


## Contest Inspires Students to Dig Deeper

Black History Month
By Jeffrey D. Wagner
For the fourth consecutive year, the communities of Marion, Mattapoisett and Rochester will celebrate Black History Month by encouraging area youth to celebrate through artistic expression: the Creative Expressions Contest.

And thanks to the nonprofit Tri-Town Against Racism, this nonprofit is ahead of the game, celebrating African American artistic expression, which is this year's national theme, according to TTAR president Alison Noyce.

Noyce said that after TTAR formed in April 2020, the group conducted its first contest the following February, celebrating African American arts before it became a theme this year. Noyce said last year was a down year in terms of the number of submissions, but the quality was better, making it hard for judges to rank the top projects.
"There's lots of options for the kids to explore," Noyce said during a recent interview. "We are hoping to get junior high school and high school kids to dig into Black History Month - learn about the theme in a deeper way than without the contest."

According to the TTAR website, entries must be no larger than 11 inches by 14 inches in size. Participants on the back of their work must indicate their name, school and age. All entries can be dropped off at Mattapoisett Free Library during library hours.

Noyce emphasized the educational aspect of the contest and how students in these towns will be able to conduct some deep research into individual African Americans and their contribution to American culture.
"It's really a fun way to celebrate and share African Americans in the arts. We are going to have an awards ceremony, and all artwork will be displayed at Mattapoisett Free Library, and it will stay up until at least the end of the month," Noyce said.

The deadline for submission is Thursday, February 22, at 4:00 pm. Late entries cannot be considered, according to a written release from TTAR.

On the Cover: Mardi Gras ended prematurely for Elizabeth Taber, whose festive mask and colorful beads were covered in snow as her likeness sat on Tuesday in Bicentennial Park across from the Marion Town House. Southeastern Massachusetts was hit with the worst of the nor'easter that had been in the weather forecast for several days. Photo by Mick Colageo

Winners will be announced at the opening reception in the Mattapoisett Library Community Room on Saturday, February 24, at 2:00 pm. Light refreshments will be served, also according to that release.

The contest welcomes entries from any medium, encouraging students to express their creativity in diverse ways. Participants must be junior or senior high school students, living or attending school in the Tri-Town area during the 2023-24 school year, also according to a written release.

For more information on contest details, log into tritownagainstracism.org/ contest-2024.

Local Signs of First Nations People By Marilou Newell<br>Archaeologist Erin Flynn of Public Archaeology Laboratory based in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, was the guest speaker at the Marion Natural History Museum on February 9. Flynn took her audience on a journey of many hundreds of years, a journey of our collective past but more specifically the long, ongoing journey of the First Nations People. Flynn has over 20 years of field experience pulling back the sands of time to discover bits of past lives, lives of the first people.

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Flynn began with comments outlining precontact centuries (Paleoindian period 12,000 to 3,000 years ago) where hunting and fishing fed the growing, original populations. These people inhabited the south-coast region, finding it conducive for supporting life. But it wasn't until postcontact, colonists took an interest in archaeology through the modern era that a fuller history emerged.

From artifacts uncovered in the 1800s by homeowners and others digging around in recreational, archaeological pursuits, much was learned. There is evidence that these early people traded amongst other established tribes based on the types of materials used to make spearheads and arrows. Discovery of these tools, the manner in which they were created and the organic materials used, helps Flynn and others date residential sites.

Precontact sites are where stone tools used in a variety of ways from grinding nuts and grains to cooking utensils have been found. Marion had many precontact sites at one time, but Flynn said those are all under water now as shorelines have shifted over the ages.

Retreating glaciers turned up mastodon bones, animals, Flynn said, that were surely hunted for food. More likely, however, the early people sustained themselves on small game and fish.

The Archaic Period, some 10,000 to 3,000 years ago, found First Nations People improving on earlier stone tools. During this time, they carved stone tips with bifurcated bases that made attachment to a handle or arrow more secure. Through carbon dating of charcoal and ash, scientists believe there were very large villages with many hundreds if not thousands of people living.

Flynn stated that all along the way native people were learning, experimenting, designing better tools. By the late archaic period and Transitional Period, they were using weighted nets to catch fish, carving pipes and using stones and other materials for personal adornment.

During the Woodland Period, 3,000 to 450 years ago, villages were reaching their zenith. Flynn said that there is evidence of agricultural activities and that shell pits from this period have been found. She noted that the Little Neck region and Great Hill or Stone Estate areas have produced evidence of First Nations people occupancy. Flynn said that Charles Neck, a point of land between Aucoot Cove and Sippican Harbor, was


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named after a person of ancestral First People lineage.
Flynn was asked what one should do if they believe they have found a First People's site. She said that the Massachusetts Historical Commission is charged with the responsibility of collecting and confirming historical data. To contact this agency, visit .sec.state.ma.us/mhc/. And don't forget to visit the Marion Natural History Museum to view their collection of First Nations artifacts.

Phone Booths, Pay Phones, and Bird Calls
Thoughts on... By Dick Morgado
Every day after school outside a Takoma Park, Maryland, elementary school, there is a line of kids lined up waiting to use the pay phone. Yes, a pay phone!

The phone plays bird calls and it's free. It even has a canary yellow receiver. In 2016, the town announced a contest to create an interactive public-art project and offered $\$ 5,000$ to the winner. A fellow named David Schulman, local violinist and audio producer, won the contest. He noticed an old, abandoned phone booth nearby

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and, as a lover of birds and phone booths ... well, the rest is history.

Listening to a red-tailed hawk's cry (press \#9) or a woodpecker's call (press \# 7) has become the rage in Takoma Park. It even plays a rooster's crowing in honor of the town's late mascot Roscoe, who for many years in the '90s avoided capture by the Animal Control officer. You can't make this stuff up.

Schulman was lucky to find a phone booth. There aren't many around these days. Hawaii still has them. In fact, as recently as 2016, there was one phone booth for every 338 residents. Cell-phone coverage must be pretty bad out there in the Pacific.

According to the FCC, there are only 100,000 payphone booths left in the United States. Four of them are in New York City. The city must be saving them in case Clark Kent needs a place to change. I have often wondered where Superman hid his clothes, especially his hat which would surely stick out noticeably under his cape. But I digress.

I found an antique phone booth ... no phone ... on eBay for a mere $\$ 3,999$ plus shipping. There is also an iconic, red British phone booth for only $\$ 11,999$ plus $\$ 1,400$ shipping, a good deal considering a vintage phone book is included. City unspecified.

American artist Richard Estes is famous for his super-realistic, life-size paintings of phone booths in train stations. Many a hurried commuter has been known to try to walk into one resulting in various injuries.


Before cell phones, pay-phone booths were big on TV and in movies. "Doctor Who," a long-running, British science-fiction series relied on "TARDIS," a phone booth (technically a police call box, but who cares) as a time machine to transport the "Time Lord" through ... well, time. And Bill and Ted ("Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure") would have been pretty lame if they just used a cell phone to travel through history to bring back historical figures for their history class presentations.

There was even a 2002 movie about a phone booth aptly called "Phone Booth," where a man became trapped when he answered the ringing phone and was told he would be shot if he hung up or tried to leave. It actually pulled down $\$ 97,000,000$ in profits on a budget of $\$ 13,000,000$. Good call.

Phone-booth stuffing was all the rage back in the late '50s. College kids would try to stuff as many fools as possible into one booth. The record is still 30 people into one at Southeast Missouri University. They say kids don't learn anything at college. I guess that proves it.

I have fond memories of phone booths. In college I had many breakfasts of delicious donuts borrowed from the top of the phone booth where they were delivered every morning at $3: 00 \mathrm{am}$ to the drug store downstairs from my apartment. Mmm, mmm good!

I courted my future bride from one that was near the post office. She lived in Boston, and I was teaching at ORR. I gave her the number so, at times, we would prearrange the call so she would call me so I wouldn't have to keep dropping dimes in the slot. I'd stand in the booth waiting for her call pretending to talk so no one would use the phone.

Phone booths may be making a comeback ... or not. Prefabricated "phone pods" are showing up in office buildings around San Francisco. They are being promoted as places where people can make phone calls in private. Unique idea, huh? This innovation may be short lived.

The San Francisco building codes require each pod have a safety permit, which includes "a sprinkler system, alarms and strobe lights." Because they are "enclosed structures" they must be spaced 4 feet apart and have adequate ventilation (try opening the door a bit.) At a cost of $\$ 6,000$ each, don't expect to see many around soon.

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## Private Equity in Health Care <br> What Does The Doctor Say? By Dr. Ed Hoffer

Those of you in the metro Boston news market have been regaled with the saga of the failing Steward Health Care System, owner of nine hospitals in eastern Massachusetts. One eye-catching story described the $\$ 40,000,000$ yacht purchased by Steward's CEO, Dr. Ralph de la Torre, while Steward hospitals were having equipment repossessed because of failure to pay their bills.

While a 190-foot yacht catches attention, it is only a symptom of a deeper problem.

Private equity (PE) firms' business model is to buy companies as cheaply as possible, pull as much cash as they can from the company and then either resell it or declare bankruptcy. To be able to sell the business, they have to jack up profits by cutting costs and / or raising prices.

Private equity investment in healthcare is a recent phenomenon but one which is rapidly growing. These firms focus on specialties where lucrative procedures can be done and / or where patients have little choice.

Many emergency medicine groups, pathologists and anesthesiologists now work for entities controlled by private equity. These groups were responsible for most of the "surprise" out-of-network bills that made headlines in the last few years. Knowing that patients rarely if ever have the option to select
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a physician in these fields, they would pull out of insurance contracts and then bill whatever they wanted.

Quality is secondary to the acquiring PE firm; profits come first. They can increase revenue by raising fees and / or encouraging their employed physicians to do as many well-paid procedures (such as catheterizations and endoscopies) as can be justified, even if not all are truly needed.

They can cut costs by skimping on equipment and supplies that are not "revenue-producing," even if they improve quality care. They can also substitute less-qualified, lower-paid personnel, such as aides in place of nurses.

Steward offers a textbook example. Cerberus Capital bought the troubled Massachusetts-based Caritas Christi hospital system, promising to turn it around. Soon after, they

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sold the land and buildings of its own hospitals to a real estate trust, pulling out $\$ 1,200,000,000$ and saddling the hospitals with hundreds of millions in annual rent.

That transaction allowed Cerberus to quadruple its investment and to pay its investors a $\$ 100,000,000$ dividend. They bought hospitals around the country, including Texas, Florida and Ohio. Many of these have since been closed, doubtless after the PE investors had pulled as much money out as possible.

So, Steward's CEO has a very expensive yacht, and communities around the country are dreading the closure of what is often their only nearby hospital.

Tell your state legislators that private equity has no place in health care, certainly not without very strict guidelines and oversight.

## Water/Sewer Pitches New Building <br> Mattapoisett Select Board By Marilou Newell

A new municipal building is being planned for the Mattapoisett Water and Sewer Departments. During the February 12 meeting of the Mattapoisett Select Board, members heard from Henri Renauld, Water and Sewer superintendent, regarding the new building plans.

Renauld stated that a combination of revenue sources will be used to offset the early construction estimate of $\$ 3,600,000$. He explained that for years the two departments have rented space around the community for offices and for equipment storage. Now with the pending sale of two lots in the Bay Club and the sale of 33 Church Street, costs including possible borrowing will be offset.

Renauld said design of a new building was nearly complete and may include pump-testing areas, which will lessen the impact of paying to have pumps repaired and/or tested. He said there would be a Spring Town Meeting article for voters to consider any necessary borrowing for the building.

Budgets were also reviewed for the FY25 cycle. The combined increases equal $2.6 \%$ over FY24; the FY25 Water/ Sewer operating budget stands at $\$ 2,721,489$.

