"I didn't want to say I have the bird and then it turns out to not be the right bird," he said. "And I wanted it to be a surprise."

Earlier that day, Mr. Prata had driven to the Tisbury School to pick up his 10-year-old daughter Lara, a fourth grader there. When she opened the door to her father's truck a white bird was perched on her shoulder.

"She was smiling so much, and the bird looked happy too," Mr. Prata said during an interview with the Gazette a few days later. "Lara loves animals and wants to be a veterinarian when she grows up."

Lara agreed she wants to be a vet, but at the moment was preparing for soccer practice. She wore cleats and occasionally dribbled a soccer ball as she recounted the story of finding Coco.

"I heard this little sound and I looked down on the ground and there it was," she said. "It looked like a statue, and I didn't even know if it was alive because it wasn't moving."

Lara bent down and the bird swiveled its head slightly so she put out her finger.

"It hopped on my finger and then started looking up at my shoulder so I put him there and he didn't fly away."

Annual Haunted House Is a Frightful Passion

By LILY ECHEVERRIA

For two weeks in late October, Martha's Vineyard Screenprinting shuts down their normal operations to prepare for a distinctly different business venture: a haunted house.

Since 2019, co-owners Chris Maciel and Laura Petell have hosted the experience in their transformed storefront and warehouse, located at 426 State Road in Vineyard Haven.

"There's nothing else like this going on," Mr. Maciel said. "It gives the kids something to do besides trick or treating."

The house includes separate experiences for kids and adults. From 4 to 5:30 p.m. on Oct. 30 and 31, kids can explore a less scary, actor-free version of the haunted house. But starting at 7 p.m., nearly 20 actors bring the "Lights Out Horror" experience to life.



Halloween fun.

Coco stayed with Lara on the walk to the truck and the ride home, with a stop at Cronig's to pick up some food.

"I knew it must be someone's pet, and so would be hungry after being out in the wild," Mr. Prata said. "We bought it some grain and broccoli and strawberries. The bird was very thirsty too."

Mr. Prata then began asking friends if they knew anyone who had lost a parrot. Eventually, he turned to social media, a place he rarely visits, he said, "because of all the anger there."

He soon saw the posts by Ms. Madison, detailing the story of Coco's escape and contacted her.

The next day, the Pratas brought Coco home to the Madison/Sauers. When asked if she was sad to say goodbye to Coco, Lara shook her head.

"Not really, because I got to see people be happy," Lara said.

The Madison/Sauer family were indeed happy to see Coco, who also seemed a bit relieved that her time in the wild had come to the end. He quickly returned to his various perches atop the family members' heads, playing tag with Huckleberry and being an active participant at dinner.

Meanwhile, Amos returned to teaching Coco some new words. Perhaps if he ever escaped again Coco could simply ask for directions home.



Pictures by Ray Ewing

Haunted house will be open Oct. 30 and 31.

Mr. Maciel's father, Kenny Maciel, was a firefighter with the department and helped bring fellow firefighters on board as actors when the haunted

house first opened.

"It's easy to get people involved, because once they do it, they love it," he said. "They always want to come back."



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Donald Willoughby

Donald Willoughby Was An Avid Outdoorsman

Donald E. Willoughby (Don), 83, of Centerville, died on Saturday, Oct. 3 at Cape Cod Hospital. He was 83.

Don was the loving husband of Linda (Stetson) Willoughby with whom he shared 56 wonderful years of marriage.

He was born on Oct. 15, 1942, in Edgartown, to his late parents Marjorie (O'Shea) from County Kerry, Ireland, and Emory Willoughby of Edgartown.

He grew up on Martha's Vineyard and was in the first graduating class of Martha's Vineyard Regional High School. Following high school, he proudly served his country as a sergeant in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War.

Following his time in the service, he went on to earn his associate's degree from Wentworth Institute of Technology in Boston, and later a degree from Mass Bay Community College in Framingham.

Don and Linda married on Feb. 14, 1970 and the couple started their life together in Marlboro and Framingham, where he held the position of service manager at Annis Morrill Volkswagen for several years. The family transitioned to Osterville, and later Centerville on Cape Cod where Don was very successful and held the position of territory manager/New England for VWV Grainger Inc. in what would be his lifelong career in sales, until his retirement in 2011.

Don was an outdoorsman and enjoying camping and fishing. He was also active and played in a local softball league for many years. He loved cars and could often be found working on the family vehicles in the garage. He was also a craftsman and did woodworking as a hobby, even making furniture and Christmas ornaments. He could often be found tinkering away in his shop — always creating or fixing something. He held season Red Sox tickets and attended many games over the years.

He had a warm, friendly and engaging personality. He also had a wonderful sense of humor and was famous for always making quick funny remarks that were totally spot on and hilarious. He had a great talent for bringing humor and laughter to any gathering. More than anything, he is remembered as a loving husband, father and grandfather. He will be greatly missed by all who have had the pleasure of knowing him.

He loved Elvis, Dunkin' coffee, turkey with all the fixings, coffee/chocolate chip flurries ('flubbies') from Par-T-Freeze; fishing, 'golden oldies' on the radio; orange soda; '57 Chevys; the Red Sox; Grainger products; playing poker with the same guys for 40 years; 'Let it Ride' at Foxwoods; coffee frappe; camping; chicken wings...and his family.

Don is survived by his wife, Linda L. Willoughby; of Mashpee; his daughter Caitlin J. Willoughby and her husband Jared M. Smith, of Plymouth; his son Kyle B.T. Willoughby, of West Yarmouth; his grandchildren Brendan M. Smith, and Abigail J. Smith, of Plymouth; his brother George A. Willoughby, of Ft. Meyers, Fla.; his sister Kathleen J. Wray, and her husband William, of Edgartown.; as well as many nieces, nephews and extended family members.

A visitation will be held on Sunday, Nov. 15, from 10 a.m. to noon, with a celebration of life service to follow at Chapman Funerals and Cremations, 74 Algonquin avenue, in Mashpee.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Don's memory can be made to: CHIP's house, c/o Willoughby, 9 Park avenue, Centerville, MA 02632 or online at chipshouse.org.



Dr. James Kehler

James Kehler Was A Dedicated Doctor

Dr. James Stewart Kehler, of Annapolis, Md., died on Oct. 2 at home, surrounded by family. He was 89.

James (Jim) was the loving husband of 13 years to Elana Byrd Kehler and was predeceased by his wife of 50 years, Joan Ogden Kehler.

Jim was born on June 1, 1937 in Michigan but lived most of his late childhood and young adult life in Cincinnati, Oh.. He was the son of Eleanor Chace and Stewart White Kehler and brother to Thomas C. Kehler and the late John G. Kehler.

He graduated from Princeton University in 1960 and Cincinnati University Medical School in 1965. He moved to Annapolis in 1970 and was a psychiatrist in the Annapolis community for over 45 years, serving as chief of psychiatry in 1981 and 1991 at Anne Arundel General Hospital.

He was a dedicated and hardworking doctor who valued his patients and found deep fulfillment in his work.

He loved and cherished spending time on Martha's Vineyard, where boats and sailing became his passion. He was a longtime member of the Annapolis and Edgartown Yacht clubs.

A lifelong learner, he loved to read and was always juggling projects around the house. He was also an avid listener of opera and classical music

He was proud of his family and the life they shared and will be missed.

Jim is survived by his two daughters and their spouses, Katherine and Ted Farnham of Portsmouth, R.I. and Eloise and Paul Mahoney of Providence, R.I. and his four grandchildren, Meghan and Stewart Farnham and Eliza and Maddie Mahoney.

A private memorial service celebrating his life will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to Arundel Lodge, Edgewater, Md.

Falmouth Academy Hosts Open House

Falmouth Academy will host an open house on Saturday, Nov. 7 from 1 to 3 p.m., to welcome prospective students and their families to explore the school's academic programs, and meet faculty and students.

Falmouth Academy serves students in grades 7 to 12 and offers transportation options, including bus service from Hyannis, Marion and Duxbury, and a connection for students commuting by ferry from Martha's Vineyard.

A new five-day boarding program at Mariner House also provides an option for students who live farther from campus.

For more information and to register for the open house, visit falmouthacademy.org.

Magazine Names New Editor

Nicole Fullin has been named editor of Martha's Vineyard Magazine, the 41-year-old award-winning magazine owned by the Vineyard Gazette Media Group. Her first issue, the Fall Home & Garden edition, is on newsstands now.

A lifelong Islander, Ms. Fullin joined the magazine as an intern in 2012. After graduating from college, she returned home and took a full-time role with the magazine. She quickly advanced from editorial assistant to assistant editor, associate editor and then managing editor. She also served as editor of several other publications, including Island Weddings, Real Estate Yearbook and the yearly tourist publication Island Guide.

Ms. Fullin's deep roots on the Island have informed her work throughout her career, giving her a true understanding of the people, places and traditions that make the Vineyard distinctive.

"Nicole brings a keen editorial eye and a strong sense of purpose to the role. She has spent her career telling the stories that make Martha's Vineyard Magazine distinctive, and I'm confident she will build on that tradition in the years ahead," said publisher Monica Brady-Myerov.

Ms. Fullin lives in Edgartown with her husband, Lance, and their two children.

She succeeds Vanessa Czarnnecki, who served as editor of the magazine since 2022. Ms. Czarnnecki has been promoted to director of product strategy for the Vineyard Gazette Media Group, a newly created position supporting the strategic development and future



Nicole Fullin.

growth of the Gazette's portfolio of editorial and digital products.

"Vanessa has a deep understanding of our journalism and our audience and will help us think strategically about how to evolve to reach new audiences," said Ms. Brady-Myerov.

Ms. Czarnnecki lives in West Tisbury with her husband, Matthew Sharkovitz, and their daughter. She has been with the Gazette since 2011.

Graham Smith, the Gazette's long-time webmaster and a West Tisbury resident, has been named director of digital, overseeing the organization's digital audience growth and technology.



Courtesy Jacoby Light

Jacoby Light playing a match against Nauset at the Vineyard Golf Club.

Vineyard Golfer Shines In State Tournament Play

By CHARLES LEITNER

Jacoby Light shot a 78 at Monday's state golf tournament, earning him a 17th place tie for his round at Franklin Country Club.

Mr. Light, a senior at the regional high school, tied for 25th in last year's state tournament.

"Last year gave me a good experience because it was really hard and all the players were really good," Mr. Light said. He also helped lead the golf team to its strongest season in a long time, going 10-3 and capturing the Cape and Islands League title for the first time in 13 years.

"We just started off with success, which we have not done in the past, and kept it rolling all season," said head coach Henry Smith.

Both Mr. Light and Coach Smith praised the entire team for an outstanding season.

"We had really strong play and leadership out of our five seniors and then we had two sophomores and a junior that we could kind of lean on," said Coach Smith. "We could get good scores from the bottom of our lineup, which can come in really clutch in matches."

They also noted how much the team had developed over the years, citing its depth for much of this year's success.

"When I was a freshman, we weren't

really deep," said Mr. Light. "Working my way up to be the number one for the last two years and watching other kids that also made it that were freshmen on the junior varsity team jump up and have a really big leap, it was just really cool to see everyone grow into the team and the young guys coming into their own."

Mr. Light said a highlight of the state tournament was sinking an eagle (two under par) on the seventh hole.

"It was a standard par five and I hit a great drive right down the middle of the fairway," he said.

He followed that up with a 190-yard seven-iron, and then sunk the ball in the cup on one putt.

I hit what I thought was a terrible putt," he said. "I'm like looking at it in disgust and I thought I left it like six feet short. Then it just slowly starts trickling closer and closer to the hole and goes in. I was just so surprised, but that was a great moment."

Monday's tournament was Mr. Light's final match as a Vineyarder and he is pleased with how the season turned out. Now he is eager to lace up his shoes and step back on the hardwood for his final season on the MVRHS basketball team.

IN VINEYARD SKIES

	Sunrise	Sunset
Fri., Oct. 30	7:10	5:39
Sat., Oct. 31	7:12	5:38
Sun., Nov. 1	6:13	4:36
Mon., Nov. 2	6:14	4:35
Tues., Nov. 3	6:15	4:34
Wed., Nov. 4	6:16	4:33
Thurs., Nov. 5	6:18	4:31
Fri., Nov. 6	6:19	4:30

Jupiter, Mars and Regulus

The best astronomical show is taking place now and in the early morning sky. Whether you stay up late, past 1 o'clock, or rise early well before the sunrise, look up. Three bright objects are hovering up

in the sky. In the morning, you see the three celestial objects nearly over your head. If you are outside well after midnight, the three are rising in the east.

Jupiter, the brightest planet in the night sky has lined up with ruby red Mars and the bright star Regulus. Regulus is the brightest star in the zodiacal constellation Leo.

This weekend, the three form a nice line up. Not too far away, you'll see the moon approaching. The best of show takes place in the mornings ahead. Monday and Tuesday are great. But it is even better when the moon appears close and in the mix on Wednesday morning.



Last Quarter
Nov. 1



First Quarter
Nov. 17



New Moon
Nov. 9



Full Moon
Nov. 24

Temperature:

Day	Max. F°	Min. F°	Precip. Inches.
Oct. 23	58	48	T
Oct. 24	54	35	0.00
Oct. 25	64	41	0.00
Oct. 26	56	41	0.00
Oct. 27	66	50	0.00
Oct. 28	57	35	0.00

Water temperature in Edgartown harbor: 53°

Recent Island Real Estate Transactions

West Tisbury

Damaris and Matthew Hanson purchased 130 Vineyard Meadow Farms Road in West Tisbury for \$1,100,000 from Kevin P. Wojcik Trust, Lynn E. Dolan Trust, Kevin P. Wojcik Revocable Trust and Lynn E. Dolan Revocable Trust on Oct. 19.

Chilmark

JFAB5 LLC purchased 7 Black Point Road and 0 Beach Lot Black Point in Chilmark for \$3,625,000 from Niall and Elizabeth Ferguson on Oct. 20.

Lindsey Parks Trust and Brendan Mance Trust purchased 63 Putnam Road in Chilmark for \$4,850,000 from Raymond A. Rubin and Jeffrey L. Shelton on Oct. 21.

Edgartown

Benjamin Harris Kaplan and Orietta Patrizia Barletta purchased 105 Whalers

Walk in Edgartown for \$2,350,000 from Tyrone E. Smith and Bebe R. Mursalin-Smith on Oct. 23.

Howard Suh and Jennifer Ahn purchased 58 Road to the Plains in Edgartown for \$1,600,000 from Alan and Marsha Schaffel on Oct. 23.

Robert M. McCarron Trust and Nine Thaxter Realty Trust purchased 9 Thaxter Lane in Edgartown for \$3,315,000 from Melvin and Andrea Weisblatt on Oct. 23.

Oak Bluffs

Emeka and Chika Igwilo purchased 33 Tia Anna Lane in Oak Bluffs for \$1,780,000 from Kyle Neyer and Mark Bateman on Oct. 23.

Jean M. Thurston purchased 26R Windemere Road in Oak Bluffs for \$750,000 from Charles S. Graham on Oct. 23.



Tim Johnson

Team hosted the league race last Saturday.

Cross Country Team Repeats League Championship Title

By LILY ECHEVERRIA

The Martha's Vineyard Regional High School boys cross country team won the Cape & Islands League Championship last weekend.

"We were down two of our regular top runners," Coach Joe Schroeder said. "Due to sickness and injury, we were missing four total guys, so some others really stepped up. I'm really proud."

The team also won the championship

last year, and Coach Schroeder said the boys were excited to defend their title.

After the race, Coach Schroeder highlighted senior Greyson Hartzband, who ran a personal best by 30 seconds and finished third on the team.

"It's what you want to see as a coach at a championship meet," he said.

He also praised sophomore Ben Fuller, who had a successful meet de-

spite not racing for a month. Mr. Fuller was the team's top finisher.

"It says a lot about him as a person and a runner," he said.

On the girls' side, three of the team's five runners competed this weekend. Senior Nevah Fitzgerald placed 10th overall, while senior Talia Young finished just ahead of senior Katelyn Tankersley, who ran a personal best.

The team's next meet is the Coaches Invitational on Nov. 7, which Coach Schroeder views as a warm-up for Division Championships on Nov. 14. Both events will take place at the Wrentham Developmental Center.

"Everybody goes to get a good feel for the course and compete against great runners," he said.

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Mon - Fri	7:15 a.m.	7:45 a.m.
Mon - Fri	8:45 a.m.	9:15 a.m.
Mon - Fri	10:30 a.m.	11:15 a.m.
Mon - Fri	1:30 p.m.	2:00 p.m.
Mon - Fri	3:00 p.m.	3:30 p.m.
Mon - Fri	4:30 p.m.	5:00 p.m.

