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## The History, Present, and Goals of TTAR

*A Talk with Tri-Town Against Racism*

**By Sam Bishop**

Following the 40th Doctor Martin Luther King Jr. Day this past Monday, *The Wanderer* and the Tri-Town Against Racism discussed the organization's upcoming events and goals for the first half of this year.

We spoke with Rhonda Baptiste, vice president of TTAR. Baptiste explained the organization's mission is the same as it was when it began: "to create an anti-racist environment in the Tri-Town." TTAR was founded in early 2020, just before the murder of George Floyd. She said, "It was created by a group of moms whose children, whose families were experiencing some pretty horrific things in the community. Not just at school." She went on, referring to shared experiences among many in the community. "It can be very isolating when you think you're the only one or your kid thinks they're the only one experiencing this." She stated their goal was to bring together those who have been through said experiences. "It's a way to network, support, and come together."

One of the organization's first initiatives was the Little Free Diverse Libraries, with the group committing to the national Read in Color initiative. The focus of that project is highlighted by TTAR. According to the organization's website, "less than 25% of children's books depict non-white characters. We believe everyone should be able to see themselves in the pages of a book." There is currently one of these Little Free Diverse Libraries in each of the Tri-Town's three municipalities.

Speaking on personal experiences, Baptiste said, "my kid could never find books at his library in his elementary school in Rochester where the characters looked like him, or the families looked like ours." At that time, separate from the Little Libraries, Baptiste's son Kelsey Robertson raised almost \$3,000 to buy books

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**On the Cover:** The Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial located between the National Mall and Potomac River. After extensive planning lasting a few decades, the memorial finally opened in 2011. The address of the memorial is 1964 Independence Avenue, the same year Dr. King won the Nobel Peace Prize. This past Monday was the 40th Martin Luther King Jr. Day since it was first observed as a federal holiday in 1986. Photo by Sam Bishop

for the library "so that kids would have representation," she said, adding, "if someone thinks it's not important, it probably means they're pretty well represented in media." Robertson, only 10 years old at the time, was recognized with The Wanderer's 2020 Keel Award for the Town of Rochester.

In recent events, TTAR on January 20 closed submissions for their 2026 Black History Month Creative Expressions Contest. Submitted artwork was by junior high and high school students and will be showcased in Mattapoisett Library's Community Room throughout the month of February, which is Black History Month. Winners and cash prizes will be announced at the event reception on Saturday, February 7 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

In the coming months, Baptiste mentioned story walks in Mattapoisett and Marion that are in the works for February. Also in February, TTAR will host story hours in Marion and Rochester. There will be a larger community event in April, though she didn't share the exact details on that as of yet. April will also see the

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organization launch a new art series, where participants will learn of notable historical figures through crafting activities like quilting.

Baptiste moved on to announce the big summer event, which will be held on Juneteenth. It will likely, as was the case with previous years, be held at the Little Free Diverse Library near Ned's Point in Mattapoissett. There will be traditional Juneteenth snacks like red velvet cupcakes, rhubarb pie, and strawberry soda. There will be games, books, discussion, and a keynote speaker. Juneteenth celebrates June 19, 1865, the day the last American slaves were liberated in Galveston, Texas.

Aside from events, Baptiste also spoke on a newly launched scholarship fund for the late Lisa Regan Durr. Durr was a regular volunteer to Mattapoissett, with TTAR saying she played an "instrumental role in the early formation of TTAR." Last year, they established the Lisa Regan Durr Scholarship Fund to honor Durr's memory and to award funds to "a student of color attending school in the Tri-Town who embodies the values she championed such as her passion for volunteerism."

Baptiste also said TTAR is looking for a college student who may be interested in partnering with the organization, primarily for work on their social media platforms/outreach and would serve as an intern. Any interested party can reach out on the organization's website at [tritownagainstracism.org](http://tritownagainstracism.org) or send an email to [info@tritownagainstracism.org](mailto:info@tritownagainstracism.org).

## 'Poetry Became My Outlet'

Local Poet Isabel Friedrichs Interview  
By Sam Bishop

Last month, we reported on a local poet, Isabel Friedrichs of Rochester, who had just self-published her first collection. We caught up with Isabel, following the release of *The Blue Series: Poems on Love, Loss, and Learning to Heal* and her having returned to Worcester Polytechnic Institute for her final semester before graduating with a degree in Environmental Engineering.

Friedrichs' story is not dissimilar to many others, but her usage of her art as a coping mechanism and outlet for her feeling show that even analytical fields,

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seemingly devoid of art from the outside, still contain those expressive individuals who yearn to create. It is also telling the power of local teachers, notably Nathan Orie, Michael Beson, and Merrideth Wickman were all called out for their inspiration to Friedrichs and their honing of her interest in English Arts, which still persists even with her dedication to STEM and Environmental Science.

The following are the words direct from *The Wanderer's* interview with Friedrichs, as any alteration of such seems a disservice to her and her work.

**Q:** "What was your inspiration to release the book, to actually take your poetry and put it out there?"

**A:** "It has been a long time coming, but it was almost impulsive to just pull the trigger to publish. I had told myself that I would publish it once I graduate, but then one day this fall I just had the thought, why not now? I had looked into the publishing process and Amazon said, '72 hours after you submit your manuscript, your book will be ready to purchase.' So, I decided now is as good a time as any. I was basically done staying quiet, I was done being scared, I was done being embarrassed of the things that had happened to me, and I was ready to do that in as loud of a way as I could.

"I have been through a lot between now and in middle school when I started writing, and for a while I thought that being quiet, not causing any trouble, not saying anything about my experiences would be best. I spent years, through to the first couple years of college submitting myself to the stigma around mental health and sexual assault and grief and all of those heavy topics, and I did not talk about it with anyone – so my poetry became my outlet."

**Q:** "When you started writing poetry in high school (or was it earlier?), did you foresee yourself eventually publishing it?"

**A:** "I started writing in middle school, actually.

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My English teacher, Mr. Orie at ORR (Old Rochester Regional), encouraged us to explore and study different aspects of our creativity with writing. Back then I would never have predicted that I would write a whole book.

"I think I wrote a few poems throughout middle school and high school for assignments and for various creative writing courses, but when I got to college, I didn't have any assignments that were poetry based, so I continued on my own. I think I just used poetry as an outlet for all of my big, scary emotions that I was feeling and never would have thought myself brave enough to share with the whole world. I barely shared my poetry with anyone, even up until publication, but now, anyone that wants to can read my words, and I have found it to

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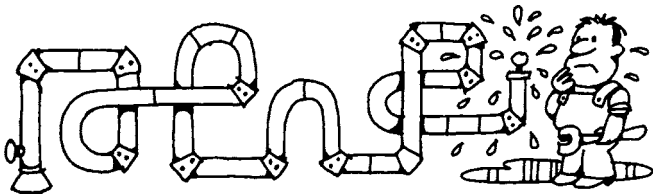
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be freeing. I spent so many years writing and keeping quiet that it feels like a weight off my shoulders to finally have the words out there."

**Q:** "Another inspiration question: What do you see as main inspirations in writing? I'm sure life has changed between high school and college. How did that change things?"

**A:** "I love poetry so much because it takes those big, scary feelings and thoughts and just puts them on the page, right out front for everyone to see them. I think those emotions and thoughts as well as nature and the beauty in everyday life are my main inspirations.

"Growing up, I have always been 'sensitive' and I cry easily, but I've learned to love my big feelings and emotions. Just the act of publishing this book is showing that it takes strength to be soft. Another big inspiration of mine is other poetry authors like Courtney Peppernell and Whitney Hanson, who have written books that deeply impacted my writing. My education as I mentioned earlier also shaped me to be more comfortable in exploring my creativity; Mr. Orie in middle school and Mr. Beson and Ms. Wickman in high school really pushed me to want to keep writing.

"I am attending Worcester Polytechnic Institute, studying Environmental Engineering. So, going away to college is a continuous struggle between my yearning for the art world and my studies in STEM. I definitely felt like I didn't belong, but I soon learned to use my artwork as a coping mechanism at the school that seems to never rest. All the things that change when people grow up came with my high-school-to-college transition, as I'm sure I will get hit with another wave in my post-college transition, and I hope that other young people like me can feel a little less alone after reading my book."

Isabel's book, *The Blue Series: Poems on Love, Loss, and Learning to Heal*, is available on Amazon.

## Can we Make Healthcare Affordable?

*What Does The Doctor Say?*

**By Dr. Edward Hoffer**

On January 15, President Trump announced a "great healthcare plan" that seemed to have

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three components. It would formalize his push for pharmaceutical companies to lower their prices, send funds to individuals to help pay their insurance premiums and mandate price transparency for any hospital or other provider who participates in Medicare.

Will this do any good? Given the sparsity of details, analyzing this “plan” is analyzing air, but probably not much.

Going back to President Nixon, U.S. presidents have decried the high cost of medical care. In 1971 Nixon pronounced health costs as a crisis when healthcare consumed 7% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). In 1992 President Clinton said that “healthcare costs are increasing at unsustainable rates.”

Well, here we are in 2026, and healthcare now consumes 18% of the U.S. GDP, roughly double the cost in peer-countries.

In 2025, the average premium for a family plan was \$26,993 - roughly 40% of the average worker's salary. Even though much of this cost is borne by the employer (for those lucky enough to work for a company that offers health insurance), workers contributed an average of \$6850 towards the cost.

Moreover, as insurance costs have skyrocketed, employers have tried to slow this by offering plans with high co-pays and deductibles, meaning that out-of-pocket costs have risen dramatically.

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Yes, we MUST make healthcare affordable to all Americans, but this will require bold steps, with some pain for those currently getting rich off our dysfunctional, administration-burdened system, not "a concept of a plan."

*Edward Hoffer MD is Associate Professor of Medicine, part-time, at Harvard.*

## I Love Paris!

*The Seaside Gardener*

**By Laura McLean**

When I look at my weather app to check out the temperature, I frequently scroll over to England, Spain, and Paris to make comparisons - often wishing how nice it would be to be elsewhere. Well, this past Christmas my wish was granted and I was off to Paris for the holiday. Ooh la la!

This trip rekindled a deep reverence for Europe in winter. I'd lived there for a spell while working with my husband in Italy and even further back had taken a

ski trip with the high school ski team to Austria. I pinch myself that I am still able to travel across the pond and can make new memories.

The change of scenery wasn't the primary reason but rather to spend time with my daughter who lives in Paris with her husband. When they proposed me going there - my "yes" was instantaneous. Despite it being December, I found a warmth presiding throughout my trip - from my arrival and the placards "Bienvenue Mom!" to each turn of the journey.

I knew enough not to expect the bright blue skies of Parisian summer, but I wasn't prepared for the outdoor beauty that persists here during the stripped-down season. When an environment has good bones, so to speak, whether it is your own backyard or a great big city like Paris, you can still be transported without all the greenery and flora. "Good bones" (an expression taught me by the late New Bedford landscape designer Allen Haskell) is an important feature for the garden, especially in winter. In garden speak, it's a landscape that has year-round permanent elements such as trees, shrubs, paths and other hardscaping that lend shape and structure and interest - to wit, a certain gracefulness.

Our escapades took us across the city to some of the major landmarks and out to the nether regions outside Paris with the central focus of holiday fun and relaxation. To kick things off, a few days before Christmas, we went out in search of Buche de Noel (a fancy Yule Log cake), surfing the incredible gourmet food market at Galeries Lafayette, taking in all the splendors of food and also the iconic Art Nouveau glass dome in the flagship store. Visitors were out in full force, whether to absorb the vibe or get their last-minute Christmas shopping done or both. From storefront window displays to the light-infused streets, buildings and trees, it reminded me why "city of lights" denotes Paris. (The historical premise is rooted in the city's role in the Enlightenment as well as the early adoption of street lighting, but it really is an incredibly luminous place.)

From here we took to the Tuileries Garden Christmas Market "La Magie de Noel" - one of Paris's largest and most popular markets located next to the

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Louvre. The fanfare of amusement rides and holiday-festooned food stalls provided a few hours' merriment, and I especially enjoyed my first vin chaud (mulled wine). This same park that we strolled through last summer, watching men playing petanque and children sailing miniature wooden sailboats in the park's ponds, had been transformed into a Christmas village with ice skating and amusement rides and the aroma of assorted French foods - fondue, saucisson and escargot filling the air. A small-scale reproduction of the iconic Eiffel Tour appeared in the framework of the booths, the real one visible from the western end of park near Place de la Concorde. I pinched myself: Yes, this was real!

Continuing our pre-Christmas stroll along Rue de Faubourg provided a totally different scene as we passed some of the high-fashion couture houses, gazing at bedecked Hermes and Chanel holiday displays. Art galleries, antique dealers, high-end perfumers and jewelers as well as diplomatic buildings such as the Elysee Palace (the French Presidents' residence) are located in this section of the 8th arrondissement.

Getting away from the commercial side of Christmas, we attended a concert provided by the Orchestre Helios at the Eglise de la Madeleine, with its grand temple-like neoclassical architecture and ornate interior. Traditional Christmas songs were performed in various languages - renditions of "White Christmas" and "Adeste Fideles" as well as the catchy "Petit Papa Noel" in which members of the audience sang the refrain. This elevating sensory delight would resonate through my entire holiday. The finale of the evening was dining at the brasserie Le Grand Colbert, the self-same restaurant featured in the film *Something's Gotta Give*, where Diane Keaton's character finds romance. My daughter Olivia and her husband Seb both work in the film trade so they know these tidbits!

My sojourn was a balance of quiet family time with jaunts to a few amazing places worth mentioning. We went to a very different kind of show called Zingaro - known as "equestrian theatre" and combining storytelling, music, dance and extravagant staging within an old theater in Paris. The stories accompanied by




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musicians are told in French (naturally), reminding me that I need to step up my Duolingo. I'm on day 698, but have far to go!

Christmas eve was a delight spent on the outskirts of Paris with our French family. The meal is savored over a good length of time - it is traditional to take your time eating as meals (I didn't clock it, but I think it was 4-5 hours long, with multiple courses served. Of course some of that time was to open gifts and drink champagne! This is the norm in France and other European countries. You enjoy your food and conversation - it really becomes a mindful experience.

Christmas day was low key - quite a change from my typical frenetic Christmas. A day of opening




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presents and making crepes and a bike ride to explore a new neighborhood where my daughter and son-in-law will move to. Flying through Paris on an electric bike on Christmas day was life itself!

A few days after Christmas, we ventured to the countryside outside Paris to a farm-to-table restaurant "among the top 100 restaurants of the world." Le Doyenne is in Saint Vrain, set on the historic Chateau de Saint-Brain grounds, offering seasonal tasting menus from their own regenerative farm in a beautifully restored stable, known for its rustic charm and commitment to local, seasonal ingredients. We had course after course of epicurean delights matched with wines and champagnes of the region. The setting is rustic with views of the

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gardens and orchards as well as the very visible kitchen and with each exquisite plate explained in perfect English (the staff is multi-lingual). I've never considered myself a gourmand, but this could be a life changer!

After dining (again this was a multiple-hour experience), we walked around the farm and greenhouses where I noticed the harvest still in progress. (They don't have the deep freezes we have.) As we lounged around the huge fireplace, we flipped through books from the bookcase including Alice Waters "The Art of Simple Food" - who opened Chez Panisse, a restaurant in Berkeley, California, famous for its role in creating the farm-to-table movement and for pioneering California cuisine. The day out was a total delight in every way. The fireplace indoors and a fire-pit bonfire outside the

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restaurant felt a lot like home to me.

The final outing - on the day before my return to the states - can only be described as magical. The Festival du Merveilleux is an annual winter event held at the Musee des Arts Forains (Museum of Fairground Arts) open for only one week and transforming the museum into a wonderland with vintage carousels, performances - including tap dancers evoking the 1920s and an amazing performance inspired by the whirling dervish tradition. The vintage carousels, and magical illuminations and memorabilia from days of old alone were captivating - a wonderland within the greater wonderland that is Paris.

It's been three weeks since I returned home and the enchantment still hasn't worn off! I continue to look longingly at my weather app, but the snow outdoors is a lovely distraction.

