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September 17/10

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January 29, 2026



GROUNDHOG COVER CONTEST

Congratulations, and thank you to everyone who entered this year's Groundhog Cover Contest. We had an amazing selection, and it was a tough choice for many. These entries can also be seen in the photo gallery at www.wanderer.com.



Alice Sonnenmoser



Allison Dunn



Aubrey Sousa



Brent Lestage



Erik and Hobie Stone-Kowalski



Norah Dawicki



Teddy Sonnenmoser

January 2026 Nor'easter

By Sam Bishop

This past weekend, we had our first major winter storm of 2026, unofficially dubbed "Winter Storm Fern" by The Weather Channel. The colossal storm system stretched across most of the nation, leading to winter storm warnings for over 200 million Americans from Texas, across the Great Plains to the Great Lakes region, over Appalachia striking Chesapeake Bay and the Northeast. The nor'easter has led to, as of the time of writing, over one million power outages and 50 fatalities including a man in Marshfield and a woman in Norwood.

Rochester averaged about 16.5" of snow through Sunday, January 25 and into Monday, with Marion and Mattapoisett averaging a bit less, relatively speaking, due to proximity to the sea, according to the National Weather



Marion after Winter Storm Fern hit this past weekend. Marion received over a foot of snow during the storm, with Rochester receiving the most, averaging about 16.5" across Sunday and Monday. Photos by Shawn Sweet

On the Cover: This year's Groundhog Day Cover Contest winner is Allson Dunn of Mattapoisett! Allison received the most online votes for their rendition of a groundhog at Ned's Point. See all the entries on page 2 and in our photo gallery at www.wanderer.com/gallery.

Service. Boston Logan Int. Airport reported nearly 2 feet, with hundreds of flights cancelled and numerous others delayed throughout the week. The ripple effect of the hub airport, and other northeastern airports' scheduling changes will affect flights throughout the week.

Forecasts show varying and ever-changing predictions, though this weekend looks to yield more snow with parts of the Tri-Town possibly getting up to an additional 6".

Two Mattapoisett Fires in One Week

5 North Street

On the morning of Thursday, January 22, a fire broke out at the house on 5 North Street in Mattapoisett. At the three-story house subdivided into four apartments, one victim was rescued from the building and brought to the hospital with another being treated for smoke inhalation on site. Other building residents evacuated or weren't present but were accounted for.

According to the Mattapoisett Fire Department,

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an alarm was sounded and Fire Chief Andrew Murray and retired firefighter Mike Hickey arrived on scene at 11:06 am. They confirmed there was a fire and there were still people in the home. The pair worked to evacuate residents and inform others to stay away. Three fire trucks arrived on the scene, Engine 3, Engine 1, and Ladder 1.

A second alarm was reached, calling upon neighboring towns for assistance. Through mutual aid agreements, Marion, Fairhaven, Acushnet, and Rochester fire departments also arrived on the scene. Wareham Fire Department provided coverage to the others. Mattapoisett Police were also on the scene to help with security, traffic, and transporting a resident to the hospital.

Firefighters climbed to a lower roof and used their water hose running from Marion's ladder truck Engine 3 and an axe to break in through the wall. In the Mattapoisett Fire Department's official statement, they said, "This was extremely difficult with this type of older style construction, where the fire can travel in the walls, ceilings, and floors. I'm exceptionally proud of the work and efforts that everyone demonstrated today."

One resident was treated for smoke inhalation and brought to the hospital. A firefighter was also later brought to the hospital and is expected to make a full recovery. Families in the home are currently displaced and are being assisted by the American Red Cross.

This is still a developing story, and the cause of the fire is still being investigated. Extensive damage was caused to the structure, and it is not yet known if the home can be partially saved or will require demolition.

2 Martha's Way

On Monday, just after 2:00 pm, the Mattapoisett Fire Department was called to a structure fire at 2 Martha's Way, off Bowman Road. When arriving on scene, Fire Chief Andrew Murray reported that the two-story single-family home was fully involved but all occupants were out of the building.

Overall, the efforts to extinguish the fire was made difficult by the cold and icy road conditions following the winter storm the day prior. Additionally, the remote location of the home meant the departments had to lay down long runs of hoses just to get water to the scene, with water pressure often being a problem. All

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efforts were focused on fighting the fire from the exterior due to the risk of collapse.

Mattapoissett received assistance from Marion, Wareham, and Rochester at the scene. Acushnet Fire Department covered the Fire Station during the incident.

What's Up There?

Astronomy Update for February

By Sam Bishop

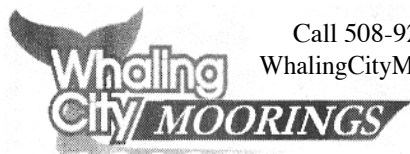
This is the continuing monthly column for the astronomer in all of us; or the aspiring astro-physicist. Compared to areas near Boston or New Bedford, generally speaking, the Tri-Town has pretty good dark skies, and we are very fortunate in that regard. Though we can't normally make out the Milky Way's signature glow, we can still spot a lot. This year has already brought with it some great stellar sights, including increased solar activity leading to the lingering possibility of seeing the aurora borealis, though that is never a given.

A full moon will occur on February 1, that being the "Snow Moon" ironically enough, as more snow is forecast that day. It is also known as the "Storm Moon" for similar reasons or the "Hunger Moon" by the nomadic Native Americans during a traditionally harsh time to search for food.

In huge space news, the launching of NASA's Artemis II is currently scheduled for February 7. The Orion spacecraft will be carried on the long-developed SLS rocket system designed for lunar missions. It will carry four astronauts, Victor Glover, Jeremy Hansen, Christina Koch, and Reid Wiseman, on a flyby of the moon. The last time any astronaut did a flyby of the moon, landing or otherwise, was Apollo 17 in December 1972, nearly 54 years ago. The craft will leave Kennedy Space Center and is scheduled to return about a week

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later on February 15.

There is no visible meteor shower for us this month, with February's only meteor show being the Alpha Centaurids visible in the Southern Hemisphere and peaking on February 8.

On February 16, Venus will have its "greatest illuminated extent," meaning it will be at its brightest point for the year. It will be to the west after sunset near Mars. Also on this day, February 16, Neptune and Saturn have their "final conjunction," or a point when they are very close in the sky. The next time they appear this close together will be the year 2132, or nearly after a Neptunian orbital period of 165 Earth years.

A New Moon will occur on February 17, and if



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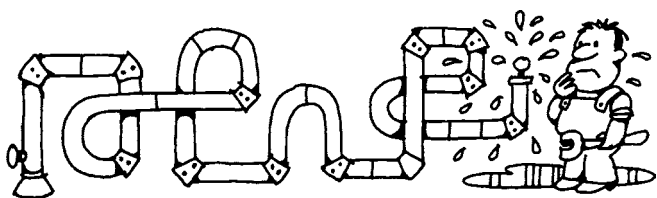
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you find yourself far, far to the south near Antarctica, there will also be a partial solar eclipse. There will be a lunar eclipse early next month that will be partially visible to us!

On February 28, there will be a planetary alignment of six planets, with four being visible to the naked eye: Mercury, Venus, Jupiter, and Saturn will all be visible without help, while Uranus and Neptune are there for any with telescopes. The Moon will be nearing its full stage, making viewing fainter objects more difficult, but the four nearest planets will be bright enough to spot easily, stretching between the Moon and the horizon.

There are plenty of apps, websites, and other resources you can use to make your cosmic journey easier. NASA offers satellite tracking, too, so you can await the ISS on its flyovers.

Hoo-ah! Snow Days!

The Seaside Gardener

By Laura McLean

Snow, as any New Englander knows, is a great facilitator to sports and play. It's the stuff that gives us snow angels, snowmen, sledding, skiing, and snowshoeing. Or, if you prefer, snow is the inducer of deep hibernation and resting for the season to come.

Whatever way you look at it, snow falling is a beautiful sight and one that we northerners adore (all the more if timed right). I am not tethered to weather reports though. I prefer to be open to surprises, and I detest being disappointed when the predictions fall short. As a result, I'm often the last to know about an impending storm; so be it if it's against my Girl Scout code. It seems silly when people panic over snow predictions. Case in point – the supermarket frenzy. I went to get a balloon for my granddaughter after school the other day to find absolutely mayhem ... I went to a different store, which had lines galore, and was relieved that the florist shop allowed me to pay for my few items in one go. Though it shouldn't surprise me that a week in advance people were reacting to the news of a snowstorm.

Actually, I'm rebelling against an upbringing where the weather report determined everything. Suffice it to say that snow is part of the New England experience that must be endured and hopefully enjoyed.

Beyond the pleasures and visual appeal the snow brings, there are real benefits for our plants. By insulating the ground, snow inhibits vast changes in the soil temperature and also maintains soil moisture. Great fluctuations – freezing and thawing – can hurt roots and even fall-planted bulbs, causing them to expand and contract or to essentially press the start switch in their growth cycle. Too many ups and downs in temperature can be calamitous. So, the snow serves to balance the temperature like natural mulch blanketing the bare ground, preventing frost heaves. Mind you, lots of plants need cold to happen in order to go forward and bloom, so maintaining cold beneath the ground is essential and

snow helps.

Another common Yankee belief is that snow provides nutritional benefits for plants. Often called the "poor man's fertilizer,"



snow deposits nitrogen into the soil. When the ground thaws, this nitrogen becomes available for plant uptake. Research suggests that between 2 and 12 pounds of nitrogen per acre are deposited each year through precipitation, including both snow and rain. Much of this nitrogen comes from the atmosphere, while the remainder is produced through nitrogen fixation caused by lightning – an essential natural process that supports agriculture. While not a replacement for traditional fertilizer, this natural process provides a "free" boost that supports early spring growth.

Hopefully these benefits will prove themselves as we turn our eyes to spring and our flowers. My procrastination seems to have worked in my favor regarding bulbs. Each year I seem to take longer to

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plant them (partly intentional to outsmart the thieving squirrels)... well in past years this has gone swimmingly (sorry for the mixed metaphor), but I did wait until the ground was freezing over – a tad risky and, though the results were good, my numb fingers paid the price. In past years, I waited even longer in hopes that snow would gently seal the bulbs in. Snow has that aura – it's protective, comforting and peaceful, whether you're a bulb, a human, or Punxsutawney Phil.

Pretty soon (February 2) we will know the dictate of the famous groundhog. I'm betting (hoping) on six more weeks of winter and more hibernation time. It doesn't seem like we've really had a proper winter yet, so I'm inclined to stay bundled up a bit longer. Meanwhile



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"He seemed a part of the mute melancholy landscape, an incarnation of its frozen woe, with all that was warm and sentient in him fast bound below the surface..." – from Etham Frome by Edith Wharton

The Noble Train Reaches Its End

This Week in Revolutionary War History
By Sam Bishop

This week in Revolutionary War history, let's check up on what was going on 250 years ago in and around the colonial Province of Massachusetts Bay. Last week, news of the catastrophic defeat and decimation

of the Continental forces assaulting Quebec City finally reached General George Washington in Cambridge. Urgent back-to-back War Council meetings were then called to discuss retreat, regroup, and the possibility of another assault. The main worry is weather the British would now wage a counter-attack from the north. Washington and the army's current priority is still Boston, with the siege of the city still continuing well into the new year.

On January 21, 1776, Washington issues his General Orders to Colonels and other Commanding Officers, instructing them "to buy up such arms as are wanted for his regiment." Supplies are low and if an attempt is to be made on Boston, which the General and the Continental Congress wish to do soon, officers should scour the land and buy up any arms they can find from locals. Washington promises monetary reimbursements should the officers prove funds were used for this purpose. He also notes that any new recruits that furnish their own arms, or show up with their own guns, are to be paid one dollar for the use of them, hopefully alleviating more supply needs.

That same day, Brigadier General David Wooster writes Washington from Montreal, confirming "the loss of the brave and most amiable General Montgomery and the other brave officers and soldiers who fell with him." He also confirms the tragedy at Quebec. There is no update on the status of Brigadier General Benedict Arnold, but Wooster finishes, "The taking of Quebec must be a matter of the greatest consequence to the Colonies but at present we are very ill provided for it, the place is strong I believe they are determined to defend it" before requesting back the artillery taken from Ticonderoga for another potential attack on the Canadians later.

Speaking of artillery taken from Ticonderoga, on January 25, John Adams writes in his diary from Framingham, stating the "the Train of Artillery" is passing through and is nearing Cambridge. Two days later, on January 27, Colonel Henry Knox arrives in Cambridge, bringing an end to the famous "Noble Train of Artillery," or "Knox's Expedition" after over two months of trekking.

That same day, Washington pens a letter to

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Benedict Arnold, with no record indicating they have yet spoken following the Battle of Quebec. Washington says, "I received the melancholy account of the unfortunate attack on the City of Quebec, attended with the fall of General Montgomery, and other brave officers & men, & your being wounded - This unhappy affair affects me in a very sensible manner, & I sincerely condole with you upon the occasion." He then reassures the Brigadier General that three more regiments are on their way from Connecticut and New Hampshire and adds the prospect of more from New Jersey and Pennsylvania. He stresses the importance of operations in the north, saying "I need not mention to you the great importance of this place, & the consequent possession of all Canada in the scale of American affairs - you are well apprised of it - to whomsoever it belongs, in their favor probably, will the balance turn."