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In a Time of Transition, the Need to Pay Attention Is Huge

By KEVIN R. LOUGHLIN

Interregnum is a word that you do not see frequently in print—it is simply not used that often. Nonetheless, I find myself thinking that we are in an interregnum. The pressing question, to me at least, is where are we headed, what is waiting for us on the other side?

The major institutions of society—religions, universities and corporations—seem to be in flux. A recent Pew Research poll found that about 28 per cent of U.S. adults identified as religiously unaffiliated describing themselves as atheists, agnostics or “nothing in particular.” In addition, many of our major universities appear to lack stability in leadership. Harvard, Columbia and the University of Pennsylvania have all experienced recent upheavals in leadership positions. The private sector also demonstrates unrest as the CEO Times reported that in 2025, a record was set in the number of CEO transitions in Fortune 500 companies.

Anne Applebaum, Pulitzer Prize winner, in a series of books, the latest being, Autocracy Inc., observes the growing number of autocratic, corrupt regimes in the world. Finally, Alexander Fraser Tyler, the Scottish historian, has posited that, “democracy cannot exist as a permanent form of government.”

Mankind is currently faced with a confluence of threats that we have never had to confront before. A recent global pandemic, climate change and multiple armed conflicts, all with the availability of nuclear weapons engender a palpable feeling of unrest.

As I approach 80 years of age, a part of me says that I should remain aloof and simply live out my life. However, I find that I cannot reside in that nimbus of detachment. Rather, I feel more engaged, more involved, than I did 10 or 20 years ago. Perhaps, I am in the period of generativity as described by Erik Erikson, the 20th century psychoanalyst, who identified eight stages of life. He defined generativity as the seventh stage which is characterized by “a concern for establishing and guiding the next generation.”

As I speak to friends, this concern for the future is shared by more and more of my contemporaries. My generation is not naïve. Wars have been part of the globe's reality over the past century. Philip Bobbitt, in his opus magnus, *The Shield of Achilles*: War, Peace and the Course of History, proposes the term, Long War, to describe the series of conflicts that were ongoing throughout the 20th century. What seems to be different today is both the scope and sophistication of the weaponry.

Despite the Non-Proliferation Treaty of 2025, there are now nine known nuclear armed states. There may be more and probably are. However, layered beyond nuclear weapons is the increasing likelihood and sophistication of biological weapons and the availability and dissemination of relatively low-cost drones, the latest advance in modern warfare. Drones vitiate the efficacy of deterrence which has been the

dominant strategy for preserving peace since the end of World War II.

The Covid pandemic taught us that biological vectors do not respect national boundaries. The uncertain consequences of a recent apparent lab accident in Siberia serve to remind us of the potential biological hazards that are under very little supervision or control.

The final alarm is climate change. The uninformed still comprise a significant minority of ‘climate deniers’, but although there is increasing acceptance of the reality of global warming, it remains an unanswered question whether we have reached a ‘tipping point’ in the global environment and whether the future ravages of climate change can be mitigated.

So back to the interregnum. Mankind's future has always been uncertain, but today, that uncertainty has been magnified. The proliferation of weapons of a variety of types undermines negotiations that could enhance geopolitical stability.

Beyond weaponry and climate change, the stability of governments of all stripes seem to be more fragile than ever before. Democracies have not been spared from that fragility. Starting with the election of William McKinley in 1900 through the re-election of Lyndon Johnson in 1964, the incumbent party won 12 of 17 presidential elections (71 per cent). The power of incumbency was significant.

However, from 1968 with the election of Richard Nixon through 2004 with the re-election of George W. Bush, the incumbent party prevailed in only 6 of 15 presidential elections (40 per cent). In the most recent presidential elections, the disadvantage of incumbency has become more pronounced. Incumbency has seemingly turned into a liability.

So where is the current interregnum leading? The destination is uncertain. The answer appears to rest in two solutions: one obvious and one elusive. The obvious answer is education. Throughout the world, we need to devote more resources to education. An educated populace is more likely to harness science into constructive remedies. An educated population is most likely to consider choices that will benefit, rather than harm, their neighbors.

The second answer is more elusive: leadership. Leadership is hard to define and harder still to identify. However, without leadership no entity, no government, no university and no research facility will thrive. Consider, if you will, where this country would be if just three individuals, George Washington, Abraham Lincoln and Franklin Roosevelt had never lived?

As a septuagenarian, I think my only answer is to stay engaged. I will continue to read omnivorously, to listen and watch the news media. My parents, part of the ‘Greatest Generation’, left a world better than the one they found. My responsibility is to do nothing less than that for those who follow us.

Kevin R. Loughlin, MD, lives in Edgartown.



Tim Johnson

Main Street Monsters



Ray Ewing

THE GAZETTE CHRONICLE

Halloween Happenings

From the October 27, 1995 edition of the Vineyard Gazette:

To a number of Vineyard residents, Halloween is no small observance. At Shirley's Hardware in Vineyard Haven, the staff treat the annual day of Hallow's Eve as a big event.

For Mary McManama, who has worked at the store for 22 years, this is a big event. About 20 feet of shelving area in the new store is devoted exclusively to witch hats, latex masks and plastic pumpkins.

Over the years, Miss McManama has worked to expand the hardware store's coverage of Halloween. It is part of the seasonal change. The garden tool supplies, the shovels, flower pots and hedge clippers come down and the Halloween costumes go up.

Where else can you spend \$4.99 for a King's crown? The cost of the items range from just under a dollar to \$30 for a costume. Miss McManama said she began ordering the Halloween supplies back in August. The supplies come from as far away as Georgia and Texas. The most popular items available this year are squirting eyeballs for \$1.99 and long black wings. The most expensive costume is a catwoman for \$33.99.

Polly Maciel of West Tisbury was in shopping on Wednesday. Holding up the costume of a skunk, she asked a friend whether this was an appropriate costume. She is the manager of Araujo Brothers, an company that does septic system pumpouts. This weekend, she said, she is going on a cruise to Mexico. She thought she might wear the costume then.

The store's popularity does have its bad side. Leann Curley of Edgartown came into the store hunting for bats.

“We are sold out. We sold the last one yesterday,” came Miss McManama's reply.

After scanning the wall carefully, Richard Lee of West Tisbury praised the store's Halloween Lady. “You do a better job each year,” he said.

For Jesse Steere, the owner of the store, this is the best display they've ever done.

The Mercier sisters of Edgartown — Carol, Emily and Celia — are dressing up as a threesome of robots. Willie Simon of Chilmark, nine years old, wants to be the Joker from Batman. And six-year-old Albion Alley of Tisbury is trying to decide between going out as a tarantula or Paul McCartney.

Halloween is Tuesday, and the festive night of ghouls and goblins is home to a unique phenomenon on Martha's Vineyard, where many kids live in rural neighborhoods unfit for the traditional rounds of trick-or-treating. It's called Halloween town-hopping, and it's becoming increasingly popular among parents in remote Island areas.

Here's how it works: Parents load up the car with kids and drive them elsewhere on the Island for trick-or-treating. The goal is better trick-or-treating and better candy loot, kids say.

As a result, prime downtown neighborhoods in Oak Bluffs, Vineyard Haven and Edgartown are swamped with up-Island kids looking for a dose of the real Halloween experience. But no one seems to mind the extra company of tricksters.

“You see the kids arrive in carloads,” says Mary Rentschler, mother of young Albion Alley and resident of Lake street, one of the Vineyard's prime trick-or-treating ‘hoods. “It's pretty hilarious, but this is a great trick-or-treat town.”

Ned Robinson-Lynch of West Tisbury says he takes his kids, Gabe (1995 costume: A Vampire) and Elana (The Moon), to a residential area along Skiff avenue in Tisbury. “It's more of the neighborhood thing,” he says. “We go down with friends, and we know a couple of people who live in the area.”

Susan Mercier plans to troop her daughters from their home off the Edgartown-Vineyard Haven Road to the downtown area that includes stately homes along South Water street. “We take the girls where my husband used to trick-or-treat,” she says. “They love it, and they do well with trick-or-treats. Too well.”

Still, some rural areas on the Vineyard make a valiant stab at trick-or-treating. On Chappaquiddick, parents of Halloween-aged kids organize a brief residential tour consisting of about “five or six” houses, says parent Margaret Knight.

“We set a route up ahead of time. We're a bit more organized,” Mrs. Knight says. “We don't want to just show up at somebody's house, because for a lot of these people, nobody ever comes to their house.”

In Gay Head, the parks and recreation department makes a list of all the local houses with candy. When the tour is finished, the kids go to a town-wide Halloween party, says Sylvie Vandal, mother of Misha (Grim Reaper) and Amelie (masquerade ball lady).

If you can't find the right neighborhood for trick-or-treating, there's still plenty left to do on Halloween night. In addition to the Gay Head party, there are similar occasions in Chilmark, West Tisbury and in Vineyard Haven.

But some parents and kids will be searching for a good neighborhood to tour with a bag and a mask. Says Willie Simon's father, Peter: “It's pretty hard to go trick-or-treating in a place like Chilmark.”

Compiled by Hilary Wallcox
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Every Single Vote Is Essential for Democracy

By AMY UPTON

Some mornings, the news doesn't arrive as a series of events. It arrives as an accumulation. One revelation follows another. A billionaire reportedly wields extraordinary influence over Ukraine's military communications. Questions arise about presidential pardons and private financial arrangements. Measles outbreaks are rising. Federal officials propose shifting disaster responsibilities to the states. Journalists report efforts to restrict the press's access to the White House. Members of Congress struggle to exercise the authority entrusted to them or decline to do so. Before any controversy can be fully examined, another takes its place.

On this particular morning, I read Heather Cox Richardson, Robert Reich and Aaron Parnas in succession. Each approached the news differently, yet together they illuminated a common problem: the enormous gap between the exercise of political power and the mechanisms for holding that power accountable. The sheer volume alone was exhausting.

There is a peculiar helplessness in watching events unfold that seem to violate the principles we were taught are fundamental to constitutional government. We know what separation of powers means. We know that elected officials are accountable to the public, that the law limits government authority, and that a free press is essential to informed self-government. Yet knowing these principles does not guarantee they will be enforced. Nor does recognizing a problem give us the power to correct it.

That may be one of this political moment's most demoralizing features: the sense that the machinery of government is so enormous, so insulated and so relentlessly pervasive that ordinary

citizens cannot keep up, let alone intervene. But there is another danger in that exhaustion. If we become so overwhelmed that we disengage, we surrender the very participation that democratic government depends on. A democracy does not require its citizens to be inexhaustible. It does require that they remain participants.

Conviction without certainty. A discipline is required here, too. Not every allegation is an established fact. Not every troubling decision proves corrupt motive. Not every person accused of wrongdoing is guilty. Accountability requires evidence, fair procedures, and a willingness to reconsider conclusions when new information emerges, so that accountability remains corrigible amid so much incorrigibility.

This is where Benjamin Franklin's admonition at the Constitutional Convention in 1787 is especially relevant: to doubt, at least a little, one's own infallibility. That was not an invitation to abandon conviction. It was a recognition that government must be designed for human beings who are capable of error, susceptible to ambition, and sometimes dangerously certain of their own righteousness.

The constitutional system was not built on the assumption that good and decent people would always govern. It was designed to restrain power, distribute authority, and provide mechanisms for correction. Those principles must apply equally to those we support and to those we oppose. The more deeply we believe something is wrong, the more important it is to insist on evidence and due process. Otherwise, in defending constitutional principles, we risk abandoning them.

From protest to participation — on Oct. 17, 2026, the No Kings movement returned to communities across the

country. Earlier demonstrations had brought millions into the streets, approaching the much-discussed benchmark of 3.5 per cent of the population associated with successful historical campaigns of nonviolent resistance. But this time, the organizers emphasized something different: vote early.

The shift was significant. Rather than measuring collective power solely by the number of like-minded people standing together in public, the movement focused on exercising an existing constitutional right. The objective was no longer simply to demonstrate that people were paying attention and had had enough. It was to translate that attention into civic participation.

Voting does not guarantee the outcomes we seek. Elections do not automatically correct institutional failures, restore public confidence, or ensure that every official is accountable. Voting cannot substitute for independent courts, legislative oversight, ethical public administration, or a functioning free press. Yet those institutions can't sustain a representative democracy without an engaged electorate. The ballot is not the whole of democracy. It is one of the means by which the people retain a voice in its direction.

So, on Wednesday morning, Oct. 21, after reading another succession of alarming headlines, I brushed my hair, put on some hard pants and headed out to vote early in West Tisbury. The contrast struck me. On one side were billionaires, presidents, enormous government agencies, military decisions, political campaigns, and seemingly endless struggles over the exercise of power.

On the other hand, an ordinary citizen was heading to a local polling place. No dramatic confrontation. No grand gesture. No assurance that my

individual participation would make a difference. Just the opportunity to exercise a right that generations before us struggled to establish, defend, and extend. It seems almost absurdly small compared with the problems confronting the country.

Yet that is precisely the point. Constitutional government ultimately depends on ordinary people doing ordinary things: paying attention, asking questions, preserving records, participating in public meetings, insisting on lawful procedures, demanding answers, and voting. These actions are sometimes frustratingly slow and seldom provide the immediate satisfaction of seeing justice done. They require patience, persistence, and a willingness to keep going without knowing the outcome.

I have come to understand that holding the line is not always an act of dramatic defiance. Sometimes it simply means refusing to abandon the procedures and principles that make accountability possible. We should never mistake citizens' resilience for an excuse for institutional failure. No individual should be expected to compensate indefinitely for government officials who neglect their responsibilities. Institutions owe the public integrity, transparency, and fidelity to the law. But when those obligations are in question, we still have choices about how to respond. We can become cynical, retreat into private life, or conclude that participation is futile. Or we can continue exercising the rights that remain ours. Holding the line does not mean believing that a single vote can save a democracy. It means understanding that a democracy cannot survive if its people stop participating. This Wednesday morning, participation began with early voting.

Amy M. Upton lives in West Tisbury.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Mahjong Thanks

Editors, Vineyard Gazette;

What a wonderful day of mahjong, friendship, and community spirit. On Oct. 17, MV Center for Living hosted its first annual mahjong tournament at the Grange Hall in West Tisbury. Sixty enthusiastic players came together for a sold-out day of friendly competition, laughter, and new connections. Thanks to the generosity of so many, we raised approximately \$10,000 to support older adults living with dementia and the families and caregivers who love them.

Our heartfelt thanks go to everyone who helped make this first tournament such a success. Morning Glory Farm and Black Dog Bakery generously provided delicious baked goods and coffee. We are also grateful to the local businesses that contributed raffle prizes: The Beach House, Maggie's Salon, Miss Mary Boutique Spa, Debbie Hale Pottery, Middletown Nursery, Barbara Reynolds Photography, with framing by Peter Trani and Black Sheep.

A very special thank-you goes to our 15 wonderful “Easts,” who kept the

games moving, helped with scoring, and made everyone feel welcome. We appreciate all our players, many of whom were playing for the first time. We also thank our Island libraries and senior centers for helping mahjong flourish across Martha's Vineyard.

Congratulations to our tournament winners: Vicki Bologna, first place; Stacey Goldfarb, second place; and Michelle Jasny, third place. And congratulations to every player who joined us, especially those experiencing their first tournament.

What made the day truly special wasn't just the mahjong. It was the friendships, the laughter and the wonderful reminder of what happens when our Island community comes together for a good cause.

We are already looking forward to next year.

With warmest thanks,

Mary Holmes, executive director, Katie Vieira, executive assistant MV Center for Living; Erica Dinerman, Barbara Reynolds and Sue Trani: tournament directors.

With Respect

Editors, Vineyard Gazette;

To quote Einstein: “Nothing is more destructive to the respect for the government and the laws of the land than the passing of laws which can not be enforced.”

Exhibit A: The prohibition of alcohol (1920-1933). Please vote wisely on Question 8.

Ken Rusczyk
Oak Bluffs



Ray Ewing

VINEYARD GAZETTE

Martha's Vineyard's Newspaper for 180 Years

Established in 1846
A Journal of Island Life

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•

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1972 Is a Reproductive Rights Rock Opera

From Page One

“The musicianship was so incredible. I couldn’t even believe it,” Ms. David said. “The second the moment was over and everyone was dispersing, I made a beeline for Chad and introduced myself.”