*I love Paris in the spring time*

*I love Paris in the fall*

*I love Paris in the summer when it sizzles*

*I love Paris in the winter when it drizzles*

*I love Paris every moment*

*Every moment of the year.*

- "I Love Paris" Cole Porter

### **Panicked Responses over Quebec**

*This Week in Revolutionary War History*

**By Sam Bishop**

This week in Revolutionary War history, let's



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check up on what was going on 250 years ago in and around the colonial Province of Massachusetts Bay. Last week, activity in Boston Harbor sparked a flurry of speculation as to what the British were planning. Retreat or counter-attack? Thomas Paine first published his 47-page book, *Common Sense*, soon to spread like a wildfire across the colonies. News of the disaster at Quebec on New Years slowly trickles south.

On January 13, 1776, Major General Philip Schuyler writes to George Washington from Albany detailing his "melancholy account" of the events that transpired in Canada two weeks prior. He says, "My amiable friend the gallant Montgomery is no more, the brave Arnold is wounded and we have met with a

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severe check in an unsuccessful attempt on Quebec.” He mentions further offense could be waged with reinforcements, which he does not expect to arrive. At this time, Washington also expects the troops from Canada will arrive back to reinforce him outside Boston after a triumphant victory.

With the Continental Army’s defeat, Schuyler says “nothing my dear sir seems left to prevent the most fatal consequences,” or a counterattack from the north. He adds that he has mulled over his previously desired retirement, saying “affairs are much worse than when I made the request, this is motive enough for me to continue to serve my country.” He concludes by saying clothing and supplies are headed to Cambridge from



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Albany, though not much is left.

Washington convenes a Council of War on January 16 in Cambridge, still unaware of the fate of Canada. Many are in attendance, including John Adams of Braintree and James Warren of Plymouth. The council agrees unanimously that a “vigorous attempt” be made to assault Boston, as soon as it is practical to do so. The army still awaits Colonel Henry Knox, who presumably at this time is still slowed by the weather in his march east with the artillery of Ticonderoga.

Washington finally receives a rushed letter from Schuyler on January 18 and immediately recalls another meeting of the Council of War. They say it “improper” to direct troops currently stationed around Boston to defend the northern front and instead decided to push for the enlistment of an additional thirteen 728-man regiments. Three of those regiments are to be sent to the north with the rest being brought to Cambridge.

On January 19, Washington sends a letter to the governments of Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New Hampshire stressing urgent action following the failures in Canada. He says, “I am persuaded therefore, that you will exert yourselves to the utmost, to throw in the reinforcement that is now required of your colony.” His letter stresses if troops are not sent soon, New England is in danger.

On January 20, John Hancock, president of the Continental Congress, writes to Washington to also respond to the news from the north. He states Congress is “anxious” to repair the losses in manpower as well as, still, “if possible gain possession of Quebec.” He states Congress is “unanimous of the opinion” that troops will be raised and sent north.

*Thoughts on...*

## What Would We Be Without Signs?

**By Dick Morgado**

Last summer my son, who was visiting from New York, and I were driving around our lovely village, heading to the wharf for ice cream. He was driving. Suddenly a police car appeared in the mirror, waving him over to the side of the street. We had no idea why.

We had just left my house, which is not far from the intersection we had just passed through, so he was not speeding.

The officer, who was very nice, said my son had failed to make a full stop at a stop sign. (I believe that is called a “rolling stop” in police jargon.) I’d argue that my son did stop, even though there were clear sightlines and no pedestrians in the area. Nevertheless, he didn’t argue the point. I taught my son never to argue with law enforcement, especially when they are wearing a weapon.

The officer had a sense of humor. When I offered that in the 60-plus years since I got my driver’s license, I have driven around the village a thousand times and never once rolled through a stop sign (I lied), he laughed. My son frowned. He gave us a warning and left. He was a



good guy.

Ever since I have been thinking about signs. Without them life would be chaos. Signs are everywhere and for good reasons. I even have a sign on my front-light post with our name on it. I wouldn't want to come home late at night and go to the wrong house.

The current resident of the Peoples' House in Washington and I are the same age. He may have realized, as have I, that our memory fails us from time to time. That may be why he has been placing signs throughout the White House. He placed a sign outside the Oval Office saying, "The Oval Office." It is written in classy gold script. I assume it is so he can tell the difference from the other rooms in the building which are rectangle.

There is a new sign as you enter the Cabinet Room, identifying it as the "Cabinet Room." He wouldn't tolerate any cabinet member complaining about getting lost and missing a meeting. A new sign designates the old Rose Garden as the "Rose Garden Club" with its round tables and yellow umbrellas. It is surely destined to become the official national resort. There are no roses there anymore, but the name is historic, so he kept it.

There is a new gold lettered sign leading to the West Wing, but the one for the East Wing was discarded. It is no longer needed. There is even a sign on the Truman Balcony advising visitors not to look up at the sun during an eclipse. (Not true, I made that up.)

Anyway, I'm beginning to think putting signs everywhere in the house is a good idea. I have been thinking of doing the same in our house. You know how car mirrors say, "Objects appear smaller in the mirror." I'll place one on our bathroom mirror saying, "Bodies appears smaller in this mirror." One can always start the day with a little reminder before breakfast. I don't see well without my glasses so a large sign hanging in the shower will warn 'Slippery when wet.'"

The kitchen will have a number of important warning signs. "Toaster, beware flying objects." Another will say, "Trigger Warning! Trashcan, unpleasant smells." There will be one on the refrigerator: "STOP, objects inside have dangerous calories and may cause weight gain." Oh, and "DO NOT ENTER WHEN WIFE IS COOKING!" That



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one will definitely be all caps!

I'll be sure to have a sign on my recliner warning that reading books may (will) cause drowsiness. Also, I'll tie one on the dog's collar warning, "Beware tripping hazard." That one will be glow-in-the dark for when he is sleeping by the bathroom door in the middle of the night.

All the others will be printed in classy gold script lettering.

*Mattapoisett resident Dick Morgado is an artist and happily retired writer. His newspaper columns appeared for many years in daily newspapers around Boston.*

## Town Meeting and Election Dates Set

*Rochester Select Board*

**By Michael J. DeCicco**

Rochester's Select Board on Tuesday approved the request from Bristol Asphalt, Co., Inc. for a Flammable Fluid License to store liquid asphalt at 99 Kings Highway that crowded the hearing room with concerned abutters in late December.

In the last meeting of 2025, the plan to place two 15,000-gallon liquid asphalt tanks at the site drew abutters and their attorney, environmental lawyer George F. Hailer, who took issue with how much of a nuisance and fire hazard these tanks would impose on their residential neighborhood and asked the state fire marshal to get more involved. Town Administrator Cameron Durant began the January 20 hearing by informing them the permitting procedure does not start that way. It is the town's responsibility to issue the permit, he said. Then the state fire marshal will be responsible for inspecting what is constructed and making sure the installation complies with safety and other regulations.

Attorneys for the abutters continued to say the tanks are too close to some residences and should be inspected before being permitted. Fire Chief Scott Weigel assured attendees the tanks that will be installed are double-walled and in full compliance with regulations. "It can't be inspected until it has a license," Chair Adam Murphy added. Murphy noted questions on the design of the operation should have been addressed in the Planning Board and Conservation Commission approval stage, which the project has already been through.

Next, the board decided against exercising the town's right to purchase two lots covering High Street, County Road, Cross Road and Forbes Road and five acres off of Pierce St. Durant explained the Buzzards Bay Coalition was in the middle of negotiating with the landowner to transfer these properties to that land conservation group until the deal was recently called off. This freed the board to make its own decision, leading it to waive its rights to purchase the land.

The meeting concluded with the board setting the town's two most important 2026 dates. The Annual Town



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Meeting was set for May 18 and the Annual Town Election for May 27. The board also agreed that the deadline for submitting citizen petition articles for the annual meeting will be March 6. Durant added some stark budget news for FY2027 that the town meeting will have to tackle. He reported that as currently projected the town is looking at \$600,000 budget deficit for the next fiscal year. "This is going to be a challenging year," he said. "We'll have to see how many wants we will need to set aside." He noted FY2027 school budget numbers have yet to be received or accounted for.

In other action, the board endorsed the Rochester Land Trust's plan to seek funding for Americans With Disabilities Act related upgrades to one of the town's walking trails, specifically widening the trail for wheelchairs and adding signage and benches.

The next meeting of the Rochester Select Board is scheduled for Monday, February 2 at 6:00 pm at Town Hall, 1 Constitution Way.

## Piney Point Maintenance Continues

*Marion Conservation Commission*

**By Jeffrey D. Wagner**

The Marion Conservation Commission met on January 14 in the Police Station's conference center to approve a few items.

The 20-minute meeting involved the extension of the Order of Conditions for the Piney Point Beach Club, off Piney Point Road. Commissioners mentioned they saw a bulldozer down there, and that led to a short investigation. Beach club members had been conducting routine maintenance but needed to apply for an extension under its Order of Conditions.

The Conservation Commission approved plans.

The commission also approved a Quelle Lane home and driveway reconstruction project. The applicant engineer mentioned that the applicant would like to improve the home, built in 1928, by raising the structure, adding an addition, as well as constructing a covered porch. The north section of the land is within a coastal-storm-management area, as defined by the state Department of Environmental Protection.

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Commissioners approved plans, so long as the applicant takes measures to control water runoff, as well as enact other stormwater-management measures.

The commission also approved minutes from the December 17 meeting.

The next meeting of the Marion Conservation Commission is scheduled for Wednesday, January 28, at 7:00 pm at the Police Station.

### **Conflict with ADU Garage**

*Mattapoisett Zoning Board of Appeals*

**By Marilou Newell**

The January 15 meeting of the Mattapoisett Zoning Board of Appeals became contentious when the

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board took up the Variance filing by Michael and Tiffany Amaral, 3 Harbor Road Neck. Andrew Stackpole of Field Engineering represented the applicants' request for a Variance to construct a 24x36-foot Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) with an associated garage.

Board member Aaron Goldberg told Amaral that, if the garage was going to be part of the plan, the plan would exceed the space allowed by the state by right for a protected-uses ADU. The limit is the lesser of 900 square feet or half the footprint of the primary dwelling.

What ensued was a general discussion of the regulations on garage space and the applicant's need to provide living space for his widowed mother-in-law. But Amaral's demeanor became frustrated as Goldberg stood firm in his conviction that, combined with existing garage space, the new garage space put the project over the state's limit for a protected-uses ADU.

Amaral was offered the opportunity to continue the hearing as emotions continued to escalate, with Amaral stating that the board had made their decision before he presented his case. He said he would return with a new engineer and a lawyer.

While the plans could have been adjusted, Amaral believed the design presented was pleasing to the eye and the neighborhood. The hearing was continued.

A second-story porch was granted a Special Permit for property located at 6 Water Street and owned by Water Street Property Management.

There was considerable discussion regarding the turning radius at the intersection of Water Street and driveways servicing the public boat ramps. David Davignon of Schneider, Davignon & Leone, Inc., discussed issues with situating the second-story porch addition and the difficulties experienced by boat yards when bringing extra-long masts down the driveways, questioning whether those masts would be able to make the turn.

Options were discussed, and possible use of town property to accommodate the boats satisfied the board, which granted the permit with stipulations.

Bill Madden of 11 Melissa Anne Lane received a Special Permit for the construction of a barn structure.

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Continued until February 19 was the Variance filing by Russel Chase to unmerge lots to their original 1973 condition.

Receiving a Special Permit was the filing by Leslie and Maxwell Richmond, 4 Parker Street, for the construction of a garage measuring 24x30 feet with a great room.

The next meeting of the Mattapoisett Zoning Board of Appeals is scheduled for Thursday, February 19.

### Septic Tracking Depends on Grant

*Marion Board of Health*

**By Jeffrey D. Wagner**

The Marion Board of Health agreed at its January 15 meeting in the Marion Police Station conference room to enter into a system that tracks permitting and testing of septic systems.

However, the board agreed to this new budget item under one condition: Installation of the system is covered through a state grant. The board approved \$6,750 as the annual fee for the system but will wait until approval for a state Department of Public Health grant that would cover up to \$7,500 for installation.

Health Director Lori Desmarais noted that, without the grant, the Board of Health would have to pay close to \$13,000 for Fiscal 2027. As of now, the board will pay around half of that.

Board members debated the fairness of the board paying such a high rate when other departments such as Planning, Conservation and Building would also use the system.

Desmarais explained that other departments would also pay into this South Coast collaborative program but at a lesser rate. The system specifically tracks septic systems that have been installed. Some of the new, denitrification systems are also inspected annually by the Board of Health.

Chair Albin Johnson questioned if it would track seasonal usage and if it would track malfunctions, especially for homeowners who do not live in town year-round and shut off the system.

Johnson has long noted that these new systems

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are equivalent to having a sewer-treatment plant on an individual lot and are more complicated than the traditional state-standard Title 5 septic systems.

"We are in a trap here; we are requiring people to put these things in, and they are not being properly supervised," Johnson said.

Desmarais said she would ask follow-up questions to the state.

In other health board news, the Marion Police Department has asked to collaborate with the board on the "Be Safe Be Seen" campaign.

Late last year, the board purchased protective, reflective vests for those who walk, bike or use town streets as pedestrians only during the night hours.

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Desmarais said not all town residents can make it to the health office during normal business hours, but Police Chief Richard Nighelli said his officers would be happy to stop pedestrians and offer these vests.

"Stop that jogger," Johnson said jokingly, noting how some people will be pulled over for just jogging, which is well under the speed limit. The board approved and lauded the collaboration between the police and health departments.

Desmarais said that there are still flu and Covid-19 vaccines available at the health office. She and board members mentioned that there has been an uptick this year in flu cases.

The next meeting of the Marion Board of Health is scheduled for Thursday, February 5, at 4:30 pm in the Marion Police Department.

## Iappini's Record 50 Sets Pace in Pool

*Sports Roundup*

By Aiden Comorosky

Old Rochester's boys and girls swimming teams competed against Durfee (Fall River) on January 15. ORR's boys team won its meet by a 90-72 score, while ORR's girls team lost a 72-71 nailbiter. Jake Iappini was named the swimmer of the meet, finishing the 50 freestyle in a time of 22.71 seconds, setting a school record and Durfee pool record. The win moves the ORR boys to 3-0, while the loss has ORR's girls at 1-2. Their next meet is at

Seekonk on Thursday, January 22.

## Boys Basketball

The Bulldogs hosted Bourne (2-6) on January 16 and won 57-32. Boden Soucy scored 14 points and Grady Oliveira had 13 points and 6 rebounds. Old Rochester is now 8-3 overall and 6-1 in the South Coast Conference. ORR will play at Dighton-Rehoboth (6-4) on Friday, January 23.

## Copy Submission Policy

*The Wanderer* gladly accepts any and all news and press release items from local nonprofit organizations for publication on a weekly basis. The deadline for submission of news items is Monday at noon for publication in that week's edition. Due to the increasing number of submissions; however, publication of press material is never guaranteed. *The Wanderer* will make every effort to publish timely news items and announcements as the subject warrants and as often as spacing allows. All press material must be submitted by email to news@wanderer.com and must be either in a text or Word file. We are not able to retype, correct or hunt down information to repair incomplete press releases, and we are not able to retype or reformat posters or bulleted lists that are not in readable paragraph form. We cannot accept any handwritten material or news items via telephone, no matter how brief.

Photographs of area events and newsmakers are also accepted and encouraged. *The Wanderer* accepts well-lit and clearly defined photographs for publication provided that they include a brief summary of the event or subject. We cannot return photographs. Like news items, the deadline for photos is Monday at noon, and the publication of photographs is also subject to spacing constraints and cannot be guaranteed.

All submitted copy is subject to alterations and/or condensation as space allows at the editor's discretion. All submissions become the property of *The Wanderer* and are assumed to be submitted for the purpose of publication. Submissions cannot be returned; therefore, please make sure to retain copies.

Poems and essays submitted for publication are subject to *The Wanderer's* Copy Submissions and Letters to the Editor policies.

Ideas for features, breaking news tips and other suggestions for the news department are welcome. Please call the News Editor with news tips and ideas at 508-758-9055. If it is after hours, please leave a message or email news@wanderer.com.

## Correction

The 2025 review, published in the January 1, 2026, edition, should have reported that the informational panel that was installed at Center School was completed by the Mattapoisett Historical Commission, not the Historical Society.

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All submissions must be original works of art (we check, so no cheating) and accompanied by a signed official entry form. No AI submissions, we check that also. Participants may enter just one original artwork into the contest.

Artwork that is formatted in a tall, portrait format will look best on the cover of *The Wanderer*.