Though an attack on Boston is eminent, Washington, with pressure from Congress, is not yet ready to give up on their aspirations of capturing Canada. He finishes, "If It is in ours, success I think will most certainly crown our virtuous struggles - If It is in theirs, the contest at best, will be doubtful, hazardous, and bloody." Not much time remains of winter, and soon, rivers like the Saint Lawrence will begin to thaw, closing their window of opportunity for good.

Many Monumental Approvals

Marion Select Board

By Jeffrey D. Wagner

The Old Rochester Regional High School Track Department's road race and an initiative for more solar on town properties received endorsements at the January 21 Select Board meeting in the Police Station conference center.

Jessica Pilla, a teacher at the high school and a track coach, said the cross-country team has fewer needs but the track team is playing with older hurdle equipment and mats. She speculates that some of the mats in use date back to the 1980s. Modern replacement mats are priced at \$13,000 per pack, Pilla said.

Pilla said the department works on fundraising



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frequently, but she said a road race would further help the program. She said successful fundraising could also open more opportunities, such as scholarships for students and other training equipment such as treadmills and ellipticals.

The board endorsed the road race, which will take place later this year on a currently unspecified Saturday.

The Select Board also approved placing solar panels on the new Department of Public Works building, which is expected to open next month.

The Energy Management Committee met with the Select Board late last year. At that time, the board was hesitant because start-up costs will range in the \$90,000 range. However, EMC members said there are state

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and other funding sources that will help pay back that appropriation.

Town Administrator Geoffrey Gorman said a solar company has also approached the town about placing solar arrays at the landfill, which could also generate energy and savings for the town.

The Select Board appointed several members to the 175th Anniversary Committee. Board members noted that some people have applied but were not appointed. Officials at the January 21 meeting still encouraged non-appointees to volunteer. They mentioned that with many facets of this town birthday celebration, subcommittees might form and some interested parties, not appointed to the main committee, might get a second opportunity for an official appointment.

The Select Board also approved some town-land for the long-awaited shared-use regional bike/walking path route through Marion to Mattapoisett.

That South Coast Bikeway starts in the Fall River area and is in the process of ending close to the Cape.

Gorman said that the state Department of Transportation has three engineers working on the design, which is still in flux. He said the town also received a \$97,000 feasibility study project as the path continues to be revised.

The Select Board also approved a donation from the Friends of the Council on Aging for an industrial grade hand mixer, which will save kitchen staff time as

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The mixer's market price was over \$3,500 but a grant has allowed the friends group to secure a deal to purchase it for just under \$2,000.

The next meeting of the Marion Select Board is scheduled for Tuesday, February 3 at 6:00 pm in the Marion Police Station.

Select Board Deems Dog Dangerous

Mattapoissett Select Board

By Marilou Newell

The January 27 meeting of the Mattapoissett Select Board included a thorough hearing regarding a dog that had caused grievous bodily harm to another dog last July. Under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 140, the board was asked to determine whether the dog, owned by Mark and Stella Brogioli, 14 Acushnet Road, could be and should be labeled as "dangerous." Requesting the hearing was Jayne Maniatis of 7 Cathaway Lane.

The Brogiolis defended their dog, saying he had never displayed aggressive behavior in the past.

Emotional testimony from the Maniatis family included highlighting their inability to enjoy being outside with grandchildren and other young family members due to fear regarding the neighbor's dog and the possibility of it coming into their yard.

The Brogiolis explained in detail the measures



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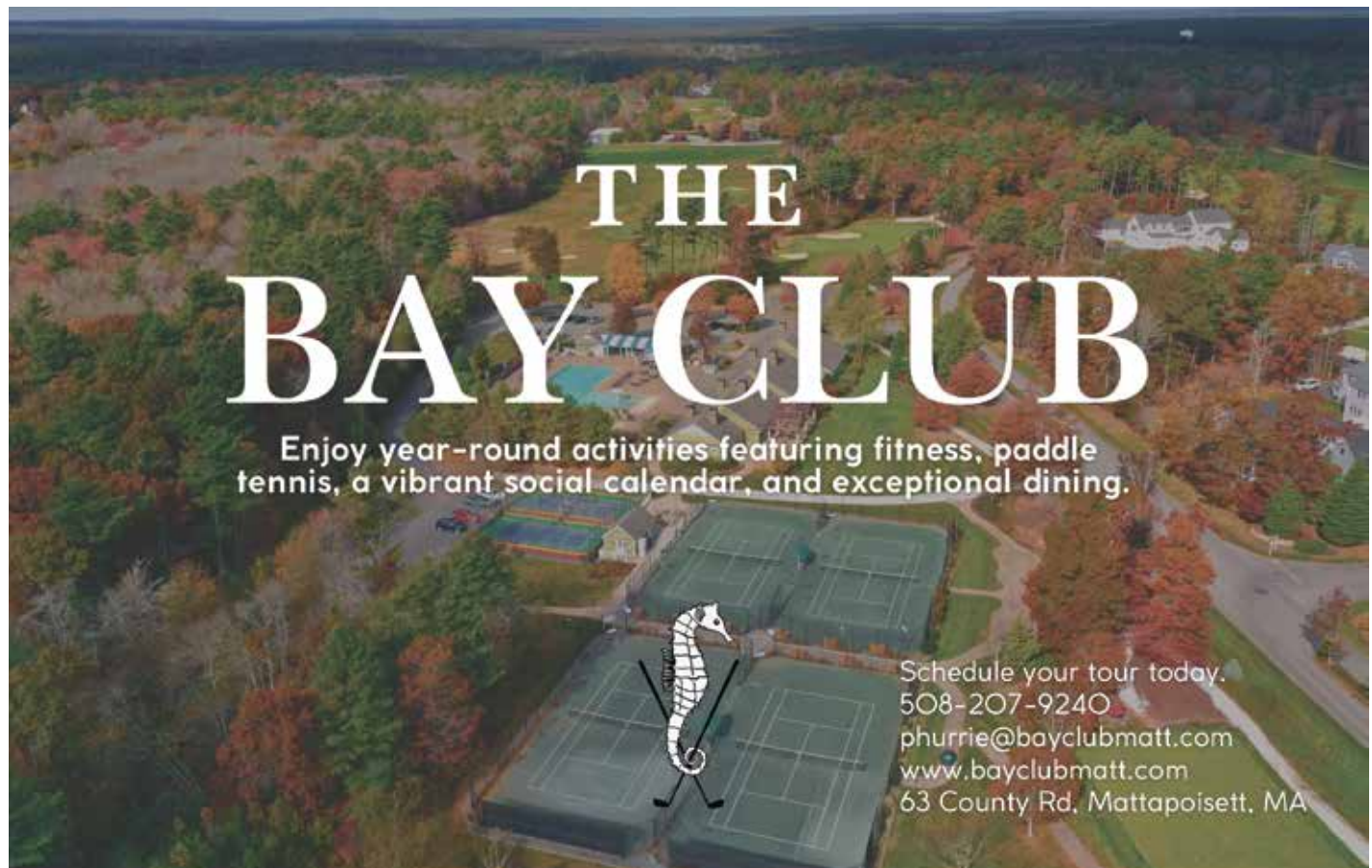
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they have taken since the fateful incident including erecting a 4-foot-high fence with 2-inch-wide openings. The Brogiolis said the holes were too small even for a small dog to get their nose through.

Select Board member Tyler Macallister thought it might be prudent to have the parties involved avail themselves of information available under MGL 40 and return to the board with a plan of action moving forward.

But board member Jordan Collyer believed it was the board's responsibility to decide now whether or not the dog in question was dangerous, "...as the authority in this matter, we are duty bound to take this matter up. We need to render a decision. We've got to look out for the public."



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Board member Jodi Bauer said she was very concerned about pedestrians and cyclists given that the Brogioli property will be adjacent to the bike path in the future.

After nearly an hour of testimony and reference to MGL 40 the board made their ruling.

They determined that given the Brogiolis' dog was responsible for the death of another dog, it was clearly dangerous. The board went further, ordering that the offending canine must be muzzled when off the owner's property, if left outside it must be restrained, and that the Brogiolis must show proof of insurance.

The board also asked that the Brogiolis work with the neighbors to ensure all parties were in agreement. They are to return to the board with a plan in 30 days.

In other business, the board met with Police Chief Jason King, Fire Chief Andrew Murry, and Harbormaster Isaac Perry to briefly discuss the FY26 operating budget and capital needs.

All department heads indicated that other than negotiated increases all budgets will be level funded. Capital needs for the harbor enterprise fund include only one expense for docks and floats, a sum estimated at \$15,000.

While the rebuilding of Long Wharf remains a fixture on the town's budget, Perry didn't believe that project would move forward in 2026. The project is pegged at \$10,000,000 and will be funded by debt

according to the Capital Plan.

The Mattapoisett Police Department's capital plans include the following for FY27 \$160,000 for two cruisers, and \$50,000 for building maintenance which King said was sorely needed.

King also noted that funded from ambulance receipts is a much-needed new ambulance estimated at \$400,000 and a new stretcher. On the police side of the ledger, King will also be seeking \$52,000 for firearms.

Fire Chief Murry's capital needs list \$500,000 for a tanker truck. He explained to Bauer who questioned the line item that having a tanker truck was necessary for the many locations throughout the town where hydrants are not available.

The next meeting of the Mattapoisett Select Board is scheduled for Tuesday, February 10 at 6:30 pm.

Potential For Old Colony Revote

Old Colony Regional Vocational-Technical High School Building Committee

By Michael J. DeCicco

The Old Colony Regional Vocational-Technical High School Building Committee is recommending the region's five member towns hold another election for the \$288 million request to fund a new facility that failed to pass in November of last year.

Old Colony Superintendent Aaron Polansky revealed in a meeting with officials and project planners at the school on January 27 that this recommendation is set to be approved by the Old Colony Regional Vocational-Technical High School Committee on January 28 as the first step to a "revote" election in June or early September.

Polansky said the building committee approved the revote option after reviewing a total of five alternative plans. These included just repairing and/or upgrading the current building to address the district's needs without the state reimbursement of project costs that a larger project would garner. He said a revote was the district's most viable and fiscally responsible option. "A 'no' vote does not eliminate costs to the taxpayers," he noted. "It shifts 100 percent of the financial responsibility

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to them.”

A revote is not ignoring the previous outcome, he added. “It is providing taxpayers with information relative to the financial impacts of a no vote,” he said. “The bottom line is every alternative to a revote costs more locally and delivers less value.” He added the best path is the one that secures state funding and fixes the school’s problems and inadequacies all at once with long-term solutions.

The first questioner from the audience asked what the building committee would do differently this time. Polansky said they will seek to be collaborative with voters and officials and disseminate more information to help taxpayers better understand the most fiscally responsible approach.

Rochester Finance Committee member David Arancio said more should be explained to voters about the financial and tax impacts on their vote either way. Project engineer Chad Crittenden of PMD Consultants said not all the ‘What Ifs’ in every aspect of the project’s costs and debt costs are predictable. Polansky said there will be more time to educate residents on what they need to know.

The state School Building Authority’s reimbursement for the new school’s price tag was projected to be \$129 million. The remaining total cost that the school district members would share was estimated at approximately \$159 million. Rochester’s share of that price tag would have been \$28.4 million. But both the \$288 million request to fund the building project and a proposal to pay for Rochester’s \$24 million share of that cost with a debt exclusion resulted in a resounding No vote in the November 2025 election. The question to approve the building project failed across all of Old Colony’s member towns, Acushnet, Carver, Lakeville, and Mattapoisett.

The money would have funded a larger, more modern building that replaces the serious infrastructure deficiencies of the current facility at 476 North Avenue in Rochester.



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Harbormaster Budgetary Requests

Marion Marine Resources Commission

By Jeffrey D. Wagner

Budgetary issues and Island Wharf parking were some of the main topics discussed at the January 22 Marion Marine Resources Commission meeting in the Maritime Center conference room.

Harbormaster Adam Murphy said that a key budgetary issue is two capital expenses that the department must spend – but choosing the right funding mechanism is in discussions with town officials.

Murphy said that the Harbormaster Department is in need of a new forklift and general vehicle, which costs \$230,000 in total.

Murphy said he found a program in which the town can lease these vehicles and it would be paid for by the marine department Fiscal 2027 budget at a cheaper price. This process would negate a full purchase through capital improvement funds. It would also save money for the Fiscal 2027 budget, breaking up those expenses over a number of years.

Murphy said his department has met with Finance Director Heather O'Brien for preliminary talks but mentioned that it is difficult for his department to meet the deadline set by the Finance Committee. That committee is asking the town department to finalize budgets in February or early March.

Recently, the Finance Committee has set a deadline for making budget recommendations to the Select Board by around March 25. The Select Board will then make its final recommendations before the warrant is closed by the end of that month.

Murphy and MRC Chair Vincent Malkoski Jr. said that the marine division is sending out invoices to different boating parties and early collection of these funds would help the process.

"We do not have budget creation authority," Malkoski said. "The Chief and Adam (Murphy) are working on it." He added, "We are expediting the process of getting invoices out."

Malkoski said the MRC has decided not to raise fees because traditionally there must be a need for the fee to increase. Murphy said that the department has not been able to review its fee data, a long process.

The department also recently launched a new patrol boat, a needed expense as it was stated the old one was in terrible condition. That expense alone has complicated finances for the MRC and right now, the department is trying to avoid a budget shortfall, which is presently the case.