Later, Mr. Stokes and Ms. Gallagher met Ms. David in Boston for a dinner party, at which point Mr. Stokes played her a song he had created for the proposed musical. Ms. David knew she wanted to support the project in any way she could.

“From that second on, I was like, I’m in,” she said.

Ms. Patterson, who plays one of the Janes, entered the mix in 2022. Reeling from the Supreme Court’s dismantling of Roe, she joined a 100-person choral performance of the song I Won’t Back Down at Ms. David’s farm in Chilmark, organized to protest the decision.

“We were stunned by Darby’s energy and voice,” Mr. Stokes said.

It would be another two years before



Chad Stokes also leads the band Dispatch.

Margaret Hall

“What Chad and Sybil have absolutely worked to capture is the fact that you can have this rage and you can have this anger, and it can be so righteous...”

The weeks leading up to opening night were intense, with the entire cast and crew stretching themselves to prepare for a month-long run, which is already sold out. Ms. Patterson said the long days and nights have been worth it to work on a production helmed by empowered women, unwilling to hold back when it comes to the music and their convictions.

“What Chad and Sybil have absolutely worked to capture is the fact that you can have this rage and you can have this anger, and it can be so righteous, but you can also carry with that the tenderness and the sweetness of love and compassion,” Ms. Patterson said. “That balance is absolutely [the] divine feminine.”



However and Hall

Gracie McGraw and Chad Stokes performing the show live.

Mr. Stokes reached out to ask Ms. Patterson if she was interested in joining 1972.

“At first I was like, no, it’s the middle of wedding season. Call me later,” she said, referring to a busy time for her band. “And he did, which was crazy.”

She agreed to listen to some demos from the show and found herself so moved that she joined Mr. Stokes, Ms. Gallagher and other members of the cast and crew for a rehearsal in New Hampshire. The love everyone had for the music, and for each other, told her she was in the right place.

“I remember from the first rehearsal, I was like, I’ll follow this show anywhere,” she said.

The show has evolved continuously over the past several years. So far, the cast has performed the show about 10 times in total, starting in Woodstock, N.Y. In the summer of 2024, 1972 completed an early limited run on the Vineyard at Union Chapel and the Old Whaling Church.

That same summer, upon Ms. David’s recommendation, the group got in touch with Jessie Nelson, who wrote the Broadway adaptation of the film Waitress. She ended up joining 1972 as its director, and she co-wrote the book for the musical with Mr. Stokes.

“She’s very brilliant and very astute at fine-tuning,” Mr. Stokes said.

Once the script was in what Mr. Stokes called “fighting shape,” the show went in front of scouts from the American Repertory Theater, who were instantly supportive.

“They were like my Jewish mother reincarnate, [they] could not be more excited,” Ms. Gallagher said.

Before 1972, Mr. Stokes and Ms. Gallagher spent years in the reproductive rights activism space. Their organization, Calling All Crows, aims to mobilize music fans to support causes such as abortion rights. The pair also spent years lobbying Martha’s Vineyard Hospital and Mass General in Boston

to bring abortion care to the Vineyard, which was classified as an abortion desert until 2023.

While Ms. David’s major projects, including the climate change documentary An Inconvenient Truth, have largely been focused on environmental activism, reproductive rights are personal to her, and she saw 1972 as a way to tap into her passion and outrage.

“As a longtime activist and advocate, I have to channel my anger into action in order to survive,” Ms. David said.

Ms. Gallagher, Ms. David and Ms. Patterson agreed that it’s important that men like Mr. Stokes use their platforms and art to advocate for women.

“He’s well-versed in this area, but it still took a team of women supporting the messaging in this show,” Ms. Gallagher said.



Costume designer Nicole Jescinth Smith.

Margaret Hall

Troopers Suspended in Rape Investigation

By ETHAN GENTER

A pair of state police troopers have been pulled off duty in connection with an investigation into an alleged rape at police housing in Oak Bluffs.

Police suspended troopers Ryan Costello and Robert Branca with pay last Thursday, police said in a statement. Prosecutors previously said that Edward Brown, 27, was visiting Mr. Costello in August and brought a woman back to the barracks.

The woman later told investigators that Mr. Brown raped her.

The criminal investigation is being conducted by Oak Bluffs police, and Mr. Brown was arraigned in Edgartown District Court earlier this month. State police are conducting their own internal investigation.

State police last Friday said that the alleged assault occurred in temporary housing available to a small number of troopers assigned to the Island to support staff in the high season. Those accommodations are located in a separate structure apart from the barracks itself on Temahigan avenue, and are currently vacant, police said.

State police did not state why the two troopers were suspended, and Mr. Branca had not been previously

connected publicly to the case.

Mr. Costello, however, was mentioned several times by the Cape and Islands District Attorney’s Office during Mr. Brown’s arraignment. The victim reported the alleged rape took place on August 15, and investigators reached out to Mr. Costello on August 29.

Mr. Costello told police that Mr. Brown, a college friend, had been staying with him, and they had gone out to the Ritz, but there was a time in the night where Mr. Costello did not know where Mr. Brown was, assistant district attorney Courtney Scalice said at the Oct. 13 arraignment.

Mr. Costello provided investigators text messages between himself and Mr. Brown. Mr. Brown texted Mr. Costello that he had brought a woman back to the living quarters, and asked if that was okay, according to Ms. Scalice.

Mr. Costello replied that it was okay, Ms. Scalice said.

Mr. Costello was interviewed by the district attorney’s office with his attorney and state police union representative, Ms. Scalice said. He told investigators that he had returned to

the barracks around 1:30 a.m. or 2 a.m. on August 15, and found Mr. Brown by himself, according to Ms. Scalice.

During the arraignment, the assistant district attorney noted that there was an hour gap in text messages between the two, which Mr. Costello said was when the two men were discussing what happened between Mr. Brown and the woman in person.

In the aftermath of the alleged rape, state police Colonel Geoffrey Noble prohibited overnight guests at the housing used by troopers on the Vineyard and Nantucket, and directed the agency to develop a policy that required troopers to get written approval for guests to enter non-public areas. Those guests would also need to be accompanied at all times.

State police said they have fully cooperated with Oak Bluffs criminal investigation and the internal investigation is ongoing.

The state police union did not return a request for comment.

Ballot Questions Lead Local Elections

From Page One

primary in September.

Seven candidates – Tristan Israel, Randal Milch, Doug Ruskin, Christine Todd, Richard (Peter) Wharton, Michael Bellissimo and Katherine Putnam – are running for seven spots on the Dukes County Commission.

There are five candidates – Benjamin Robinson, Ernest (Doug) Sederholm, Brian Smith, Frederick Khedouri and Katherine Putnam – on the ballot for the Martha’s Vineyard Commission. There are at least four additional write-in candidates who are seeking to fill out the nine open seats, including three incumbents.

Bernadette Cormie, of Tisbury, Michael MacKenty of Edgartown and Jannette Vanderhoop of Aquinnah are all current commissioners seeking reelection as write-ins, with the support of MVC chair Peter Wharton.

“These are all [people] who put a tremendous amount of work into their seats this year,” Mr. Wharton said at the Nov. 15 commission meeting.

Newcomer Maria Krokidas of West Tisbury also is campaigning as a write-in.

Robert Lionette, Jeffrey (Skipper) Manter and Alexander Salop, are running for three of the five open seats on the Martha’s Vineyard Regional High School committee.

Islanders will also have the chance to voice their opinion on 10 ballot questions, some of which have garnered much debate on the Vineyard.

Question 1 would make public most

records held by the state legislature and governor’s office. The two branches of government are currently exempt from public records laws that towns, cities and other public officials have to comply with.

Question 2 asks if voters wish to allow employees of the Committee for Public Counsel Services, which provides attorneys to people who need representation in court cases, to engage in collective bargaining with their employer.

Question 3 seeks to eliminate political party primaries for state elections. Instead there would be one central primary in which all the candidates, regardless of party, would be listed on the ballot. Voters could vote for any candidates. The two candidates with the most votes would proceed to the general election ballot.

Question 4, if passed, would allow residents to register to vote on election day. Currently, the last day to register to vote is 10 days before the election, and registration for the Nov. 3 election closed on Oct. 24.

Island clerks didn’t voice strong feelings on the issue. Some declined to comment, saying they didn’t want to weigh in on ballot questions. Others said not many voters come in seeking to register the same day, but if it was allowed the clerks didn’t foresee it being a problem logistically.

“I don’t think it’s going to make it that much harder for us,” said Aquinnah town clerk Kayla Darcy.

Question 5 seeks to limit how much revenue the state can collect in a given

year.

The three questions that have generated the most debate on the Vineyard are 6, 7 and 8.

Question 6 would divert sales tax on sporting goods, RVs and golf courses for a new nature fund to promote conservation. The ballot question was initiated by Mass Audubon, with the support of The Trustees of Reservations and other organizations.

The groups previously told the Gazette that this fund would create a consistent stream of revenue for the outdoors, though some lawmakers noted that any funding would still need approval from the state legislators.

Question 7 could have wide-ranging effects on the down Island towns. The proposal asks voters if they want to open up traditionally undersized lots to home development.

If passed, the ballot question would allow single-family homes to be built in residentially zoned areas as long as the land is at least 5,000 square feet, has 50 feet of land bordering a road, and has access to public sewer and water.

Island planners said that this could open up many smaller lots in Oak Bluffs, Vineyard Haven and Edgartown to development. Some worried the measure could create even more short-term rentals. State Senator Cyr said he would explore restrictions to require homes be used year-round in the future.

The future of the Island’s lone recreational marijuana store also hangs in the balance on next week’s ballot.

The Coalition for a Healthy Massachusetts put forward Question 8 in

hopes of rolling back the legalization of adult use marijuana sales, as well as change the laws around the possession of non-medical marijuana.

If passed, Island Time would either have to close or convert to a medical dispensary. Island Time proprietor Geoff Rose worried that Vineyard residents would have few options in the legal market if the ballot initiative gained favor.

“There is no operating medical dispensary here on the Vineyard,” Mr. Rose previously told the Gazette. “If this was passed, there would be no retail medical marijuana on the Vineyard. You wind up going to the illicit market.”

Question 9 asks voters if they wish to keep the existing law that requires guns to have serial numbers. Enacted in 2024, the law banned “ghost guns” and modifications that turned semi-automatic weapons into automatic. A yes vote would keep the tighter restrictions in place; a no vote would repeal the regulations.

Island voters will also face a tenth ballot question that was not in the voter handbooks sent out by the secretary of the commonwealth. The non-binding referendum question asks if voters think the lawmakers from the district should vote in favor of legislation that would reduce the state house speaker’s and senate president’s control over legislators’ stipends and to provide stipends only to legislators who do significant extra work.

Island clerks said early voting, which runs through Friday, has been brisk. Polls will be open Nov. 3 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Louisa Hufstader contributed to this article.

Islands’ Sports Teams Go Head to Head

From Page One

“We’re 10th in the state, so this team is very proud of each other and I’m proud of them. The hard work is paying off.”

It was a busy week for the boys team as they look to not only beat Nantucket but to also win the league championship. They are currently 9-2-4.

“We still can win the league if we go undefeated in these next four games,” said sophomore Moses Thomson, a center defensive midfielder on the boys soccer team. “So we’re focusing on staying healthy and treating every game like a playoff game.”

On Wednesday the team beat Falmouth High School. After Nantucket, they play Sandwich and Nauset next week.

“We’re trying to take it one game at a time,” said Coach Honorato. “All of them are league games. All of them are very important and they’re all tough teams to play.”

The girls team is currently 8-7, after a loss on Wednesday to Falmouth, but looks to have a strong showing on Saturday. Seniors Leah Thomson, Maple Martone and Ava Townes said they plan to come out hungry to repeat last year’s victory.

“We’ve always been strong as a team with little technical things, like passing and shooting, and our team chemistry has always been really strong,” said Ms. Townes. “I see when we play other teams they may argue or whatever, but we’ve never been a team like that. We always come and we talk to each other about what we need to fix, what is working, what isn’t working and I feel that’s definitely been a thing since we were freshmen.”

The team is disappointed, however, that their game will take place at a remote location approximately two miles away from the main venue where the rest of the teams will play.

“Nantucket has the right to pick the venue that fits them,” said head coach Matthew Malowski. “I totally respect that and I get that but, I’m disappointed because it does kind of take away from that whole day of the Battle of the Atlantic where everyone is together and supporting one another. Win or lose, you’ve got your fans there to cheer you on and hug you when you win, and you



Pictures by Tim Johnson

Field hockey and soccer teams will vie for the Golden Anchor trophies.

got your fans all there to console you when you lose. I’m a little disappointed that part has been kind of tampered with.”

The varsity field hockey team holds an 8-7-1 record on the season and is looking to do well in the league. At practice earlier this week, head coach Liane Dixon said the team is focused on every remaining game, not just the Nantucket rivalry. Coach Dixon and the rest of her coaching staff agreed that maintaining energy will be key.

“We’ve been working on trying to keep things flowing and keeping things at a decent momentum,” she said.

Ferry tickets are still on sale for Saturday’s 7:30 a.m. crossing. Game times on the sister island are: girls soccer at 11:15 a.m., field hockey at 1 p.m., boys soccer at 1:30 p.m. and the Island Cup football game kicking off at 3 p.m.



Football team will compete for the Island Cup.

Proposed 40B Development Is Referred to the Commission

From Page One

The commission itself contends that it is not local, as it provides services to the entire region. Mr. Cumming, with the backing of the Housing Appeals Committee, argues it is.

The debate sprung from Mr. Cumming’s two previous 40B applications. Edgartown Gardens, a development planned to be built behind Donaroma’s on Upper Main street, was rejected by the commission in 2025. Green Villa, a 116-unit project near the high school in Oak Bluffs, was approved in May.

Mr. Cumming has appealed both decisions in Dukes County Superior Court, claiming neither project should have been considered by the MVC.

While those cases are being reviewed by the court, the Martha’s Vineyard Commission will continue to review projects as it has for the last 52 years, Adam Turner, the MVC’s executive director previously told the Gazette.

“We’re going to review the benefits

and detriments as we always have,” he said last week.

Like his past two proposals, Mr. Cumming’s latest project is also proving controversial. Several town officials raised concerns and the zoning board received several letters from the public.

Planned for a vacant two-acre Edgartown-West Tisbury Road lot just west of Codman Spring Road, Edgartown Cove would have 40 condominium units divided into six buildings.

As proposed, the project would have eight three-bedroom units and 32 one-bedroom units. The one-bedrooms would be about 680 square feet and the three-bedrooms would be about 1,360.

Ten of the units would be designated for affordable housing, while the other 30 would be market rate, according to the application.

Mr. Cumming’s lawyer Jay Talerman touted the project as one that would limit land disturbance, while still providing much needed housing on the Island.

“We’re providing 10 affordable units,

which is a significant improvement on your subsidized housing inventory in town,” Mr. Talerman said.

He also noted that it would not be adding to the town’s number of large, cookie-cutter homes.

“We’re adding smaller units rather than more McMansions in town, so as to provide, even on the market rate side, another type of housing to diversify your housing stock,” he said.

The town has brought on Joe Peznola, a consultant who specializes in 40B developments, to help the board through the process. He suggested the board request additional information on water and sewer flows, capacity analyses, nitrogen loading calculations, and studies on traffic and stormwater.

Mr. Peznola also recommended that the zoning board be ready to diverge from past precedent, where the zoning board review was paused until the Martha’s Vineyard Commission finished its review. Instead, the zoning board should be prepared to run its review in tandem with the commission.

“You will have to do all of the diligence and some of the diligence that maybe that you relied on the MVC to do, such as a review of traffic,” he said. ‘

A similar process played out with Mr. Cumming’s Green Villa project. In that instance, the Oak Bluffs zoning board of appeals began meeting on the proposal while the Martha’s Vineyard Commission was still deliberating on the project.

Worried that they could be up against a state-mandated 180-day deadline to decide on 40B projects, members of the Oak Bluffs zoning board eventually rejected Green Villa because the commission hadn’t made a ruling.

The board, however, placed more than 100 conditions on the project that could make it approval-worthy should the MVC vote in favor.

Mr. Peznola suggested a similar route for Edgartown Cove.

“I can see this taking a similar tact unless the courts somehow rule on the jurisdictional issue of the MVC prior to the 180 days,” he said.

No public comment was held Wednesday, but the board promised several opportunities at future hearings.

“If you have questions, write them down,” said chair Martin Tomassian. “If you want to write to us, please do.”

The next zoning board hearing on Edgartown Cove will be on Dec. 2.

