We shall walk with a walk that is measured and slow, And watch where the chalk-white arrows go To the place where the sidewalk ends.
- Shel Silverstein

VINEYARD GAZETTE

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.

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.

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Ray Ewing

Heading to school, the Chappy way.

Investigation Continues Into SSA Hoax Threat

By BILL EVILLE

On April 8, the Steamship Authority did a safety exercise in Oak Bluffs, going through the steps to take if someone with a gun came on board a vessel or planted a bomb.

On Nov. 21, at the Woods Hole terminal, that scenario played out in real time after a threat was called in to the Falmouth police.

Later that evening it would be determined to be a "swatting" incident or hoax threat. But for several hours the threat of an armed man and a bomb planted on a vessel was very real and the terminal became the staging area for a massive police presence, with armed officers doing sweeps of the area, along with K9 bomb-sniffing dogs, drones and a helicopter on the scene.

"Live action is definitely different than exercise action, the anxiety builds, the nerves build. Everybody's a little bit more on," said SSA general manager Alex Kryska a few days after the incident. "You try to remain calm and try to keep the passengers and your crew in front of you. Just keep doing what you're supposed to do."

As events were unfolding the Falmouth police department would not comment on the situation at the time, saying the investigation was ongoing. But on Sunday morning the police department put out a statement, confirming the event was a swatting incident, where an individual makes a threating phone call as a hoax.

"Swatting is a form of criminal harassment that involves making false emergency reports in an attempt to deceive law enforcement into deploying an armed emergency response," the Falmouth police department post read.

In an interview Tuesday with the Falmouth police department, lieutenant Ryan Hergt said his department is heading up the ongoing investigation and is following several leads. He said the department is also working with the FBI on the case.

Lieutenant Hergt said that preparing for an incident such as Saturday's is a year-round and continuous process that happens in collaboration with the U.S. Coast Guard, the FBI, the Cape Cod Law Enforcement Council and state police, all of which have provided support.

"We had relationships established and we had all the resources that we needed to ensure the safety of everyone down in Woods Hole that day," he said.

"We don't want residents to be fearful. We want them to be prepared for these kinds of incidents, and we want them to be vigilant..."

The call came into the Falmouth police department in the late afternoon on Saturday and officials at the Steamship Authority were notified, along with numerous jurisdictions on the mainland.

"Essentially what happened was Falmouth PD got a call around 4:30 or so," Mr. Kryska said. "I think the actual time was 4:33, from what I saw, and they got a call saying somebody was saying they had a gun. They're dressed in black. They're going to come down and shoot the place up. Falmouth police came down and responded to the events. They subsequently got an additional call. I'm not sure what time the second call came in, saying that there were bombs on the buses, and apparently they were watching us from one of the public video streams."

With the investigation underway,

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Oak Bluffs to Hold Special Town Meeting

By EMMA KILBRIDE

On Tuesday, Dec. 1, Oak Bluffs voters will convene at the regional high school's performing arts center for a special town meeting, where a new short-term rental bylaw will be up for consideration.

Headlining the 12-item warrant is a bylaw seeking to codify the short-term vacation rentals on platforms such as Airbnb and Vrbo while allowing the town to keep tabs on the properties being rented in town.

The bylaw says Oak Bluffs will maintain a public registry of all licensed short-term rentals in town and report annually on registration numbers and tax revenue collected. Other provisions include a maximum overnight occupancy, a ban on renting multiple rooms in a house on a short-term basis unless the owner is present, and a way for the town to address health and safety violations at rentals.

Additionally, the bylaw defines "owner" in a way designed to block corporations from buying up properties to rent them and limits rental occupancy to two people per bedroom, plus two additional people.

The select board assembled a short-term rental subcommittee to hammer

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Giving Back, One Delicious Turkey Meal at a Time

By LILY ECHEVERRIA

On Saturday morning, a line quickly formed outside Vineyard Caribbean Cuisine in Oak Bluffs, where chef and owner Newton Waite was handing out free Thanksgiving dinners.

Just a couple hours into the day, Mr. Waite and his team had already distributed over 160 meals.

The annual Thanksgiving giveaway is part of a nearly decade-long tradition at the restaurant. Mr. Waite opened Vineyard Caribbean Cuisine in 2017, and the free dinners began in 2018.

All the costs are covered solely by Mr. Waite and his family.

"The community has been so good to me, and I wanted to give back," Mr. Waite said.

Last year, Mr. Waite was detained

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Sydney Goldstein

Newton Waite, outside his Vineyard Caribbean Cuisine restaurant.



Ray Ewing

Joe Capece is leading the way with his company Home Ground.

Deer Processing Facility Opens

By EMMA KILBRIDE

A state-of-the-art venison butchering operation set up shop this week, located next to a solar panel field on the Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society grounds.

Inside three unassuming white trailers, the complete choreography of turning a deer into food — bleeding, skinning, separating meat from tendon and bone — can now take place on the Island on a scale larger than ever before.

The new facility is the result of nearly a year of planning by Tick Free MV, the Island nonprofit aiming to solve the Island's tick problem by reducing the population of deer, ticks' main reproductive hosts.

The nonprofit announced in September that it had raised $1.5 million from donors for the temporary facility, with the hope that it will incentivize hunting. It also enables Islanders to make use of deer damage permits, which allow for agricultural land owners to have hunters kill deer as pests on their property.

"We wanted to move quickly to change the dynamic of what was going on, so that we could make an impact on the tick crisis," Tick Free MV executive director Virginia Barbatti said. "It became clear pretty quickly once we started the organization that investment in a facility like this was going to be necessary."

The trailers are manufactured by Friesla, a Washington-based supplier of mobile meat processing units. Tick Free MV commissioned the trailers, which are customized for deer, before transferring ownership to the Agricultural Society.

"We want to set the best example, and I think we're really far on our way to doing that," said Agricultural Society executive director Lauren Lynch.

At the helm is Joe Capece, a carpenter by trade who has been hunting for almost 20 years. Tick Free MV has contracted his new company, Home Ground, to run the facility daily. He has already hired several part-time butchers and hopes to add more to his roster.

"We're just in the process of getting this off the ground," Mr. Capece said.

As of Friday, 40 deer were already stored in a refrigerated trailer, each

To Page Seven

Developer Gets Boost by State Committee

By LOUISA HUFSTADER

The Massachusetts Housing Appeals Committee issued a pair of decisions last week upholding developer William Cumming's position that the Martha's Vineyard Commission does not have the authority to review his proposed mixed-income housing projects.

One of the Nov. 20 decisions orders the Edgartown zoning board of appeals to grant a comprehensive building permit for Edgartown Gardens, a 55-unit condominium complex on Upper Main street that was denied by the Martha's Vineyard Commission in 2025.

The other decision exempts Mr. Cumming's 116-condominium Green Villa in Oak Bluffs — the Island's largest housing project in decades — from any post-approval review by the commission, which voted 6-5-1 in its favor April 30.

If the ruling is upheld it could have far-reaching effects for the Island, effectively removing the Island's regional decision-making body from weighing in on developments with affordable housing.

The Martha's Vineyard Commission has until Dec. 20 to challenge the decisions, a foregone conclusion in its ongoing legal conflict with the developer.

"We see no merit in their decision and will continue to seek an unbiased decision from the superior court. In the meantime we will proceed as we have for 50 years, consistent with the actual statute," executive director Adam Turner told the Gazette by email, citing the 1974 state legislation that authorized the Martha's Vineyard Commission as a regional planning body.

"We look forward to a resolution of these cases. We are confident we will prevail as we have previously over the last half century," Mr. Turner wrote.

In April, the housing appeals committee first decided that the commission is a local board under Chapter 40B, and that

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Proposed Pond Walkway Gets Pushback

By LILY ECHEVERRIA

A homeowner's association in Chilmark is pitching a controversial idea to build a walkway over Chilmark Pond that would allow the residents to cross over to the nearby barrier beach.

The Abel's Hill Association is asking the town's conservation commission for its permission to construct a temporary 150-foot long, four-foot wide walkway near the parking lot at the end of South Abel's Hill Road that would then cross along the western edge of the lower portion of the pond.

The homeowners are pursuing the project as a way for residents to avoid wading through the pond, which has potentially dangerous cyanobacteria blooms in the warmer months.

"When the pond is full, it is relatively deep...as well as there [being] questions and concerns about some of the bacteria levels and some of the ailments that come from them over the years," Reid Silva, an engineer for the association told the commission at a Nov. 5 meeting. "There's definitely rising concern in the association."

Mr. Silva said the Abel's Hill Association approached him a couple years ago about an elevated seasonal walkway to be set in the spring and pulled out in the fall.

"The idea was to have a walkway that resembled something of a rustic Chilmark walking bridge, similar to the one at Quansoo," Mr. Silva said. "If we could replicate Quansoo, that would be great, but the problem here is that this is a much wider water body than Quansoo."

Mr. Silva shared that the bridge would be four feet above water level, with pipes driven 12 to 18 feet into the pond bottom. Small watercrafts would still be able to go below the bridge, according to the application.

The proposal has drawn objections from neighbors and raised concerns with some conservation commission members.

"It's shocking to me that we would even consider sullying this beautiful pond in this way," said Matthew Kaplan, who said he has been going to the pond for decades.

Mr. Silva argued that the current practice of walking across the pond floor was more detrimental to the environment than the proposed elevated walkway.

"Environmentally, I would argue that the amount of disturbance to the bottom of the pond is much greater by walking and dragging boats in and out through the creek," Mr. Silva said. "The amount of disturbance that's involved with the current access is much greater than that of an elevated walkway...so I think, ultimately, it's an environmental benefit."

Despite the assurances from Mr. Silva, members of the public were ardent in their disapproval.

"I should mention we have letters from some of the owners opposing this project. So I think this is a controversial project," said Sarah Khedouri, a member of the conservation commission.

One such letter was from sisters Joan Safford and Margaret B. Robinson, who have spent time on Chilmark Pond since 1947. The pair took issue with the proposal's disregard for a long-term solution.

"The degradation of Chilmark Pond is the urgent issue that needs to be addressed by the [Abel's Hill Association] membership and others with a stake in the pond's health. Any bridging of Doctor's Creek, and, particularly, the proposed aluminum and modular walkway, intended only for AHA members' use, is not a long-term solution," they wrote in a letter to the conservation commission.

Resident Heather Norton called on the conservation commission to consult with local environmental groups, such as the Martha's Vineyard Shellfish Group and the Great Pond Foundation, about the idea.

"I believe these organizations could best answer if the ponds and the wildlife that live in and around them are beyond repair, and worth less than our human obsession to destroy the very resources we cherish," she wrote in her letter.

Patty Sacks, an Abel's Hill resident in support of the project, wrote a letter defending the proposal's ability to hypothetically increase accessibility to the beach.

"My husband is immunosuppressed and I have an autoimmune illness. We are unable to enjoy our beach and cross the pond for much of the summer," she wrote in a letter to the commission. "This bridge, if feasible, is temporary and a perfect solution for passage to the beach during the months when the pond is compromised. It will allow elderly, those of compromised health, pets and loved ones access and endless enjoyment. It is a responsive solution to irreversible changes."

The bridge would cross the pond from an undivided property — a form of co-ownership in which all owners share rights to own and use the entire land, rather than physically dividing it — in order to cross over to the beach.

Matthew Kaplan's brother Ben Kaplan spoke at the meeting on behalf of a disapproving owner from the property.

"I am a representative for one of the owners of that undivided property, and we've sent in a letter objecting to this project," he said. "I don't know how this can even be presented to this commission without the unanimous consent of the owners of the property, and you're not going to get that unanimous consent, I can promise you that."

Even if the commission approved the project, the association has not made a final decision on whether it would move forward with construction, according to a Oct. 20 letter from Abel's Hill Association president Barbara Pahl.

Ms. Pahl told the commission that the association board supported submitting the application to help determine the feasbility of the project, but has not taken a position on the merits of the overpass.

The members of the association have also not taken a position, though shareholders agreed to allow member Alex Finklestein to explore securing permits.

"Once permits have been secured, project approval will require consent of a majority of shareholders in a vote taken at the annual meeting or at a special meeting of shareholders called for this purpose," Ms. Pahl wrote.

The conservation commission held a second hearing on the project last week, where the idea was met with more opposition. Mr. Silva continued defending the project, and clarified his position on it.

"We're not saying it's necessary. We're not saying it's needed. We're not saying it's going to save the pond. What we're saying is: is it an improvement over the existing environmental situation?" Mr. Silva said.

The commission plans to continue reviewing the project on Jan. 21.



Ray Ewing

Ryan Bottary filed a lawsuit against the town last week.

Former Deputy Harbor Master For Edgartown Sues Town

By ETHAN GENTER

The former deputy harbor master in Edgartown is suing the town and the town administrator over claims that he was fired in retaliation for reporting allegations of sexual harassment to the human resources department.

Ryan Bottary filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Boston last Monday and alleged that he was overlooked for the top harbor master role and eventually fired because he addressed the reported harassment claims with the harbor department.

Mr. Bottary is seeking damages from the town, and his lawyer in a statement said Mr. Bottary wants to restore his reputation.

"Ryan is a young man with a bright career ahead of him," attorney Thomas Orr wrote to the Gazette. "He has been and remains committed to public service. This Complaint is meant to protect and restore his well-earned professional and personal reputation. He looks forward to the truth coming out through this case."

Mr. Bottary began working for the town in 2021, holding positions with the fire department, harbor master's office and the emergency management department over the ensuing five years.

When he was hired in 2024 as the deputy harbor master, he already held a position at Oldport Marine Services, which operates a launch service in Edgartown harbor.

According to the lawsuit, Mr. Bottary asked then harbor master Charlie Blair if it was okay if he continued to work both jobs.

"Mr. Blair unequivocally stated that the Oldport employment would not be a problem," Mr. Orr wrote in the 13-page complaint.

In the ensuing months, Mr. Bottary claimed that there was a culture in the harbor department that discouraged bringing up workplace misconduct with the town's human resources department. In the suit, he alleged that there were instances of inappropriate and unprofessional conduct, including sexually charged comments and behavior.

In one instance, Mr. Bottary claimed that in 2024 there was a sexually explicit sticker on the harbor master boat that read "we know how to suck it." The lawsuit claims that the sticker was brought to Mr. Blair's attention, but was never formally reported to HR nor investigated.

In the lawsuit, Mr. Bottary also claimed that two female seasonal employees in the harbor department came to him to report multiple instances of sexual harassment. The suit doesn't state what the harassment was, but noted that Mr. Bottary told the employees that he could either report the incidents, or the employees could bring it directly to HR.

The employees elected to do the latter, and submitted the complaints to the town in September 2024.

The town's HR director subsequently reached out to Mr. Bottary to talk about the claims and he gave an interview. Mr. Bottary was not implicated in the underlying conduct or given any findings about if the town investigated the issue, according to the lawsuit.

In December of 2024, Mr. Bottary was taken off his probationary period as deputy harbor master and in early 2025 he submitted an application for the harbor master position after Mr. Blair announced his plan to retire.

Mr. Bottary claimed that Mr. Blair told him at the time that he would not be selected for the position "because of that complaint you filed...," the lawsuit states.

Mr. Blair did not return a call by the Gazette for comment.

The town eventually picked Gary Kovack for the job and Mr. Bottary did not make it to the final round of interviews for the role.

Mr. Bottary's lawsuit claims that the town started to look into his dual employment, with both the town and Oldport, in 2025 after boater Paul Mellen filed a lawsuit against the town seeking millions in damages over allegations that Mr. Bottary banned him from using the Oldport water taxi while also holding the deputy harbor master job.

Mr. Mellen, who is known around the harbor for the large inflatable flamingo that sits atop his boat, said that one of the launch captains at Oldport pushed him into the harbor. When Oldport later hired the employee back, Mr. Mellen complained, and then alleged he was banned from using the services.

Mr. Mellen contended that one of the Oldport captains said that Mr. Bottary, while on duty as deputy harbor master, instructed the captain to deny Mr. Mellen service.

The town settled that lawsuit earlier this year for $10,000, paid for by the town's insurer, according to Cole Fahrenkopf, the special counsel for the town. The settlement did not include any admission of wrongdoing or liability on the part of the town, according to Mr. Fahrenkopf.

According to Mr. Bottary's lawsuit, the town used Mr. Mellen's complaint as a pretext to retaliate against him with "baseless" conflict of interest claims "when the true motivating factor was his mandatory reporting of the September 2024 Incident and the Town's lingering anger about it."

Mr. Bottary said that his employment was always known by the town and had been disclosed several times. The town eventually gave him a "last chance agreement" and Mr. Bottary claimed that town administrator James Hagerty directly raised the harrassment reporting during a meeting about Mr. Mellen's allegations.

Mr. Bottary refused to sign the agreement and was subsequently fired, according to the lawsuit.

Mr. Hagerty referred questions about the suit to the town's attorney, Mr. Fahrenkopf. Mr. Fahrenkopf declined to comment.

"We cannot comment on active litigation, but we are addressing the matter through the appropriate legal channels," he wrote to the Gazette.

An initial hearing on the case has not been scheduled.

Fall Equals Peak Time for Island Real Estate Transactions

By EMMA KILBRIDE

While summer is the busiest time for many industries on Martha's Vineyard, fall is the hottest time for real estate closings.

The months of September, October and November together tend to yield a disproportionate share of Islandwide real estate closings, with October a particularly significant month for activity. According to data from real estate database LINK, roughly a third of this year's closings have taken place in September and October alone, representing more than $287 million in dollar volume. November data has yet to be released.

A similar trend took place in both 2024 and 2025, during which over 34 per cent of closings took place in September, October or November, per LINK. Nearly $357 million in property moved during these three months in 2025, and roughly $297 million moved during this period in 2024.

"In over 40 years, I would say over 80 per cent of my sales are done in the fall," said Julie Flanders, principal broker of Flanders Up-Island Real Estate.

Experts who spoke with the Gazette said it's a trend attributable to how buyer behavior is influenced by the flow of Island tourist activity. Many prospective buyers visit during the summer, find a property they're interested in, and make a decision at summer's end.

"We see that spike because of the timing of when people are actually making a decision about buying a home, and it's usually the end of the summer," said realtor Pauline Donnelly, principal broker at Donnelly + Co.

LINK president Deb Taylor called this trend "evergreen" and said it applies to a lot of summer resort communities, including Nantucket.

On the seller side, she said there's often a "one more summer" mentality, either because the owners want to rent their property out or stay in it themselves before they sell in a given year. And even if a property goes under agreement during the summer, the owner may not want to close until peak season ends, especially if they have tenants.

"If a seller is trying to realize income, more than likely they're going to push through the summer, realize that rental revenue, and then sell in the fall," she said.

October, in particular, stands out as consistently being the biggest month for closings.

Almost 18 per cent of all closings to date this year took place in October, per LINK, representing nearly $156 million in volume. In 2025, that number was nearly 14 per cent, and in 2024 it was nearly 16 per cent.

Why October and not September or November? Ms. Taylor explained that September is too close to peak summer to be a feasible time to close for many sellers, while November marks the busy start of the holiday season.

"People are still in those homes in September. It's one of the nicest months on the Vineyard," she said. "And then November, December, we get into the holidays, so not a great time to close and move."

LINK data shows that fall was noticeably less prominent for closings during the years directly following the Covid pandemic. In 2021, 29.5 per cent of closings took place in September, October or November; the same was true in both 2022 and 2023, with about 27 per cent of sales taking place during that period. But in 2020, the peak pandemic year, the trend was as bold as it has been in recent years, with 41 per cent of sales closing in fall.

Ms. Taylor attributed these irregularities to the pandemic's disruption of the Island's seasonal rhythm.

"[It's] 100 per cent Covid related..." Ms. Taylor said. "People weren't traveling. Everyone was on lockdown."

Ms. Flanders agreed that fall closings are often attributable to people touring properties while they're here in the summer and coming back to buy in the fall. But she also noted that some of those October closings are on properties that went under contract as far back as spring.

"Some people take a long time to close and other people [close] really quick," she said.

Not all real estate firms experience the seasons in the same way. Ms. Donnelly said her firm's busiest month for closings is June. But still, she said summer is often the time visitors fall in love with the Island and have the opportunity to tour properties, leading to the fall boom.

"[For] people who are going to be spending their summers on the Island, it makes sense that that's when they're making the decision, because that's when they're on the Island," Ms. Donnelly said. "That's when they're thinking, 'Oh, we love it here so much. We want to buy something.'"

Schools Choose Interim Business Administrator

By LOUISA HUFSTADER

Veteran school and town business administrator Amelia (Amy) Tierney has agreed to rejoin Martha's Vineyard Public Schools as interim business manager, subject to a successful contract negotiation with superintendent Jaime Curley.

Ms. Tierney previously served as the school system's business manager for nearly 18 years, before leaving in 2020 to become town accountant for Edgartown. She retired from that position in 2025.

Mark Friedman, who followed Ms. Tierney as business manager for the school system, is leaving the Island next month for a job with a mainland school district.

On Thursday night, Ms. Curley received the all-Island school committee's unanimous approval to enter contract talks with Ms. Tierney.

Ms. Tierney also spoke at the online committee meeting, telling members she looks forward to working with the new staff at her old workplace in Vineyard Haven.

"I was in the office today and got a lot of good feelings and a lot of good feedback from the staff, so I'm excited to be joining you all and be back again," she said.

Martha's Vineyard Public Schools is one of the state's 20 superintendency unions, in which two or more school districts share a superintendent and central office staff.

The Vineyard superintendent's office provides administrative, educational and therapeutic support to the five town schools and Martha's Vineyard Regional High School.

The business manager is responsible for budgeting, grants management, procurement and reporting to the state education department, among other duties.

Tribal Elections Back Slate Of Incumbents

By CHARLES LEITNER

Elections for the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) concluded with multiple incumbents returning to their positions on the tribal council.

The elections were held on Nov. 15 and saw 291 registered voters.

Alvin Clark Jr. will continue as vice chair, defeating by two votes (145-143) Cheryl Andrews-Maltais, who served as the tribe's chair before she was defeated by Kevin Devine in November of last year.

Both NaDaizja Aiguier-Bolling and Steven Craddock were voted into at-large council positions, earning 149 and 142 votes, respectively. Ms. Aiguier-Bolling will be filling the position for three years, while Mr. Craddock will assume a one-year position that was vacated when Mr. Devine took up duties as the tribal chair in January.