In other MRC news, Malkoski brought up how there has been no resolution about non-boaters parking at Island Wharf or the parking issues that plague that area of town during the summer months.

He said many complain about non-boaters parking at Island Wharf during summer concerts,



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weddings and for other activities. Meanwhile, some people complain about boating equipment parked near the open space, town-owned grass area near the town bandstand.

There were meetings about this issue last summer, but Malkoski said the conversation has to continue with more parties involved.

"It's not something a single group can vote on," Malkoski said.

The next meeting of the Marion Marine Resources Commission was not scheduled at adjournment.

Swimmers Put up Personal Bests

Sports Roundup

By Aiden Comorosky

Old Rochester's boys and girls swimming teams split at Seekonk on January 22, as the boys team won, 102-74, while the girls team lost, 85-65. Chase Karo was named the swimmer of the meet for the boys, winning the 500-yard freestyle with a personal-best time of 5:43.52. Bree LeFavor was the swimmer of the meet for the girls. LeFavor won the 100 backstroke with a personal best-time of 1:08.06 and qualified for Sectionals.

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.

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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.

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

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Dear Editor,

Over the weekend, I was dog sitting for my daughter who was out of town. So every day I would take the dog for a walk around the village. I noticed that most sidewalks were un walkable because they were not shoveled.

The footprints made in the slushy snow have now frozen solid, making the pavement very uneven and dangerous to walk on. According to town bylaws, the town is responsible for general maintenance responsibility of the sidewalks, including snow and ice operations.

The town is pushing us to accept the DOT design as being safer for town residents, because it includes more sidewalks and wider sidewalks for pedestrians. The town seems unable to accept the responsibilities of snow removal on the current sidewalks, making them significantly more difficult to walk on and more dangerous for the town's residence. They also seem unable to fix sidewalks that are raised by the roots of trees, creating many slip and fall hazards.

Wider sidewalks doesn't seem to be the answer since highway department can't take care of the ones we already have.

The DOT program does not include anything for bicyclists and refused to consider speed bumps or tables as seen in many other cities in the area. My understanding is the Fire Chief is concerned about response time. I can't imagine it significantly affects the response time while the town leaders are seems willing to sacrifice pedestrian safety so the fire department can respond to about 40 fires a year, most of which are not life-threatening.

The current Select Board seems so focused on the pot of gold at the end of the DOT rainbow, while ignoring the real needs of its citizens. I really hope they reconsider the path they're on.

Best regards,

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Donald Bamberger, Mattapoisett

To the Editor,

My parents moved away from New England in the mid 70's and eventually settled in Maryland. They missed all things New England, but my Dad told me with frank honesty that he loved the "County System Approach." The school system was enormous, but the bureaucracy was more efficient because there was only one Police Chief and one Fire Chief (as well as a single administrative department, consistent human resource standards /guidelines and combined purchasing power).

In light of the overdue spotlight on how our communities are failing to provide the best possible Public Safety services equally to everyone. I propose (although I can't take credit for this initiative, it's a compilation of things I have learned) that we: Consolidate Police, Fire, Ems, Public Health, Town Nursing, Social Workers, Dare Officers, Psychologists, and all other "Professional People Persons" into a cross purpose Public Safety Partnership.

Involve local, state, county, federal, international and global levels.

Avoid political partisanship whenever possible (and make it possible).

Rethink the uniforms, titles, promotion path, chain of command, hiring and firing standards and most importantly their overarching mission. They are all part

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of a Public Safety Partnership... that means the whole organization is half of the equation; the partnership with the communities they serve are the other half.

Some certified partners may need various educational degrees but most training should be provided at no cost for committed team members.

For example, as a high school student I would like to be a formal part of the Public Safety Partnership component of my community. I apply to become an apprentice with initial areas of interest being anything from emergency preparedness, wellness and health, challenged current and historical issues, fire prevention, ecological issues, human infrastructure, human resource adaptability, fighting fires, protecting our environment, to

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enforcement of statutes and laws.

If I am accepted into this organization, I take a pledge (almost like an enlistment) and for that commitment I will work hard to perform my assigned task and will also receive training, mentorship, career options and the opportunities to better the Public Safety Partnership philosophy. A system that is transparent, involved, caring, just, and based on our tried-and-true Constitution (one that allows for amendments when new ideas come to light). If I don't have the discipline and maturity to live up to your pledge then, I simply step aside and let someone else step up to the plate (this career path is not for everyone). Public safety needs are 24-7 and they take no vacations.

Regarding uniforms... how about blaze purple. I might start off my shift helping with traffic control at a construction site, next help facilitate blood donations at a local clinic, then respond to an ill neighbor's request for food assistance, then tutor a special needs student with their studies and watch over a coworkers children because that coworker is unable to come home on time because they are fighting a fire elsewhere in our county.

If I am the team member at the fire or in that clinic, I will need to wear the appropriate equipment but for the bulk of my professional work day I will be a caring and committed purple polo shirt wearer, helper, lover and contributor that can (and will) grow and blossom into one of many PubSafePartners.

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Earthicans- I just made up the word (maybe someone beat me to it, not sure) But, we are more than just New England, we are more than just Americans, we are more than the population of currently alive humans, we are ... You know where I'm going. Earthicans; yesterday, today, and tomorrow (our legacy, our lives, our destiny).

Moe's thoughts for your consideration. Thinking out of this 3D box we are living in.
 Moe Molander, Marion

Dear Editor,

In recent weeks, Minneapolis has been the scene of intense public concern and political conflict following multiple shootings involving federal immigration agents deployed under a large enforcement operation. On January 24, 2026, 37-year-old ICU nurse Alex Pretti was fatally shot by federal agents in Minneapolis during an immigration enforcement action, an event that sparked protests and widespread calls for accountability. Video from the incident and statements from local officials have raised serious questions about the circumstances of the shooting.

This shooting was the third in a short span involving federal agents in the city. Earlier in January, Renée Good, a 37-year-old U.S. citizen and mother of three, was fatally shot by an ICE agent on January 7. Another man, Julio Cesar Sosa-Celis, was wounded in the leg by an immigration officer and survived.

These incidents have heightened tensions between federal and local authorities. Minnesota's governor and city leaders have condemned the use of force, called for independent investigations, and urged federal immigration agents to withdraw from certain operations. Federal responses have included legal defense of agents' actions and attempts to restrict local investigative access to crime scenes.

Amid this backdrop, many are asking: What can ordinary citizens do to address and prevent further violence? And what roles should Congress and the courts play?

Constructive Actions for Concerned Citizens

1. Participate in Peaceful Civic Engagement:

Attend lawful protests and community forums to voice concern about federal enforcement policies and demand transparency from elected officials. Support or organize community discussions that bring diverse voices together to articulate shared goals for safety, civil rights, and immigration policy reform.

2. Document and Share Information Responsibly:

When witnessing law enforcement activity, record conduct lawfully from safe distances and share verified evidence with journalists or legal advocacy groups to ensure public accountability. Support independent investigations by providing credible documentation to state investigators or civil liberties organizations.

3. Advocate Through Democratic Channels:

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Contact federal and state representatives to express concern about the use of force by federal agents and urge legislative oversight of immigration enforcement practices. Support ballot measures or policy proposals aimed at enhancing civil rights protections and law enforcement accountability.

4. Support Legal and Community Organizations:

Contribute time or resources to civil liberties groups that provide legal assistance to people affected by enforcement actions and that challenge potential abuses in court. Engage with neighborhood associations to build collective resilience and mutual aid networks.

What Congress Can Do:

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Hold hearings to scrutinize federal immigration enforcement operations, including use-of-force policies, training standards, and compliance with civil liberties safeguards. Consider conditioning funding for federal law enforcement agencies on meaningful reforms that bolster accountability, transparency, and community safety.

2. Legislative Reform:

Propose or advance laws clarifying the limits of immigration enforcement authority, strengthening reporting requirements, and ensuring judicial review of aggressive enforcement tactics. Address systemic issues in immigration law that contribute to confusion or conflict between federal operations and local communities.

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1. Ensure Independent Review:

Courts can oversee or appoint independent investigations into law enforcement use of force to ensure impartial evaluation of evidence and protection of due process. Judges can enforce constitutional protections, including First Amendment rights during protests and Fourth Amendment safeguards against unreasonable use of force.

2. Interpret Limits of Federal Power:

Through litigation brought by states or individuals, the judiciary can clarify the scope of federal authority and the rights of citizens and residents under existing law.

In a deeply polarized environment, meaningful progress comes from upholding the rule of law, protecting human rights, and fostering constructive dialogue. Concerned citizens can push for accountability and reform through peaceful engagement, support for transparent investigations, and participation in democratic processes. At the same time, legislators and courts have critical roles in shaping legal frameworks and ensuring that enforcement practices respect constitutional rights and community safety.

Eileen J. Marum, Marion

Academic Achievements

The University of Hartford is pleased to announce that **Jay Carrillo** of Marion has been named to the University of Hartford's Dean's List for the fall 2025 semester. The Dean's List recognizes students achieving superior academic standing. The requirement, with some exceptions, is a grade point average of at least 3.0 and no grade below C.

Regis College today recognizes **Jenna Lynch**, of Mattapoisett, whose academic excellence and commitment to learning have earned them a place on the fall 2025 Dean's List. To qualify for the Dean's List, students must earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher. First-year students qualify with a GPA of 3.25 or higher.

Henry Bailey of Rochester was named to the Champlain College Dean's List for the Fall 2025 semester. Students on the Dean's List have achieved a grade point

average of 3.5 or higher during the semester. Bailey is currently majoring in Game Design.

Stonehill College is pleased to recognize **Matthew Curry** of Mattapoisett, **Hannah Squires** of Mattapoisett, **Nathan Yurof** of Marion, **Andrew Poulin** of Rochester, **Martha Savage** of Mattapoisett, and **Allison Winters** of Rochester to the Fall 2025 Dean's List. To qualify for this honor, undergraduate students must have achieved a semester grade point average of 3.50 or higher with a minimum of 12 credits from courses graded with standard letter grades.

Palmer Clingman of Mattapoisett, **Will Hurlbut** of Marion, **Bree Killion** of Rochester, **Brady Lee** of Mattapoisett, **Drew Mastovsky** of Marion, **Owen Osterday** of Marion, **George Psychopaidas** of Mattapoisett, **Holyn Turner** of Mattapoisett, and **Zachary Zutaut** of Rochester have been named to the Fall 2025 Dean's List at Roger Williams University in Bristol, RI. Full-time students who complete 12 or more credits per semester and earn a GPA of 3.4 or higher are placed on the Dean's List that semester.

Rochester Democratic Town Committee

The Rochester Democratic Town Committee is coordinating a non-perishable food drive to benefit local families in need. The drive will run **February 2 to February 15**. Collection boxes are located at Rochester Town Hall, Plumb Memorial Library, and Lloyd's Market, 8 Hartley Road. All donations will be delivered to Damien's Pantry in Wareham, whose mission is to help end hunger in the South Coast region of Massachusetts. Thank you for your generosity as we work together to support our neighbors facing food insecurity.

Machacam Club

The next meeting of the Machacam Club is scheduled for Wednesday, **February 4**. We meet at the American Legion Hall on Depot Street. Social time begins at 5pm followed by dinner at 6:00 pm. Our speaker will be introduced at 6:40 pm. Chef Colby is planning another satisfying meal. Callers, please send your counts by 9:00 pm Monday, February 2. Please submit inquiries to cwmccullough@comcast.net.


"Love Bird" Walk

Calling all bird lovers and lovebirds alike. Join Sippican Lands Trust and members of the Nasketucket Bird Club for this free program on **February 14** at 1:00 pm.

Winter is the best time to see many of our northern duck and waterbird species floating around Marion's harbors before their migrations to the north and Arctic.

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website: Sippicanlandstrust.org/events

Marion Natural History Museum

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 on **February 4** from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm. This year's bird count runs from February 13 to 16. 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. 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 excursion.

Let's learn the basics before these important dates are upon us. Please register at www.marionmuseum.org.

MSEFC Donates Buddy Benches to Sippican School

If a Sippican Elementary School student feels

lonely during recess, they now have a safe space to sit with the knowledge that a peer will soon see them and extend an offer to play.

This is a result of the Marion Scholarship Education Fund Committee's recent donation of \$2,500 to Sippican, which funded the installation of Buddy Benches on the playground.

Buddy Benches, found at school playgrounds around the world, are brightly colored benches that promote inclusion, empathy and kindness among students. If a child feels lonely at recess, they can sit on the bench to signal how they are feeling. In response, other students are encouraged to invite them to join a game or conversation.

A&A



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OBITUARIES

Richard A. Rucker, 87, of Rochester passed away peacefully at home on Thursday January 15, 2026. He was the beloved husband of Gloria (Smith) Rucker for 60 years.

Born and raised in New Bedford, the son of the late Charles E. and Alice (Cooper) Rucker, he lived in Rochester for the past 50 years.

Richard was formerly employed as a stationary fireman for the Acushnet Company until his retirement.

He served in the Army National Guard.

He is survived by his wife Gloria; his children, Richard A. Rucker, Jr. and his companion Kathy Lutz, and Robin LaRose; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

He was predeceased by his brothers, Charles and John Rucker.