CALENDAR

Friday, Oct. 30

Halloween Weekend in Oak Bluffs. Friday and Saturday, obamv.com, 202-415-6264.

Acrylic Painting with John Holaday. intermediate/advanced, Featherstone Center for the Arts, 30 Featherstone Lane, Oak Bluffs, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., \$50, featherstoneart.app.neoncrm.com, 508-693-1850.

Kayak and Paddle Board Quest, a self guided tour, Felix Neck Wildlife Sanctuary of Mass Audubon, 100 Felix Neck Drive, Edgartown, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., massaudubon.org, 508-627-4850.

Alternative Firing Workshop with Lois Hirschberg and Frank Creney, Featherstone Center for the Arts, Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., \$260.

Fleeced! An American Revolution Story, interactive family exhibition explores Grey's Raid and Island Revolutionary history, Martha's Vineyard Museum, daily, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., free.

Water — Alida O'Loughlin's Photo Show. Martha's Vineyard Television Center, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Alpaca Walk and Talk, with an alpaca in our pastures, Island Alpaca, 1 Head of the Pond Road, Oak Bluffs, 10:30 to 11 a.m. and 2:30 to 3 p.m., \$20 to \$30, islandalpaca.com, 508-693-5554.

Drop-in Play-Doh Group, Edgartown Public Library, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., edgartownlibrary.assabetinteractive.com, 508-627-4221.

Friday Kids Crafting, for ages 3 and up, Oak Bluffs Public Library, 56R School street, Oak Bluffs, 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., free, oakbluffslibrary.org, 508-693-9433.

Kid's Music Class, for ages 0 to 5, West Tisbury Public Library, 1042 State Road, West Tisbury, 10:30 to 11 a.m., free, westtisburylibrary.org, 508-693-3366.

Toddler Time, stories and songs, Chilmark Free Public Library, 522 South Road, Chilmark, 11 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., 508-645-3360.

Self Care Club, for kids ages 8 and up, West Tisbury Public Library, 3:15 to 4:15 p.m.

Rose Guerin and Buck Shank Live, public concert, West Tisbury Public Library, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Hot Glass, Hot Cider, celebrate the fall season with glassblowing demonstrations, Martha's Vineyard Glass-works, 4 to 7 p.m., free, 508-693-6026.

Haunted House, MV Screen Printing, 426 State Road, Vineyard Haven, young kids version from 4 to 5:30 p.m., older kids and adults beginningat 7 p.m.

Trunk or Treat Halloween Party, haunted hallway, games and more, Oak Bluffs School, 50 Tradewinds Road, Oak Bluffs, 5 to 7 p.m., free, mycheddarup.com.

Zombie Bar Crawl, Black Joy Kitchen, 6 p.m., 202-415-6264.

Breathing with Bach, features the work of Johann Sebastian Bach, Stillpoint, 20 Stillpoint Meadows Road, West Tisbury, 7 to 8 p.m., \$20 to \$40; email if cost is a barrier, stillpointmv.org.

Spirits and Spirits: Vivienne Vale's Vaudeville Revue, Grange Hall, 1067 State Road, West Tisbury, Friday and Saturday, 7:30 p.m., \$25, circuitarts.org, 508-696-6300.

Spooky Movie Night, with pizza, popcorn, and drinks, The Red House Peer Recovery Support Center, 111 Edgartown Road, Vineyard Haven, 7:30 to 9 p.m., free, redhouserecovery.org, 508-693-2900.

Saturday, Oct. 31

Vineyard versus Nantucket, Island Cup Football Game and Golen Anchor games for boys and girls soccer and fied hockey. All games take place on Nantucet.

West Tisbury Farmers' Market, Agricultural Hall, 35 Panhandle Road, West Tisbury, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., free, wtfmarket.org.

Seasonal Still Life in Colored Pencil with M Colleen Harrigan, explore the beauty of the fall season through colored pencil, Featherstone Center for the Arts, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., \$60.

Saturday Storytime, Oak Bluffs

Public Library, 10:15 to 10:45 a.m.

Community Dance Class, for more information, visit westtisburylibrary.org, West Tisbury Public Library, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Storytime, for ages 3 to 6, Chilmark Free Public Library, 11 to 11:30 a.m.

Drop-In Crafts: DIY Reading Scratchers and Paint by Sticker, for kids of all ages, Aquinnah Public Library, 1 Church street, Aquinnah, 12 to 3 p.m.

Mahjong Group, weekly registration required, email gwilbur@clamsnet.org for more information, West Tisbury Public Library, 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

All Ages Chess Club, Oak Bluffs Public Library, 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Book Signing: Memento Gorey by Christopher Seufert, author offers a new window on the often-mysterious Edward Gorey, Edgartown Books, 44 Main street, Edgartown, 2 to 4 p.m., free, edgartownbooks.com, 508-627-8463.

Halloween Party, hayrides, face painting, games and snacks, West Tisbury Public Library, 2 to 4 p.m.

Haunted House, MV Screen Printing, 426 State Road, Vineyard Haven, young kids version from 4 to 5:30 p.m., older kids and adults beginningat 7 p.m.

Halloween on the Hill, candy, crafts, games, costumes, and popcorn, Martha's Vineyard Museum, 4:30 to 6 p.m., free.

Halloween Party, refreshments, games, tricks, treats and the spooky hayride, Agricultural Hall, 6 to 8 p.m., free.

Haunted Edgartown, spooky stories and ghostly vibes, Edgartown, 7:30 to 9 p.m., \$30, hauntededgartown.com, 508-212-3035.

A Ghostly Gala, gala and drag show, Red Cat Kitchen, 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m., redcatkitchenmv.com, 508-696-6040.

Sunday, Nov. 1

Fall Fix-It Day and Community Bulb Planting, help us clean up the grounds for winter, Agricultural Hall, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., free, marthasvineyard-agriculturalsociety.org, 508-693-9549.

Honoring the Ancestors: What Is Remembered Lives, Unitarian Universalist Society of Martha's Vineyard, 10 a.m., free.

Land Bank Guided Nature Walk — Squibnocket Pond Reservation, North, Land bank staff guided walk, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., free, mvlandbank.com, 508-627-741.

Meditation, group meditation, both in person and online, Bodhi Path Buddhist Center, 21 Laurand Drive, West Tisbury, 10 to 11 a.m.

Open Writing Hours, Featherstone Center for the Arts, 1 to 3 p.m., free.

Healing Hour with Sue Angeley, with sound and crystals, Stillpoint, 3 to 4 p.m., \$20 to \$40, email if cost is a barrier.

Community Concert, clarinetist Maryse Legault and members of the Handel and Haydn Society perform, Featherstone Center for the Arts, 4 p.m., free, mvcms.org, 508-426-9825.

The Night has a Thousand Eyes: A Music Street Concert, for more information, visit library website, West Tisbury Public Library, 4 to 5 p.m.

Monday, Nov. 2

Martha's Vineyard Poetry Reading Group, contact library to join, 10 a.m., free, vhlibrary.org, 508-696-4211.

Mosaic Workshop Series with Courtney McCloskey, for more information or to register: wt_mail@clamsnet.org, West Tisbury Public Library, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Moving Stories Dance Class, creative movement dance for kids ages 2 to 6, West Tisbury Public Library, 11 to 11:45 a.m.

Afterschool Switch Club, kids 8 and 9 need caregiver in building, West

Upcoming Vineyard Events For the Week Ahead – calendar.vineyardgazette.com

Happy Haunting



Ray Ewing

A Frightful Time at Ghost Island Farm

On the front lawn of Ghost Island Farm in West Tisbury, situated under a gnarled black walnut tree, is a very large hornet's nest, standing about 10 feet high and 8 feet wide

Rusty Gordon, who owns Ghost Island Farm, was still hard at work on Monday adding the final touches to his annual Halloween display, firing strings of pressurized hot glue at the hornet's nest, along with some bug-faced monsters standing behind bloody baby effigies. The glue, when dried, looks like eerie cobwebs and Mr. Gordon had no plans of being frugal as he continued to cover the display with the gooey spray just days before Halloween.

"I didn't know if I would be able to pull it off or not, but it's coming together," he said.

Halloween is Mr. Gordon's favorite holiday, and this is the 15th consecutive year he has constructed a haunting display on the lawn in front of the Ghost Island Farm. This year's scene was created using recycled wood, chicken wire, glue, flour, water, sheet-rock compound and mashed up toilet paper. "That's the basis of the stuff," said Mr. Gordon. "It makes a nice shell with the compound sheetrock and the glue mixed in."

In the coming days, Mr. Gordon plans to add lights, bubbles and a fog machine to his alien wasp nest.

In the past, he has constructed everything from monsters to time machines, jack-o'-lanterns, big spiders and, perhaps his favorite, a sculpture of dozens of limbs protruding from a futuristic inter-dimensional box.

"It's the only holiday I really celebrate," said Mr. Gordon. "When we grew up it was always everyone's favorite."

This year, for the first time ever, Ghost Island Farm will also be hosting a Halloween party. The first annual Ghost Fest, Mr. Gordon said, is a costume party that is open to the public and will offer live music, games and a potluck. Ghost Fest takes place on Oct. 31 from 2 to 6 p.m.

Mr. Gordon isn't yet sure what he will dress up as this year, he has been too busy running a farm and setting up his halloween display, but promises he will come up with something soon.

-Charles Leitner

Tisbury Public Library, 3 to 5 p.m.

Blue Monday — The Back Porch Trio, The Inkwell Beach Club, 7 to 9 p.m., free.

Tuesday, Nov. 3

Assisted Knitting Open Studio, Featherstone Center for the Arts, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., \$10, featherstoneart.app.neoncrm.com, 508-693-1850.

Play Kitchen and Store, Oak Bluffs Public Library, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., free, oakbluffslibrary.org, 508-693-9433.

Digital Compass: Tech Support, technology help for older adults, Tisbury Council on Aging, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., free, techpromv.org, 508-696-4205.

Virtual Armchair Travel Series: The Little Gems of Paris, register on library event calendar, 2 p.m., free, engagedpatrons.org, 508-696-4211.

Lego Club, Chilmark Library, 2:45 to 4 p.m.

After School Club, activities, board games and crafts, Aquinnah Public Library, 3 to 5 p.m.

Basics of Metalsmithing with Liam McGorman, Featherstone Center for the Arts, 3 to 6 p.m., \$95.

Teen and Tween Drop In Arts and Crafts Class, for kids ages 10 to 18 years,

West Tisbury Public Library, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Knitting Group, creativity and conversation, West Tisbury Public Library, 5 to 6 p.m.

Table Tennis, for all ages and skill levels, Tisbury Senior Center, 34 Pine Tree Road, Vineyard Haven, Tuesday and Thursday, 5 p.m., free, mvtabletennis.com, 508-728-5898.

Community Mending Night, mend your clothes in community, Agricultural Hall, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., free, marthasvineyardagriculturalsociety.org, 508-693-9549.

Community Pizza Nights, pizza and optional potluck for our Island community, Chilmark Community Church, 6 to 7 p.m., free, 508-645-3100.

Meditation, group meditation in person and online, Bodhi Path Buddhist Center, 6 to 7 p.m., free.

The Jeremy Berlin — Eric Johnson Duo, mix of original songs, jazz treatments and Great American Songbook, Vineyard Haven Public Library, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 4

Old-Time Appalachian Jam, Oak Bluffs Public Library, 8:15 to 10 a.m., oakbluffslibrary.org, 508-693-9433.

Play Reading, Tisbury Senior Center, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., free, tisburycoa.com.

Exploring Color and Design: Working with Acrylics with Donna Straw, Featherstone Center for the Arts, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., \$160.

Wednesday Storytime, with stories, songs, scarves and a parachute, Oak Bluffs Public Library, 10:15 a.m.

Children's Storytime, recommended for ages 0 to 5 but all are welcome, West Tisbury Public Library, 10:30 to 11 a.m.

Mahjong Group, registration required, observers are not permitted, Edgartown Public Library, 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Lego and Magna-tile Club, for kids of all ages, Oak Bluffs Public Library, 2 to 4:30 p.m.

Magical Magnets, fun with magnets, Chilmark Free Public Library, 2:30 to 5 p.m.

Drop-in Knitting Group with Cindy Bonnell, all levels welcome, Edgartown Public Library, 3 to 5 p.m.

Rug Hooking Open Studio with Island Hookers, Featherstone Center for the Arts, 3 to 6 p.m., \$10.

Virtual Reality For Ages 10 to 18, West Tisbury Public Library, 3 to 5 p.m.

Knitting Group, Oak Bluffs Public

Library, 3:15 to 4:15 p.m.

Bee Club, monthly beekeeping club meeting, Agricultural Hall, 5 to 6 p.m., free.

Beekeeping Club, all Island beekeepers and bee enthusiasts invited to the monthly meeting, Agricultural Hall, 5 to 6 p.m., free.

CSL Test Prep. In person construction supervisor's license prep course, Martha's Vineyard Regional High School, 100 Edgartown-Vineyard Haven Road, Oak Bluffs, 5 to 8:30 p.m., \$725, contractorsuccess.com, 978-939-3435.

Restorative Reset with Jelisa Difo, appropriate for all levels, Edgartown Public Library, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Geologic History of the Himalaya: A Sand Perspective, geologist Barra Peak speaks about climate and tectonics in Himalayas, Vineyard Haven Public Library, 6 p.m.

Quilting Circle, West Tisbury Public Library, 6 to 7 p.m.

Brews Brothers Music Bingo, hear the song, mark your card, sing along, win prizes, Indigo Martha's, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., free, instagram.com, 917-710-1066.

Wednesday Night Karaoke, hosted by Ryan and Douglas from Brew Brother's Trivia, Indigo Martha's, 8 to 10 p.m., free, indigomarthas.com.

Thursday, Nov. 5

Little Naturalists, for young children and caregivers, Felix Neck Wildlife Sanctuary of Mass Audubon, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Exploring Color and Design: Working with Acrylics with Donna Straw, Featherstone Center for the Arts, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., \$160.

Painting Still Life with Liz Taft, Featherstone Center for the Arts, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., \$60.

Drop-in Mahjong, no instruction provided, Vineyard Haven Public Library, 10:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Wiggle with the Words, a movement-based storytime with Elyce, Edgartown Public Library, 10:30 to 11 a.m.

Science and Nature Book Club Reads: The Hidden Life of the World's Smartest Birds of Prey by Jonathan Meiburg, please contact the library at vhlpl_programs@clamsnet.org to join, Vineyard Haven Public Library, 2 p.m.

Corn Husk Doll Workshop for Kids, Chilmark Free Public Library, 3 to 4 p.m.

Creator Club, a different hands-on craft each week, Edgartown Public Library, 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Kismet Outfitters Group Fly Casting Lesson, all equipment is provided and no experience is necessary, Edgartown Lighthouse, 121 North Water street, Edgartown, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., \$60, kismetoutfitters.com, 774-549-5921.

Naptime with David Stanwood,

experience the calming effect of harmonic vibration, Stillpoint, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., \$10 to \$30 sliding scale.

Pokémon Club, bring your Pokémon cards to show others, Oak Bluffs Public Library, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Ukulele Jam, public jam session meeting every other Thursday, West Tisbury Public Library, 3:30 to 5 p.m.

Another Way: A Creative Writing Workshop, writers Moira Convey Silva and Sarah Carey introduce a different kind of writing workshop, Stillpoint, 5:30 to 7 p.m., \$20 to \$30; email if cost is a barrier.

Margot Datz: Here to Stay, celebrate the artist's permanent collection at The Carnegie, The Carnegie, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

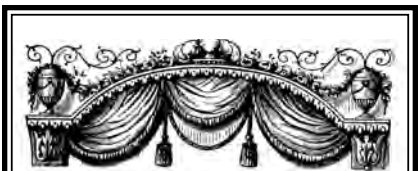
Meditation, group meditation in person and online, Bodhi Path Buddhist Center, 6 to 7 p.m., free.

Sip 'n Stitch, share needlepoint tips and tricks, Erica Wilson, 6 to 7:30 p.m., free, 774-549-9488.

Jeremy Berlin Plays Jazz Piano, The Sweet Life, 63 Circuit avenue, Oak Bluffs, 6:30 to 9 p.m., sweetlifemv.com, 508-696-0200 .

Live Blues Music with The Blues Trio, Pawnee House, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., thepawneehousemv.com, 508-338-2770.

Thursday Night Trivia, with prizes, Indigo Martha's, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., free, instagram.com, 917-710-1066.