Deadline for submissions is Friday, **January 23** at 12:00 pm. Online voting will begin on Saturday, **January 24**, and will remain open until Tuesday, **January 27**.

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The cover contest winner will be announced in the January 30 edition and will be contacted to retrieve their cash prize.

Full contest details can be found at [www.wanderer.com](http://www.wanderer.com).

Celebrate the midpoint of winter with *The Wanderer* on Groundhog Day and hope for an early spring! Now go, get those cover submissions ready and get them to us before it's too late!

## Letters to the Editor

*The views expressed in the "Letters to the Editor" column are not necessarily those of The Wanderer, its staff or advertisers. The Wanderer will gladly accept any and all correspondence relating to timely and pertinent issues in the great Marion, Mattapoisett and Rochester area, provided they include the author's name, address and phone number for verification. We cannot publish anonymous, unsigned or unconfirmed submissions. The Wanderer reserves the right to edit, condense and otherwise alter submissions for purposes of clarity and/or spacing considerations. The Wanderer may choose to not run letters that thank businesses, and The Wanderer has the right to edit letters to omit business names. The Wanderer also reserves the right to deny publication of any submitted correspondence. All letters must be typed and submitted directly to: [news@wanderer.com](mailto:news@wanderer.com).*

To the Editor;

Why The Young People of Our Community Matter

Every spring, on the second Monday in May, Mattapoisett holds its Annual Town Meeting. The Tuesday of the week following the Annual Town meeting is when Mattapoisett holds its municipal elections. Both events quietly shape our Town's future. Although traditionally these events haven't come with the noise and spectacle of national politics, over time it seems that both have become fair game for partisan personal attacks reflecting the political temperature of our country.

Sadly, knowing that these attacks are possible scares qualified young candidates from considering a run for a town seat.

Municipal elections determine who makes decisions about our schools, housing, town infrastructure, public safety, climate resilience and long-term planning. These are not abstract partisan policy debates. They affect whether young families can afford to live here, whether our schools remain strong, whether local businesses thrive

and whether our town adapts to a changing climate and economy. Yet year after year, town meeting and local elections tend to draw the lowest turnout, especially among our younger residents.

That disconnect can be costly.

Young adults and families in Mattapoisett, whether they grew up here, moved away, came back to raise their families or moved here for work, live with the consequences of local decisions made every day. Zoning bylaws affect housing availability and cost. School budgets influence property taxes and educational quality. Decisions about coastal management, roads, and public spaces shape the town our younger generation will inherit. When younger voters stay home, they effectively hand those decisions to an older and smaller slice of our population - a population that will not be around to experience the long-term impacts of their decisions.

This is not about blame. This is about opportunity.


As was stressed at last year's Annual and Special Town Meetings regarding the petition to expand our select board to five members, town meeting and municipal government is the most accessible and pure form of democracy we have. Our residents are far more likely to run into one of our select board members than our Congressional representative. Our local officials and town administrator are accessible locally and at various meetings and are held accountable in real time. One vote in a municipal election or at town meeting carries far more weight than one vote in a state or national election. In close local contests, a handful of votes may decide the outcome of a race.

Young voters often underestimate the power they hold with their voice. There is misperception that local governance is boring or predetermined. In reality, real change happens at town meeting and in municipal elections. As in the case with the expansion of our Select Board to five members, we now have the opportunity to welcome new, diverse voices to the table. We have the opportunity to examine long-standing practices to determine if there is a better way of performing; and most importantly, we have a chance to impact whether our town stagnates or evolves.

Fresh perspectives matter, particularly as Mattapoisett grapples with issues of housing affordability, environmental stewardship and how to remain a vibrant community for residents at all stages of life, not just those who are "legacy" families with familiar names.

If our young residents want Mattapoisett to be a place where they can live, raise their families and remain connected to community life, I urge them to participate in shaping it. Voting and running for a municipal seat is a great start. In May, some of the most impactful positions are up for re-election: 3 select board seats, 1 Mattapoisett School Committee seat, 2 Library Board of Trustee seats, 2 Board of Health seats, Town Clerk and many other but no less important positions.

Mattapoisett's future will be shaped whether



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young people participate or not. The question is whether that future will be built with them or without them. I urge the younger residents of our community to consider running for a position, taking a seat at the table to have your voices heard. Every election has consequences. Whether you want to have a say in those consequences will depend on our young people stepping up and making a difference.

January 26, 2026 is your first opportunity to make that happen. Pull papers, run for something and be the difference our Town needs.

Nicki Demakis

Chair, Mattapoisett Democratic Town Committee

### Academic Achievements

Assumption University has announced that **Kayla McGaffigan** of Marion and **Charlotte Sisson** of Rochester have been named to the University's Dean's List for the fall 2025 semester. Students named to the Dean's List must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 for a five-class, 15-credit semester to be included on this prestigious list, which is announced at the completion of the fall and spring semesters.

College of Charleston **Sally Butler** of Mattapoisett is majoring in Marketing, **Cameron Van Ness** of Mattapoisett is majoring in Communication, and **Griffin Beaulieu** of Marion is majoring in Business Administration who are named to the Dean's List for Fall

2025.

College of Charleston congratulates **John Butler** of Mattapoisett is majoring in Economics and Finance, and **Zoe Graizzaro** of Marion is majoring in Management who are named to the President's List for Fall 2025.

**Torsten Charles Brickley** of Mattapoisett, a junior majoring in mechanical engineering, was named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2025 semester at Clarkson University. Dean's List students must achieve a minimum 3.25 grade-point average and also carry at least 14 credit hours.

**Kelly Quinlan**, a Biology from Mattapoisett, is among the 1,965 students have been named to the Dean's List at East Stroudsburg University for the Fall 2025



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semester of the 2025-2026 academic year, as announced by Margaret Ball D.M.A., the university's provost and vice president for academic affairs.

Springfield College Recognizes Dean's List Students for the 2025 Fall Semester. Springfield College has named **Elizabeth Houdelette** from Marion to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2025 fall semester. Houdelette has a primary major of Health Science / Pre-PA.

Springfield College has named **Rylee Kouta** from Mattapoisett to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2025 fall semester. Kouta has a primary major of Pre-Prof Athletic Training.

## MPD Chief Nighelli Sworn in as President of SMPCA

Chief Richard B. Nighelli was sworn in Wednesday as the President of the Southeastern Massachusetts Police Chiefs Association (SMPCA).



Chief Nighelli, who served last year as the Association's Sergeant at Arms, now takes the helm for 2026, succeeding Aquinnah Police Chief Randhi Belain.

He was sworn in Wednesday morning by Plymouth County District Attorney Timothy Cruz during the

# OBITUARIES



**Richard A. Gamache**, 81, of Mattapoisett died January 9, 2026 peacefully at St. Luke's Hospital.

He was the husband of Sharon A. (Santos) Gamache.

Born in New Bedford, son of the late Maurice and Janet (Galloway) Gamache, he lived in Mattapoisett most of his life.

He was formerly employed as the CFO of Julius Koch for over 30 years until his retirement.

Mr. Gamache served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War.

He enjoyed sailing and racing his boat, golfing and coaching youth sports.

Survivors include his wife Sharon; a son, Kevin Gamache and his wife Kate of Holliston; a daughter-in-law, Christine Gamache of Milton; 4 grandchildren, Emma, Lily, Christian and Tyler Gamache; and several cousins.

He was the father of the late Scott Gamache.

His visiting hours will be held on Wednesday, January 28th from 4-7 pm in the Saunders-Dwyer Mattapoisett Home for Funerals, 50 County Rd. (Rt. 6), Mattapoisett. In lieu of flowers, remembrances may be made to Southcoast Health Cancer Care 206 Mill Rd., Fairhaven, MA 02719. For online guestbook please visit [www.saundersdwyer.com](http://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](mailto:office@wanderer.com).*



**Jeannette I. (Lemaire) Power**, 95, of Acushnet died January 15, 2026 at Tobey Hospital surrounded by her family after a brief illness. She was the wife of the late Lawrence H. Power.

Born and raised in New Bedford, daughter of the late Alphonse and Hermine (LeBlanc) Le-maire, she lived in Acushnet most of her life.

Jeannette dedicated her life to raising her three daughters. She was an avid Red Sox and Patriots fan and enjoyed watching the games with her husband Larry.

At a young age, Jeannette learned how to knit and she carried her love for this pastime throughout her life. Most of her family and friends are in possession of at least one of the multitude of scarves she loved to make. Jeannette loved to travel, especially to places where casinos could be found. She and her husband enjoyed many vacations, including Florida, New Orleans, and Las Vegas. When Larry passed away, Jeannette continued traveling with her sisters Lorraine and Yvette. She especially loved their trip to Europe.

Jeannette's family will always remember Sunday cookouts and card games held in her back-yard, as well as her annual Christmas Eve parties.

Her family would like to thank the staff at Sippican Healthcare Center and Tobey Hospital for the excellent care that Jeannette received. Survivors include her 3 daughters, Joan Roberge and her husband Peter of North Easton, Karen Lefevbre and her husband Mark of Mattapoisett and Ann Wood of New Bedford; a sister, Yvette Bourassa of Acushnet; 7 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

She was the sister of the late Raymond Lemaire and Lorraine Saucier.

Her private Funeral Service will be held at the Saunders-Dwyer Mattapoisett Home for Funerals, 50 County Rd. (Rt. 6), Mattapoisett. Burial will follow at Sacred Heart Cemetery. For online guestbook, visit [www.saundersdwyer.com](http://www.saundersdwyer.com).



January Regular Meeting of the SMPCA.

The Association represents police chiefs from communities across southeastern Massachusetts and provides a forum for leadership development, professional standards, policy discussion and regional collaboration.

Chief Nighelli has served the Town of Marion since 2003, when he joined the department as a patrol officer after beginning his career with the Nantucket Police Department in 2002.

He was promoted to Sergeant in 2007, Lieutenant in 2018 and was appointed Chief of Police in January 2021.

"I am grateful for the trust placed in me by my fellow Chiefs," said Chief Nighelli. "Police chiefs do not lead in isolation. While we serve different communities, we face many of the same challenges. This Association gives us a unified voice and the opportunity to share information, discuss best practices and learn from one another about what is working and what is not. That exchange strengthens our departments and, most importantly, benefits the communities we serve."

Chief Nighelli holds a Bachelor of Science degree in criminal justice from Western New England University. From 2004 to 2019, he served as a member of the Southeastern Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council (SEMLEC) SWAT Team, deploying to numerous critical incidents, including the response to the 2013 Boston Marathon bombings.

In addition to his role with the Marion Police Department, Chief Nighelli serves as the Town's Emergency Management Director. He is a member of the Police Assisted Addiction & Recovery Initiative (PAARI) Public Safety Council and the Executive Board of the Plymouth County Outreach program. In 2025, he served as President of the Plymouth County Chiefs of Police Association.

### ORRSD Athletic Field Improvements Update

Superintendent Michael S. Nelson and Principal Michael Devoll announce that work continues on a series of planned improvements to the Old Rochester Regional High School athletic fields.

Retired state Rep. William M. Straus secured a \$750,000 earmark for the Old Rochester Regional (ORR) School District in the 2022 Economic Development Bill to invest in the athletic fields at 135 Marion Road in Mattapoisett.

The project includes refurbishing the school's



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baseball and softball fields and installing a new irrigation system, which will restore a large portion of the athletic complex and ensure its long-term durability.

The athletic facilities primarily serve the needs of Old Rochester Regional High School freshmen, junior varsity and varsity teams. The fields include a multi-purpose grass field (utilized by the soccer,



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- Brittany Hotte



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# LOCAL CABLE PROGRAMMING

Check [www.orctv.org](http://www.orctv.org) for the latest updates to the schedule.



## PUBLIC ACCESS

### Comcast Channel 9

### Verizon Channel 36

#### Thursday January 22, 2026

7:00 AM Seniorize  
7:30 AM Deutsche Welle - In Good Shape  
8:00 AM Marion Veg - with Barbie Burr and Brooke Johnson  
8:30 AM Sippican Historical Society Oral History - Joan Thacher Tiffany  
9:30 AM Mattapoisett Woman's Club Speaker Series - Jack Matthews  
10:30 AM Rochester Historical Society - An Ancestor Search  
11:30 AM Family Fun Day  
12:30 PM What's Linda Cooking?  
12:30 PM Cooking Healthy with Coastline  
1:00 PM The Human Truth with Chuck McIntyre  
1:30 PM Reeling: The Movie Review Show  
2:00 PM The Collective Chat  
2:30 PM The Jeannine Hunt Experience  
3:00 PM MAC Jazz Jam  
4:30 PM Tri-County Symphonic Band - Christmas Concert  
6:00 PM Deutsche Welle - Euromaxx  
6:30 PM Deutsche Welle - Tomorrow Today  
7:00 PM Deutsche Welle - Global US  
7:30 PM Deutsche Welle - Focus on Europe  
8:00 PM Teach Your Home Energy Costs! with David Green  
9:30 PM Marion Natural History Museum - The Famed Bird  
11:00 PM Classic Movie

#### Friday January 23, 2026

7:00 AM Seniorize  
7:30 AM Deutsche Welle - In Good Shape  
8:00 AM Deutsche Welle - Euromaxx  
8:30 AM Deutsche Welle - Tomorrow Today  
9:00 AM Deutsche Welle - Global US  
9:30 AM Deutsche Welle - Focus on Europe  
10:00 AM Southcoast Matters  
11:30 AM Family Fun Day  
12:00 PM What's Linda Cooking?  
12:30 PM Cooking Healthy with Coastline  
1:00 PM Rochester Affordable

Housing Inc ADU Presentation  
2:00 PM The Human Truth with Chuck McIntyre  
3:30 PM The Collective Chat  
3:00 PM The Jeannine Hunt Experience  
3:30 PM Marion Veg - with Barbie Burr and Brooke Johnson  
4:00 PM Sippican Historical Society Oral History - Joan Thacher Tiffany  
5:00 PM Tri-Town Christmas Events  
5:30 PM Tri-Town Veteran's Day Events  
7:30 PM Reeling: The Movie Review Show  
8:30 PM Paltrowitz  
9:00 PM A Conversation With...  
9:30 PM Fur, Fins and Feathers  
10:00 PM For Your Health  
10:30 PM Sidewalks Entertainment  
11:30 PM Classic Movies

#### Saturday January 24, 2026

6:00 AM Saturday Morning Cartoon Festival  
9:30 AM Tri-County Symphonic Band - Christmas Concert  
11:00 AM Marion Veg - with Barbie Burr and Brooke Johnson  
11:30 AM Tri-Town Christmas Events  
12:00 PM Mid-Day Movie  
2:00 PM Reeling: The Movie Review Show  
2:30 PM The Human Truth - with Chuck McIntyre  
3:00 PM The Collective Chat  
3:30 PM The Jeannine Hunt Experience  
4:00 PM Sippican Historical Society Oral History - Anne Webb  
5:00 PM Sippican Historical Society - Wampanoag Art for the Ages  
6:00 PM Marion Natural History Museum - From Submarine Vents to Life on Other Ocean Worlds!  
7:30 PM Reeling: The Movie Review Show  
8:30 PM Paltrowitz  
9:00 PM Sidewalks Entertainment  
9:30 PM A Conversation with...  
10:00 PM Beacon Hill Report  
10:30 PM Gay USA  
11:00 PM Classic Movies

#### Sunday January 25, 2026

7:00 AM Lamb of God Christian Church  
8:00 AM Mattapoisett

Congregational Church  
9:00 AM First Congregational Church of Rochester  
10:00 AM St Gabriel's Church  
11:00 AM Tri-Town Veteran's Day Events  
12:00 PM What's Linda Cooking?  
12:30 PM Cooking Healthy with Coastline  
1:30 PM Deutsche Welle - Euromaxx  
2:00 PM Deutsche Welle - Tomorrow Today  
2:30 PM Deutsche Welle - Global US  
3:00 PM Two Grannies on the Road  
4:00 PM Miss New Bedford  
5:00 PM Putnam Murdock Concert at the Marion Art Center  
7:00 PM ORR Boys Basketball vs West Bridgewater  
8:30 PM ORR Boys Ice Hockey vs Monomoy  
10:00 PM ORR Girls Basketball vs Seekonk  
11:30 PM Classic Movies