Also meeting with the board was Gail Joseph, health agent. Joseph and the board discussed a number of revenueproducing activities that might help in Joseph's continued efforts to right this enterprise's troubled financial past.


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One immediate action planned is the raising of fees at the Transfer Station. With the high costs associated with both solid and recyclable materials, reducing tonnage was critical, Joseph stated. Now available at the Transfer Station are recycle bins for clothing and books. But food waste, which adds to the weight issue, was tougher to tackle.
"People don't understand how important it is to compost food waste," said Joseph, adding that people who bring their household trash to the Transfer Station are actually incurring double the cost to the town, since residential pick-up has already paid for that service. And regarding food waste, she said that there were future state regulations being discussed for removing food waste from the solid-waste stream altogether.

In discussing the need for a scale that could accurately

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calculate fees for construction debris, Joseph said that there were small portable scales available. The board asked her to look into that option. When asked how much construction debris was currently being captured and paid for, she responded, " 35 percent."

The board also asked Joseph to look into electronic devices that would allow the town's cell phone at the transfer station to process credit-card payments. Currently, the department is only able to process cash transactions.

The FY25 operating budget draft for the Transfer Station stands at $\$ 174,980$.

Recreation Department Director Greta Fox also met with the board. They discussed at length the various programs offered ranging from basketball to pickleball, summer camp, lacrosse, flag football and kayaking lessons. She said that Mattapoisett residents were considered first for openings in summer camp and that staffing for the beach looks promising for the season. The draft operating budget for the Beach and Recreation departments is $\$ 69,650$.

The next meeting of the Mattapoisett Select Board is tentatively scheduled for Monday, February 26, at 5:30 pm.

Capital Planning has also been meeting with department heads for their capital needs. The list for FY25 has as its numberone priority $\$ 360,000$ for a new ambulance. Other items include: $\$ 40,000$ for ambulance stretcher; $\$ 11,000$ new Fire Department helmets; $\$ 18,000$ hose replacement; $\$ 75,000$ Highway Department pickup truck; \$300,000 annual road improvements; \$32,900 paging server Old Hammondtown School; \$32,900 paging server Center School; UTV with stretcher $\$ 25,000 ; \$ 8,000$ replace pump forestry Fire Department vehicle; \$50,000 Town Hall exterior-trim painting; \$10,000 Highway Department exhaust fan; $\$ 18,000$ Old Hammondtown water heater; $\$ 25,000$ library elevator upgrades; \$130,000 Pine Island culvert-design engineering; \$18,000 Center School water-heater replacement; \$26,000 fire door replacement; \$20,000 Center School window seals and $\$ 25,000$ Old Hammondtown VCT flooring.

## Curtain Calls for Szyndlar, Stoltenberg Rochester Finance Committee <br> By Michael J. DeCicco

Though it might add approximately $\$ 70,000$ to the town budget, the Rochester Finance Committee Monday approved recommending a 3\% Cost of Living Adjustment increase for all

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The vote came after Finance Director Suzanne Szyndlar advised the board to set the COLA figure right away so the committee will know what salary increases they are dealing with when they work their way through building the FY25 budget.

Town Administrator Glenn Cannon added that he and the Select Board prefer voting the increase now for that very reason. The increase must be approved by the Select Board at its next meeting on Tuesday, February 20.

Szyndlar said a $3 \%$ increase will add $\$ 70,000$ to the town budget; a $2.5 \%$ increase would have added $\$ 60,000$.

The discussion began with Szyndlar's overview of what the town knows now about budget year 2025. Szyndlar she said she is presently working with a lot of estimates and levelfunding of every department without a specific budget request. Even with that approach, the town is short $\$ 120,000$ on the revenue side. "This will be a tougher year than normal," she said. "We are looking at a lot of nickel-and-dime-ing this year."

David Arancio was the lone Finance Committee member to abstain from voting for the increase, protesting that the

decision was being made too soon after receiving the budget information. "To set it at 3\% five minutes after getting all this information is not ideal," he said. "My hesitation is that I never like to make a quick decision like that."

Before seeking a motion for the vote, Finance Committee Chairman Kristian Stoltenberg asked what is the current Federal Consumer Price Index, a barometer of the country's cost-ofliving level. Board member Justin Bouley noted the CPI is, in fact, around 3\%.

Stoltenberg seemed satisfied. "I see no advantage to defer the decision," he said. "Three percent is a reasonable reflection of the CPI. And we're all here now."

In other action, Stoltenberg was reappointed chairman but announced this will be his last year on the FinCom. "I said I'd

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serve a maximum of 39 years, and this is my 39th year," he said.
"A friend brought me here then, and I've been here ever since. There will be opportunities next year for other people to step up."

The committee appointed James Austin as vice chairman and Arancio as secretary with assistance from Bouley, a new member.

Cannon announced another retirement from the town's financial services departments, as the committee reviewed and approved several department budgets that will not include COLA increases. He advised the committee that funds should be added to the Finance Director account for FY25 because this will be Szyndlar's last year at town hall; the former town administrator and town accountant will soon retire from the job


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that was created to keep her on when she stepped down from the town administrator role. Cannon explained the funds will be needed to find Szyndlar's replacement and hire and train any temporary replacements.

The Finance Committee will next meet on Monday, March 4, at 7:00 pm at Town Hall, 1 Constitution Way.

Walega to Retire in June<br>Rochester Board of Health<br>By Michael J. DeCicco

After a 40-year career, Town of Rochester Health Director Karen Walega is retiring in June.

That was the big revelation to come out of Rochester's February 7 Board of Health meeting, in which Walega advised that it was time to start the search for her replacement now. She said the panel should not wait to decide where the job should be posted, and the board agreed to start the process.

After the announcement, Walega reflected on her retirement after a four-decade career as a municipal health director and inspector.
"I was very lucky," she said. "I loved my job. But times are changing. I'm retirement age, and after COVID the state wanted all health directors recertified. I didn't want to go through all of that again. It is time to move on."

Walega was the Marion-Rochester Health District director from 1989 until retiring from that position in 2020, and she has served as Rochester's health director since then. She was previously the health inspector for the Town of Bourne from 1986 to 1989 and the health inspector for the Town of Norwood from 1983 to 1986.

In other action, Walega announced that complaints against 515 Rounseville Road are being forwarded to state Assistant Attorney General Lizabeth Marshall, who will file a receivership to speed up cleaning the property. Walega said she recently inspected the property, which consists of an abandoned house and trailer, after complaints of odor and rodents from a nextdoor neighbor.
"The trailer inside is still a mess," Walega said. "The main house is in better shape, but we're turned it over to the AG's office. I think rodents are coming from the property. And flies. We found a fly-trap strip in the bathroom and the electricity still on in the trailer, which is a fire hazard."

Following the meeting, Walega said the two dwellings on the property were abandoned about a year ago when the mother, who lived in the trailer, passed away, and the daughter, who lived in the main house, relocated. The brother, who now owns the property though it is also under a reverse mortgage, also now lives outside of the area.
"We've been after them for a while to clean it up," Walega said. "There's an abandoned car and there was a large boat. They did remove the boat. But an AG receivership will look at what to do with the property."

In other business, Matt Armendo, director of Public Health for the South Coast Health Collaborative that includes Westport, Marion, Freetown, Lakeville, Mattapoisett and Rochester, reported its newest health inspector, Gabriella Almeida, is making progress with her training and her first few months on the job; she began in the position in August.

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Walega reported she will soon go before the Rochester Finance Committee with requests to boost the board clerk's hours to 18. "She needs more hours," Walega said.

The Board of Health did not schedule a future meeting date upon adjournment.

## New Name, Same Game <br> MRV Water District Commission/Water Supply Protection By Mick Colageo

The planning for a massive upgrade to the filtering system in the Mattapoisett Water Treatment Plant has reached its finetuning stages, and the Mattapoisett River Valley Water District Commission wasn't at all thrown off by a corporate takeover of Koch Separation Solutions, the designer of the state-of-the-art system to be installed in the plant that services MRV member towns Fairhaven, Mattapoisett, Marion and Rochester.

It was all systems go when the MRV convened Tuesday afternoon via Zoom for its monthly meeting.

Jon Gregory, representing engineering consultants Tata \& Howard, referenced the switch in name from Koch to Kovalus (the result of an acquisition by a Sun Capital Partners affiliate) and said only a final question on an electrical issue remains before the MRV should receive a final submittal from the designer for the commission's final review. Gregory anticipates the final submittal this week, after which the skids (not just the membrane) will be pushed into production.

One issue that continues to drag is where the project stands on the state Department of Environmental Protection list of priorities. Gregory, Water Treatment Plant Supervisor Henri

Renauld and MRV Chairman Vinnie Furtado put together a written testimony and sent on January 31 to state officials, and Representative William Straus, a Mattapoisett resident, also wrote a letter on MRV's behalf.

In the meantime, Gregory told the commission he is working with an electrical consultant and a substructural consultant. Part of permitting for the construction phase, he explained, is in providing a bypass plan to MassDEP. Incorporated into that plan would be public outreach and sampling, duration, etc. That is all in the works.

Tata \& Howard representatives were to meet with Atlantium Technologies on Wednesday in Marlborough.

MRV commission/ committee member David Pierce asked if, beyond the filter-upgrade project, are further upgrades in store for the plant itself? Gregory noted that the initial loan will be paid off in July 2026, leaving a short overlap with debt to be incurred with the purchase of the new filtering system and equipment.
(On Monday, Renauld went before the Mattapoisett Select Board with a proposal for a new building to house the town's Water and Sewer Department operations.)

Pierce also asked if the power failure at the Water Treatment Plant resulting from the August 8, 2023, tornado could have been more easily mitigated by a generator with a larger storage tank. Renauld indicated that a permanent, underground tank could be potentially dangerous.
"One of my biggest concerns is how much fuel do we want to store in our (plant)," said Renauld. "To maintain


something specifically underground ... as of now a truck can park there with 2,000 gallons."

With the current capacity, the plant can continue operating for approximately two days during a power outage. In July and August, that number decreases to approximately 36 hours.

For now, Renauld reported that the plant is "running fairly well." He is participating in the effort to devise a plan to bypass the filtering system during the upgrade project later this year. Renauld was happy to report that the rooftop at the plant has been installed. A valve change required three days of work over the weekend.

In his monthly Tata \& Howard report, Gregory said he is meeting with Renauld to update the five-year capital plan, and this time went out one more additional year, finalizing and

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sending out the 2023 annual district report (for member towns to include in their reports to voters in this spring's annual town meetings.)

In his Treasurer's Report to the commission, Renauld said a total of $\$ 77,220.34$ was paid out over the prior month, including a bill of $\$ 39,512.47$ to Eversource, over $\$ 12,000$ to chemical distributors Borden \& Remington, and Tata \& Howard invoices of $\$ 6,720$ and $\$ 4,543$. He also noted that the rooftop heating unit for which the commission approved $\$ 16,520$ has been installed. "We have heat now," he said.

In the MRV Water Supply Protection Advisory Committee meeting immediately preceding that of the commission, Gregory reported having transmitted October and November 2023 rivermonitoring graphs to the membership and said he will soon have December 2023 information from Megan McCarthy. Once he looks through the whole year's data, Tata \& Howard will put together and present a visual summary for the year and take questions.

Operations over the last month with river monitoring have posed no complications, and the MRV has two spare level loggers at its disposal.

In a vote following a short discussion, the committee authorized Vinnie Furtado to write a letter recommending that the Rochester Planning Board go forward with the Approval Not Required (ANR) application filed by Walter Hartley and John Libby Consulting for the separation of a lot on Hartley Road into two buildable lots.

In his Treasurer's Report to the committee, Jeff Furtado

announced an ending balance as of February 1 of $\$ 202,826.09$. Among new invoices approved for payment by Vinnie Furtado was $\$ 2,216.49$ to Tata \& Howard.

