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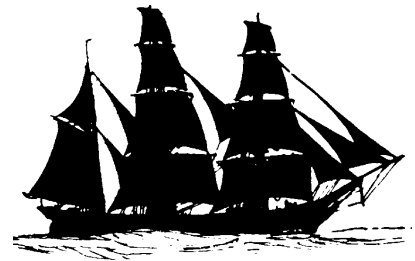
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Is The Cold Snap Over Yet?

By Sam Bishop

No. Sorry, but not quite yet. The yearly sighting of the famed polar vortex is here for a little longer, which is also primarily to blame for the nor'easter a couple weeks ago.

Temperatures across the Tri-Town look to peak midweek at just around freezing temperature and then take a dive again over the weekend. Since the start of the new year, we've received nearly 2 feet of snow. This weekend also has a bit of snow predicted, but currently no more than an inch, so just a dusting over the white mountain on the corner of your driveway. No, we are not yet entirely sure how they time these things to happen exclusively on weekends.

Luckily, the National Weather Service forecasts temperatures to breach freezing temperature and climb mightily into the high-30s, subtly diminishing the grandeur of the previously mentioned white mountain. However, and I am sorry for this, The Weather Channel is predicting the warmer weather will bring rain, ice, and snow starting Friday, February 13 and maintaining stormy weather on and off for a number of days after. Though, as we all know by now, forecasts like these are difficult to predict and vary wildly as the day approaches.

Be safe and have fun from us at *The Wanderer*. If you wish to curse the weather, direct your aim towards that groundhog in Philly. The first day of spring, the vernal equinox, will be on March 20.

Thoughts on...

Bomb Cyclones, Nor'easters and Cabin Fever

By Dick Morgado

While I sit here by the fire embraced by a case of cabin fever, I am gazing out my front window at 10 feet of frozen snow (I exaggerate) the result of "Fern," a bomb

On the Cover: Sending warm thoughts, some ladies from Harbor Beach staying warm and enjoying the sun at a beach in Englewood, Florida. Photo courtesy Ann Williams. You can share your travel photos with our readers, too. All you have to do is take along a copy of *The Wanderer* (or your favorite aardvark) and submit your photos by email to: news@wanderer.com. You can also drop photos off at our office at 55 County Road (Route 6) in Mattapoisett.

cyclone storm, that dropped too much snow on the South Coast. My memory... what's left of it... hearkens back to the giant, infamous Blizzard of 1978. They didn't name snowstorms back then, only hurricanes, so the weather prognosticators settled on an old-fashioned blizzard, though Connecticut called it "Larry." Mother Nature was in a bad mood that February, dropping nearly 3 feet on southern New England over three days, only two weeks after a 24-inch nor'easter deposited 24 inches of the white stuff, a total of 5 feet destined for the record books.

I recall cross-country skiing off the top railing of our back deck into the woods behind our house. We were living away from the hustle and bustle of winter in Mattapoisett. My bride was pregnant with our first child and I worked from home, thankfully because shortly after then Governor Dukakis declared a state of emergency, shutting down the entire state for a week. Businesses were ordered to close except for essential services. Everyone was told to stay home. (Dukakis, who later ran for President on the tails of his storm leadership and lost, became a professor at Northeastern University. On my

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morning commute to teach at a nearby college, I would see Dukakis... who lived in Brookline... walking carrying a briefcase, a plastic bag, and a stick with a nail in it picking up litter along his route. A near president picking up litter! You can't make this stuff up.)

Despite the order, nobody stayed home. Private vehicles were not allowed on the streets, but nothing stopped the populous from coming out in droves to experience life in this unusual winter wonderland.

We lived about 2 miles from the village where the only grocery store remained open. The entire neighborhood grabbed their galoshes, snowshoes and backpacks, and ventured out on foot to get whatever provisions were available for a week of isolation.

The main road from our house to the village was a steep downhill offering a pleasant walk and fun rides on sleds and toboggans. The trip back, not so much... uphill... with those sleds and toboggans loaded down with available can goods, bread and gallons of milk.

It took me three days to shovel our driveway. I was young and strong and too poor to own a snowblower. On TV we saw cars stacked in the snow as if a bunch of Legos had been dropped into a box of cotton. It took weeks for the roads to be cleared and those drivers to retrieve their cars. Eventually life returned to a semblance of normal.

Our little bouncing baby boy, born a few months after the historic storm, is now a grown man nearing 50 and works in the entertainment industry. A second child came along, a girl, two and one half later years (the snow had melted). My bride and I are in our eightieth year! Who would have thunk it.

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

2026 Winter Olympians from Massachusetts By Sam Bishop

The 2026 Winter Olympics in Milan and Cortina, Italy hold their opening ceremony this Friday, though some games have already begun. The US Olympic Team is sending over 232 athletes, with a fairly even 115 women

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and 117 men, with ages ranging from 15 to 54. Of those 232, 28 are originally from Massachusetts, attended school here, or currently live here. Here are the five of our fellow Yankees who currently reside in the state, proudly searching for the Dunkin' Donuts di Milano, should you not know who to root for:

Spencer Akira Howe of Norwood (Figure Skating), Emily Chan of Norwood (Figure Skating), Jessie Diggins of Wakefield (Cross-Country Skiing), Zack DiGregorio of Medway (Luge – Men's Doubles), and Maxim Naumov of Norwood (Figure Skating).

The opening ceremony in Milan will take place live at 2:00 pm on Friday, though NBC/Peacock will also show their own live coverage of the event at 8:00 pm.

Artemis II Launch Delayed

By Sam Bishop

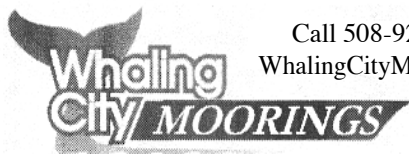
We reported last week in our "What's Up There?" column, rather excitedly I might add, that the launch of the spacecraft Artemis II would take place on Saturday, February 7 or someday soon after. NASA has officially delayed that launch until March, though no official date has been announced yet.

Astronauts were already in isolation for mankind's first voyage back to vicinity of the Moon if over half-a-century, but upon regular testing and filling of the SLS (Space Launch System) craft with liquid propellant, a leak was discovered. Troubleshooting was unable to close the leak in a quick-enough time to ease worries, coupled with the discovery that a valve on the Orion crew module required some adjusting and impeded the craft's pressurization. NASA stated cold weather had an effect on the SLS, as well as multiple other pieces of equipment on the ground or launch pad.

NASA's Rachel Kraft said, "Crew safety will

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remain the highest priority, ensuring NASA astronauts Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover, and Christina Koch, and CSA (Canadian Space Agency) astronaut Jeremy Hansen, return home at the end of their mission."

An Assessment of Canada

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, many elements within the Continental Army, as well as the Continental Congress, are already drafting



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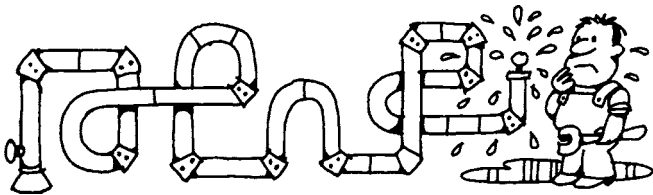
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plans to reinforce northern armies to again strike at Canada. However, other elements realize the folly of another such attempt, including General George Washington, who is currently focused on taking Boston. Colonel Henry Knox arrived in Cambridge from Ticonderoga, completing his "noble train of artillery" and reenforcing Washington's besieging army with necessary artillery to break the hold.

On January 28, 1776, in his General Orders, Washington informs militiamen, those men not official part of the Continental Army but are serving in private bands for-profit, will, "since the first of January, their pay will be the same as those officers." In other words, soldiers in a militia group will receive the same pay as those in the standing army, maintaining they follow instruction from the chain of command, not steal, and supply their own arms.

That same day, Washington congratulates Captain John Manley of the Continental Navy, sailing the schooner *Hancock*, of his capture of two British transport ships, the *Happy Return* and *Norfolk* off the coast of Plymouth. He also says, subtly highlighting the American's lack of resources and equipment, "You may be assured that every attention will be paid to any reasonable request of yours, and that you shall have the command of a stronger vessel of war, but as it will take up some time before such a one can be fitted out, my desire is, that you continue in the *Hancock*." The Continental Navy is active, however, and is slowly growing into more of a headache for the British since its official formation the past October.

On January 30, Washington writes to Major General Charles Lee who is stationed in New York City. He warns Lee that the British General Henry Clinton has departed Boston with 400 to 500 men, whom he fears will head to New York. He tells Lee to prepare for an assault on the city, and subtly notes that, with men being shifted north to bolster another attempt on Quebec, Lee may be called upon by Congress to head north as well.

Sticking with Canada, on January 31, Washington writes President of the Continental Congress John Hancock notifying the Congress that, though he believes operations in Canada are of "great importance," he signals he, "should be happy, were it in my power to detach a battalion from this camp, but it cannot be done." With the General eyeing up a potential capture on Boston, he is declaring his troops must stay and cannot be sent north with others. He adds that his own efforts and pressure towards the governments of Connecticut and New Hampshire have been fruitful, seeing many new reinforcements raised.

He notes supply issues, especially gunpowder. He applauds Congress' efforts to manufacture or acquire more and says, "It is scarcely possible to describe the disadvantages an army must labor under, when not provided with a sufficient supply of this necessity."

On February 1, Washington pens a letter to Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Reed, giving a frank

assessment of their military defeat in Quebec. He says, "The account given of the behavior of the men under General Montgomery is exactly consistent to the opinion I have formed of these people." He notes Continental soldiers' prowess when defending or guarding behind a parapet, wall, or other shelter, but adds "but I am as well convinced as if I had seen it, that they will not march boldly up to a work - or stand exposed in a plain." He is not wholly lacking in faith of his men but highlighting the lack of discipline and experience they have. "The men must be brought to face danger," he concludes. With that, he notes his men must march forth into Boston and destroy the British encamped within.

In the following days, Washington received words from both the Governor of Connecticut Jonathan Trumbull and the Treasurer of Virginia Robert Carter Nicholas. Money is scarce and with the raising of additional troops to reinforce the battalions in Canada, the colonies' treasuries are empty. Nicholas says Virginia is unable to keep up with the "expenses incurred by the northern colonies." He has had to rely on his own funds and extending his own personal credit to pay for the troops.

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What Does The Doctor Say?

By Dr. Edward Hoffer

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supplement has been found in a scientific trial to prolong life. Resveratrol was all the rage until trials showed no benefit.

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When you see a product pushed by a celebrity or "influencer," remember that they are usually either selling the product or being paid to tout its benefits. Keep your money in your pocket.

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

'Orchid Fever' amid Arctic Temps

The Seaside Gardener

By Laura McLean

Last weekend, just before the snow moved in, I slipped away on an exotic escape – no passport required. A short drive to Hyannis brought my friends and me to the Cape and Islands Orchid Society Show, where winter vanished the moment we stepped into the Emerald Conference Center. Suddenly, it was warm, lush, and anything but January.

Stepping into the show felt like crossing into another world. The inside of a rainforest: earthy, humid, and slightly mysterious. Amid the dense vegetation spilling across the tables, buds and blooms of delicate orchids gazed outward. Some shy, others brazen – meeting the curious eyes fixed upon them. Concentrating my gaze on a single flower, I was transfixed, like a plant hunter scouring the forest for the perfect bloom.

That thought barely lingered as we moved through the show, swept along by the sheer profusion of flowers and the inventively designed tableaux. Orchids possess a distinct voluptuousness – a wordless "hey there" that seems to radiate from every bloom. Surrounded by what is the most diverse group of plants in the world, my head was nearly spinning.