Private funeral arrangements are by Saunders-Dwyer Mattapoisett Home for Funerals, 50 County Rd., Route 6, Mattapoisett.



William Edmund Riseley III, 75, passed away on January 11, 2026 after an extended illness at his home in Marion, MA. His wife, Kyle, was at his side. True to character, he took his lumps honorably and with optimism. A devoted husband, father, grandfather, and friend, "Trip," as he was known to all, was always ready with a quip

and a smile.

Born in 1950 in Englewood, NJ to William Edmund Riseley Jr. and Jean (Legg) Riseley, Trip was raised in nearby Tenaflly and spent summers at his grandfather's farm in Shandaken, NY. He graduated from Ithaca College in 1972 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. When he married his college sweetheart, Kyle, in 1974, they drove a green Volkswagen bug onto the ferry to Martha's Vineyard and began the first of thirty summers in Aquinnah and fifty-one years of marriage.

His career was in finance and commercial lending. He spent 30 years as a banker in Fairfield County, Connecticut before moving to Massachusetts. At Cape and Coast Bank (formerly Cooperative Bank of Cape Cod) he helmed the commercial lending operations and retired in 2015 as Senior VP and Chief Commercial Lending Officer. He took great pride in helping businesses get on their feet, and his warm, good-humored and ethical approach served him well in his career.

A Jersey boy who raised his family in Ridgefield, CT and retired to his beloved coastal Massachusetts, Trip could not shake his love for the New York Yankees. Even after years in Marion, he rooted for his beloved Yanks and insisted that anyone who truly loved the game would understand his loyalty. He was a gifted athlete himself all his life and he nurtured an appreciation for sports when he coached countless kids in baseball, basketball and eventually soccer. With his

own kids, to one he passed on a love of sports; to the other, he recognized and encouraged an affinity for the arts.

A lifelong lover of music, the house or car was always alive with sound. He listened closely across genres. His sense of humor was renowned and he had an easy way with people. He carried around a handful of alter egos and was known variously as Ace, Carmine, Almond Joy or Pops. His Donald Duck impression was stellar.

He is survived by his wife, Kyle Wilhelmy Riseley; son, Will and wife Tara Worley Riseley of Boulder, CO, son, Ned and partner Ethan Philbrick of Brooklyn, NY; three grandchildren, Harriet, Louise, and Finn of Boulder, CO; sister, Barbara Schmeelk of Marietta, GA; brother-in-laws, Bob Wilhelmy and his wife Debbie of Midway, UT, Brad Wilhelmy of Raleigh, NC; sister-in-law Ginny Bloomquist and her husband Craig of Newtown, CT, sister-in-law Shirley Wilhelmy of Cary, NC, and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and dear friends. His brother, Robert A. Riseley, of Marietta, GA, predeceased him by two weeks.

A Celebration of Life will be held in the spring. In lieu of flowers, remembrances may be made to Sippican Land Trust, PO Box 848, Marion, MA 02738. Arrangements are with the Saunders-Dwyer Mattapoisett Home for Funerals, 50 County Rd. (Rt. 6), Mattapoisett. For online guestbook, visit www.saundersdwyer.com.



Judith R. (Kelsey) Anthony, 86, of Mattapoisett passed away at home on Tuesday January 20, 2026 after a brief illness.

Born and raised in Natick, the daughter of the late Edward and Rose (Gareau) Kelsey, she was a longtime resident of Mattapoisett. She was a graduate of Natick High School, Class of 1957 and attended Mount Ida Junior College in New-

ton.

Throughout her career, Judy worked in retail sales for various companies, including Jordan Marsh, Dutchmaid, Silverstein's, The Cottage, and the Opulent Owl. She had also been employed in food services at the Harbor Beach Club and Joseph's Restaurant. She had later been the activities director for the Mattapoisett Council on Aging until her retirement.

Active in local community activities, she served as an election registrar for the Town of Mattapoisett, as a board member of the Pine Island Cemetery, and participated in the Senior Work-off Program through the Mattapoisett Assessors Office.

She was a very kind and caring person who was loved by all who met her. She will be remembered by many by her favorite saying that she often shared, "I hope your day is as special as you are."

She is survived by her daughter, Diane R. Correia and her significant other, John Duffy of Carver; her grand-

"The installation of Buddy Benches at Sippican provides a new way to promote friendship and kindness across the student body," said Principal Lynn Dessert. "The benches allow students to advocate for themselves by acknowledging their feelings and, in turn, their peers respond positively by reaching out."



The Committee's donation funded the installation of two Buddy Benches. The remaining funds were used to purchase 25 copies of "The Buddy Bench" by Patty Brozo, which tells the story of one school's experience with a Buddy Bench and its impact on students.

The Buddy Bench project builds on the Marion Scholarship Education Fund Committee's longtime support of Sippican.

"We are grateful for the support the Marion Scholarship Education Fund Committee has provided to Sippican Elementary School over the years," said Marion School Committee Chair April Nye. "Whether it

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is through classroom resources, family engagements or projects like the Buddy Benches, their support helps the school foster a positive and inclusive experience for every child."

In January 2023, the Committee donated \$375 to support the One Book One School initiative, \$1,000 to help sustain the school's annual Vocabulary Day tradition and \$300 to help relaunch Anchor, a family engagement group that hosts community-building events such as the Spaghetti Supper and Bingo Night.

In 2016, the Committee also contributed \$2,000 toward the purchase of technology equipment for the school.

"The Marion Scholarship Education Fund



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OBITUARIES

daughter, Stephanie R. Correia of Wells, Maine; her sister-in-law, Mary Kelsey of Pennsylvania; her nephew, Andrew Kelsey; two nieces, Donna Beers and Kimberly Kelsey; and two great-nephews.

She was predeceased by her husband, Charles Anthony, her stillborn son, Charles Edward Vosseler; her former husband and longtime friend, Charles Vosseler; and her brother, Richard Kel-sey.

Her family would like to give a special thank you to the staff of Community Nurse for the care and compassion provided to Judy during her illness.

A private family burial service will take place in Pine Island Cemetery. A celebration of her life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, remembrances may be made to American Cancer Society or National Celiac Foundation. Arrangements are by the Saunders-Dwyer Mattapoisett Home for Funerals, 50 County Rd., Route 6, Mattapoisett.



Michelle Logan McLean-Russell, 66, of Marion, MA and Pacific Grove, CA, passed away peacefully on January 20, 2026 in Salinas, California from a sudden brain aneurysm. Her last week was spent doing her favorite things: enjoying the California sun with her dog Stella, riding her bike, eating breakfast with sheep, spending time with friends around her firepit, drinking excellent coffee, and reading books in peaceful places.

Michelle was born on September 19, 1959 in Dorchester, MA, to Claire and Joseph McLean, with four older siblings: Susan, Nancy, Margaret, and Joseph. She grew up in Cohasset and attended UMass Dartmouth, where she majored in art and psychology. Michelle earned her master's degree in psychology from Lesley University in Massachusetts. Friends from college in-troduced her to Sanford Hewitt "Hew" Russell, whom she married in 1987, and together they trav-eled the world, windsurfed, snowboarded, and sailed.

Together they moved to California in 1988, where Michelle had all kinds of adventures. These included earning her Ph.D. in clinical psychology at Palo Alto University, working with children around the state as a clinical psychologist specializing in post-traumatic play and earning the nickname "Dr. Fun," snowboarding in feet of powder at Tahoe and earning the nickname "Princess of Powder," and giving birth to their two children, Fen and Lulu, and earning the nick-name "Mom".

In 2001, Michelle survived a life-threatening brain tumor thanks to surgery and ongoing care from Dr. Mitch Berger at UCSF, giving us the gift of 25 more years together. Michelle and Hew returned to Massachusetts in 2001 to be closer to family, moving into their summer home in Marion full-time. Michelle loved kayaking in Sippican Harbor and stopping to visit "her" osprey nests, growing her beautiful

garden filled with peonies (her favorite flower), taking trips to Bos-ton's art museums, drinking coffee in the morning and eating popcorn in the evening, meeting with her book club, witty banter, walks with friends, and bike rides to the beach. She loved beautiful things; her closet was always full of fabulous clothes, and her spaces well-curated and beautifully decorated.

Michelle was a loving, creative, vibrant person who cared deeply for her friends and family and always had ideas for how to make everything fun, from her famous annual Christmas party to impromptu themed picnics and everything in between. Family was always the highest priority in Michelle's life, and she gained great joy from surrounding herself with cousins, nieces, nephews, and distant relatives. Michelle will be missed dearly by all those who love her.

Visiting hours will be held Sunday, February 1, 2026 from 1-5 pm at the Saunders-Dwyer Mattapoisett Home for Funerals, 50 County Rd., Mattapoisett. Her Funeral Mass will be held Monday, February 2nd at 11 am at Saint Anthony's Church, 26 Hammond St., Mattapoisett. Buri-al will be held privately. In lieu of flowers, the family wishes donations to be made to the Neuro-surgery Brain Tumor Fund at UCSF (<https://giving.ucsf.edu/fund/neurosurgery-brain-tumor-fund>). For directions and guestbook, visit www.saundersdwyer.com.



David Titus of Marion MA passed away unexpectedly on Friday night, surrounded by his family. A devoted husband, father, grandfather, and community leader, David lived a life defined by service, faith, and deep love for the town he called home for more than five decades.

David was born in Winthrop, Massachusetts, and grew up in Padanaram. He was a graduate of Bowdoin College and Boston University Law School and served as a Lieutenant in U.S. Army Intelligence. Following his military service, David began practicing law with his father, Roger, in New Bedford. Soon thereafter, he moved to Marion to establish his own law practice, which eventually grew into the firm Titus, Ryan & LeBlanc.

David put down deep roots in Marion, where he raised his family and served the community for 57 years through his legal work and civic leadership. He believed strongly in community involvement and gave generously of his time and talents. Over the years, he served as President of the Swain School of Design, Trustee of the Van Sloun Foundation, a United Way Leader, Board Member of the Schwartz Center for Children, and Marion Town Moderator — a role he held with dedication and integrity for 35 years.

David's faith was central to his life. A longtime and devoted member of St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church in Marion, where he was a lector and served as Treasurer, and twice as Senior Warden, and helped found the church's men's

Committee is proud to contribute to Sippican in ways that support both academic growth and a caring school culture," said Committee Chairperson Elizabeth Dowd. "We are thrilled to continue our collaboration with Sippican through this Buddy Bench project, and we hope that many friendships will begin on these benches."

The Marion Scholarship Education Fund Committee also offers scholarships to Marion High School students through the generosity of Marion residents.

"We thank the Marion Scholarship Education Fund Committee for their continued generosity toward Sippican," said Superintendent Michael S. Nelson. "These investments support learning, connection and kindness. The simple act of inviting a classmate to play can make a lasting difference for a child, and the Buddy Benches will help create those moments every day."

The Town of Marion maintains The Scholarship and Education Fund entirely through donations from generous Marion Residents. Contributions can be made via a check payable to: Town of Marion Scholarship/Education Fund, mailed to 2 Spring St., Marion, MA 02738.

"The Committee greatly appreciates every donation, and we look forward to continuing to support Marion students," said Chairperson Dowd.

Upcoming Events in the Children's Department at the Mattapoissett Library

From now until the end of January, we are collecting donations for local food pantries in the form of non-perishable food, pet food, diapers, cleaning supplies, and items to support personal hygiene. Thank you to those who have already donated. Your generosity has made all the difference.


We have two storytimes to offer. Family Storytime

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is on Thursdays at 10:30am, and Baby Storytime is on Fridays at 10:30 am. This batch of sessions will run until mid-February.

The world-famous Quahog Reading Program is back for its 13th year. This reading program is specifically for children in grades 3-6 and runs until April 12. We have a fantastic selection of books this year, so you will

OBITUARIES

breakfast program. He also sang bass in the church choir and with the Sippican Choral Society, finding great joy in music, fellowship, and worship. His faith and service to St. Gabriel's were the foundation upon which he built his life.

An active and enthusiastic outdoorsman, David was a longtime member and past President of the Sippican Tennis Club and an avid hiker who proudly summited all 48 peaks of New Hampshire's White Mountains. He loved walking the streets of Marion village with his beloved dog, Angus, and was happiest cheering on his children and grandchildren at sporting events and school plays — or firing up the grill for a family barbecue.

David's greatest joy was his family and the life he created with his beloved wife of 61 years, Susan Titus. David is also survived by his twin sister, Martha Titus Wickenden; his children Stuart Titus (Katie) of Middletown, Rhode Island, Robert Titus of Toronto, and Sarah Titus (Andy Weiner) of

Washington, D.C.; seven grandchildren — Natalie, Benjamin, Samantha, William, Noah, Claire, and Simon — and twelve nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held for David on Saturday, February 7, 2026 at St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church on South St. in Marion at 2:00 PM. In lieu of flowers, donations are welcomed for St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church Memorial Fund: <https://abundant.co/stgabrielsmarion/give>

Arrangements by Chapman Funerals & Cremations — Wareham. For directions or to leave a message of condolence visit: www.chapmanfuneral.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.

TriTOWN HAPPENINGS



Jordan Desharnais shared this photo of Ned's Point lighthouse during sunset.



Helen Lozoraitis spotted a dark shape out on the ice while walking on Goodspeed Island Road. She realized that it was an immature bald eagle eating his breakfast out on the frozen Eel Pond.