The annual notice of assessment reports that Marion will pay in excess of $\$ 18,000$, Mattapoisett over $\$ 14,000$ and Fairhaven over \$13,000.

McCarthy combined meeting minutes for all of 2023 into one document for committee's and commission's consumption.

Citing negligible interest coming into the committee's account via conventional banking, Pierce suggested the committee research available certificates of deposit. "It's never been worth our while, but the interest on the CD's is up now." Pierce. "It's still secure funds, but it gets much better interest." Jeff Furtado will look into it, and the committee will review the matter with Anne Carreiro.

The next meeting of the MRV Water District Commission/ Water Supply Protection Advisory Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, March 12, 2024, at 3:30 pm (committee) and 4:00 pm (commission.)

## State Info Will Inform FY25 Budget

Rochester School Committee
By Mick Colageo
The Rochester School Committee will need a little more time to dig into its FY25 operational budget now that the state has weighed in.

Old Rochester Regional Superintendent of Schools Mike Nelson told the committee during its January 25 public meeting that the reason the budget subcommittee meeting originally


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planned for the same day was not held because the state had just released budgetary information on Chapter 70 funding that would more strongly inform the ORR budget process.

The new information will be taken into account, and the Budget Subcommittee planned to convene to digest the FY25 outlook equipped with that important knowledge.

Meantime, Nelson stressed the importance of collaboration with town officials, the Rochester Finance Committee, and other stakeholders in preparing a budget that the district can confidently bring to Town Meeting in the spring.

Nelson said he has been in touch with Town Administrator Glenn Cannon and believes the ORR Administration and Rochester School Committee are keeping in step with the town's budget timeline.


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In addressing the committee, ORR Assistant Superintendent of Finance \& Operations Howie Barber summarized six departments that will influence budgetary increases for FY25, including the school itself, Central Office, facilities, Student Services, Technology and transportation.

RMS will see the most significant increase of the FY25 school budget, approximately $\$ 170,000$ due to union contracts. "We tried to keep level across everything else in the school," said Barber, adding that at this point there are no recommendations for cuts.

Transportation is anticipating a $\$ 116,305$ increase for FY25.
ORR's literacy initiative and curriculum costs account for $\$ 35,000$ of the projected $\$ 47,839$ increase in the Central Office portion. While the literacy program was launched on grant funding, FY25 operational-budget increases are being considered necessary to sustain the program.

Barber further noted that Rochester's state-funded circuit breaker for FY25 student services has dropped by approximately $\$ 25,000$.

The Initial School Choice Discussion was on the January 25 agenda, and Rochester historically has not been a School Choice district (i.e. ORR High School and ORR Junior High open their doors to out-of-district students but not RMS.) A public hearing will be scheduled for the Rochester School Committee to vote its decision on the RMS disposition for the 2024-25 school year.

In answer to committee member Robin Rounseville's question, Nelson clarified that there has been no increase to the \$5,000 regular reimbursement for School Choice students for

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FY25. In the case of special needs, a School Choice district can claim reimbursement for a student's Individual Education Plan and/or special student services.

In answer to committee member Kate Duggan's question, Nelson explained that each school district within the ORR District acts independently where it concerns School Choice, that a school committee's annual decision to discontinue being a School Choice district cannot end a School Choice student's attendance until that student has aged out of the school.

Committee member Anne Fernandes asked if RMS has maximized its space; Nelson said the school leases some space to Countryside Child Care and to the Southeastern Massachusetts Education Collaborative (SMEC.)

In her Chairperson's Report, Sharon Hartley said she is
reviewing meetings minutes and working on the RMS report to inform the Town of Rochester budget process.

Nelson reported that as of January 25 , RMS was scheduled to add make-up days at the end of the school year.

Dr. Shari Fedorowicz, ORR's assistant superintendent of Teaching \& Learning, said monthly data and implementation meetings are being held for the district-wide literacy program. Professional development was being planned for January 31.

RMS Principal Heidi Letendre credited the jazz band and other RMS musicians for their performances during a busy December season. She also noted that Project 351 ambassadors are meeting monthly.

The committee discussed and voted to approve "the 274 Grant" for Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Part

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B (IDEA.) The Federal Targeted Special Education Program Improvement Grant in the amount of $\$ 8,731$ supports the new Individual Education Plan (IEP.)

Also approved was the $\$ 50,000$ Fund Code 125 Math Acceleration Academies Grant that supports the district's math Acceleration academies.

In his report, Assistant Superintendent of Finance \& Operations Howie Barber told the committee that approximately $\$ 397,000$ in unencumbered money remains in the FY24 operating budget.

In reviewing the prior meeting's minutes, Fernandes sought clarification on a "safe-and-secure" program discussed but not implemented.

Nelson explained that the administration is sensitive to the faculty's and students' "initiative fatigue" and, based on feedback from teachers and citing the district's priority on the literacy program, it's been decided to wait on bringing the program forward to the committee for the vote required to enact an implementation plan.

The next meeting of the Rochester School Committee is scheduled for Thursday, February 29, at 6:30 pm at Rochester Memorial School.

Transportation Bids Will Drive Bus
Mattapoisett School Committee By Mick Colageo
The transportation bid process is a key to the FY25 Old Rochester Regional and Mattapoisett Schools' budget, according to ORR Superintendent of Schools Mike Nelson, who introduced
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an Initial Budget Discussion during the Mattapoisett School Committee's January 31 public meeting.
"That's a big domino for us," said Nelson, recognizing a statewide trend in increased cost, as the committee began its review and discussion of the FY25 Budget.

Nelson anticipates holding a budget subcommittee meeting in the very near future. He was waiting on the closing out of the transportation bid process. As of the January 31 meeting, the busing contract for all six ORR District schools was out for bid.

After distributing estimates for shared services, Nelson projects a public hearing on the budget for late winter/early spring.

In her Chairperson's Report, Carly Lavin focused on the midway point of the school-year journey, that passage offering an opportunity to reflect, take stock and then look ahead to the second half of the academic calendar.
"The first half of the year has been a testament to resilience, commitment and innovation by our educational community. Our students have not only advanced academically, they've also grown as individuals, learning lessons ... and responsibility," said Lavin, reading from a prepared statement.

Lavin credited the teachers for their part in helping shape the character of their students. She praised the faculty for its adaptability, considering it key to overcoming any obstacles, and described the teachers' creativity and resourcefulness as inspiring.
"I think, as we look forward, the second half of the year holds so much promise," said Lavin, stressing the importance of

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collaboration between teachers, parents, the administration and the school committee.

In the Administration Report, Nelson was happy to note that newsletters are forthcoming from all six schools on the new ORR District website and that the "ORRconnect" mobile app has officially been launched. He called it a big step in enhancing communications. The app gives real-time updates in all manner of information sharing and messages. He also encouraged constituents to follow the ORR Connect Facebook page.

Dr. Shari Fedorowicz said monthly implementation meetings continue on the rollout of the district-wide literacy program and anticipated a Literacy Night scheduled for February 7.
"Literacy is our primary focus right now," said Nelson,


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noting that the district is being "very careful" not to create initiative fatigue.

Dr. Laura Ashley, the principal at Center School, reported on a standing-room-only crowd for a recent Kindergarten initiation night and said the second and third graders were enriched by a visit with the New Bedford Symphony Orchestra.

Nelson announced that the principal's job for Old Hammondtown School has been posted and that he would soon be forming a search committee. Kevin Tavares is retiring at the end of the school year.

The meeting began with a recognition presentation. Two new staffers were welcomed, including Steve Medeiros the groundskeeper and principal's secretary Erin Monteforte, and two staff members, music teacher Willow Dowling and Center School secretary Lori Sevigny, were recognized as they leave the ORR District.

Committee member Jim Muse, attending the meeting via Zoom, said Sevigny set an example for all people in every level of the school district to follow. During her report, Lavin echoed Muse's sentiments.

The next meeting of the Mattapoisett School Committee is scheduled for Thursday, March 21, at 6:30 pm at Center School and live via Zoom.

## Improvement Plan Has District in Synch <br> ORR School Committee By Mick Colageo

The Old Rochester Regional School Committee met on February 1 and approved the district-wide School Improvement Plan(s) for the 2023-24 academic year.

ORR Superintendent of Schools Mike Nelson introduced the School Improvement Plan, beginning by explaining that Vision 2028 had recently been introduced. All the elementary school districts adopted a one-year plan to time out with the new district-wide plan.

Adoption of core values are articulated district wide for the first time.

ORR High School Principal Mike Devoll discussed the portrait of an ORR graduate. He said the high school will seek feedback from many stakeholders including business leaders, recent graduates and working back.

Within the five-year plan, there will be grade-level assessments. A group called the Structural Council will analyze


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survey data and help guide the process and inform professional development.

Devoll said there will be district-wide support systems. One example is a freshman seminar for incoming students.

ORR Junior High Principal Silas Coellner explained that targeted education is helping students needing intervention, and he "stole" the high school's "pathways" program.

Lauren Millette, the director of Guidance for Grades 7-12, introduced four new courses at ORR this year: Statistics (elective after completing Algebra II); Architectural Design 4 (careerfocused course); Introduction to Electronics and Robotics 1 (first in a series of courses geared toward robotics engineering); and Honors Portuguese 4 (full-year course for Grade 12.)

After hearing the presentation, the committee did not

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Millette's summary of course changes included a list of renamed courses and some changes with prerequisites. Committee member Frances Kearns complimented the changes particularly as applied to engineering. Citing their everincreasing application in the world, committee member Matt Monteiro expressed enthusiasm about the addition of a statistics course.

Referencing several meetings with the Budget Subcommittee, Nelson held a brief discussion on the FY25 Budget. Nelson noted that the governor's preliminary budget was recently released, and Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations Howard Barber has been using that information that drives school budgeting.


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Nelson said the process is now in the final stages of examining those statewide impacts and getting closer to achieving a draft budget to bring to the school committee.

Committee member Margaret McSweeny discussed the Thrive Act (Bill H.495), which is supported by the Massachusetts Teachers Association and aims to end the tie between standardized testing (MCAS) and graduation.

McSweeny said the punitive aspects of MCAS tests are detrimental to students of color, students learning English as a second language and students on individual education plans. McSweeny said that the Thrive Act does not seek to eliminate MCAS as a data point but as a graduating requirement.

Monteiro considered it notable that support against standardized testing as a graduation requirement is found among several states across the country that otherwise have little in common.

Committee members will send feedback to secretary Melissa Wilcox to share with the committee when assembled. They also voted to create a draft resolution for review at their March meeting.

Member Jim Muse also spoke out against standardized testing taking precedence over all the curriculum and testing done internally.

In her Chairperson's Report, Michelle Smith reinforced her year-opening message on collaboration among the committee members.

The committee approved a class trip to Paris, France, during April 2025 school vacation. The trip is being led by art teacher Joanne Mogilnicki and will be accompanied by special


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education teacher Danielle Dore.
"They're looking at either April $18^{\text {th }}$ to the $26^{\text {th }}$ or April $19^{\text {th }}$ to the $27^{\text {th }}$, depending upon what they're going to book for their travel. But it's the same trip," explained Devoll, who stressed the importance of approval at the February 1 meeting so that fundraising can begin. "We don't want to leave anyone behind. ... If a student wants to go, we want to be able to give them the opportunities to go."

Other school-vacation student trips in 2024 include one to Italy and Greece and another in June to Costa Rica.

The committee heard from two students regarding a proposed trip to Wisconsin for the American Field Service Club as part of a domestic student exchange and voted approval for their trip. The student representatives explained that the benefits of travel within the AFS Club include drastic cost-cutting, as in the students only have to buy a flight. Everything else is covered.