#### Monday January 26, 2026

7:00 AM Seniorize  
7:30 AM Deutsche Welle - In Good Shape  
8:00 AM Reeling: The Movie Review Show  
8:30 AM Deutsche Welle - Tomorrow Today  
9:00 AM Deutsche Welle - Global US  
9:30 AM Two Grannies on the Road  
10:30 AM Miss New Bedford  
11:00 AM For Your Health  
11:30 AM AMC Outdoor Journey Fund  
12:00 PM What's Linda Cooking?  
12:30 PM Cooking Healthy with Coastline  
1:00 PM Beacon Hill Report  
1:30 PM Southcoast Matters  
2:30 PM Sidewalks Entertainment  
3:00 PM Paltrowitz  
3:30 PM Reeling: The Movie Review Show  
4:30 PM The Human Truth  
5:00 PM Tri-County Symphonic Band - Christmas Concert  
6:30 PM Sidewalks Entertainment  
7:00 PM Marion Veg - with Barbie Burr and Brooke Johnson  
7:30 PM Sippican Historical Society - Dr. Michael Moore  
8:30 PM Marion Natural History

Museum - Butterflies of Southeastern Mass  
9:30 PM The Collective Chat  
10:00 PM The Jeannine Hunt Experience  
10:30 PM AMC Outdoor Journey Fund  
11:00 PM Classic Movie

#### Tuesday January 27, 2026

7:00 AM Seniorize  
7:30 AM Deutsche Welle - In Good Shape  
8:00 AM For Your Health  
8:30 AM Reeling: The Movie Review Show  
9:00 AM Sidewalks Entertainment  
9:30 AM Mike Paige Doodle Club  
10:00 AM Saturday Morning Cartooning  
10:30 AM The Collective Chat  
11:00 AM The Jeannine Hunt Experience  
11:30 AM In the Toy Box  
12:00 PM What's Linda Cooking?  
12:30 PM Cooking Healthy with Coastline  
1:00 PM Point Road Park Renaming Ceremony  
1:30 PM Miss New Bedford Insider  
2:00 PM The Human Truth with Chuck McIntyre  
2:30 PM Deutsche Welle - Tomorrow and Today  
3:00 PM Deutsche Welle - Euromaxx  
3:30 PM Two Grannies on the Road  
4:30 PM Teach Your Home Energy Costs!  
6:00 PM Putnam Murdock Concert at the Marion Art Center  
8:00 PM The Beacon Hill Report  
8:30 PM Pete on the Street  
9:00 PM Reeling: The Movie Review Show  
10:00 PM Gay USA  
11:00 PM Classic Movie

#### Wednesday January 28, 2026

7:00 AM Seniorize  
7:30 AM Deutsche Welle - In Good Shape  
8:00 AM Cape Conversations  
8:30 AM For Your Health  
9:00 AM Two Grannies on the Road  
10:00 AM Sidewalks Entertainment  
10:30 PM Paltrowitz with Darren Paltrowitz  
11:00 AM Mattapoisett  
Congregational Church  
12:00 PM What's Linda Cooking?

12:30 PM Cooking Healthy with Coastline  
1:30 PM Southcoast Matters TV  
2:00 PM Marion Veg - with Barbie Burr and Brooke Johnson  
2:30 PM Money Matters  
3:00 PM A Conversation With...  
4:00 PM Tri-Town Veteran's Day Events  
6:00 PM Building the Future  
6:30 PM Pete on the Street  
7:00 PM World Fusion Show  
7:30 PM Tri-County Symphonic Band - Christmas Concert  
9:00 PM Teach your Home Energy Costs! With David Green  
10:30 PM Mattapoisett Women's Club Speaker Series - Jack Matthews  
11:00 PM Classic Movies

## MARION

### GOVERNMENT

### Comcast Channel 26

### Verizon Channel 39

#### Daily Schedule

7:00 AM Marion Board of Selectmen  
8:00 AM Marion Planning Board  
9:00 AM Marion Board of Health  
9:30 AM Marion Conservation Commission  
10:30 AM Marion School Committee  
12:00 PM Marion Affordable Housing Committee  
1:00 PM Marion Marine Resource Committee  
2:00 PM Marion Water and Sewer  
4:30 PM Marion Finance Committee  
5:30 PM Marion School Committee  
7:00 PM Marion Zoning Board of Appeals  
8:00 PM Marion Open Space Acquisition Commission  
9:30 PM Marion Select Board  
10:30 PM Marion Conservation Commission  
11:00 PM Marion Water and Sewer

## ROCHESTER

### GOVERNMENT

### Comcast Channel 26

### Verizon Channel 40

#### Daily Schedule

7:00 AM Rochester Board of Selectmen  
7:30 AM Rochester Conservation Commission  
8:00 AM Rochester Planning Board  
9:00 AM Zoning Board of Appeals

10:30 AM Rochester School Committee  
12:00 AM ORR Joint School Committee  
1:00 PM Rochester Board of Selectmen  
1:30 PM Rochester Planning Board  
3:00 PM Rochester Conservation Commission  
3:30 PM Rochester Zoning Board of Appeals  
4:30 PM Rochester School Committee  
6:00 PM ORR Joint School Committee  
8:30 PM Rochester Planning Board  
9:00 PM Rochester Conservation Commission  
9:30 PM Rochester Zoning Board of Appeals  
10:30 PM Rochester Planning Board

## EDUCATION

### CHANNEL

### Comcast Channel 8

### Verizon Channel 37

#### Daily Schedule

7:00 AM Bulldog Weekly  
7:15 AM ORR Unified Basketball Pep Rally  
7:30 AM Bulldog Sports  
8:00 AM ORR School Committee  
9:00 AM ORR/JHS Drama: Alien Invasion!  
10:00 AM ORR/JHS Drama: Romeo and Winifred  
11:00 AM Old Colony 8th Grade Exploratory Day  
11:30 AM ORR Hall of Fame - Buddy Thomas  
12:00 PM Bulldog Weekly  
12:30 PM ORR Boys Basketball vs West Bridgewater  
1:30 PM ORR Boys Basketball vs Bishop Stang  
3:00 PM ORR Hockey vs Monomoy  
4:30 PM ORR Girls Basketball vs Seekonk  
6:00 PM Bulldog Weekly  
6:30 PM ORR/JHS Winter Concert  
7:00 PM ORR Winter Concert  
9:00 PM ORR Football vs Apponequet Thanksgiving Day Game  
11:00 PM ORR School Committee

## MATTAPOISETT

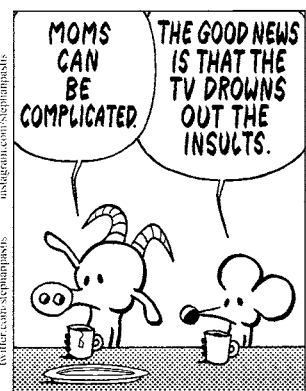
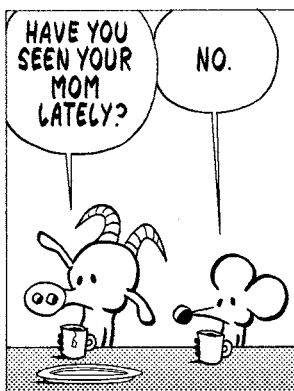
### GOVERNMENT

### Comcast Channel 26

### Verizon Channel 38

## PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

by Stephan Pastis



lacrosse and football teams), a track and field (utilized by the track and field and field hockey teams), a baseball field, a softball field and two grass practice fields. The facilities are also regularly utilized by town recreation leagues for youth sports by the townspeople of Marion, Mattapoisett and Rochester.

The district partnered with a Weymouth-based landscape architectural firm, to manage all phases of planning and construction. The firm has been working with Superintendent Nelson, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations Howard Barber, Facilities Director Eugene Jones, Principal Devoll and Athletic Director Chris Carrig throughout the process. Members of the ORR Facilities Subcommittee, including Frances-Feliz Kearns of Mattapoisett, April Nye of Marion and Joseph Pires of Rochester, as well as the full School Committee, have also been closely involved throughout the process.

To obtain qualified proposals within the scope of available funds, the District structured the work into five tasks.

Task No. 1 continues on the first phase, which is drilling the irrigation well that will supply water to the full complex. The remaining tasks will take place from now through the spring:

Task No. 2: Irrigation well pump and electrical supply (fall/winter)

Task No. 3: Irrigation system installation (fall/winter)

Task No. 4: Softball skinned infield reconstruction (spring)

Task No. 5: Outfield natural grass renovation (spring)

Because the work involves rebuilding natural grass surfaces and allowing new turf to establish strong root systems, the athletic fields will remain unavailable for use from now through spring 2027.

"Our goal has always been to protect this investment and deliver fields that will serve our students and communities for many years," said Superintendent Nelson. "We are grateful to former Rep. Straus for securing the funds that made this possible and to the local officials, committee members and administrators who

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helped us keep this project on track. This is a full team effort, and we are excited to see the work begin."

District leaders are planning alternate arrangements for high school teams during this period, including adjusted schedules and potential use of other fields in the Tri-Town area.

"These improvements will elevate many of our athletic programs," said Chris Carrig, Old Rochester Regional High School Athletic Director. "We appreciate everyone's patience and cooperation during a short period of temporary schedule adjustments and alternative game locations, but we know it will be well worth it in the end. I'm thrilled to see these field improvements implemented, and our athletes will surely appreciate this



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# TriTOWN HAPPENINGS



*Mattapoissett Harbor sunset. Photo by Rob Grant*



*The day after a snowstorm. Boats, snow, and the sky. Photo by Ruth A. Griffin*



*Snow day fun. Photo by Kendra Gomes*



*Snowy weather. Photo by Jennifer Shepley*

**These photos and more are available online at [www.wanderer.com](http://www.wanderer.com)**

comprehensive renovation."

### Tri-Town Schools Participate in Student Solve Applied Learning "Ideathon"

Joining thousands of others at more than 100 schools around the world, teams of students at Rochester Memorial School, Sippican School and Old Hammondtown School embarked on a four-hour virtual "ideathon" focused on solving the problem of a devastating disease impacting citrus plants.

"This hands-on experience allowed students to apply their scientific thinking to a real-life issue and provided valuable insight into the types of challenges farmers and industry professionals face every day," said Rochester Memorial School Principal Heidi Letendre. "It was an inspiring and empowering opportunity for our young scientists."

Groups made up of fifth and sixth graders from Rochester Memorial School, Old Hammondtown School and Sippican School were invited to take part in the Student Solve challenge as a result of the schools' use of the OpenSciEd curriculum offered by the One8 Foundation through its Applied Learning Hub.

At the outset of the Student Solve challenge held in mid-December, students were presented with a problem that a company is facing and then met virtually with an expert mentor before brainstorming, conducting research, submitting their ideas and receiving feedback.

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With their mentor's guidance and feedback, the students dug into the question of why some citrus trees are resistant to a devastating disease called Huanglongbing - also known as citrus greening - while others citrus trees sustain significant damage.

"Throughout the experience, students alternated between working in teams and meeting with mentors on Zoom. They brainstormed possibilities, conducted research, asked clarifying questions, refined their thinking, and ultimately submitted one solution idea per team," said Old Hammondtown School Principal Stephanie Wells. "We are so proud of our students for embracing the challenge with curiosity, kindness and collaboration."

## Groundhog Cover Contest

*The Wanderer* is once again holding our Groundhog Day Cover Contest. The winner's artwork will appear on the cover of our January 29 issue. The winner will also receive a cash prize of \$100!

### LAST CHANCE TO ENTER!



Create an original work of art to be displayed on the cover of *The Wanderer*. Anything that can be displayed on the cover is acceptable, photos, drawings, paintings, etc.

Entries are due in The Wanderer office, 55 County Road, Mattapoisett by noon on January 23.

Remember, all artwork should be tall to best fit on our cover.

All entries must include a signed copy of the Official Entry Form which can be picked up at The Wanderer office, 55 County Road, Mattapoisett or downloaded at [www.wanderer.com](http://www.wanderer.com)

Voting will start on January 24 and end on January 27. To vote, visit our web page at: [www.wanderer.com](http://www.wanderer.com). The winner will be on the cover of our January 30th edition.







# MOVIE REVIEW

## Heart and Bone

By Rob Gonsalves  
[www.robsmovievault.com](http://www.robsmovievault.com)

**28 Years Later: The Bone Temple.** Starring Ralph Fiennes and Jack O'Connell. Directed by Nia DaCosta. Running time: 109 minutes. MPAA rating: R. Now playing in theaters.

Never give up on a franchise. *28 Days Later* annoyed me; *28 Weeks Later* was surprisingly solid; last year's *28 Years Later* struck me as nothing all that great or new. But *28 Years Later: The Bone Temple* is really something — probably the highlight of the series. The movie picks up on, and elaborates on, a thread from its predecessor that I'd wanted more of: the glimpses of resurgent or re-animated culture, without which humanity loses its light and possibly its reason to persist, even against a rage virus that's infected most of the population.

Here, we get storytelling, mythology, cults — the pros and cons of people who look outside themselves for meaning — as well as music. Oh, man, the music. At one point, an orange, black-toothed Ralph Fiennes gives what I can only call a karaoke Iron Maiden concert complete with a pyro show. Fiennes' character, Dr. Ian Kelson (introduced in the previous film), is also a fan of Duran Duran, whose records he plays and sings along to and even dances along to, accompanied by the hulking Samson (Chi Lewis-Parry), an "infected" who's showing promise under the good doctor's psychochemical tutelage.

The best *28 Whatever's Later* installments seem to be the ones not directed by series co-founder Danny Boyle. *The Bone Temple* was helmed by Nia DaCosta, whose handling of violence is both more clearheaded and more compassionate than Boyle's. Gratefully, we reach towards the examples of humanity straining to transcend catastrophe and impose its finer traits — among them the urge to *help*. Dr. Kelson represents the better angels of our nature. God's failure, as it were, rears its head as Jimmy Crystal (Jack O'Connell), ruler of a vicious if cheapjack cult. Jimmy has delusions of Satanic heritage and aspires to run everything; the kid hero Spike (Alfie Williams) from the previous film falls in with Jimmy's scummy crew and soon wants out. (Jimmy's supposedly inspired by Jimmy Savile, though that will resonate more in Britain than in the U.S.,



where we only know Savile if a Brit mentions him.)

I understand why the cult of Jimmy (all his thugs are called Jimmy or some variant) is necessary to put in opposition to Dr. Kelson the saint of medicine and pacifism and '80s music. (After this and *Marty Supreme*, do I sniff a comeback by beloved Gen-X playlists?) But I can't be alone in preferring the half of the movie that deals with the doctor and his massive patient, and sighing with impatience a bit when the plot pivoted back to the Jimmys and their fetish for flaying victims to death ("charity," Jimmy calls this). Then again, hasn't that been a problem with entertainment over the centuries, that evil tends to be more interesting, even more amusing, than good? Here it's the reverse, and that's rare and welcome. Dr. Kelson playacts or cosplays "Evil" in his terrific "Number of the Beast" show, mocking Jimmy's squalid tinhorn evil by letting the Devil, in the soaring spinto tenor of Bruce Dickinson, show the Jimmys what true badassery is. The sequence immediately takes its place as the peak of the franchise, and, one hopes, as part of the larger culture.

The other three films probably need to be watched to get the most out of *The Bone Temple*, and that's kind of a bummer. I almost gave it a miss, but then started hearing intriguing word-of-mouth and decided to check it out. Somehow it seems more good-hearted than the others, tired of nihilistic nastiness and proofs of the depths to which we can sink. DaCosta and returning screenwriter Alex Garland give some play to the Jimmys but not too much; the true focus is on Dr. Kelson and what he stands for — the parts of humanity not entirely bound up in survival. These parts value helping others and relaxing into individual or collective experience of art. (Dr. Kelson and Samson enjoy some blissful quiet together, chilling out in the grass. It's the sort of mitigating respite these movies aren't known for.) Ultimately the movie suggests a future and a potential for a way of human life that isn't just bloody, grubbing desperation. I like that.



"Participating in the Student Solve challenge gave our students an authentic opportunity to use their critical thinking skills to engage deeply with science, while working collaboratively, to address a real-world problem," said Sippican School Principal Lynn Dessert. "Experiences like this not only strengthen critical thinking and problem-solving skills, but they also help students see how their learning can make a meaningful impact in the world."