Swans in Mattapoisett Harbor. Photos by Roberta Moriarty



Snow at sunset by Mattapoisett harbor. Photo by Rob Grant



Photo of the bay from Point Connett a day before the storm taken by Ruth A Griffin



On Saturday, January 10 the Marion Natural History Museum's Nature Journaling program had a great time working with watercolors. We created color wheels and different techniques we could use to paint with watercolors. Next program is February 21 - Pen and Ink and Ink Wash. No experience necessary. To register please go to the museum's website: www.marionmuseum.org. Photo courtesy Elizabeth Leidhold



These photos and more are available online at www.wanderer.com

not want to miss out on this one. Registration for the program ends on **February 28** at 4pm, so that should give folks plenty of time to get down to the library and get signed up. We have many events that are exclusive to participants in the Quahog Reading Program, so keep an eye out for those. Come visit us, send us an email, or give us a call for more info.

The first Quahog event we have is the e-Resources Workshop. Quahog Readers can learn about two apps, Hoopla and Libby, which give them access to the world of eBooks and audiobooks - all they need is a library card. Participants at this event will earn a raffle ticket. Come to the library on Thursday, **January 29**, at 3:00 pm to check this out.

On Tuesday mornings from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm noon, we have a Drop-In Play Group for crawlers to Pre-K. On Thursday afternoons from 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm, we have a Drop-In Play Club for kids ages 5-10. Please note that these groups are drop-in, not drop-off: There's no registration required, but adults must stay with their young ones.

Lastly, the world-famous Big Ryan, of Big Ryan's Tall Tales, is coming to the library on **February 7**. Big Ryan takes the stage at 11:30 am, but we will have plenty of cool things to check out before and after the show for Take Your Child to the Library Day. If you're attending the show, be sure to get here early to make sure you get a parking spot and a good seat - you will not want to miss this.

To register for our events or for more information, please check out our website, mattapoissettlibrary.org, or give us a call at 508-758-4171. We hope to see you in the library soon. Until then, keep reading.

Mattapoissett Free Public Library

The Mattapoissett Free Public Library, located at 7 Barstow Street, has a lot to keep you busy this February.

Are you in need of some free, basic tech help? Stop by Felicia's Tech Corner on Saturdays from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm for personalized, one-on-one assistance. Example topics include basic email assistance or help accessing Libby and Hoopla, the library's eBook and

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Saturday 8am-2pm

LOCAL CABLE PROGRAMMING

Check www.orctv.org for the latest updates to the schedule.



PUBLIC ACCESS

Comcast Channel 9

Verizon Channel 36

Thursday January 29, 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 - Nancy Putnam
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 30, 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 - Nancy Putnam
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 with Darren 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 31, 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 - Nancy Putnam
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 with Darren 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 February 1, 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 New Bedford Voc Tech
11:30 PM Classic Movies

Monday February 2, 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 with Darren 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 February 3, 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 February 4, 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 AM 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

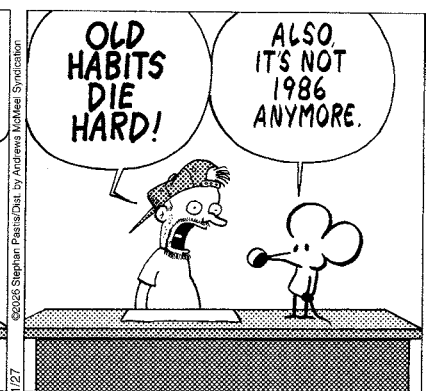
GOVERNMENT

Comcast Channel 26

Verizon Channel 38

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

by Stephan Pastis



audiobook platforms. Not sure? Email Felicia at faguiar@sailsinc.org or call the library to see if we can help.

Students in grades 9-12 are invited to our monthly Teen Advisory Board meeting on Tuesday, **February 3**, at 6:00 pm. The Teen Advisory Board (TAB) is an action-oriented group of students who work to integrate their youthful voices into MFPL's services, programming, goals, and communications. New members are always welcome.

Our Silent Book Club returns on Sunday, **February 8**, at 2:00 pm in the upstairs Reading Rooms. Participants will enjoy delicious treats, tea, and quiet time to read. Relax with friends, acquaintances, and strangers while learning about your next favorite book. The event is for patrons ages 16 and up — no registration required.

Patrons 12 and up are invited to join Pop Up Art School on Tuesday, **February 10**, at 3:00 pm to learn how to use a barbed needle to sculpt wool. In this MCC grant-funded program, we'll make a soft, fuzzy cactus with heart-shaped flower adornments when we're done, and "plant" it in a mini terra-cotta pot. Space is limited. Registration required.

The next meeting of the Friends of the Mattapoisett Library is scheduled for Wednesday, **February 11**, at 6:00 pm. All are welcome to attend. A Zoom link to the meeting is available upon request. If you have any questions, please contact the library at mfpl@sailsinc.org. We can pass along your message to the

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Evenings: 508-758-2589

Fax: 508-758-2175

Friends.

The Friends will continue accepting jewelry donations for their December 2026 sale. If you have gently used or unworn jewelry or accessories you'd like to donate, the Friends would love to take them off your hands. Please drop these items off at the circulation desk. Thank you. Your contributions are appreciated and will help support future library events.

Our Sunday Book Club meets on **February 15** at 2:00 pm. The club is intended for adults. Contact Librarian Robbin Smith with questions at rsmith@sailsinc.org.

Join our next Board Game Club on Tuesday, **February 17**, at 6:00 pm. This month's pick is "Really

"Live Under My Roof"



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TRI-TOWN POLICE LOGS



MARION

Log highlights Jan 18 – Jan 24

- Wareham Rd – EMS/medical
- Front St – General service
- Point Rd – MV collision
- Point Rd – Health/welfare
- Front St – Brush fire
- Point Rd – EMS/medical
- Mill St – Officer wanted
- Dexter Rd – EMS/medical
- Converse Rd – EMS/medical
- Mill St – Officer wanted
- Spring St – MV collision
- Wareham Rd – Follow up
- Wareham Rd – MV complaint
- Mill St – EMS/medical
- Ryders Ln – Animal complaint
- Hastings Rd – General service
- County Rd – Noise complaint
- Front St – General service
- Point Rd – EMS/medical
- Front St – Animal complaint
- Wareham Rd – EMS/medical
- Wareham Rd – Disorderly person
- Front St – EMS/medical
- River Rd – Road hazard
- Sparrow Ln – Animal control
- Point Rd – General service
- Wareham Rd – EMS/medical
- Spring St – General service
- Wareham Rd – General service

MATTAPOISETT

Log highlights Jan 18 – Jan 24

- Fairhaven Rd – MV violations
- Mendell Rd – Animal control
- Holmes Rd – Abandoned 911
- Fairhaven Rd – Domestic disturbance
- Mechanic St – General service
- Richard III's Ln – Ambulance request
- Beaver Path – General service
- Main St – MV crash
- River Rd – General service
- Water St – Assist other agency
- Fieldstone Dr – Health/welfare
- Marion Rd – MV violations
- County Rd – Medical alarm
- North St – Medical alarm
- Acushnet Rd – Brush fire
- Mendell Rd – Animal control
- Chapel Rd – Animal control
- North St – MV violations
- North St – Fire
- Church St – Animal control
- Wolf Island Rd – Suspicious MV
- I195 East – MV violations
- Prospect Rd – General service
- Fairhaven Rd – MV crash
- North St – MV crash
- Captain's Ln – Health/welfare
- County Rd – MV lockout
- Church St Ext – Health/welfare
- Barstow St – Medical assist

ROCHESTER

Log highlights Jan 18 – Jan 24

- Braley Hill Rd – Outside investigation
- Neck Rd – Suspicious activity
- Boxturtle Dr – Panic alarm
- North Ave – MV collision
- Marys Pond Rd – MV collision
- Stuart Rd – Assist other agency
- Walnut Plain Rd – Inside investigation
- Neck Rd – Medical alarm
- Mendell Rd – MV stop/citation
- High St – Medical
- Dexter Ln – Firearms licensing
- Marys Pond Rd – Follow up
- Neck Rd – 911 call
- Snipatuit Rd – General service
- Alley Rd – Animal control
- Marys Pond Rd – Illegal dumping
- Neck Rd – Assist other agency
- Snipatuit Rd – Appliance fire
- Rouseville Rd – 911 call
- North Ave – Suspicious activity
- Jasons Ln – Follow up
- Sarabeth Ln – Appliance fire
- Bates Rd – Assist other agency
- New Bedford Rd – MV stop/citation
- Daisy Ln – Animal control
- Bates Rd – Message delivery
- Kings Hwy – Suspicious activity
- New Bedford Rd – Chimney fire
- Bennett Rd – Public assist

For a full PDF of the three towns' police logs from the past week, including arrest reports, visit www.Wanderer.com.



REGIONAL LUNCH MENUS

COASTLINE ELDERLY NUTRITION PROGRAM

Monday, Feb 2: Chicken Marsala, orzo, carrots, whole grain cornbread loaf, peach cup

Tuesday, Feb 3: Braised beef & vegetables, mashed potatoes, vegetable medley, wheat bread, chocolate pudding, diet: fruit

Wednesday, Feb 4: Pulled pork tacos, cilantro lime rice, black beans, corn & peppers, tortilla wrap, orange

Thursday, Feb 5: Chicken pot pie, whole grain buttermilk biscuit, broccoli, Fig Newton, diet: fruit

Friday, Feb 6: Tuscan white fish, roasted potatoes, Cali blend vegetables, wheat roll, applesauce

CENTER SCHOOL

Monday, Feb 2: Cheeseburger (OR) hamburger, oven baked potato wedges, BBQ baked beans, lettuce & tomato, pickle

Tuesday, Feb 3: Zesty orange chicken, brown rice, steamed broccoli, fortune cookie

Wednesday, Feb 4: Bulldog sandwich, hashbrown patty, orange smiles

Thursday, Feb 5: Spaghetti w/meat sauce, garlic breadstick, seasoned

broccoli

Friday, Feb 6: Munchie Mania Basket: crispy chicken tenders, warm whole grain pretzel, oven baked French fries, served w/honey mustard dipping sauce and fresh veggie sticks

OLD HAMMONDTOWN

Monday, Feb 2: Cheeseburger (OR) hamburger, oven baked potato wedges, BBQ baked beans, lettuce & tomato, pickle

Tuesday, Feb 3: Zesty orange chicken, brown rice, steamed broccoli, fortune cookie

Wednesday, Feb 4: Bulldog sandwich, hashbrown patty, orange smiles

Thursday, Feb 5: Spaghetti w/meat sauce, garlic breadstick, seasoned broccoli

Friday, Feb 6: Munchie Mania Basket: crispy chicken tenders, warm whole grain pretzel, oven baked French fries, served w/honey mustard dipping sauce and fresh veggie sticks

OLD ROCHESTER REGIONAL JUNIOR & SENIOR HIGH

Monday, Feb 2: Cheeseburger (OR) hamburger, oven baked potato wedges, BBQ baked beans, lettuce & tomato,

pickle

Tuesday, Feb 3: Zesty orange chicken, brown rice, steamed broccoli, fortune cookie

Wednesday, Feb 4: Bulldog sandwich, hashbrown patty, orange smiles

Thursday, Feb 5: Spaghetti w/meat sauce, garlic breadstick, seasoned broccoli

Friday, Feb 6: Munchie Mania Basket: crispy chicken tenders, warm whole grain pretzel, oven baked French fries, served w/honey mustard dipping sauce and fresh veggie sticks

ROCHESTER MEMORIAL

Monday, Feb 2: Cheeseburger (OR) hamburger, oven baked potato wedges, BBQ baked beans, lettuce & tomato, pickle

Tuesday, Feb 3: Zesty orange chicken, brown rice, steamed broccoli, fortune cookie

Wednesday, Feb 4: Bulldog sandwich, hashbrown patty, orange smiles

Thursday, Feb 5: Spaghetti w/meat sauce, garlic breadstick, seasoned broccoli

Friday, Feb 6: Munchie Mania Basket: crispy chicken tenders, warm whole grain pretzel, oven baked French fries, served w/honey mustard dipping sauce and fresh veggie sticks

SIPPICAN SCHOOL

Monday, Feb 2: Cheeseburger (OR) hamburger, oven baked potato wedges, BBQ baked beans, lettuce & tomato, pickle

Tuesday, Feb 3: Zesty orange chicken, brown rice, steamed broccoli, fortune cookie

Wednesday, Feb 4: Bulldog sandwich, hashbrown patty, orange smiles

Thursday, Feb 5: Spaghetti w/meat sauce, garlic breadstick, seasoned broccoli

Friday, Feb 6: Cheese pizza, garden salad, assorted salad dressing, roasted chic peas

OLD COLONY REGIONAL

Monday, Feb 2: General Tso's chicken bowl & dinner roll

Tuesday, Feb 3: Mozzarella sticks, fries, marinara sauce & baked beans

Wednesday, Feb 4: Home-made chicken quesadilla, salsa, sour cream, corn & black beans

Thursday, Feb 5: Meatball sub, green beans & fries

Friday, Feb 6: Assorted pizza & Caesar salad

Loud Librarians," a fast-paced, merciless word-shouting board game. *If you've never played before, please arrive 15 minutes early to review the rules. Space is limited. Register online to save your spot.