Durwood Vanderhoop, who is currently serving as the tribe's treasurer, retained his position with 225 votes.

A proposed amendment on election ordinance did not pass after failing to receive a three fourths majority. The amendment saw 145 votes in favor and 121 against, said F. Ryan Malonson, Chief of the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah).

Tribal council members will be sworn in on the first Saturday in January.

"In January, they'll be sworn in and everybody will do their terms of this election," said Mr. Malonson.

M/V Woods Hole Ferry Runs Aground

By EMMA KILBRIDE

The M/V Woods Hole ferry is out of commission after running aground in Hyannis Monday.

During its 1:45 p.m. run on the Nantucket route, the ferry damaged its hull coming into port and will need to be repaired. No one was hurt during the incident, and the Steamship Authority does not expect scheduled service to be disrupted during the Thanksgiving holiday.

"A thorough investigation is underway to assess damage to the vessel and determine the cause of the incident," said a spokesperson for the Steamship Authority. "The vessel, once cleared by the Coast Guard, will go to the Authority's Fairhaven maintenance facility, and likely to a repair yard after the holiday."

In the meantime, the M/V Monomoy is set to take the M/V Woods Hole's place on the Nantucket route, and the M/V Sankaty will fill the gap left by the M/V Monomoy.

Land Bank Revenues

The Martha's Vineyard Land Bank reported revenues of $341,650 for the business week ending on Friday, Nov. 20, 2026. The land bank receives its funds from a two per cent fee charged on many Vineyard real estate transactions.

Much of the land bank revenue last week came from the town of Edgartown, where two transactions resulted in $117,000. Four transactions in Oak Bluffs earned $96,100 and two transactions in West Tisbury resulted in $78,500. Two transactions in Tisbury earned $49,300 and one transaction in Chilmark resulted in $750. No eligible transactions were recorded in Aquinnah.

The land bank uses its revenues to purchase and manage land for purposes of conservation, preservation and passive recreation.

West Tisbury Approves New Residential Tax Exemption

By LILY ECHEVERRIA

After some debate, the West Tisbury select board approved a 35 per cent residential exemption tax last week, up from last year's 30 per cent tax exemption. The measure comes after a recommendation from the board of assessors.

"After reviewing the forecast, and considering the 20 per cent property tax levy increase, we have determined that an exemption of at least 35 per cent is warranted," the board of assessors wrote in a letter to the select board.

The increase makes West Tisbury's exemption the highest of all the Vineyard towns, with Tisbury following at 22 per cent.

The exemption allows full-time residents of West Tisbury to pay a reduced property tax bill.

Board chair Cynthia Mitchell and board member Jessica Miller said they were inclined to support the measure; vice chair Skipper Manter disagreed.

"There seems to be a great unfairness about this," Mr. Manter said, advocating for summer residents who have deep roots on the Vineyard.

"Some of them have lived here for generations. They didn't buy million dollar homes, they didn't tear down a home and build a mansion for millions of dollars, and they do a lot. They volunteer a lot of time in the summertime for a lot of our nonprofit organizations, they make great donations...we appreciate them, and they're part of our community here," Mr. Manter said.

Ms. Miller said she understood Mr. Manter's point, but wanted to prioritize the issues of year-round Islanders in this decision.

"I know that for people who are deriving their incomes on this Island from the economy on this Island, the cost of living and the taxes are breaking them, and I don't like watching people leave because they can't afford to be here," she said.

In the end the board unanimously approved the tax exemption.

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Ray Ewing

Heading out from Edgartown harbor.

Bay Scallop Season Off to a Good Start

By CHARLES LEITNER

Bay scallop season is underway on the Vineyard and scallopers down-Island have been experiencing positive results.

The commercial season in Edgarotwn began on Oct. 26 and during the first week of the season, Rob Morrison, the shellfish constable in Edgartown, saw fishermen returning to the harbor as early as 10:30 a.m. after a successful harvest.

"We're off to a good start, and the fishermen are getting a good price per pound," he said. "I've seen better and I've seen worse. This year it's somewhere kind of right in the middle."

Vineyard Haven has also reported good yields.

"It's been a strong season so far," said Mike Holtham, the general manager at The Net Result in Vineyard Haven. "Prices are strong, so the fishermen are happy."

According to Danielle Ewart, the Vineyard Haven shellfish constable, scallopers working the waters in Vineyard Haven brought in over 380 bushels since the season first opened there on Oct. 31.

"They are pretty happy about it," said Ms. Ewart. "There's a lot of seed out there and where the adults are, they're a good size."

The results have been mixed, however, up-Island.

According to Chilmark shellfish constable Isaiah Scheffer this year looks like a rebuilding one.

"As of October 1st, that's when the state opens the season and that's when people are able to go harvest, there really wasn't that much seed out there from last year," said Mr. Scheffer. "We got a little bit of seed this year for next year, but I don't count my chickens before they hatch."

In Aquinnah, the select board recently decided to halt commercial scalloping after a recommendation was put forth during a meeting last week. The recommendation was prompted after a group accompanied Issac Taylor, the town's shellfish constable, on a boat tour of Menemsha pond.

"I'm hoping that nature will actually help me make my point and make it so I don't have to fight to keep the commercial season closed," said Mr. Taylor.

Previously, Mr. Taylor conducted a survey of the pond and towed experimental drags to estimate what the yield might be. What he found was encouraging: an abundance of silver dollar sized seed, more than he had ever seen before. This, however, was tied to a limited number of adults.

"Basically, what will happen is that if we're lucky, a large percentage of the seed that we have grown that's out there now will live to a year and become mature enough to spawn," said Mr. Taylor. "That's really the goal."

A successful bay scallop season depends on a variety of factors.

"Environments where there's low development and clean water are really the most important thing," said Arno Ewing, a commercial scalloper on the Island.



Sydney Goldstein

The prize.

"Bay scallops seem to just fluctuate a lot," Mr. Ewing continued. "But it usually starts out at a pretty good price and then starts dropping off after the first couple weeks, and then maybe comes up a little bit around Thanksgiving and Christmas. Then after New Year's the price usually gets a lot lower, not always but often."

Currently, bay scallops are on sale by the pound at Edgartown Seafood for $41.99, at the Fish House for $44.99 and at the Net Result for $45.

The bay scallop season is expected to last through the end of March.

"I encourage people to buy local and get out there and buy some bay scallops in the local market if they see them," said Mr. Morrison. "They're not the cheapest seafood around, but they're a nice treat, and they're only available seasonally, so people should try them and treat themselves around the holidays. Support our fishermen."



Sydney Goldstein

All in a day's work.

Holiday Markets Offer Unique Handmade Gifts

By LILY ECHEVERRIA

In the aisles of the Capawock Theatre, visitors can now find beads from Kenya, hand cut and chiseled metal art from Haiti, pouches and purses from Nepal and other treasures from all around the world.

The annual World Holiday Market has become a staple this time of year, along with several other markets around the Island offering both international and local crafts for the giving season.

The World Holiday Market first opened in the Capawock Theatre in 2020. Its organizers collaborate with artisans around the world to bring unique, fair-trade crafts to the Vineyard.

"Most people walk in because they're curious about what's here," co-organizer Judith Lane said. "There's so much beautiful stuff to look at. Locals look forward to it every year, and they express it."

Ms. Lane works in Tanzania with the nonprofit she started called Maasai Partners. She collaborates with local leaders in Northern Tanzania to support healthcare, education and financial independence for artisans in the region by purchasing wholesale, fair-trade items directly from the artisans themselves.

"Just buying a little of this and that doesn't have as much of an impact as wholesale," she said.

In addition to supporting the artists by purchasing their goods, all the profits Ms. Lane earns go directly to her nonprofit.

"It's like a double good," co-organizer Carolyn Stoeber said of Ms. Lane's efforts.

Ms. Stoeber works with a nonprofit in Haiti to bring artists' work to the Vineyard.

"Since we can't visit Haiti right now, we do our best to connect the artists with markets here," she said. "It's important for them to have an outlet for their work."

Linda Cohen, founder and volunteer director of Olive Branch down the street in Vineyard Haven, was one of the original organizers of the World Market. Now that Olive Branch has opened its storefront, Ms. Cohen has stepped back from organizing but still has a table open in the theatre.

"I'm sending people there, and they're sending people here, and we also want to send people across the street to Rinpo, to the Tibetan store," Ms. Cohen said. "We have a nice little international center right here in Vineyard Haven, and we're all enthusiastically supporting each other."

Ms. Stoeber said there will be a refresh of holiday-themed goods after Thanksgiving. The only day the market is closed is Thanksgiving Day, otherwise running from Veterans Day to Christmas Eve.

Vineyarder Jesse Chase was roaming the aisles over the weekend, doing some holiday shopping. She said she likes buying from the market because of the organizations it supports, as well as the large selection of felt ornaments.

"I like where the money goes to," she said. "My nephew just broke a glass ornament on the Christmas tree, so I came to get him another one."

Featherstone Center for the Arts opened its annual holiday market on Nov. 7. One of the organization's top priorities, much like World Holiday Market, is supporting artists, in this case local ones. Half of the commission from each sale goes to Featherstone in order to continue its work, and half goes straight to the artist.

"The split commission creates this really wonderful symbiotic relationship," said Sarah Beth Belanger, operations manager at Featherstone. "It's great to work with artists so they have what they need and are supported."

This is Featherstone's 24th year running its annual holiday market. Belanger said opening day was the busiest day the organization has ever seen.

"It was fun watching people walk into the lobby, turn into the gallery and go, 'Oh my gosh, there's so much!'" Belanger said.

This year, there are over 120 participating artists, who have made everything from knitwear to jewelry to prints, books and pottery.



World Holiday Market at the Capawock.



Pictures by Ray Ewing

Featherstone's holiday market has been a tradition for 24 years.

"Lots of people come in just to look, but end up buying gifts for their loved ones, or sometimes just themselves," Belanger said. "Those count as gifts, too."

Featherstone's holiday market is open from noon to 4 p.m. every day except for Thanksgiving.

The annual Vineyard Artisans Thanksgiving market takes place this weekend on Friday Nov. 27 and Saturday Nov. 28 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Agricultural Hall in West Tisbury.

This market boasts one-of-a-kind handmade sweaters, soaps and fine crafts including leather and vintage material bags, wood butcher block cutting boards and more.

Another holiday market that has yet to open is the Aquinnah Artisans Festival, which takes place on Saturday Dec. 5 and Sunday Dec 6 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Aquinnah Town Hall.

The festival was originally organized nearly a decade ago by Gabriella Camilleri who died last year.

"This was her baby. She really volunteered to get the effort started, and sometimes was able to pull in some grant money to support the coordinating," said NaDaizja Bolling, the executive director of the Aquinnah Cultural Center. "Last year was the first one that we had to do without her."

Ms. Bolling said last year, volunteers stepped up with her to carry on Ms. Camilleri's efforts.

"This year, Kathy Olson and myself have really taken on the coordination," she said. "[The Aquinnah Cultural Center] is trying to make good use of our platform and the audience that we have to bring in support for all of the artists, many of whom are tribal members...It's a really good town-wide event."

Nearly everything at the festival is hand made, with items like crocheted snowflakes, photography prints, jewelry, featherwork, postcards and pottery.

"In the winter time, there are not too many opportunities in Aquinnah where lots of people come out and you get to see a lot of faces," Ms. Bolling said. "That's my favorite, just seeing everyone together, and also knowing that artists are being supported."

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Philip Mercier

Philip Mercier Was A Beloved Islander

Philip Mercier died unexpectedly on Thursday, Nov. 19, at Martha's Vineyard Hospital. He was 62.

Born on May 28, 1964 to Herbert and Claire Mercier of Edgartown, he was a devoted husband to Susan and proud father of Carol, Emily and Celia.

From a young age, Philip had a love for all things sports, playing a variety of them at what was then the Edgartown Boys Club. In high school, he was on the soccer, basketball and baseball teams, but traded in his sneakers for skates his senior year when the Island established its first high school club hockey team, where he served as captain.

His summertime job in high school and college was at the Harbor View Hotel in Edgartown, which is where he met his future wife, Susan Diack. The pair wed on Sept. 13, 1986, and spent their early years as a married couple in Somerville, before "temporarily" moving to the Island in 1989 when they were expecting their first daughter. This past fall they celebrated their 40th anniversary at the same hotel they visited on their honeymoon.

Philip and his father built the house that he and Susan joyfully raised their three daughters in on Huckleberry Hill Lane in Edgartown. He passed down to them his love of music and sports (coaching them in soccer, softball and hockey throughout their youth) as well as his competitive nature. In high school, Carol and Celia played on the varsity hockey team, and Emily was a Minnesinger.

During the Boston Red Sox or Bruins seasons, it was guaranteed that Philip would be watching a game at home or, better yet, watching at the Garden or Fenway. And he was never one to shy away from an invite to a concert, often seeing Elvis Costello, The Specials, The Kooks and The Mighty Mighty BossToneS to name a few.

He was "outnumbered by girls," as the family lovingly joked, which extended to his granddaughters Claire, Maisie, Luna and Willow. As a devoted grandfather, he transformed his basement man cave into "pirate island," a playroom where he would spend countless hours creating intricate games with his granddaughters, many of which led to private inside jokes between them.

Philip spent many years in banking, first at Edgartown National and then Martha's Vineyard Bank. After work, he could be found doing one of his many hobbies: lovingly tending to his lawn, learning to play guitar, fixing something around the house, playing a round of golf with friends at Vineyard Golf Club, competing in the adult hockey pick-up league alongside his nephews or volunteering at various Island nonprofits, including Big Brothers Big Sisters. He also served on the boards of the MV Ice Arena, MV Builders Association and, most recently, the MV Film Society.

Philip will be remembered by his loved ones as the king of catching the ferry at the last minute ("It's 12 minutes to the boat!"), his love of crossword puzzles, watching Survivor and spoiling his dogs Ned and Lottie.

He is survived by his wife Susan; his daughters Carol, Emily and her husband Sean, Celia and her husband Christian; his granddaughters Claire, Maisie, Luna and Willow; his siblings Jeanne, Randy and his wife Kathy, Paul and his wife Lisa, Peter, Patricia, Patrick and his wife Christine, Paulee and her husband Doug; and his many nieces and nephews, including Nicole, Justin, Christopher, Nicholas, Matthew and Joseph, who he watched grow up on Huckleberry Hill.

Visiting hours will be held at the Chapman Funeral Home in Oak Bluffs on Monday, Nov. 30 from 5 to 7 p.m. A funeral mass will be held at St. Elizabeth's Church in Edgartown on Tuesday, Dec. 1 at 10 a.m. followed by a private graveside service. The family invites everyone to a reception at the Edgartown Yacht Club following the mass.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Philip's memory to Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Cape and Islands.



Debra Bessette

Debra Besette Found Peace on the Vineyard

Debra (Debby) Noble Bessette died on Nov. 17, surrounded by family. She was 90.

Debby was born in Pittsfield on July 29, 1936 to George and Justine Madden Noble. She spent her childhood on the family farm and most of her adult life in the Berkshires.

Each summer was spent on Martha's Vineyard with family, dreaming of the day when she could finally make such a special place her home. While raising five children, she worked at Berkshire Medical Center. As her extended family grew, Debby made it a point to coordinate summer vacations on the Vineyard where her children and grandchildren could be together and grow to love the place she held so dear.

After retiring, she ultimately decided to make Martha's Vineyard her full-time home and found peace among the beach plums, blue sea glass and distant sounds of ferry horns. She found community within the Tisbury Center on Aging and Grace Church; some of her proudest moments include helping to serve the Island's best lobster rolls each year alongside her friends.

In 2024, she made the decision to move to Florida to live out the rest of her days closer to family.

She is survived by her five children, Lori (Charles) Sears, Timothy Herrick, Debra Gillette, Heidi (Paul) Scarinzi, and J. Mitchell (Michelle) Herrick; seven grandchildren, Matthew (Megan) Sears, Justin (Kerri) Sears, Evan Herrick, Megan (Brock) Anello, Sarah (Daniel) Lehnert, Kileen (Sai) Kakumanu, and Ryann Scarinzi; and many great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews whom she loved and adored. She is also survived by her siblings, J. Brenda Crea and George (Kathleen) Noble Jr.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Island Grown Initiative: P.O. Box 622, Vineyard Haven, MA 02568.

"I want to age like sea glass...When I am thrown against the shore and caught between the rocks and a hard place, I want to rest there until I can find the strength to do what is next. Not stuck — just waiting, pondering, feeling what it feels like to pause. And when I am ready, I will catch a wave and let it carry me along to the next place that I am supposed to be."
-Bernadette Noll.

Gary Holbrook-DeFeo

Gary Holbrook-DeFeo died on Oct. 12 at his home in Framingham. He was 69.

Gary was born at Newton Wellesley Hospital and moved with his family to Martha's Vineyard to begin first grade. He graduated from Martha's Vineyard Regional High School and went to college at Clark University and received his master's degree at Bowling Green University where he got a degree in philosophy.

He then returned to Framingham State College for his teaching certificate. He taught history and was published in the New England Journal of History in 1993. He most recently taught special education in the Acton-Boxborough High School.

Gary is survived by his mother, Janice Hathaway; sister June DeFeo; brother Mark DeFeo and his wife Melinda DeFeo and their son Bryson; brother Matthew DeFeo, his wife Jeannie DeFeo and their children, Patrick, Brendan (wife Melanie), Katie, Colin and Meghan.

Hello Willow

Tiffany and Marcus Sisco, of West Tisbury, announce the birth of a daughter, Willow Grace Sisco, born on Nov. 20 at the Martha's Vineyard Hospital. Willow weighed 7 pounds, .05 ounces at birth.



Tim Johnson

Community Climbs Aboard for the Final Trip

By LOUISA HUFSTADER

Hundreds of Islanders filled the Agricultural Hall in West Tisbury Saturday afternoon to celebrate the life of Clarence A. (Trip) Barnes, III, who died at 83 on Sept. 1.

In keeping with Mr. Barnes's fun-loving character, there was more laughter than solemnity in what his children called The Final Trip, a ceremony filled with personal tributes, fond reminiscences and often hilarious tales of his adventures.

He would have wanted to be here, his daughter Elizabeth Barnes said in her welcoming remarks.

"I think there were few people ever born who would have liked to be at their own funeral more than Clarence Alfred Barnes, III," she said.

Mr. Barnes's oldest son, Clarence Barnes, IV, imagined what his father would say at the sight of the standing-room-only crowd.

"He'd say, 'Jesus, how much do you think this cost? I could have done this for half price. You know these chairs? I got about 50 of these things in a school bus,'" Mr. Barnes, IV said, capturing his father's voice exactly as the crowd roared with laughter.

Son Michael Barnes said he only began to feel that his father was really gone when the family began going through the Barnes Trucking and Storage warehouse.

"We were throwing things away, lots of things. He would not have allowed this, let alone appreciated it," Michael Barnes said.

"Dad was way ahead of the recycling movement. Everything had a future," he said.

Mr. Barnes loved being the center of attention, but he also cared deeply about others, Ms. Barnes and Billy McCullough said.

"What mattered to him was all of you. He just loved people and their stories," Mr. McCullough said of his cousin Trip.

Mr. Barnes expressed his affection by taking action, his friend Allen Whiting said.

"Trip was a can-do guy. He just got things done somehow," Mr. Whiting said.

"He had a social fluidity...that made him a little larger than life, and he solved problems with no regard for rewards or compulsion to color inside the lines," Mr. Whiting added.

Mr. Barnes played a dynamic role in community projects like the ice arena and skate park in Oak Bluffs and the Agricultural Hall itself, a former New Hampshire dairy barn that was brought to the Vineyard in pieces and reassembled in 1994 on the Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society land in West Tisbury.

"This building is a tribute to his efforts," Mr. McCullough said, recalling Trip's longtime delight in the annual agricultural fair.



Pictures by Ray Ewing

The Agricultural Hall was filled on Saturday for a celebration of life for Trip Barnes.

As a kid, Mr. McCullough said, he helped Trip sell watermelon slices at the fair.

One night, he recalled, Mr. Barnes quietly added cold beer to the menu and the two did a brisk business until the police chief told them to stop.

Mr. Barnes, who stopped drinking in 1989, spearheaded the creation of the Vineyard House sober living facility and energetically supported fellow Islanders seeking recovery.

"Trip seemed to me to be as deep as a river and as wide as a church door," said Mr. Whiting, who credited Mr. Barnes with guiding him back to sobriety after a relapse by taking him to 12-step meetings in West Tisbury.

"He offered me a chair next to his. I've held it ever since," Mr. Whiting said.

Mr. Barnes's chair, he said remains empty.

The Barnes siblings opened Saturday's ceremony with a video of their father being interviewed on MVTV a few years ago. The reel included Mr. Barnes's account of the legendary chipmunk incident at the Leeside Bar in Woods Hole more than 40 years ago, after he'd bought two of the rodents from a Falmouth pet store as a gift for his daughter.

In the process of convincing his fellow drinkers that he was part of a "Japanese racing chipmunks" syndicate, Mr. Barnes opened the box and the creatures escaped, touching off a frantic chase through the bar before they were rounded up again.



Trip's grandchildren read a poem called The Man in The Arena.

"If you don't lose your sense of humor, you can have a pretty good life," Mr. Barnes told host Ann Bassett.

"I have no regrets. I had a good life here and went everywhere I wanted to go, met everybody I wanted to meet," he said.

Before adjourning for an expansive pot luck supper, Saturday's formal gathering ended with a sing-along of the song whose title Mr. Barnes had painted on his trucks: John Denver's Take Me Home, Country Roads.

Musicians Danny Whiting, Mark Mazer and Merrily Fenner led the standing-room-only crowd in singing new lyrics by the Barnes family reflecting their father's love of the Island: "Country roads, take me home / To the place I belong / Martha's Vineyard, Chappy Mama / Take me home, country roads."



Barnes family out front at the Agricultural Hall on Saturday.

VINEYARD GAZETTE WEEKLY SUDOKU AND CROSSWORD – November 27, 2026

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all the numbers from one to nine.