Principal Letendre credited sixth-grade teacher Tracey Forns for her leadership of the students through the Applied Learning programming. Principal Wells thanked sixth-grade science teacher Sara Jacobsen for organizing this learning opportunity and science specialist Ben Squire for helping to facilitate the experience throughout the day, along with sixth-grade teachers Kyle Letendre and Julie Letourneau. Principal Dessert thanked Sippican sixth grade teachers who worked on the project, including Erin Furfey, Bill Roseman, Nicole Boussy and Zenobia Nelles.

According to the One8 Foundation, around 4,000 students, 105 schools and 227 educators participated in the Student Solve challenge. Additionally, more than 49,000 students in Massachusetts are engaged in the OpenSciEd curriculum, drawing from 127 schools and 62 school districts.

Superintendent Michael S. Nelson and Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning

Shari Fedorowicz commended the teachers at Rochester Memorial School, Sippican School and Old Hammondtown School for facilitating such an engaging program, provoking critical thinking among all the fifth and sixth-grade students who participated. They also thanked the industry mentors who offered their expert feedback as part of the Student Solve event.

"It's inspiring to see our students apply the skills they've learned in their Applied Learning classrooms and then receiving feedback from relevant industry experts," Assistant Superintendent Fedorowicz said. "This idea-generating experience is something our students will remember as they move forward with their science education and beyond."

"Kudos to our teachers who delivered this experience to our OpenSciEd students, and many thanks to the industry experts who volunteered as mentors," said Superintendent Nelson. "We are proud to offer our students engaging, real-world experiences that challenge them to think creatively and tap into all the skills and knowledge they have learned in the classroom."

#### ORR Tri-Town Education Foundation Fund

Some of the most valuable tools Anne Realini picked up at the high-energy teaching conference held in the desert were related to phonics strategies - making learning to read and write in the classroom more fun for all her students, allowing them to master skills without

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# TRI-TOWN POLICE LOGS



## MARION

### Log highlights Jan 11 – Jan 17

- Holmes St – General service
- East Ave – health/welfare
- Main St – General service
- Wareham Rd – Suspicious person
- Wareham Rd - Transport
- Spring St – EMS/medical
- Point Rd – EMS/medical
- County Rd – Assist other department
- Park St – General service
- Point Rd – EMS/medical
- Main St – EMS/medical
- Joanne Dr – MV stop/written warning
- County Rd – EMS/medical
- Spring St – Health/welfare
- Island Wharf Rd – Suspicious MV
- Wareham Rd – Health/welfare
- Front St – MV collision
- 195 East – Road hazard
- Ichabod Ln – Suspicious activity
- Front St – Health/welfare
- Gifford's Corner Rd – General service
- Mill St – EMS/medical
- Cove St – EMS/medical
- Ridgewood Ln – Animal control
- Mill St – Officer wanted
- Mill St - Fraud
- Ichabod Ln – Officer wanted
- Wareham Rd – Road hazard
- Joanne Dr – EMS/medical

## MATTAPOISETT

### Log highlights Jan 11 – Jan 17

- Fairhaven Rd - Transport
- Church St – Lost property
- 195 East – MV violations
- Marion Rd – Follow up investigation
- Main St – MV crash
- Martin Ave – 911 call
- Acushnet Rd – Animal control
- Ocean Dr – Suspicious MV
- Church St – MV violations
- Marion Rd – Domestic disturbance
- North St – Medical alarm
- Wildwood Ter – Follow up investigation
- Alderberry Ln – General service
- Melissa Anne Ln – Harassment service
- Fairhaven Rd – Domestic disturbance
- Church St – General service
- 195 West – Assist other agency
- Channing Rd – 911 call
- Acushnet Rd – Ambulance request
- Island View Ave – Health/welfare
- Fairhaven Rd – 911 call
- Nantucket Dr – General service
- Acushnet Rd – Health/welfare
- Marina Dr – Office wanted
- Mattapoisett Neck Rd – MV crash
- Marion Rd – MV lockout
- Prince Snow Cir – Medical assist
- County Rd – Assist citizen
- Nashawena Rd – Animal control

## ROCHESTER

### Log highlights Jan 11 – Jan 17

- Marys Pond Rd – Animal control
- Snipatuit Rd - Assault
- North Ave – MV collision
- Dexter Ln - Harassment
- Sarabeth Ln - Fraud
- Neck Rd – Animal control
- County Rd – Erratic MV
- Alley Rd – Missing person
- Hartley Rd – MV stop/verbal warning
- Paradise Ln – Suspicious activity
- Braley Hill Rd – MV collision
- Cranberry Hwy – 911 call
- Pine St – Animal control
- Walnut Plain Rd – Suspicious activity
- Dexter Ln – Firearms licensing
- Stuart Rd – Animal control
- Walnut Plain Rd - Threats
- Tilson Rd – Well-being check
- Dexter Ln - Medical
- Clapp Rd – MV stop/verbal warning
- Ryder Rd - Fraud
- Snipituit Rd – Assist other agency
- Marion Rd - Harassment
- Marys Pond Rd – MV stop/towed
- Dexter Ln – Well-being check
- Rounseville Rd – Outside investigation
- Forbes Rd – General service
- Walnut Plain Rd – MV crash
- Walnut Plain Rd – Structure fire

For a full PDF of the three towns' police logs from the past week, including arrest reports, visit [www.Wanderer.com](http://www.Wanderer.com).



## REGIONAL LUNCH MENUS

### COASTLINE ELDERLY NUTRITION PROGRAM

**Monday, Jan 26:** Whole grain cheese lasagna w/marinara sauce & mozzarella cheese, mixed vegetables, dinner roll, orange

**Tuesday, Jan 27:** Potato pollock, sweet potato wedges, kale & peppers, Hawaiian roll, vanilla pudding, diet: fruit, tartar sauce

**Wednesday, Jan 28:** Chicken alfredo, whole grain pasta, broccoli, wheat roll, cinnamon apples

**Thursday, Jan 29:** Roast turkey w/gravy, mashed potatoes, vegetable medley, wheat bread, oatmeal cookie

**Friday, Jan 30:** Unstuffed pepper bowl w/beef, white rice, mixed vegetables, wheat roll, banana

### CENTER SCHOOL

**Monday, Jan 26:** Crispy chicken sandwich, oven baked French fries, steamed carrots

**Tuesday, Jan 27:** Taco Tuesday: beef taco, brown rice, black bean salad, taco toppings bar

**Wednesday, Jan 28:** Warm ham, egg & cheese breakfast sandwich, hashbrown patty, orange smiles

**Thursday, Jan 29:** Beef & potato bowl, whole grain dinner roll

**Friday, Jan 30:** Stuffed crust pizza, roasted chic peas, garden salad, assorted salad dressing

### OLD HAMMONDTOWN

**Monday, Jan 26:** Crispy chicken sandwich, oven baked French fries, steamed carrots

**Tuesday, Jan 27:** Taco Tuesday: beef taco, brown rice, black bean salad, taco toppings bar

**Wednesday, Jan 28:** Warm ham, egg & cheese breakfast sandwich, hashbrown patty, orange smiles

**Thursday, Jan 29:** Beef & potato bowl, whole grain dinner roll

**Friday, Jan 30:** Stuffed crust pizza, roasted chic peas, garden salad, assorted salad dressing

### OLD ROCHESTER REGIONAL JUNIOR & SENIOR HIGH

**Monday, Jan 26:** Crispy chicken

sandwich, oven baked French fries, steamed carrots

**Tuesday, Jan 27:** Taco Tuesday: beef taco, brown rice, black bean salad, taco toppings bar

**Wednesday, Jan 28:** Early release – no lunch served

**Thursday, Jan 29:** Beef & potato bowl, whole grain dinner roll

**Friday, Jan 30:** Pizza crunchers, marinara sauce, roasted chic peas, garden salad, assorted salad dressing

### ROCHESTER MEMORIAL

**Monday, Jan 26:** Crispy chicken sandwich, oven baked French fries, steamed carrots

**Tuesday, Jan 27:** Taco Tuesday: beef taco, brown rice, black bean salad, taco toppings bar

**Wednesday, Jan 28:** Warm ham, egg & cheese breakfast sandwich, hashbrown patty, orange smiles

**Thursday, Jan 29:** Beef & potato bowl, whole grain dinner roll

**Friday, Jan 30:** Stuffed crust pizza, roasted chic peas, garden salad, assorted salad dressing

### SIPPICAN SCHOOL

**Monday, Jan 26:** Crispy chicken sandwich, oven baked French fries, steamed carrots

**Tuesday, Jan 27:** Taco Tuesday: beef taco, brown rice, black bean salad, taco toppings bar

**Wednesday, Jan 28:** Warm ham, egg & cheese breakfast sandwich, hashbrown patty, orange smiles

**Thursday, Jan 29:** Beef & potato bowl, whole grain dinner roll

**Friday, Jan 30:** Stuffed crust pizza, roasted chic peas, garden salad, assorted salad dressing

### OLD COLONY REGIONAL

**Monday, Jan 26:** Build a burrito bowl

**Tuesday, Jan 27:** Calzone, fries & steamed carrots

**Wednesday, Jan 28:** Chicken parmesan, spaghetti & broccoli

**Thursday, Jan 29:** Waffle & chicken sliders with tater tots

**Friday, Jan 30:** Assorted pizza & Caesar salad

even realizing it.

"I think my favorite practice I brought back with me from the conference is the 'Phonics Teacher Center,'" Realini said. "In small groups, each student gets a turn to be the teacher and leads their group mates through a phonics drill utilizing the Promethean board - manipulating the sounds and letters in words. The students love being in charge and teaching their friends. They're all practicing critical phonics skills in a fun and very engaging way."

But perhaps the greatest result from her three-day trip - made possible by an \$849 grant from the Old Rochester Regional Tri-Town Education Foundation Fund - was that the Rochester Memorial School educator underwent a mindset shift.

She became more positive, focused and on fire for teaching. And she acquired skills that helped her foster a happier, more productive classroom environment for her students.

"My colleagues loved hearing about the conference and were so happy with all of the strategies I shared with them," Realini said. "The students were always very excited when I specifically told them we would be trying something I learned at the conference. They were always eager to give it a go. Sometimes, I would put practices into place without telling them it was from the conference, but I could see the positive changes and was motivated to keep them going."

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The Old Rochester Regional School District and Massachusetts Superintendency Union #55 are pleased to share this story and the outcome of a total of more than \$9,400 in private grants provided by the nonprofit Old Rochester Regional Tri-Town Education Foundation for the 2024-25 school year.

The Old Rochester Regional Tri-Town Education Foundation Fund is a growing endowment under the umbrella of the SouthCoast Community Foundation. Supported by community donors, the fund helps educators pursue innovative, high-quality learning experiences for students throughout Marion, Mattapoisett and Rochester.

This is the third in a series of articles describing

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# Super Crossword

APT OMISSION

## ACROSS

- 1 Easy to carry  
9 CFO's deg., perhaps  
12 Hacks off  
16 U.S. soldiers  
19 Priest, at a baptism  
20 Alley —  
21 Pendant gem  
22 Period  
23 Medical operation led by a wizard?  
26 Phone no.  
27 Crusty treat  
28 Harbinger  
29 Make sharp  
30 Toon skunk  
31 Bow shooter's attention?  
36 Manhole lid, e.g.?  
38 — avis  
39 Sad, to Sartre  
41 City in western New York  
42 Muscat native who regularly attends Mass?  
47 Kia crossover SUV model  
49 — of the North (1922 documentary)  
50 Derivation of a word: Abbr.  
51 Tax IDs

- 52 London or Leeds native  
53 Onetime Texaco rival  
55 Mined stuff  
57 Turks and — Islands  
62 Olive of "Popeye"  
63 Grill residue  
64 Like a cream-colored skeleton?  
67 Make flush  
69 Enclosed bill of fare?  
72 Showed on TV again  
73 Actor Silver portraying a guy escaping a burning building?  
75 With 55-Down, "My treat"  
77 And the like: Abbr.  
78 Face-off participant  
79 Elev.  
80 Kismet  
82 152, to Cato  
83 Remainder  
85 500-sheet paper unit  
87 Comic Kevin  
89 Roster in a mob film  
93 Preparing to install a steam outlet?

- 95 One-off, as a committee  
96 Vouch for  
99 Writer Seton  
100 Winter storm conditions?  
102 Sort who doesn't think before speaking?  
108 Speak wildly  
109 Litigant  
110 Polite request  
111 Pro-gun gp.  
112 Soft & —  
113 Feature of this puzzle (hint: string together the letters omitted from the starts of 10 long answers)  
119 Lofty verse  
120 Notion, in Nantes  
121 Banquet dispenser  
122 Irredeemable  
123 Boise-to-Fresno dir.  
124 Scottish loch  
125 Mil. draft org.  
126 Stays with, as an agenda

## DOWN

- 1 Vast plain of Argentina

- 2 Broadcast studio sign  
3 Federer of tennis  
4 Deadlock  
5 "Life of Pi" director Lee  
6 Gas grill meas.  
7 Maui wreath  
8 Hosp. trauma pro  
9 In a demure way  
10 Cap'n's underling  
11 "Much — About Nothing" (1996)  
12 Sign off from a computer  
13 Candor  
14 Whittled  
15 Devious  
16 Settle a score  
17 "Let me say it again ..."  
18 Southern Italian city  
24 Very tall bird  
25 Letters after pls  
30 Flag holder  
32 "... unless I'm wrong"  
33 City in Texas

- 34 "Star Trek: The Next Generation" actor  
35 Cereal grass  
36 Singer  
37 Swift pirate ships  
40 Border  
42 In a plane, e.g.  
43 Gymnast  
44 Dyemaking compound  
45 "— So Shy"  
46 Ear: Prefix  
48 Like many '90s albums  
51 Actor Penn  
54 — Tzu (dog)  
55 See 75-Across  
56 Dark bread  
58 "— done it!"  
59 "Thelma" novelist  
60 Big speech  
61 Matching up, as files  
63 Vampire  
64 "So —" ("Very well")  
65 NHL's Bobby  
66 When la lune shines  
68 Actor Gerard  
70 Orderly

- 71 Rams' org.  
74 "— chic!"  
76 Rent payer  
80 Suet, e.g.  
81 Roadie's load  
82 Suez, e.g.  
84 Positions  
85 Hi — picture  
86 Steps onto a subway, say  
88 "River" New Age artist  
89 Coiffures  
90 Drivers' licenses, e.g.  
91 TV show created by Barbara Walters  
92 Rob of "The Stand"  
93 Edition: Abbr.  
94 — -di-dah  
97 Dissertations  
98 Actress Garr  
101 Digression  
103 Author Rand  
104 Relief sounds  
105 Patella sites  
106 Artist Max  
107 "Midnight Cowboy" role  
110 Bus. bosses  
113 60 secs.  
114 Letters after mus  
115 Decay  
116 Prefix with dermis  
117 Nov. follower  
118 Type

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11		12	13	14	15		16	17	18
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# SALOME'S STARS

**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) Romantic aspects are high at this time for single Lambs who are looking for love. Warm and fuzzy feelings are also at enhanced levels for Rams and Ewes who are in paired relationships.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) This week favors what Taureans dote on -- namely, love and money. Look for more meaningful relationships for both singles and pairs, as well as an improved financial outlook.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) All lingering shreds of a recent bout with boredom are dissipated as you eagerly accept a challenging offer. Your positive mood persuades others to join you in this venture.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) You might need validation for a possible solution to a situation that involves someone close to you. Consider asking a trusted friend or relative to help you with this problem.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) Investigate carefully before agreeing to assist a friend or colleague with a personal problem. There might be hidden factors that could emerge later on, which will create problems for you.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) Your decision to work with an associate rather than go it alone, as you first proposed, brings an unexpected bonus. Be careful not to be judgmental. Allow for free and open discussion.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) A loved one's health problem could, once again, make demands on your time and attention. But this time, make some demands of your own, and insist that others pitch in and help.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) This is a good time for the traditionally staid SCORPIO to plan adjustments in your day-to-day schedules. Be more flexible and allow for more impromptu, off-the-cuff actions.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) Avoid creating unnecessary fuss over a situation that you don't approve of. If it's going to work, it will do so despite your objections. If it fails, it will do so without a push from you.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) Working with a trusted colleague could open your mind to exploring some considerations that you previously dismissed. Meanwhile, the weekend brings news from a loved one.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) Resolving a recent problem leaves you in a good position to strengthen your influence on how things get done. But continue to encourage ideas and suggestions from others.