MOVIE LISTINGS

OCT 30-NOV 5

MARTHA'S VINEYARD FILM CENTER
79 Beach Rd, VH • 508-696-9369

FRIDAY 10/30
Wicker (R) 4 p.m.
Gorey: A Work in Progress (NR) 7 p.m.
SATURDAY 10/31
Ha-Chan Shake Your Booty (R) 4 p.m.
Wicker (R) 7:30 p.m.
SUNDAY 11/01
Colors of Time (NR) 1 p.m.
James Mc Neill Whister (NR) 4 p.m.
Wicker (R) 7:30 p.m.
MONDAY 11/02
Closed
TUESDAY 11/03
Closed
WEDNESDAY 11/04
Wicker (R) 7:30 p.m.
THURSDAY 11/05
Colors of Time (NR) 4 p.m.
Wicker (R) 7:30 p.m.

EDGARTOWN CINEMAS
Main St, Edgartown • 508-627-8008

FRIDAY 10/30
Street Fighter (PG-13) 3:30 p.m.
You Can See Everything (R) 6:15 p.m.
Whalefall (PG-13) 3:45 p.m.
Clayface (R) 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY 10/31
Street Fighter (PG-13) 1 p.m., 4 p.m.
Whalefall (PG-13) 7 p.m.
Wildwood (R) 1 p.m., 4 p.m.
Clayface (R) 7 p.m.
SUNDAY 11/01
You Can See Everything (R) 2 p.m., 6 p.m.
Street Fighter (PG-13) 12:45 p.m., 6:30 p.m.
Wildwood (PG-13) 3:15 p.m.
MONDAY 11/02
Street Fighter (PG-13) 3:45 p.m., 6:45 p.m.
Wildwood (PG-13) 3:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m.
TUESDAY 11/03
You Can See Everything (R) 5:30 p.m.
Clayface (R) 4 p.m., 6:45 p.m.
WEDNESDAY 11/04
Street Fighter (PG-13) 3:45 p.m., 6:45 p.m.
Wildwood (PG-13) 3:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m.
THURSDAY 11/05
You Can See Everything (R) 5:30 p.m.
Clayface (R) 3:45 p.m., 6:45 p.m.

STRAND THEATRE
Oak Bluffs Ave, Oak Bluffs • 312-576-4890

FRIDAY 10/30
Beetle Juice (PG) 7:30 p.m. FREE



VINEYARD GAZETTE



@vineyardgazette

CHECK OUT OUR ONLINE CALENDAR FOR EVEN MORE EVENTS!



calendar.vineyardgazette.com



PLANNING AN EVENT?



It's **EASY** and **FREE** to enter your event on our online and print calendars!

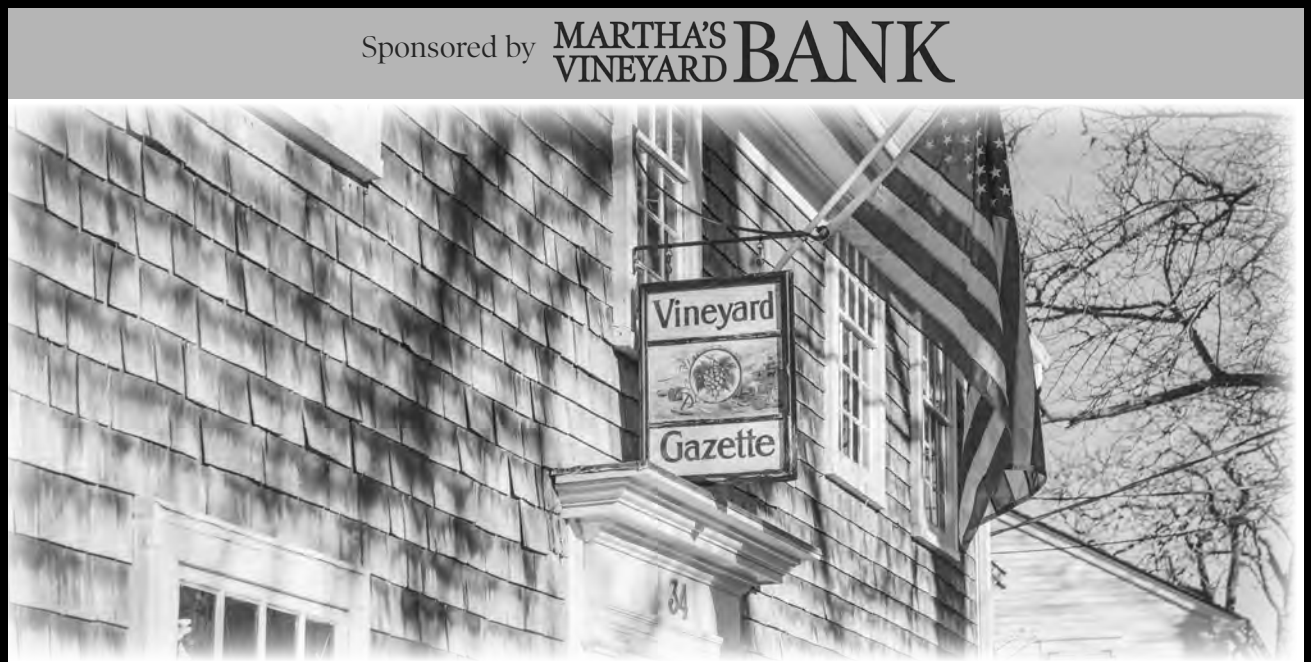
SCAN HERE to find out how!

The Complete Martha's Vineyard
CALENDAR

VINEYARD GAZETTE
MEDIA GROUP

calendar.vineyardgazette.com

Sponsored by **MARTHA'S VINEYARD BANK**



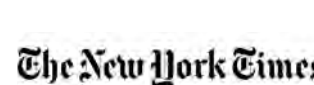
Tuesdays in the Newsroom

A monthly community discussion series that takes place during the off-season.

GAZETTE REPORTERS ALUMNI PANEL

JOIN US

for a roundtable discussion with former Vineyard Gazette reporters:



Remy Tumin,
Reporter, The New York Times



Maia Coleman,
Reporter, The New York Times



Diego Lasarte,
Editorial Staff, The New Yorker

Holly Pretsky,
Editor, Hell Gate, a New York City news outlet

November 17 | 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Vineyard Gazette Office – 34 S. Summer St., Edgartown

This event is FREE but please R.S.V.P. in advance at rsvp@vineyardgazette.com



CLASSIFIED SECTION



Real Estate
For Sale/Rent
Help Wanted
Articles for Sale



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2026

VINEYARD GAZETTE, MARTHA'S VINEYARD, MASS.

NINE

FOR SALE, COMMERCIAL

FOR SALE, COMMERCIAL

FOR RENT, VINEYARD HAVEN

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

Business highlights:

- Established reputation: well-known and recognized by locals and visitors alike.
- Turnkey operation: fully equipped, furnished, and ready for immediate operation.
- Fully staffed: an existing team in place to help ensure a smooth transition.
- Secure lease: current lease with three years remaining.
- Year-round liquor license: A valuable asset offering additional business potential.
- Established customer base: A recognized destination with an existing presence in the local community.

Whether you're an experienced restaurateur or an entrepreneur ready to enter the hospitality industry, this is a rare opportunity to take over an established business with its essential operations already in place. Step in, take the reins, and make it your own.

Serious inquiries only.
For more information please call or email (786)479-4703 or italplat.inc@gmail.com.

LAND FOR SALE

LAND FOR SALE
60 20th Street South in Edgartown, 1/2 acre plus with approved septic for 3 bedrooms and well installed. \$595,000. Text (508)939-1168.

FOR RENT, EDGARTOWN



THE CAPTAIN MORSE HOUSE
Vacations, weddings, retreats, reunions. Open year-round - locals save 10%
www.captainmorsehouse.com
(508)693-0809.

YEAR-ROUND | 4 BEDROOMS | 1.5 BATHS | 4.5 ACRES

Large yard, farmer's porch, and a screened-in porch. Located in a private neighborhood with walking trails. Unfurnished. \$4800/month plus utilities. To inquire email: edgartownrental2026@gmail.com.

**WINTER HOUSE RENTAL
EDGARTOWN (KATAMA)**
10/1/26-5/1/27. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. Rent \$2,750 per month, plus utilities. If interested, call Peter at (401)789-3127.

FOR RENT, VINEYARD HAVEN

VINEYARD HAVEN COMMERCIAL SPACE

Great opportunity to rent near downtown Vineyard Haven. Right on Lagoon Pond Road, 1,260 square feet garage and office, with full bathroom. Office is roughly 300 square feet. Full 10" garage door for

garage. \$3,800/month. Call Chris (508)889-8524.

FOR RENT, WEST TISBURY

**YEAR ROUND RENTAL
HUGE BEAUTIFUL TWO-BEDROOM
APARTMENT, 2ND FLOOR**
\$4000 a month which includes all utilities, internet, and garbage removal. First and last month required, and security deposit - totaling \$9000. New dishwasher, dryer, microwave and washing machine. Great high porch and side yard. Great references, professionals preferred. (310)213-5472.

WINTER/YEAR ROUND
Beautiful one-bedroom plus office. One person preferred. Very spacious. Washer, dryer, Wi-Fi and patio. Utilities included. Lambert's Cove area. \$3,000/per month. Text or call (508)939-1414.

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT, COMMERCIAL



15 CHURCH STREET LANDING
Attractive 1,300 sq. ft space available immediately, suitable for professional or retail use. Heat and private parking included one block from the ferry. Hardwood floors and wall to wall carpeting, handicap accessible bath, bright interior, \$3,750/month. Call (508)274-0452 for details.

HELP WANTED

EXPERIENCED HORSE TRAINER WANTED

Care and train two to four horses on a beautiful, down-island farm overlooking a large pond. Must be experienced and qualified. Free room in a one-bedroom apartment plus salary. Salary and terms of employment will be discussed after a review of qualifications. References required. Send resume to: island_aviators@yahoo.com.

CHAPPY FERRY CAPTAIN
The Chappy Ferry is looking for Ferry Captains. Must hold a 50 ton license and be willing to work outdoors. We have morning and afternoon shifts available. Please contact Brian at: info@chappyferry.com.



**DUKES COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
TELECOMMUNICATOR-IN-TRAINING**
\$500 Monthly Housing Stipend for Full-Time Island Residents.
Looking to kick-start a rewarding career while serving the Island community? Duties include, but not limited to receiving, processing, and dispatching emergency and non-emergency calls for police, fire, emergency medical, and other public safety services.
Requires effective oral and written communications skills, high integrity, positive attitude, sound judgement, and the

ability to handle confidential material and adapt to changing environments and priorities. Essential functions include rotating assignment to the day, evening and night, weekend, and holiday shifts. Paid on-site training, plus off-island Academy training.
Full-time Telecommunicator-In-Training pay range is \$73,986.64 - \$81,687.06 annually, plus \$500 monthly stipend. Candidates must pass skills-based aptitude testing, interview, background check, and post-conditional-offer medical and audiology evaluations.
Apply today. Download applications and job descriptions at: dukescountysheriff.com/careers

ESPRESSO LOVE HIRING YEAR ROUND STAFF

Espresso Love is looking for people to join our team. Must be available through late fall or year-round. Hiring for baristas, supervisors and kitchen staff. Housing available. Email: jobs@espressolove.com to inquire.

FLANDERS UP-ISLAND REAL ESTATE PART-TIME ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Seeking a part-time Administrative Assistant to oversee the day-to-day operations of a small Up-Island Real Estate Office. Must have strong customer service skills, organizational skills, leadership skills, and the ability to problem solve. Additionally, manage the Broker's and staff schedules. Flexible hours. Email resume to: flandersre@flandersrealestate.net.

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\$25.00 - \$35.00 per hour. Daily pay approximately \$600 - \$1000 per day.

Love supporting others through life's toughest moments? We're looking for compassionate companions to provide live-in mental health and daily living support to aging clients in their homes. We value dedication, discretion, and a calm presence in crisis.
Apply at: intentclinical.com/careers or hiring@intentclinical.com.

ISLAND AUTISM IS HIRING

Join our team supporting individuals with autism and developmental disabilities on Martha's Vineyard.
Open Positions:
• Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) – Residential & Substitute
• House Manager & Live-In House Manager
• Residential Program Coordinator – Housing Available
Competitive pay and benefits. Seeking compassionate, motivated, and dependable applicants. For more information or to apply, please contact lena@islandautism.org.

ISLAND GROWN INITIATIVE HIRING FULL-TIME FIELD MANAGER

Hiring for regenerative vegetable farm. Five plus years farming and tractor experience. \$70K-\$75K plus benefits. Send resume and cover letter to: tim@igimv.org.

ISLAND GROWN INITIATIVE | OAK BLUFFS

Hiring full-time, year-round Food Pantry Assistant Manager.
\$28-\$30/hour. English/Portuguese preferred. Send cover letter and resume: merrick@igimv.org.



The Martha's Vineyard Airport has an employment opportunity for the following full-time, year-round Dukes County benefited position:

Business Manager

Duties include: Coordinating administrative operations, procurement/purchasing activities including contracts, asset inventory, airport insurance coordination and claims, employee onboarding and offboarding, and airport and federal compliance requirements, Title VI, ACDBE. Reports to the Airport Director and Assistant Airport Director.

Strong internal candidate.

Starting wage is \$52.08/hour based on experience. Application and job description available online at: www.mvyairport.com/employment-opportunities, or at Airport Administration Office/General Aviation, 71 Airport Road, West Tisbury, MA 02575, (508)693-7022 or gfreeman@mvyairport.com. Experience preferred.

The Martha's Vineyard Airport is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Applications must be received by **Monday, November 9th at 12:00 PM.**

MARTHA'S VINEYARD SHIPYARD IS SEEKING AN ORGANIZED AND DEPENDABLE FULL-TIME OFFICE ASSISTANT TO JOIN OUR TEAM.

Your prime focus will be managing employee timecard data to ensure our customers are billed accurately and on time. Key responsibilities will be to collect & review daily employee timecards for completeness: enter hours & work data into our billing system, verify accuracy and identify & resolve discrepancies quickly and help the office team with other basic admin tasks as needed.

If you have great attention to detail & love keeping things organized, have proven experience in data entry, office admin and strong time-management skills, we can teach you how to do the rest. This is a full-time, benefited position. Please send your resume & a brief note about your availability to jhale@mvsbiyard.com with the subject line "Office Admin".



KINSHIP HEALS IS HIRING ADMINISTRATION FOR PROGRAMS

Primary responsibilities include data entry, record keeping, and tracking for finance & program services. Kinship Heals is a substance-free workplace. All staff must be substance free and abide by the Substance Free Workplace Policy. (As a recipient of federal funds, marijuana is considered an illegal substance). Salary is \$82,000.00 upon hire, and \$92,000.00 upon completion of probationary period and Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence trainings. For more information about our organization visit www.kinshipheals.org. For a full job description, or to submit resume, email jada@kinshipheals.org.

POLICE OFFICER TOWN OF OAK BLUFFS

The Oak Bluffs Police Department is looking for motivated individuals who want to serve their community and be part of the next generation of police officers. We currently have one open position for patrol officer that we intend to fill immediately.
We are a progressive department that offers great opportunities including specialized units and assignments such as the Motorcycle Unit, Drug Task Force, Tactical Response Team, Community Outreach, School Resource Officer, Field Training Officer, Firearms Instructor, Detective Unit, Bicycle Patrol, and Accreditation Team. The minimum requirements include:
Must have a high school diploma or equivalent.
Must be a United States citizen.
Must have no felony convictions.
MA driver's license and ability to obtain

License to Carry Firearms.
Must be in good health and physical condition.

Applicants who have completed a full-time police academy prior to applying are preferred. We encourage lateral transfers to apply. We are a non-civil service department, and the patrol officers are represented by MassCop.
We offer a highly competitive pay structure including an education incentive, starting salary range \$100,077 - \$103,836, with detail and overtime opportunities.
Employment applications and all inquiries can be obtained by calling Lt. Curelli at (508)693-0750.
Oak Bluffs is an EOE, AA. Applications reviewed as received.

LIBRARY AIDE TOWN OF OAK BLUFFS

The Oak Bluffs Public Library is accepting applications for part-time library aides, 3-19 hours per week, Tuesday through Saturday. Duties include using software to locate and circulate materials, organizing physical items, helping patrons access digital resources and assisting with programs. Successful candidates will have superior customer service, detail-oriented organizational skills, and ample technology experience.
Hourly range: \$20.85 - \$24.18.
Interested candidates can apply through the online portal at oakbluffsma.gov/jobs or email wrough@oakbluffsma.gov for an application form and for any inquiries. Applications reviewed as received. Oak Bluffs is an EOE.