The sheer abundance, paired with the seemingly

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endless variety of perfect specimens, was all-consuming. Orchids, especially Phalaenopsis, Zygopetalum, and Cymbidium, display markings worthy of modern art: stippled, striped, speckled. These patterns create effects that range from delicate to bold, even constellation-like, while the color and textural combinations, sometimes layered in surprising ways, can leave you literally breathless.

Surrounded by so many vibrant, intricate, and unapologetically showy plants, I was reminded of past shows and of a familiar truth: Orchids en masse can be a little overwhelming.

"Check out the ones from Ecuador!" an off-Cape friend advised us as we crossed into one of the nether ballrooms where plants were on sale. Each of the ladies from this group had succumbed to the temptation and were bearing their purchases with a plastic sheath over them for protection.

The show's central theme, Orchids at Play, wove the blooms into a whimsical, playground-like setting, complete with a kiddie pool, slide, gazebo, and merry-go-round - an imaginative world utterly at odds with the winter scene outside.

During our tour, I thought of the book *The Orchid Thief* by Susan Orlean: a narrative non-fiction work investigating a bizarre legal case surrounding stolen rare ghost orchids in Florida, driven by themes of obsession, passion, and unique subcultures. The film "Adaptation" is based on the book, and the author herself praised the film for capturing the "spirit" and themes of her book, despite wild divergences from the original material.

A show-goer mentioned another must-read: *Orchid Fever: A Horticultural Tale of Love, Lust, and Lunacy* by Eric Hansen. The book is described as a "humorous and adventurous non-fiction book that explores the obsessive world of orchids, from the jungles of Borneo to European nurseries, featuring smugglers, eccentric breeders, and bizarre plant politics."

One indispensable book on orchid cultivation is William Cullina's *Understanding Orchids: An Uncomplicated Guide to Growing the World's Most Exotic Plants*. This comprehensive guide for all levels of growers covers



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A little bit about orchids... Cymbidiums are among the easier orchids to collect. They like a temperature between 50 to 55 degrees and can even go to 48 degrees. Bud initiation occurs when it is exposed to the sun. There's not much you can do wrong after that. The plants are agreeable to being put out in summer. Ideally, you want plenty of sun on the top but cooler roots. Clay pots heat up and too much exposure to the sun will dry out or burn the roots. It is best to put them in a group, often surrounding them with other plants to shade the pots.

These are hungry feeders, and an expert once told

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me it is recommended to administer fertilizer every two weeks in summer. It's good also to finish out the summer with a blossom booster fertilizer (lower in nitrogen and higher in phosphorus and potash) two to three times at the end of the summer and early fall to "get the thickness and fullness of blossom." Watering is also key as these plants grow in a medium of bark. They also like being sprayed over – it cools the tops and reduces red spiders.



Another good "starter" orchid is the Oncidium. This is an extraordinarily large and diverse New World genus with an equally diverse number of habitats. Oncidiums may originate anywhere from sea level in the tropics to the high elevations of the Andes. Light, temperatures and water requirements vary depending on the species. I ended up purchasing one called Wild Willie "Pacific Bingo" which bears a strong resemblance to "Dancing Lady" in habit and appearance. It has a dancing lady-esque appearance with long, arching, and often branching spikes that hold many flowers. I hope I can

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The Cape & Islands Orchid Society, an affiliate of the American Orchid Society, is a non-profit organization dedicated to the enjoyment of orchids and spreading understanding of their culture. The annual show is always timed perfectly as we endure the blahs of winter.

"Beauty can be painfully tantalizing, but orchids are not simply beautiful. Many are strange-looking or bizarre, and all of them are ugly when they aren't flowering. They are ancient, intricate living things that have adapted to every environment on earth. They have outlived dinosaurs; they might outlive human beings. They can be hybridized, mutated, crossbred, and cloned. They are at once architectural and fanciful and tough and dainty, a jewel of a flower on a haystack of a plant." – from "The Orchid Thief" by Susan Orlean

Island Wharf Control Transfer?

Marion Select Board

By Sam Bishop

The Marion Select Board met on Tuesday and offered some important updates regarding town projects, fiscal year past performance and future predictions, and the upcoming town meetings, among other things.

Following the pledge and approval of the last meeting's minutes, the board moved to discuss future regulation of Island Wharf with talks mainly focused on parking and the lot between the Music Hall and Maritime Center.



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Marion received custody of Island Wharf in 1901, with the board noting regulation passed by the Marine Resources Commission in 2009 has led to the current arrangement. The Select Board may seek to nullify the article from 2009 and make it so the Select Board itself is solely responsible for Island Wharf. Member Norm Hills said, "In 1901, the area was given to the town exclusively for a public purpose, not commercial," referring to commercial vehicles or heavy equipment often parked in the area. He added, "parking should not be on the green space." Vice Chair John Hoagland replied, "I think we need to be flexible on parking on the weekend," mentioning he wants to keep incentives for people visiting and driving over from the Cape.

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Hills replied that he mostly had an issue with equipment and boats themselves taking up space. Hoagland said, "business is important and work still has to get done."

The Select Board wants to pass these comments and others to the MRC and to open up further discussion by way of getting Island Wharf on their meeting agenda to "come up with something that works, along with the merchants there. It's important they have somewhere to park," Chair Randy Parker affirmed. The board agreed to put in a rough deadline for the end of March for the discussion with MRC to take place. "Something needs to come back from the MRC on how to handle it," Hoagland concluded, noting the creep of the busy summer season.

Next, the board approved some changes and revisions to the Music Hall Regulations and Fees. One of the main changes was for the Music Hall's closing time to be set earlier, from the current 1:00 am to 12:00 am (midnight).

Next, the board moved on to decision regarding a new potential business eyeing up the town. There has been some questioning from a resident regarding the possibility of a fortune-teller business, though there is currently no store front or official application yet. Executive Assistant to the Town Administrator Donna Hemphill mentioned the proposal is a serious one.

It was stressed that it must be a resident of Marion that submits such an application. Neither

Mattapoisett nor Rochester has ever issued a license to a fortune teller, but Wareham gave one out in 2020. The Select Board requested the interested party come to their next meeting to further discuss the possibility with specifics.

A letter from Department of Public Works Director Jody Dickerson was read, where he requested the DPW be permitted to go into a deficit for the removal of snow and ice. Town Administrator Geoff Gorman said this is a regular occurrence when there is heavy snowfall. Approval was granted. At the end of the meeting, Chair Parker said, referring to the DPW's clearing of snow and ice, "They did an A-1, excellent job. Thank you to all of them."

There was then back-to-back presentations from Finance Committee Chair Sean Healy and Finance Director Heather O'Brien on the recap of Fiscal Year 2025, as well as predictions for the upcoming Fiscal Year 2027. For 2025, Marion had \$29,900,000 in revenue, with 79% of that coming from property taxes. Town expenses were at \$27,200,000, showing around \$2,700,000 in surplus. There is currently around \$38,397,000 of total debt being paid back, \$25,000,000 of which is for the Sewer Enterprise Fund, \$7,400,000 for water, and \$5,900,000 for the General Fund.

For FY27, health insurance costs for the town look to be rising between 8-14% every year, though work with an independent auditor identified "significant savings" in this area, Gorman said. It was also mentioned that Old Rochester Regional enrollment is dropping. For grades 7-12, around 285 from Marion.

The town administrator then gave his report. There is a DPW open house scheduled for Friday, February 13 at 1:00 pm. He then moved to further talks regarding ORR. Gorman stated ORR is "significantly in the red" for healthcare costs. He said the ORR School Committee is working with a number of brokers to conduct numerous audits to determine root cause and recommended ways to remedy the currently \$4,500,000 deficit.

"Town Meeting's going to be a school discussion," Hoagland said, adding that the "whistle had been blown"

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on the deficit on December 3 and “nothing has been done.”

Gorman announced that the Special Town Meeting will be held on Monday, March 23 at 6:45 pm, but said he didn’t have the list of articles ready to present. Gorman stated the location for purchasing town stickers such as beach parking, shellfish permits, or other is at the town clerk’s office in the Town House Annex, 14 Barnabas Road. They will be distributed from there until they move back to Town House. Stickers became available for pick-up as of Wednesday at 8:00 am. Nomination papers are also available in the town clerk’s office for the upcoming election on May 15.

Gorman stated the Maritime Center lift is “broken again.” Issues with it are resulting from the door getting jammed due to high winds.

There was then an update on the long project of water-meter conversion, where all 2,900~ water meters in town needed to be replaced so they can be read remotely. Currently, there are still 35 residents who still have not responded to DPW requests to change. All the new water meters are available, and the swap can be made in around 30 minutes. Hoagland recommended sending a letter threatening to shut off water if a reply is not received.

Nomination papers are available in town clerk’s office.

Finally, the town administrator offered an update on Town House renovations. Sheet rocking recently began, and Gorman added they should be ready to put the original granite back on soon. Front-step concrete pouring was also recently completed.

ADU, Cottage Community Rules Refined

Mattapoisett Planning Board

By Marilou Newell

It’s no small task to create new zoning bylaws that will have long lasting ramifications, including the aesthetic look and overall character of Mattapoisett’s historic village, as well as providing a new type of housing.

For over a year, the Mattapoisett Planning Board has been working on two new bylaws that will, the board



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says, provide many new opportunities in residential housing. On February 2, the board held a Public Hearing to give residents an opportunity to discuss the Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU) and Cottage Community drafts. The board wishes to include many points of view, while crafting the technical language they wish to bring before Town Meeting in May.

Salient points were shared in a working draft to give voters plenty of time before the Annual (spring) Town Meeting to ask questions and become familiar with the board's plans. To receive a copy of the draft, contact the Planning Board or Select Board office.

Regarding the ADU bylaw, the board explained

some of the state bylaws language. The draft language reads in part that the new bylaw will, "...increase housing production to address local and regional housing needs across all income levels, housing that fits in context of zoning districts, and all income levels at all stages of life. It would develop small scale infill housing that fits in context of zoning districts that allows single family housing while providing gentle hidden density and further it would provide a more moderately priced housing option to serve smaller households with lower incomes, seniors and people with disabilities."

These units would be self-contained with all the utilities necessary for independent living. It was further outlined in the draft that the intent of the new bylaw is, "...to enable property owners to age in place, downsize, or earn supplemental income from investing in their property."

As for cottage community units, during the open discussion it was asked what would stop a property owner from selling cottage community housing units at a premium price tag versus an affordable unit. Board member William Wennerberg explained that these new zoning bylaws were not an effort to provide affordable housing but rather a new way to develop available land.

Several model homes were shown, including Wennerberg's developments in nearby towns. The concept of cottage communities was first introduced by Wennerberg based on his experience as a developer. He said that people love cottage communities and had previously suggested that such units would fit in comfortably in Mattapoisett, primarily along the Route 6 corridor. Noted were the first-floor size of such housing units, not to exceed 900 square feet; a second-story unit would not exceed 50% of the ground floor.

As currently written, the dimensional standards are: up to 1,500 square feet; Minimum distance separating structures is to be 12 feet with two parking spaces and an overall height of 14 feet.

At the Mattapoisett Planning Board's next meeting scheduled for March 2 at 7:00 pm, the drafts will continue to be refined.



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Fourteen-Year Project Completed

Rochester Conservation Commission

By Michael J. DeCicco

Rochester's Conservation Commission began its meeting Tuesday by signing the Certificate of Completion for a 14-year-old project.

That long ago, then-Conservation Agent Laurel Farinon noticed the storage of concrete blocks near wetlands at 0 and 107 Cranberry Highway and said they needed to be removed. Tuesday, project engineer Bill Madden reported the removal project has been completed. The Conservation Commission approved the Certificate of Compliance with minimal discussion.