**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) A new friend suggests an interesting opportunity, but check it out before you snap at it. It might be a good deal for some people, but it might not work in helping you reach your goals.

**BORN THIS WEEK:** You have a way of helping people solve their problems, making you a respected counselor and trusted friend.

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the impact of grants awarded by the Tri-Town Education Foundation Fund to support innovative teaching and student enrichment across the Old Rochester Regional School District and Massachusetts Superintendency Union #55.

The \$849 grant was awarded by the Tri-Town Education Foundation to Realini after she applied to the fund last year to attend the three-day Get Your Teach On (GYTO) conference that was held in January 2025, featuring hands-on workshops, networking and expert speakers.

The goal of the annual GYTO conference is to provide Pre-K through sixth grade educators with high-impact, research-backed, evidence-based, best instructional practices, together with a boost of lasting inspiration and motivation, helping participants level up their teaching abilities, elevate classroom culture, and increase student engagement.

The main theme of this year's event was forming relationships with students, encouraging teachers to focus on issues that matter and that they can control. One of the messages delivered by GYTO conference co-founder Hope King was "don't mistake busy for successful," to instead "do less but better." Teachers were encouraged to focus on action, consistency, tracking, reflection and making changes. They were told to avoid excuses and the blame game. And they were urged to remember that students deserve 180 days of their best teacher every school year.

"Every teacher can be effective," Realini said. "You don't need to reinvent the wheel. You have to do the key things that make a difference and do them better - and with consistency."

Early Childhood Coordinator Doreen Lopes said the Tri-Town Education Foundation Fund's support of best teaching practices and professional development is ultimately a benefit for the students and their learning experience.

"Investing in our educators means investing in our students," Lopes said. "This professional development is empowering Anne to bring fresh, research-based strategies back to Rochester Memorial School, further strengthening the learning environment for all students."

Superintendent Michael S. Nelson said the Tri-Town Education Foundation Fund's support reflects a shared commitment to excellence in teaching.

"We are grateful to the Tri-Town Education Foundation for their support and for recognizing the importance of ongoing professional growth," Superintendent Nelson said. "This opportunity will help support teacher innovation, collaboration, and the joyful learning experiences we want for every student."

To support future grant-funded programs like this one, community members are encouraged to donate to the Old Rochester Regional Tri-Town Education Foundation Fund.

## Mattapoisett Library Online Learning Platform to Empower Adults 55+

With the number of Americans aged 65 and older projected to increase by 24 million by 2050, MFPL is proud to announce the availability of Gale Presents: GetSetUp, a proven digital resource designed to support the growing needs of older adults across our community. According to the 2024 Active Aging Report, older adults are increasingly turning to digital tools for health, wellness, and lifelong learning, as evidenced by their participation in over 5.27 million GetSetUp online activities last year. To meet their needs, Mattapoisett Library is offering free access to this innovative platform built specifically for adults aged 55 and over.

"We're excited to bring this empowering resource to our patrons," said Amanda Lawrence, Adult Services Librarian. "GetSetUp helps older adults stay mentally sharp, socially connected, and physically active - all from the comfort of home."

Key Features of Gale Presents: GetSetUp:

- A rotating catalog of 5,000+ live and on-demand classes, short videos, and articles on topics like digital literacy, fitness, nutrition, mental wellness, travel, and retirement planning.

- Peer-led instruction by older adult educators who understand the unique learning styles of their audience.

- Built-in community features that foster social

# Old Tyme Chimney

## Chimneys/Masonry Repaired



**Re-Pointed**

**Re-Crowned**

**Re-Flashed  
& Water Sealed**

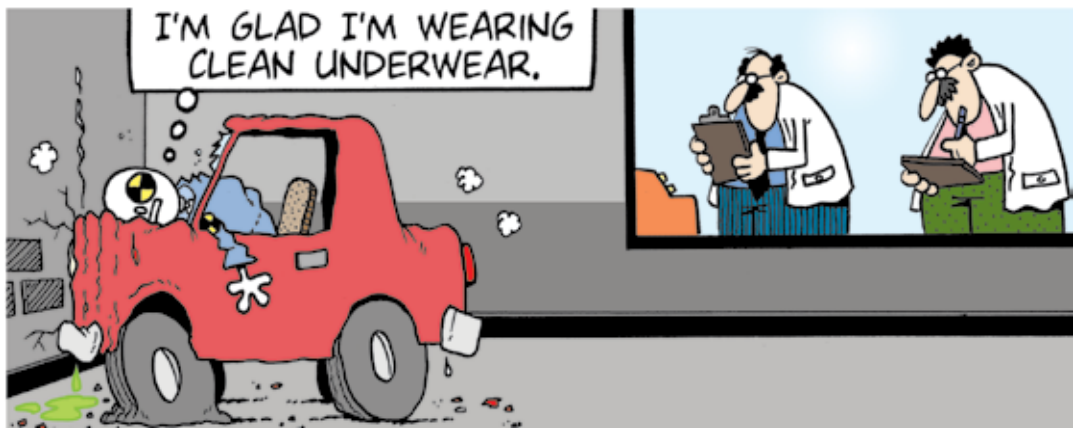
**Kenneth Roche**

Chimney Sweep & Reline  
Lic./Ins

**508-759-0930 • 508-847-1644**

Email: [Oldtymechimney@yahoo.com](mailto:Oldtymechimney@yahoo.com)

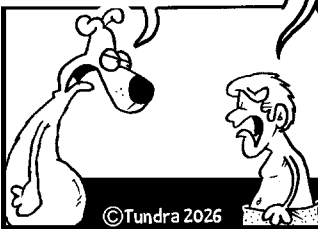
[www.OldTymeChimneySweep.com](http://www.OldTymeChimneySweep.com)



Tundra  
by Chad Carpenter

I WISH YOU'D CLEAN THE DRAIN AFTER GETTING OUT OF THE SHOWER.

I HAVEN'T TAKEN A SHOWER IN MONTHS.



I ALMOST STEPPED ON A MASSIVE HAIRBALL GETTING INTO THE TUB!

NOT MY HAIRBALL.

IT WAS GROSS!



I HAD TO REACH IN WITH MY BARE HAND TO UNCLOG THE DRAIN!



UH...THAT'S ANDY.

CAN'T A LEMMING TAKE A BATH IN PEACE AROUND HERE?



## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps





interaction and reduce isolation.

-Flexible, self-paced learning accessible on smartphones, tablets, and computers.

-Support from Helen, an AI assistant that helps users find classes, answer questions, and stay engaged.

Why It Matters Now:

-28% (16.2 million) of older adults live alone, making social connections more critical than ever.

-45.9% of GetSetUp surveyed users engage in daily physical activity, and many active agers are seeking new ways to stay healthy.

-Nearly 900,000 digital literacy classes were taken through GetSetUp in 2023 on topics including online banking, telemedicine, and smart device usage, showing a strong desire to stay informed and tech fluent in today's world.

Mattapoissett Library is committed to supporting the well-being of older adults in Mattapoissett by offering inclusive, accessible, and engaging resources. Whether aging patrons are looking to learn a new skill, connect with others, or simply stay active, GetSetUp has something for everyone. With practical, tech-focused classes like "Online Safety: Protect Your Personal Information" and "Using Your Android Smartphone," seniors can confidently navigate today's rapidly changing digital environment. At the same time, courses such as "Ease the Ache with Gentle Stretches for Back Pain" and "Brain Boost: Keeping Young with Music" can help older adults stay mentally sharp, physically active, and creatively inspired - all while connecting with peers who share their interests and experiences.

How to Access: Library cardholders can access GetSetUp for free by visiting [mattapoissettlibrary.org/](http://mattapoissettlibrary.org/), clicking "Online Resources," and then "Online Learning." Scroll down to "GetSetUp by Gale." If you need assistance, please contact the library.

Please remember that a Mattapoissett library card is required to access this database outside of the library. If your card is missing, we can replace it. To avoid losing it again, download the SAILS mobile app. It's an excellent alternative to carrying your physical library card. Please see a librarian if you need help or have questions.



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For Riccardi's menus for dining in, take-out, buffet catering or party platters, visit us online at [www.riccardis.com](http://www.riccardis.com)

For more information, please visit us at 7 Barstow Street, online at [www.mattapoissettlibrary.org](http://www.mattapoissettlibrary.org), or call the library at 508-758-4171.

### Marion Social Club Ham & Bean Dinner

The Marion Social Club is having a Ham & Bean Dinner on Saturday, **February 7** at our location at 44 Pumping Station Road, Marion. This dinner will include Ham, baked beans, coleslaw, brown bread and dessert. The tickets are \$16.00 each and they can be reserved by calling Betsy Youngson at 508-295-8253. Cutoff date is February 1st. Doors will open at 5:00 pm for socializing and dinner will be served at 6 pm. We will also be offering BINGO after the dinner is cleared. Would love to see you there!

### Black History Month Creative Expression Contest

TTAR (Tri-Town Against Racism) is excited to announce our seventh annual Black History Month Creative Expression Contest is wrapping up and the exhibition and awards presentation is fast approaching. TTAR aligns the contest each year with the theme chosen by Association for the Study of African American Life and history. The 2026 contest theme is A Century of Black History commemorations. All art submitted for consideration will be placed in an exhibit at the Mattapoissett Library through the month of February,



**MATTAPOISETT BOATYARD**

Picture by Fran Grenon, [spectrumphoto.org](http://spectrumphoto.org)

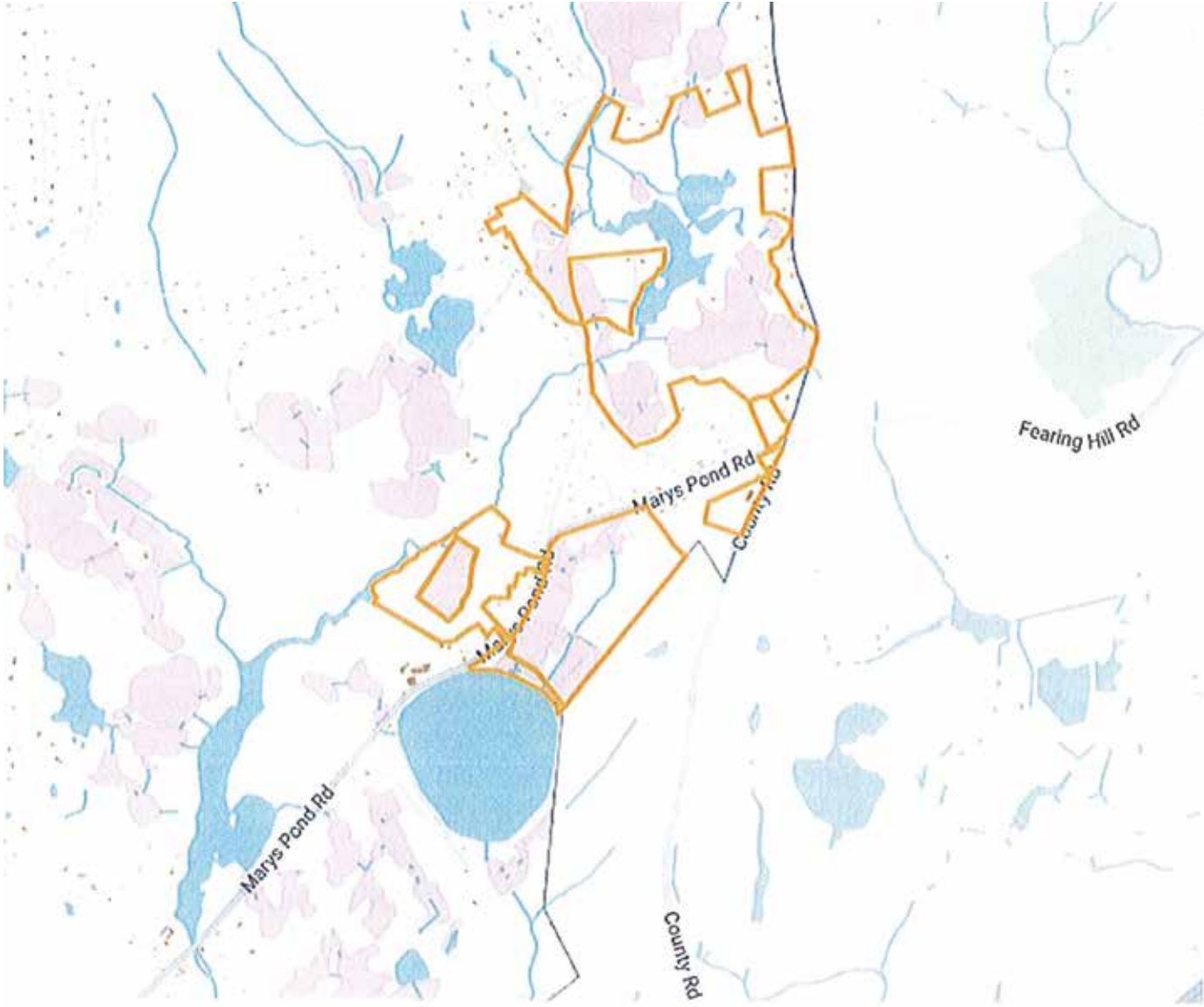
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LEGAL NOTICES	LEGAL NOTICES	LEGAL NOTICES
<p>TOWN OF ROCHESTER PLANNING BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING</p> <p>Pursuant to M.G.L. 40A, §5, notice is hereby given that Rochester Planning Board will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, February 10, 2026 at 7:00 pm at the Rochester Town Hall, 1 Constitution Way, Rochester, MA 02770 to consider the following amendments to the Zoning Map:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rezone the following parcels from Residential/ Agricultural (R-AG) District to Limited Commercial District: to include the following parcels located at <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o 0 Mary's Pond Road, also known as</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Map 12 Lot 7_0 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o 0 Mary's Pond Road, also known as</li> </ul> </li> <li>Map 12 Lot 7C_0 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o 0 Mary's Pond Road, also known as</li> </ul> </li> <li>Map 10 Lot 1_0 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o 0 Mary's Pond Road, also known as</li> </ul> </li> <li>Map 10 Lot 2_0 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o 35 County Road, also known as Map 10</li> </ul> </li> <li>Lot 3G_0 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o 73 County Road, also known as Map 10</li> </ul> </li> <li>Lot 5_0 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o 711 Mary's Pond Road, also known as</li> </ul> </li> <li>Map 16 Lot 19G_0 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o 0 High Street, also known as Map 16</li> </ul> </li> <li>Lot 13_0</li> </ul>	<p>The purpose of the proposed zoning map change is to rezone the above listed parcels from the currently zoned Residential/Agricultural (R-AG) District to Limited Commercial.</p> <p>The proposed map amendment is on file at the Rochester Town Hall Annex, 37 Marion Road during business hours and at the Town Clerk's office.</p> <p>Join Zoom Meeting  <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89669049224">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89669049224</a>  Meeting ID: 896 6904 9224  Proposed parcels to be rezoned</p> <p>Arnold Johnson, Chairman 1/22, 1/29</p>



Continued on page 38

Black History Month. The contest was open to any Jr. or Sr. High School student attending school or living in the Tri-Town during the 2026 school year. Entries could be of any medium but no larger than 16 x 20 in size. This year's contest also includes art submissions from elementary age children in the area as well! Any remaining entries can be dropped off to Mattapoisett Public Library during regular library hours before **January 30**. Community members are invited to attend the exhibition opening reception in the Mattapoisett Library Community Room on Saturday, February 7, from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm where winners will be announced and cash prizes will be awarded. Artists must be present to win. Snacks and light refreshments will be served. Email [info@tritownagainstracism.org](mailto:info@tritownagainstracism.org) with questions.

### Rochester Republican Town Committee

The Rochester Republican Town Committee will be having their regular monthly meeting **February 9**, beginning at 6:30 pm. The meeting will be held at the Ponderosa Sportsman Club 242 Robinson Road (Route 105) on the Rochester / Acushnet town line. Besides regular business the Rochester RTC will be hosting as guest speaker the Republican candidate for Congress from the 9th District.

All are welcome to attend; you do not need to be a Republican or Rochester resident. Come and enjoy lively discussions on issues and concerns that face the residents of the tri-town area.

### Upcoming Events at the Elizabeth Taber Library

The Cozy Cup will be discussing "Vera Wong's Guide to Snooping (on a Dead Man)" on Wednesday, **January 28**. As always, coffee and tea are provided.