The March 14-17 trip will entail a day in the life of a Waterford, Wisconsin, student (population 1,100) and day trips to Milwaukee and Chicago. Last year the students took an AFS trip to California and maintain those friendships now.

The exchange program that makes unlikely friends from different parts of the country has ORR hosting in April (either 6-7 or 27-28.)

The committee voted to approve Out-of-State Travel for the ORR Science Olympiad team to Brown University in Providence. Devoll said the program is in its second year and will soon travel to Harvard University.

A trip to The Ronald McDonald House in Providence was approved for the Community Service Learning Club for a Saturday in March.

The following donations were approved: 48 lab goggles to the high school for Science Class from student Quinn Perry and family; a new Bulldog mascot suit for the high school from the Class of 2023 and the Athletic Boosters; $\$ 200$ each from the Marion, Mattapoisett and Rochester Police departments for a total of $\$ 600$ to the Unified Sports Program; and $\$ 500$ each from the Mattapoisett Cultural Council and the Cape Cod 5 Foundation to Kathleen Brunelle to support the project Ken and Barbie's Shakespearean Adventure (separate votes.)

Greta and Tim Fox also donated additional copies of the following texts already in use within the curriculum: "Wuthering Heights" by Emily Bronte, "The Scarlet Letter"

by Nathaniel Hawthorne, "Animal Farm" by George Orwell, "1984" by George Orwell, "Romeo and Juliet" by William Shakespeare, "Lord of the Flies" by William Golding, "Mythology" by Edith Hamilton, "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks" by Rebecca Skloot, "Of Mice and Men" by John Steinbeck, "A Walk in the Woods" by Bill Bryson, "My Friend Dahmer" by Derf Backderf, and "Into the Wild" by Jon Krakauer.

The committee voted to approve the following grants: Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Part B (IDEA) Federal Targeted Special Education Program Improvement Grant ( $\$ 11,601$ ); Math Acceleration Academies Grant $(\$ 100,000)$; and High-Quality Instructional Materials Purchase Grant (\$105,100.)

Committee member April Nye publicly thanked Nelson for sustaining the Math Acceleration Academies Grant that benefits students outside of the regular school calendar.

The committee approved the School Health Unit Application through the Massachusetts Department of Public Health submitted by school nurses Nicole Reedy and Linda Deveau for the district. Nelson called it a standard, annual obligation allowing the school nurse to train for and delegate potentially crucial medicinal administration by staff.

The committee approved a request from Old Rochester Youth Lacrosse to use the Main Field on a total of four Sundays during the months of April, May or June dependent on scheduling.
"We have a great relationship with the youth-lacrosse program, and what makes a great relationship is good

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communication," said Devoll. "We want Bulldogs on campus, we want kids accessing our fields and our school and it just enhances our community."

Stephanie Ferreira was hired as an instructional assistant for the 2023-24 school year.

The ORR mobile app has been launched, and member Joe Pires applauded the work to improve the ORR District website.

The committee voted to enter executive session and only return to adjourn the public meeting.

The next meeting of the Old Rochester Regional School Committee is scheduled for Thursday, March 7, and the next meeting of the Joint School Committee is scheduled for Thursday, March 28. Both meetings being at $6: 30 \mathrm{pm}$ in the ORRJH Media Room.



## Girls Hoop Heats Up

Sports Roundup
By Aiden Comorosky
The Old Rochester Regional High School girls' basketball team defeated Somerset Berkley, 45-40, on February 9, as Amber Engel was named the player of the game. The Bulldogs took a five-game winning-streak and a 14-3 record into their February 14 showdown against Apponequet (16-3) in Lakeville.

ORR wraps up its regular season with three non-league games. They look to avenge an early-season loss to Dartmouth, facing the Indians on Thursday, February 15, at 6:30 pm in Mattapoisett. The Bulldogs visit New Bedford on Tuesday, February 20, at 1:30 pm and then finish the season on home court against Bishop Stang on Thursday, February 22, at 6:30 pm.

## Boys Basketball

The ORR boys' basketball team beat Greater New Bedford Voc-Tech, 78-60, on February 6, improving its record to 13-4. John Butler was named the player of the game. The Bulldogs' home game scheduled for Tuesday against Apponequet (106) was postponed amidst a snowy forecast. ORR continues its season-ending homestand with games Friday, February 16, against Bishop Stang and Tuesday, February 20, against South Coast Conference rival Fairhaven. Both games tip off at 6:30 pm.

## Hockey

The ORR/Fairhaven hockey team faced Bourne on February 7 and won 4-2, improving its record to 10-7-1. Connor Galligan scored two goals for the Bulldogs and was named the player of the game. Justin Marques had two assists. The playoff-


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bound Bulldogs will play their final regular-season game on Tuesday, February 20, against Apponequet (5-12) at 3:00 pm at Driscoll Memorial Rink in Fall River.

## Academic Achievements

In recognition of their outstanding academic achievement, Emmanuel College in Boston has named Madeline Wright of Mattapoisett and Gracey Weedall of Marion to the Dean's List for the Fall 2023 semester. To earn a spot on the Dean's List, Emmanuel students must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 or higher for a 16-credit semester.

Vermont State University is proud to congratulate Noah Lapointe of Rochester, for being named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2023 semester.


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Julia Rose Winters of Marion, received a Bachelor of Science degree in communication, media \& design, digital art minor, new prod dev \& mrkt minor from Clarkson University on December 16, 2023.

A team of undergraduates from Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) were selected from hundreds of team entries for first place in the President's IQP (Interactive Qualifying Project) Awards. The President's IQP Awards are given to student teams whose conception, performance and presentation of their IQPs have been judged outstanding in focusing on the relationships among science, technology and the needs of society. Their project was titled "Living with Fracking: Women's Narratives from Zharrez, Albania." Alexandria Sheehan a member of the class of 2024, majoring in Economic Science worked as part of the team to develop this project.

Katherine Solowey, of Mattapoisett, has been named to the Dean's List at Hamilton College for the 2023 fall semester.

## Coastline Elderly Nutrition Program

## Monday, Feb 19: Holiday - No meals served

Tuesday, Feb 20: Honey mustard chicken, confetti rice, glazed carrots, white bread, cranberries
Wednesday, Feb 21: Minestrone soup, stuffed shells w /alfredo Florentine sauce, Roman vegetables, dinner roll, fresh orange Thursday, Feb 22: Pork loin w/gravy, sweet potato, broccoli, oatmeal bread, fig bar
Friday, Feb 23: Cheese omelet, hash browns, peppers \& onions, fruit muffin, applesauce

## Winter Wildlife Walk

Come along on a guided 2.5 -mile hike through forests, fields and along the rocky coastline at Nasketucket Bay State Reservation on Wednesday, February 21 from 12:00 pm to 1:30 pm. We'll explore winter wildlife, look for signs of animal activity and discover animal adaptations for surviving our winter weather. Meet at the main dirt parking lot at Brandt Beach Road in Mattapoisett. Best for curious adults and families with children ages $10+$ years. All children must be accompanied


Ruth Griffin shared this photo taken from the Mattapoisett Bike Path.
by an adult. Leashed dogs allowed. Dress for the weather. No restrooms on site; plan accordingly. Inclement weather will cancel. For more information or to confirm, call (508) 272-9376.

## Thomas H. Lynch: Fine Art and Corporate Design

Come to the Mattapoisett Free Public Library between March 1 and 31 to view the Artist Series Exhibit called Fine Art and Corporate Design by Thomas H. Lynch, National Artist and Designer. Lynch has been working professionally for some 40 years. His BFA in design is complemented by a lifetime pursuit of artistic development and excellence, which has enabled him to create award winning works of art and design for a large number of distinguished clients nationwide. Additionally, his experience as an Art Director, Senior Designer and Creative Project Director in the corporate design world has made him a world class visual arts communicator. Lynch has a Gallery in the Ropewalk Mall in Mattapoisett. Lynch will also be available for a Meet \& Greet at the Mattapoisett Library on Sunday, March 10 from 2:00 $\mathrm{pm}-2: 30 \mathrm{pm}$ to speak about his work.

## Friends of the Elizabeth Taber Library Gala Event

A performance of her latest dramatization, "Her Majesty--Queen Elizabeth II" will be presented on Sunday, March 24 at the Marion Music Hall by actress Sheryl Faye. The performance will be preceded by an elegant Afternoon Tea at 3 pm featuring in the British manner, a selection of sandwiches, scones with clotted cream and preserves and a variety of special sweets.

This gala event, of appeal to both men and women, is sponsored by the Friends of the Elizabeth Taber Library, a fundraising and support group for the library. Tickets, which are \$40, can be purchased from a member of the Friends or at the library. Only 100 tickets will be sold, and are limited to those age 12 and older. Tables of four or six can be reserved by calling Paula Meere at 508-274-3195. Gluten-free needs can be communicated to her, as well.

Janet Wallace, President of the Friends, is pleased to announce that this will be the first performance in the area of this new one-act play about the queen by Sheryl Faye. Ms Faye has an enthusiastic following among those who have enjoyed her other portrayals of historic women, which include Ruth Bader Ginsberg, Helen Keller and Eleanor Roosevelt and others that she has brought to life in the 20 years in which she has been developing her repertoire.

## FCCR Chili Supper

The community is invited to a Chili Supper at First Congregational Church of Rochester, 11 Constitution Way, Rochester, on Saturday, February 24 at 5:00 pm. Tickets are \$8/ person, under 10 years old eat free. Proceeds will go to the Fellowship Hall Roof Repair Fund. Contact the church office at rochestercongregational@comcast.net or 508-763-4314 to reserve your tickets.

## Rochester Cultural Council Grantees

The Rochester Cultural Council (RCC) is excited to announce that we have awarded $\$ 6470$ in grant funds to support 17 projects in 2024. Grants ranged from $\$ 150$ to $\$ 850$ and were awarded in the categories of arts, sciences and humanities.

Emphasis was placed on funding programs that benefited Rochester residents and are to be held locally in town as well as projects that are free to participants or available at a reduced rate.

The RCC is proud to be able to announce our support of following grantees for FY24: Acushnet Public Library, Cara Bean, East Over Farms, FORD, FORM, Lewis-Parks \& Andrew, MAC, Old Colony Cougars PTO, Onset Bay Assoc., Practice Best Practice, Rochester Historical Society, RMS PTO, Sippican Choral Society, South Coast Children's Chorus, South Coast Children's Theatre, Tri-County Music Association, Jon Waterman.

All events are ongoing through December 31. For more detailed information of events, please visit the MA Cultural Council website at massculturalcouncil.org/local-council/ rochester/ or our Facebook page.

The RCC is a group of volunteers appointed by the Rochester Select Board for three-year terms. Our mission is to promote excellence, access and diversity in the arts, humanities and sciences to enhance the quality of life in Rochester. The RCC strives to achieve these goals by diligently evaluating grant requests and allocating the funds provided by the Mass Cultural Council to projects best serving Rochester residents. The Rochester Cultural Council is always recruiting new members. Please visit our town website at www.townofrochestermass. com/cultural-council and get in touch with a member of the council to learn more.

## Mattapoisett Cultural Council

Mattapoisett Cultural Council has announced the award of 28 grants totaling $\$ 20,800$ for arts, humanities and science programs in and around Mattapoisett in 2024.

Grant recipients include Friends of Old Rochester Drama, Mattapoisett Free Public Library, Mattapoisett Historical Society, Mattapoisett Land Trust, Mattapoisett Lions Club and Mattapoisett Recreation. A complete list of recipients can be found below.

Mattapoisett Cultural Council is part of a network of Local Cultural Councils serving all 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth, the largest grassroots cultural funding network in the nation, supporting thousands of community-based projects in the arts, sciences and humanities every year.