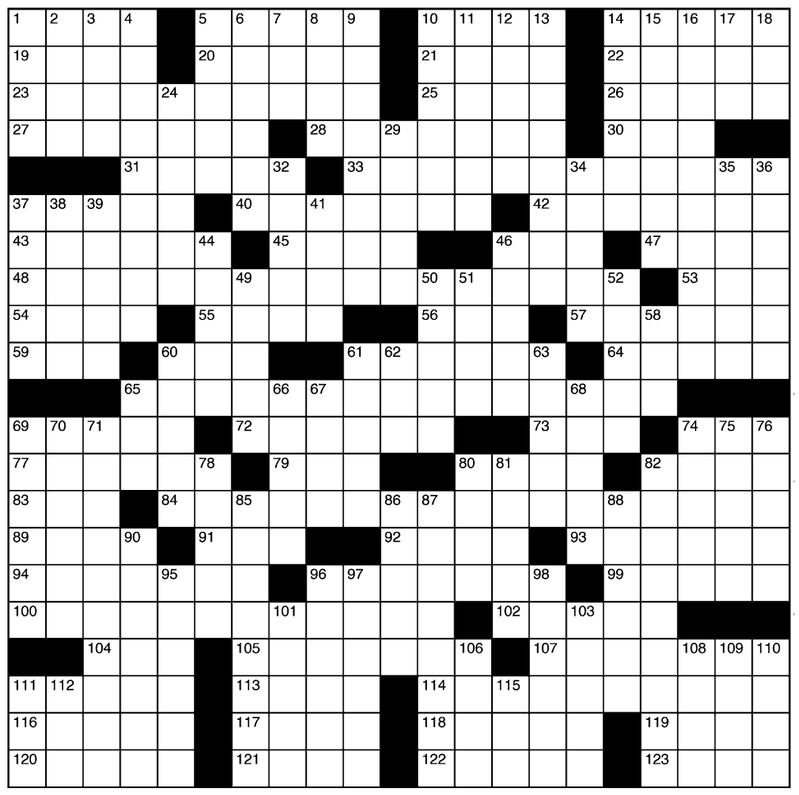
Difficulty this week: EASY PEASY!

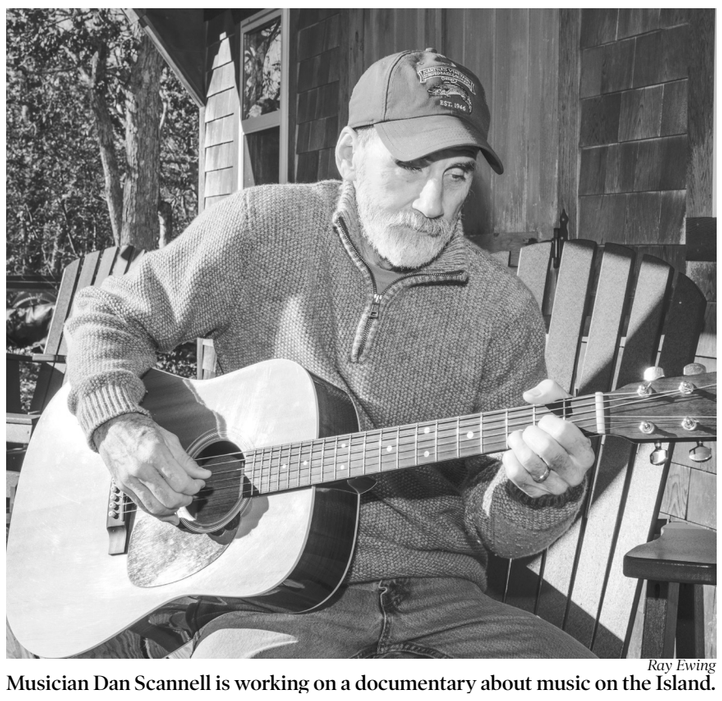
Answers to the puzzles can be found on page Ten of this week's Gazette.

ACROSS
1 — rush
5 Rush
10 Corp. money overseers
14 Whacks
19 Skin soother
20 Longtime Yankees manager Joe
21 Plentiful
22 Painter Rousseau
23 Mil. officer in "Beetle Bailey"
25 Tennis' Lendl
26 Potato sieve of a sort
27 Attach with glue
28 Captive's cry
30 Cry of disgust
31 Indian money
33 Old theatrical illusion making objects seem to materialize
37 Script studier
40 What "top" is to "bottom"
42 "I'm not lying!"
43 "Hah, I win!"
45 Legal wrong
46 Old sporty Pontiac
47 Former rival of Atari
48 1962 Western with Kirk Douglas, Gena Rowlands and Walter Matthau
53 Govt. lawyers
54 Scraped (out)
55 Female bleaters
56 Bovine call
57 Kingdom
59 Scarlet, e.g.
60 Viral gene material
61 Ho Chi Minh City, formerly
64 Iowa senator Joni
65 Certain inner lettuce leaves
69 Hazard
72 Explodes
73 Pea protector
74 Trinity part
77 Newborn's bodysuit
79 Texter's "I think ..."
80 Rounded hammer end
82 Bruins' sch.
83 Lupino of film
84 Instructors at golf resorts, often
89 Mardi Gras city, in brief
91 Suffix with Peking
92 Clears, as profit
93 Vigorless condition
94 Chicago newspaper
96 Evening wingdings
99 Force out
100 Leader of a marching musical group
102 The second "S" of SST
104 Boston fish
105 Title for Walter Scott
107 Be an arbiter
111 Rain forest, desert or wetland
113 2004 Chevy debut
114 Group associated with six key starting words in this puzzle
116 Fudd who bugs Bugs
117 Caulk, e.g.
118 Lop- — rabbit
119 Coup d'—
120 Valleys
121 J.D. Salinger title girl
122 Logbook, e.g.
123 Cartoon "Explorer"

DOWN
1 Haunted house sound
2 Gymnast Korbut
3 A ton
4 Totally ruined
5 Crouch down
6 Pupil coverer
7 Mork's planet
8 Pitcher Hershiser
9 Relocate instantly, in sci-fi
10 Having small ridges, as a piecrust
11 "1700 hours"
12 Old enough to vote, say
13 Madrid miss
14 Says "So what?" with the shoulders
15 Bodybuilders lift them
16 Firmly supported by
17 Uno + due
18 Title for Walter Scott
24 Of the brain and spinal cord
29 "0.1" portion
32 — nous
34 Kitchen range
35 Sweeteners
36 Cup-and-saucer group
37 More skillful
38 "You Send Me" singer Sam
39 Quieted (down)
41 "Piggies"
44 "Laughing" mammal
46 "I do" sayer
49 In the know
50 Islamic chiefs
51 Acronym for a twofer sale
52 Edit
58 Lead-in to nuptial
60 Saintly article
61 Abnormally deep sleep
62 Rear, at sea
63 Neck backs
65 That boy's
66 Clan
67 Drainage pit
68 Ancient Greek region
69 Destination of a trip, generically
70 "Bewitched" witch
71 Wages measured in terms of actual purchasing power
74 Scallywag
75 North fired by Reagan
76 Schnozz-related
78 Kate Nelligan title role
80 Tennis' Sampras
81 Twisty letters
82 Lacking enthusiasm
85 Software clientele
86 Shallot cousin
87 Hunted for and found, with "out"
88 Central New York lake
90 Body's midsection
95 Cow's milk sources
96 Haunted house sound
97 "The Lion in Winter" co-star
98 Very serious
101 Roof edges
103 Indigent
106 Bangkok native
108 Choir voice
109 Put a rip in
110 This, in Baja
111 Beseech
112 Feeling sick
115 Epoch

TITLE-TRACK TRACKING





Ray Ewing

Musician Dan Scannell is working on a documentary about music on the Island.

Chronicling the Beat of Island Life Through Music

By CHARLES LEITNER

The history of Martha's Vineyard is told in many threads woven into a diverse fabric. According to Dan Scannell, music has always been a key part of this, which is why he set out to film a documentary about the history of music on the Vineyard and the musicians who call it home.

"I've been really fortunate coming to the Vineyard, to my neighbors and the people who are Islanders who have given me access or taken me in as one of their own and led me around to see the Vineyard from their point of view," said Mr. Scannell.

Through interviews and live footage, Mr. Scannell is attempting to capture for posterity the rhythms of his adopted home.

Lexie Roth, who lost her mother and sister after they died in a car accident, says in the film that music was a way to build back her own community.

"She lost her mom and her sister, but she used the music community and the people here to kind of create her own family," said Mr. Scannell. "The community was really important, and that became big for her, which is true for the [Island's] history.

Kate Taylor, Phil daRosa and Brad Tucker also appear in the documentary discussing the history of music on the Island, its current state and the future.

"There's always been a thread of musical people on the Island," said Kate Taylor, in a short reel provided to the Gazette by Mr. Scannell. "You could find different people to play with or listen to and enjoy."

The documentary was shot at locations across the Island, including the Ritz, Grange Hall, Portuguese American Club, Tabernacle and Island Music, which has since closed, and at events such as the MV Soundfest and Agricultural Fair.

The film, which is currently in production, also sheds light the realities of trying to make a living while still making music.

"There's not just vegetables in here," said Brad Tucker, who owns Radio Farm, in a clip from the movie as he emerges from his garden shed carrying a stand-up bass. "I feel like people here wear a lot of hats. In the summertime they might do commercial fishing and then in the wintertime they might need to go shingle and then there is a lot of downtime where they're bored and they pick up painting or music."

The film also chronicles the closing of many venues around the Island, including the legendary Hot Tin Roof, along with the increasingly elusive search for new spaces.

"There's so many buildings just sitting vacant and we so desperately need creative and freeing spaces," said Ms. Roth towards the end of Mr. Scannell's documentary clip.

Mr. Scannell was inspired to make the documentary after seeing David Letterman's documentary, Bono & The Edge: A Sort of Homecoming. The film shows Mr. Letterman, who has a home on the Vineyard, conducting interviews with members of the Irish rock band U2 in various locations around their hometown in Dublin. There was one scene shot in a pub that particularly stuck out to Mr. Scannell.

"The way they shot it, it's so intimate," he said. "It's like you're in that pub, they've allowed you to come in and be part of that world and feel that world. It's like you're there and I thought music has this ability to do that."

Mr. Scannell is not a filmmaker by trade and this documentary will be his first.

"I thought, oh, if I could just get that feeling through the music, and get it in the same kind of documentary and that intimacy, maybe people who aren't from the Vineyard would get more insight into the real Island and the people of the Island," he said.

Before he moved to the Vineyard with his wife, Mr. Scannell was a gymnastics coach, performed as a standup comedian in Boston and earned himself a Guinness World record for being a member of a four-man, handstand relay team.

"I've always felt like when I've done things...I know people would want to see this," he said.

Circuit Arts agreed to be a part of the project after Mr. Scannell reached out. The project has also been supported by Martha's Vineyard Community Television.

"I knew this would work, and so I found really good people that could make it happen," said Mr. Scannell.

Dolly Leads the Way in New Right Whale Names

By LILY ECHEVERRIA

A right whale formerly known as Catalog #4191 was renamed Dolly last week as part of an annual tradition that assists researchers in more easily identifying individual whales in real time.

Dolly has a marking that resembles the iconic hairstyle of the late Dolly Parton. Fittingly, her favorite song is reported to be "Jolene." She was born in 2011 to a whale named Marilyn Monroe.

In the North Atlantic Right Whale Catalog, curated by the New England Aquarium's Anderson Cabot Center for Ocean Life, each whale has a four-digit number assigned to them. But in order to make each individual whale more memorable, researchers assign names to them as well.

Dolly was one of 20 North Atlantic right whales given new names last week, along with Goose, Volcano, Gonzo, Canellini, Corkscrew and more.

"Naming right whales is a fun and creative activity for our research community, but it also allows an opportunity to connect with the whales on an individual level," said Amy Warren, scientific program officer in the Aquarium's Anderson Cabot Center, in a press release last week. "It can be hard to relate to Catalog #5299, but a whale named Nibbles is bound to be memorable."

Whale and Dolphin Conservation, a charity dedicated to conservation and protection of whales and dolphins, also contributes to the naming tradition each year, helping the aquarium compile Q&A-style bios for each whale, including their name, the reason behind the name, an age estimate, sex, fun fact and favorite song.

The whales are often named for their recognizable markings. "Hippo" has a callosity resembling the side profile of a hippopotamus. "Snail" has one that looks like a snail, as well as a scar resembling a snail trail.

The names also can follow a consistent theme within families; "Grand Slam" and "Slide" are sisters, and their mother is named "Fenway."

The news of the 20 new names comes after the North Atlantic Right Whale Consortium released the year's population estimate, showing more work is needed to protect the endangered species.

"Although the names are intended to help researchers at sea, they also give the general public a better understanding of the individual whales," said Caroline Mowdy, marketing and communications specialist at Whale and Dolphin Conservation. "We see these whales and their families grow each year, and knowing them makes the tragedies even more tragic, but it also makes our determination to protect them even stronger."



Canadian Whale Institute/New England Aquarium, under DFO Canada SARA permit

Naming right whales is an annual tradition.

IN VINEYARD SKIES

	Sunrise	Sunset
Fri., Nov. 27	6:44	4:13
Sat., Nov. 28	6:45	4:13
Sun., Nov. 29	6:46	4:12
Mon., Nov. 30	6:47	4:12
Tues., Dec. 1	6:48	4:12
Wed., Dec. 2	6:49	4:11
Thurs., Dec. 3	6:50	4:11
Fri., Dec. 4	6:51	4:11

Waning Moon, Jupiter and Mars

In the early hours of Monday morning, the waning moon appears right near the planets Jupiter and Mars. You'll also see the bright star Regulus, the brightest star in the zodiacal constellation Leo.

This is a memorable appearance, a close assembly of four celestial objects. The moon is only a quarter of a million miles away. Mars is 110 million miles away and glowing a ruby red color. The brightest planet Jupiter, though looking close, is 470 million miles away, four times farther away from us than Mars. The bright star Regulus is 77 light years away. It takes light 77 years to get to us from this distant star. It takes almost ten minutes for light to reach us from Mars.

Jupiter light takes 42 minutes. It takes light from the moon 1.3 seconds to get here.

M.A.L..

Last Quarter Dec. 1

First Quarter Dec. 17

New Moon Dec. 8

Full Moon Dec. 23

Temperature:

Day	Max.	Min.	Precip. Inches.
	Fº	Fº	
Nov. 20	61	41	0.00
Nov. 21	69	39	0.00
Nov. 22	63	45	0.00
Nov. 23	65	46	2.36
Nov. 24	66	44	0.00
Nov. 25	-	-	-
Nov. 26	-	-	-

Water temperature in Edgartown harbor: 54º

Record of Cases Heard in Edgartown District Court

Oct. 16

Cesar D. Silva, 24, of Vineyard Haven, was arraigned on Oct. 11 charges in Oak Bluffs of assault & battery and malicious destruction of property. His bail was set at $200, and has a pretrial hearing on Dec. 4.

Nov. 16

Everton S. Abreu, 44, of Vineyard Haven, was arraigned on Nov. 14 charges in Oak Bluffs of open and gross lewdness and class B drug possession. His bail was set at $200 and has a pretrial hearing on Dec. 11.

Nov. 18

Norma N. Holmes, 83, of Edgartown, was arraigned on Oct. 29 charges in Edgartown of malicious destruction of property and violation of a harassment protection order. She was released on personal recognizance and has a pretrial hearing on Jan. 14.

John M. Mcelhinney, 66, of Edgartown, was arraigned on Nov. 18 charges in Edgartown of assault on family/household member. He was released on personal recognizance and has a pretrial hearing on Dec. 21.

Nov. 19

Shane K. True, 44, of Vineyard Haven, was arraigned on Nov. 19 charges in Vineyard Haven of assault & battery. He was released on personal recognizance and has a pretrial hearing on Jan. 11.

Nov. 20

Asher C. Cottrell, 31, of Vineyard Haven, was arraigned on Nov. 20 charges of being a fugitive from justice without a warrant. He is being held without bail and has a pretrial hearing on Nov. 25.

Nov. 23

Chesley A. Wiseman, 37, of Vineyard Haven, was arraigned on Sept. 18 charges in Chilmark of trespassing and criminal harassment. She was released on personal recognizance and has a pretrial hearing on Jan. 21.

Recent Island Real Estate Transactions

Chilmark

Benjamin William Ramsey purchased 132 South Road in Chilmark for $1,037,500 from Abbie-Ann Steele Trust on Nov. 19.

Edgartown

Sandbar 19 LLC purchased 19 Kitts Field Circle in Edgartown for $3,400,000 from Nancy Blair Highet on Nov. 19.

Jennifer and Nicholas Weiksner purchased 20 Meshacket Road in Edgartown for $2,450,000 from Linda M. Jackson on Nov. 20.

Oak Bluffs

Judith Caesar-Brown and Peter Knese II purchased 46 Kennebec Avenue in Oak Bluffs for $1,300,000 from Nancy A. Fournier, William Richard Heffernan, Jean H. Fleming and Jean Heffernan-Moynahan on Nov. 17.

East Chop Venture LLC purchased 55 New York Avenue in Oak Bluffs for $1,600,000 from Robert C. Murphy on Nov. 18.

Kamil Valiyev purchased 91 Fairmount Avenue in Oak Bluffs for $480,000 from Richard S. Dubin Trust and Manchester Realty Trust on Nov. 20.

Mark Winkelman purchased 135 Winemack Street in Oak Bluffs for $1,425,000 from James, Janet and Ann Winkelman on Nov. 20.

Vineyard Haven

455 State Road LLC purchased 455 State Road (Units 2 & 3) in Vineyard Haven for $1,600,000 from Giumarra Properties LLC on Nov. 18.

Leila C. Waite Trust and Coffin Trust purchased 51 Daggett Avenue in Vineyard Haven for $865,000 from 51 Daggett LLC on Nov. 19.

West Tisbury

Julie Pemberton Hellums and Jay David Hellums purchased 14 Ephriam Allen Road in West Tisbury for $1,975,000 from Pyle Family LLC and Pyle Family LP on Nov. 19.

Christy Scott Cashman purchased 99 Oak Lane in West Tisbury for $1,950,000 from Susan Copen Oken on Nov. 19.



Tim Johnson

Subscription Drive Supports Boston MedFlight

Every year around the holidays, the Vineyard Gazette Media Group chooses a nonprofit to benefit from a yearly subscription drive. This year, 15 per cent of the proceeds of any new subscription through the end of 2026 will go to Boston MedFlight, which provides critical services to those in a health crisis.

For 40 years, the nonprofit organization has provided free emergency helicopter transportation for patients around New England, including Islanders in need of care at mainland hospitals. Boston MedFlight was established in 1985 and since its founding has transported over 100,000 patients. It serves nearly 200 cities and towns.

"It is truly such an honor to be selected and to be recognized as providing such a vital service to the Island," said Erin Erban, associate director of marketing and communications at Boston MedFlight.

The Vineyard Gazette Media Group began the tradition of a subscription fund drive in 2015 — past nonprofits who have benefited include Hospice of Martha's Vineyard, Martha's Vineyard Shellfish Group, Island Grown Schools, Camp Jabberwocky and Connect to End Violence, among other organizations.

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To Sail Around Cape Horn Began With a Vineyard Dream

By TOM GRAHAM

There are places in the world whose names mean considerably more than the places themselves. Everest is one. The South Pole is another. For sailors, it is Cape Horn.

The Horn is a rocky promontory at the southernmost tip of South America. For centuries, sailors have regarded it as something else entirely. It is a test, a milestone, a menace and, for those fortunate enough to sail around it, a considerable source of pride.

Perhaps that ambition comes naturally to someone who has spent time on Martha's Vineyard. The Island's history is inseparable from the sea. During the 19th century, Vineyard sailors went on whaling voyages that lasted years, ranging across the Atlantic and Pacific and into the great southern latitudes. No ship better embodies that legacy than the Charles W. Morgan, commanded on several voyages by Vineyard captains. During 37 whaling voyages she rounded the Horn, endured Arctic ice and Southern Ocean storms, and returned home when so many others did not. The last wooden whaling ship, she was restored by Mystic Seaport in 2014, with the Vineyard boatbuilder Gannon and Benjamin commissioned to build one of the 28-foot whaleboats now displayed on the ship.

The Vineyard's connection to traditional sailing also includes the schooner Shenandoah, designed and launched by Capt. Robert S. Douglas in 1964. For more than five decades, thousands of young people learned teamwork, self-reliance and the old ways of the sea aboard Shenandoah, which famously sailed without an engine. After six decades in service, she can no longer meet modern safety codes and is being decommissioned.

Rather than let the dream end, the current stewards, Captains Ian Ridgeway and Casey Blum of the Martha's Vineyard Ocean Academy, have launched an effort to raise the money needed to build a new schooner that will carry on the same spirit while meeting today's Coast Guard standards. It was Captain Ridgeway who introduced me to the Dutch tall ship, Europa, and I fell in love at first sight. She is an ocean-going sailing ship continuing to make long passages around the world. Those who join her are not simply passengers, they became "voyage crew." They stand watch, steer, keep lookout, set and strike sails, brace yards and work alongside the permanent crew.

When Europa's "Around the Horn" voyage from Auckland, New Zealand to the Falkland Islands was announced for 2024, I submitted my application. On Sept. 20 of that year, after several days of preparation and passing a fitness test of 10 pull-ups and a climb up and down the main mast, I set off from Auckland. I was going to sail around Cape Horn, and I couldn't have been more excited.

There were 55 of us aboard: 39 voyage crew and 16 permanent crew, including an amazing galley crew and a doctor. We were a wonderfully improbable collection of nationalities, ages, professions, personalities and sailing abilities. Some were highly experienced sailors, others less so, but all were enthusiastic. There were people looking for a challenge, people looking for an escape and, inevitably, a few self-styled adventurers.

I knew not one of them but, oddly, that didn't worry me. I had made several long passages before and had never met a sailing crew I didn't enjoy. A boat has a peculiar ability to accelerate acquaintance. On land one can know someone casually for years. At sea, after standing beside a fellow sailor at three in the morning in cold rain or while hauling on the same line in the dark of night, much of the normal social machinery becomes unnecessary.

Our captain was Janke Kingma, a 44-year-old Dutch woman who was making her first Cape Horn rounding as captain. Athletic and quick with a smile, she was a strong and capable leader, running a tight ship with a crew clearly admiring of her prowess. Her calm and wise decision-making immediately put us at ease.

The voyage began gently. The Pacific was clear and beautiful, the ocean air wonderfully fresh. Light winds gave us strangers time to learn both the ship and one another.

We were divided into three watches each with a mixture of ages, nationalities, sailing experience, ability and temperament. At first, they were merely administrative divisions. Then something happened. Each watch acquired a personality. Your watch became your team. And the ship became your world.