Join The Polly Hill Arboretum team as our **Education Manager**. This position is responsible for the strategic growth of adult and youth education at the Arboretum and the day-to-day operations of PHA's education programs, including planning, implementation, and evaluation. This involves the development of curricula and supporting materials for our youth education program and the development of a yearly schedule of educational events for adults.
Application deadline: November 16, 2026.
For more information: pollyhillarboretum.org/get-involved/employmentopportunities/.

JEWELRY WELDER | RETAIL ASSOCIATE

Stefanie Wolf Designs, a woman-owned jewelry brand in Oak Bluffs, is hiring for a combined retail sales and permanent jewelry welding role.
Friendly, reliable, detail-oriented, and love jewelry? Training provided. Pay based on experience. Email coral@stefaniewolf.com or stop by.
Details: stefaniewolf.com/pages/hiring.

VINEYARD CONSERVATION SOCIETY HIRING PART-TIME ADVOCACY AND PROGRAMMING COORDINATOR

Environmental advocacy, community organizing, and events. 20 hrs/week, \$35/hr. See full job description and how to apply: https://vineyardconservation.org/career-opportunities



ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Martha's Vineyard Magazine is seeking an associate editor to join our team and play a key role across a range of projects. Responsibilities include copy editing and proofreading, writing and story development, social media, and website management. Familiarity with WordPress and Adobe InDesign/Photoshop is preferred. This is an opportunity to work alongside a creative team and help shape the stories and digital content that connect readers with Martha's Vineyard.
For more information, visit vineyardgazette.com/employment.

OFFICE MANAGER

The Office Manager is responsible for the day-to-day administrative operations of the Vineyard Gazette office, helping ensure that the organization runs efficiently, professionally and smoothly. This position serves as a central point of coordination for office administration, subscribers, employee support, vendors, facilities, supplies, records and internal communications. For more information, visit vineyardgazette.com/employment.

The Vineyard Gazette Media Group is an equal opportunity employer committed to inclusion and diversity in the workplace.



EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR

Vineyard Preservation Trust seeks an experienced professional to manage the administrative office's day-to-day operations, ensuring it is organized, welcoming, and equipped to support the Trust's work. Responsibilities include supporting the Executive Director and board administration, managing office systems, and coordinating across a busy nonprofit that cares for twenty historic landmarks.

SERVICES

UP-ISLAND MATH TUTOR

Elementary and High School.
Contact: (508) 560-1463.

STORAGE

SUN SELF-STORAGE

Monthly rentals. Paved, lighted, fenced. On-site management. State Road, behind Cronig's Market. (508)693-1036 and Old Colony Edgartown.

CONTRACTORS AND BUILDERS



SEE WHAT YOU CAN BUILD FOR 33% LESS

You can afford to build on Martha's Vineyard. Save 1/3 off conventional building methods. New homes and additions. High-end home shells are custom-designed, constructed in a controlled environment, and delivered for about \$135/sq.ft. (Estimated price for finished house: about \$550/sq.ft.) Packages include: Custom design, posts, beams, roof, walls, doors, windows, siding, trim, insulation, floors. Schedule on-site or video tour. MVPostAndBeam.com, (508)645-3572. Posner@MVPostAndBeam.com

GIVEAWAYS

FREE BEAUTIFUL WOODEN QUEEN PLATFORM BED FRAME | HEADBOARD | UNDER BED STORAGE

Must have a truck and two people to load it. Currently disassembled and on the ground floor, in Chilmark. Please email me at: ekw02468business@gmail.com if you can come and get it.

FREE | METAL PROPANE FIRE PIT

If you are someone who is willing to fix things, this is for you. In good condition, but won't ignite. If someone can fix it. Call or text (508)230-6068.

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES



WANTED ANTIQUES, GOLD JEWELRY, STERLING, APPRAISALS

Highest prices paid for fine antiques, gold jewelry, sterling silver. Call for safe appointment, 28 years serving MV. Ed Tessier. Call (508)939-0556. Americana-auction.com

NEW CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING SYSTEM!

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Classified Advertising Deadline:
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Questions?

Email Classifieds@vineyardgazette.com or call 774-549-9711



Join the Martha's Vineyard Bank Team!

Martha's Vineyard Bank, a local community bank, has some exciting opportunities available. If you are seeking a career with an organization that has a strong commitment to the communities we serve, then we want to hear from you!

AVAILABLE OPPORTUNITIES:

Executive Assistant to the President & CEO
Financial Advisor

Please visit www.mvbank.com for detailed information or to apply. We offer an exceptional benefits package including both 401k and pension plan, growth opportunities, and competitive compensation.

Equal Opportunity Employer: Minority/Female/Disability/Veteran.



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ESTABLISHED LOCAL ITALIAN
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A Turnkey Business Opportunity

An exciting opportunity to own a well-established Italian restaurant with a strong reputation among both local residents and tourists. This beloved local establishment offers the perfect foundation for a new owner looking to step into a thriving restaurant business without starting from scratch.

**WE'RE HIRING!
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ASSISTANT**

**YARD
HAND**

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Potential trips off island
2 days a week.

**\$2,500 SIGN ON
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YEAR ROUND**

**WEEKENDS
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BUILDING A STRONGER TOMORROW TOGETHER

ANTIQUES
AND COLLECTIBLES

TOP \$\$\$ PAID
For antiques, jewelry, silver, oriental carpets, fine art, Chinese works of art, etc. From one item to entire estates. References available. Island property owner. (617)803-5145.

SHIP MODELS AND OLD NAUTICAL ITEMS
Paying cash for ship models and old nautical items. (202)812-1144.

AUTO - SALES -
ACCESSORIES

2016 LAND ROVER LR4 | 125K MILES | DARK GREEN | TAN INTERIOR
Goes anywhere. Never wrecked. Has scratches and needs work to pass inspection. \$3,000 OBO. Email: sellingthebeast@yahoo.com.

TRUCK CAP FOR CHEVROLET/GMC

- 6.5 body
- Fiberglass
- Missing front window
- \$300.00 or best offer (508)326-7954.

2012 JEEP WRANGLER UNLIMITED 4DR | 4WD
31,000 miles, six-speed manual transmission, leather interior, power door/windows, trailer hitch, new black soft top. Garaged. No accidents. \$14, 000 OBO. sbartletta@gmail.com.

TRAILER SALES

TRAILER FOR RENT, WEST TISBURY
Available September 25th–December 1st and March 1st through to summer 2027. \$800/month for one person or \$1,000/month for two people. Contact Lisa (310)213-5472.

MOTORCYCLES,
MOPEDS, AND BICYCLES

BICYCLE FOR SALE
2024 Boomerang Platinum PEDAGO. In mint condition, low mileage, long range with lock, saddle bags and charger. Original: \$3600. Used: \$1600. (707)972-6902.

YARD SALES

ESTATE SALE
Saturday & Sunday | 10/31 & 11/01 10am - 2pm
Antiques, vintage, collectibles, local artwork, art, furniture, household and kitchen items, handmade lamps and sporting goods. Something for everyone. No early birds and please park respectfully. 24 Myober Lane, Edgartown. (850)293-4345.

BOAT SALES
AND ACCESSORIES

TWENTY-FOOT BAYLINER TROPHY WITH TRAILER

- 1999 Model 2002 FP
- 2014 Suzuki 140HP low hrs
- SS handrails added
- Bimini top
- Loran fish finder with Navigation
- Two new batteries
- 82 gal fuel tank
- \$9,000

Contact Bill: (508)733-4830.

2020 LOAD RITE 20" BOAT TRAILER
On Island. Very lightly used. \$3,500. (610) 304-6149.

NEW BOAT TRAILERS
New Venture boat trailers, in stock and on-island. Sizes for boats up to 27". Email Chris Scott for pricing: cscott@shmarinas.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



PUBLISHER'S NOTICE: All real estate advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

AQUINNAH
LEGAL NOTICES

AQUINNAH PLANNING BOARD
The Aquinnah Planning Board Plan Review Committee will hold a Public Hearing at the Aquinnah Town Offices and via Zoom on **Wednesday November 18, 2026, at 6:40PM** to act upon a request from John Floros of 14 Old South Road Map 9 Lot 58.8 under sections 3.2-2, 3.9-1 (A.1-3), 13.4-1(A.1-2), 13.4-7 of the Aquinnah Zoning Bylaw for the siting of renovations to the existing dwelling, relocation of the driveway, siting of a garage with studio and associated landscaping where total footprint on the lot will exceed 2,000sqft. Site Visit at 4:00pm – Join Zoom meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87493334137> or dial 1 929 205 6099 - Meeting ID: 874 9333 4137 - Passcode: 985501 - Inquiries can be emailed to: adminassistant@aquinnah-ma.gov. oct30,nov6,2t

CHILMARK
LEGAL NOTICES

CHILMARK PLANNING BOARD
Monday, December 14, 2026, 4:35PM
Chilmark Town Hall
401 Middle Road
Chilmark, MA 02535

In accordance with Section 5 of Chapter 40A of the Massachusetts General Laws, the Chilmark Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, December 14, 2026, 4:35PM** at the Chilmark Town Hall, at 401 Middle Road, Chilmark, MA 02535 to review proposed amendments to the Chilmark Zoning Bylaws as follows:
To amend the Chilmark Zoning Bylaws Article 4 Use Regulations, Section 4.2B Non-Accessory Uses, 6. Wireless Communications, Equipment and Facilities, b., 4. a., 5. Height, 10. Noise and to eliminate 11. Term.
Copies of the full text of proposed amendments are available from the Planning Board office at the Chilmark Town Hall, 401 Middle Road, and by electronic mail. Interested parties are invited to attend the public hearing and/or send comment. Please address any comment or a request for copies of proposed amendments to: Chilmark Planning Board Chilmark Town Hall P.O. Box 119 Chilmark, MA 02535 Phone: 508-645-2107 Fax: 508-645-2110 Email: jchristy@chilmarkma.gov oct30,nov6,2t

EDGARTOWN
LEGAL NOTICES

EDGARTOWN ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On **Wednesday, November 18, 2026 at 4:00 pm** the Edgartown Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a remote public hearing via ZOOM on the request by Albert & Erica Arcand for a special permit under section 10.1.G of the zoning bylaw to construct a renovation and an addition to a pre-existing nonconforming structure. The property is a pre-existing, nonconforming .70-acre lot at 19 Hillman Drive (Assr. Pcl. 36-120) in the R-60 Residential District. Written comments should be received no later than noon on November 17, 2026. For information on how to use Zoom or to view the plans please contact: zba@edgartown-ma.us or check the town's website.

To Join Zoom Meeting:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86487465572>

Or Join by Phone: 646 558 8656
Meeting ID: 864 8746 5572
oct30,nov6,2t

EDGARTOWN CONSERVATION
COMMISSION

On **Wednesday, 4 November 2026, at 4:50 p.m.** the Edgartown Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on the second floor of Edgartown Town Hall (70 Main St, Edgartown) on a Request for an amended Order of Conditions filed by LEC Environmental Consultants Inc. under the Edgartown Wetlands Protection Bylaw and the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act. The applicant is proposing management of invasive aquatic vegetation (Eurasian water milfoil) in the northern cove of Job's Neck Pond using benthic barrier mats within BWV and land under the waterbody.

The property is located at 60 Pohogonot Road. (Assessor's Map 42 Lot 1.103)

For a copy of the application or for questions related to observing the meeting via Zoom, please contact: conservation@edgartown-ma.us oct30,1t

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with Sections 5.1.D.e and 10.1.G of the Edgartown Zoning Bylaw, the Edgartown Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, November 17, 2026 at 4:30 PM**, at the request of Chris Alley, SBH,

EDGARTOWN
LEGAL NOTICES

Inc., on behalf of Carolyn & Mark Mason to relocate and reconstruct the single-family dwelling on a pre-existing, nonconforming lot partially located in the Shore Zone of the Coastal District.
The subject property is located at 19 Earl Avenue, Assessors Parcel #12A-40.
This public hearing will be conducted using Remote Conference technology, in accordance with Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023. Interested parties may 'attend' the meeting online by visiting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89031048990>, or voice phone call to (646) 558-8656 (when prompted, enter Meeting ID #8903 104 8990 Application Materials may be reviewed online on the Edgartown Planning Board page on the town's website -- <https://www.edgartown-ma.us> -- or at the Edgartown Planning Board Offices, PO Box 5130, Edgartown, during regular business hours. Please direct questions or comments to Brae Edleston, Administrator, planningboard@edgartown-ma.us oct30,nov6,2t

EDGARTOWN CONSERVATION
COMMISSION

On **Wednesday, 4 November 2026 at 4:40 p.m.** the Edgartown Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on the second floor of Edgartown Town Hall (70 Main St, Edgartown) on a Notice of Intent filed by Schofield Barbinii & Hoehn, Inc on behalf of the Boulevard Realty Trust under the Edgartown Wetlands Protection Bylaw and the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act. The applicant is proposing construction of a 10 ft long elevated walkway and creation of 2 view channels over salt marsh and Land subject to coastal storm flowage.

The property is located at 189 the Boulevard (Assessor's Map11A Lot 399.2)

For a copy of the application or for questions related to observing the meeting via Zoom, please contact: conservation@edgartown-ma.us oct30,1t

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with Section 5.5 of the Edgartown Zoning Bylaw, the Edgartown Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, November 17, 2026 at 4:35 PM**, at the request of Tiago De Souza, Smart Build MV, on behalf of Suzanne and Lee Feldman to construct approximately 919sqft of new living area and 185sqft of covered entry porch on existing dwelling.
The subject property is located at 25 Thaxter Lane, Assessors Parcel #45-16.28.
This public hearing will be conducted using Remote Conference technology, in accordance with Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023. Interested parties may 'attend' the meeting online by visiting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89031048990>, or voice phone call to (646) 558-8656 (when prompted, enter Meeting ID #8903 104 8990 Application Materials may be reviewed online on the Edgartown Planning Board page on the town's website -- <https://www.edgartown-ma.us> -- or at the Edgartown Planning Board Offices, PO Box 5130, Edgartown, during regular business hours. Please direct questions or comments to Brae Edleston, Administrator, planningboard@edgartown-ma.us. oct30,nov6,2t

EDGARTOWN CONSERVATION
COMMISSION

On **Wednesday, 4 November 2026 at 4:35 p.m.** the Edgartown Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on the second floor of Edgartown Town Hall (70 Main St, Edgartown) on a Request for Determination of Applicability filed by the Town of Edgartown under the Edgartown Wetlands Protection Bylaw and the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act. The town is proposing mowing, brush cutting, and invasive species removal within approx. 26,000 sf of historically open upland buffer zone.

The property is located at 127 North Water St. (Assessor's Map 19B Lot 22)

For a copy of the application or for questions related to observing the meeting via Zoom, please contact: conservation@edgartown-ma.us oct30,1t

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

EDGARTOWN CONSERVATION
COMMISSION

On **Wednesday, November 4, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.** the Edgartown Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing at Edgartown Town Hall, Second Floor, 70 Main Street, Edgartown, to review proposed changes to the Edgartown Wetlands Protection Bylaw.
For a copy of the proposed changes or for questions, please contact: conservation@edgartown-ma.us. oct30,1t

EDGARTOWN CONSERVATION
COMMISSION

On **Wednesday, 4 November 2026 at 4:30 p.m.** the Edgartown Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on the second floor of Edgartown Town Hall (70 Main St, Edgartown) on a Request for Determination of Applicability filed by Vineyard Land Surveying and Engineering on behalf of Beltz Realty Trust under the Edgartown Wetlands Protection Bylaw and the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act. The applicant is proposing reconstruction of an existing shed/bunkhouse, with a portion of the work within the local buffer zone to the flood zone.