In 2024, Mattapoisett Cultural Council's town financial support has increased to $\$ 15,000$, a very generous supplement to the state allocation of $\$ 5,500$. The town's backing at this uncommon level makes a huge difference in the Council's resources available to satisfy grant applicants. Creative arts, humanities and science program offerings in our local region are thriving. Funding needs and requests typically increase every year - the council considered 34 grant applications totaling over $\$ 26,000$ this year and was disappointed to have to decline or reduce support for several worthwhile projects. Mattapoisett residents are deserving of the rich cultural experiences that the applicants provide.

Decisions about which cultural projects and activities to support are made at the community level by council members Patricia Apperson, Christopher Brennan, Janet Coquillette, Kathleen Damaskos, Michael Eaton, Joanna MacDonald Ingham, Barbara Poznysz, Kimberly Ray, James Rottler, Gale Schultz,

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Janet B. (Dexter) Raymond, 85, of West Wareham passed away Monday February 5, 2024 at home after a brief illness. Born and raised in Mattapoisett, the daughter of the late Chester G. and Beatrice B. (Vossahlik) Dexter, she lived in West Wareham for most of her life.

Janet was formerly employed as a licensed practical nurse and respiratory therapist at Tobey Hospital for 21 years. She was also a certified emergency medical technician. Later she worked at Our Lady's Haven caring for patients with Alzheimer's Disease, which she enjoyed the most. In her earlier life, she taught Sunday School at the Quaker Meeting House in Mattapoisett.

She is survived by three sons, Glenn and wife Donna, Donald, and Eric; five grandchildren, Ben, Nick, Nathan, Jessica, and Janelle; a step-granddaughter, Stephanie Green; and her daughters-in-law, Kathy and Kerry. She made their young lives an important part of hers, attending as many of their events as possible, babysitting, playing games, reading to them; the list is endless. They all were a source of great pride and joy.

She also leaves her siblings, her twin Janice Southworth, Diane Baron, and John Dexter, as well as several nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her siblings, Shirley Houck, Florence Vossahlik, Patricia Tapper, Susan Fink, Calvin Dexter, Daniel Dexter, and Chester Dexter.

Her funeral service was held on Tuesday February 13th at the Saunders-Dwyer Home for Funerals, 50 County Rd., Route 6, Mattapoisett. Her family received visitors prior to the service. Burial was in Pine Island Cemetery. For online condolence book, please visit www.saundersdwyer.com.


Beverly Jane Geil, 94, recently of Marion, Massachusetts, passed away on February 2, 2024 due to natural causes.

Beverly was born on October 18, 1929 to Edward Frank Wenzel and Helen Brasch Wenzel in Chesterland, Ohio, and she grew up with her two older brothers on their small farm. After graduating from Chardon High School in Chardon, Ohio, Beverly married her high school sweetheart, John Jacob Geil, Jr. In 1950, she sailed transatlantic aboard a small freighter to join her husband in Chateauroux, France, where he was stationed post WWII as a sergeant in the USAF. The two traveled while in France and had many adventures together.

Upon returning by steamship to the US in1953, Beverly again joined her husband in California where he was stationed at Travis Air Force Base near San Francisco. While there, Beverly gave birth to her fraternal twin boys, John Daniel and James Edward.

Beverly was a skilled typist, and she worked as a secretary for various private companies to help support the family. In 1965, she was hired at the Kennedy Space Center during the construction of NASA's Vertical Assembly Building (VAB). A few years later, Beverly worked for the Florida Forest Service in Tallahassee.

Beverly learned to play the piano as a young girl. She had a special talent, and she brought much joy to family and friends with her music. For years, she taught piano, mostly to children and young people. That talent lives on in her grandson, Erik.

Always seeking travel and adventure, Beverly and her family made two long road trips to the American West, and they lived in Bangladesh from 1962 to 1964. In later years, Beverly and her husband twice drove from Florida to Alaska and back. Upon John's retirement, the two flew to New Zealand where they rented a camper and explored the South Island.

Beverly is survived by her son James; four grandsons; and a great granddaughter. After fifty years at home on the Indian River Lagoon in Florida, she spent her final few living with James in Massachusetts. There will be a reception from 3 pm to 5 pm on Saturday February 24 at the Indian Cove House, 106 Indian Cove Road in Marion. Arrangements are with the Saunders-Dwyer Mattapoisett Home for Funerals, 50 County Rd. (Rt. 6), Mattapoisett. For online guestbook, visit www.saundersdwyer.com.


Bernard Donald Gauvin, 85, of Mattapoisett, passed away peacefully on February 7, 2024. He was home and surrounded by family. Born in New Bedford to the late Olivier J. and Juliette G. (Pare) Gauvin, he was one of six children. Bernie was the husband of Nancy A. (Hawes) Gauvin. In 63 years of marriage, they built their home and raised four children in Mattapoisett.

He was predeceased by two of his children, Colleen Calise and Scott Gauvin, and his brothers Jean O. Gauvin (late wife Shelia), Andre Gauvin, Norman Gauvin and Ronald Gauvin.

His immediate family consists of sister Claire and husband David Hartigan of Maryland, sister-in-laws Margaret, Irene, Muriel, son Mark Gauvin and wife Kathy of Mattapoisett, late daughter Colleen Calise and husband Stephen of Mattapoisett, daughter Joann Price and husband James, and late son Scott Gauvin and wife Janet, of Rochester. He was the supportive Pepere to 12 grandchildren: Taran Calise, Chelsey Frey and husband Marc, Colin Calise and wife Stephanie, Brett Gauvin and wife April, Janine Cann and husband Ryan, Olivia Gauvin, Steven Price and wife Allie, Alex Calise, Luke Gauvin, Maxx Wolski, Joseph Gauvin, and William Gauvin. Adored 5 great- grandchildren: Mia Frey, Jameson Cann, Leo

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This year's Mattapoisett Cultural Council grantees include: Seth Asser, Education Committee of the Mattapoisett Land Trust, Colin Everett, Friends of ORR Drama, Friends of ORR Music, Steven Hurlburt, Marion Art Center, Mattapoisett Free Public Library, Mattapoisett Historical Society, Mattapoisett Lions Club, New Bedford Festival Theatre, New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center, New Bedford Roots \& Branches Festival, ORRHS , Practice Best Practice, Rotch-Jones-Duff House, Sippican Choral Society, SouthCoast Almanac, SouthCoast Children's Chorus, Greater New Bedford Choral Society, New England Coastal Wildlife Alliance, Mattapoisett Recreation, TriCounty Symphonic Band, Tri-Town Against Racism, Matt York, Your Theatre Inc.

The Mattapoisett Cultural Council will seek applications again in the fall for 2025 grants. Information will be available online at massculturalcouncil.org/communities/local-cultural-council-program/application-process/.

## Rochester Homeschool Cooperative

A Homeschool Christian Cooperative will open its doors in Rochester in September, for Grades K-8.

Rochester Christian Learning Center is a ministry of the First Congregational Church of Rochester and will open three

days per week on the property of the church, located in the center of Rochester.

To inquire, please email RochesterChristianLC@gmail.com

## The Story of the Tremont Advent Camp Meeting

The Marion Historical Commission and the Sippican Historical Society will cohost a live presentation The Story of the Tremont Advent Camp Meeting on Thursday, March 21. Historic preservation consultant Lynn Smiledge will present the talk at

## OBITUARIES

Frey, Charlotte Gauvin, Raelynn Cann and numerous nieces and nephews, including cherished niece Lorraine Barry and husband Peter Wolski.

He was a communicant of St. Anthony's Parish. Famously known for "Bernie's Baked Beans" by his friends of the Knights of Columbus in town.

Bernie was formally employed as a general contractor with Gauvin \& Clerc Builders. Also known as "Mr. G", he spent some of his retirement as the head custodian at Old Hammondtown School.

Always known as "Mister Fix-It" or "Mister Buildit", he enjoyed supervising his family and friends' numerous projects. As a skilled craftsman, you could find him in his workshop or tinkering on one of his tractors around the yard. He also enjoyed warm summer nights with his wife and
friends down on the wharf.
The visiting hours will be held on Friday, February 16th from 4-8 pm in the Saunders- Dwyer Mattapoisett Home for Funerals, 50 County Rd. (Rt. 6), Mattapoisett. The Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, February 17th at 10 am in his parish of St. Anthony's Church. Burial will follow in St. Anthony's Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the Knights of Columbus 57 Fairhaven Rd, P.O. Box 483, Mattapoisett, MA 02739. For directions and guestbook, visit www.saundersdwyer.com.

> If you have a notice you would like to have included in the Obituaries section, please contact our office at: 508 758-9055, or by email at office@wanderer.com.

# MovIE <br> Oops 

## By Rob Gonsalves www.robsmovievault.com

Anatomy of a Fall. Starring Sandra Hüller and Swann Arlaud. Directed by Justine Triet. Running time: 151 minutes. MPAA rating: $R$. Now playing in limited theatrical release and on streaming.

Did she do it? For most of Justine Triet's absorbing Anatomy of a Fall, which won the Palme d'Or and has garnered five Oscar nominations, we hope she didn't, but we're never sure. "She" is Sandra Voyter (Sandra Hüller), a novelist born in Germany but, until recently, living in France with her French husband Samuel (Samuel Theis). Samuel, it appears, has fallen from an attic window to his death on the snowy ground below. But did he fall or was he, uh, guided? Accident, suicide, or homicide? And does any of this truly matter? Is our fascination with courtroom dramas leading us to look in the wrong direction?

The script, by Triet and her partner Arthur Harari, is an anatomy of something, all right. A mere murder mystery is not on the agenda; the mystery here is the deeper mystery of relationships, how they start, how they endure or fail. Nevertheless, I came to develop a sharp empathy with Sandra's lawyer and former lover, the graying and mordant Vincent (Swann Arlaud), who knows that it doesn't matter if his client did it or not, but if he can convince a judge of her innocence. She does not make it easy for him. Nobody in this family is easy, not even Sandra's young son Daniel (Milo Machado-Graner), who is almost blind from an accident incurred when Samuel was supposed to be watching him.

In someone else's hands, when a bit of family drama falls into the legal thriller you'd been expecting, or when courtroom struggles interrupt the family drama REVIEM
usually how these things go. But does it mean anything? What, if anything, does it say about motive? And why do both the prosecutor and Vincent sound as though they're arguing beside the point? The prosecutor's arguments are grounded in logic, but when are people ever logical?

In this case, so many resentments have built up on both sides, born of insecurity, that when husband and wife look at each other what they see is their own frailty. Anatomy of a Fall uses the legal mystery as a launchpad to scrutinize the people onscreen, who often don't act according to their best interests - even Daniel has his unrelatable moments, conducting a dangerous experiment on the family dog. (The dog comes through fine; the incident is set up to prove something else, so knowing the dog lives isn't really a spoiler.) The movie runs well north of two hours but feels tight. Triet has the gift of making even seemingly non-essential scenes or shots feel they're there for a good reason, even if only as part of the fabric of the story. Like any good family drama, and any good legal thriller, the plot keeps popping off revelations that put a spin on everything we've seen.

Sandra Hüller is having quite a season, Oscarnominated for her work here and also starring in another multiple nominee, The Zone of Interest. Here she walks a thin line between helping us believe in Sandra and keeping it ambiguous whether we should believe her. I never doubted why Sandra may have done anything she did; what I still don't quite know is whether she did anything, and the movie is no help. A verdict is reached, but the movie doesn't necessarily agree - or disagree - with it and isn't interested in selling it to us, either. Hüller is backed up in every corner by compelling costars, including Samuel Theis, who makes his only real scene count and resonate with fear and rage. I'm not sure, though, if Anatomy of a Fall is for the kind of moviegoer who needs a clearcut ending where nothing is left for the imagination to dwell on. It's definitely more for the dwellers, the art-house fans who like their movies to talk to them plain, adult to adult. you've been enjoying, the result might be frustrating. But Triet weaves the two threads together delicately, so that they feel like an organic whole, yet with the two sides occasionally commenting on each other. The argument we hear between Sandra and Samuel, which he secretly recorded and saved onto a USB stick, sounds authentically awful and hurtful, and neither party comes off at all well, which is

the Marion Music Hall at 6:30 pm.
Have you ever noticed the little Tremont Advent Camp sign along Wareham Road near Hermitage Road? Here's your chance to learn what it represents.