T(w)eens ages 12 to 16 are invited to join us on Friday, **February 20**, at 3:00 pm for another exciting Game Lounge. Enjoy February vacation by hanging out with friends and playing video games at the library. No registration.

Grab your family and join us for another fun-filled installment of Family Jeopardy on Saturday, February 21st at 2:00 pm. Enjoy competing in a friendly challenge as your family goes head-to-head with others in a battle of wits. All ages welcome. No registration.

Emerging adults 20 and up are invited to join us for our first Literary Society book club meeting on Tuesday, **February 24**, at 6:00 pm. The Literary Society Book Club is a "read what you like" meeting where young professionals and emerging adults discuss their current book choices with others. Attendees are encouraged to participate at their leisure, with no firm requirements, commitments, or pressure. No registration required.

The Well-Read Wednesdays Nonfiction Book Group meets on the Fourth Wednesday of every month at 6:00 pm in the Marine Room. The next meeting is scheduled for **February 25**. We will discuss "The Burning of the World: The Great Chicago Fire and the War for a



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City's Soul," by Scott W. Berg. New members welcome. No registration required.

Join us on Saturday, **February 28**, at 2:00 pm for Bob Dylan and Johnny Cash Songs and Stories with Matt York. Longtime New England singer/songwriter Matt York will perform songs and tell stories about the two musical icons and the important role their friendship played in the trajectory of folk and country music. All ages welcome. No registration required.

Please remember that a library card is required at checkout. 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

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Super Crossword

THE THIRD PERSON

ACROSS

- 1 Go to
7 Stooze who sometimes replaced
Curly
12 Sauna locale
15 Defeater of Gore
19 Time: Prefix
20 On the briny
21 Retained
23 Old foxtrot dancer makes a two-in-one chess move?
25 Makes lively
26 Flow blockers
27 Oct. preceder
28 "All I Wanna Do" singer boasts?
30 Prefix with propyl
31 Winter hrs. in Philadelphia
33 Lawman Wyatt
34 Falsehood
35 "The Finest Hours" co-star yeams deeply?
40 America's first female astronaut takes a bus?
45 Top-secret U.S. org.
46 Starting on

- 48 Sanaa locale
49 "Samson and Delilah"
55 Conductor
59 Big 20th-cen. conflict
60 Actress — de Armas
61 Universal rule
63 "Eww, mice!"
64 Harry Potter's skill
68 "Play It as It Lays" co-star does a fusing job?
72 "Middle Child" rapper
73 In the past
75 Spain's El —
76 Really annoy
77 "Broadcast News" co-star feels sore?
80 Dirt Devil or DustBuster, for short
82 "Botch- —" (1952 song)
83 Former TWA competitor
84 Coll. in Columbus
86 NYSE debut
87 Rolo filling
91 Frontwoman of Hole has a deep fondness?
96 Cowboy rope

- 98 Italian money
99 A, in Munich
100 "Jerry Maguire" star goes sailing?
105 "Coma" novelist makes dinner?
110 "There — god!"
111 Barber's cut
113 Boise-to-Tucson dir.
114 "Dr." of music
115 Miami Heat great walks in water?
120 Potentially shocking fish
122 Writer Uris
123 Came through, as a radio signal
124 "Cheers" actress yeams?
128 Setting fire to
129 Shire of film
130 "Apparently!"
131 Throw easily
132 Golf gadget
133 "Geez, that's rough"
134 Recluses

DOWN

- 1 Not alkaline
2 Defeat soundly
3 Quake
4 Vast spans

- 5 Dir. 135 degrees from 113-Across
6 G.P., for one
7 Postpaid enc.
8 URL start
9 Immigrant's class, in brief
10 Edwin of Reagan's Cabinet
11 Old Turkish officials
12 In a cutting way
13 Like a runt
14 Indigo dye
15 Wild pig
16 Innumerable
17 1-year-old on "Family Guy"
18 Steeds, in Westerns
22 Sierra maker
24 Sparkling 119-Down, for short
29 History topic
31 Exxon, once
32 Trade blows
36 Accrued qty.
37 Indian bread
38 This, in Peru
39 —wester
41 Subsidiary theorem
42 Singer Sumac
43 Singer Des—
44 Officeholders
47 Munich Mrs.

- 49 Beetles and Golfs, in brief
50 Famed flag-raising site of 1945
51 Orbiting body, e.g.
52 Spring month
53 Firm bigwigs
54 "Yes, yes!" in Mexico
56 City in Israel
57 Procedural form-filling
58 Endorses
62 Quirky
65 Maj.'s superior
66 Yale student
67 "Stuck" actor Stephen
68 "Road —" (1947 comedy film)
69 In-favor vote
70 Pale
71 LAX takeoff guess
73 Throat-check sounds
74 Avocado dip, informally
77 Former female mil. group
78 Prefix with grain or color
79 Irrefutable
80 Color shade
81 Bus. entities

- 84 Other, to Jorge
85 Snooty type
88 Oval portion
89 Pre-2001 space station
90 It fills la mer
92 1921 Karel Capek play
93 Cravings
94 Pet pests
95 Artist Yoko
97 WikiLeaks founder Julian
100 Little goody
101 New York city or river
102 Yucatec speakers
103 Put a stop to
104 Noon nap
106 Atoll unit
107 Danish port
108 Big chain of food stores
109 Has a hunch
112 "Hogwash!"
116 French pals
117 After taxes
118 Correct copy
119 Pinot, e.g.
120 Filmmaker Kazan
121 Panache
122 Pork cut
125 Graceful tree
126 Fashion inits.
127 Lav in a pub

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SALOME'S STARS

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Although you're getting kudos and other positive reactions to your suggestions, don't let the cheers drown out some valid criticisms. It's better to deal with them now rather than later.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Following your keen Bovine intuition pays off as you not only reassess the suggestions that some people are putting in front of you but also their agendas for doing so.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You continue on a high-enthusiasm cycle as a new project that you've assumed takes shape. You're also buoyed by the anticipation of receiving some good news about a personal matter.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Your eagerness to immerse yourself in your new assignment is understandable. But be careful that you don't forget to take care of a pressing personal situation as well.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) This is a good time to learn a new skill that could give the clever Cat an edge in an upcoming competition for workplace opportunities. On another note, enjoy the arts this weekend with someone special.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) You could risk creating an impasse if you insist on expecting more from others than they're prepared to give. Showing flexibility in what you'll accept could prevent a stalemate.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Although you can weigh all the factors of a dispute to find an agreeable solution for others, you might need the skilled input of someone you trust to help you deal with an ongoing situation.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) The good news is that your brief period of self-doubt turns into a positive "I can do anything" attitude by midweek. The better news is that you'll soon be able to prove it.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) This is a good time for Sagittarians to start making travel plans while you can still select from a wide menu of choices and deals -- and not be forced to settle for leftovers.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Like your zodiac sign, the sure-footed Goat, you won't allow obstacles in your path to keep you from reaching your goal. Don't be surprised by who asks to tag along with you.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Let your head dominate over your heart as you consider the risks that might be involved in agreeing to be a friend's co-signer or otherwise acting as their backup in a financial matter.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Resolve to close the door and let your voicemail take your phone calls while you finish up a task before the end-of-week deadline. Then go out and enjoy a fun-filled weekend!

BORN THIS WEEK: Your capacity for care and compassion helps bring comfort to others. You could serve as a reliable foundation to many.

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questions. Your privacy is important to us. Let's protect it together.

As always, our programs and events are free and open to everyone. For more information, please visit us at 7 Barstow Street, online at www.mattapoissettlibrary.org, or call the library at 508-758-4171.

Summer Programs at the MAC

Registration for all summer camps at the Marion Art Center will open to MAC Members on Friday, **January 30**, and to nonmembers on Friday, **February 13**.

ArtStart returns to the MAC for four weeks this summer. ArtStart is the MAC's summer art program for children ages 4 1/2 to 9 years, offered in June and July each year. ArtStart teachers are specialists in music, dance, theater, and art, most of whom teach throughout the year and are professionals in their fields. Activities include arts and crafts, theater, music, games, and storytelling.

The schedule for 2026 is:

Session 1 Monday, June 29 - Friday, July 3

Session 2 Monday, July 6 - Friday, July 10

Session 3 Monday, July 13 - Friday, July 17

Session 4 Monday, July 20 - Friday, July 24

The cost is: MAC Members: \$275 Nonmembers: \$315. More information is available at: marionartcenter.org/artstart.

Dungeons & Dragons: Our participants are immersed in a week-long journey of creative storytelling and thrilling improvisation with the Guild of Imagination's five-day Dungeons & Dragons program. Players will craft their own unique hero and embark on a fantastical adventure. With a focus on encouraging creativity, teamwork, and problem solving, Dungeons & Dragons ignites imaginations and nurtures storytelling skills. This unforgettable experience will forge friendships in a safe and supportive environment and create memories that will last a lifetime. Sessions run in late July and early August for ages 10-15. Learn more at marionartcenter.org/d-and-d.

All Things Art is an immersive weeklong program which takes place in late summer and is geared toward young artists ages 10-15. During their time in the Art Studio, young artists will experiment with a number of practices, techniques and media such as drawing, sculpting, printmaking, fiber arts, working with clay, and more. Learn how to talk about art making and what inspires one's creative choices.

The All Things Art Schedule for 2026:

Session 1 - Monday, August 3 - Friday, August 7;

Session 2 - Monday, August 10 - Friday, August

14.

Cost: MAC Members: \$275 Non-members: \$315, plus a \$45 materials fee per student each week. Classes meet in the MAC Studio 9:00 am to 12:30 pm each day. For more information and to register: marionartcenter.org/all-things-art.

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and free meet and greet!**



All Things Theater is a weeklong theater intensive for preteens and teens ages 10-15. Young actors will learn from several instructors, many of whom are professional artists working in their fields. This interactive afternoon theater camp will showcase multiple facets of theater craft both on stage and behind the scenes. Activities may include acting, improvisation, costume creation, stage management, tech, and movement. Monday-Friday in the MAC Theater 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm each day. The 2026 Schedule is:

Session 1 - Monday, July 27 through Friday, July 31

Session 2 - Monday, August 10 - Friday, August 14
The cost for MAC Members is \$265 and for

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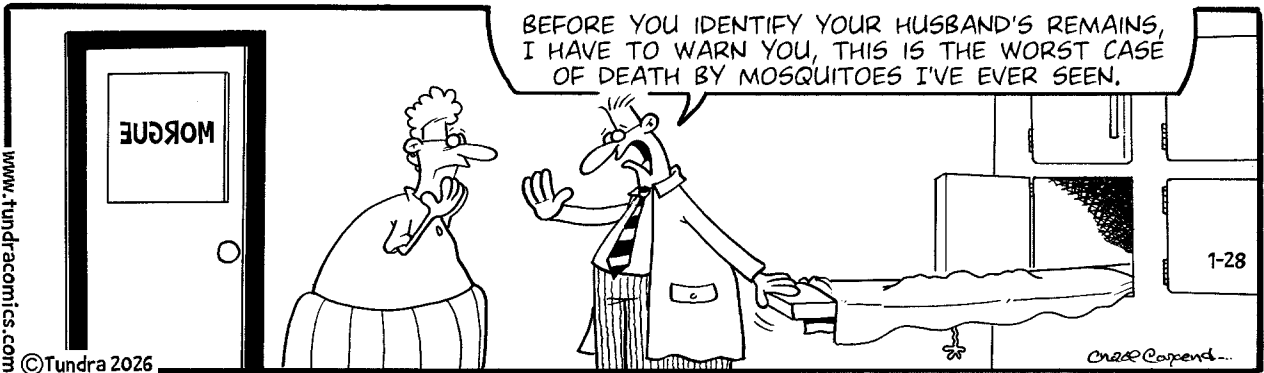
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Tundra
by Chad Carpenter
www.tundracomics.com



Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



nonmembers it is \$305. For registration and more information go to marionartcenter.org/all-things-theater.

Mattapoissett Woman's Club Scholarships

The Mattapoissett Woman's Club has announced two \$2,500 scholarships available to Mattapoissett residents who are high school seniors planning to continue full-time studies at the college level.

Scholarships are available in the guidance offices at Old Rochester Regional High School, Bishop Stang High School, Tabor Academy, Old Colony Vocational Technical High School, Bristol County Agricultural High School, and online at www.mattapoissettwomansclub.org (see Scholarships). Applications must be postmarked on or before **March 31**. Incomplete submissions or those received after the deadline will not be considered.

Our scholarships are made possible by fundraising events in our community. Membership in the Mattapoissett Woman's Club is open to any woman interested in furthering and supporting the philanthropic, academic, civic, and social goals of the organization.

Upcoming Events at the Elizabeth Taber Library

Save the date for Take Your Child to the Library Day on Saturday, **February 7**. Crafts, storytime, and more, between 10:00 am and 3:00 pm.

Join the Banned Book Club on Tuesday, **February 10** at their new time, 1:00 pm, to discuss John Green's "Looking For Alaska," the most banned book since 2021.

Swipe Right, **February 10** at 6:00 pm: Join us for our 2nd Annual Romance Readers night. Librarians will be sharing their favorite romance reads, as well as reading some of our favorite experts out loud. Valentine's crafts and treats to follow. This is a free event and open to all 18+ please RSVP on our website or by calling the library.