The property is located at 27 Planting Field Way (Assessor's Map 20B Lot 20)

For a copy of the application or for questions related to observing the meeting via Zoom, please contact: conservation@edgartown-ma.us oct30,1t

TISBURY
LEGAL NOTICES

TOWN OF TISBURY
Office of
BOARD OF APPEALS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Case 2589

The Tisbury Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a hybrid public hearing on Thursday, November 12th, 2026, at 4:30 p.m. at the Tisbury Town Hall Annex, 66 Highpoint Lane. Members of the public may attend in person or participate remotely. The purpose of the hearing is to consider an application submitted by Chris Wike on behalf of Dennis Dimitre for a special permit to construct an addition to an existing residential structure in the Coastal District. The property is located at 232 Lagoon Pond Road (Assessor's Parcel 11A4). The application was filed under Tisbury Zoning Bylaw § 09.01.05. Copies of the application are available for public review at the Tisbury Zoning Board of Appeals Office and South Mountain Company.
Remote participation information:
Zoom Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85048031361>
Meeting ID: 850 4803 1361
Passcode: 783255
Phone Access: +16468769923 oct23,30,2t

TISBURY PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Tisbury Select Board will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday November 10, 2026 at 4:30 pm** at the Tisbury Emergency Services Building, 215 Spring Street. This will review and consider the request by NSTAR Electric Company D/B/A Eversource Energy to install one new JO pole 100/16-5 along Spring Street. The Public can attend in person or participate in the hearing by joining on Zoom Meeting <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87836777028> Meeting ID: 878 3677 7028 Passcode: 550669. One tap mobile +1 (301)715 8592 US (Washington DC).

Full proposal available upon request in the Tisbury Select Board office upon request at 115 High Point Lane.
Contact jgatchell@tisburyma.gov for a copy. oct23,30,2t

GENERAL
LEGAL NOTICES

COMMONWEALTH OF
MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
DOCKET NUMBER: 26 SM 003365
ORDER OF NOTICE

To:
Robert H. Nixon and Sarah Nixon

and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq):

Anderson & Kreiger LLP,

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Chilmark, MA at 86 Beach Plum Lane, given by Robert H. Nixon and Sarah Nixon to Anderson & Kreiger LLP, dated November 25, 2025, and recorded at Dukes County Registry, as Doc. No. 96690 on Certificate No. 12150 (recorded Dec. 3, 2025), has filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square**, Boston, MA 02108 on or before 12/07/2026 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.
Witness, Gordon H. Piper, Chief Justice of this Court on 10/21/2026 Attest: Deborah J. Patterson Recorder oct30,1t

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF
REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Marquenio De Souza Pereira and Aline De Freitas Gomes to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for OCMB, Inc., dated October 28, 2024, and recorded at the Dukes County Registry of Deeds in Book 01693, Page 731, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder by an assignment of mortgage from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for OCMB, Inc., to U.S. Bank Trust Company, National Association, not in its individual capacity, but solely as trustee on behalf of PRPM 2025-NQM1 Trust, dated June 10, 2025, and recorded at said Deeds in Book 01711, Page 909. For breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction at 12:00 P.M. on the 19th day of November 2026, at 129 Dunham Avenue, Vineyard Haven, MA 02568, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

To wit:

The land together with the buildings thereon situated in Tisbury, County of Dukes County, Massachusetts, being more particularly bounded and described as follows: Being known as and numbered 129 Dunham Avenue and being Lots 17 and 18, as depicted on a plan of "Aldworth Height's Vineyard Haven, Mass." surveyed in January, 1913 by H.A. Hancox, C.E., Kewbury, NH, which said plan is recorded in the Dukes County Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 7, Pages 38 and 39, and to which plan reference is hereby made for a more particular description of the granted premises.

Premises to be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal

WEEKLY SUDOKU AND CROSSWORD ANSWERS – October 30, 2026

8	2	6	4	9	7	1	5	3
3	1	7	2	5	6	4	8	9
9	4	5	1	3	8	7	6	2
2	3	1	5	6	9	8	4	7
6	9	4	8	7	2	5	3	1
5	7	8	3	4	1	9	2	6
1	6	3	9	8	4	2	7	5
4	5	9	7	2	3	6	1	8
7	8	2	6	1	5	3	9	4

D	I	S	T	U	R	B	S		S	T	E	P	O	N	E		A	N	T	I			
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			A	H	A				C	H	A	R	I	O	T	S	O	F	F	R	I	A	R
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A	N	D	W	H	A	T			A	B	O	U	T	P	E	T			B	E	T		
P	I	E				P	H	R	A	S	E			A	S	O	B			B	A	S	
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			C	A	T	S		B	E	L	O	N	G	I	N	G			T	O	T	H	
A	R	M	A	D	A				A	N	O				U	L	Y	S	S	E	S		
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S	E	G	A			T	O	Y	L	L	I	C			A	F	R	A	I	D	S	O	

GENERAL
LEGAL NOTICES

assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.

Terms of sale: A deposit of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by wire transfer to Dernerle & Associates P.C., 10 City Square, 4th Floor, Boston, MA 02129 within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. In the event of an error in this publication, the description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale. oct23,30,nov6,3t

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

GOSNOLD ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
The Gosnold Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on Monday, November 2, 2026 @ 10:30 AM at Gosnold Town Hall and via Zoom to act on a request for a Special Permit filed by Rob & Michelle Burns. The applicants seek to construct an addition that does not meet the required setbacks. The project is proposed for the property located at: 10 Broadway, Cuttyhunk, MA Assessors' Map 1 Lot 67-9. For project details and remote access contact: lwright@townofgosnold.org oct16,23,30,3t

THE COMMONWEALTH OF
MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
26 SM 003396
ORDER OF NOTICE

To:
Paula J. Cox, Trustee of The Burgess Avenue Trust

and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq):

TBW Mortgage Backed Trust Series 2006-3, Mortgage Backed Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2006-3, U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Oak Bluffs, numbered 1 John Wesley Avenue, given by Spurgeon M. Cox to Mortgage Electronic Registrations Systems, Inc., as nominee for Dynamic Capital Mortgage, Inc., dated February 10, 2006, and registered at the Dukes County Registry District of the Land Court as document number 64508, and noted on certificate of title number 12613 and now held by plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before December 7, 2026 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, Gordon H. Piper, Chief Justice of this Court on October 21, 2026. Attest: Deborah J. Patterson Recorder 28583 oct30,1t

PUBLIC HEARING
MARTHA'S VINEYARD COMMISSION

The public is invited to a public hearing concerning the following Development of Regional Impact **#775 741 Main Street**. Applicant: James Ferraro, Owner; Valerie Moore and Tim Stewart, Agents. Location: 741 Main Street, Vineyard Haven. Map 3-B, Lot 6 (approximately 0.693 acres). Proposal: Replacement of a Victorian eclectic dwelling built circa 1910 previously damaged by fire and demolished.
Date & Time: Thursday, November 5, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.
Place: Hybrid Meeting **MVC Office - 1st Floor**, 33 New York Ave, Oak Bluffs, MA and Zoom **Meeting ID: 844 3938 7278; Password: 085346**.
The application and plans are available on the MVC website. Written testimony may be submitted prior to or during the hearing. Check for updates on the online calendar. oct23,30,2t

MV Family Resource Center (MVFC)
is looking for a Family Support

From the Town Columnists

CHAPPY

PETER WELLS

The next Chappy Community Center potluck supper will feature an alpha-gal chili cook-off contest. Prizes will be awarded. Seems that half of the folks I know are now affected by the alpha-gal tick-borne allergy. It basically means no mammalian products in their diets. There are lots of alternatives to butter, milk and beef. In case you didn't pay close attention in biology class, fish and fowl are not mammals. I think that a turkey burger tastes better than a hamburger. I was relieved to learn that mayonnaise consists of eggs and vegetable oil.

Potlucks are from 6 to 8 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the month, except for the Chappy Ferry captain and crew appreciation dinner in December, which is on Wednesday, Dec. 9.

The On Time 2 was finally able to depart for Vineyard Haven last Friday. Three days of a dry northeaster delayed the intended departure. The ferryboats are not designed to handle 40-knot gusts and five-foot waves in the Sound. The On Time 2 is now high and almost dry from a bottom cleaning. The propellers are headed off-Island for reconditioning and the Coast Guard will arrive next week to perform their fine-tooth inspection.

Thank you to the Martha's Vineyard Public Charter School for the scary peg-legged pirate scarecrow at the Edgartown-side ferry house.

CHILMARK

KATIE CARROLL

I must admit I have been somewhat remiss in keeping my finger on the pulse of town these past few days. True to my recent tradition of welcoming another year of life amidst the wild beauty of a national park, I write to you from the quiet outskirts of Petrified Forest National Park. Brooks is my trusted traveling companion, and though the whims of Mother Nature forced a sharp pivot — or perhaps more of a grand U-turn — in our itinerary, we are having an absolutely magnificent time.

Enough about me, let's turn our attention to things on the home front.

The West Tisbury School 8th graders hosted their UK exchanges this past week. In keeping with the theme of Mother Nature's grand gestures, she surely provided the group with some picture perfect New England weather.

Susie Anderson, whose son Willie Bologna is hosting an exchange, was gracious enough to share a few highlights of their visit so far. I think I've captured everything in the following paragraph: They kicked things off on Friday night at Radio Farm for a huge potluck and cookout. On Saturday, they enjoyed a screening of jaws at Menemsha Beach, complete with concessions from the Texaco and a bit of fishing off the docks. They spent Sunday morning at Morning Glory Farm enjoying hayrides, pumpkin carving and finding their way through the corn maze. Later that afternoon, they headed to Philbin Beach to

make s'mores on the expansive low-tide shore. To top it all off, they went up to the Aquinnah Lighthouse and climbed to the top to watch the sun sink into the ocean at sunset — all accompanied by a stunning, full Hunter's Moon. It was absolutely magical.

Tillie Taylor, Kahpay Vanderhoop, Abel Rutkowski, Finn and Maeve Moriarty, Josie Persinko, Lucille Stahl and a gaggle of others are all having a memorable time hosting. I'm sure they're already plotting their springtime adventure to the UK.

Michelle and Greg O'Connor traveled to Colorado last week to enjoy the wedding of their second son, Griffin. Griffin and Madi Lawton were married in a breathtaking meadow at Devils Thumb Ranch in Tabernash, Colo. on a crisp, 40-degree day, with his long-time babysitter, Hannah (who spent 14 summers on Martha's Vineyard with the boys) serving as their officiant. Surrounded by a lively crowd of East Coasters — including Griffin's brothers and Chilmark childhood friends — and made up of passionate Patriots and Eagles fans, the magical moment was made even more unforgettable as horses galloped across the landscape behind them while they exchanged their vows. I can't forget to mention Michelle and Greg's infant grandson Dalton was there in full cowboy attire. Happy and joyful everyone.

Emme Carroll and Hollis Oliver had a few cows on walkabout the other morning. Our resident Cowpokes and their trusty bovine counterparts sure do get around. I wonder if they will be on walkabout for Halloween, too? They made the rounds last year. I guess we will have to wait and see.

Speaking of Halloween, the numbers are growing, and the trick-or-trunkers will be out in force this Saturday evening in the Menemsha parking lot with car trunks full of treats. If you are excited about the idea of seeing our little goblins, fairies, firefighters and maybe even a stray cow strolling down Basin Road and beyond, we want you to on the fun. Please reach out to get the full scoop on how you can join in, decorate a trunk, or just cheer on the cutest parade of the season.

EDGARTOWN

KATHIE CASE

It is official, we can turn the heat on. Of course, this week we have had great sun, and it is warm. The night temperature is still cool, but we cannot complain about what we are getting. Plus, the moon has been spectacular, and the night sky is so bright. Great timing for Halloween.

Happy Birthday to all who celebrated their day this past week. Big balloons go out to Maryanne Alves, Thayer Kelly, Ferris Ready and Scarlett LaBonte who all celebrated their day this past week.

Let it be noted, it is Oct. 27 as I am writing this column and Macy's just played its first Christmas commercial. I chuckled because we started wrapping the lights around the pergola at the nursery, and we have had some comments about how early we are doing the decorations. But it takes almost two and a half weeks to fully wrap it,

and doing it in the warm weather is better than the freezing cold. Even though we are not having our big holiday event this year, we are still decorating enough for people to enjoy walking around the nursery and enjoying the lights.

Don't forget to turn your clocks back. Have a great week and keep the home candles burning.

OAK BLUFFS

RICHARD LEWIS TAYLOR

Long time Vineyard resident Fletcher "Flash" Wiley was posthumously awarded the W.E.B. Du Bois Medal by the Hutchins Center for African American Research at Harvard University. The honor was presented by Prof. Henry Louis Gates on Oct. 8 at the Sanders Theatre in Cambridge. These awards have been given annually since 2013 to those who make a significant contribution to African and African American culture and the life of the mind. My dear friend was among a list of accomplished honorees for 2026, which also included Angela Bassett, Didier Drogba, Theaster Gates, James Manyika, Mavis Staples and Lena Waithe.

Had he been present, Flash most certainly would have broke out singing "I'll Take You There and Let's Do It Again," two very popular songs sung by singer and civil rights activist Mavis Staples. Flash loved music and he loved to sing, especially spontaneously. I think he would also have shared his life story with Lena Waithe, creator of Showtime drama series The Chi and BET comedy series Boomerang and the Twenties. If ever there was someone whose jokes and legendary reciting of "the dozens" should have been on the screen, it was Flash's! For the uninitiated "the dozens" is the traditional verbal game of ritualistic insults that Flash would say to anyone at any time especially if provoked. But his inimitable style and smile would melt one's anger into laughter.

Congrats to Bennie, Pratt, BJ and the rest of the family for accepting this award to honor our extraordinary attorney, business leader, civic leader, entertainer. We also knew him as a soul singer, card playing, basketball playing man who never met a stranger. We miss him everyday.

The Hutchins Institute awards was not the only thing going on at Harvard that included Island residents. This week Islanders Rosabeth Moss Kanter, Herby Duverné, Kathy Taylor and others joined the Harvard men's and women's basketball teams for a breakfast gathering for former Vice President Kamala Harris. Angela Bassett managed to attend both events as her daughter is a coed at the college.

Pittsburgh royalty and longtime Vineyard resident Nancy Washington passed away in her sleep recently. Her life was celebrated first in Pittsburgh then on the Vineyard. She was a distinguished educator and passionate advocate for the arts and health equity. She began her 27-year career at the University of Pittsburgh where her teaching career in psychology revealed her many talents, which propelled her to an assistant dean position in School of Medicine and later as assistant to Chancellor J. Dennis O'Connor. She served on many arts and cultural boards including the August Wilson Center for African American Culture, the Carnegie Museum of Art, Featherstone Center for the Arts and the Pittsburgh Symphony.

She was an active member of Union Chapel and frequently attended the Charles Ogletree public forums. She and husband Milton, who passed away in 2016, built a home in Vineyard Haven which has been the place for many gatherings with family and friends over the years.

Earlier this week, daughters Lara and Linda and other family members came to the Vineyard to celebrate her life. Among those attending this event included David Edmonds, Ron and Judy Daveport, Barbara Edelin, Lloyd and Teri Trotter, Ann Smith,

Shirley Hall, Sandra Grimes, Ron and Charlayne Hunter-Gault, Ann Haley and Cheryl Finley. Farewell to a woman of grace, style and commitment.

Congratulations to Judge Ed Redd (retired) and his wife Dr. Shirley Johnson Redd on being recognized by the Hyde Park Greater Boston Living Histories of Color this past week at the Massachusetts State House. They were among a cohort of distinguished professional and civic leaders including Priscilla Douglas, April English, Edmund Barry Gather, Dr. Thea James and Andrea Herbert Major.

Paradise on earth is living the Vineyard experience. Enjoy it as life is fleeting. Rest in Peace, Randall Edward Taylor.

VINEYARD HAVEN

NANCY GARDELLA

Snickers is my favorite candy bar. I have already finished one bag of them all by myself waiting for Halloween. The poor trick-or-treaters here might be getting apples.

Wonderful news, a collection of Island do-gooders are working to make a half-mile trail at Felix Neck Sanctuary which will be accessible to all visitors. I shall keep you informed of progress.

Mike Benjamin had a great time playing guitar from a boat at Coop de Ville's seasonal closing last Sunday. Menemsha Texaco posted shorter hours till spring. The gas station will be open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, Saturdays and Sundays will be 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Stop by our Martha's Vineyard Museum for Halloween on the Hill at 4:30 p.m. Costumes are encouraged.

I am giving you a heads up in case you will be off-Island on our first week of November. There will be a reptile exposition at the Doubletree Hotel in Manchester on Sunday, Nov. 8 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please do not bring any of your own reptiles. I have many friends interested in this annual event.

Children under six get in free. There are staggered ticket prices for older children, seniors and veterans.

My gifted writer/artist friend Timothy Thomas has his new book out. Snowy's Edgartown Adventure, based on the true story of a our local pig Snowdrop who had escaped, is available. If you want an auto-graphed copy, message Timothy. Otherwise check our bookstores.

Need I remind you to fall back on your clocks this weekend?