There was a great deal to learn. With more than 250 lines and sails, each with a name and a purpose you had to memorize, and even harder, find it at night or in a raging storm. A sail needs to come down quickly. An order is given. People move. One group takes up a line, another eases. People haul together. Above you are yards, rigging and great expanses of canvas. The ship works because people work together.

Almost without noticing it, we left the modern world behind. No phones, no texts, no email, no social media. At first, the absence is uncomfortable. Then it became liberating. There was the ship. There was the ocean. And there were the other people aboard.

Days began to pass without another vessel in sight. Then weeks. We never saw another ship the entire time at sea, something that was both exhilarating and discomforting. After weeks at sea, we sailed near Point Nemo. There is nothing to see at Point Nemo. It is one of the most remarkable places on the planet: the oceanic pole of inaccessibility, the point in the world's oceans farthest from land. The nearest dry earth is roughly 1,670 miles away. When the International Space Station passes overhead, astronauts orbiting roughly 250 miles above Earth are closer to Point Nemo than any human being on the surface of the planet.

The sea imposes its own clock. Ours was the watch. Four hours on. Eight hours off. It continued through daylight and darkness, meals and sleep, good weather and bad. Each week the watch schedule changed so no one was stuck with the dreaded middle-of-the-night watch for more than a week. Your body does not care that the ship's schedule says you should be awake from midnight until four in the morning. The ship does not care what your body thinks. You get up, put on your foul-weather gear and go up on deck to discover what the Southern Ocean has in store for you.

The midnight-to-four watch did receive one consolation prize: hot soup and freshly baked bread. At two in the morning, in the cold, thousands of miles from home, hot soup and a slice of warm bread is an extravagant luxury.

We were far from people but rarely alone. Petrels and albatrosses became our constant companions. The albatrosses seemed particularly well suited to this vast expanse. They swept over the waves for hours, covering astonishing distances with barely a movement of their wings. We watched them for hours, especially the wandering albatross, a bird of almost mythical grace with the largest wingspan of any living bird, stretching 11 feet and looking enormous even against the Pacific horizon. They spend their first seven years of life continuously at sea, and then mate on land every other year with the same mate, miraculously finding each other after the two-year separation.

When large groups of seabirds appeared, we learned to look carefully at the water. Soon enough someone would see it. A blow. A whale. Each time a whale appeared beside the ship, it produced the same response. People stopped what they were doing and watched in awe as it surfaced, spouted, and disappeared.



Pictures by Patrick Samuël

Cape Horn comes into view, hidden partially in the clouds.

At night the world changed. The Southern Cross appeared overhead and the Milky Way stretched across a sky completely untouched by artificial light. Under the full moon the sea turned silver, the sails and rigging sharply outlined against the sky. On moonless nights the horizon disappeared. Sea and sky seemed to become one enormous darkness while the stars multiplied overhead. Bioluminescence often glowed in the ship's wake, tiny organisms lighting up in the turbulence of our passing.

As we sailed south, the gentle seas began to change and at 40 degrees latitude, the Roaring Forties began to justify their name. The wind settled into the 30-knot range. Squalls brought rain and stronger gusts. Temperatures dropped. The seas grew. I found myself wondering what the Furious Fifties would be like. I did not have long to wait.

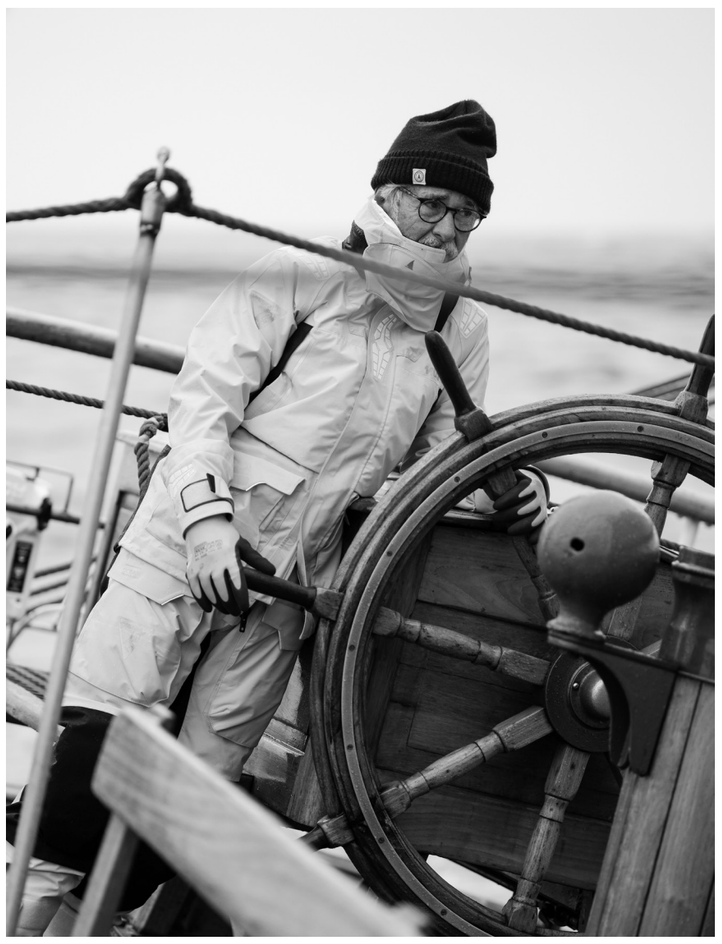
As we continued southeast, everything intensified. Winds climbed toward 50 knots, with gusts over 60. The seas built to five, six, seven and occasionally eight meters or more. The ocean no longer seemed to have a single orderly swell. Seas sometimes appeared to reflect past, present and future weather simultaneously with old swells coming from one direction, new waves generated by the present wind from another, and indications of the next weather system arriving from somewhere else.

The wind could change with astonishing speed. Canvas that had been appropriate minutes earlier suddenly had to come down.

The older crew members grew cautious with the more intense weather, but the under-30 set became energized, suddenly more engaged by the extra activity and the new boat speed and drive that came with the weather. Several had by this time become proficient in going up the rig to furl the sails and were happy to have the exercise and exhilaration that came with a sail change.

Temperatures dropped again and the countdown to the Horn began. Bets were placed on how many days and hours remained until the rounding and everyone anted up a cherished item into the pot.

To qualify for the traditional Cape Horn recognition, Europa had to make a nonstop passage, under sail from 50 degrees south latitude in the Pacific, around Cape Horn, and back north through 50 degrees south latitude in the Atlantic, sailing a minimum of 3,000 nautical miles without using her engines for propulsion.



Tom Graham at the wheel of Europa.

The organization preserving the tradition dates to 1933, when the Amicale Internationale des Capitaines au Long-Cours Cap Horniers was established to honor sailors who had made the passage in the age of commercial sail. We hoped to join their company in a very different age.

Cape Horn's reputation is partly a consequence of geography. The vast and deep oceans between the southern tip of South America and northern edge of Antarctica are constricted into the Drake Passage, where the Antarctic Circumpolar Current must pass between South America and Antarctica, moving from the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic. Changes in depth, powerful currents, winds and the weather systems can combine to create extraordinarily confused seas and dangerous conditions.

Before the Panama Canal, sailing ships moving between the Atlantic and Pacific had no choice but to contend with it. Eastbound could be brutal. Westbound, fighting the prevailing west winds and currents, could be almost unimaginable.

As we approached Cape Horn, excitement spread throughout the ship. For weeks it had all been an abstract goal. Now it was over the horizon. And then it was there. At 12:27 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 18, 2024, Europa passed Cape Horn.

The ship blasted her horn and for a few moments, discipline gave way to celebration. People hugged one another. There were photographs and congratulations. Whiskey was poured and everyone drank the traditional shot, a reward for having completed the passage.

After all those thousands of miles, I had sailed around Cape Horn. Except I hadn't. Not technically. There were still more than 600 miles to go. The official rounding would not be complete until Europa sailed north through 50 degrees south latitude on the Atlantic side. Indeed, the Horn was not finished with us.

After the celebration a 40-knot wind blew in and carried us onward through Drake Passage and on Oct. 23, at 50°00' South and 63°06' West, Europa crossed the line. We had done it! From 50 to 50. Pacific to Atlantic. 5,830 nautical miles. All under sail.

Perhaps the greatest surprise of the passage was how unexpectedly easy I found it. Not physically easy. We had encountered eight-meter seas, 50-knot winds and gusts over 60. We had been sore, cold and tired. And wet. We had gotten out of our bunks at impossible hours and grueling conditions. But life itself became remarkably simple.

There is no practical reason to transport 55 people from Auckland to the Falkland Islands aboard a square-rigged sailing ship. An airplane could do it infinitely faster. But efficiency misses the point. On Europa, you partake in a nearly lost world. You put your hands on the line. You feel the load. You look above you and see the canvas fill. Someone calls an order. People haul. And the ship moves.

Two centuries ago, Vineyard sailors left the Island aboard wooden sailing ships and went into these very same oceans. They sailed the Roaring Forties. They sailed the Furious Fifties. They rounded Cape Horn. There is something humbling about following a route that generations of sailors once regarded simply as part of their profession. Perhaps that is another reason to keep the tall ships sailing. They make history physical.

This summer, a friend's daughter had just come ashore from a week aboard Shenandoah, one of the last youngsters who would sail on this ship. She spoke with the bright exhilaration of one tested and proven, about what she had learned about the ship, herself, her own capabilities and the sheer fun of it all.

As I listened, I couldn't help but think that these were the same lessons and feelings I had experienced aboard Europa.

Tom Graham lives in Vineyard Haven and Paris.

VINEYARD GAZETTE

Martha's Vineyard's Newspaper for 180 Years

Established in 1846 A Journal of Island Life

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unwarranted Lawsuit

I must weigh in on Laurence Hardoon's unwarranted lawsuit which is delaying the construction of the Pachecos' new building.

As reported in the article in last week's online edition, Oakwood Developer Defends MVC Approval, Mr. Hardoon claims that "...the project failed to adhere to the style of the historic Victorian hotel that was there many years ago."

He has obviously not done his homework. The rendering of the proposed new structure is an extremely accurate modern-day representation and interpretation of the historic Vine Cottage that once sat in that now open space directly opposite the Arcade building.

Let's delve into a little history of the historic buildings that were once located on that large (now vacant) lot. That space originally consisted of lot numbers 133 and 135 Circuit Avenue as laid out in the original Morris Copeland plan for the development of Oak Bluffs.

In 1870, Mary A. Russell and her husband Daniel purchased lot 133 and erected a modest cottage there with the intention to run it as a lodging house. They named it the Oakwood Cottage.

Zebina and Chloe Berry had purchased the neighboring lot 135, to the right, in 1869 and by 1871 they, too, had built a moderately sized cottage for lodgers which they named the Vine Cottage.

As time moved on, these two cottages became dwarfed by the massive four-story Metropolitan Hotel on the corner to their left and the three-story commercial block later known as the Herald Building where the Reliable Market now sits.

During the fall of 1879, the Berrys substantially enlarged their Vine Cottage by raising it up to a full three stories and topped it off with a steeply pitched Mansard roof. Attached to the building's right side there was now a 40-foot high, four-story tower also with a Mansard roof of its own. This building was the last historic structure to occupy the right side of the lot. If you look at a photograph of it and compare it to the rendering of what the Pachecos want to construct there, it is a perfect match and a fitting tribute to the aesthetic the Berrys were trying to achieve for the street.

However, not to be outdone, in 1880, the Russells rebuilt and greatly enlarged their Oakwood Cottage — but with its new iteration looking like something out of the Wild West. Its style wasn't very much in keeping with the other Victorian buildings then on Circuit Avenue. This is the hulking structure we are most familiar with because it still rose above the left side of Phillips Hardware until being torn down last year. It is to this building that Mr. Hardoon seems to be continually referring with no mention at all of the more prominent Victorian-styled Vine Cottage next door.

Of the two historic buildings that were once there, the current architects for the Pachecos choose to model their elegant design closely on the historic Vine Cottage. I agree wholeheartedly with their choice. There can be no doubt that the current plans do indeed closely adhere to the historic style of buildings that were once in that spot on Circuit Avenue.

From that article, Mr. Hardoon also said that he has offered to meet with the owners regarding his own proposal for a building at the Oakwood site, which he claimed was more true to the historic hotel. It takes a certain amount of bravado to presume that one is in the position to design one's neighbor's building for them. I would ask that Mr. Hardoon take the high road and immediately withdraw this frivolous lawsuit, reimburse the Pachecos for their lawyer's fees, and stop harassing a generations-old Island family who have done more than due diligence on this conscientiously planned and well-conceived project. Enough is enough.

Harvey Garneau
West Tisbury

Mr. Garneau's book on the history of Circuit Avenue is due out this spring.

THE GAZETTE CHRONICLE

Old School

From the November 26, 1926 edition of the Vineyard Gazette:

The path of investigation leads to strange and unexpected places and the man who lives the most quiet life today may have had a tremendously exciting or interesting career in days gone by. Furthermore, in the case of the more aged characters, they are likely to be connected with matters which have become tradition, yet seldom if ever speak of these things unless questioned, not because they are secretive but because their long lives have been filled with such incidents and none seem particularly important.

So it has proven in questioning Henry Constant Norton of Edgartown regarding his most interesting life. Mr. Norton lives alone and has few visitors. Scarcely anyone would believe that he is capable of holding his listener spellbound with his tales of olden days and certainly it is a revelation to anyone to discover how much he can remember — people, customs and intimate details of daily life — of three-quarters of a century ago.

Mr. Norton is the eighth generation of the Norton family descended from Nichols Norton, who purchased land from the sachem of Sengekontacket.

Mr. Norton comes from a celebrated family. "Jeffersonian Democrats," he calls them, but long before the days of Jefferson, the Norton family had attracted public attention by reason of its closeness to the government. Mr. Norton has in his possession the commission given to his great, great grandfather, Peter Norton, giving him the rank of major of Dukes County militia and the command of a battalion. It is dated 1761 and signed by John Cotton, deputy secretary under his Majesty George III. From that time on down through the years the Norton men have always held positions of prominence in the communities where they lived.

Mr. Norton himself was born at Farm Neck, Oak Bluffs, over 83 years ago. It was a small farming community in those days, for there was no town or village of Oak Bluffs and the people were the talented, resourceful Sengekontacket Pond folk, who lived on the land or water, and in the water for that matter.

Mr. Norton's tales of those early days are intensely interesting. His father was a school master and taught school in several places in the down-Island towns. It was necessary for him to live somewhere near his school and therefore, as a boy, Mr. Norton lived not only at Farm Neck, but also in Holmes Hole and Edgartown.

This is not strange, for the trip by land from Vineyard Haven to Edgartown was quite an undertaking, and people did not commonly make it unless it was necessary. Communities kept much to themselves, partly because of the difficulties of traveling and because there was no way of circulating news from one neighborhood to another except by word of mouth.

But Mr. Norton, moving from one place to another with his family, had an opportunity to see what was going on throughout the eastern section of the Island and to become acquainted with the people, many of whom still live in the traditions of the Island. His father, the late Constant Norton, was collector of customs for the Martha's Vineyard district, 1855-1860, and so as a boy Henry Constant heard much of ships and vessels. His life has been spent on the Island, and his activities began upon the beach and marsh.

Joining a whaleboat's crew at 16, he raced for many a stranded vessel on the shoals, in order to get a job of pumping, shifting cargo or other work necessary to float her. Later he ran on a wrecking schooner, serving much time as cook.

Mr. Norton built an ice house of 300 ton capacity, for his own use. Other fishermen began to come to him to buy ice and he therefore increased the size of his building to 1000 tons capacity, thus developing a substantial ice business.

But he began to branch out into other lines. For five years he was employed as agent of the Portland Steamship Co. He was also elected to the offices of superintendent of streets and school committee of Oak Bluffs, which had separated from Edgartown, and in 1888 he received his appointment as postmaster.

He had set out an orchard some time previous to his giving up the ice business and upon this orchard he expended his time, thought and energy until it became the finest on the Vineyard. An old orchard on the place, which was planted before 1795, also claimed his attention, and under his care the trees were brought back to a healthy condition and those still standing are bearing fruit at the present time.

It is only a few years since he left the farm to live in Edgartown. The town where as a boy he played in the old windmill which gave Mill Hill its name. And where as a youth he pulled his oar in the racing whaleboats.

There are few persons living who are as old as he, and as he says, he lives in a world of his own. But it is an interesting world, peopled by the characters of history and tradition, filled with the bustling activity of years ago.

Compiled by Hilary Wallcox
library@vineyardgazette.com

Tackling Ticks by Incentivizing Hunting

From Page One

tagged with information about when it was brought in and the name of the hunter who shot it. The trailer next door is where the deer are processed, after which the carcasses are sprayed down with an antimicrobial solution to kill any lingering bacteria.

In the final trailer, the meat goes in a grinder, where it is mixed with a bit of pork fat from Slough Farm or Fork to Pork. The end product is ground venison, which gets vacuum sealed for distribution by Island Grown Initiative through MassWildlife's Hunters Share the Harvest program, which allows the state to connect venison donations with food insecure Massachusetts residents.

MassWildlife pays Mr. Capece's company a processing fee as part of the program.



Pictures by Ray Ewing

Venison will be ground and offered to various nonprofits on the Island.



Graham Stearns, Joe Capece, Virginia Barbatti, Lauren Lynch, Grace Kenney, Blake Wasson.

Friesla experts came to the Island to train Mr. Capece and his team, who follow the U.S. Department of Agriculture's protocol for keeping a meat processing facility clean. This means every inch of each trailer is hosed down at night and inspected in the morning. If the morning inspection reveals a smudge of meat or a streak of blood on a piece of equipment, the cleaning process must start anew.

"I'm just so encouraged, because I really do believe there's an appetite for venison on the Island."

Keeping the operation up to code entails an ongoing relationship with the West Tisbury health department, which oversaw the facility's long approval process.

"One of our biggest hurdles, if not our biggest hurdle, was getting our permit through the board of health," Mr. Capece said. "It makes me feel good to be a resident of West Tisbury, knowing the standards they've set for food safety."

Daily operations at the facility are tracked with an app Mr. Capece created using the artificial intelligence agent Claude. The app catalogues information about each deer onsite, including when a hunter brought it in and its stage in the butchering process. It also continuously monitors temperatures inside the trailers and sends an alert if it gets too warm.

Deer being donated to Hunters Share the Harvest for distribution by Island Grown are the only ones eligible for butchering, however hunters who are not making a donation can still arrange to store their deer at the facility. Mr. Capece said this could change as the operation expands.



Processing facility plan looks to increase hunting on the Island.

Merrick Carreiro, Island Grown's food equity director, said meat donated to the organization through the processing facility will be available to food pantry clients, Serving Hands, the councils on aging, Kinship Heals and the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) natural resources department.

Island Grown also uses the meat to make prepared meals for distribution through several different Island organizations. The meal right now is a venison cabbage roll with cranberry-apple chutney.

"I'm just so encouraged, because I really do believe there's an appetite for venison on the Island," she said.

Since the beginning of hunting season, Island Grown has already distributed 1,500 pounds of venison. This translates to 6,000 quarter-pound servings, according to the Share the Harvest program.

Up until this point, Island Grown has processed its own venison but will now work exclusively on the distribution side. Ms. Carreiro expects the new processing facility to bring even more meat through the door.

"It's going to really increase tremendously because now the facility will be in operation," she said.

Ms. Barbatti said she would like to see as many deer as possible come through the facility this hunting season. And Tick Free MV is still raising money for a permanent, brick-and-mortar processing facility on the Agricultural Society grounds.

"The facility's open, and hunters should know that they have an option here," Ms. Barbatti said.

According to Island tick biologist Patrick Roden-Reynolds, who will also help to run the processing facility this season, the amount of activity this hunting season seems promising.

"If this tempo maintains, we're definitely going to break all types of records this year," he said.

Meanwhile, the ticks are putting up a fight. Mr. Capece and his workers often find ticks on the floor of the deer cooler, crawling around in search of their next meal.

"It's the reality we have to deal with," he said.

State Appeals Committee Deals MVC a Hard Blow

From Page One

by not holding its own hearing within 30 days of the Edgartown Gardens application, the town's zoning board of appeals was now required to issue the project a comprehensive permit.

The 40B legislation was enacted in 1969 as way to streamline the permitting process for affordable housing developments, allowing them to go solely before a single local board — the zoning board of appeals. Under the 1974 legislation, however, the Martha's Vineyard Commission has had its own power of review over developments of regional impact in all six towns. Only after the commission's approval is such a project sent back to the zoning board, which then holds its own hearings.

Last Friday's decision puts a sharper point on the earlier ruling, effectively cutting the commission out of the process and instructing the zoning board to issue the permit.

Commissioner Douglas Sederholm said he fully expects the current dispute to reach the state's supreme judicial court, after lower-court appeals have been exhausted.

Mr. Cumming has filed suit over Edgartown Gardens in Dukes County Superior Court, a case that could now be consolidated with appeals of new committee decisions.

"It's a very slow judicial process," Mr. Sederholm said.

The commission weathered a similar legal challenge in the early 2000s, from a developer seeking to build hundreds of homes in the southern woodlands of Oak Bluffs.

Like Mr. Cumming two decades later, Corey Kupersmith argued in 2002 that because 25 per cent of his proposed development would be reserved for lower-income buyers, the commission was barred from imposing conditions on the project under a state law known as Chapter 40B that allows developers of low- and moderate-income housing projects to bypass local planning boards.

The chief justice of the Massachusetts Land Court, who was appointed to the case as a special superior court judge, ruled firmly against the developer, finding that the Martha's Vineyard Commission act of 1974 trumps Chapter 40B.

"I conclude that the MVC is not a 'local board' and a Chapter 40B project within the geographical jurisdiction of the MVC must be referred to the MVC before a local ZBA can act on it," the Hon. Peter Kilborn wrote in his decision.

Judge Kilborn also confirmed that the town zoning board of appeals may not grant a permit without the Martha's Vineyard Commission's approval.

Upon appeal the following year, a second Land Court justice upheld the ruling.

"Plaintiffs have failed to persuade this court that the [Kilborn] judgment was in error," wrote the Hon. Charles W. Trombly, Jr. in 2003.

Mr. Kupersmith vowed to appeal again, but his project went bankrupt and the question of whether or not the Martha's Vineyard Commission is a local board has never reached a higher court.