Next, the board also signed without debate an Amended Order of Conditions for work to install a portion of Townhouse Building Seven and a wood deck at 22 Cranberry Highway to include double catch basins, an overflow diffuser with associated riprap and a drainpipe. No work will be done within the 25-foot, no-disturb buffer, the petition promises. Commission members agreed to the amendment without comment. It is the site of a planned townhouse development and a 68-unit, age 55-and-over, senior-living apartment building within Rochester Crossroads.

Drawing more discussion was a Notice of Intent Public Hearing for plans to construct a single-family home on Walnut Plain Road filed by Botelho Custom Homes. Project engineer Steve Carvalho of Farland Corporation, attending the meeting virtually via Zoom, said that this house on the 87,000-square-foot parcel had been placed closer to wetlands because the proposed septic system had to be farther away from the proposed well. Walnut Plain Road abutter Pamela Souza provided the push back here. She said she was representing an elderly neighbor who wanted to know how many homes will be built there. Initially, it was to be only one. Carvalho explained there will be three homes built there after two more groundwater perc tests were successful there. The commission approved the plan with standard Order of Conditions and a demand that the wetlands border be clearly marked.

Lastly, the commission approved a new proposed

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site plan for 7 Forbes Road. Chair Christopher Gerrior noted the design has changed from a two-story home to a ranch-style home, taking the plan out of the commission's jurisdiction.

The next Rochester Conservation Commission meeting will be February 1 at 7:00 pm in Town Hall, 1 Constitution Way.

Remembering Dale Jones

Marion Planning Board

By Sam Bishop

The Marion Planning Board met on Monday and began with a dedication to the memory of one of their members who recently passed.

Following the pledge, Chair Andrew Daniel offered a moment of silence followed by some words for member W. Dale Jones, who recently passed away. He said, "Dale's a tremendous loss. He was in service to the town for over 40 years and had a multi-generational impact on the town, from his days in the (Marion) Fire Department and EMA, known as the 'rescue rabbit.' He was on multiple boards and multiple committees. His name is on many buildings in town, including this one we're in now, the (Marion) Police Station, Sippican School, and also the newly constructed DPW building." Other board members also gave their condolences and memories of Jones.

To fill the now-vacant seat on the Planning Board, applications are open for a temporary appointment. Residents can apply on the town's website, marionma.gov, or drop off an application in person to the town's annex headquarters at the former Lockheed Martin property off Route 6. The application period is closed on Tuesday, **February 17**, and the following day, Wednesday, **February 18**, there will be a hearing with the Select Board to make a final decision. City offices are closed Monday, February 16 for Presidents Day.

Daniel also said Administrative Assistant Olivia Prior had "moved on to greener pastures." In speaking of her departure, he said, "she was the best assistant. She did a lot last year; she carried the year and was a huge help to me."

Next, there was a Public Hearing for proposed amendments to Subdivision Regulations. As explained by Clerk Eileen J. Marum, the amendment for §300-3.10A *Residential Compounds* was to update internal section references. For §300-4.6 *Stormwater Management*, the amendment was to reference the newly adopted Stormwater Management Bylaw and associated rules and regulations. No members of the public were present to give comments.

Both amendments were approved by the board, and the amendments were made with two unanimous votes.

The board then discussed an Approval Not Required resolution for Toll Brothers Inc.'s lot at 78

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Wareham Road. The organization's Director of Land Development, Ted Merchant, spoke on behalf of Toll Brothers, who are now calling the subdivision "Marion Point." This ANR was approved by the board.

Keeping with Toll Brothers, the board then discussed another Action Item: Approval of Bond Amount, Amend Major Site Plan, and Special Permit Decision for 78 Wareham Road. Merchant and his team had submitted a \$5,000 bond estimate for further site planning. A cover sheet and a general overview layout plan of the project were promised by Toll Brothers. Merchant added that trees would begin to be removed before their next meeting. The bond amount was approved with a unanimous vote.

Marion Historic Commission Chair Meg Steinberg then asked the board for a Letter of Support for their pursuit of a grant to push for Marion to be added to a national registry of historic places. It follows the failure of the proposed Marion Historic District at last year's Town Meeting. The designation wouldn't come with any restriction, but would highlight and establish, in writing, Marion's historic importance.

"It doesn't restrict you in any way. You can still do whatever you want. We just thought it would be a form of recognition for public awareness and education," said Steinberg.

It was noted that Marion already has two buildings on the National Register of Historic Places: Bird Island Lighthouse and the Ebenezer Holmes house at 46 Water Street. Vice-Chair of the Planning Board Alanna Nelson mentioned this designation may help the town receive grants in the future for historic preservation.

Joining the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) would impose no additional regulation or restrictions upon the town or its residents. It is merely a registry, or list, that the federal government offers signifying, "this area is worthy of historic preservation."

After a lengthy discussion, the board tabled the matter. Members were divided on the subject, with Tucker Burr saying he feared the approval of this resolution would "tee up" the town to have another vote on a historic district in the future.



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The next meeting of the Marion Planning Board will be held on Tuesday, February 17 at 7:00 pm in the Marion Police Department.

Revote Endorsed by Old Colony

Old Colony Regional Vocational-Technical High School Committee
By Michael J. DeCicco

The Old Colony Regional Vocational-Technical High School Committee last week unanimously approved its Building Committee's recommendation that the region's five member towns hold another election for the \$288,000,000 request for a new facility that failed to pass in November of last year.

The committee endorsed that revote plan at its January 28 meeting, Old Colony Superintendent-Director Aaron Polansky reported Friday. He noted the next step will be the Massachusetts School Building Authority's approval of the move. He said no exact date of the regional election of the revote has been set.

"Voters should understand that there is no zero-cost option," Polansky added. "After reviewing several alternatives including a \$134,000,000 full repair, decades of incremental repairs, or a smaller project later at significantly higher cost, we determined that a revote is the most fiscally responsible and cost-effective choice. There was a smear campaign that blurred lines and politicized the project. There is nothing political about this project. This project is about educating our students

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Both the \$288,000,000 request to fund the building project and a proposal to pay for Rochester's \$24,000,000 share of that cost with a debt exclusion resulted in a resounding "no" vote in the November 8, 2025 election. The question to approve the building project failed across four of five Old Colony member towns (Acushnet, Carver, Lakeville, and Rochester), only passing in Mattapoisett.

The money would fund a larger, more modern building to replace the serious infrastructure deficiencies of the current facility at 476 North Avenue in Rochester. The state School Building Authority's reimbursement for the new school's price tag is projected to be \$129,000,000. The remaining total project cost that the school district members would share was estimated at approximately \$159,000,000. Rochester's portion of that price tag would be \$28,400,000.

Writing Skills Need Attention

ORR Joint School Committee

By Jeffrey D. Wagner

Planning next academic year's calendar to allow more teacher planning and professional development was a long discussion topic at the January 29 Old Rochester Regional/Massachusetts Superintendents Union #55 Joint School Committee meeting.

School officials from all three towns in the Tri-

Town gathered and discussed a proposal by Sharlene Fedorowicz, the assistant superintendent of Teaching and Learning. Fedorowicz mentioned that the math, English, and science curriculums are aligned at the district's elementary schools. She said that, at the ORR Junior High School, history and science programming have also changed. While these changes have called for more professional development, the drawback has been the quality of writing at the elementary levels, according to Fedorowicz's data.

Fedorowicz therefore proposed an additional half-day in late-October for teachers to convene, plan, and analyze data.

School officials were polarized on this issue. Some mentioned that an additional half-day would be difficult for working parents. Others claimed that the timing is not good, as there are professional development days in October, and November is a difficult month for education in the Tri-Town. There is Veterans Day, school closures for election-site needs, and the Thanksgiving break.

Other officials asked to push that day to March, but school administrators mentioned that this professional development should come earlier in the school year. They also mentioned that MCAS testing also begins that month, which could lead to conflict.

In the end, school officials agreed on having this half-day for professional development on October 9, a Friday. Some cautioned that a professional development on a Friday might motivate teachers to take a day off, but, being a three-day weekend, it would be more convenient for families.

Columbus Day falls on October 12 and some people go away that weekend, giving families time for a short vacation while the teachers analyze data.

The school committees also agreed to move the October professional development days to October 29 and 30. They mentioned that teaching students before Halloween is more difficult, so having those planned days before Halloween might be beneficial to teachers and students who are gearing up for that holiday.

Originally, those days were planned for October 23 and October 24.

In other news, Superintendent Michael Nelson encouraged school officials to get involved in their community budget subcommittee discussions. With health insurance on the rise and the growing demands of special education, he said budget planning this year will be "especially challenging."

The next meeting of the ORR Joint School Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, June 9.

LeFavor, Rosa Set ORR Records

Sports Roundup

By Aiden Comorosky

Old Rochester's boys and girls swimming teams competed at Seekonk on January 29 against Seekonk and Apponequet in the 2026 Winter Independent Tri-

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meet Tournament. The final scores for the boys were Seekonk winning with 348 points, Old Rochester 331 and Apponequet 273. For the girls, it was Seekonk 422, Apponequet 354, and Old Rochester 223.

Boys highlights for ORR included Lazaro Rosa winning the 200-yard individual medley in 2:12.07 and the 100-yard backstroke in 59.82 seconds. Rosa qualified for states in both events and broke his own school records as well. For the girls, Bree LeFavor won the 100 backstroke with a personal-best time of 1:07.54, qualifying for states and setting a school record. LeFavor was also a member of the 400 freestyle relay team which won, along with her teammates Katherine Young, Katie Anderson and Elizabeth Chubb.

Boys Basketball

The Bulldogs hosted Greater New Bedford Voc-Tech (9-4) on January 30 and won, 64-41. Leading the way for the Bulldogs was Grady Oliveira, scoring 20 points, as Boden Soucy scored 15 points and had 7 rebounds. Their record is now 10-5 on the season. They'll play against Joseph Case (5-8) on Friday, February 6, in Swansea.

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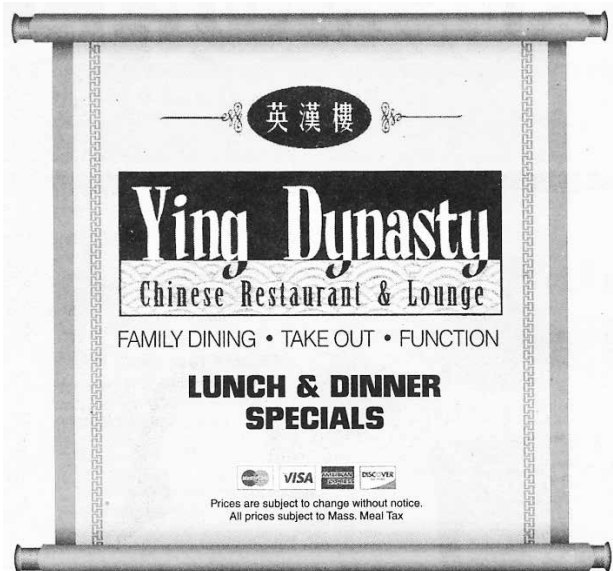
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All submitted copy is subject to alterations and/or condensation as space allows at the editor's discretion. All submissions become the property of *The Wanderer* and are assumed to be submitted for the purpose of publication. Submissions cannot be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



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Letters to the Editor

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

Dear Editor,

Historical Preservation: A Path to Identity, Resilience, and Sustainable Growth in Marion
Marion's historic character is one of its most enduring strengths. The town's maritime heritage, traditional village center, scenic coastal landscapes, and historic civic buildings create a sense of place that is instantly recognizable and deeply valued by residents. These features are the foundation of community identity, economic vitality, environmental sustainability, and long-term resilience. Historic preservation offers a powerful framework for reinforcing these qualities while guiding the town through the challenges and opportunities of the future.

Preservation strengthens community identity by protecting the elements that make Marion distinctive. The village center, with its walkable streets, human-scaled buildings, and cohesive architectural character, reflects generations of local history and shared experience. Preserving these features ensures the town retains its unique personality rather than becoming interchangeable with other coastal communities. When residents see familiar landmarks, historic homes, and traditional streetscapes, they experience a sense of continuity

and belonging. Historical preservation reinforces this connection, helping the community maintain its cultural roots even as it evolves.