Join the Cozy Cup on **February 11** and **February 25** as they discuss M.C. Beaton's "Death of a Valentine". As always, coffee and tea are provided.

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 or email the library at ETLibrary@sailsinc.org. 8 Spring Street Marion, MA 02738. 508-748-1252.

ArtWeek SouthCoast

ArtWeek SouthCoast, the region's collaborative arts festival celebrating creativity across Southeastern Massachusetts, is gearing up for its 2026 return in May, and the newly launched website is now live at artweeksouthcoast.org. Artists, cultural organizations, municipalities, local businesses, and community groups are invited to submit events for inclusion in this year's festival schedule at artweeksouthcoast.org/submit-your-event.

ArtWeek SouthCoast takes place **May 8 thru**



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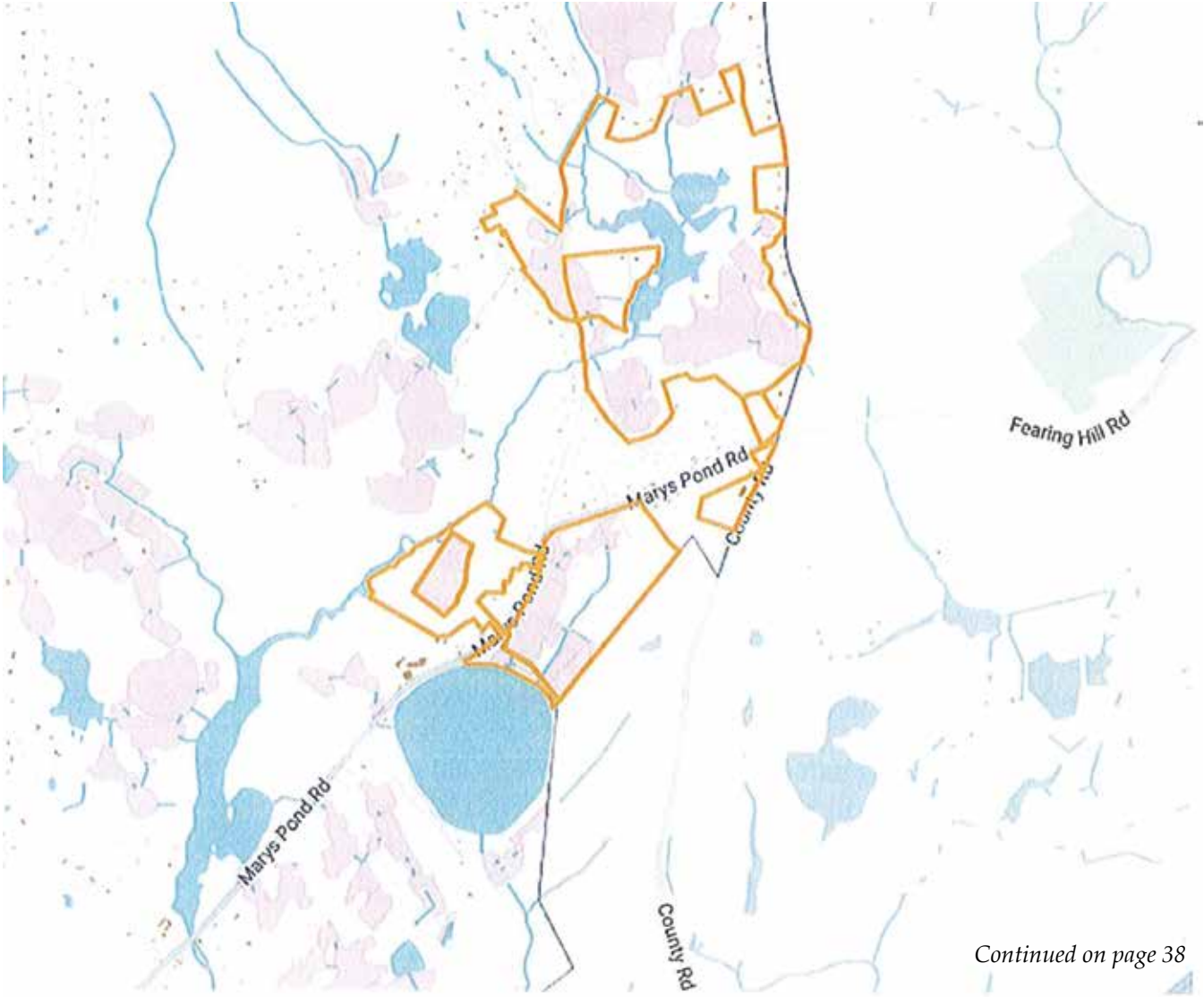


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LEGAL NOTICES	LEGAL NOTICES	LEGAL NOTICES
<p>TOWN OF MATTAPOISETT ROAD CLOSURE PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>The owners of Harbor Acres Lane are closing this road to public on February 11, 2026. William E. Mansfield 1/22, 1/29</p> <hr/> <p>TOWN OF MATTAPOISETT CONSERVATION COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING</p> <p>The Mattapoisett Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on Monday, February 9, 2026 at 6:30 pm in the Mattapoisett Town Hall on the Notice of Intent submitted by Stephen Vaites (Easement Holder), Byrne Avenue and Shell Beach Road, Mattapoisett, MA, Assessors Map 12A. The applicant proposes the clearing of vegetation to a maximum width of 14-feet as described in a previous Superseding Order of Conditions, dated 2/25/2009, DEP SE 44-1009. 1/29</p> <hr/> <p>TOWN OF MATTAPOISETT MATTAPOISETT FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY NOTICE OF INVITATION FOR BIDS</p> <p>The Mattapoisett Free Public Library is soliciting bids for the replacement of the</p>	<p>flooring in the lower-level children's area totaling approximately 5,500 square feet. Project will include removal and disposal of existing flooring, preparation work of the subfloor, and installation of commercial grade carpet tiles, LVT and cove base. Bid documents will be available beginning January 23, 2026, at 9:00 am by email to Katie Stephanian, at kstephanian@mattapoisett.gov. A mandatory site visit will be held February 10, 2026 at 1:00 pm. Bids are due February 24, 2026 at 12:00 pm. 1/29</p> <hr/> <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"> • 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"> o 0 Mary's Pond Road, also known as 	<p>Map 12 Lot 7_0 o 0 Mary's Pond Road, also known as Map 12 Lot 7C_0 o 0 Mary's Pond Road, also known as Map 10 Lot 1_0 o 0 Mary's Pond Road, also known as Map 10 Lot 2_0 o 35 County Road, also known as Map 10 Lot 3G_0 o 73 County Road, also known as Map 10 Lot 5_0 o 711 Mary's Pond Road, also known as Map 16 Lot 19G_0 o 0 High Street, also known as Map 16 Lot 13_0</p> <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 https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89669049224 Meeting ID: 896 6904 9224 Proposed parcels to be rezoned</p> <p>Arnold Johnson, Chairman 1/22, 1/29</p> <hr/>
		

Continued on page 38

May 17 offering opportunities for residents and visitors to experience artists and cultural spaces throughout the region. The festival encourages a wide range of experiences, including hands-on workshops, live performances, gallery exhibitions, open studios, artist talks, family-friendly activities, and behind-the-scenes opportunities that invite the public to connect with the arts in meaningful ways.

"ArtWeek SouthCoast is about making creativity more visible and more connected across our communities," said Patti Rego, Director of Communications and Community Engagement at the SouthCoast Community Foundation, which is leading coordination efforts for the 2026 festival. "The Foundation has long supported arts and culture across the South Coast, and over the past decade, our Creative SouthCoast partnership with the Barr Foundation has deepened that commitment, allowing us to invest more intentionally in the people and places where cultural expression helps communities thrive."

This year's celebration will engage returning partners from Fall River, New Bedford, Dartmouth, Marion, Westport, Fairhaven, Mattapoisett, Somerset, and Wareham, while also welcoming new voices, new communities, and new creative leaders from across Southeastern Massachusetts, including Attleboro, Brockton, Taunton and neighboring cities and towns.

"New Bedford Creative has been involved with ArtWeek SouthCoast from the very beginning, and we continue to be inspired by how it champions the incredible talent of our region," said Margo Saulnier, Director, Creative Strategies at New Bedford Creative. "ArtWeek SouthCoast not only showcases artists - it invites the public to participate, explore, and experience arts and culture in unexpected ways. That sense of access and shared discovery is what makes this festival so impactful for our communities across the South Coast."

Plan Your ArtWeek Experience. With dozens of arts experiences expected across the region, ArtWeek SouthCoast invites the public to start exploring early, mark calendars, and plan their own path through performances, exhibitions, demonstrations, and



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opportunities to connect with local artists and cultural spaces.

"We look forward to this festival each year at the Marion Art Center. The MAC partners with artists and organizations across the South Coast to provide unique, accessible cultural experiences across the region, said Jodi Stevens, Executive Director at the Marion Art Center. During ArtWeek, there's truly something for everyone. From free concerts and creative workshops to performance and movement classes, ArtWeek offers creative experiences for all ages. It is such a privilege to be on the South Coast and to participate in this cultural community."

Events will continue to be added on an ongoing



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TOWN OF ROCHESTER CONSERVATION COMMISSION & TOWN FOREST COMMITTEE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing of the Rochester Conservation Commission will be held on Tuesday, February 3, 2026 at 7:00 pm in the Town Hall Conference Room regarding a Notice of Intent filed by Botelho Custom Homes LLC, 54 Warner Street, Fall River, MA 02720, for property located at 0 Walnut Plain Road, Map 11, Lot 5H. The applicant is seeking permission to alter an area subject to protection under the Wetlands Protection Act and/or Bylaw. The proposed work includes the construction of a single-family home with associated grading and utilities. The applicant's representative is Farland Corp., 154 Huttleston Avenue, Fairhaven, MA 02719.

This hearing is being held under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, MGL Ch. 131, Section 40 and the Town of Rochester Wetlands Protection By-Law.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88346669878>

Meeting ID: 883 4666 9878

Christopher Gerrior, Chairman 1/29

TOWN OF MATTAPOISETT CONSERVATION COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Mattapoisett Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on Monday, February 9, 2026 at 6:30 pm in the Town Hall (in person and remotely via Zoom **) on a Notice of Intent submitted by Mattapoisett Offshore IV LTD, 133 Salt Creek Drive, West Bay, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands. The proposed project is to construct a pool, garage, sports court, porches, replace a deck and landscape. The project is located at 23 Holly Woods Road and is further identified as Lot 171 on Assessor Map 2.

**Contact concomm@mattapoisett.net for the Zoom Meeting Information. 1/29

TOWN OF MARION CONSERVATION COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Marion Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at 7:05 pm at the Marion Police Department Conference Room 550 Mill Street, also available via Microsoft Teams (Remote Participation Option), on a Request for Determination of Applicability, submitted by Ryan Burke, for the

LEGAL NOTICES

installation of water services from Dexter Road to two parcels on Seahorse Way.

The site is further identified as Lots 77D & 77E on Marion Assessors' Map 5A. Plans are available at the Town House Annex for review. Matthew Shultz, Chair

*Please contact Doug Guey-Lee at dgueylee@marionma.gov for the Microsoft Teams link and for meeting information. The meeting will be live streamed on ORCTV. 1/29

TOWN OF MARION CONSERVATION COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Marion Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at 7:10 pm at the Marion Police Department Conference Room 550 Mill Street, also available via Microsoft Teams (Remote Participation Option), on a Request for Determination of Applicability, submitted by Hope Sidman, for the demolition of a guest house and the construction of two additions at 137 Allen's Point Road.

The site is further identified as Lot 43C on Marion Assessors' Map 6. Plans are available at the Town House Annex for review.

Matthew Shultz, Chair

*Please contact Doug Guey-Lee at dgueylee@marionma.gov for the Microsoft Teams link and

Continued on page 40

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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

Alex Schinas	January 29
Ben Briggs	January 29
Bob Dupont	January 29
Maxx Wolski	January 29
Simone Chiarito	January 29
William A. Crampton	January 29
Larry Brewster	January 30
Marissa Ortiz	January 30
Sherica Goldstein	January 30
Archer DeCicco-Carey	January 31
Avery Peck	January 31
Michael Sweeney	January 31
Sandra Assad	January 31
Anyar Carle- Ericson	February 1
Caelyn Cardoza	February 1
Jeremiah Adams	February 1
Ethan Kakley	February 2
Frank Lopez	February 2
Matthew Williams	February 2
Cameron Auger	February 4
Dorothy Zell	February 4
Hudson Kaiser	February 4
James Auger	February 4
John Carle	February 4

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



basis as submissions come in. To view the evolving schedule and learn more, visit artweekssouthcoast.org.

From the Files of the Rochester Historical Society By Connie Eshbach

Rochester's early settlers led lives that we would find difficult. No running up to Friend's Market at Plumb Corner to get a forgotten supper item or to Wareham Crossing for a new shirt. Pretty much anything you ate or wore had to be grown by you or a neighbor willing to barter.

One crop grown in Rochester in those early days was flax. The cultivated flax plant, scientifically named "*Linum usitatissimum*" by Carl Linneaus in his book "Species Plantarum" (no doubt a big seller) in 1753, has been grown and used since the 5th millennium B.C. The word, flax, is used to denote both the plant and its spun fiber. The cultivation of it was introduced to North America by the colonists settling there. Flax likes certain growing areas, one of which is in the soil just above the water line of a cranberry bog.