Meanwhile, Mr. Cumming's latest 40B project, the 2-acre, 40-condominium Edgartown Cove complex, will begin its Martha's Vineyard Commission review next month without the developer's participation.

"We've declined to participate in a separate... review because the commission lacks authority to conduct one for this application," Mr. Cumming said.

The commission's public hearing on Edgartown Cove is scheduled to begin Dec. 3.



Guinevere Cramer

Police conducted sweeps of M/V Martha's Vineyard ferry.

Threat Put Woods Hole Terminal on High Alert

From Page One

little information was available for the Steamship Authority officials, people waiting to board the ferries, or the passengers aboard the M/V Martha's Vineyard ferry, which was docked in Woods Hole and scheduled to leave at 5 p.m.

Alessandra Hagerty was in her car on the M/V Martha's Vineyard ferry, bringing her 13-year-old daughter Julianna home from a lacrosse game off-Island.

"We were sitting in our car on the ferry and had just ordered Porto Pizza to pick up when we arrived back on the Island," Ms. Hagerty recalled a few days after the incident. "And then I saw these two guys walking down the rows of cars with their vests on that say Falmouth Police on the back. And I thought, this is so weird. You never see Falmouth police on the boat. You see the state trooper every now and again but not Falmouth police."

Ms. Hagerty got out of her car to check out the scene and encountered more police sweeping the boat, their guns drawn, along with K9 dogs.

"Meanwhile, Julianna's getting a text from a friend who's in Woods Hole, and she's asking Julianna if she was on the boat, and then saying 'oh my gosh, there's so many police in Woods Hole. They're saying a guy in all black is trying to shoot up the boat.' So there's all of these rumors going around," Ms. Hagerty said.

At the time there were no announcements as to what was happening. Mr. Kryska said this was because he was not receiving any more information from the police.

"We let the Coast Guard know what was going on, and we obviously let our state police people know because they were on site," Mr. Kryska said. "And from what I understand, it was a village-wide issue, the entire village of Woods Hole was on lockdown. I know they canceled some film events that were going on there. The WHOI dock got locked down. They took it as a very serious threat, as they should."

Eyewitnesses were also taking in the scene from various spots around the terminal: waiting in the ferry line, aboard other ferries, and on the Peter Pan bus.

Maeve Cook-Martin was heading home for the Thanksgiving holiday from her freshman year at college, and arrived at the Woods Hole terminal at 8:15 p.m. via the Peter Pan bus.

"At first all the passengers were told to stay on the bus, but then we were allowed to get off the bus and walk to the freight boat, which was going to run," she said. "I saw on the other boat at least 20 cops, all with these huge guns. It was so scary."

Bart Jarek, of Oak Bluffs, was headed to Woods Hole aboard the Island Home on Saturday, which left the Vineyard at 5 p.m. Mr. Jarek provided an eyewitness account from his vantage point.

"About 15 minutes into the ride an announcement went out about a law enforcement action in Woods Hole and that we wouldn't be able to dock on time so everyone hang tight," Mr. Jarek said.

The boat was able to dock in Woods Hole about 15 minutes after its scheduled arrival but the passengers were not allowed to disembark.

"I went up on deck and saw multiple waves of police cars coming into Woods Hole," Mr. Jarek said. "I could see men with weapons and wearing body armor, and bringing K9 dogs too."

Mr. Jarek said the police boarded the M/V Martha's Vineyard ferry which was docked right next to the Island Home.

"It was surreal," Mr. Jarek said. "There was this strange contrast of the civilians milling around and looking like they were having a party upstairs while all this law enforcement was going on with armored men with guns, and dogs going aboard "

Mr. Jarek also saw two SUVs with hatches open to launch drones.

"I saw at least three drones, and then a helicopter came," he said. "There was a whole sequence of security measures being taken, and I saw 15 or more marked and unmarked police cars from maybe half a dozen different jurisdictions."

Guinevere Cramer was also on the M/V Martha's Vineyard ferry, coming back from her child's hockey game and driving with a friend.

"All of a sudden, I look up and I'm like, oh my god, that's a guy with, I don't know, I was calling it like an AK-47," she said. "I honestly don't know what it really was."



Alessandra Hagerty

Bomb-sniffing dogs were on the scene.

Ms. Cramer and her friend decided to leave the car and head to the upper decks, where they found a surprisingly mellow scene.

"Everyone was oddly calm," she said. "And you got to see the Vineyard community on display. If parents were with little kids and didn't have snacks, seasoned boat riders gave the kids apples and snacks. Islanders were buying each other drinks, and everybody was trying to do the best they could to be really kind and make it as pleasant as possible."

Ms. Cramer complimented the Steamship Authority staff, who had no more information than the passengers but were stepping in to help wherever they could.

"Even though they weren't able to communicate, and I'm sure they were under direct orders, they were passing out calendars to help pass the time and trying to make people feel comfortable," she said. "They were accommodating and pleasant as possible. Everyone was just oddly okay."

But the not knowing was hard.

"There were no announcements, which is one of the hardest things, because we were really practicing a shelter in place, which is challenging when you don't have any information to shelter in place, especially when you've got a boat full of folks traveling for the holiday," Ms. Cramer said.

Eventually, around 8:30 p.m. an announcement went out saying that walk-on passengers could leave the ferry to wait in Woods Hole for another boat. But not long after that the M/V Martha's Vineyard was cleared to go.

"The Coast Guard escorted us back to the Vineyard," Ms. Hagerty said.

"I always had trust in the authorities that they were doing what they needed to be doing," she added. "I never felt like it wasn't safe,"

Mr. Kryska said he will soon begin a debriefing process with all the various agencies.

"It was a challenging operation so we hope to have a good hot wash at some point with Falmouth PD and the Coast Guard and the state police and all the other people to kind of see what we can do better in the future," he said. "But it was the best we could do under the circumstances, and I think the passengers were good about bearing with us as we all worked through it."

Lieutenant Hergt added that he wanted the public to know that law enforcement is trained to respond to these kinds of incidents.

"We don't want residents to be fearful," he said. "We want them to be prepared for these kinds of incidents, and we want them to be vigilant and report any suspicious behavior, but we don't want the public feeling fearful."

Lieutenant Hergt also said the investigation continues and urged anyone with information or leads to contact officer Anthony DiPalmo at the Falmouth Police Department.

Short-Term Rental Bylaw Tops Special Town Meeting

From Page One

out the bylaw over the course of several months, with Bill Cleary as committee chair.

Mr. Cleary previously told the Gazette that formalizing short-term rentals as a legal property use in town helps protect the town and renters from legal blowback. He also said the committee tried to balance the town's economic reliance on short-term rentals with affordable housing needs.

"There may be a feeling out there that [short-term rentals] are overtaking the marketplace," Mr. Cleary said. "We definitely have a housing issue.... I don't think we need less [short-term rentals]. I also don't think that we perhaps need more."

On Thursday, Mr. Cleary and short-term rental committee member Leah Brown hosted an information session on the proposed short-term rental bylaw for Oak Bluffs voters. About 50 people attended, including owners of rental businesses.

Wade Townsend expressed concern that he hadn't heard about the proposed bylaw until recently. He suggested that many rental property owners do not primarily reside in Oak Bluffs and will therefore be unable to cast a vote at town meeting, which he sees as a problem.

"I think the numbers are skewed just based on your pool that's voting," he said. "So we're getting a perspective from just the residents and the people who live there versus the people who own homes there.... We have to register and do all these different things, and we have no say."

Mr. Cleary and Ms. Brown pushed back, saying they've made outreach a priority. Mr. Cleary said one needs to be a registered voter in Oak Bluffs to have a say at town meeting and therefore owning property is not enough on its own to participate.

"In order to vote for the town, there's certain parameters that need to be met, and home ownership is not the only one," Mr. Cleary said.

Other items up for consideration include a bylaw change codifying residents' right to store one or two boats on their private property, new restrictions on overnight parking for commercial vehicles in multi-family residential sites, and a 90-minute-per-day limit on street performances.

Other changes proposed by the planning board seek to update or clarify the definitions of "structure," "equipment," "footprint" and "building height" in the Oak Bluffs zoning bylaws.

Oak Bluffs special town meeting takes place at 7 p.m. on Dec. 1 at the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School performing arts center.



Pictures by Sydney Goldstein

Saturday's holiday meal giveway was an emotional time.

Restaurateur Says Thank You to Island Community

From Page One

by Immigration and Customs Enforcement and held for 10 months, before a judge ordered his release in early July allowing him to return home. He shared his gratitude to be back on the Island and back to work, reconnecting with neighbors and friends.

"I feel privileged to be back doing what I love," he said. "I'm happy to be here and able to interact with the community, especially with the people who knew I wasn't here...I feel blessed."

Mr. Waite is originally from Jamaica and has lived on the Vineyard for 20 years. He was detained while in the process of securing permanent U.S. resident status, but had unknowingly missed a court date after a notification was sent to the wrong address.

Although no longer in detention, Mr. Wait is waiting for a ruling on his original immigration case, which will determine whether he can stay in the United States with his family or be deported.

Since returning to the Island, he has been focused on giving back, and is already thinking about expanding the Thanksgiving tradition.

"We do this from our own pockets, but we've had friends come by and say they want to donate next time," he said. "So next year, I hope it can be bigger."

Included in each Thanksgiving meal is a heaping serving of mac and cheese, cranberry sauce, mashed potatoes, yams, gravy, stuffing and jerk turkey.

Among those stopping by on Saturday was Shawn Ramoutar, president of the Martha's Vineyard chapter of the NAACP. He has been coming to Vineyard Caribbean Cuisine since it opened.

"This is the best restaurant on the Island," Mr. Ramoutar said. "It's the best food and the best flavor. It's an Island staple I can't do without."

Mr. Ramoutar said Mr. Waite's cooking reminds him of his grandmother's.

"It's my home away from home, and my god-family," he said.

On Saturday, Mr. Ramoutar sat outside with Vanessa Decatus, the sous chef at the Inkwell Beach Club, and Frank Collaso, performer and organizer at the Strand Theatre. All three guests have been customers and friends of Mr. Waite for years.

The group talked about the restaurant's importance on the Island, and how Mr. Waite is able to make every customer feel welcome.

"It has that home feeling, like walking into your mom's kitchen," Ms. Decatus said.

"You can tell when a business wants to provide for its community," Mr. Collaso said. "Over the last 15 years, I've built a relationship with them...I've never been let down."

Mr. Waite's dedication to his community is unwavering, fueled by a genuine passion for what he does.

"When you're doing something you love, it's not work," Mr. Waite said.

As music played outside, customers continued to arrive, some stopping by simply to say hello to Mr. Waite.

"I've lived here for 20 years," Mr. Waite said. "I don't know what tomorrow will bring, but I hope everything happens for the best so I can continue working here."



Newton Waite (right) had been held in an ICE detention center for 10 months.

CALENDAR

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

Friday, Nov. 27

Friends of the West Tisbury Library Fall Book Sale, all proceeds benefit the library, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, westtisburylibrary.org, 508-693-3366.

Fall Favorites — New Works, affordable small new works by gallery artists, Louisa Gould Gallery, 54 Main street, Vineyard Haven, daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., louisagould.com, 508-693-7373.

Fall Festival, our 46th annual festival, Felix Neck Wildlife Sanctuary of Mass Audubon, 100 Felix Neck Drive, Edgartown, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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.

Island Made Holiday Shop, twenty Island makers' goods, Gayle Gardens, daily, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., 508-560-3315.

Small Works Show, new works by gallery artists, Louisa Gould Gallery, daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Turning Tides of Color, new works by new gallery artists: Colin Berry and Joe Krawczyk, Louisa Gould Gallery, daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Vineyard Artisans Thanksgiving Festival, holiday gifts such as one-of-a-kind winter hand-made sweaters, soaps and fine crafts, Agricultural Hall, 35 Panhandle Road, West Tisbury, Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., vineyardartisans.com.

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.

DIY Snowflake, design your own beaded snowflake ornament in our studio, Stefanie Wolf Designs, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., $30, stefaniewolf.com, 774-549-9526.

Harvest Art Exhibition, Circuit Arts' first annual fall group exhibition, Martha's Vineyard Playhouse, 24 Church street, Vineyard Haven, Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., circuitarts.org, 508-696-6300.

Holiday Art Pop Up, art in all mediums by over 15 artists, 510 State Road, West Tisbury, Friday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., agalleryartdesign.com, 508-939-0518.

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

World Market Holiday Shop, fair trade gifts from around the world, Capawock Theatre, 43 Main street, Vineyard Haven, daily, 11 a.m. to 5 a.m., free, 508-981-2598.

Wreath Making Workshop, two sign-up times available, Morrice Florist, 149 State Road, Vineyard Haven, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., $125, morriceflorist.com, 508-693-0392.

Featherstone's Annual Holiday Gift Show, 'tis the season for supporting the arts community, Featherstone Center for the Arts, 30 Featherstone Lane, Oak Bluffs, daily, 12 to 4 p.m., free, featherstoneart.org, 508-693-1850.

Live Music, Black Dog Tavern, 6 to 8 p.m., 508-693-9223.

Saturday, Nov. 28

Coaster Fusing Class, learn how to cut, shape and assemble glass, Martha's Vineyard Glassworks, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., $150, mvglassworks.com, 508-693-6026.

Baby and Toddler Storytime, stories, songs, scarves, and shakers, Oak Bluffs Public Library, 56R School street, Oak Bluffs, 10:15 to 10:45 a.m., free, oakbluffslibrary.org, 508-693-9433.

Saturday Storytime, Oak Bluffs Public Library, 10:15 to 10:45 a.m.

Cranberry Celebration, Oak Bluffs Public Library, 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Story Journeys Storytime, movement, stories and music, Vineyard Haven Public Library, 200 Main street, Vineyard Haven, 10:30 to 11 a.m., vhlibrary.org, 508-696-4211.

Storytime Saturdays, Martha's Vineyard Museum, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., free.

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

Aquinnah Beach Clean-Up, at Philbin, 12 to 4 p.m., free, 508-395-6985.

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.

Meet the Artist: Margot Datz, artist shares how she created the new 3D mural for the children's room, Vineyard Haven Public Library, 2 p.m.

Live Music, The Black Dog Bakery Cafe, 5 to 7 p.m., 508-696-8190.

Sunday, Nov. 29

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

An Exploration of Somatic Meditation, a guided exploration of somatic meditation taught by Jenna Harrison, Stillpoint, 20 Stillpoint Meadows Road, West Tisbury, 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., $25, stillpoint.thundertix.com.

Sound Bath with Carole Vandal and Anna Marden, with Carole Vandal's native flute and drum, and Anna Marden's gong, bowls and chimes, Stillpoint, 4 to 5 p.m., $20 to $40, email if cost is a barrier.

Monday, Nov. 30

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 Tisbury Public Library, 3 to 5 p.m.

Letters of Gratitude: Kids Letter Writing Workshop, Edgartown Public Library, 3 to 4 p.m.

Frozen Pond Glazing Method with Debbie Hale, Featherstone Center for the Arts, 4 to 6:30 p.m., $85.

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

Virtual: Understanding A.I. and Misinformation, presented by author, journalist and former news editor Philip Eil, 7 p.m., free, engagedpatrons.org, 508-696-4211.

Tuesday, Dec. 1

Assisted Knitting Open Studio, Featherstone Center for the Arts, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., $10.

Play Kitchen and Store, Oak Bluffs Public Library, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

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

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

Community Sound Bath, Oak Bluffs Public Library, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

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

Art Night — Mixed Media: Holiday Cards with Bricque Garber, Featherstone Center for the Arts, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., $45.

Chilmark Community Church Supper, community potluck, Chilmark Community Church, 5:30 p.m.

Community Mending Night, mend your clothes in community, Agricultural Hall, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Functional Strength with Alyssa Camara, registration and more info at edgartownlibrary.org, Edgartown Public Library, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Trivia Night, Black Dog Tavern, 6 to 8 p.m., 508-693-9223.

Virtual Literary Lecture Series: Gender Dramas with Professor Philip Weinstein, explore themes of yearning and desire in three novels, 7 to 8:30 p.m., free, vhpl.blogspot.com, 508-696-4211.

Wednesday, Dec. 2

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

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.

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.

String Games, Legos and Forts Drop-in Club, Vineyard Haven Public Library, 3:30 to 5 p.m.

Beekeeping Club, Agricultural Hall, 5 to 6 p.m., free, marthasvineyardagriculturalsociety.org, 508-693-9549.

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

Women's Circle with Emily Galligan, a space for connecting with yourself and other women, Stillpoint, 5:30 to 7 p.m., $10 to $30 sliding scale, email if cost is a barrier.

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.

Thursday, Dec. 3

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

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

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

Virtual Art History Series: A Very Rockwell Christmas, with art historian Jane Oneail, 12 p.m., free, engagedpatrons.org, 508-696-4211.

Science and Nature Book Club Reads Coming Into the Country by John McPhee, contact library for more information, Vineyard Haven Public Library, 2 p.m.

Ukulele Jam, public jam session meeting every other Thursday, West Tisbury Public Library, 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Naptime with David Stanwood, experience the calming effect of harmonic vibration, Stillpoint, 3:30 p.m., $10 to $30 sliding scale.

Holiday Gift Craft — Holiday Cards, Oak Bluffs Public Library, 4 to 5:30 p.m.

Prime Rib Night, Black Dog Tavern, 4 to 8:30 p.m.

An Evening with Sarah Shaw Dawson: Community Through Creative Acts, discussing songwriting, creativity and Island community connections, Martha's Vineyard Museum, 5 to 6 p.m.

Holiday Wreath Workshop, Donaroma's Nursery, 270 Upper Main street, Edgartown, 5 to 7 p.m., $125, 508-627-3036, ext. 1.

Trivia Night, The Black Dog Bakery Cafe, 6 to 8 p.m., 508-696-8190.

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

Jimmy and the Janitors, reservations recommended Pawnee House Restaurant, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

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

Comedy with TBD Improv Company, improvisers use your suggestions to create scenes, The Barn, Bowl & Bistro, 13 Uncas avenue, Oak Bluffs, 7 to 8:30 p.m., $17, tbdimprov.com.

Fall Festival



Maria Thibodeau

Getting Close to Nature at Felix Neck

A "guided bird sit" will kick off the fall festival at Felix Neck this Friday, Nov. 27, at 9 a.m. The morning meditation offers a chance to look and listen for birds, with a day full of festivities to follow.

Friday will mark the festival's 46th year, which falls annually on the day after Thanksgiving. The day gives Islanders of all ages a chance to celebrate autumn on the Vineyard with crafts, games, face painting and live music from The Flying Elbows.

There will be live animal shows at 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., and a bird call competition at noon. All are invited free of charge.

"We couldn't do it without our sponsors, or our volunteers," said Suzan Bellincampi, director of Felix Neck. "We probably have 60 volunteers that make this happen. The idea that it's free is really important to all of us because this place has had a tradition of welcoming everyone, and we want to make sure that there's no financial impediments."

The theme this year is "Nesting in Nature," with activities exploring how animals build their homes, take care of their young and make preparations for the changing seasons. The theme is different each year, with past ones revolving around accessibility, history, birds and climate resilience.

"We have a storyboard where you can go out and walk and different panels will tell you about the different animals and their nesting habitats," Ms. Bellincampi said. "We have something on otters, there's birds, there's what different animals are doing now that the seasons change and how they're preparing for winter and how they nest."

The festival will also celebrate the completion of the first phase of Felix Neck's all-persons trail.

"An all-persons trail is just what it sounds like. It's a trail that is specifically intended to be used by a wide range of people of all ages, abilities and interests," Ms. Bellincampi said. "It's a wide trail. It's flat...It's just under a half mile, and we wanted to get the first few steps done for the festival...It's a quick opportunity to get out on the trail and see it firsthand."

Another activity on the agenda is building a human-sized osprey nest, Ms. Bellincampi said, in order to teach visitors about the birds in an engaging way.

"We're going to invite the community to do a community art event to build the nest. So we'll actually have materials and twigs and sticks," she said. "It's pretty close to the ground, but it overlooks Turtle Pond, and once it's built, it'll be like you're sitting in a nest. It'll be a really fun project, a great opportunity for folks to get out and help us create this special site."

The festivities will run until 2 p.m. at Felix Neck Wildlife Sanctuary located at 100 Felix Neck Drive in Edgartown. Volunteers, or those looking to learn more, are invited to visit massaudubon.org/felixneckfallfestival.

-Lilly Echeverria

Even Santa needs help sometimes!
Take 20% off any one item!
(Excluding LEGO and Magna-Tiles)
Offer expires 12/24/2026
Limit: one per customer
tisbury Toy box
79 Beach Rd., Vineyard Haven
(508) 693-8182 • tisburytoybox.com

Thanksgiving WEEKEND SALE
11/27 - 11/29
BLACK FRIDAY EARLY BIRD SPECIAL
20% OFF STOREWIDE
8AM - 10AM
IN STORE PRODUCT ONLY. EXCLUSIONS APPLY.
20% OFF JACKETS
20% OFF DENIM
20% OFF BAGS
20% OFF SHOES
EXCLUSIONS APPLY.
YOUR STYLE. THE GREEN ROOM MARTHA'S VINEYARD YOUR LIFE.
71 MAIN ST. • 65 MAIN ST.
VINEYARD HAVEN • 508.693.6888
WWW.GREENROOMMV.COM • OPEN YEAR ROUND

Holiday Pop-Up Sale
Rain or Shine
New & Vintage Items
Furniture
Glass Wear
Decorative Wreaths
Stoneware Vases
Handmade Gifts
Pottery & Ribbons
December 5th & 6th, 10 am - 5 pm
Follow the signs to
43 Tiasquam Rd. West Tisbury

The Federated Church
45 SOUTH SUMMER STREET • EDGARTOWN
Festival of WREATHS
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3rd
5:00 – 7:00 PM
Festival of Wreaths
WREATH SALES • FOOD • BAR • AUCTION • RAFFLE
PayPal SCAN TO PAY
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5th
3:00 – 6:00 PM
Come decorate your own wreath, we will be there for ideas!
OR
Grab a wreath kit, bow and go!
Donations Welcomed

Island Community Chorus
30th Anniversary Holiday Concert
On the Midwinter's Eve
with special guests Willy Mason, Lexie Roth and Jessie Pinnick
Saturday, December 5 7:30 pm
Sunday, December 6 3:00 pm
The Old Whaling Church Edgartown MA
Suggested Donation $20 Students Free
Mass Cultural Council
MARTHA'S VINEYARD COMMUNITY FOUNDATION HERE FOR GOOD
MARTHA'S VINEYARD BANK Charitable Foundation

HAPPY Thanksgiving
THANKSGIVING - CLOSED
FRI, 11/27 + SAT, 11/28
9 AM - 5 PM
SUN, 11/29 - CLOSED
BLACK FRIDAY SALE
30% OFF ALL HOLIDAY
50% OFF
CONTAINERS, POTS AND VASES IN OUR ANTIQUE GREENHOUSE
HOLIDAY GREENS AND TREES ARE HERE!
Poinsettias! Paperwhites!
Donaroma's NURSERY & LANDSCAPE SERVICES
270 UPPER MAIN ST, EDG 508-627-3036



MOVIE LISTINGS
NOV 27-DEC 3

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

FRIDAY 11/27
Sense and Sensibility (2026) (PG) 1 p.m.
You Can See Everything (R) 4 p.m.
The Only Living Pickpocket in New York (R) 7:30 p.m.
SATURDAY 11/28
Fatherland 1 p.m.
You Can See Everything (R) 4 p.m.
The Only Living Pickpocket in New York (R) 7:30 p.m.
SUNDAY 11/29
Sense and Sensibility (2026) (PG) 1 p.m.
The Only Living Pickpocket in New York (R) 4 p.m.
You Can See Everything (R) 7:30 p.m.
Sense and Sensibility (PG) 1 p.m.
MONDAY 11/30
Closed
TUESDAY 12/01
Closed
WEDNESDAY 12/02
The Only Living Pickpocket in New York (R) 7:30 p.m.
THURSDAY 12/03
You Can See Everything (R) 4 p.m.