The economic benefits of preservation are equally significant. Marion's historic charm is a major draw for visitors, sailors, seasonal residents, and families seeking the quintessential New England coastal experience. Heritage tourism supports local businesses, from shops and restaurants to cultural institutions and recreational programs. Reinvesting in historic buildings stimulates economic activity, encourages small business development, and enhances property values. When historic storefronts are revitalized and older buildings are adaptively reused, the town benefits from both economic growth and the preservation of its character. In this way, preservation becomes a catalyst for sustainable economic development.

Environmental sustainability is another area where preservation plays a vital role. Reusing existing structures reduces the environmental impact associated with new construction. Older buildings often contain durable materials and craftsmanship that would be costly and environmentally taxing to replicate today. Preserving historic landscapes, including stone walls, tree canopies, and coastal viewsheds, protects ecological systems and supports natural stormwater management. These landscapes are not only beautiful; they are functional components of Marion's environmental health. By valuing and maintaining them, the town advances sustainability goals while honoring its heritage.

Marion's coastal location makes climate resilience a pressing concern, and preservation contributes meaningfully to adaptation planning. Historic landscapes and traditional development patterns often reflect generations of lived experience with coastal conditions. Preserving these features can help the town manage flooding, protect vulnerable areas, and maintain natural buffers. Integrating cultural resources into resilience strategies ensures that adaptation efforts do not inadvertently erase the very qualities that make Marion special. Instead, preservation and resilience work together to protect both the town's physical environment and its cultural identity.

In addition to these local benefits, historical preservation positions Marion to take advantage of state and federal funding opportunities. Programs administered by the Massachusetts Historical Commission, the National Park Service, and the Community Preservation Act offer grants for planning, rehabilitation, resilience, and cultural resource protection. By adopting a coordinated preservation initiative, Marion strengthens its eligibility for these funds and expands its capacity to undertake meaningful projects. Preservation becomes not only a local priority but also a strategic tool for securing external support.

Ultimately, historic preservation in Marion is not about resisting change. It is about guiding change thoughtfully, ensuring that growth enhances rather than



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diminishes the town's character. Historical preservation provides a framework for balancing development with stewardship, innovation with tradition, and progress with identity. By adopting the Marion Historic Preservation Initiative, woven throughout the Town's Master Plan, the town can protect its heritage while planning confidently for the future. The result is a stronger, more resilient community, one that honors its past while embracing the opportunities ahead.

Eileen J. Marum, Marion

To the Editor;

A Tribute to Titus.

Dave was my friend, tennis partner, dinner partner, town government colleague and attorney for over thirty-five years.

In all that time and in hundreds, maybe thousands, of interactions I never saw Dave be anything but a gentleman and truly nice guy. He never had anything bad to say about anyone, and he had plenty of chances. For years he moderated town meeting with his calm wisdom. And I usually came away from our many times together smarter than I entered them.

I believe one is judged by how he treats his family, his friends and his community. Dave gets all top honors, and this good man will be remembered kindly.

Lee Hayes

Marion Town Sticker Purchases

Beginning on Wednesday, **February 4**, the following permits will be available for purchase in the Town Clerk's Office at the Marion Town House Annex, 14 Barnabas Road:

- Marion Resident Beach/Parking Permits
- Marion Resident Transfer Station Permits
- Marion Resident Guest Passes
- Marion Shellfish Licenses

These stickers will no longer be available at the Harbormaster Building.

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PUBLIC ACCESS

Comcast Channel 9

Verizon Channel 36

Thursday February 5, 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 - Gordan Goodwin
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
12:00 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 February 6, 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 - Gordan Goodwin
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
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 February 7, 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 - Gordan Goodwin
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
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 8, 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 GNBVT
8:30 PM ORR Boys Basketball vs Aponequet
9:30 PM ORR Girls Basketball vs GNBVT
10:00 PM ORR Girls Basketball vs New Bedford Voc Tech
11:30 PM Classic Movies

Monday February 9, 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
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 10, 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 11, 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
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 Board of Health
9:00 AM Marion Marine Resource Committee
10:30 AM Marion Conservation Commission
11:00 AM Marion Affordable Housing Committee
1:30 PM Marion Zoning Board of Appeals
2:30 PM Marion Finance Committee
3:30 PM Marion Planning Board
4:30 PM ORR School Committee
5:30 PM ORR Joint School Committee
7:30 PM Marion Water and Sewer Acquisition Commission
9:30 PM Marion Select Board
10:30 PM Marion Marine Resource Committee

ROCHESTER GOVERNMENT Comcast Channel 26

Verizon Channel 40 Daily Schedule

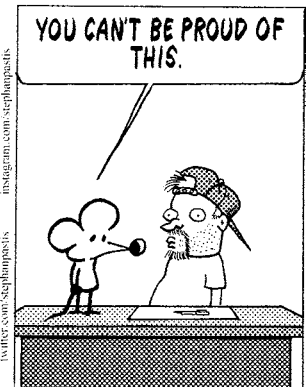
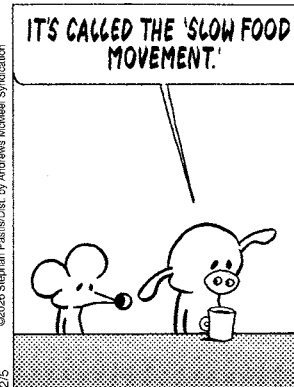
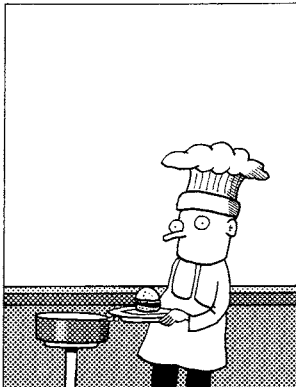
7:00 AM Rochester Board of Selectmen
8:30 AM Rochester Planning Board
10:00 AM Rochester School Committee
11:30 AM ORR School Committee
12:30 PM Old Colony Building Discussion
4:00 PM ORR Joint School Committee
6:00 PM Rochester Board of Selectmen
8:30 PM Rochester Planning Board
7:30 PM Rochester Planning Board
9:00 PM Rochester Conservation Commission
9:30 PM Rochester Zoning Board of Appeals
10:30 PM Rochester Board of Selectmen

EDUCATION CHANNEL Comcast Channel 8 Verizon Channel 37 Daily Schedule

7:00 AM Bulldog Weekly
7:30 AM RMS Winter Concert
8:30 AM Tri-County Symphonic Band Christmas Concert
9:30 AM ORRJHS Winter Concert
11:00 AM ORR School Committee
12:00 PM Bulldog Weekly
12:30 PM ORR Boys Basketball vs Bishop Stang
2:00 PM ORR Hockey vs Monomoy
3:30 PM ORR Girls Basketball vs Seekonk
4:30 PM ORR Winter Concert
6:00 PM Bulldog Weekly
6:30 PM ORR Football vs Aponequet Thanksgiving Day Game
8:30 PM ORR School Committee
10:30 PM Bulldog Sports

MATTAPOISETT GOVERNMENT Comcast Channel 26 Verizon Channel 38

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February School Vacation Programs at the MAC

Registration for all February School Vacation camps with Benares Angeley for ages 7-10 at the Marion Art Center are now open. All classes are in the MAC Studio at 80 Pleasant St., Marion. Each session is \$35 for MAC members and \$40 for nonmembers.

Create, Color & Upcycle: Kids will turn words, colors and recycled treasures into bold, vibrant masterpieces. We'll explore fun, energetic artworks by modern artists to spark imagination and inspire our own wild, wacky, one-of-a-kind creations. Tuesday, **February 17** from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm.

Arctic Animal Adventures: Kids will explore arctic animals, such as polar bears, penguins, and seals while making dioramas full of snowy landscapes and icy habitats. This hands-on class lets kids sculpt, paint, and build their own mini arctic worlds, learning about animals and their environments while having tons of fun. Wednesday, **February 18**, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm.

Patchwork and Paint Art Club: In this class, artists will combine paint, fabric, buttons, beads, and thread to design a bold, textured artwork all their own. Kids will explore layering, patterns, and creative problem-solving while turning everyday materials into art. Perfect for imaginative kids ready to level up their creativity and make something truly unique. Wednesday, **February 18**, 1:00 am to 3:00 pm.

For more information and registration, go to marionartcenter.org/events.

Cuttyhunk Plein Air Festival

The Marion Art Center is pleased to present the eleventh annual Cuttyhunk Plein Air Festival on Saturday, June 20 on the island of Cuttyhunk (town of Gosnold, MA). A rain date is scheduled on Sunday, June 21. Registration for this incredibly popular event opens on Friday, **February 6** at 8:00 am online at: marionartcenter.org/cuttyhunk-plein-air. Registration for artists is \$115, and for island artists who do not need ferry transportation the cost is \$55.

On the morning of the festival, sixty artists will travel from the State Pier in New Bedford aboard the M/V



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Cuttyhunk Ferry to the island, where they'll spend 3-4 hours painting from a location of their choosing. Island ambassadors – residents and volunteers – donate their time using golf carts to shuttle artists to and from their painting spots. Artists will wrap up around 2:30 pm in order to submit their paintings for jurying. Volunteer jurors will award 1st, 2nd, 3rd place, and purchase prize awards. The “_ARTY.” will take place from 3:00 pm to 3:45 pm, with visitors and artists wrapping up to board the ferry by 4:00 pm to arrive back in New Bedford at 5:00 pm. Guests are invited to visit the island to see painters in action and attend the “_ARTY.” celebration at the end of the day. Visitors can mingle with artists and purchase original paintings directly from the artists at the

For the Love of Democracy! Valentine's Brunch

When: February 14th, 2026

Time: 11AM – 12:30 PM

Place: 10 Cove Street, Marion, MA
LET'S DIVERSIFY TOWN GOVERNMENT!

Local government decisions influence everyone. Women in elected office provide representation to women in the community that they otherwise would not have received. Additionally, research shows that more diverse groups make better decisions. Having more women on local boards could change the dynamics of how things operate for the better by having more balanced conversations and decisions, by challenging tradition and conventions, and by obtaining outcomes that are different than they otherwise would have been.” —Dan Hill, UW-Extension Local Government Center Specialist

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OBITUARIES



Audrey Howard (Smith) MacDonald, 84, of Marion, MA, died peacefully on January 19, 2026 after a long courageous battle with Alzheimer's. She was the daughter of the late Frank and Mary (MacKenzie) Smith of Cambridge, MA. Audrey was predeceased by her loving husband of 61 years, Ronald F. MacDonald; and her late sister Joan Smith.

Audrey was a graduate of Cambridge, Rindge and Latin High School and Burdette College School of Secretarial Science. She worked at New England Gas and Electric Company in Cambridge where she met her dear husband. Ron and Audrey were fortunate to relocate to their beloved Marion where they raised their family. Audrey was an active member of the First Congregational Church and loved working at local employers Eames Insurance Company and American Research & Management Company.

She is lovingly survived by her two children Ronald F MacDonald, Jr. of Arlington and Chatham, and Janice (MacDonald) Koss and L. Brian Koss of Woburn (formerly Winchester) and Chatham, two granddaughters, MacKenzie Koss of Dorchester and Abigail (Koss) Gravalles of Marshfield; sister Gwen Washburn of Kennebunk, ME; nephew Andrew Washburn of Kennebunk, ME; nieces, Lauren Walier of Keene, NH; Paige Wilner of Old Greenwich, CT; Lindsay Brancalone of Eliot, ME; and Elizabeth Smith of Sarasota, FL. She was affectionately known by her family as Gammy, and will always be remembered for her loving and comforting demeanor, generous spirit, wise words, and unwavering strength and determination.