The Tremont Advent Campmeeting was established in 1861 by a group of Second Advent (or Advent) Christians. Their belief, expounded by revivalist Baptist preacher William Miller, was that the second coming, or Advent, of Jesus Christ was to take place in 1843. The Tremont Advent Campmeeting was originally located in the Tremont section of Wareham, hence its name. When the Wareham camp was completely destroyed in a fire on March 31, 1905 they chose the property on Hammett's Cove. The first Marion Campmeeting was held there July 25-August 6, 1905.

By the mid-19th century, seasonal revival camp meetings had become a common fixture in the landscape of America. Located in the countryside and often on bodies of water, campgrounds included permanent buildings for common use such as dormitories, kitchens, dining halls and assembly rooms and eventually individual residential cottages.


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Across
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STORYBOOK

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46 Like so, informally
48 Correo (Spanish airmail)
50 - over (satisfied for the moment) 52 "Movin' -" (sitcom theme song)
53 Tube prizes
55 Brand of fruit drinks
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64 Suffix with chlor- or fluor-
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## SALOME'S STARS

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You might feel bolder as each new success falls into place. However, caution is still advised throughout the end of the week. Taking it step-by-step is the best approach.
TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) The cooperation that you request could come at too high of a price. Since few can beat the Bovine at being clever and resourceful, why not see what you can do on your own? GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Aspects favor a quieter time to get closer to the people who are especially important to you. There's always much more to learn and appreciate about each other.
CANCER (June 21 to July 22) The concerned Crab will act to resolve workplace misunderstandings before they get out of hand and cause serious problems. Co-workers rally to support your efforts.
LEO (July 23 to August 22) What the Big Cat might see as a disturbing act of disloyalty might just be a failure of communication on both sides. Take time for mediation rather than confrontation.
VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Be more patient with those who seem unwilling to accept your version of what's right. The fact is, there's a lot more to learn on all sides of this issue.
LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) It should be easier for you to assess the facts and make an important decision. But don't commit if you still have doubts. There could be more you need to know.
SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Your excitement level remains high as you continue working on a new project. Expect some setbacks, but on the whole, all will move pretty much on schedule.
SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) It might be wise to be more prudent with expenses right now. But your financial situation should soon clear up, and you could be back shopping as happily as ever.
CAPRICORN (December 22 to January
19) You might prefer sticking with your current schedule, but some newly emerging information could persuade you to consider a change. Keep an open mind.
AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) You might want to reject a suggested change, but it could be wise to go with the flow, at least for a while. You can always return to your first plan if you like.
PISCES (February 19 to March 20) You're bolstered by both the practical and poetic sides of your nature as you maneuver some unsettled emotional situations. Things ease up by week's end.
BORN THIS WEEK: People respond to your generosity and wisdom. They consider you a treasured and trusted friend.
(c) 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

These revival meetings featured charismatic speakers and were punctuated with enthusiastic hymn singing. Plentiful food and a wide range of recreational activities were also mainstay aspects of camp meeting life. Camp meetings were described by Transcendentalist philosopher and poet Henry David Thoreau as "a singular combination of a prayer-meeting and a picnic." They reached their greatest popularity between the Civil War and World War I.

Only a handful of these camp meetings still survive in Massachusetts, the most well-known being the Martha's Vineyard Camp Meeting Association established by a Methodist congregation in 1835 in Oak Bluffs. The campground there is a National Historic Landmark, known for its colorful and elaborately-decorated Gothic Revival and Queen Anne-style cottages.

Located adjacent to Hammett's Cove, the 10+ acre site of Camp Marion and most of the original cottages and other buildings remain largely as constructed during the first quarter of the 20th century. Of the 43 buildings, 19 are Associationowned and the rest are in private ownership on Associationowned land. According to consultant Lynn Smiledge, "This resource is important as an intact example of the layout and built fabric of one of the camp meetings so prevalent across New England in the second half of the 19th century."

The Camp meeting in Marion has remained in continuous operation since 1905. Every summer, campers of all ages still come to Marion from across New England and beyond. Family Camp meeting Week is the highlight of the season. It is framed by Little Sunday and Big Sunday, the first and last days of the camp meeting week. Other formal sessions include camp weeks for children, youths (age 8-17), and adults.

Come learn more about this interesting facet of Marion history on Thursday, March 21.

## RMS Students Introduced To Coding

Superintendent Michael S. Nelson and Interim Principal Heidi Letendre are pleased to announce that Rochester Memorial students recently participated in several activities to learn about and apply concepts in computer science and coding.

During Computer Science Education Week, students at Rochester Memorial School participate in the Hour of Code with Media Specialist Sandi Sollauer. The Hour of Code is a global initiative that helps students learn the basics of computer



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Over 25 prizes will be given away including gift cards to local restaurants and shops, rounds of mini golf, and even a heating maintenance program!

Giveaway drawing date: February 29
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People gathered on Saturday morning at Dunseith Gardens in Mattapoisett to enjoy the "Coretta" story walk, a collaboration of the Mattapoisett Land Trust, Tri-Town Against Racism, and the Mattapoisett Free Public Library. The story walk based on the autobiography of Coretta Scott King points to the importance of providing children with printed reading materials that represent diversity and inclusion. In Marion, Pierson Woods (the Sippican Lands Trust property off Point Road) is presently hosting the TTAR story walk, "A Day With No Words," based on the book by Tiffany Hammond and illustrated by Kate Cosgrove. The Pierson Woods story walk is sponsored by the Marion Cultural Council. Photos by Mick Colageo and Marilou Newell


On February 9, the Marion Natural History Museum hosted a presentation on Native American sites in and around Marion. Principal Investigator Erin Flynn from Public Archaeology Labs, Inc. (PAL) in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, gave an excellent presentation including many locally found artifacts in the museum's collection and others. The room was packed with an enthusiastic group from the community, and many questions about our local sites were answered by Erin. The museum would like to thank Erin Flynn from PAL and our volunteers Maggie Payne, Justin Barrett and his son Isaac, and Carl Leidhold for all their help. Photo courtesy Elizabeth Leidhold


Grade 4 students from Sippican Elementary School visited the Museum of Science in Boston as part of the V.A.S.E. funded and coordinated activities. V.A.S.E. also conducts after-school programs on the Marion school grounds. Photo courtesy ORR District



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programming and coding, as well as practice creativity and problem-solving skills.

Following the Hour of Code, K-6 students have further applied the coding
concepts they learned with STEM teacher Scott Huckabee in the Rochester
Memorial School's STEM Lab.
Working in small teams, students recently took on a robot race challenge. Using the "Over the River and Through the Woods" song as inspiration, students programmed a variety of robots to complete challenges with the ultimate goal of being able to get their robot to "Grandmother's House."

For the intermediate elementary grades, an obstacle course was set up in the STEM Lab. Groups were given different starting points and a set of constraints were put in place. These constraints required students to program their robots to go over the river, through the woods and through the white and drifted snow, before ending in front of Grandmother's house. Students in Grades 3-4 programmed Dash Robots through an iPad app. Students in Grades 5-6 used Sphero Bolt robots, also programmed through an iPad app.

For the primary grades, students contended with fewer obstacles to Grandmother's house; however, her house was gradually moved to more challenging locations as groups succeeded. Students in grades K-2 used Bee-Bots, which have basic controls of forward, backward, left and right.
"Here at Rochester Memorial School, we are very fortunate to have the resources for our students to participate in the Hour of Code. Mr. Huckabee and Ms. Sallauer collaborated to make the Hour of Code Week happen at RMS," Interim


Principal Letendre said. "Through these experiences, our students are gaining a stronger understanding of the use of technology in our everyday lives. Our students are growing up in a world where technology is constantly evolving and maybe some of our students will be interested in this career path in the future."

Massachusetts Computer Science Practices for students in this grade span focus on the development of coding concepts through exploration, discovery and creativity. The robot race provided the opportunity for students to actively engage and apply coding concepts. Throughout the activity, the students worked in cooperative groups, using their creative and problem-solving skills to develop their solutions. They explored technology through play, tested and evaluated computer code,



## Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps



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and corrected "bugs" when they appeared in their code, all while building their coding fluency and technological skills.
"It's great to see the Hour of Code embraced so enthusiastically by our students and their teachers every year," Superintendent Nelson said. "This is not only an excellent opportunity to introduce our younger students to coding, but also allow them to expand their skills in creativity, problemsolving and teamwork."

## Mattapoisett's Changing Climate

On Sunday February 25 from 1:30-3:30 pm, The Mattapoisett Democratic Town Committee will sponsor its second in a series of Speakers' Forums in the downstairs public meeting room of the Mattapoisett Public Library. Light refreshments will be provided and a $\$ 10$ donation is requested.

We will discuss climate change and its effects on Mattapoisett and what residents can do to prepare. Our speakers will include Mike Huguenin from the Mattapoisett Land Trust (MLT), who will lead a panel of other local residents who have been involved in climate change issues. Mr. Huguenin, along with the MLT, have been working on projects aimed at reducing carbon emissions as well as making our lands more resilient to climate change. The MLT has been the recipient of numerous grants to study restoration of our salt marshes and has partnered with other state and local organizations to accomplish this goal.

Mr. Huguenin will be joined by Mattapoisett resident Chrystal Walsh who has been involved locally with climate change issues for many years, along with Marissa PerezDormitzer, also a resident of Mattapoisett and District Waste

Manager for the Greater New Bedford Regional Refuse Management District. Ms. Perez-Dormitzer will discuss recycling and its importance to our environment. For more information about this Forum, please contact Nicky Osborne at 508-988-5205.

## Mattapoisett Democrats to Hold Caucus

On Tuesday March 12 at 6:30 pm, the Mattapoisett
Democratic Town Committee will convene in the downstairs public meeting room of the Mattapoisett Free Public Library to hold its local caucus to elect four (4) Delegates and four (4) Alternates to represent Mattapoisett at the Massachusetts State Democratic Convention to be held Saturday, June 1 in Worcester at the DCU Center. This year is a nominating convention for the Senate seat Elizabeth Warren currently holds.

Registered and preregistered Democrats in the Town of Mattapoisett may be elected as delegates or alternates during the caucus. Preregistered Democrats must be 16 years old by the start of the caucus window (February 15, 2024) and must be preregistered by the time of the caucus.

Those interested in getting involved with the Mattapoisett Democratic Town Committee or for more information pertaining to the caucuses, please email Chairperson Nicki Demakis at ndemakis@tidlaw.com.

## Hot Chocolate Hike

Mattapoisett Land Trust is hosting a Hot Chocolate Hike during school vacation week. On Wednesday, February 21 at 10 am join MLT and embark on a slow and easy hike through the


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## LEGAL NOTICES

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION - HIGHWAY DIVISION
NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
Project File No. 605311
A Live Virtual Design Public Hearing will be hosted on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed Bridge Replacement of Marion Road and Wareham Road (Route 6) Over the Weweantic River design-build project in Marion and Wareham, MA.
WHEN: 6:00-8:00 pm, Wednesday, February 28, 2024
PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Bridge Replacement project of Wareham Road/Marion Road over the Weweantic River. All views and comments submitted in response to the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible. PROPOSAL: The proposed project consists of replacing two (2) bridges on US 6 over the Weweantic River. The bridges are separated by an approximate 400 -foot-long causeway. The bridges and causeway will be widened to accommodate a wider shoulder and one 10 -foot wide Shared Use Path on each side of the roadway. The Marion-Wareham bridge is currently a 2 -span bridge and the Wareham bridge is currently a 3 -span bridge. The span arrangement will remain the same however, the spans will be lengthened to accommodate a larger vertical profile while retaining the same hydraulic opening by building the abutments behind the existing abutments. The proposed project will provide bridge and roadway safety improvements and MassDOT will use staged construction to maintain one lane of traffic in each direction during construction. Pedestrian access will also be maintained throughout construction with the use of temporary sidewalks.