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

FRIDAY 11/27
Hexed (PG) 1 p.m., 6:30 p.m.
Focker-in-Law (PG-13) 3:45 p.m.
The Hunger Games: Sunrise on the Reaping (PG-13) 2:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY 11/28
Focker-in-Law (PG-13) 1 p.m.
Hexed 3D (PG) 3:45 p.m.
I Play Rocky (PG-13) 6:45 p.m.
The Hunger Games: Sunrise on the Reaping (PG-13) 2:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m.
SUNDAY 11/29
I Play Rocky (PG-13) 1 p.m.
Hexed (PG) 3:45 p.m.
Focker-in-Law (PG-13) 6:45 p.m.
The Hunger Games: Sunrise on the Reaping (PG-13) 2:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m.
MONDAY 11/30
Hexed 3D (PG) 4 p.m.
Focker-in-Law (PG-13) 6:30 p.m.
The Hunger Games: Sunrise on the Reaping (PG-13) 5:30 p.m.
TUESDAY 12/01
Hexed (PG) 4 p.m.
I Play Rocky (PG-13) 6:30 p.m.
The Hunger Games: Sunrise on the Reaping (PG-13) 5:30 p.m.
WEDNESDAY 12/02
3D Hexed (PG) 1:15 p.m., 4 p.m.
Focker-In-Law (R) 6:30 p.m.
The Hunger Games: Sunrise on the Reaping (PG-13) 5:30 p.m.
THURSDAY 12/03
Hexed (PG) 4 p.m.
I Play Rock (PG-13) 6:30 p.m.
The Hunger Games: Sunrise on the Reaping (PG-13) 5:30 p.m.

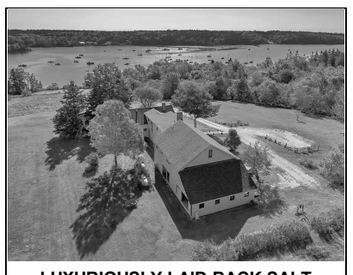


CLASSIFIED SECTION

Real Estate
For Sale/Rent
Help Wanted
Articles for Sale



For Sale, Off-Island



LUXURIOUSLY LAID-BACK SALT WATER FARM | MIDCOAST MAINE
Elevated in every way. 1815 Saltwater Farm that sits up high on 17.3 acres with commanding views over the Benjamin River Harbor and the Eggemoggin Reach. Masterfully restored by former Martha's Vineyard master carpenter and designer seamlessly blends historic detail, modern amenities, and French inspiration. With 551 feet of shore frontage, your own protected mooring, deep-water access, and the convenience of the town docks and boat launch just a stone's throw away, getting outside and on the water couldn't be easier. Add to that a versatile and impressive attached two-story barn and ample acreage that can accommodate a family compound. This quietly desirable address is centrally located between Brooklin, Blue Hill, and Deer Isle. You have quick access to shops, restaurants, and galleries without the hassle of tourist activity or traffic. Bangor and Bar Harbor airports are only an hour away.

Offered at $2,388,000.
87 Carter Point Rd. Sedgwick, Maine.
For more information visit: https://www.maggiemcgawrealestate.com/87-carter-point-rd-sedgwick.

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

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, West Tisbury

WEST TISBURY | RENTAL
Spacious, charming apartment in a beautiful, private area. Features a patio, full kitchen, washer and dryer. Utilities and WiFi included. $2,800/month, with possibility of year-round. (508) 939-1414.

Help Wanted

ADAM T. INCORPORATED

SUPERVISOR/LEAD CARPENTER
Adam T. Inc. is seeking a highly dependable, motivated individual to fill one of the expanding Construction firm's Supervisory/Lead Carpenter positions. A true craftsman with leadership, supervisory experience and a truck is a must. Wage, benefits, profit-share commensurate with skill level and experience. Email resume to: adam@adamtinc.com.

Help Wanted

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.

ROBERT W OGDEN SHERIFF COMM. OF MASSACHUSETTS 2017 DUKES COUNTY

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 position with a generous benefit package including paid leave, insurance, state pension and deferred compensation matching.
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.

ISLAND AUTISM LIVE-IN HOUSE MANAGER
Seeking a reliable, caring individual to provide household support and companionship for an independent adult woman with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. No personal care required. Flexible morning/evening hours, compatible with another daytime job. Long-term commitment preferred. Subsidized housing plus monthly stipend.
Contact: lena@islandautism.org.

ISLAND HOUSING TRUST

ISLAND HOUSING TRUST
is seeking a full-time **Advancement Coordinator** to support private fundraising initiatives, campaigns and event planning. View the job description at ihtmv.org/job-openings. Interested candidates are invited to send their resume to jlincoln@ihtmv.org.

Help Wanted

LAMBERT'S WEST TISBURY MASS EST. 1969 COVE INN·RESTAURANT·FARM

SERVER | BUSSER | LINE COOK
Restaurant Foster & Mermaid Bar at The Lambert's Cove Inn
Experience strongly preferred and willing to train the right candidate. Flexible hours, staff meal included.
Please send resume to Malaika at: malaika.lambertscoveinn@gmail.com.

LANDSCAPE PROFESSIONAL WANTED
Excellent opportunity for an experienced landscape professional to work with a high-end residential landscape maintenance team. Responsibilities include property inspections, client communication, crew coordination, quality control, horticultural oversight and landscape enhancement recommendations. Leadership experience and strong plant knowledge preferred. Competitive compensation, benefits, paid holidays, and advancement opportunities. English required; portuguese/English bilingual candidates preferred. Call Landscape at (508) 696-8812 or email info@landscopeinc.com.

FRONT DESK RECEPTIONIST DIGITAL MEDIA COORDINATOR OFFICE ASSISTANT
Small and friendly nonprofit. Duties include answering phones, greeting the public, providing customer service, scheduling, attending meetings, and ordering supplies. Exemplary computer skills, attention to detail, and digital media aptitude is a must.
This full-time position offers a competitive salary, medical and 401(k) options. Must have stable housing.
Forward resume to:
humanresources44@yahoo.com.

MVY AIRPORT MARTHA'S VINEYARD

The Martha's Vineyard Airport has an exciting full-time, year-round, benefited, permanent position:

Operations Specialist / Firefighter

Full-time, benefited, permanent position. Duties include aircraft servicing, aircraft fire-fighting/rescue, airport and airfield maintenance, staffing operations office, and other airport responsibilities. Prior firefighting experience not required. Includes weekends, nights, overnights, and holidays. Starting Wage is $ 32.52, based on experience.

Applications and job description available online at:
www.mvyairport.com/employment-opportunities or at Airport Management Office, 71 Airport Road, West Tisbury, MA 02575, or emailing hr@mvyairport.com. Acceptance of applications closes **December 2, 2026, at 12 pm.**

The Martha's Vineyard Airport and the County of Dukes County are an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Help Wanted

MUSEUM EDUCATOR
Love history, storytelling and working with the community? The Martha's Vineyard Museum is seeking an enthusiastic educator to bring local history to life for diverse audiences. Visit mvmuseum.org/careers for more information and how to apply.

OAK BLUFFS OPEN ASSOCIATION

OAK BLUFFS ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
The Oak Bluffs Association seeks a creative, energetic, hands-on, part-time Executive Director to lead the organization, support local businesses, and bring our community together. This role combines membership development and revenue generation, community event planning and coordination, and hands-on marketing, including graphics, social media, and email campaigns. We're looking for an organized, proactive self-starter who can engage businesses, rally volunteers, and build strong community partnerships.

Part-time position with increased hours around events and promotions. Compensation up to $30,000 annually, based on experience.
Send résumé and a brief letter of interest to oakbluffsassociation@gmail.com by **December 15, 2026.**

THE YMCA OF MV
HIRING TWO FULL-TIME POSITIONS
Housekeeping Department

- Hiring for all shifts: early morning, nights and weekends.
- Health and Dental benefits available.
- Competitive pay.
- Previous experience preferred but not required.

Please email applications and a resume to the Director of Housekeeping Ryan Schwab Doyon: ryan@ymcamv.org.

TISBURY SCHOOL
seeks qualified applicants for a full-time (40 hours/week)
CUSTODIAN POSITION
Shift hours are 2:00 - 10:00 PM during the school year; 7:00 AM - 3:00 PM during school vacations and summer.
Competitive pay based on experience: $60,070-$91,250. Full benefits including health, dental and retirement.
Applications can be submitted through our website at: www.mvyps.org under Employment, new jobs, corresponding Schoolspring **Job ID: 5992413.**
Deadline: Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.
Starting: December 7, 2026.
No person shall be excluded or discriminated against on the basis of race, color, sex, age, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability.
EOE

VINEYARD GAZETTE

The Vineyard Gazette is seeking an **experienced editor** to lead The Vine, a publication delivered seven times a year to every mailbox on Martha's Vineyard. Responsibilities include assigning and editing stories, managing the editorial calendar, and coordinating freelance writers and photographers.

The ideal candidate is well-connected to Island life, with a keen eye for compelling local stories, people, and events. Strong editorial judgment, excellent organizational skills, and the ability to develop engaging content that reflects the Island and its community are essential. Design experience is a plus but not required.

This is a part-time position. Send your resume to vczarnecki@vineyardgazette.com

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

Volunteers

AMERICAN RED CROSS MARTHA'S VINEYARD
The American Red Cross of Southeastern Massachusetts is looking for community partners, volunteers, board members and responders to serve and represent Martha's Vineyard. From disaster response, home fire prevention, and emergency sheltering to community outreach, preparedness and blood collection, there are so many ways to support. Interested? Reach out to Executive Director, Barbara Cotton at Barbara.cotton@redcross.org.

ANGELS HELPING ANIMALS
Seeking volunteers and foster homes. Please call (508)274-2604.

CHICKEN ALLEY THRIFT SHOP
Make new friends. Learn something new. Support your community. Be environmentally friendly. Volunteer at Chicken Alley. Send email to:
chickenalleythriftshop@mvcommunityservices.org.

HEALTHY AGING MV SEEKING DRIVERS
MV Connect, our program to help older adults maintain their independence, is looking for volunteer drivers.
Sign up online at www.hamv.org or call or text: (508) 560-4514.

MEDIA VOICES FOR CHILDREN
Volunteers/Interns Wanted
Media Voices for Children promotes children's rights and education so every child can be safe, heard, and free. We're looking for motivated individuals with skills in public relations, event planning, fundraising, grant writing, storytelling, writers, and video and sound editors. Lend your time and talent and help change a child's life by sharing your gifts for a great cause. Get in touch:
fernanda@mediavoicesforchildren.org.

MISTY MEADOWS EQUINE LEARNING CENTER
We're looking for passionate, kind-hearted volunteers to help care for our horses, support our programs, assist with feedings and barn chores. Whether you love horses, nature, or giving back to the community, there's a place for you at Misty. No experience necessary, training is provided.
Email volunteer@mistymeadowsmv.org to get started.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
The Martha's Vineyard Boys & Girls Club is looking for volunteers to make a positive impact on the lives of Island children. We need volunteers to help with our after school and summer programs, coaching, fundraising events, facility maintenance, and gardening. Contact office@mvbgclub.org.

MV CENTER FOR LIVING
Brighten someone's day, help us provide our services to Island elders and have fun doing it. We are looking for program help, administrative assistance and volunteer drivers for our small van.
For more information please call Mary Holmes at (508)939-9440 or email to maryh@mvcenter4living.org.

Volunteers

MV HOSPITAL
MV Hospital is looking for volunteers for several positions within our organization. For more information, please visit our website at:
https://mvhospital.org/charitable-giving/volunteer/

VINEYARD VILLAGE AT HOME
Our mission is to help older residents maintain their independence. We need volunteer drivers to take our members to social and cultural events, medical appointments, shopping and errands, and the like. We also would like volunteers for friendly visits or taking our members on outings. The volunteers and members usually enjoy each other's company, and it is fun and rewarding for both.
Contact: vineyardvillage@gmail.com.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
Non-profit organizations looking for volunteer help can advertise their openings for free in the Vineyard Gazette Classifieds. Any tax-exempt charitable or arts organization wishing to advertise for unpaid help may do so without charge. The ads will run at the discretion of the editor. List at www.vineyardgazette.com/classifieds

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

Painters

WINTER DISCOUNT
Interior painter for winter and spring. I will beat all reasonable estimates. This could save you thousands of dollars.
Call my phone number (508)680-6379 or email: alltakencareof@comcast.net.

WALLPAPER | PAINT | FINISHING TOUCHES
Wallpaper and painting. High quality and professional. Great results and advice please call (508) 680-6379 and leave a message or text.

Giveaways

CAMPING EQUIPMENT
REI 4HC tent, two backpacks and lots of cooking equipment. Must take all items. Text: (650) 296-8515.

Edgartown Legal Notices

TOWN OF EDGARTOWN
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Notice is hereby given in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 87, Section 3 of the Massachusetts General Laws and amendments thereto, that Beth and Bryan Palma, has requested permission to remove the following public shade tree. The tree is a Sycamore Maple Tree, approximately 16 inch DBH and 30 foot height. The tree is located at 109 School Street. Assessors map 29A, parcel 93.1.

Antiques and Collectibles

AMERICANA AUCTIONS ANTIQUES

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

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.

Boat Sales and Accessories

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.

Lost and Found

THE VINEYARD GAZETTE'S LOST & FOUND CATEGORY
Found something of value, and want to do the right thing? Let the Gazette help you.
The Lost & Found category is a free serves. Deadline for publication is 3:00PM Tuesdays. 24 words or less, please. Ads will be published for 4 weeks in print and online.
www.vineyardgazette.com/classifieds

Announcements

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

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.

Edgartown Legal Notices

A public hearing will be held upon said request at **4:00 PM on Monday, December 7, 2026,** in the Fred B. Morgan meeting room of the Town Hall, 70 Main Street, Edgartown, Massachusetts.

Select Board / Tree Warden
nov20,27,2t

TOWN OF EDGARTOWN
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Notice is hereby given in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 87, Section 3 of the Massachusetts General Laws and amendments thereto, that Donaroma's Nursery & Landscape Services Inc., agent for Big Red Dog MV LLC, has requested permission to remove the following public shade trees. The trees are (A) Norway Maple, (B) Sycamore Maple, and (C) Norway Maple with 18", 28", and 36" inch DBH and 42' to 45' foot height. The trees are located at 49 High Street. Assessors map 20C, parcel 132.1.



MVCS Family Resource Center
Employment Opportunities
FRC Clinician
($26.00 - $32.00/hour)

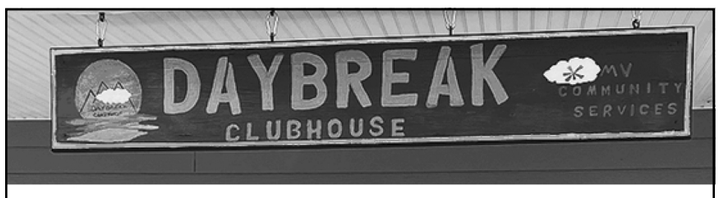
The FRC Clinician oversees clinical services, conducts trauma-informed intakes and assessments, supervises staff, facilitates and assists with groups and programming, and supports Family Support Plans. Evening and weekend hours required.

Qualifications: Master's Degree, License (LMHC or LCSW) required. Experience as a licensed clinician with experience administering the CANS assessment (FAST). Strong communication and organizational skills. Valid driver's license and reliable transportation required.

Sign-On Bonus available to employees in good standing!

For full job responsibilities and to apply please check our website or scan the QR code:
mvcommunityservices.org/employment

MV Community Services



MVCS Disability Services
is seeking a Daybreak Staff Generalist
$23.00 - $27.60/hour
Sign-On Bonus available to employees in good standing!
This position supports adults living with mental health conditions through vocational, educational, recreational, and social activities that promote independence, recovery, and community engagement. Responsibilities include supporting members, coordinating activities, maintaining records, and providing transportation. Experience in human services or mental health preferred. Valid Massachusetts driver's license required. Flexible availability, including occasional evenings and weekends, is needed.

For full job responsibilities and to apply please check our website or scan the QR code:
mvcommunityservices.org/employment

MV Community Services

MARTHA'S VINEYARD BANK

Best of the Vineyard 2026 Martha's Vineyard Magazine

AMERICAN BANKER 2025 Best Banks to Work For

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
Retail Banker

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.

JOHN KEENE EXCAVATION

We are looking to add to our team!

- **Experienced Diesel Mechanic**
- **Site Supervisor / Experienced Machine Operator**
- **Laborer**
- **CDL Class A or B Truck Driver**

These four positions are year-round and include excellent benefits! Please call our office at 508.693.5975 or email us at office@johnkeene.com

EDGARTOWN LEGAL NOTICES

A public hearing will be held upon said request at **4:00 PM on Monday, December 7, 2026,** in the Fred B. Morgan meeting room of the Town Hall, 70 Main Street, Edgartown, Massachusetts.

Select Board / Tree Warden
nov20,27,2t

TOWN OF EDGARTOWN
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 87, Section 3 of the Massachusetts General Laws and amendments thereto, that Cammie Naylor / Donaroma's Nursery & Landscape Services Inc., agent for Michael Donaroma has requested permission to remove the following public shade trees. The trees are (3) Sycamore Maple Trees, with 15" to 18" inch DBH and 22' to 26' foot height. The trees are located at 32 Pine Street. Assessors map 20A, parcel 131.

A public hearing will be held upon said request at **4:00 PM on Monday, December 7, 2026,** in the Fred B. Morgan meeting room of the Town Hall, 70 Main Street, Edgartown, Massachusetts.

Select Board / Tree Warden
nov20,27,2t

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
Town Of Edgartown
P.O. Box 5158
Edgartown, MA 02539

The Community Preservation Committee (CPC) will hold a **Public Hearing on Monday December 7, 2026, at 5:00pm** in the Fred B. Morgan Meeting Room on the first floor of Town Hall, 70 Main St., Edgartown. The Purpose of the Hearing is to review the applications for CPA funds that the CPC are considering for recommendation to the Annual and Special Town Meetings in April of 2027. The public is encouraged to attend and ask questions.

Applications include:

Affordable Housing
Dukes County Regional Housing – Rental Assistance: $175,000
TRI – PALS Housing Assistance Program: $124,000
Edgartown Affordable Housing Committee – Chappaquiddick Property: $43,100
Island Housing Trust – School Employee Housing: $453,500
Island Autism – Housing – 515 Lambert's Cove: $250,000
Harbor Homes – Renovation of residential shelters: $125,000

Open Space & Recreation
Conservation Commission – Slough Cove Kayak Access: $48,000
Conservation Commission – Blue Trails Project: $6,900
Selectboard – Dock St. Restrooms $371,800
Master Plan Committee – Cannonball Park: $150,890
Edgartown Public Library Outdoor Landscaping: $200,000

Historic Preservation
Vineyard Preservation Trust – Whaling Church Window Restoration: $47,000
Federated Church Parish House: $200,000
Katama Farm Barn: $85,904
MV Fishermen's Preservation Trust – Restoration of Little Lady: $150,000

For further information, contact Kristy Rose at (627) 6180 or krose@edgartown-ma.us.
nov25,dec4,2t

TOWN OF EDGARTOWN
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 87, Section 3 of the Massachusetts General Laws and amendments thereto, that Edgartown Park Department, agent for Town of Edgartown has requested permission to remove the following public shade trees. The trees are (A) (2) Beech Trees, (B) American Elm, and (C) Norway Maple with 22", 32", 16" inch DBH and 48', 68', 40' foot height.The trees are located at Cannonball Park. Assessors map 20C, parcel 207.

A public hearing will be held upon said request at **4:00 PM on Monday, December 7, 2026,** in the Fred B. Morgan meeting room of the Town Hall, 70 Main Street, Edgartown, Massachusetts.

Select Board / Tree Warden
nov20,27,2t

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing and possible budget certification of the Edgartown School District FY28 budget will be held on **Wednesday, December 9, 2026, at 5:30 pm** at the Edgartown School, located at 35 Robinson Road, Edgartown, MA 02539. Please contact the Edgartown School at (508) 627-3316 for more information.
nov27,dec4,2t

PUBLC HEARING

On Wednesday, December 2nd 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 Joseph Sieber under the Edgartown Wetlands Protection Bylaw and the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act. The applicant proposes **vegetation management, including selective brush cutting, removal of primarily eastern red cedar trees, and invasive species removal, to preserve and maintain sandplain heathland habitat within the FEMA 100-year flood AE zone and buffer.**

The property is located at 30 Katama Bay View Road. (Assessor's Parcel Map 26, Lot 20).