Thank you to the wonderful caregivers at Sunrise of Arlington.

A Celebration of Life will be held at the First Congregational Church in Marion in May.

Arrangements are with the Saunders-Dwyer Mattapoisett Home for Funerals, 50 County Rd. (Rt. 6), Mattapoisett. For online guestbook, visit www.saundersdwyer.com.



Stephen E. Perry, 81, of Mattapoisett passed away Monday, January 26, 2026 at home surrounded by love after a brief illness. He was the husband of the late Drusilla L. (DePina) Perry, with whom he shared 47 years of marriage.

Raised in Cataumet, son of the late William and Florence (Perry) Barrows, he lived in Mattapoisett for most of his life.

Stephen attended New Bedford High School until he left at age 17 to enlist in the United States Marine Corps. He loved being a Marine and served honorably for many years, both active duty and as a reservist, retiring as a Master Gun-nery Sergeant.

He was formerly employed as a building and grounds supervisor for the Town of Marion for many years until his retirement.

Stephen enjoyed time spent with family, friends, and his beloved dog, Cash. He was an avid golfer and loved traveling, listening to music, and watching sports, especially the Boston Celtics.

Survivors include four sons, Anthony Perry and his wife Melanie, Brandon Perry, Shawn Perry, and Stephen Perry; his daughter, Charnelle Perry; two brothers, Donald and Jack Barrows; five grandchildren, Mikenzie Perry, Jason Perry, Ella Perry, Charlotte Perry, and Shawna Rose Pires.

He was predeceased by his brother, Ronald Barrows.

His Funeral Mass will be held Friday, February 6, 2026 at 12 Noon at St. Anthony's Church, 26 Hammond St., Mattapoisett, with everyone invited to meet directly at Church. Visiting hours are omitted and burial at the Massachusetts National Cemetery will be private. For directions and guestbook, visit www.saundersdwyer.com.



Hanna R. Milhench, 86, died peacefully at her home in Marion on Friday, January 23rd, 2026. A devoted wife, mother, proud grandmother and community member, Hanna lived a life of faith and serving others.

Born and raised in Lemgo, Germany, Hanna was the daughter of Hermann Rossmann and Else Klages Rossmann.

After completing high school and vocational school, Hanna came to the United States in 1961 to au pair for the See family of Marion.

It was here in Marion where Hanna met Arthur Milhench, and a courtship ensued. In October of 1964 they were married in Germany, a marriage that would last forty years.

This marked the beginning of an indelible period: a family was started and a home was built on Butler Point.

Hanna was one of several German au pairs to enter the genteel Marion scene during this time. As one longtime friend put it, "These women were beautiful inside and out. They brought to Marion a European flair, they cherished their husbands, families and their new lives in America. And they wore bikinis!"

A devoted wife and mother of four, Hanna immersed herself in Marion. She led numerous projects at Saint Gabriel's Church, including Fair Noel, Gardens by the Sea and Friendship Table. She was also a project leader at Damien's Pantry and CRN. Hanna spoke with actions. A friend remembers, "Hanna was always doing for others, with folks not knowing half of what she did".

Hanna took up golf under the care of Kittansett's Ray

Continued on page 26

Scuttlebutt Grille Gallery. The “_ARTY.” is free and open to all.

The festival is supported by a grant from the Gosnold Cultural Council. Many island businesses, mainland companies, and island residents support this event with monetary and in-kind donations and by volunteering their time.

Town of Mattapoisett Scholarships

The Mattapoisett Scholarship Committee is offering two distinct scholarship awards each of up to \$1,500 to deserving and qualified applicants who complete our application process.

The Details are:

1. Mattapoisett Graduating Senior Award, Eligibility: Any Mattapoisett resident who is graduating from High School prior to July 1. Award(s): The total Scholarship Award amount is \$1,500. The Committee reserves the right to decide how many applicants will receive a stipend that will, in total, not exceed the \$1,500 total. Requirements: Students should submit in addition to the application form their letters of recommendation, transcript and a cover letter addressing their aspirations and financial need. Submission Deadline: **April 17.**

2. Mattapoisett Continuing Education Scholarship. Eligibility: Any Mattapoisett resident who is reentering the academic world. They should be pursuing a post graduate degree, career advancing courses or trade certification. Award(s): The total Continuing Education Award amount is \$1,500. The Committee reserves the right to decide how many applicants will receive a stipend that will, in total, not exceed the \$1,500 total. Requirements: Applicants should submit their letter of recommendations, applicable transcript(s), any applicable course or training information and a cover letter addressing their aspirations and financial need. The committee shall take into consideration each recipients financial need, character, scholastic record, and involvement in community work as well as extracurricular activities. Successful applicants will be informed by **May 8.**

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Valentine's Candidate Brunch

A free Valentine's Brunch will take place from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm on **February 14** where women and minorities in Marion can explore running for town offices. Here is an opportunity to create broader representation in town government. Women in particular are encouraged to come. We will invite women who have participated or have experience in local politics. You will have opportunities to meet with them to discuss their thoughts about being part of decision-making offices. These

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OBITUARIES

Dennehy and grew to love the game. She competed successfully in numerous Club events and led Ladies Golf for three years. A creative problem solver, she was a talented seamstress, even sewing wedding dresses for four family members. But it may be her famous rum cakes that will live on indefinitely; this Christmas tradition she started for friends, has since become a Milhench Supply institution.

Hanna was happiest at home on the Point. Her love of gardening, the outdoors and the weather were the perfect match for living five miles out into the Bay. This setting, often filled with many of her eleven grandchildren, brought her true serenity. Fiercely independent and with an indomitable spirit, she lived at home to the very end.

Hanna was predeceased by her brother, Jürgen Rossmann, and her husband, Arthur Milhench. She is survived by her sister, Christel Dudey; her children Heike Milhench (Barratt) of Marion, Loren le Gassick (Stuart) of Mattapoisett, Elke Pierre of Marion, and Mark Milhench (Kerry) of Marion; eleven grandchildren – Alexander, Anne Louise, Bessie Marie, Philip, Markus, Peter, Ella, Luke, Annalise, Henrik and Else; four nieces and nephews, and eight great nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held for Hanna on Saturday, March 21st, at Saint Gabriel's Episcopal Church in Marion at 10:30 am. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Harwood Society at Saint Gabriel's, P.O. Box 545, Marion, MA 02738.

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



Jay M. Briggs, 68, of Fairhaven passed away Friday, January 23, 2026, unexpectedly at home.

Born in Wareham, son of Raymond M. Briggs and Frances A. (Sherman) Briggs, he lived in Mattapoisett for most of his life.

He was a graduate of Old Rochester Regional High School.

Jay served honorably in the United States Marine Corps.

He was formerly employed as a roofer for David Frates Home Improvements for many years. Dave and Jay were the best of friends.

Jay was very well liked and had a big heart. He enjoyed horseback riding in his younger years and spent countless hours with his grandfather at Riverview Ranch in Mattapoisett. He also enjoyed camping and watching sports, especially football and golf.

He is survived by his father, Raymond M. Briggs and his wife Kathleen; his mother, Frances A. (Sherman) Briggs; two sisters, Jodi Silveira and her husband Robert, and Jeanne

Arruda and her husband Ed; three nephews, Ryan Briggs and his wife Shauna, Alex Arruda, and John "Jack" McGrath and his fiancée Alexis Ferreira; three nieces, Shelli Thayer and her husband Nick, Danielle Silverberg and her significant other Joseph Frade, and Natali McGrath; his aunt, Eleanor Sherman; his close relative, Debra Kelsey; his great-nephew; and three great-nieces.

A private family burial service will be held at the Massachusetts National Cemetery in Bourne. For online guestbook, visit www.saundersdwyer.com.



Mary Peterson O'Leary Briggs ("Mimi") July 15, 1939 – January 30, 2026 - Mary Elizabeth Peterson O'Leary Briggs, known affectionately as "Mimi," passed away of natural causes on Jan. 30, 2026, in Boca Raton, FL. Mimi was born in 1939 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to Jesse Dudley Peterson and Edith F. Gorman was raised in Newtown, Connecticut.

Mimi came from a family with deep historical roots. She was a descendant of Richard Warren, a passenger on the Mayflower, and was a lifetime member of the Mayflower Society and the Daughters of the American Revolution. Mimi was the great-granddaughter of Lillia E. Studebaker, daughter of John Mohler Studebaker, of the historic Studebaker family.

Mimi attended the Emma Willard School and later Wheaton College, where she graduated in 1961. Following college, she moved to Boston, where she broke barriers as one of the first women to work as an investment officer at Old Colony Trust Bank, setting the tone for a life defined by intellectual curiosity, independence and achievement.

After marrying Robert A. O'Leary, Mimi settled first in Montclair, New Jersey, and later in Princeton, New Jersey for 33 years, where she raised her three children and became engaged in the civic and social life of all-things Princeton. She was an active member of the Garden Club, the Pretty Brook Tennis Club, and Trinity Church, reflecting her love of community, athletics, and service. In 1980, she ran the New York City Marathon in under 4 hours, a personal achievement she cherished.

In addition to her community engagement, Mimi pursued advanced education, earning a Master's Degree from The New School for Social Research in New York City. She dedicated her professional career to fundraising and advancement for nonprofit and educational institutions, including Rider University, the Woodrow Wilson Foundation, the United States Equestrian Team, and NJ SEEDS, where her commitment to education, access, and opportunity left a lasting impact.

In 2003, Mimi moved to Marion, Massachusetts, to be closer to her son William and her grandchildren. True to her energetic spirit, she embraced this chapter fully in the next

jobs affect every person and family in our community. Elections this year will be for Assessor, Select Board, Planning Board, ORR and Sippican school committees, and the Board of Health. You do not need previous experience in town government to apply. Information about each position will be available at the party.

The brunch will be held at 10 Cove Street, Marion, and those interested in coming should text a response with their name or call 603-759-9287.

Marion Democratic Town Committee

The Marion Democratic Town Committee will hold its caucus to elect delegates to the Massachusetts Democratic Convention at its monthly meeting on **February 19**. The meeting will begin at 5:30 pm in the Community Room, Marion Police Station, 550 Mill Street. All registered Marion Democrats are welcome to run for delegate positions. We will elect four delegates and four alternates. The convention will be held on May 29 and May 30 at the DCU Center, Worcester. This is a nominating convention, where delegates vote for

OBITUARIES

20 years — playing golf and bridge, and becoming an avid croquet player. She served as Secretary of the Marion Mallet Club and took great joy in the friendships and camaraderie the club provided. At age 74, Mimi met and married Dr. Earland Briggs. Together, Mimi and Earl shared a vibrant life centered around golf, croquet, close friendships, and time at the Beverly Yacht Club. They were snowbirds for the next decade, spending summers at their home overlooking outer Sippican Harbor and winters in Tequesta, Florida, overlooking the golf course.

Mimi was predeceased by her brother, Cornelius “Pete” Peterson X. Mimi is survived by her beloved husband, Dr. Earland Briggs; her children Garrett O’Leary and his wife Lulu O’Leary of London and Dorset, England, and their children Kitty and Robert O’Leary; Liz O’Leary of Washington, DC, and her daughters Katie, Lillie, and Hopie Lovell; and William R. O’Leary III and his wife Alexandra Tolischus of Boca Raton, Florida, and their daughters Tali and Phoebe O’Leary. She is also survived by her great-granddaughter, Grace Elizabeth Kirby.

Mimi will be remembered for her intellect, warmth, competitive spirit, dedication to education and service, and her unwavering love for her family. Her vibrant personality and beaming smile gave those around her a zest for life. Mimi’s life was marked by curiosity, courage, and connection, and she will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

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.

Democratic candidates, so it is an important way for Democrats to participate in government.