This plant is quite interesting as well as being essential in the 1800's. It has a fairly short growing season and is harvested soon after flowering and forming seed capsules. This is usually in early summer. The plant which reaches 3 ft. is pulled completely out of the soil.

The flax plant is full of edible seeds but was

grown primarily for its long fibers which after much preparation could be spun into thread (yarn) and then woven into linen cloth, an important colonial commodity.

Linen was absorbent, washable and durable, so it was perfect for everything from underclothes to men's shirts.

The harvesting is the easiest part of getting flax thread. Once the plant is pulled from the garden there are several steps to get the flax to the flax wheel pictured here with its distaff and recently donated to the museum by Pam and Orrin Robinson.

After drying the plants by laying them out in the sun, they need to be "retted". Retting is the process of breaking down the pectins that bind the fibers. The most common way to do this was "pond retting". Placed in a shallow part of a pond the water would basically rot the plant, loosen the unwanted fibers and as a by-product



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release a "prodigious odor."

L.C. Humphrey, in his papers, says that in Rochester, the flax would be taken to Mary's Pond for this process to take place. Its clear bottom made it an ideal location and there are/were old stones on the south side that shows where the flax was placed.

Once softened, it had to be again dried in the sun until it was "bone dry." The flax was then beaten against a board with a blunt wooden knife. A contraption called a "flax break" was used. Next a "scutching knife" was used to "scutch" or break out the woody stems.

The next tool was a "hetchel". This tool came in sizes from large to small and looked somewhat like the wool comb in our exhibit. These were used to remove the remaining woody stems and short fibers, gradually refining the fibers. As the combing process continued, discarded fibers were saved to be fire starters or to be made into rope and even socks.

When the fibers were smooth and start to look like hair (source of term, flaxen haired), they were finally ready to be spun into the thread used to weave linen cloth. The distaff on the wheel held the flax and spinners would wet their hand to ensure smooth not fuzzy yarn.

Obviously, it was linen's durability that made it worth all the work entailed in making it. Colonials had few pieces of clothing and wore them for many years.

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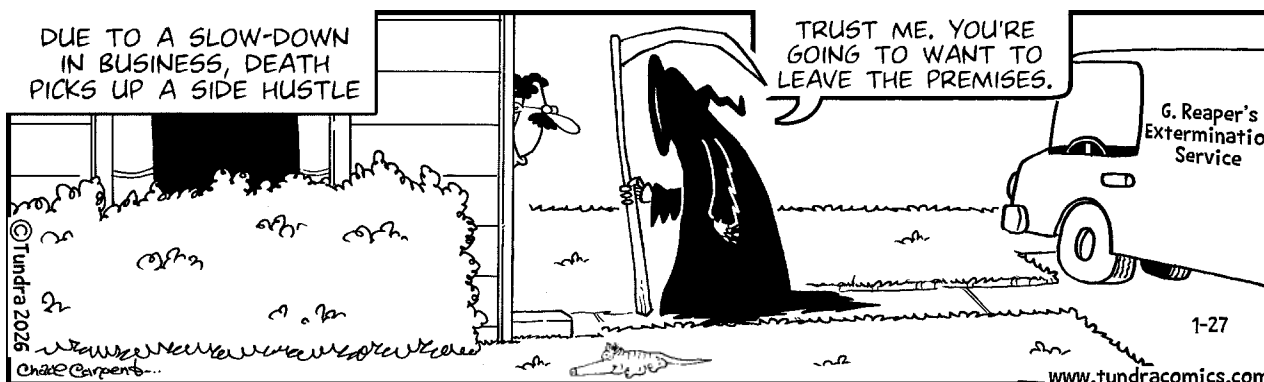
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Sunday 12-8pm

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Weekly and Daily Specials on Social Media

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<p>for meeting information. The meeting will be live streamed on ORCTV. 1/29</p> <p>-----</p> <p>REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS OWNER'S PROJECT MANAGER (OPM) MATTAPOISETT HIGHWAY BUILDING RENO- VATION PROJECT</p> <p>The Town of Mattapoisett is soliciting proposals from qualified project management firms to act as the Owner's Project Manager (OPM) for the Renovation of the Mattapoisett Highway Department Building. The Project and this OPM engagement are subject to award by the Mattapoisett Select Board (the Awarding Authority). Funding is available for the project through the bidding and construction phases.</p> <p>The fee for OPM services through the bidding/construction phases will be subject to negotiations after award. A fee proposal is required to be sent by sealed envelope to the Town Administrator once there has been notification of selection as a finalist. The fee shall be expressed as a lump sum not to exceed amount, including the costs of all sub-consultants and reimbursable expenses. The Town anticipates negotiating a fee for the balance of services through completion of the project to be in the range of 3.0% - 4.0% of the total construction cost.</p> <p>The Town reserves the right to select the firm it determines is most qualified based on the information submitted, to reject any or all proposals, to waive any formality, and to choose a consultant determined to be able to perform in the best interests of the Town. The Town may, at its discretion, continue with the applicant as the Owner's Project Manager of Record in the construction and close out phase of the Project for selected recommendations in accordance with MGL Chapter 7C, § 51(h) and subsequently provide Bidding Assistance and Construction Administration Services to the construction project.</p> <p>Bid documents are available beginning Monday, January 26, 2026 at 9:00 am by emailing kstephanian@Mattapoisett.gov. Questions regarding this RFQ must be submitted in writing by Thursday, February 5, 2026 at 12:00 pm to kstephanian@Mattapoisett.gov. RFQ submissions are due before Friday, February 13, 2026 at 12:00 pm to 16 Main Street, P.O. Box 435, Mattapoisett, MA 02739. 1/29</p> <p>-----</p>	<p>Property for Rent-Great for Contractors or Boat Storage!</p> <p>Just under an acre of open land available for rent-perfect if you need a place to park equipment, store tools, keep boats, or just have some extra space.</p> <p>What it's good for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Contractor Equipment *Trailers & Trucks *Boat Storage *General Outdoor Storage <p>About the property:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Almost 1 acre of open, flat land *Easy access for bigger vehicles *Conveniently located in the Marion Industrial Park Area right off Route 6 <p>If you've been needing extra space, this will be a great fit.</p> <p>Reach out for more details or pricing! 508-802-2665</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Screen Repair Windows-Doors-Sliders 508-207-3949</p> <p>-----</p> <p>To Do List Specialist Get your list done Home/Business repair & maintenance Call Lee Lombard reg & insured 508-207-3949</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Trucks & car\$ wanted Same day removal - foreign & domestic 508-642-9128</p> <p>-----</p> <p>WANTED DEAD or ALIVE! old classic cars & trucks Louie: 508-951-1374</p> <p>-----</p> <p>WANTED junk cars & trucks for salvage & parts. Paying cash. Free pickup. Heavy equipment. 508-763-4185 cell 508-524-3741 DM Auto</p> <p>-----</p> <p>YOUR HANDYMEN Clean outs, dump runs, demolition, interior/ exterior, dump truck service, pressure washing, & more. Insured 774-762-0016</p> <p>-----</p>	<p>Classified Policy: All Classified Advertisements must be prepaid and can be placed at our office or on line at www.wanderer.com.</p> <p>Classified Deadline: Tuesday at 10:00 am for Thursday's paper.</p> <p>Classified Rates: Classified Advertisements are \$8.00 for 3 lines or less per week. Each additional line is \$1.00 per week. There are an average of six words per line. Bold is an addition \$1 per week.</p> <p>Classified Guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *As a general rule, there are approximately six words per line in a standard Classified Ad. *Blank lines cannot be used in Classified Advertisements. *There is only upper case and lower case lettering. *No graphics may be used in Classified Advertisements. *Classified Ads cannot be placed on hold. *Classified Ads cannot be taken over the phone. <p>Mailing Classified Ads: Ads can be mailed with payment to P.O. Box 102, Mattapoisett, MA 02739</p> <p>Placing Classified Ads On-line: Ads can be placed on line at: www.wanderer.com</p> <p>Dropping Off Classified Advertisements: Ads can be dropped by our office at 55 County Road in Mattapoisett, Monday, Thurs, Fri -9am to 3pm; Tuesday 9am to noon</p> <p>Payment Policy: All sales final, we do not offer credits or refunds.</p> <p>Legal Advertisements: * Legal Ads are \$1.00 per line, at a minimum of \$25. per ad.</p>

Tundra
by Chad Carpenter



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 6:00 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 Mattapoisett Library through the month of February, 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 with questions.

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The Rochester Republican Town Committee

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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.

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



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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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SCRAMBLERS

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rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

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TODAY'S WORD



"Well, it's that time again to regret you
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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? 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.

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.

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.

All Marion, Mattapoisett, and Rochester children who will reach the age of 5 before September 1, 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 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

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/each

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The Wanderer

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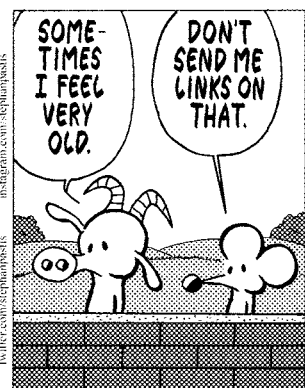
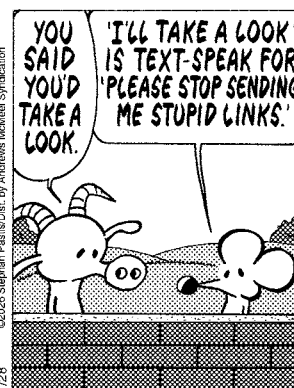
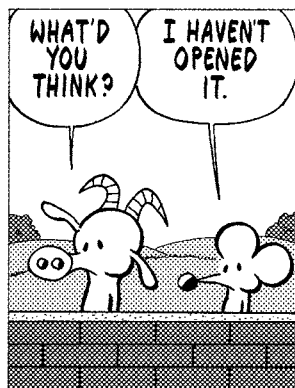
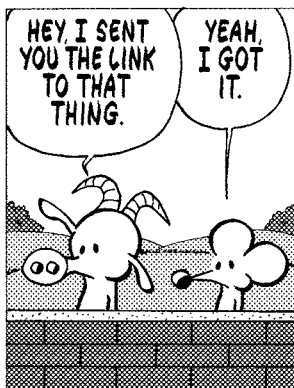
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PEARLS BEFORE SWINE by Stephan Pastis



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.

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. 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 excursion.



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Christian McCullough / Michael Bichsel - Owners

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.

Marion Vaccination Information

The Marion Board of Health would like to let residents know that they still have flu and COVID-19 vaccines available.

If you are in need of in-home vaccination appointments, these are administered through the Marion Community EMS Program.

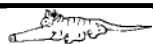
Please contact Maureen at the Board of Health at 508-748-3530 then press #1 if you are interested in scheduling an appointment for a vaccination.

REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS			See past listing on our website: www.wanderer.com		
Buyer(s)	Seller(s)	Address	City	Date	Price
Leonards Pond Property LLC	R Hiller LLC	0 Marys Pond Rd	Rochester	01/08/2026	850,000.00
Dandreta, Avery A TR Hydrangea, Hill IT 2019	Dejesus, Henry V Jr Dejesus, Judith	0 Converse Rd	Marion	01/08/2026	399,900.00
Gingras, Elizabeth	Maguire, Susan M	150 Ryder Rd	Rochester	01/09/2026	720,000.00



Local Tides

Day	Date	High		Low	
		a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
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
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		Full Moon		February 1st	
		Last Quarter		February 9th	
		New Moon		February 17th	
		First Quarter		February 24th	



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 and Click on *I Found the Aardvark*

In the January 22, 2026 edition the Aardvark was on page 22

PUZZLE ANSWERS

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

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

SCRAMBLERS

solution

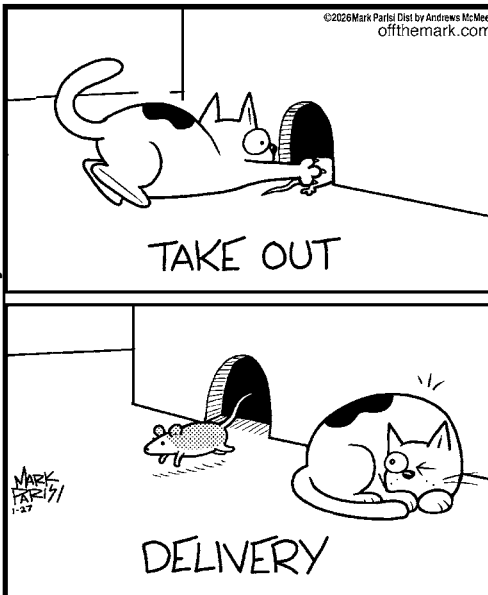
1. Imply; 2. Shade;
3. Wallow; 4. Attire

Today's Word
WEALTHY

Sudoku Answer

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

by Mark Parisi off the mark



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Bacon

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Roast Beef

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Macaroni Salad

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BBQ Beans

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Crumbled Feta Cheese

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6 oz. Pkg. Sliced
Boar's Head
Pepperoni

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SALE EFFECTIVE: Friday, January 30, to Thursday, February 5, 2026

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Zesty
Lemons

59¢

1 lb. Pkg.
Baby-Cut Carrots

\$1²⁹



SEE OTHER SIDE FOR ADDITIONAL GREAT SAVINGS THIS WEEK!