For a copy of the application or for questions related to observing the meeting via Zoom, please contact:
conservation@edgartown-ma.us
nov25,1t

EDGARTOWN LEGAL NOTICES

EDGARTOWN ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On Wednesday, December 16, 2026 at 4:15pm the Edgartown Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a remote public hearing via ZOOM on the request by **37 Main Street MV LLC** for a special permit under section 3.1.8(3) and (4) of the zoning bylaw to **request for a Special Permit to allow for the renovation of the existing building and concomitant change of use from retail with residential apartments on the second floor to a general store with food service for breakfast and lunch on the first floor featuring grab & go sandwiches, coffee service; with the second floor consisting of a retail area and dining room for small special events, a retail area for children, and the installation of awning on second floor deck; all pursuant to Section 3.1.8 (3) and (4) of the Zoning Bylaw. With respect to the general store: liquor will not be sold, but wine and beer will be served with food only, subject to obtaining the appropriate licenses. There will be take-out window in the back facing the North Water Street Corporation green (Map 20D/Lot 2111, and there will be a patio on the back with seating for 25. The building will be brought up to compliance with all applicable building and fire codes**. The property is located at 37 Main Street (Assr. Pcl. 20D-206) in the B-1 Business District. Written comments should be received no later than noon on December 15, 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/89348892657

Or Join by Phone: 646 558 8656
Meeting ID: 893 4889 2657
nov25,dec4,2t

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with Section 5.1.D.e of the Edgartown Zoning Bylaw, the Edgartown Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, December 15, 2026 at 4:35 PM**, at the request of Doug Hoehn, SBH, Inc, on behalf of Mimi's House LLC to modify a previously approved special permit to alterations and additions to an existing dwelling in the Shore Zone of the Coastal District.
The subject property is located at 144 Plantingfield Way, Assessors Parcel #13-16.3.
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/84393680376, or voice phone call to (646) 558-8656 (when prompted, enter Meeting ID #8439 368 0376
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 Eddleston, Administrator, planningboard@edgartown-ma.us.
nov25,dec4,2t

PUBLIC HEARING

On Wednesday, December 2nd 2026, at 4:55 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, Barbini & Hoehn Inc. on behalf of **Drew & Kimberly Conway** under the Edgartown Wetlands Protection Bylaw and the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act. The applicant **proposes reconstructing and adding to an existing garage in an area within land subject to coastal storm flowage.**

The property is located at 71 North Water Street. (Assessor's Parcel Map 20D, Lot 292.1).

For a copy of the application or for questions related to observing the meeting via Zoom, please
contact: conservation@edgartown-ma.us.
nov25,1t

PUBLIC HEARING

On **Wednesday, December 2nd 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, Barbini & Hoehn Inc., on behalf of **Thomas C. & Lori A. Priore** under the Edgartown Wetlands Protection Bylaw and the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act. The applicant is **proposing landscaping, a parking area, and construction of a previously approved pool/spa within land subject to coastal storm flowage.**

The property is located at 55 King Point Way(Assessor's Parcel Map 44, Lot 10.22).

For a copy of the application or for questions related to observing the meeting via Zoom, please
contact: conservation@edgartown-ma.us
nov25,1t

PUBLIC HEARING

On **Wednesday, December 2nd 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 **Notice of Intent** filed by Schofield, Barbini & Hoehn Inc., on behalf of the **Shavelle/Garraway Living Trust** under the Edgartown Wetlands Protection Bylaw and the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act. The applicant **proposes to renovate an existing dwelling by replacing a 114 s.f. porch with a 70 s.f. covered porch and two stone landings, as well as construct an ADU within land subject to coastal storm flowage.**

The property is located at 9 Fowler Ave (Assessor's Parcel Map 12B, Lot 135).

For a copy of the application or for questions related to observing the meeting via Zoom, please
contact: conservation@edgartown-ma.us
nov25,1t

EDGARTOWN LEGAL NOTICES

PUBLIC HEARING

On **Wednesday, December 2nd 2026, at 4:45 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, Barbini & Hoehn Inc., on behalf of **Easterly MV LLC**, under the Edgartown Wetlands Protection Bylaw and the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act. The applicant **is proposing to repair and maintain an existing 156 ft long wooden bulkhead within the resource area.**

The property is located at 23 Edgartown Bay Road (Assessor's Parcel Map 46, Lot 5).

For a copy of the application or for questions related to observing the meeting via Zoom, please
contact: conservation@edgartown-ma.us
nov25,1t

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with Section 5.1.D.2 of the Edgartown Zoning Bylaw, the Edgartown Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, December 15, 2026 at 4:30 PM**, at the request of Doug Hoehn, SBH, Inc, on behalf of Thomas & Lori Priore to construct a 36x18' swimming pool with spa and sound-proof equipment shed (this was previously approved, however the special permit expired).
The subject property is located at 55 King Point Way, Assessors Parcel #44-10.22.
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/84393680376, or voice phone call to (646) 558-8656 (when prompted, enter Meeting ID #8439 368 0376
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 Eddleston, Administrator, planningboard@edgartown-ma.us.
nov25,dec4,2t

PUBLIC HEARING

On **Wednesday, December 2nd 2026, at 4:50 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.**
nov25,1t

EDGARTOWN ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On **Wednesday, December 16, 2026, at 4:00pm** the Edgartown Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a remote public hearing via ZOOM on the request by **Andrew & Barbara Graff** for a special permit under section 10.1.G of the zoning bylaw to **construct a 14x21' in-ground swimming pool and associated 8x10' sound-insulated pool equipment enclosure**. The property is a pre-existing, nonconforming .34-acre lot at **30 Metells Way** (Assr. Pcl. 36-30) in the R-20 Residential District. Written comments should be received no later than noon on December 15, 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/89348892657

Or Join by Phone: 646 558 8656
Meeting ID: 893 4889 2657
nov25,dec4,2t

OAK BLUFFS LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing and possible budget certification of the Oak Bluffs School District FY28 budget will be held on **Tuesday, December 22, 2026 at 8:00AM** at the Oak Bluffs School located at 50 Trade Winds Road, Oak Bluffs, MA 02557. A copy of the budget will be available at the Oak Bluffs School. Please contact the Oak Bluffs School at (508) 693-0951 for more information.
nov25,dec4,2t

TISBURY LEGAL NOTICES

TOWN OF TISBURY
Office of
BOARD OF APPEALS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Case 2591

The Tisbury Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a hybrid public hearing on **Thursday, December 10, 2026, at 4:30 p.m.** at the Tisbury Town Hall Annex, located at 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 12 Bluebird Lane LLC seeking a variance to allow residential use on the first floor of a building located in the B1 zoning district. The location of the project is 28 State Road (Assessor Parcel 9A3) The application is filed pursuant to Tisbury Zoning Bylaw 05.12.01. Copies of the application are available for public review at the Tisbury Zoning Board of Appeals Office.
Remote participation information:
Zoom Link:
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84180643208
Meeting ID: 841 8064 3208
Passcode: 901757
Phone Access: +16468769923
nov20,27,2t

TISBURY LEGAL NOTICES

TOWN OF TISBURY
Office of
BOARD OF APPEALS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Case 2590

The Tisbury Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a hybrid public hearing on **Thursday, December 10, 2026, at 4:30 p.m**. at the Tisbury Town Hall Annex, located at 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 Eric G. Johnson seeking an amendment Special Permit Case No. 2549, dated April 10, 2025. The existing permit authorizes the location of pool equipment under the pool house at 36 Howard Street (Assessor's Parcel 15B17.2). The proposed amendment would allow the pool and spa equipment to be relocated to an existing shed at 87 Bellevue Avenue (Assessor's Parcel 15B10). The application was filed pursuant to Tisbury Zoning Bylaw 04.03.10. Copies of the application are available for public review at the Tisbury Zoning Board of Appeals Office and Sourati Engineering.
Remote participation information:
Zoom Link:
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84180643208
Meeting ID: 841 8064 3208
Passcode: 901757
Phone Access: +16468769923
nov20,27,2t

TOWN OF TISBURY
DINGHY, BOAT, AND KAYAK REMOVAL

All dinghies, boats, and kayaks on Tisbury Town beaches and in Town racks must be **removed by December 15, 2026**, or the Town will remove them at the owner's expense. This includes but is not limited to Lagoon Pond ramp, Renear's Landing, Owen Park, Lake Street, and the head of Tashmoo.

You must obtain written permission from the Harbormaster in advance to keep a dinghy or boat after this date, regardless of prior practice. Please do not assume the Harbor Department knows who owns your vessel. Contact: moorings@tisburyma.gov or (508) 696-4249.
nov25,dec4,11,3t

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing and possible budget certification of the Tisbury School District FY28 budget will be held on **Tuesday, December 8, 2026 at 4:00 PM** in the Tisbury School Cafeteria located at 40 West William Street, Vineyard Haven, MA 02568. A copy of the budget will be available at the Tisbury School. Please contact the Tisbury School at (508) 696-6500 for more information.
nov25,dec4,2t

TOWN OF TISBURY
Nuisance/Dangerous Dog Hearing

On **Tuesday, December 8, 2026, at 4:30 pm,** the Town of Tisbury Selectboard will hold a public hearing in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter S 140, Section 157A, to determine whether the dogs owned and/or kept by Gillian Field Burns at 30 Watergate Road, Tisbury, MA, are a Nuisance or Dangerous Dogs. The Public can attend and participate in the hearing by joining scheduled Zoom https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89794827515 **Meeting ID:** 897 9482 7515 **Passcode:** 727306 and in person at Emergency Services Facility, 215 Spring Street, Tisbury. If you are unable to attend the hearing, please feel free to address your comments or concerns in writing to Tisbury Select Board, P.O. Box 1239 or email jgatchell@tisburyma.gov.
nov25,dec4,2t

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing and possible budget certification of the Up-Island Regional School District FY28 budget will be held on **Monday, December 21, 2026 at 6:00 PM** at the West Tisbury School or via Zoom:

Participation available remotely by zoom:

Join Zoom Meeting:
https://mvyps.zoom.us/j/89156508940?pwd=RWNFOG5VUmM4R2EwaTkyZGc0UUdndz09

Meeting ID: 891 5650 8940
Passcode: 515761

Dial by your location
Find your local number:
https://mvyps.zoom.us/u/keD4gLFT1E
nov25,dec4,2t

GENERAL LEGAL NOTICES

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
DIVORCE SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION AND MAILING
DOCKET. NO DU26D0060DR
ANDREW C DEOLIVEIRA
VS. ELICARLOS R DOS SANTOS

To the Defendant:

The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant an Annulment.
The Complaint is on file at the Court.
An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. SEE **Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411.**

You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon:
Andrew C DeOliveira
PMB #294
455 State Road
Tisbury, MA 02568

your answer, if any, on or before 12/22/2026. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file for a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this court.

WITNESS, Hon. Susan L Jacobs,
First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 12, 2026.
Daphne DeVries
Register of Probate
Dukes County Probate and Family Court
PO Box 237
81 Main Street
Edgartown, MA 02539
nov27,1t

WEEKLY SUDOKU AND CROSSWORD ANSWERS – November 27, 2026

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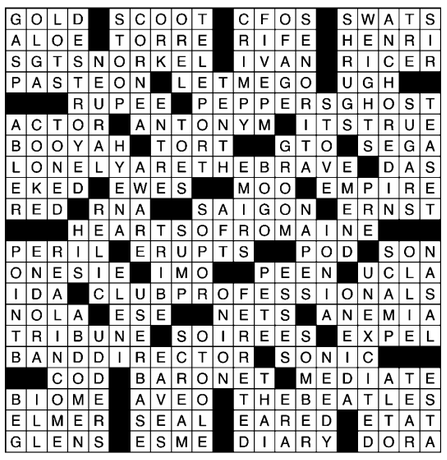


GENERAL LEGAL NOTICES

First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 12, 2026.
Daphne DeVries
Register of Probate
Dukes County Probate and Family Court
PO Box 237
81 Main Street
Edgartown, MA 02539
nov27,1t

DUKES COUNTY REGIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY
LEGAL NOTICE - REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
AFFORDABLE HOUSING MAINTENANCE SERVICES

The Dukes County Regional Housing Authority (DCRHA) invites sealed proposals from qualified contractors to provide comprehensive maintenance services for its affordable housing portfolio on Martha's Vineyard. Services include routine and emergency maintenance, preventive maintenance, unit turnovers, property inspections, subcontractor coordination, and general maintenance management.

Proposal Deadline: December 14, 2026, at 2:00 PM.

Complete RFP documents, including submission requirements and specifications, may be obtained by contacting:
Maria Ventura, Executive Director
Dukes County Regional Housing Authority
Phone: (508) 693-4419.
Email: maria@housingauthoritymv.org.

Sealed proposals must be received by the deadline at:
Maria Ventura, Executive Director
Dukes County Regional Housing Authority
21 Mechanic Street
P.O. Box 4538
Vineyard Haven, MA 02568.

DCRHA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive minor informalities when deemed in the public interest.
nov20,1t

MARTHA'S VINEYARD COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING

The public is invited to a public hearing concerning the following Development of Regional Impact **#789 Edgartown Cove Housing.**
Applicant: Edgartown Cove Housing LLC; William Cumming & Jason Talerman (Applicants).
Location: 501 Edgartown-West Tisbury Road, Edgartown. Map 22, Lot 2.1 (approximately 2 acres).
Proposal: Construction of a 40-unit condominium complex spread across six standalone buildings, creation of 58 parking spaces, and alterations to a Special Way.
Date & Time: Thursday, December 3, 2026 at 6:35 p.m.
Place: Hybrid Meeting **MVC Office - 1st Floor,** 33 New York Ave, Oak Bluffs, MA and **Zoom Meeting ID: 880 5998 1524; Password: 634487.**
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.
nov20,27,2t

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

VTA Project # 2027-02: MANAGEMENT SERVICES

The Martha's Vineyard Transit Authority (VTA) is seeking to contract for the management services of a qualified firm to assume management and operation of their public transportation services. These services consist of the daily management of the VTA's fixed route bus services, paratransit and human service contract services on the island of Martha's Vineyard. The term of the contract will be from February 1, 2027 to January 31, 2028 with an option to renew for four (4) one (1) year terms.

This contract is funded in part by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) and is subject to the FTA Master Agreement, as amended. The Contractor shall comply with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 49 CFR Parts 21 and 26, 49 U.S.C. § 5332, and all other applicable federal and state nondiscrimination and equal employment opportunity requirements, as amended. The Contractor shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, or national origin, and all firms, including Disadvantaged Business Enterprises, will have full opportunity to submit proposals.

Proposals will be available after 12:00 PM on Wednesday, November 25, 2026. For detailed specifications and proposal requirements, call, write or email to Angela E. Gompert, Administrator, VTA, 11 A Street, Edgartown, MA 02539, (508) 693-9440 x110, angie@vineyardtransit.com or visit www.vineyardtransit.com.

Proposals will be accepted until 1:00 PM on Wednesday, December 16, 2026.

One (1) original, two (2) hard and one (1) electronic copies of the proposals must be submitted to the VTA in a sealed envelope marked as follows:

BID PROPOSAL FOR:
Management Services
Project #:
VTA #2027-02
BID OPENING DATE:

December 16, 2026 1:00 PM
ATTENTION:

Angela E. Gompert, Administrator

Firms should specify their official name in the lower left-hand corner of the outside of said envelope. Bid proposals will be received by the Administrative Offices at 11 A Street, Edgartown, MA 02539 until 1:00 PM on December 16, 2026. Any proposals received before said date and time will be opened and read aloud publicly on the bid opening date unless notified otherwise, by the Administrator or her designee at the Administrative Offices. No late, faxed or emailed proposals will be accepted.

All contractors will be required to certify that they are not on the Comptroller General's list of ineligible contractors.

This agreement is subject to any applicable guidelines for project administration issued by the FTA of the DOT of the U.S. Government and all other applicable laws, rules and regulations. The VTA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, in part or whole, if the VTA deems it in its best interest to do so.
nov25,1t

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
DOCKET NO. DU26P0139EA
ESTATE OF: RUSSELL E. SWARTZ
ALSO KNONWN AS: RUSSELL EDMUND SWARTZ
DATE OF DEATH: 02/28/2026

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:

A Petition for Formal Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by:
Joyce J. Swartz of Edgartown, MA
requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that:
Joyce J. Swartz of Edgartown, MA
be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/22/2026.

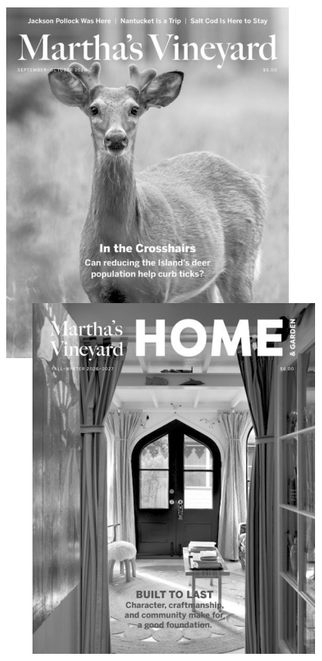
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without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

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

WITNESS: Hon. Susan L. Jacobs, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 17, 2026
Daphne DeVries
Register of Probate
Dukes Probate and Family Court
PO Box 237
81 Main Street
Edgartown, MA 02539
(508) 627-4703
nov25,1t

GENERAL LEGAL NOTICES

Martha's Vineyard
MAGAZINE



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Classified Advertising Deadline:
Tuesday at 3 p.m. for the Friday print edition

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

From the Town Columnists

CHAPPY

PETER WELLS

This will be my last Chappy column for the Gazette. I have composed the column for nigh on 14 years now, and have decided it is time to pass the pen or keypad in this case. Roberta Miceli, president of the Chappy Community Center, will be taking over the column, beginning next week. She has been writing a weekly newsletter for the CCC for some time now, and is at the very center of the Chappy community and clearly has many connections to her neighbors. I am confident that she will provide an informative and entertaining Chappy column for the future.

So what to include in my final column? How about a rant and a story.

First the rant. There are now two bills before Congress regarding regulating those darn unnecessarily bright LED headlights. A study by AAA revealed that six in ten drivers have trouble with those silly glaring LED lights making it hard to see. So I wasn't just looking for trouble asking people to turn off their lights while waiting in line for the ferry. It's a serious problem for the ferry captains when landing the ferry. If something gets the attention of Congress, there must have been lots of complaints. I don't really expect the current secretary of transportation to be willing to address the issue. The problem was a long time coming and will be a long time going.

Next the story: There have been hundreds of thousands of words written about the incident at the Dike Bridge way back when. I have a theory of my own. I offered this theory to a group of Gazette reporters at the holiday party a decade or so ago. My esteemed colleague and author of The Chappy Ferry Book listened politely with a furrowed brow and then pronounced it the most cockamamie story that he had ever heard. And he's heard lots of stories!

So here's another couple hundred words to add to the pile: Ted Kennedy left Chappy earlier in the evening. He heard later that there was a motor vehicle accident on Chappy involving a certain person or persons that he felt the need to protect. So, he said that it was he who was driving, thinking that he was untouchable and that the person at fault would remain unknown. He later found out that there was a fatality. His advisers must have thought that it was too late to fess up to the truth or that the real driver was more valuable than Ted to the political needs of the moment. So Ted took the blame and missed his chance to be president.

I figured that when Ted died that we would learn the truth about who was actually to blame. But we didn't. I guess that we will have to wait until the person who is actually to blame dies as well. My theory is no more far fetched than the idea that Ted swam across from Chappy Point to town. These days the prosecution would have insisted that he prove that he could swim a 527 foot wide channel with a current that would have been flowing that night. My theory doesn't lessen the tragedy for all concerned, it merely addresses what I have always thought was a plausible explanation.

And with that story, I bid my readers farewell.

CHILMARK

KATIE CARROLL

There is a distinct shift in the air during this wonderful week in November — a blend of woodsmoke, roasting herbs and the quiet anticipation of arrival. One by one, the town's college students and far-flung relatives trickle home, filling quiet houses with familiar laughter, heavy luggage and, for the college kids, laundry.

Over the course of the week, schedules will give way to simple, enduring traditions: passing well-worn serving dishes around a crowded table and bundling up for a crisp walk beneath bare woodland branches and along ever-changing shorelines.

In a fast-moving world, Thanksgiving remains a steadfast reminder of the comfort found in coming home.

Ella Keene has traded the California sunshine of Cal Poly for the familiar shores of home, while younger brother Lathrop has taken a break from his freshman year at Rhode Island's Roger Williams University to join the feast — a wonderful reunion that has their parents, Hillary and John, and grandparents, Ann and Hal Noyes, feeling thankful they've secured dinner reservations together.

After nearly a month beneath the North Carolina pines, sending discs spinning down distant fairways at various disc golf tournaments, Adam Knight has found his way back to town. He returned in time to gather around the table for a grand family feast, and to trade the open sky for the fine craft of feather and thread — sharing his fly-tying skills at Abe Pieciak's pop-up gallery inside Pandora's Box on Basin Road. The space will be open weekends through the holidays showcasing Abe's art. Join Abe and Adam on Saturday, Nov. 28 at 4:30 p.m. as they take the stage to pass down their craft, walking through the finer points of tying two legendary patterns: the Lefty Kreh Deceiver and the Bob Popovics Bucktail Deceiver.

Although there wasn't a huge party at the CCC to celebrate David Tilton this year, he still quietly made another trip around the sun and has officially turned 92. Even without the big crowd, it is a wonderful milestone to mark for one of our favorite longtime neighbors. Wishing him a very happy birthday and a great year ahead.

Sending big well wishes out to Cory Medeiros, who recently fractured his patella and is now rocking a leg immobilizer for the next couple of months. While the story behind how it happened won't exactly be turning into a blockbuster movie anytime soon, the comeback certainly is. Cory has already jumped (well, not actually jumped) into physical therapy, and even with a long road ahead, he is tackling recovery head on taking those all-important baby steps back into action.

My kindergarten friend Winston Elliston has a brand-new monster truck. This isn't just any monster truck, mind you, but one that magically appeared following the loss of his very first tooth. It seems the Tooth Fairy really knows her audience and just what will bring a little extra excitement while waiting for the grown-up teeth to make their debut. Winston filled me in on the big arrival with his mom, Julia Spiro, and little sister, Willa, in tow — and also reported that a second tooth is already loose. Needless to say, expectations are running high, and I'm eager to hear what the Tooth Fairy delivers for round two.