Mattapoisett Land Trust Winter Break Activities

The Mattapoisett Land Trust has announced its schedule of Staycation Activities for the upcoming school winter break. All activities are free of charge and offer local families an opportunity to explore MLT properties and connect with nature. To find Staycation Activities, visit the MLT website mattlandtrust.org and explore the Family Activities link on the left side of the page.

Starry Night is an opportunity for people of all ages to gaze at the night sky on the evening of Tuesday, **February 17**, at Grace Meadow-Santos Farm Preserve located off Aucoot Road at the end of Bowman Road in the eastern part of Mattapoisett. The event will feature speakers, telescopes, a small fire, and a children’s craft. Plenty of parking will be available.

On Saturday, **February 21**, from 10:00 am to 11:30 am, a Forest Stewardship and Climate Resiliency Walk will be conducted by MLT forester Kate Marquis at Brandt Island Cove District Preserve. The walk starts at the Anchorage Way kiosk entrance at the corner of Tara Road and Anchorage Way.

Throughout the week families can enjoy nature-themed Scavenger Hunts at four MLT properties: Munn Preserve on Mattapoisett Neck Road near the stone pillars demarking the Antassawamock private community, Grace Meadow-Santos Farm Preserve, Dexter (Tub) Mill Park, and Dunseith Gardens. Our new Scavenger Hunts have a list of items to find, and individual finds can be documented with photos. For more information, see mattlandtrust.org/family-activities/ For trail maps of two of the properties, see: bit.ly/mlt_munn_map and bit.ly/mlt_oldaucoot_map.

The MLT is pleased to be partnering with the Mattapoisett Free Public Library on these projects. Themed MOBY backpacks, designed for many different nature adventures, are available in the library’s Children’s Department. Brochures, Scavenger Hunts, maps, and MLT Trail Passports can be picked up at the library also.

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MOVIE REVIEW

RIP Catherine O'Hara

By Rob Gonsalves
www.robsmovievault.com

One story in particular about the legendary comedic actor Catherine O'Hara, who left us on January 30, has always stuck with me for some reason. O'Hara had been working, and gaining cred, on Canada's SCTV, which had been put on pause. So she was looking for a new gig, and drifted into *Saturday Night Live*, which was having its own problems. Manic head writer Michael O'Donoghue called a meeting of cast and crew, and launched into a dramatic, vituperative rant that supposedly scared O'Hara away. According to O'Hara, it was just that SCTV had now been unpaused and she wanted to go back there. But I've always wanted to believe that O'Hara found O'Donoghue not intimidating but laughable and that her attitude was more like, "Okay, this dumpster fire is not for me."

O'Hara's passing was greeted with an outpouring of shocked grief that surpassed even the response to Rob Reiner's death — Reiner was political and had his share of conservative detractors, including the rotting pumpkin. But everyone who'd ever worked with O'Hara lamented what a mighty talent and person had been lost, and her appeal straddled generations. Boomers knew her from the beginning, on SCTV. Gen-X bestowed iconic status on her Delia Deetz in *Beetlejuice* (and its belated sequel). Millennials remember her for her turns as Kevin's mom in the first two *Home Alone* films and on the acclaimed *Schitt's Creek*. She was still going until near the end, popping up on *The Last of Us* and Seth Rogen's *The Studio*.

You'll find no starring roles in O'Hara's portfolio. She was an ensemble woman down to her toes, yet she had plenty of star/queen moments within supporting roles, as on *Schitt's Creek* (which I managed to miss). O'Hara shone brightest when offering support, which may be one reason so many of her peers speak so fondly of her, and why so many filmgoers/TV viewers mourn the loss of someone they'd thought of as a sister, a dotty auntie,



a mom. Memories of her work encourage a warm and giggly response to go along with the sadness of the O'Hara-shaped hole in the world we now have, on top of everything else.

After a few films probably unknown to non-Canadians, O'Hara made her American movie debut among an ace cast for a god-tier director, in Martin Scorsese's *After Hours*. She was also one of the busier voice actors for kids' movies (and for the slightly older set, in *Nightmare Before Christmas*), and her final credit (barring any posthumously released stuff) was in the hit *The Wild Robot*. I don't really see any dips or valleys in her career. Once she established herself, she took off and kept going. She fell in with Christopher Guest, peaking for him, perhaps, with her work alongside frequent collaborator Eugene Levy in *A Mighty Wind*, which combined hilarity and heartbreak. She continued to keep going.

O'Hara, it appears, had both a great gift and a great soul, so it's no surprise she never lacked for jobs. For over fifty years, people wanted to work with her. The anecdotes and photos shared by her family in the comedy community have a poignant and personal tinge. Eugene Levy's son Dan posted a photo of himself as a baby being held by O'Hara. Rogen, Guest, Tim Burton, Michael Keaton, Christina Ricci — all were hurting last weekend, yet glad they'd been in O'Hara's orbit for a while. Even Justin Trudeau weighed in, like the Gen-X Canadian he is.

And then there was Macaulay Culkin, O'Hara's *Home Alone* son, whose response broke a lot of us. On Instagram, he wrote: *Mama. I thought we had time. I wanted more. I wanted to sit in a chair next to you. I heard you. But I had so much more to say. I love you. I'll see you later.* That about says it.

Books about trails, trees, animals, and birds as well as snowshoes, trekking poles, binoculars, GoPro Hero 7 camera kit, and more items are available at the library to check out. For more information, see mattapoissettlibrary.org/explore-the-outdoors.

Marion Planning Board

The Marion Planning Board is currently seeking a qualified candidate to fill a recently vacated seat. The applicant will seek appointment for a temporary seat starting March 2 to May 15. Online applications are available on marionma.gov or you may complete a hardcopy at the Planning Board Office at the Marion Town House Annex, 14 Barnabas Road, no later than February 17, 2026. Any questions, please contact Doug Guey-Lee at dgueylee@marionma.gov or 508-748-3513.

Mattapoissett Nomination Papers

Nomination papers are now available for the 2026 Annual Town Election in Mattapoissett. There are many offices up for election this year including Town Clerk, Select Board, Assessor, Mattapoissett School Committee, ORR School Committee, Library Trustee, Moderator, Water & Sewer Commissioner, Board of Health, Planning Board, Housing Authority, and Community Preservation Committee. The deadline to request nomination papers is Friday, **March 27**. The Annual Town Election is scheduled for Tuesday, **May 19**. Please check the town website

(www.mattapoissett.gov) or call the Town Clerk's Office at 508-758-4100 x 2 for more information.

Elizabeth Taber Library New Library Card Policy

The Elizabeth Taber Library in Marion has updated their library card policy to increase access to Library resources and expand upon privacy protections guaranteed to library card holders of all ages. The full text of the policy is available at elizabethtaberlibrary.org/policies and was adopted by the Library Board of Trustees at their January 26 meeting.

Under the new policy, Massachusetts residents of all ages are eligible to register for a library card. The previous policy limited library card sign-up to residents over the age of five. An increase in preschool outreach by children's librarian Macy Davis was one of the factors that inspired this change.

"As the Library visits area preschools, the kids are excited to visit us in return, but previously they were unable to sign up for their own library card," Davis said. "Having a library card empowers kids to take responsibility for their own library use and engages them more deeply as they develop important early literacy skills."

Families are invited to sign their child up for a library card on Take Your Child to the Library Day on Saturday, **February 7**. Between 10:00 am and 3:00 pm, there will be book giveaways, crafts, and more.

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TRI-TOWN POLICE LOGS



MARION

Log highlights Jan 25 – Jan 31

- Village Dr - Disturbance
- Mill St – EMS/medical
- Pinewood Dr – Animal control
- Point Rd – General service
- Beach St – Gas leak
- Wareham Rd – MV stop/verbal
- Converse Rd – General service
- Cranberry Way – EMS/medical
- Mac's Way – EMS/medical
- Point Rd – EMS/medical
- Wareham Rd – Road hazard
- Wareham Rd – MV collision
- Mill St – Larceny/past
- Wareham Rd – Gas leak
- Route 105 – MV collision
- South St – Officer wanted
- Delano Rd – EMS/medical
- Wareham Rd – General service
- Spring St – General service
- 195 East – MV collision
- Mill St – EMS/medical
- Mill St – Abandoned property
- Wareham Rd – General service
- Wareham Rd – MV collision
- Wareham Rd – MV collision
- Lewis St – Burglar alarm
- Mill St – EMS/medical
- Route 105 – MV collision
- Point Rd - Disturbance

MATTAPOISETT

Log highlights Jan 25 – Jan 31

- Fairhaven Rd – Suspicious MV
- Wildwood Ter – Assist citizen
- Mattapoisett Neck Rd – MV violations
- Brandt Island Rd – MV crash
- Martin Ave – Unattended death
- Shaw St – MV lockout
- Martha's Way – Structure fire
- Brandt Island Rd - Disturbance
- Acushnet Rd – General service
- Brandt Island Rd - Disturbance
- Captain's Ln – Health/welfare
- Marion Rd – MV lockout
- Dexter Ln – 911 call
- Main St – Medical assist
- Neds Point Rd – Health/welfare
- North St – Medical assist
- Long Plain Rd – Animal control
- Brandt Cove Marina – Parking complaint
- 195 East – MV crash
- Ship St – 911 call
- River Rd – General service
- Marion Rd – MV crash
- Marion Rd – Assist citizen
- Nantucket Dr – Domestic disturbance
- Nantucket Dr – Search warrant
- County Rd – Restraining order
- River Rd – General service
- Acushnet Rd – Health/welfare
- County Rd – MV violations

ROCHESTER

Log highlights Jan 25 – Jan 31

- New Bedford Rd – Suspicious activity
- Noble Rd – Burglar alarm
- Rounseville Rd – Burglar alarm
- Mendell Rd – Public assist
- Mendell Rd – Disabled MV
- Snipatuit Rd - Harassment
- Snipatuit Rd – General services
- Cranberry Hwy - Medical
- High St – General services
- Vaughn Hill Rd – Disabled MV
- Cranberry Hwy – 911 call
- North Ave – 911 call
- Dexter Ln – Firearms licensing
- Alley Rd – Carbon monoxide alarm
- Walnut Plain Rd – MV stop/verbal
- Cranberry Hwy – General services
- New Bedford Rd – MV stop/verbal
- Rounseville Rd – MV stop/written
- Cushman Rd – Animal control
- Marys Pond Rd – Well-being check
- Burgess Ave – 911 call
- County Rd – MV stop/verbal warning
- High St – MV collision
- Pine St – Fire alarm
- Marion Rd – MV stop/verbal warning
- High St – Road hazard
- Dexter Ln – Fire alarm
- Pine St – Fire alarm
- Marys Pond Rd – MV collision

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 9: Maple-bacon glazed chicken thigh, butternut squash, green beans & peppers, Hawaiian roll, orange

Tuesday, Feb 10: Creamy Cajun salmon, mashed potatoes, carrots, dinner roll, vanilla pudding, diet: fruit

Wednesday, Feb 11: American chop suey, whole grain pasta, broccoli, wheat bread, fruit cup

Thursday, Feb 12: Chicken scampi, whole grain pasta, green peas, wheat roll, banana

Friday, Feb 13: Pot roast w/gravy, baked sweet potatoes, vegetable medley, cornbread loaf, chocolate chip blondie, diet: fruit

CENTER SCHOOL

Monday, Feb 9: Homemade chicken noodle soup, grilled cheese sandwich

Tuesday, Feb 10: Loaded tater to nachos, warm soft pretzel

Wednesday, Feb 11: Wacky waffles, maple syrup, potato smiles, cheese stick, assorted yogurt cup

Thursday, Feb 12: Creamy mac & cheese w/side order whole grain chicken nuggets, garlic breadstick,

steamed carrots, applesauce cup, garlic breadstick

Friday, Feb 13: Cheese pizza, garden salad, roasted chic peas, assorted salad dressing