The Project will also include complete and partial removal of the existing bridge structures, roadway reconstruction, highway drainage improvements, salt marsh replication and protection, traffic and pedestrian management, pavement markings and signage, utility relocation/protection and all other related bridge and highway work.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is responsible for acquiring all needed rights in private or public lands. MassDOT's policy concerning land acquisitions will be presented in the hearing.

Project inquiries, written statements and other exhibits regarding the proposed undertaking may be submitted to Carrie E. Lavallee, P.E., Chief Engineer, via e-mail to massdotmajorprojects@ dot.state.ma.us or via US Mail to Suite 7210, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Major Projects, Project File No. 605311. Statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the hearing transcript must be emailed or postmarked no later than ten (10) business days after the hearing is hosted.

This hearing is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (e.g interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, live captioning, videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please con-

## LEGAL NOTICES

tact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-8580), TTD/TTY at (857) 266-0603, fax (857) 368-0602 or by email (MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us). Requests should be made as soon as possible and prior to the hearing, and for more difficult to arrange services including sign-language, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten business days before the hearing. This hearing will be hosted, or a cancellation announcement posted, on the internet at https://www.mass. gov/orgs/highway-division/events
JONATHAN GULLIVER, HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR
CARRIE E. LAVALLEE, P.E., CHIEF ENGINEER 2/15, 2/22

## TOWN OF MATTAPOISETT

## MATTAPOISETT SELF STORAGE, Inc.

SELF STORAGE FACILITY AUCTION SALE
Mattapoisett Self Storage Operator's Sale for nonpayment of Storage Charges pursuant to the power of sale contained in M.G.L. Chapter 105 A , Section 4 . The following property will be sold at Public Auction at 10:00 am on March 4, 2024, on the premises of Mattapoisett Self Storage, 7 Industrial Drive, Mattapoisett, MA 02739. All household furniture, trunks, books, clothes, appliances, tools, antiques, miscellany held for: John Buckley, Unit C084; Andrea Cebula, Unit C225. Sale per order of Mattapoisett Self Storage. Tel: 508-758-4311. Terms: Cash. Units sold by the entirety. Sales are subject to postponement and/or cancellation. www.StorageAuctionSolutions.com Lic \# 350. 2/15, $2 / 22$

## TOWN OF MARION

## SELECT BOARD

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Marion Select Board will hold a public hearing at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at the Marion Town House Conference Room, 2 Spring Street, to consider the petition of NSTAR Electric Company, d/b/a Eversource Energy, covering the installation $44^{\prime}+/-$ of conduit and 2 handholes on Front Street.
Carleton Burr, Jr. - Chair 2/15
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME Docket No: PL23C0217CA
In the matter of Quavardis Marie Gomes
Plymouth Probate and Family Court: 52 Obery
Street, Suite 1130, Plymouth, MA 02360 (508-7476204)

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Quavardis Marie Gomes of Marion, MA aka Quavardis Marie Gomes-Johnson, Quavardis Marie Gomes-Silva requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to Quovadis Marie Gomes.

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Plymouth Probate and Family Court before 10:00 am on the return date of $03 / 01 / 2024$. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.
WITNESS, Hon. Patrick W. Stanton, First Justice of this Court Date: January 31, 2024

## LEGAL NOTICES

Signed by: Matthew J. McDonough, Register of Probate 2/15

## TOWN OF MATTAPOISETT <br> CONSERVATION COMMISSION <br> NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Mattapoisett Conservation Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, March 11, 2024 at 6:30 pm in the Mattapoisett Town Hall (in person and remotely via Zoom **) on a Notice of Intent submitted by Tracey White.

The Applicant proposes to clear a portion of wooded area to create lawn, to plant a row of arborvitae along the south property line and to pave a portion of the gravel driveway.

All of the proposed work will be performed within Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage, Flood Zones VE (El. 16 \& 18) and small portion will be performed within the 100 ft . Buffer Zone of an offsite Bordering Vegetated Wetland located across the street of Auccot Road.

The property is located at 70 Aucoot Road which is further identified as Lot \#87 on Assessors Map \#3.
**Contact concomm@mattapoisett.net for the Zoom Meeting Information. 2/15

## TOWN OF MARION

## COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

 NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGThe Marion Community Preservation Committee will hold a public hearing on Friday March 8, 2024 beginning at $5: 00 \mathrm{pm}$. The meeting will be held by Microsoft Teams. Please contact the committee chair, Jeff Doubrava, at CommunityPreservation@marionma.gov for log-in details.

The agenda for this meeting is as fol-
lows:
Review, amend and approve minutes of the February 9, 2024 meeting.

Review and discuss applications for CPA funding. Vote to present applications for consideration at annual town meeting, draft warrant articles.

The following applications will be considered:
Boatyard Park Boundary Survey and Sign Posting Silvershell Parking Lot Engineering
Protection of Historic Files
Marion Shared Use Bike Path ROW Easements Bird Island Lighthouse Engineering
Marion Shared Use Bike Path Engineering Update Irrigation System Install
Cemetery Records Management Software
Historical Markers and Primary Source Education
Jeff Doubrava, CPC Chair 2/15, 2/22

## TOWN OF MARION

PLANNING BOARD
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
To be held at the Marion Police Department Conference Room
550 Mill Street
Also Available via Teams (Remote Meeting Option)

On March 4, 2024, at 7:05 pm the Marion Planning Board will hold a public hearing on proposed changes to the Zoning Bylaw pursuant to the requirements of MGL c.40A, s.5. To see if the Town will vote at Town Meeting to re-classify the following lots, located at 207-215 Wareham

Continued on page 42

Old Aucoot District Woods. We will be starting from the Oliver Wendell Holmes Junior Foundation on Angelica Ave. After a 45 minute hike, we'll return to the foundation for a campfire and hot chocolate, finishing at 11:30.

It's the perfect event for the family to get out of the house during vacation. Please dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes. No RSVP required for this free hike. Email manager@ mattlandtrust.org with any questions and visit mattlandtrust. org/events to view this on our events calendar.

## Sippican Thanks V.A.S.E. for Support

Old Rochester Regional Superintendent of Schools Mike Nelson recognized the Volunteers at Sippican Elementary (V.A.S.E.) organization for their ongoing support of student learning and programming. V.A.S.E.'s primary objectives are to provide Sippican students with enrichment beyond the classroom environment and to support teachers and staff.
"In my 22 years as a school administrator, I have never experienced a parent-run school support group as comprehensive and involved as our V.A.S.E. Team at Sippican School," said Sippican Assistant Principal Peter Crisafulli. "They provide the school with amazing financial support through fundraisers. They provide opportunities for student educational enrichment by creating and staffing high-quality after-school programs. V.A.S.E. is setting a very high standard in the world of local school support groups, and we are very lucky to have them."

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Each year V.A.S.E. volunteers raise money for annual field trips for every grade at Sippican. With the exception of sixth grade, field trips are offered at no charge to students and staff chaperones. In addition to covering field trip expenses, V.A.S.E. conducts the work needed to schedule and book each field trip and, where applicable, manages permissions slips through the use of the online platform, FamilyID.

Some of the field trips include visits to the Plymouth Patuxet Museums and the Mayflower, the Cape Cod Natural History Museum, the New Bedford Symphony Orchestra and a three-day field trip to Camp Burgess. Other day trips to local zoos, museums and the beach were all funded and coordinated

## 『RITOONN POLICE LOGS

## MARION

## Log highlights Feb 4-Feb 10

- Point $R d$ - A\&B/in progress
- Olde Knoll Rd - Animal complaint
- Mill St - Found property
- Converse Rd-EMS/medical
- Village Dr - Noise complaint
- Wareham Rd - Noise complaint
- Mill St - Identity theft
- Village Dr - Animal complaint
- Card Dr - Health/welfare
- Point Rd - EMS/medical
- Wareham Rd - Health/welfare
- Dexter Rd - EMS/medical
- Front St - MV collision
- Delano Rd - General service
- Piney Point Rd - General service
- Holly Pond Rd - EMS/medical
- Delano Rd - Officer wanted
- Spring St - EMS/medical
- Mill St - Disorderly person
- Front St - Suspicious activity
- Wareham Rd - Smoke investigation
- Village Dr - EMS/medical
- Spring St - Health/welfare
- Mill St - Animal complaint
- Marvel St - EMS/medical
- Front St - EMS/medical
- Olde Logging Rd - Suspicious activity
- Front St - Suspicious activity
- Front St - Suspicious person


## ROCHESTER

## Log highlights Feb 4-Feb 10

- Sarah Sherman Rd - Assist agency
- Rounseville Rd - Well being check
- Marys Pond Rd - MV stop/citation
- Dexter Ln - Missing person
- Marys Pond Rd - General service
- Braley Hill Rd - MV stop/arrest
- Sarabeth Ln - Animal control
- Hillside Rd - Disturbance
- Marys Pond Rd - MV stop/arrest
- Rounseville Rd - Animal control
- Cranberry Hwy - Suspicious activity
- Forbes Rd - Disturbance
- North Ave - MV stop/citation
- Pierce St - MV collision
- North Ave - MV stop/citation
- New Bedford Rd - MV stop/citation
- Forster Rd - Suspicious activity
- Allen Rd - Suspicious activity
- Paradise Ln - General services
- North Ave - MV stop/arrest
- Braley Hill Rd - MV collision
- Snipatuit Rd - Inside smoke
- Walnut Plain Rd - MV stop/towed
- Cranberry Hwy - Well being check
- Marion Rd - Lost animal
- North Ave - Larceny
- Cushman Rd - Animal control
- Forbes Rd - Inside investigation
- Clapp Rd - MV stop/arrest

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## DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: *

$\bullet$ Moderate $\uparrow$ Challenging
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by V.A.S.E. volunteers.
"V.A.S.E. is such a wonderful part of our school community," said second-grade teacher Ashley Sweatland. "They help facilitate amazing opportunities for our studentsfrom fundraisers, to field trips, school-wide events and after school programs. V.A.S.E. helps enrich the lives of all of our students, and as teachers, we are so grateful for our partnership."

Over the past two years V.A.S.E. has coordinated presentations from many performing artists who have engaged with students during school meetings, classroom visits and community events. Presentations and performances from the Fall River Mad Scientist Program, Kanaley School of Irish Dancing, Author Bill Harley, Band Blast Performing Artist El Caribe, Arts in Action: Boston Artist Bren Bataclan, New Bedford Youth Ballet and more.
V.A.S.E. also organizes a separate program called After Class Enrichment (A.C.E.) A.C.E. is free and runs once per week for four weeks, twice per school year. Any Sippican Elementary student is able to attend, and dozens of kids participate each year. Students take part in a number of courses and activities in areas such as arts and crafts, drama, foreign language, athletics, reading and more.

Some of the A.C.E. fall 2023 courses included a book club, jewelry making, 3D printing, robotics club and intramural sports. The winter 2024 sessions included gratitude crafts, introduction to French, a collective art project and others.
"We appreciate the V.A.S.E. volunteers for their consistent

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Classified Rates:
Classified Advertisements are $\$ 5.00$ for 3 lines or less per week. Each additional line is $\$ 1.00$ per week. There are an average of six words per line. Bold is an addition $\$ 1$ per week.