The birthday bandwagon pulled along Erich Leuning on Oct. 20; Oct. 21 was a party for Jane Tomkins Christiansen Gerber, Rozana Pires and Mary Wright-Graves. And my wonderful godmother Francis Graziani celebrates her heavenly birthday on Halloween. Many happy returns.

WEST TISBURY

EILEEN MALEY

This mid-fall interval is one of exceptional darkness and light.

Halloween speaks for itself. (Boo, it says.) Later that same night, we (or A.L.) will change our clocks back to standard time. They used to try to bamboozle us with the message that we gain an hour, but we are not fooled. We gain that hour for one night only. In exchange, we lose an hour of afternoon light every day for the next four months.

The weather lady on Channel 5 said that sunset on Nov. 1 will be at 4:37 p.m. That won't improve until the middle of March, when the new Congress has been installed (we hope) and taken their brooms (we hope) to begin cleaning some of the grime and muck out of Washington.

Nov. 2, you will recall, is the Day of the Dead. Does anyone here celebrate?

Then, of course, there is the mid-term election next Tuesday. If you haven't voted early, your last chance to express your opinions is at the public safety building on State Road on election day until 8 p.m. My

fingers are crossed for a dazzling display of luminescence when those results roll in across the country, in the middle of the night

And, I am glad to note, it will be the end of ads on TV for candidates running for office in New Hampshire.

Meanwhile, we are living on a rock bathed in light. At this time of year, our Island home shimmers with daylight that is crystalline, bright and pure. The ferns in our garden have dropped dead quite suddenly, mowed down by pockets of frost. But the humidity has eased, the air has cleared and, voila, the sunlight can be dazzling.

One of the most attractive features of our yard is a cluster of ornamental grass, tall and graceful, waving tawny feather-like tails high in the air, and thriving at the corner of the wood shed. The plant was a sprig, a gift from Sue Silva about 25 years ago. Sue was then an elected member of the town's planning board, and I was the board's hired help. Sue, who died at home last winter, was the donor of many such gifts around the community, frequently the source of those robust bouquets you had seen at the post office or Howe's House. Her family will host a celebration of Sue's life at the Grange Hall next Saturday, Nov. 7, from 2 to 4 p.m.

Candle power is enough to illuminate the tables of birthday celebrants throughout the coming week. Happy birthday to Hermine Hall on Sunday, Nov. 1. Across town, we wish a happy birthday to Jerry Gallagher on Monday, Nov. 2. Celebrating on Nov. 4 is Rob Gilbert. And on Thursday, Nov. 5, Liz Witham and Harvey Mazer will be stars of the day.

Congratulations and happy wedding anniversary to Beckie and Doug Finn on Monday, Nov. 2.

TIDE AND TIME

Monday, Nov. 2

High Water

Low Water

a.m.

p.m.

a.m.

p.m.

6:31

6:47

11:48

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6:42

6:58

--:-

12:02

6:17

6:33

11:36

--:-

6:14

6:30

11:32

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6:12

6:28

11:45

--:-

6:03

6:19

11:15

11:58

3:27

3:56

10:20

--:-

2:29

2:58

9:41

11:32

2:21

2:50

8:46

10:37

2:13

2:42

8:54

10:45

1:34

2:03

8:07

9:58

2:03

2:32

8:13

10:04

2:20

2:49

8:31

10:22

4:21

4:50

11:29

--:-

Begin Ebb

Begin Flood

4:24

4:40

10:05

10:25

5:42

5:58

11:30

11:50

5:34

5:50

11:15

11:35

4:49

5:05

10:45

11:05

4:24

4:40

10:20

10:40

Tuesday, Nov. 3

High Water

Low Water

a.m.

p.m.

a.m.

p.m.

7:37

7:55

12:31

12:55

7:48

8:06

12:45

1:09

7:23

7:41

12:19

12:43

7:20

7:38

12:15

12:39

7:18

7:36

12:28

12:52

7:09

7:27

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12:22

4:29

4:59

12:11

12:16

3:31

4:01

11:37

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3:23

3:53

10:42

11:25

3:15

3:45

10:50

11:33

2:36

3:06

10:03

10:46

3:05

3:35

10:09

10:52

3:22

3:52

10:27

11:10

5:23

5:53

12:20

1:25

Begin Ebb

Begin Flood

5:32

5:52

11:18

11:38

6:50

7:10

--:-

12:43

6:42

7:02

--:-

12:48

5:57

6:17

11:58

--:-

5:32

5:52

11:33

11:53

Wednesday, Nov. 4

High Water

Low Water

a.m.

p.m.

a.m.

p.m.

8:39

9:02

1:33

2:01

8:50

9:13

1:47

2:15

8:25

8:48

1:21

1:49

8:22

8:45

1:17

1:45

8:20

8:43

1:30

1:58

8:11

8:34

1:00

1:28

5:32

6:01

12:59

1:18

4:34

5:03

12:20

12:39

4:26

4:55

11:44

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4:18

4:47

11:52

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3:39

4:08

11:05

11:23

4:08

4:37

11:11

11:29

4:25

4:54

11:29

11:47

6:26

6:55

2:08

2:27

Begin Ebb

Begin Flood

6:37

6:59

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12:26

7:55

8:17

1:03

1:51

7:47

8:09

12:48

1:36

7:02

7:24

12:18

1:06

6:37

6:59

--:-

12:41

Thursday, Nov. 5

High Water

Low Water

a.m.

p.m.

a.m.

p.m.

9:37

10:03

2:32

3:03

9:48

10:14

2:46

3:17

9:23

9:49

2:20

2:51

9:20

9:46

2:16

2:47

9:18

9:44

2:29

3:00

9:09

9:35

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12:16

7:26

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2:45

3:14

Begin Ebb

Begin Flood

7:35

8:00

12:46

1:26

8:53

9:18

2:11

2:51

8:45

9:10

1:56

2:36

8:00

8:25

1:26

2:06

7:35

8:00

1:01

1:41

Friday, Nov. 6

High Water

Low Water

a.m.

p.m.

a.m.

p.m.

10:28

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3:26

3:59

10:39

--:-

3:40

4:13

10:14

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3:14

3:47

10:11

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3:10

3:43

10:09

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3:23

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10:00

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12:31

6:01

6:23

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12:37

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6:40

12:14

12:55

8:19

8:41

1:12

3:53

Begin Ebb

Begin Flood

8:28

8:55

1:47

2:19

9:46

10:13

3:12

3:44

9:38

10:05

2:57

3:29

8:53

9:20

2:27

2:59

8:28

8:55

2:02

2:34

Source: National Ocean Survey and Tidal Current Tables

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

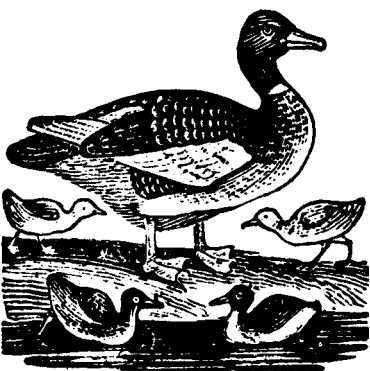
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All Outdoors

Tunnel Vision

by SUZAN BELLINCAMPI

With their temerity, tenacity and talent, it is hard not to root for voles.

Some gardeners might disagree, as these little looters do plenty of rooting around themselves, and have been known to damage garden plants, trees and orchards.

Eastern meadow voles are also called meadow mice and field mice but are not related to true mice. To the untrained eye, they may look superficially similar, but there are some distinct differences. Both are rodents, but they diverge from there into their own scientific families.

True mice are usually found indoors, and their bodies are slender with long tails to help them squeeze into small places. Voles are stockier, with shorter tails and prefer the outdoors. Large ears and eyes and angular snout are distinguishing characteristics of mice, while voles have a more circular snout and smaller ears.

Even with the garden grift, eastern meadow voles are easier to appreciate since they won't be knocking on your door or, more likely, sneaking into your house through the smallest opening.

Meadow voles, more formally *Microtus pennsylvanicus*, make a big impression in the Island's fields and wetlands. With tunnel vision, they excavate subterranean burrows and also create surface runways that provide cover from predators, nursery areas for breeding, and protection from the elements.

Vole runways appear as unvegetated (sometimes with grass woven over them) tracks that meander through fields or marshes. During the winter, and in places with snow cover, the voles thrive in the subnivean zone — above ground but below the snow. Their runways are not the emergent tunnels that you sink into when stepped on; those are the result of moles, animals that have little in common besides their rhyming name.

Though the home range of a single vole is less than an acre, the population density of these animals is striking. In an old field, 45 voles per acre is typical. This is a drop in the bucket, though, when you consider that peak density can be more than 500 hundred

animals per acre. And, unbelievably, in the most perfect places, like a northern prairie wetland, one study counted a groundbreaking 983 voles per acre.

Those numbers are possible not only because of fertile fields, but also because of fecund females. Meadow voles are bountiful breeders in their tunnels of love (sorry Bruce). Even with their short lifespan of a year (two months to two years is possible), they make the most of their time on (and in) the earth.

With a 21-day gestation, and immediate postpartum estrus, a female can produce many pups. She will start her reproductive life as early as three weeks old and then produce three to six (and up to 10) pups per pregnancy. Five to ten litters are possible with optimum conditions. Do the math and that is a lot of little ones. There is really no rest for the weary mama voles.

Most of those youngsters won't survive to adulthood. One study suggests that more than 80 per cent of those young will perish in their first 30 days of life. Baby voles can become food for predators including hawks, owls, mammals and snakes.

But while these creatures live their best buried lives, they do have some undesirable traits that even I can't abide. Give them their space, as they can carry bubonic plague, babesiosis, tularemia, and, of course, ticks that have Lyme and other issues.

So, while well grounded, the Eastern Meadow Vole leaves a trail of impressive and concerning traits. Either you dig 'em or you don't.

Suzan Bellincampi is director of the Felix Neck Wildlife Sanctuary in Edgartown, and author of Martha's Vineyard: A Field Guide to Island Nature and The Nature of Martha's Vineyard.



The vole.

Suzan Bellincampi

Bird News

Wild Windy Weather

By ROBERT CULBERT

It has been a slow week, with not a lot of migrating birds to report due to the incredibly windy weather. Nocturnal migrating birds elsewhere in New England were moving from the northeast to the southwest, and there is a lot of ocean and very little land to our northeast for the birds to come from. Note also that the birds that are here are harder to find because they stay deep within the vegetation.

Warbler migration in October illustrates the seasonal decline in numbers of warblers, although one species (the yellow-rumped warbler) became more abundant as the season progressed as it is a winter resident. From Sept. 27 to Oct. 3, 150 individuals of 26 species were reported.

American redstarts were most frequently observed with 24 individuals at 10 sites. Yellow-rumped warblers accounted for only seven individuals from three locations. From Oct. 4 to Oct. 10, we found 152 individuals of 17 species, with the most common species being yellow-rumped warblers with 102 individuals from at 20 sites.

There were 170 total individuals of 14 species spotted from Oct 11 to Oct. 17, with 145 individuals from 17 sites. The week of Oct. 18 to Oct. 24 produced only 33 individuals of four species. The most abundant species again was the yellow-rumped warbler with seven sightings totaling 28 individuals.

Here are the sightings for the week of Oct. 18 to Oct. 24: yellow-rumped warblers were observed seven times, from the Gay Head Cliffs (MV Bird Club, eight, Oct. 18 and Bob Shriber, four, Oct. 24), Tashmoo Springs (me, one, Oct. 21), Felix Neck (Alex Riina and Kelsey Harris, seven, Oct. 18), Eel Pond (Luanne Johnson, two, Oct. 18), Wilson's Landing (me, one, Oct. 21), and Black Point Pond (Bob Shriber, five, Oct. 18, where he also found two orange-crowned warblers that day). Cynthia Bloomquist and Thaw Malin watched two palm warblers at their West Tisbury home on Oct. 18, and Bob Shriber observed one blackpoll warbler in Aquinnah on Oct. 24.

Observations of two newly arrived diving ducks occurred this week. Alex Riina and Kelsey Harris spotted two buffleheads at Felix Neck on Oct. 18. Christopher Birch saw four at Farm Pond on Oct. 25, and Nancy Weaver found six greater scaup at Squibnocket Pond Reservation South on Oct. 19.

Our populations of overwintering waterfowl species are increasing. I counted 70 brant in Ocean Park on Oct. 22. Richard Goldenberg observed on Oct. 19 "crazy numbers of scoters off the coast of Chappaquiddick," estimated to be at least 1,000. Nancy Weaver watched



Lanny McDowell

Sanderlings.

eight American wigeon at Mud Creek on Oct. 23, and Bob Shriber had three red-breasted mergansers in Aquinnah on Oct. 24.

Also newly arriving is an American bittern observed by Bob Shriber at Black Point Pond on Oct. 18. And Polly Basset has been seeing a female white-winged crossbill at her Ocean Heights feeder in October, a seemingly remarkably early record for this eruptive winter finch that only ventures south when its food (seeds) are scarce in the northern forests of Canada. She photographed the female on Oct. 22 and has occasionally spotted the male.

Shorebird sightings are starting to look very winterish, although Luanne Johnson is the only one to find sanderlings as she spotted 50 sanderlings along with 68 black-bellied plovers, one greater yellowlegs and two dunlins on Norton Point on Oct. 18. That same day Kelsey Harris and Alex Riina found 29 black-bellied plovers, two greater yellowlegs and two dunlins on Norton Point.

Luanne Johnson observed four American oystercatchers, 23 black-bellied plovers and five ruddy turnstones at Eel Pond on Oct. 18. John Nelson watched three American oystercatchers at Eel Pond the next day, and Tracy Winn saw one American oystercatcher east of Lucy Vincent beach on Oct. 22.

I located two black-bellied plovers, six semipalmated plovers and one greater yellowlegs at Wilson's Landing on Oct. 21. Nancy Weaver counted 24 greater yellowlegs at Mud Creek on Oct. 23, and Bridget Dunnigan and Sea Williams observed one black-bellied plover at the Knapp Preserve on Oct. 24.

Killdeer were reported from three

locations on Oct. 18. Luanne Johnson spotted seven at Katama Farm and five others at Ocean Park, while Kelsey Harris and Alex Riina found one at Norton Point.

A couple of less-than-common songbirds were seen this week. On Oct. 18, Luanne Johnson found one warbling vireo at the pumping station and Bob Shriber had one red-breasted nuthatch near Black Point Pond. Nancy Weaver observed another at the Gay Head Cliffs on Oct. 23, as did Nancy Nordin in her West Tisbury yard on Oct. 24. The only ruby-crowned kinglet of the week was seen by Bob Shriber in Aquinnah on Oct. 24.

American pipits were observed five times this week. The MV Bird Club found two at the Aquinnah Circle on Oct. 18. John Nelson located a flock of 16 at Katama Farm on Oct. 19. Bob Shriber had three near Squibnocket Beach on Oct. 21. Nancy Weaver observed six at the Gay Head Cliffs on Oct. 23, and Nancy Nordin counted 44 at Katama Farm on Oct. 24.

Winter resident dark-eyed juncos are becoming more abundant. On Oct. 18, the MV Bird Club spotted two at the Gay Head Cliffs, both Sioux Eagle and Maggie Bresnehan saw one in their respective West Tisbury yards on Oct. 19, and Thaw Malin and Cynthia Bloomquist observed one at their West Tisbury home on both Oct. 19 and Oct. 22.

Please email your sightings to birds@vineyardgazette.com.

Robert Culbert is an ecological consultant living in Vineyard Haven.

The Vineyard Gardener



Cutting Back

By LYNNE IRONS

Sunday morning on a trip up-Island. I noticed the remains of the previous night's frost. It still clung to the shady areas of the open fields. Everywhere that the morning sun had hit looked like diamonds. Between that, the intense blue sky and the colorful leaves, it rarely gets better.

Oddly, in some of the gardens that took a hit, there were still blooming geraniums. I couldn't resist pulling them up, bringing them into the greenhouse, giving a fuss and potting them up to hopefully winter over for another year.

It looked like the New Guinea impatiens may have also been spared the cold. However, the deer had their way with them now that a month has gone by without weekly spraying of repellent.

Another frost fatality was the porcelain vine. I was surprised as it does seem to come back like crazy every spring. I wish I had more appreciation of weeds. They grow no matter what.

I neglected my hoop house all summer. It did not get planted or watered and yet weeds are so tall they reach the top. We're talking well over my head. It must have reached over 130 degrees in there.

I know some of the books say to leave the pruning of hydrangeas until early spring. I cannot bear looking at them so I sit on a bucket and cut them fairly aggressively. The PGs and Annabelles



Jeanna Shepard

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