OLD HAMMONDTOWN

Monday, Feb 9: Homemade chicken noodle soup, grilled cheese sandwich

Tuesday, Feb 10: Loaded tater to nachos, warm soft pretzel

Wednesday, Feb 11: Wacky waffles, maple syrup, potato smiles, cheese stick, assorted yogurt cup

Thursday, Feb 12: Creamy mac & cheese w/side order whole grain chicken nuggets, garlic breadstick, steamed carrots, applesauce cup, garlic breadstick

Friday, Feb 13: Cheese pizza, garden salad, roasted chic peas, assorted salad dressing

OLD ROCHESTER REGIONAL JUNIOR & SENIOR HIGH

Monday, Feb 9: Homemade chicken noodle soup, grilled cheese sandwich

Tuesday, Feb 10: Loaded tater to nachos, warm soft pretzel

Wednesday, Feb 11: Wacky waffles, maple syrup, potato smiles, cheese

stick, assorted yogurt cup

Thursday, Feb 12: Creamy mac & cheese w/side order whole grain chicken nuggets, garlic breadstick, steamed carrots, applesauce cup, garlic breadstick

Friday, Feb 13: Hot buffalo chicken dip served with whole grain tortilla chips, fresh veggie sticks, vanilla pudding cup

ROCHESTER MEMORIAL

Monday, Feb 9: Homemade chicken noodle soup, grilled cheese sandwich

Tuesday, Feb 10: Loaded tater to nachos, warm soft pretzel

Wednesday, Feb 11: Wacky waffles, maple syrup, potato smiles, cheese stick, assorted yogurt cup

Thursday, Feb 12: Creamy mac & cheese w/side order whole grain chicken nuggets, garlic breadstick, steamed carrots, applesauce cup, garlic breadstick

Friday, Feb 13: Cheese pizza, garden salad, roasted chic peas, assorted salad dressing

SIPPICAN SCHOOL

Monday, Feb 9: Homemade chicken noodle soup, grilled cheese sandwich

Tuesday, Feb 10: Loaded tater to nachos, warm soft pretzel

Wednesday, Feb 11: Wacky waffles, maple syrup, potato smiles, cheese stick, assorted yogurt cup

Thursday, Feb 12: Creamy mac & cheese w/side order whole grain chicken nuggets, garlic breadstick, steamed carrots, applesauce cup, garlic breadstick

Friday, Feb 13: Munchie mania basket: crispy chicken tenders, warm whole grain pretzel, oven baked French fries, served with honey mustard dipping sauce and fresh veggies

OLD COLONY REGIONAL

Monday, Feb 9: Crispy chicken bowl w/mashed potato, corn, gravy & dinner roll OR Shepherd's pie & dinner roll

Tuesday, Feb 10: Sloppy Joe, baked beans & fries

Wednesday, Feb 11: School lunch passport – flavors of fun Wednesday

Thursday, Feb 12: Loaded buffalo chicken tater tots OR shredded buffalo chicken sandwich & tater tots w/carrot sticks

Friday, Feb 13: Assorted pizza & Caesar salad

When expanding access to youth, the Library has lowered the age to independently apply for a card from 16 to 14. The Library is a site for late-bus drop off from ORR, so youth this age may frequently be at the library without a parent/guardian and would previously have been unable to apply for a library card on their own.

The updated policy also expands upon visitor cards. Visitor cards are available for non-residents who may be temporary visitors to Marion. These cards are only valid for one year and limit the holder to 10 checkouts. Included in the new policy are considerations for Tabor Academy Students. Tabor students may apply for a visitor card using their student ID.

"These policy changes were designed to expand access to library cards for all students and families in Marion. We're excited to welcome more teens from both Tabor Academy and ORR, who have both been underrepresented as library patrons in the past," said Library Director Elizabeth Sherry.

The revised policy enumerates privacy practices that the Library has long followed, but wanted to make apparent to patrons as they apply for a Library card. Per the policy, "All Library Card holders, regardless of age, have a right to privacy regarding their library use and records. This extends to information sought or received, materials consulted or borrowed, search records, online resource use, questions asked to staff, circulation records, registration, and personally identifiable uses of library



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materials, facilities, programs, or services."

With these changes to the policy, Library staff are excited to welcome new cardholders to our community of library users who have access to physical materials from across the SAILS network, e-books and audiobooks, games, toys, tools, and more.

Upcoming Events at the Elizabeth Taber Library

Ready to put a chill into the coldest winter's day? Jeff Belanger will be at the library on **February 19** at 6:00 pm to explore the haunts, legends, and monsters associated with winter. From frozen people to abominable

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Super Crossword

U.K. PLAY

ACROSS

- 1 Give a right to
8 Eye narrowly
14 Choir songs
20 Dog collar attachments
21 Ends of bridal paths
22 See 1-Down
23 Refrigerator, stove or dryer
25 Warship fleet
26 Over yonder
27 Designer Gucci
28 Lhasa — (little dogs)
29 Mega Stuf cookies
33 This second
35 Legendary figure in a 1999 horror film
39 Azaleas are members of it
43 Not quite
44 Dutch beer
45 — the line (obeyed)
47 Sturdy tree
48 Slimy gunk
51 Shaft of light
52 Common allergy trigger
55 Condiment spicier than its yellow cousin
59 On — with (similar to)

- 61 Big name in dog food
63 Born
64 TV announcer Don
65 Riddle
68 Strep-treating doc
69 Person giving out prizes
71 Eight of their last names are featured in this puzzle
76 Egg-hiding holidays
77 Gridiron stats
78 Punctual
79 Sominex or Unisom rival
80 Passing vote
81 As many as
82 Big lamb cut
86 Common weed of North America
90 Universal donor blood type, in brief
93 Shark feature
94 Ending for alp or salt
95 Architect I.M. —
96 Red Sea canal
98 Get there
100 Hive house
103 Suburb of Minneapolis

- 106 June bugs, by another name
110 Poetic "always"
111 Yule songs
112 Post-teen
113 Squeaks (out)
116 Ticked (off)
118 Spring back
120 Kentucky Derby venue
126 "Little Women" author
127 Wanness
128 Cry upon getting there
129 Joined (up)
130 Baby hooters
131 Vain person's lack

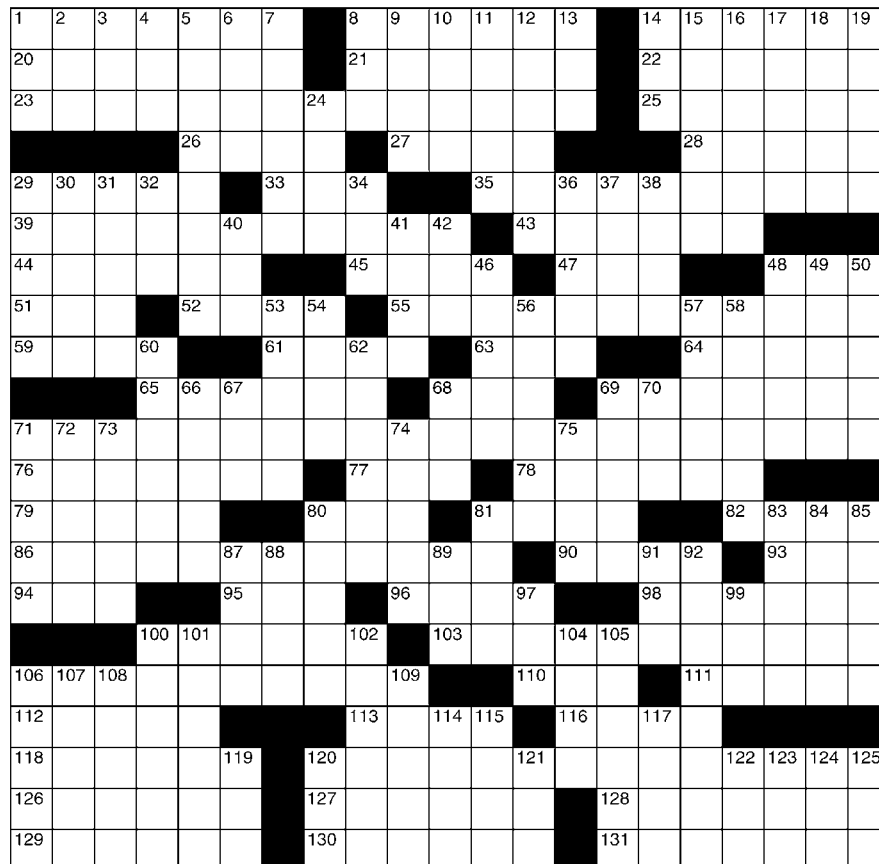
DOWN

- 1 With 22-Across, film "nightmare" locale
2 Teachers' gp.
3 — Mahal
4 Equal: Prefix
5 Walloped
6 Foliage bit
7 Barcelona's land, to natives
8 Bud
9 Director Kazan
10 Plus others: Abbr.

- 11 Music genre for TLC
12 Chachi's last name on "Happy Days"
13 Mao — -tung
14 Free TV ad, for short
15 Drink inserts
16 Target of antiperspirant
17 Minimal
18 Bordeaux wine
19 Secret store
24 Grads' event
29 Fictional Scarlett
30 Plan a new route for
31 Cushy class
32 Mel the Giant
34 Jokerster
36 Solo
37 Mosque officiant
38 Streaming set-top box
40 Viral misery
41 Soft throws
42 "— out!" (ump's call)
46 "Death Be Not Proud" poet
48 Avant- —
49 Mandate
50 Smells
53 Exhales wistfully
54 Pack firmly

- 56 Cleaning tool in a bucket
57 Muscle jerk
58 More citrus, say
60 Mary Lou of gymnastics
62 One suffering for a belief
66 Atom studier Bohr
67 Leb.
68 911 gp.
69 Susan of "Spring Fever"
70 Nintendo console
71 1974 dog film
72 Artificial silk
73 "Orange — New Black"
74 Thoughts
75 Taken with
80 "Two Guys and —"
81 Operated
83 In flames
84 Courteous
85 Midleg joints
87 Sheriff Taylor's tyke
88 Mess-free
89 Take to court
91 Jug handle
92 Pa's pa

- 97 Last letter
99 '16 Olympics site
100 Flowering
101 Small dress size
102 Cowboy's whoop
104 — pot (sinus cleaner)
105 Early tourney round
106 Safin who won tennis' 2000 U.S. Open
107 She sang the hit "Hello"
108 New Mexico's state flower
109 Brain protector
114 — Stanley Gardner
115 "Nae" sayer
117 Red Muppet
119 Inc., abroad
120 U.S. Navy noncom
121 Divs. of days
122 Lyric verse
123 Film director Craven
124 Little peeve
125 Hog hangout



SALOME'S STARS

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You need to be certain that all the right conditions are in place before you take the first step. It can't hurt to listen to good advice from those who have your best interests at heart.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Be careful not to get involved in other people's disputes unless you know the facts behind the disagreements. This is the best way to be assured of making wise and honest decisions.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You still need to be careful about how you're going to spend the energy reserves that you finally got around to restoring. Best advice: Avoid overdoing it; let things take their course.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Your aspect continues to favor travel -- alone or with a special person. So, if you've been putting off making some getaway plans, it's still a good time to get started on them.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Some so-called golden opportunities that continue to dazzle the Lion still need to be carefully checked out. Be suspicious about anything that looks like the "perfect" prospect.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Changes at the workplace could make it more difficult to do things the way that you prefer. But the wise VIRGO who shows some flexibility could find it paying off in a big way.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) You might want to check out the explanation you were given for a sudden shift in your duties. There's a possibility you haven't been told all the facts that you deserve to know.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Having confidence in your abilities is important, especially when you could be facing a new challenge, whether it's in the workplace or in a personal relationship. Good luck!