Save the date for Take Your Child to the Library Day on Saturday, **February 7**. You won't want to miss crafts, storytime, and more between 10:00 am and 3:00 pm.

On Saturday, **February 14**, join clinical psychology doctoral student Morgan Browning for a special valentine's themed Fun with Feelings storytime at 11:00 am. This program is designed for kids ages 4-8 and features a craft after storytime.

If you're planning ahead for February Vacation week - we've got a week full of activities! We'll be hosting Tri-Town Against Racism and the Excellent family for Black History Month storytime on Tuesday, **February 17** at 10:30 am for kids of all ages. Kids of all ages can drop in anytime between 10:00 am and 5:00 pm on Thursday, February 19 for crafting. Finally, On Friday, February 20 at 11:00 am join Professor Bugman for an arthropod petting zoo. This program is for ages 3+ and requires registration. Please register via our website!

For more information on the Elizabeth Taber Library visit us at [www.ElizabethTaberLibrary.org](http://www.ElizabethTaberLibrary.org) or

email the library at [ETLibrary@sailsinc.org](mailto:ETLibrary@sailsinc.org). 8 Spring Street Marion, MA 02738. 508-748-1252.

### Marion Art Center

DATMA joins the Marion Art Center as they host the third installation of *Being Seen: Celebrating Pride in the SouthCoast*. Being Seen is a monumental community tapestry created by over 100 SouthCoast residents from Fall River to Wareham. Over an 18-month period, this work travels throughout the region, concluding in November 2026. The indoor exhibition expands on the public art installation with additional context, honoring the LGBTQIA+ community through stories, archival materials, and recognition of local advocates. The exhibition features the legacy of figures such as David B. Boyce (1949–2014), memorialized in George Segal's renowned sculpture The Gay Liberation Monument, as well as SouthCoast residents whose advocacy for Massachusetts's Marriage Equality Act helped shape national progress.

Call for Art: Answering Our Ancestors - The MAC announces an open call for art & ephemera that honors the joy, hopes, struggles, lives, and stories of the LGBTQIA+ community. Artists and members of the community are invited to submit work that answers the questions: How do we honor the queer ancestors who came before us to pave our path? When the world turns toward darkness, how do we let our joy shine?



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## LEGAL NOTICES

### TOWN OF MATTAPOISETT PLANNING BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40A Section 9, you are hereby notified of a public hearing. The Mattapoisett Planning Board will hold a hearing on Monday February 2, at 7:00 pm, at the Mattapoisett Fire Station Meeting Room, 62 County Road, Mattapoisett, MA 02739 and over zoom, to consider the following proposed amendments to the Town of Mattapoisett Zoning By-laws: 1) to add an Accessory Dwelling Unit By-law in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 40A Section 1A and Section 3, and 2) to add a Cottage Community By-law, the draft text of which is on file with the office of the Town Clerk and the Planning Board. All persons, parties, or corporations interested therein may appear and be heard in relation thereto.  
Thomas Tucker, Chair 1/15, 1/22

### 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 Participation Option)

On Monday, February 2, 2026, at 7:05pm, the Marion Planning Board will hold a public hearing pursuant to M.G.L. c. 41, § 81Q and the Town's Subdivision Control Law, to consider adoption of the following amendments:

- Amend 300-3.10A, Residential Compounds, of the Subdivision Regulations to update internal section references.
- Amend 300-4.6, Stormwater Management, of the Subdivision Regulations to reference the newly adopted Stormwater Management Bylaw and associated Rules and Regulations.

The public is invited to attend and comment on this matter and may inspect the full text of the proposed amendments at the Town Hall Annex, 14 Barnabas Road, Office of the Planning Board or at the Town Clerk's office during normal business hours.

Please email Doug Guey-Lee for the remote meeting information: [dgueylee@marionma.gov](mailto:dgueylee@marionma.gov). If you are a resident attending the public hearing, we request you identify your name and address for the record.

Join Teams Meeting  
<https://bit.ly/4qcZj6p>  
Meeting ID: 243 864 945 194 50  
Passcode: gD3gW9CV

Andrew Daniel, Chairman  
Alanna Nelson, Vice Chair 1/15, 1/22

## LEGAL NOTICES

### TOWN OF MATTAPOISETT ROAD CLOSURE PUBLIC NOTICE

The owners of Harbor Acres Lane are closing this road to public on February 11, 2026.  
William E. Mansfield 1/22, 1/29

### ORRHS PUBLIC NOTICE

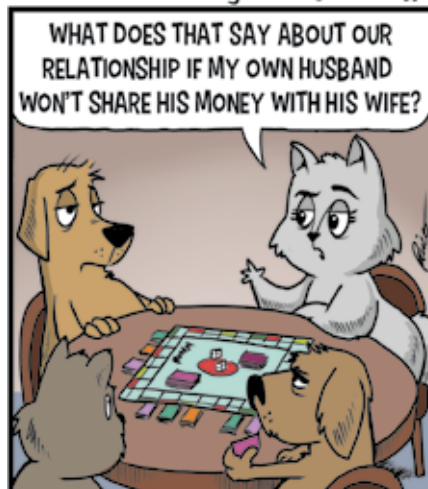
Marion, Mattapoisett, Rochester

Please be advised that beginning on July 1, 2026, the Old Rochester Regional High School will destroy temporary records of students who have graduated or transferred from ORRHS during the years 2017, 2018, and 2019. Temporary records refer to testing reports, copies of report cards, etc. These records may be picked up by the students before disposal. Please contact 508-758-3745 ext. 1424 from now to the end of June, 2026.

The student's transcript or permanent record, will be maintained by the school department for 60 years after graduation, transfer or withdrawal from the High School. 1/22

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7 days a week  
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**Just Like Cats & Dogs** by Dave T. Phipps



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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

Drew Hill	January 22
Liam Cassidy	January 22
Rachel Zirnfus	January 22
Ruth Gardner Lamere	January 22
Taylor Braman	January 22
Adam Silva	January 23
Ethan Petrinec	January 23
Ilona Langhoff	January 24
Peggy-Linn C. Schuler	January 24
Zachary Pateakos	January 24
Hayden Perry	January 25
Colleen Somers	January 26
Emmett Mcquade	January 26
Maera Ketchel	January 26
Eva Elger	January 27
Lisa Ratacik	January 27
Matthew Cordeiro	January 27
Trae Rezendes	January 27
Callie Nourjian	January 28
Gayle Santello	January 28
Julian Jones	January 28
Karen Porter Gheesling	January 28
Ronald Scott	January 28
Teresa Adams	January 28

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](http://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.



**JACK FROST RETURNS  
HOME AFTER A  
HARD DAY'S WORK**



**I DON'T THINK  
SO! I DON'T  
KNOW WHOSE NOSE  
THOSE LIPS HAVE  
BEEN NIPPING!**

We are also seeking historical LGBTQIA+ ephemera and memorabilia specific to the SouthCoast region. Do you have any posters, pins, bar coasters, clothing, photographs, and artifacts that celebrate the stories and joy of the Queer community?

The MAC will host the traveling indoor exhibition supporting Being Seen: Celebrating South Coast Pride from February 13 through March 13, with an opening celebration on Saturday, **February 14**, 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm at the MAC, 80 Pleasant St. Marion. Artists may submit up to two pieces each; 2D and 3D are welcome. Video work will also be considered, but artists must provide their own AV equipment. Artists may choose to have their work travel to future exhibition sites in collaboration with DATMA's Being Seen project. More information at [marionartcenter.org](http://marionartcenter.org).

MAC Movies will be screening *Common Threads: Stories from the Quilt* on Wednesday, **February 11** at 7:00 pm at the MAC - 80 Pleasant St, Marion. The cost is \$5 per person, Recommended for ages 13 and up. A tremendous, handmade monument to lives lost to AIDS, the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt demonstrated that grief and activism together could forge a powerful symbol of resilience. Winner of the Academy Award for best documentary feature, this moving film - buoyed by an original all-vocal score by Bobby McFerrin - explores the human stories obscured by statistics, examining the cross section of identities affected by HIV / AIDS, as well as efforts to combat the stigma, misinformation, and political obstruction that deepened the crisis.

For more information and to book tickets: [marionartcenter.org/events](http://marionartcenter.org/events)

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

I hope that some of you out there are researching our Rochester Revolutionary War soldiers. With all the cold weather, it's an excuse to stay in where it's warm. Remember all the information that you need to get started is on the Rochester Town Website under the Historical Commission.

Following up on names from the list of Revolutionary soldiers and sailors can sometimes be confusing. One sunny fall day, I decided to start my search at the Rochester Center Cemetery where flags placed by Dave Watling pointed me in the right direction. Unfortunately, many of the tombstones are difficult to impossible to read, but I persevered and came up with some that matched listed names.

One gravestone that I found and photographed was that of William Sherman. This matched a name on the list of soldiers and sailors, as well as, on a list of those buried in the Center Cemetery. William was born January 11, 1726, and died March 3, 1800, at the age of 74. He was one of the 7 children of Martin and Cynthia Sherman.

However, I hit a snag when I looked him up in the Revolutionary War muster cards. There was no record of him serving. Not to be deterred,

I went to the Plumb Library and looked for him in the volumes containing information on who served. There I found not William Sherman but William Shermand. I rechecked the list, but that surname was not there. According to his muster card, he was from Rochester and a Private in the 2nd Rochester Company under Capt. Nathaniel Hammond. He along with his company marched on April 20, 1775 in response to the alarm of April 19, 1775 (the Battle of Lexington and Concord). They were sent to Marshfield and served 4 days and walked a total of 80 miles. This is the only record of service.

This leaves me with a conundrum. Is this the William Sherman whose tombstone is pictured here or someone else? I've searched records for the area and have not found the surname "Shermand".

One possible explanation is that the "D" might be his middle initial and was added to the name. Remember that spelling was erratic at the time and handwriting sometimes difficult to read. The name on the muster card seems to have an added "d", but no clue as to who wrote it.

I'm going with the muster card belonging to William Sherman (my spellcheck is adamant that Sherman doesn't end with a "d"). Certainly, if anyone is familiar with that surname, please, let me know, but until then I'm going to connect the card to the soldier buried here in town.



### Rochester Historical Society Membership Drive

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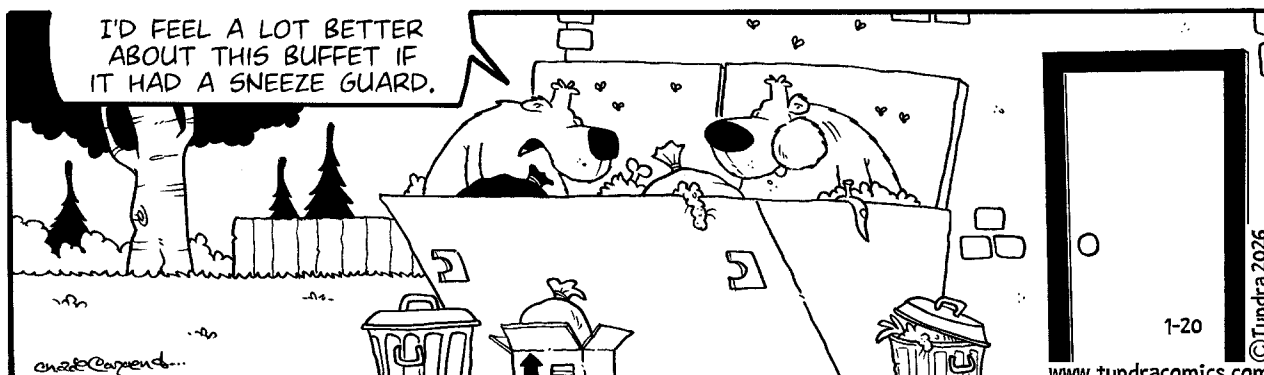
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Fri. Sat. 12-9pm  
Sunday 12-8pm

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**Tundra**  
by Chad Carpenter



1-20

[www.tundracomics.com](http://www.tundracomics.com)

©Tundra 2026



current members and the community to either renew memberships or perhaps join for the first time. We're planning a busy and historic 2026 season, including events at the Museum on County Rd. and in conjunction with Plumb Library and other community members. Our 1st Wednesday night meeting will be on April 15th at 7:00 at the Historical Museum at 355 County Rd.

Membership forms can be sent to Rochester Historical Society Box # 322 Rochester, MA 02770. Your check should be made out to the Rochester Historical Society.

The levels of membership are: Individual \$12.00, Family \$20.00, Donation: Curator \$50.00, Patron \$75.00, Preservationist \$100.00, Supporter \$\_\_.

Please, include your name, address, and if possible, an email.

### **Rochester Memorial School Committee Vacancy**

The Town of Rochester is accepting letters of interest from residents who wish to be considered for appointment to a vacant seat on the Rochester Memorial School Committee. This appointment will fill the remainder of a term that expires at the Town's May Annual Election. Submission Deadline is February 6 at 12:00 pm (noon).

To Apply email a letter of interest to [alacerda@townofrochester.com](mailto:alacerda@townofrochester.com)

A joint meeting of the Select Board and the School Committee will be held to review submissions and vote on the appointment at the Rochester Town Hall on February 24 at 6:00 pm. All interested and qualified residents are encouraged to apply.

### **Kindergarten Registration Available for ORRS**

Superintendent Michael S. Nelson is pleased to share that kindergarten registration for next school year is now available at elementary schools in the Old Rochester Regional School District and MA Superintendency Union #55.

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who will reach the age of 5 before September 1, 2026, are eligible to register to attend kindergarten at the elementary school in the town they reside in for the 2026-2027 school year.

Families must complete pre-registration for their student via the elementary school website.

After the student is pre-registered, their records must be provided to the elementary school building. Paperwork can be delivered to the building during the school's regular hours of operation.

The required documents include:

-Child's valid birth certificate and military records, if applicable.

-Proof of residency and proof of occupancy (i.e., property tax bill, mortgage statement, utility bill, current signed lease with dates and address as required by the Residency Policy)

-Child's medical records.

-Child's updated record of immunization, including DPT (Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus), MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella), Hib, Polio, Hepatitis-B, Varicella, record of lead testing, TB screening, and vision screening / Stereopsis.

Families are encouraged to complete the registration process by Friday, **March 6**.

An Online Parent Information Night for all three elementary schools will be held on Wednesday, February 11 at 6:00 pm. This virtual presentation will detail the



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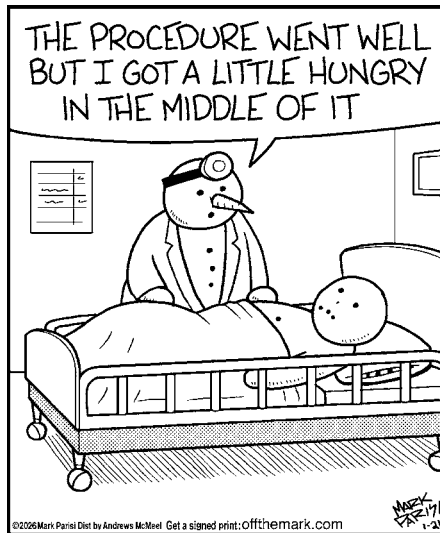
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off the mark by Mark Parisi



## SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Discuss  
**ENFORC**        

Inherent  
**ANTENI**        

Classic  
**GIANTEV**          

Plod  
**MCHEES**            

### TODAY'S WORD

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## Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦♦**

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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"Frankly, I'm against aid to education — we've got too many educated on hand as it is."

registration process and required enrollment paperwork.

Families that have completed the registration process will receive an email with a link to sign up for kindergarten screening.

Screenings are required by state law and help to identify children who might have a special need. This process allows schools to appropriately provide for the child's needs. Screenings will be held at Sippican School, Center School and Rochester Memorial School on Tuesday, **May 26**, Thursday, **May 28**, and Friday, **May 29**, with each appointment expected to take approximately 30 minutes. Children must be present for the screening, and parents can wait in the lobby during the appointment.

Additionally, a Kindergarten School-Based Building Orientation will take place on Thursday, March 26 at 6:00 pm. This in-person orientation allows parents and guardians to meet key staff members, learn about a student's daily schedule and gain valuable insights into the transition into kindergarten.

Questions about the registration process should be directed to the student's elementary school: Sippican School at 508-748-0100, Center School at 508-758-2521, Rochester Memorial School at 508-763-2049.