I headed up to North Conway this past weekend to visit family. With temperatures in the 60s, we naturally took advantage of the unseasonably warm weather with a stroll around Echo Lake to watch the climbers scaling Cathedral Ledge. As I was making my way through the parking lot, I spotted an unmistakably familiar face — none other than my fellow derby committee member, Edgartown's Chris Scott. Proving once again that it really is a small Island even when you leave it, we snapped a quick photo to document the moment. After all, what are the odds of crossing paths at the exact same trailhead in the White Mountains?

VINEYARD HAVEN

NANCY GARDELLA

I hope the weather is clear now through the Thanksgiving weekend. That was some rain we had earlier this week. People will be coming and going for the holiday. Let's hope for no boat disruptions.

On Friday, Nov. 27 Massachusetts Audubon of Felix Neck hosts its annual fall festival beginning at 10 a.m.. with face painting, hay rides, food and beverages, music and more.

Joan LeLacheur designs and makes her own beautiful ocean jewelry. She will be open this Friday and Saturday from 11 a m. to 3 p.m. at 455 State Road in Woodland Center.

Our annual Sengekontaket will have their annual beach cleanup on Friday, Dec. 5. They will supply gloves, bags, hot chocolate, doughnuts and a free Santa hat. Check in at little bridge between 8 a.m. and 9 a.m.

This weekend the Oak Bluffs holiday open market will be at the Strand Theatre. Horse drawn carriage rides will be available.

Skip Finley was honored by the Library of American Broadcasting Foundation for his long career in broadcasting.

Thank you to our town workers for getting our downtown Christmas lights up in time for this weekend.

Dale Ferry and others have reported to me about the wonderful celebration of life for Trip Barnes. Trip was a friend to everyone.

The birthday bandwagon pulled along Douglas Grant on Nov. 21. And Martha Dunham takes the cake this week. Many happy returns.

Happy Thanksgiving.

WEST TISBURY

EILEEN MALEY

Our dining room table and chairs are almost never used, and the smaller pieces in the kitchen also sit there idle and neglected. Not that we will go hungry this Thanksgiving — we have a date to eat or meal. It is just that, in general, we prefer to eat in the living room, on upholstered furniture, in front of the fire.

We are retired and can do anything we want. There are food stains on the arms of the couch, and crumbs between its cushions. Stains and crumbs and burned spots from flying sparks on the rug. Our feet are up on the coffee table and we eat from our laps, three squares a day. With a newspaper in the morning, a crossword puzzle to solve over lunch, and our own scintillating company in front of the fire at dinner.

Once summer is over, fire season at our house begins and Tim strikes a match. There is not a dining ambiance more satisfying than gazing at the flames while eating and talking.

Year-round, Tim collects trees, dead or alive. And broken branches, stray limbs, abandoned carvings, pallets, twigs and sheets of bark. He will even buy a cord of firewood when it's needed. He cuts, splits and hacks it all to log-length and ripens the newly-sawed fuel for a good two years in the sturdy woodshed he built.

When the wood is seasoned, it is moved to the lean-to attached to the house, with a door opening to the outside, and another on the opposite wall, into the living room, next to the wood stove. All planned aforethought, though not by me. I never load the firebox, strike a match, shovel out the cinders and ash. Nor do I fell trees, cut and split or stack or trudge the kindling wood indoors.



Tim Johnson

People who do these things will say that wood heats you twice. I just enjoy the generosity of the stove's fever, and the guy who makes it go. The fire warms the room, casts a flattering light, and inspires conversation. It beats watching the news.

Congratulations to Liam Weiland of Oak Bluffs who announced "my first Grammy nomination — for best contemporary blues album." Liam was a contributor to the recently nominated album Hard Road by Christone "Kingfish" Ingram.

Just two or three years ago, Liam was one of the stars of the regional high school's musical theatre productions, and is now a student at the Berklee College of Music. He is the son of Jennifer and Brian Weiland, who make music in the Island schools and other gigs here and around New England.

The celebration spirit continues with barely a break when the town hosts its annual holiday potluck party next Thursday, Dec. 3, at 5 p.m. at the Agricultural Hall. Bring a dish to share, meet your neighbors and friends, and maybe even have a chat with Santa Claus, who is just getting started.

Happy Thanksgiving to all, with a wish for a full belly and a full heart.

TIDE AND TIME

	Saturday, Nov. 28				Sunday, Nov. 29				Monday, Nov. 30				Tuesday, Dec. 1				Wednesday, Dec. 2				Thursday, Dec. 3				Friday, Dec. 4			
	High Water		Low Water		High Water		Low Water		High Water		Low Water		High Water		Low Water		High Water		Low Water		High Water		Low Water		High Water		Low Water	
	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
Cape Pogue	2:12	2:23	7:28	8:11	3:10	3:22	8:25	9:08	4:10	4:25	9:27	10:08	5:12	5:31	10:32	11:08	6:14	6:37	11:38	--:--	7:13	7:42	12:06	12:42	8:10	--:--	1:03	1:45
Edgartown	2:23	2:34	7:42	8:25	3:21	3:33	8:39	9:22	4:21	4:36	9:41	10:22	5:23	5:42	10:46	11:22	6:25	6:48	11:52	--:--	7:24	7:53	12:20	12:56	8:21	--:--	1:17	1:59
Oak Bluffs	1:58	2:09	7:16	7:59	2:56	3:08	8:13	8:56	3:56	4:11	9:15	9:56	4:58	5:17	10:20	10:56	6:00	6:23	11:26	11:54	6:59	7:28	--:--	12:30	7:56	--:--	12:51	1:33
East Chop	1:55	2:06	7:12	7:55	2:53	3:05	8:09	8:52	3:53	4:08	9:11	9:52	4:55	5:14	10:16	10:52	5:57	6:20	11:22	11:50	6:56	7:25	--:--	12:26	7:53	--:--	12:47	1:29
Vineyard Haven	1:53	2:04	7:25	8:08	2:51	3:03	8:22	9:05	3:51	4:06	9:24	10:05	4:53	5:12	10:29	11:05	5:55	6:18	11:35	--:--	6:54	7:23	12:03	12:39	7:51	--:--	1:00	1:42
West Chop	1:44	1:55	6:55	7:38	2:42	2:54	7:52	8:35	3:42	3:57	8:54	9:35	4:44	5:03	9:59	10:35	5:46	6:09	11:05	11:33	6:45	7:14	--:--	12:09	7:42	--:--	12:30	1:12
Off Lake Tashmoo	11:36	--:--	5:30	6:46	12:08	12:35	6:27	7:56	1:08	1:34	7:33	9:21	2:08	2:32	9:24	10:26	3:07	3:30	11:03	11:16	4:07	4:31	--:--	11:53	5:07	5:30	--:--	12:53
Cedar Tree Neck	10:38	11:10	4:51	6:07	11:37	--:--	5:48	7:17	12:10	12:36	6:54	8:42	1:10	1:34	8:45	9:47	2:09	2:32	10:24	10:37	3:09	3:33	11:26	11:14	4:09	4:32	--:--	12:14
Menemsha Bight	10:30	11:02	3:56	5:12	11:29	--:--	4:53	6:22	12:02	12:28	5:59	7:47	1:02	1:26	7:50	8:52	2:01	2:24	9:29	9:42	3:01	3:25	10:31	10:19	4:01	4:24	11:19	--:--
Gay Head	10:22	10:54	4:04	5:20	11:21	11:54	5:01	6:30	--:--	12:20	6:07	7:55	12:54	1:18	7:58	9:00	1:53	2:16	9:37	9:50	2:53	3:17	10:39	10:27	3:53	4:16	11:27	--:--
Squibnocket Point	9:43	10:15	3:17	4:33	10:42	11:15	4:14	5:43	11:41	--:--	5:20	7:08	12:15	12:39	7:11	8:13	1:14	1:37	8:50	9:03	2:14	2:38	9:52	9:40	3:14	3:37	10:40	--:--
Off Chilmark Pond	10:12	10:44	3:23	4:39	11:11	11:44	4:20	5:49	--:--	12:10	5:26	7:14	12:44	1:08	7:17	8:19	1:43	2:06	8:56	9:09	2:43	3:07	9:58	9:46	3:43	4:06	10:46	--:--
Off Jobs Neck Pond	10:29	11:01	3:41	4:57	11:28	--:--	4:38	6:07	12:01	12:27	5:44	7:32	1:01	1:25	7:35	8:37	2:00	2:23	9:14	9:27	3:00	3:24	10:16	10:04	4:00	4:23	11:04	--:--
Wasque Point	12:04	12:30	6:39	7:55	1:02	1:29	7:36	9:05	2:02	2:28	8:42	10:30	3:02	3:26	10:33	11:35	4:01	4:24	--:--	12:12	5:01	5:25	12:25	1:14	6:01	6:24	1:02	2:02
SLACK WATER	Begin Ebb		Begin Flood		Begin Ebb		Begin Flood		Begin Ebb		Begin Flood		Begin Ebb		Begin Flood		Begin Ebb		Begin Flood		Begin Ebb		Begin Flood		Begin Ebb		Begin Flood	
Wasque Point (2 mi. SW)	--:--	1:09	6:39	6:54	2:01	2:09	7:38	7:54	3:02	3:14	8:42	8:59	4:04	4:23	9:49	10:07	5:07	5:31	10:56	11:16	6:08	6:37	--:--	12:00	7:06	7:39	12:22	12:59
Hedge Fence Gong 22	--:--	2:27	8:04	8:19	3:19	3:27	9:03	9:19	4:20	4:32	10:07	10:24	5:22	5:41	11:14	11:32	6:25	6:49	--:--	12:21	7:26	7:55	12:41	1:25	8:24	8:57	1:47	2:24
East Chop (1 mi. N)	--:--	2:19	7:49	8:04	3:11	3:19	8:48	9:04	4:12	4:24	9:52	10:09	5:14	5:33	10:59	11:17	6:17	6:41	--:--	12:06	7:18	7:47	12:26	1:10	8:16	8:49	1:32	2:09
Norton Point (.5 mi. N)	--:--	1:34	7:19	7:34	2:26	2:34	8:18	8:34	3:27	3:39	9:22	9:39	4:29	4:48	10:29	10:47	5:32	5:56	11:36	11:56	6:33	7:02	--:--	12:40	7:31	8:04	1:02	1:39
Gay Head (1.5 mi. NW)	--:--	1:09	6:54	7:09	2:01	2:09	7:53	8:09	3:02	3:14	8:57	9:14	4:04	4:23	10:04	10:22	5:07	5:31	11:11	11:31	6:08	6:37	--:--	12:15	7:06	7:39	12:37	1:14

Source: National Ocean Survey and Tidal Current Tables

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All Outdoors

Devil's Weed

By SUZAN BELLINCAMPI

The devil is in the details when it comes to Datura.

Datura, also called devil's weed, devil's snare and devil's trumpet, is a genus of plants that have a history of highs and lows. Known as a divination tool and aid for witchcraft, this plant has friends and foes.

Witches employed it to create a flying ointment and its hallucinogenic properties are reported to cause madness, but it is also used entheogenically to produce altered states of consciousness for religious and spiritual experiences. This practice is risky, as these plants can also cause death and reportedly the intoxication is more disturbing than pleasurable.

Ingestion can be purposeful, but also accidental as was the case when 200 people were sickened by inadvertent consumption of its leaves in contaminated bags of commercial spinach. Datura is often found in farm fields where it thrives alongside crops destined for our table.

It was in a local agricultural area that I came in contact with a nonnative variety. On a potato glean with Island Grown Initiative, jimsonweed (another common name for Datura stramonium) made a pointed introduction with its large spiny seedpods that littered the potato-strewn field.

With its preference for rich, well-fertilized soils, jimsonweed thrives in farmlands. Simon Athearn of Morning Glory Farm confirms its presence and prevalence. Simon and his team have figured out how to manage this weed, though do acknowledge that it gets its revenge when one inadvertently kneels on a seedpod when harvesting.

Simon shares that in short-lived crops, jimsonweed won't reach maturity and provide those prickly pods. However, in long season crops, jimsonweed's strong roots resist mechanical cultivation, and its highly persistent seeds stay viable for a long time, sometimes decades.

The seeding superiority comes from the weed's fecundity. One jimsonweed plant can produce 50 or more spikey seed capsules. Each seed capsule can contain up to 700 seeds, so one plant can easily produce more than 30,000 seeds. And call this plant a super spreader since it can throw seeds up to 10 feet from the mother plant. It is a survivor, too, as those seeds can float for more than 10 days and still remain viable.

Even with the best care, fields can be come infested. Simon notes that when too many Datura have been missed by mechanical weeding, he sends out the "machete team," a group of farmhands that march across the field in a line, cutting down the Datura as they encounter the large plants.

He continues: "It takes a solid swing to cut a mature one down, with its almost two-inch-thick stalk."

And he describes the plant's scent as a sharp chemical musk, though other sources compare it to stinky feet.

Jimsonweed can decrease yields significantly. In one study, direct sown tomato yields could be reduced by more than 60 per cent and potatoes by more than 40 per cent when they are forced to compete with jimsonweed.

This plant was not always a problem for the Island farming family. Athearn ancestors didn't have it as a concern, since Simon noted that he first saw it in his West Tisbury fields in 2006. He suspects that it came from donated compost, though sometimes it can also show up in contaminated seeds. While Simon takes care to avoid spreading it, it has expanded across the Island quickly through other means.

The devil's advocate might say that the white and purple trumpet-shaped flowers are beautiful and its limited psychoactive uses make this invader worthwhile. Even I can't abide to that devil-may-care attitude. And with its poisonous power and even-increasing expansion, jimsonweed should scare the hell out of us.

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.



Suzan Bellincampi

Also called jimsonweed.

Bird News

Fewer Arrivals

By ROBERT CULBERT

This week there was only one new species arriving for the season. Charles Morano had two sightings of common goldeneyes this week: he found two at Norton Point on Nov. 16 and three at Planting Field Way on Nov. 21. We have not seen common goldeneyes since last spring but more are certainly on the way.

The southbound migration will continue into early January, after starting in late June. This week shows peak numbers of some arriving species.

Red-breasted mergansers are becoming more common. Charles Morano spotted a flock of 92 from the end of Planting Field Way on Nov. 21. Charles Morano also counted 122 Bonaparte's gulls from Norton Point on Nov. 16 and 45 from Stonewall Road.

O Nov. 19, John Nelson found a large flock of at least 100 Bonaparte's gulls "feeding ravenously" in Katama Bay on Nov. 18, and Nancy Weaver watched 20 at Squibnocket Beach on Nov. 20. There were 25 other sightings this month, but they were generally five or fewer individuals.

Red-throated loons are also arriving in peak numbers. Lanny McDowell observed a "monster movement of red-throated loons" from Lucy Vincent on Nov. 18. Charles Morano counted 62 from Norton Point on Nov. 16 and 25 from Stonewall Road on Nov. 19. Nancy Weaver and Janet Woodcock observed six from Norton Point the next day.

Smaller numbers of red-throateds were spotted by Ruth Richards (one, Mattakesett Boat Ramp, Nov. 15 and one Eel Pond, Nov. 15); Janet Woodcock, Nancy Weaver, Luanne Johnson and Shea Fee (two, Eastville Point Beach, Nov. 15); Jennifer Slossberg (two, Lucy Vincent, Nov. 19); Charles Morano (two, Gay Head Cliffs, Nov. 19); me (two, Vineyard Haven Harbor, Nov. 20); Cynthia Bloomquist and Thaw Malin (one, Drawbridge, Nov. 17); me (three, Gay Head Cliffs, Nov. 21); and MV Bird Club (six, Squibnocket Pond Reservation South, Nov. 21).

A lot of species linger that may or may not spend the winter here. A breeding plumage roseate tern continues to linger along the seawall along Beach Road and Eastville Point Beach. This species is not "supposed" to be here, as they usually leave in early October. However, although it can fly and catch fish, it appears to have a slightly damaged wing, which may explain its continuing presence. Shea Fee, Janet Woodcock, Nancy Weaver, Luanne Johnson and Lisa Maxfield each spotted it on Nov. 15, Nancy Weaver and Janet Woodcock saw it again on Nov. 17, and Lisa Maxfield saw it on Nov. 18, in addition to the lingering but much more expected Forster's tern spotted on Nov. 18.



Lanny McDowell

Forster's tern.

Lingering shorebirds are also reported. Charles Morano spotted one greater yellowlegs at Pecoy Point on Nov. 15 and a golden plover on Norton Point on Nov. 16. Thaw Malin and Cynthia Bloomquist found one golden plover at Lobsterville on Nov. 21, and Nancy Weaver and Janet Woodcock saw one American oystercatcher and four ruddy turnstones on Norton Point on Nov. 17. Charles Morano had two greater yellowlegs and two turnstones at Felix Neck on Nov. 17. He also saw 10 oystercatchers and one turnstone from Planting Field Way on Nov. 21.

Also lingering are wood ducks. Charles Morano found four of them at Blackwater Pond Preserve on Nov. 18.

Alcids are black-and-white seabirds that we occasionally see through the winter. A common murre has been lingering in the Vineyard Haven Harbor area this month — this week Janet Woodcock, Nancy Weaver, Luanne Johnson and Shea Fee saw it on Nov. 15, and on Nov. 17 Cynthia Bloomquist and Thaw Malin spotted it.

Another alcid, a razorbill, is a winter resident. Charles Morano counted 26 at Norton Point on Nov. 16 and one from Stonewall Road on Nov. 19. Nancy Weaver and Janet Woodcock had one at Norton Point on Nov. 17, and Nancy Weaver observed one at Squibnocket Beach on Nov. 20.

Lesser black-backed gulls have become more common in recent years. Bob Shriber counted 15 from the middle of Chilmark Pond on Nov. 8, Charles Morano found one at Norton Point on Nov. 16, and Janet Woodcock and Nancy Weaver had one at Crackatuxet Cove on Nov. 17.

A few belted kingfishers are around. Stephanie Mashek spotted one at Harthaven on Nov. 15, Charles Morano observed one at Felix Neck on Nov. 17. On Nov. 19, Matt Borne saw one from Clay Pit Road, Jennifer Slossberg found one at Sepiessa Point, and Lisa Maxfield located one at the drawbridge on Nov. 21.

I am surprised that great blue herons are not frequently spotted. Charles Morano watched one at Norton Point and another at Slough Cove on Nov. 16, Nancy Weaver and Janet Woodcock located one at Norton Point Nov. 17, and Thaw Malin and Cynthia Bloomquist observed two at Lobsterville on Nov. 21.

Hermit thrushes are mostly a winter resident. These secretive birds are hard to find as they hide deep within dense thickets. Charles Morano spotted one near his Edgartown home on Nov. 11, and Bob Shriber, Janet Woodcock and Nancy Weaver observed one at the Lighthouse Road overlook of Dogfish Bar on Nov. 12.

Bald eagles are around year-round although there have only been three reports of them this month. Charles Morano found a second-year bird at Quansoo on Nov. 14, Alex Friedman reports a pair of adults at an osprey pole at Oyster Pond on Nov. 14, and Ken Magnuson had two adults at Trapps Pond on Nov. 17.

Finally, palm warblers are lingering. Nancy Weaver and Janet Woodcock spotted one at the Mattakesett Boat Ramp on Nov. 18, and the MV Bird Club found one as it foraged along the top of a dune at Squibnocket Pond Reservation South on Nov. 21.

A quick reminder, the annual Marthas Vineyard Christmas Bird Count will be held on Sunday, Jan. 3.

I hope everyone has a happy Thanksgiving holiday.

Please email your sightings to birds@vineyardgazette.com.

Robert Culbert is an ecological consultant living in Vineyard Haven.

The Vineyard Gardener



Shutting Down

By LYNNE IRONS

The long-range forecast is finally predicting some cold. I better stop procrastinating, the hoses need to be drained and put away. Most importantly, the outdoor sink and shower need to be shut off. Everything I've ever mentioned I learned the hard way. To wit: an expensive plumber's visit a few years ago.

I know I've warned about this many times but the hose cannot be left attached to the outdoor frost-free spigot. It will not drain back into the house properly otherwise.

While I'm at it can I complain about the placement of outdoor spigots. They are too low, making hose attachment difficult. Also, working one's way through thick foundation plantings seems, dare I say it, stupid.

Don't even get me started about the overuse of foundation plantings. They can't be good for the long time health of house siding. Put that on the list of late fall tasks — trimming of anything rubbing on the house.

In the perennial beds, I still cannot bear cutting back seed heads which could be enjoyed by birds all winter. On Saturday I saw several types of bees, including honey, on the late-blooming pineapple sage. Too bad the hummingbirds have left. They would love the bright red tubular flowers.

I've been teaching my great-grandson, Zappa, to rub plant leaves and smell them as part of identification. He really got a kick out of the heavy pineapple aroma.

I've said repeatedly that the key to gardening is recognition. On a couple of job sites, there are veritable carpets of baby foxgloves. Since they are biennials they will bloom next year. I hate for their little lives to be in vain so I've brought tons of them home to tuck here and there in other gardens.

Like hollyhocks, a stand of them is more attractive than a single plant. They can be less than a foot apart in the back of a bed.

It's a day late for this information but Rusty at Ghost Island has a big box of Island cranberries. I'm fond of them tossed into smoothies. They keep forever in the freezer.

Every year I get about 10 baby trees from the Arbor Day Foundation for a yearly donation. I put them in pots but never get around to popping them into the ground. I put the pots into a pig pile of dirt in hopes that they will make it until spring.

For many years I have made sauerkraut. This year my cabbages were victims of various pests, not to mention the gardener's neglect. Happily, I have found a great product. (I missed my calling in advertising.) Called Real Pickles, the company is located in Greenfield, Massachusetts. Vineyard Grocers and Mermaid Farm both carry it. I haven't looked at Cronig's yet. They offer more than just cabbage kraut. We love it on grilled cheese sandwiches.

My dad was one of 12 children raised during the Depression. They had a spring house in which all the refrigeratables were kept. It was the source of fresh water and was large enough for meats and crocks of sauerkrauts. Dad said he and his siblings spent hot summer days enjoying the cool and eating fistfulls of kraut.

By the time I came along the house was gone to disrepair — there was a fridge and water from the tap so I never experienced what he remembered.

What I do remember is that Russia is not our friend. My least favorite president (until the present one) was Ronald Reagan. He never called Mikhail Gorbachev his "friend" although they were able to negotiate an important arms reduction treaty.

What did Trump get out of his meeting with Xi and Putin except more embarrassment on the world stage?



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