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*Blank lines cannot be used in Classified Advertisements.
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* Legal Ads are $\$ 1.00$ per line, at a minimum of $\$ 25$. per ad.

effort in coordinating and funding these educational and memorable activities for our students," said Nelson.
V.A.S.E. holds multiple fundraisers throughout the year, making it possible to secure these day-to-day activities for students. The Boosterthon is their largest fundraising effort that raises funds for all enrichment activities and grosses over half of all monies needed to support V.A.S.E.'s annual budget.

This year's Boosterthon theme is "World Changer Workshop", taking place March 1-12. Students will learn about what it takes to make a difference by being introduced to a number of character lessons. This fundraiser is the students' most favorite event that includes an indoor, glow-in-the-dark "Fun Run" in which students run laps for donations toward V.A.S.E.'s enrichment programs.

## From the Files of the Rochester Historical Society By Connie Eshbach

When colonial towns were being settled, there was much work to do. One of the first jobs was the building of a "cattle pound". The creation of one signaled that a village had been established. Pounds were particularly important because of the damage caused to crops by roaming animals. While today we think "dog" pound, the colonial structures were animal pounds for pigs, cows, goats and any other animal who was running loose.

Both Rochester and Acushnet built early pounds. There is some question as to when Rochester's first one was constructed. L.C. Humphrey in his writings gives a date of 1711. Another source has a pound being
 built close beside the house of Aaron Barlow, the 2nd representative to the General Court in Plymouth, in 1708.

Town records begin to show a Pound Keeper in 1739 and another in 1776. In the 1800's, there are multiple names listed and there was, no doubt, more than one pound in town. However, the only one still in existence is on Snipatuit Rd. and in the care of the Conservation Commission.


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## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

## Don't forget to wish these people a Happy Birthday!

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If you would like The Wanderer to announce a birthday for yourself, a friend or family member, please submit your information online to us at www.wanderer.com. To submit information by regular mail, please send the person's name (month and day) along with your name and phone number so we can confirm the information to Birthdays, c/o The Wanderer, P.O. Box 102, Mattapoisett, MA 02739 You may submit birthday announcements anytime during the year and they will be published/posted during the appropriate week.


Along with the Keepers, there were also Field Drivers. Their job was to inform the Pound Keeper of any animal doing damage or any strays and to collect them and turn them over to the appropriate Pound Keeper.

At Town Meeting April 1,1861, Article 15 "To see if the Town will build or cause to be built a Town Pound in the North East part of the Town and if they do to locate the same and choose an agent to build it and purchase a lot whereon to build it", was presented for a vote.

However it was voted not "to build or replace any more pounds and that each Field Driver be Pound Keeper and use his own yard for pound." This would seem to be problematic as any pound previously built to hold large animals was constructed using large stones. One wonders if Field Drivers' yards would have been similarly reinforced.

The decision to move away from pounds must not have gone well. Four years later at the annual Town Meeting on April 17,1865 , the town voted to choose an agent "to repair the town pound near Samuel F. Braley's so that may be suitable for the object such uses." It was also voted that Rufus Savery should be the agent and" to have such repairs made as soon as possible."

Over time, the names of Pound Keepers go from 4 or 5 each year to 1. By 1918, the town's only Pound Keeper was George C. Bennet. Records show that he served the town in this capacity until his death on November 7, 1953 at the age of 89 .

## Mattapoisett Yacht Club Cruising Club

Join in the fun as MYC announces its 2024 Cruising dates and locations. Membership does have its privileges and MYC is now accepting new members. To join: www.mattapoisettyc.org/ membership-registration.

First Cruise: June 28-29-30. Bassett Island cruise at Redbook Harbor leaving on Friday afternoon and returning on Sunday. Activities include gatherings in evenings at Bassett Island or Pocasset Landing and / or Chart Room in Cataumet. Cruise Captain: Wesley

Second Cruise: July 3-7. Fourth of July Cruise to Marion, New Bedford, and Edgartown. Join for one night or several. The dates may change depending on date of fireworks in Marion. Cruise Captain: Ken

Third Cruise: July 19-August 6. Extended cruise to Maine. Harbors include Gloucester, Kittery Maine, Portland ME, Boothbay harbor, North Haven and return through Kittery


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## The Wanderer

The Wanderer is an independently owned and published weekly newspaper that is distributed to the public free of charge throughout Mattapoisett, Marion, Rochester and the surrounding communities.

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Maine, Gloucester, and Provincetown. Departure from each harbor will be based upon weather and cruise captain directives. Cruise Captain: Carlos

Fourth Cruise: August 30-September 3. Labor Day Cruise includes Cuttyhunk and Return Home or extend through Narragansett Bay. Social gathering and beach fire at Cuttyhunk is anticipated based upon weather.
Cruise Captain: Wesley
Fifth Cruise: Elizabeth Islands Fall Cruise September 20-22. This cruise will start in Mattapoisett Harbor with destinations to Hadley's Harbor, Tarpaulin Cove or Menemsha depending on weather and wind directions.

Further information will be provided as we approach the date.

## MHC Needs Your Help

The Mattapoisett Historical Commission has contracted with a Preservation Consultant to complete a multiphase community-wide inventory of its historic and cultural resources. Holy Ghost Grounds has been identified as a priority resource due to its significance in the history and development of the Town of Mattapoisett.

The Commission is looking for information and old photographs to include in its documentation of Holy Ghost Grounds. We would be most appreciative if you could forward copies to the Commission. Please submit copies only as we have no secure storage.

The inventory of historic resources is documented on Massachusetts Historical Commission forms. The forms are forwarded to the Massachusetts Historical Commission where they are digitized and placed on an easily accessible website. They are also available in hard copy at the public library.

Please email Rachel McGourthy: cranber440@aol.com with any information.

Thank you for your help in preserving and protecting the history of Mattapoisett.

## 12u Baseball Team Fundraiser

The 12U Buzzards Bay Baseball team is hosting a fundraiser featuring live music, over $\$ 4,000$ in raffle prizes and a spirited corn hole tournament to raise funds for their upcoming tournament in Cooperstown, NY this summer. The

event is scheduled for Saturday, March 2 from 4:00 to 9:00 pm at the spacious indoor venue at Stone Path Malt in Wareham, conveniently located near Wareham Crossing. Food and refreshments will be available for purchase at the venue. This is a kid-friendly event so all are welcome to attend.

Proceeds from this event support the team's participation in the renowned Cooperstown Dreams Park tournament in July, known as "America's Baseball Summer Camp." Our local community has hundreds of alumni (players and coaches) who have been to the Cooperstown tournament and describe their experience as "unforgettable."

Admission to the event is free. There are cash prizes for first and second place in the corn hole tournament, which has a $\$ 20$ participation fee. To secure a spot in the corn hole tournament, it is highly encouraged to preregister using the Scoreholio app (search for Buzzards Bay Baseball) or by filling out the form on our website, BuzzardsBayBaseball2024.com.

## Black History Month Story Time

TTAR (Tri-Town Against Racism) is hosting a Black History Month Story Time and activity at Plumb Memorial Library's downstairs room, on Thursday February 21 from 3:30 to $4: 30$.

Featured books are This is the Dream by Diane Z. Shore illustrated by. James Ransome, Change Sings by Amanda Gorman illustrated by Loren Long and All Because You Matter by Tami Charles illustrated by Bryan Collier. An activity will follow the stories.

Real Estate Transactions
See past listing on our website: www.wanderer.com

| Buyer(s) | Seller(s) | Address | City | Date | Price |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Robinson, Margaret <br> Asci, Michael | Boyd, Timothy N <br> Boyd, Ellen M | 772 Walnut Plain Rd | Rochester | $01 / 24 / 2024$ | $800,000.00$ |
| Penta, Michael J TR <br> Paolini, Susan TR <br> $20 ~ O c e a n ~ V i e w ~ A v e ~ N T ~$ | Parker, Craig E TR <br> Parker, Barry A TR <br> Parker Family NT | 20 Ocean View Ave | Mattapoisett | $01 / 26 / 2024$ | $525,000.00$ |
| Reifler, Sylvia <br> Christensen, Chris | Nelson, Peter C <br> Nelson, Kathleen M | 1 Field St | Mattapoisett | $01 / 29 / 2024$ | $585,000.00$ |
| Mccready, David <br> Mccready, Susan | Melissa D Davies RT <br> Davies, Melissa D TR | 6 Bay View Ave Ms | Mattapoisett | $01 / 30 / 2024$ | $1,225,000.00$ |
| Johnson, Riley Carter <br> Johnson, Kaitlyn Elizabeth | Robinson, Margaret C | 50 Nathaniels Dr | Rochester | $01 / 30 / 2024$ | $685,000.00$ |

## off the mark <br> by Mark Parisi



| Local Tides |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Day | Date | a.m. | p.m. | a.m. | p.m. |
| Thursday | February 15 |  | 12:17 | 5:50 | 5:32 |
| Friday | February 16 | 12:49 | 1:14 | 7:36 | 6:27 |
| Saturday | February 17 | 1:49 | 2:14 | 9:16 | 7:37 |
| Sunday | February 18 | 2:55 | 3:21 | 10:24 | 9:05 |
| Monday | February 19 | 4:07 | 4:29 | 11:17 | 10:21 |
| Tuesday | February 20 | 5:12 | 5:27 |  | 11:10 |
| Wednesday | February 21 | 6:03 | 6:16 | 12:01 | 11:50 |
| Thursday | February 22 | 6:46 | 6:58 | 12:35 | 1:02 |
| Friday | February 23 | 7:23 | 7:37 | 12:30 | 1:27 |
| Saturday | February 24 | 7:58 | 8:13 | 1:10 | 1:53 |
| Sunday | February 25 | 8:30 | 8:47 | 1:50 | 2:20 |
| Monday | February 26 | 9:01 | 9:20 | 2:29 | 2:48 |
| Tuesday | February 27 | 9:32 | 9:53 | 3:06 | 3:15 |
| Wednesday | February 28 | 10:06 | 10:27 | 3:41 | 3:43 |
| Thursday | February 29 | 10:44 | 11:06 | 4:16 | 4:13 |
| Friday | March 1 | 11:27 | 11:50 | 4:52 | 4:47 |
| Saturday | March 2 |  | 12:16 | 5:36 | 5:30 |
| Sunday | March 3 | 12:41 | 1:11 | 6:35 | 6:29 |
| Phases of the Moon | First Quarter |  | February 16th |  |  |
|  | Full Moon |  | February 24th |  |  |
|  | Last Quarter |  | March 3rd |  |  |
|  | New Moon |  | March 10th |  |  |

this issue). then use these points to get cool Aardvark Prizes!

## PUZZZZTER ENESMYERS

I Found the Aardvark!
Each week, hidden somewhere in the pages of The Wanderer is a tiny drawing of an aardvark. The little guy you are looking for looks exactly like the one pictured above (but don't put down this page as your answer, there's another one hidden somewhere in

Once you find the aardvark you can submit your answer on line and if you are right you will get Aardvark Points! You can

To enter visit: www.wanderer.com and Click on I Found the Aardvark In the February 8, 2024 edition the Aardvark was on page 43

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## SALE EFFECTIVE: Friday, February 16 - Thursday, February 22, 2024





[^0]:    *Annual Percentage Yieid (APY) effective as of 01/30/2024. The 4 or 8 Month CD will earn $5.00 \%$ APY when opened with a minimum of $\$ 10,000$ in new funds not already on deposit with Cape Cod 5. To learn how to qualify or for other rate information, visit your local Banking Center or call our Customer Service Centes at 888-225-4636. The 4 or 8 Month CD will earn $4.75 \%$ AFY if opened with a minimtum balance of $\$ 1,000$ and is available to new and existing customers. A pernalty may be imposed for early withdrawal.