### Open Table Is Back

Mattapoisett Congregational Church is very excited to announce the second Open Table of 2026. The OT crew hopes to see you on **February 27** for a delicious meal served in Reynard Hall at Mattapoisett Congregational Church, 27 Church Street, Mattapoisett. There is no charge, although donations are gratefully accepted. Doors open at 4:30 pm and supper will be served at 5:00 pm. Invite a friend or neighbor.

### Marion Community Preservation Committee

Applications for Community Preservation Act funding will be available in the Town Clerk's office at the Marion Town House Annex located at 14 Barnabas Road, Marion, MA 02738. The Community Preservation Act is a Massachusetts Law that allows participating cities and towns to adopt a real estate tax surcharge supplemented by State matching funds in order to fund community preservation. Eligible projects must be directed towards: open space/recreation, historic preservation or community housing. Applications must be received no later than 4:00 pm on **February 20** to be considered for presentation at the May 2026 Annual Town Meeting.

Past Community Preservation funds have been used to:

- Construct a pavilion at Osprey Marsh
- Install fencing, ADA-compliant benches and litter receptacles at the Benjamin D. Cushing Community Park
- Catalog the collections and restore exhibits at the Marion Natural History Museum
- Construct Pickleball Courts at the Point Road

playground

-Town House Restoration

-Preservation of Veterans Gravestones

Committee Contact: William Tifft (Chair),  
Community Preservation Committee, Marion Town House Annex, 14 Barnabas Road, Marion, MA 02738, or email: [CommunityPreservation@marionma.gov](mailto:CommunityPreservation@marionma.gov).

### After-school Programs at the MNHM

The Marion Natural History Museum will host The Great Backyard Bird Count on **February 4** from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm. The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is a free, fun, and easy event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of bird populations. Participants are asked to count birds for as little as 15 minutes (or as long as they wish) on one or more days of the four-day event and report their sightings online at [birdcount.org](http://birdcount.org). Anyone can take part in the Great Backyard Bird Count, from beginning bird watchers to experts, and you can participate from your backyard, or anywhere in the world.

With the help of Nasketucket and Brookline Bird Club member Carol Molander we will be learning how to identify some of our more common bird species, taking a walk into the woods to see what we can find and then learning a little more about this important event. Warm hats, gloves and boots are highly recommended for our

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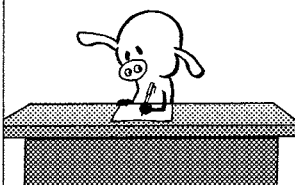
Shawn Sweet, Social Media Manager

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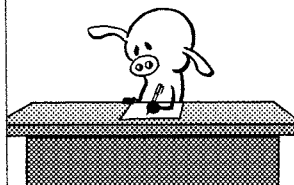
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## PEARLS BEFORE SWINE by Stephan Pastis

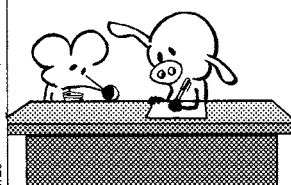
Dear High School  
Reunion Committee,  
Thank you for inviting  
me to our reunion.



Unfortunately, I will not  
be able to attend, as my  
mansion is stuffed with  
so much money I can't  
find the front door.

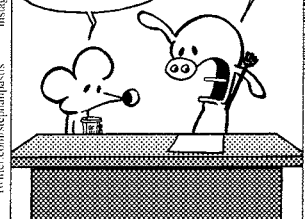


P.S. My butler  
wrote this.



STILL FEEL  
THE NEED TO  
IMPRESS YOUR  
HIGH SCHOOL  
CLASSMATES?

WHEN  
DOES  
IT  
END?!



excursion.

The next program scheduled is Owl Diet Detective on **February 25** from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm. Join us for an exciting exploration into the world of owls and their unique eating habits. Unlike other birds, owls swallow their prey whole because they lack teeth for chewing. Our Owl Pellet Dissection program provides a fascinating insight into these nocturnal predators. Recommended for grades 2-6.

What you'll discover: Owl Dining Secrets: Learn how owls consume mice, voles, small birds, and more.

Pellet Examination: Delve into regurgitated pellets, consisting of bones, teeth, fur, and feathers. Scientific Investigation: By dissecting the pellets, we unveil the diverse diet of owls and the frequency of different prey. Each pellet is dry heat sterilized. Gloves and dissection tools are provided to ensure a safe and hygienic experience.

Get ready to become a junior ornithologist and uncover the mysteries hidden within owl pellets.

To register for these programs and others please go to the Marion Natural History Museum's website: [www.marionmuseum.org](http://www.marionmuseum.org).

### Marion Town Clerk's Office

Happy New Year. This will be a busy year as there will be 2 Elections as well as a State Primary.

The dates are as follows:

-Marion Town Election: Friday, **May 15\***

-State Primary: Tuesday, **September 1**

-State Election: Tuesday, **November 3**

\* Nomination papers will be available for the Marion Town Election beginning Tuesday, February 2. They will be due back on Monday, March 26, by 5:00 pm.

In order to run for an elected position, you must be a registered voter in the Town of Marion. The potential candidate must secure twenty-eight (28) signatures in order to be placed on the ballot. The Town Clerk recommends that the potential candidate obtain at least thirty-five (35) signatures.

Any questions, please contact the Town Clerk's Office at 508-748-3502.

The open seats are as follows:

-Board of Assessors (1)

-Board of Health (1)

-Select Board (1)

-Marion School Committee (2)

-ORR School Committee (1)



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-Open Space Acquisition Commission (1 seat for three-year term)

-Open Space Acquisition Commission (1 seat for one-year term)

-Planning Board (3)

Please return your annual census (street list) and license your dog (cats are not required to be licensed in Massachusetts).

### Beavers - More than Soft Fur and Flat Tails

Join the Marion Natural History Museum on **January 30** at 6:00 pm when we welcome Wildlife Biologist Steven Wright of Massachusetts Fisheries and Wildlife to learn about these fascinating animals.

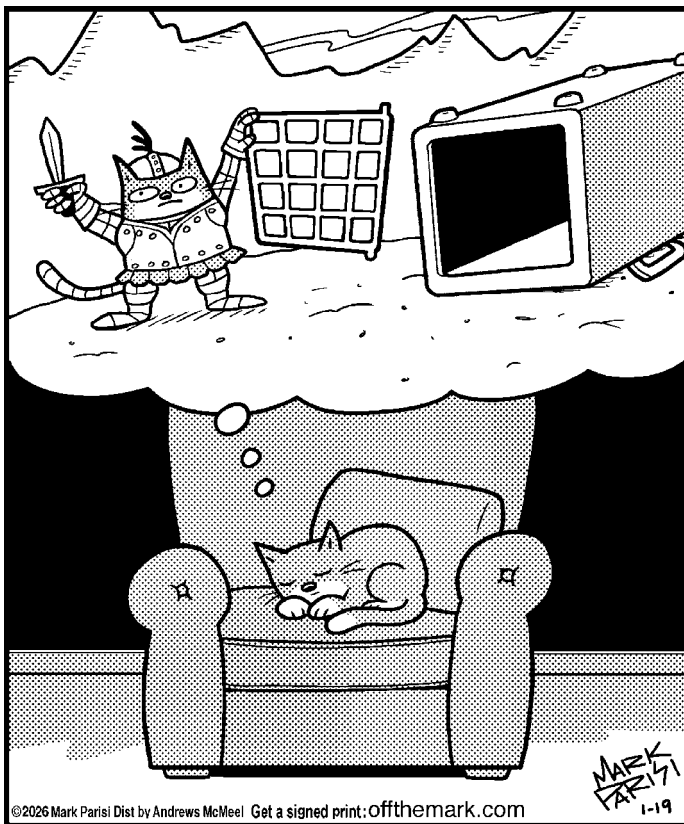
American Indians called the beaver the "sacred center" of the land because this species creates such rich, watery habitat for other mammals, fish, turtles, frogs, birds and ducks. We now know that beaver damming provides essential natural services for people too.

Beavers prefer to dam streams in shallow valleys, where the flooded area becomes productive wetlands. These cradles of life support biodiversity that rivals tropical rain forests. Almost half of endangered and threatened species in North America rely upon wetlands. Freshwater wetlands have been rated as the world's most valuable land-based ecosystem.

Beavers reliably and economically maintain wetlands that sponge up floodwater, alleviate droughts and floods (because their dams keep water on the land longer), lessen erosion, raise the water table and act as the "earth's kidneys" to purify water.

Please register for this fascinating program about one of our most ambitious mammals at [www.marionmuseum.org](http://www.marionmuseum.org).

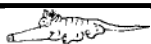
REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS			See past listing on our website: <a href="http://www.wanderer.com">www.wanderer.com</a>		
Buyer(s)	Seller(s)	Address	City	Date	Price
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Botelho Custom Homes LLC	Vcorp LLC	0 Robinson Rd	Rochester	01/05/2026	185,000.00



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## Local Tides

Day	Date	High		Low	
		a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
Thursday	January 22	10:03	10:30	3:25	3:49
Friday	January 23	10:50	11:19	4:06	4:24
Saturday	January 24	11:41		4:52	5:04
Sunday	January 25	12:11	12:36	5:48	5:53
Monday	January 26	1:06	1:34	7:03	6:54
Tuesday	January 27	2:06	2:37	8:56	8:05
Wednesday	January 28	3:13	3:47	10:23	9:20
Thursday	January 29	4:25	4:55	11:23	10:31
Friday	January 30	5:30	5:55		12:16
Saturday	January 31	6:27	6:48		1:05
Sunday	February 1	7:17	7:38	12:28	1:49
Monday	February 2	8:05	8:26	1:22	2:27
Tuesday	February 3	8:50	9:12	2:12	2:57
Wednesday	February 4	9:34	9:58	2:56	3:25
Thursday	February 5	10:18	10:45	3:37	3:53
Friday	February 6	11:02	11:31	4:17	4:24
Saturday	February 7	11:47		4:58	4:59
Sunday	February 8	12:18	12:33	5:46	5:41
Phases of the Moon		First Quarter	January 26th		
		Full Moon	February 1st		
		Last Quarter	February 9th		
		New Moon	February 17th		



## 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 this issue).

Once you find the aardvark you can submit your answer on line and if you are right you will get Aardvark Points! You can then use these points to get cool Aardvark Prizes!

To enter visit: [www.wanderer.com](http://www.wanderer.com) and Click on *I Found the Aardvark*

In the January 15, 2026 edition the Aardvark was on page 34

## PUZZLE ANSWERS

### CROSSWORD SOLUTION

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

## SCRAMBLERS

### solution

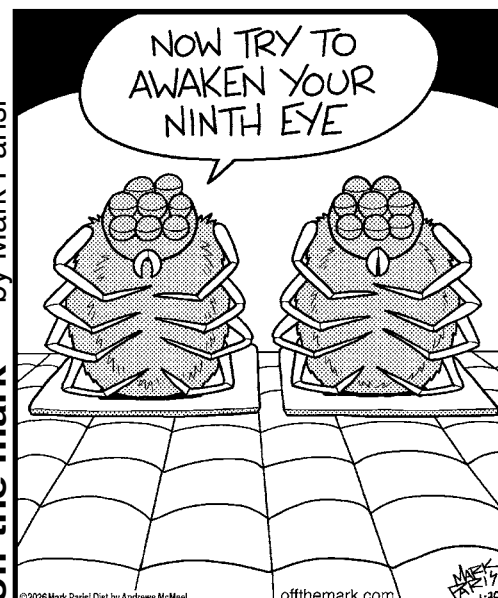
1. Confer; 2. Innate;
3. Vintage; 4. Scheme

## Today's Word VOTERS

### Sudoku Answer

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

off the mark by Mark Parisi





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**Life Cereal**

**\$4.29**



9.6 oz. Selected Variety  
**Newman's Own**  
**Microwave Popcorn**

**2/\$5**



12 oz. Cans, 8 pk. Selected Variety  
**Spindrift**  
**Sparkling Water**

**\$5.99**  
\*Dep.

12.6 oz. Original  
**Quaker**  
**Cap'n Crunch Cereal**

**\$4.99**

18 oz. Selected Variety  
**Quaker**  
**Oats**

**\$4.29**

12 oz. Original  
**Velveeta**  
**Shells & Cheese**

**\$3.49**

6.7-7.33 oz. Selected Variety Bagel or  
**Stacy's**  
**Pita Chips**

**2/\$7**

16 oz. Selected Variety  
**Planters**  
**Peanuts**

**2/\$6**

8 oz.  
**Cabot**  
**Premium Butter Quarters**

**\$3.49**

12 oz. Selected Variety  
**Food Club**  
**Vegetables**

**\$1.09**

16.5-18 oz. Selected Variety  
**Outshine**  
**Fruit Bars**

**\$4.99**

## BAKERY



6 oz. Pkg. Selected Variety  
**Steve's Snacks Bakery**  
**Whoopie Pie**

**2/\$4.98**

Loaf  
**Store Baked**  
**Garlic Bread**

**\$3.49**

## CHEF PREPARED

Selected Variety, With Blue Cheese Dressing  
**Gameday Wings!**

**\$10.99**  
lb

Pint, With Apples & Butternut Squash  
**Farro Salad**

**\$10.99**

Fresh  
**Garden Side Salad**

**\$6.99**  
ea

Various Styles  
**Take & Bake Pizza**

**\$8.99 - \$10.99**  
ea

Homemade  
**Savory Pies to Go!**

**\$13.99**  
Small ea

**\$19.99**  
Large ea

**Chicken Pot Pie**

**\$12.99**  
ea

**\$19.99**  
ea

**Shepherd's Pie**

## WINE

Buy any three  
bottles of wine &  
receive 10% off!

\*Excludes 3/\$25. Wines  
ending in .98 and previously  
reduced wines.



6 oz. Pkg. Port Wine  
**Kaikaina**  
**Cheddar Cheese Log**

**\$5.49**

12 oz. Pkg. Selected Variety  
**Boar's Head**  
**Greek Yogurt Dip**

**2/\$8**

Ready to Serve  
**Allen's**  
**Rotisserie Chicken**

**\$9.99**  
ea

## MEAT, DELI, PREPARED FOODS & CHEESE

Fresh  
**Baby Back**  
**Pork Ribs**

**\$4.49**  
lb



Deli Fresh  
**Friends'**  
**Store Packaged**  
**Four Bean Salad**

**\$5.99**  
lb



Deli Sliced  
**Boar's Head**  
**Maple Honey**  
**Ham**

**\$10.99**  
lb



8 oz. Pkg.  
**Boar's Head**  
**Pepper Jack**  
**Cheese**

**\$5.99**



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**Friends'**  
marketplace

565 Rounseville Rd.  
Rochester, MA 02770  
Phone: 508.763.5333

Open Daily: 7am-8pm

at PLUMB CORNER

We reserve the right to limit quantities & correct typographical errors. Illustrations are for design purposes only. Items are while supplies last and no rain checks.  
Due to current market conditions, item retails may change, and products may become unavailable unexpectedly.

**SALE EFFECTIVE: Friday, January 23, to Thursday, January 29, 2026**

## BLOCKBUSTER SAVINGS!

Fresh, Boneless  
**Bell & Evans**  
Chicken Breast

**\$8<sup>99</sup>**  
lb



13.7-13.8 oz. Original  
**Kellogg's**  
Town House or  
Club Crackers

**\$2<sup>48</sup>**



8 oz. Selected Variety  
Shredded or Bars  
**Food Club**  
Cheese

**2/\$5**



Deli Sliced  
**Friends'**  
Store Made  
Turkey Breast

**\$9<sup>99</sup>**  
lb



16 oz. Selected Variety  
**Food Club**  
Butter Quarters

**\$3<sup>49</sup>**



1.5 qt. Selected Variety  
**Tillamook**  
Ice Cream

**\$5<sup>99</sup>**



## QUALITY PRODUCE



16 oz. Pkg.  
Blueberries

**\$3<sup>99</sup>**

16 oz. Pkg.  
Strawberries

**\$3<sup>99</sup>**

3 lb. Pkg.  
McIntosh Apples

**2/\$6**



12 oz. Pkg.  
**Pero Family Farms**  
Snipped Green Beans

**\$2<sup>99</sup>**

Fresh  
Green Bell Peppers

**\$2<sup>49</sup>**  
lb

Fresh  
Cucumbers

**79¢**  
ea

**SEE OTHER SIDE FOR ADDITIONAL GREAT SAVINGS THIS WEEK!**