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A new work-related opportunity might not be all that it appears to be. Before making any decisions, you might want to check with others who have had some experience in this area.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) A situation involving someone close could benefit from your timely intervention. Avoid being judgmental. There will be plenty of time later for the "little talks" you like to have.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Travel could be a surprise element in a new project. Be prepared for other previously undisclosed aspects that might also come to light as you proceed with the work.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Try to balance your work-related responsibilities with the time that you're spending on your recently revived social life. In addition, an old friend might be planning to return after a long absence.

BORN THIS WEEK: Your sensitivity makes you aware of the needs of others. Have you considered a career as a counselor?

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snow beasts, from icy haunts to strange creatures who adapt to freezing temperatures, the Dead of Winter will give you something to shiver about. You've seen Jeff Belanger on television series such as William Shatner's UnXplained on the History Channel, Shock Docs on Discovery, Ghost Adventures on the Travel Channel, and New England Legends on PBS and Amazon Prime... now see him LIVE in person. For more than 25 years, Jeff has been exploring the weird and unexplained. He's one of the world's foremost storytellers and researchers of lore and legends. This will be an event you won't forget. Open to ages 12+ please RSVP by calling the library or by following the tickets link above.

Banned Book Club will meet on **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 on **February 10** at 6pm. 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

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

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

On Saturday, **February 14**, join clinical psychology doctoral student Morgan Browning for a special valentine's themed Fun with Feelings storytime at 11 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 am and 5 pm on Thursday, **February 19** for crafting. Finally, On Friday, **January 20** at 11 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.

From the Files of the Rochester Historical Society By Connie Eshbach

From the beginning, settlers of Rochester depended on their muskets for hunting, "varmint" killing, and protection. During the "French Wars" when Britain and France fought for dominance in the new world, men from Rochester are believed to have been called upon

to serve. The colonial government put "heavy demands on the towns of the old colony". One known expedition (previously written about) was to Acadia, Nova Scotia to remove the people there because the British thought they were secretly aiding the French.

In 1774, Rochester's Town Meeting voted a variety of directives in preparation for possible action against England. They included the assembly and training of militia and the selection of officers to be in command of militia companies.

Many of the men from Rochester who fought in the Revolution were in locally created militia companies which were assigned at times to join with the regular army for specific missions. This meant they would be mustered for an "alarm" or specific event and then mustered out when it ended. After which, they might be called upon again.

This means that the number of muster cards available online for each soldier differs. While some have multiple ones, others like William Sherman, mentioned previously, had only one. When he was called up in 1775, he was 49 (which was old in the 1700's) and perhaps that's why there is no other sign of participation.

For many but not all of Rochester's militia men, their fighting part of the war ended when the battles moved south from New York and Pennsylvania.

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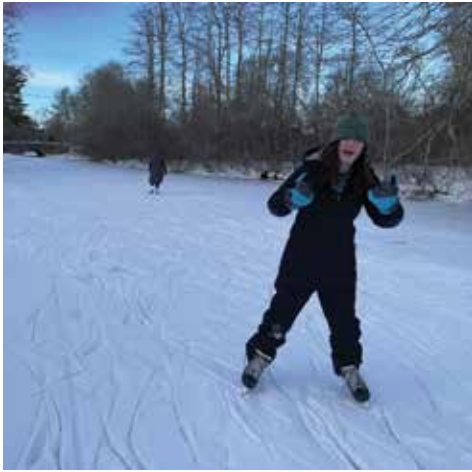
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TriTOWN HAPPENINGS



Andrew Apperson, Abe Apperson, Elizabeth Sherry, and Bea Apperson ice skating near the stone bridge on the Mattapoissett River. Photo courtesy Elizabeth Sherry



So cold even the Mattapoissett Harbor iced over. Photo by Jennifer Shepley



Sunset at Brandt Beach on January 31. Photo by Trillian White



On Friday night the Marion Natural History Museum welcomed state fish and wildlife biologist Stephen Wright. A large group joined us on a very chilly night to learn about beavers in Massachusetts.



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

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 through **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.

"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.

We will start at Silvershell Beach in Marion and carpool to a few hot spots for bird views. Bring binoculars and dress warmly for a tour of Marion's quiet waters.

To register or for more information, visit our website: Sippicanlandstrust.org/events

Mattapoisett Free Public Library

The Mattapoisett 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 audiobook platforms. Not sure? Email Felicia at faguia@saillsinc.org or call the library to see if we can help.

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.



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For Riccardi's menus for dining in, take-out, buffet catering or party platters, visit us online at www.riccardis.com

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 mfp@saillsinc.org. We can pass along your message to the 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@saillsinc.org.

Join our next Board Game Club on Tuesday, **February 17**, at 6:00 pm. This month's pick is "Really Loud Librarians," a fast-paced, merciless word-shouting board game. *If you've never played before, please arrive



Picture by Fran Grenon, spectrumphoto.org

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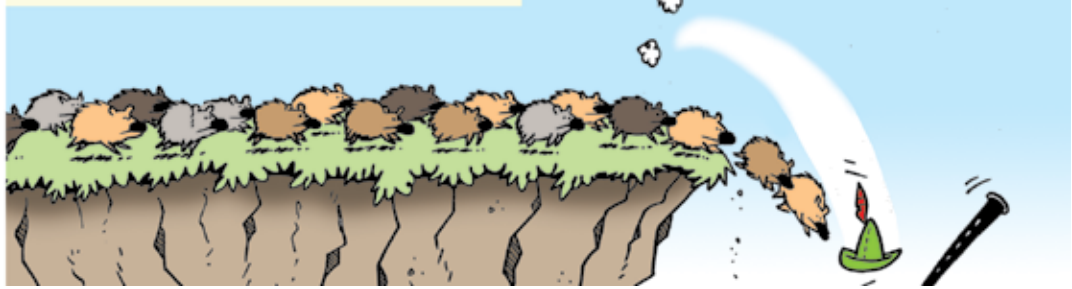
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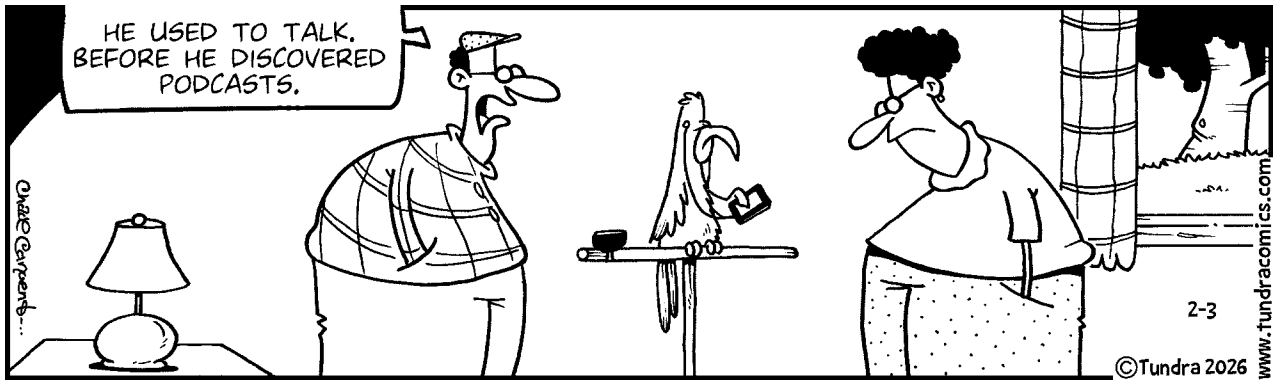
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Tundra
by Chad Carpenter



Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



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 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 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,



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TRIVIA TEST

BYLINE: By Fifi Rodriguez

1. HISTORY: When did the Easter Rising insurrection take place in Ireland?

2. GEOGRAPHY: What is the capital of India?

3. MEDICAL TERMS: What is a common name for lateral epicondylitis?

4. MOVIES: The "Back to the Future II" characters travel forward in time to which year?

5. LITERATURE: What color is the badge of courage in Stephen Crane's novel about the Civil War?

6. GAMES: How many points is the center red bullseye on a dartboard worth?

7. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of floating otters called?

8. AD SLOGANS: Which car company used the slogan "Drive your dreams"?

9. TELEVISION: What is husband Darrin's profession in the "Bewitched" sitcom?

10. SCIENCE: What part of the brain controls hunger?

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Answers

1. 1916.

2. New Delhi.

3. Tennis elbow.

4. 2015.

5. Red.

6. 50.

7. A raft.

8. Toyota.

9. Advertising executive.

10. Hypothalamus.

LEGAL NOTICES

TOWN OF ROCHESTER

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING #1232

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Appeals will conduct a public hearing on the petition of Jacqueline Orlando, for property located at 246 New Bedford Rd, identified on Assessor's Map 2, Lot 8, who is seeking a Special Permit for a kennel license for up to fifteen (15) dogs, pursuant to Chapter 20.40, Section F.6., of the Rochester Zoning By-Laws.

The public hearing will be on Thursday, February 26th, 2026, at 7:00 pm at Town Hall, 1 Constitution Way in Rochester, MA.

Donald Spirlet, Chairman 2/5, 2/12

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Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps

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Alma Jane Reyes

February 5

Avia E Fraine

February 5

Mabel Rose Reyes

February 5

Hobie Stone-Kowalski

February 6

Matthew Lavoie

February 6

Sue O'Hara

February 6

Jared Ducharme

February 7

Joanne C. Doherty

February 7

Joseph Duchaine

February 7

Olivia Audet

February 7

Todd Philie

February 7

Trevor Francis

February 7

Alea Louise Loftus

February 8

Carol Tirrell

February 8

Claire Morel

February 8

Craig LeBlanc

February 8

Gerry Gonneville

February 8

Karen Alexander

February 8

William Jurkauskas

February 8

Anne O'Brien-Kakley

February 9

Martha MM Lee

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Mary Riccardella

February 9

Pop Harry

February 9

Emma C. Mello

February 10

Hailey Nye

February 11

Rayna Caplan

February 11

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.

38

The Wanderer

February 5, 2026

www.wanderer.com

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.

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

Mattapoisett Woman's Club Scholarships

The Mattapoisett Woman's Club has announced two \$2,500 scholarships available to Mattapoisett 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.mattapoisettwomensclub.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 Mattapoisett Woman's Club is open to any woman interested in furthering and supporting the philanthropic, academic, civic, and social goals of the organization.

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 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

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- Garlic Bread 1.25 Each
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 - Egg Salad 26 Per Oz
 - Tuna Salad 26 Per Oz
 - Ham Salad 26 Per Oz

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

SPORTS QUIZ

BYLINE: By Ryan A. Berenz

1. Which World Golf Hall of Famer became the first female to shoot lower than 300 in a 72-hole tournament when she won the 1947 U.S. Women's Open with a 295 score?

2. The San Diego Sockers, New York Arrows and Baltimore Blast were among the most successful teams in what arena soccer league that played from 1978 to 1992?

3. Which U.S. state's legislature passed Act 130, commonly called the 1936 Sunday Sports Law, which permitted professional sports to be played on Sundays?

4. He was selected by the San Francisco 49ers with the final pick of the 2022 NFL Draft. His young brother played college football for Florida State, Nebraska and Nevada. Who are they?

5. Name the pitcher who won the National League Cy Young Award with the Philadelphia Phillies in 1987 and won a World Series title with the Minnesota Twins in 1991.

6. The Women's Basketball Hall of Fame opened in 1999 in which U.S. city?

7. Which two college football teams have played for the Land of Lincoln Trophy (a bronze stovepipe hat) since 2009?

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Answers
1. Betty Jamieson.
2. Major Indoor Soccer League (MISL).
3. Pennsylvania.
4. Brock and Chubba Purdy.
5. Steve Bedrosian.
6. Knoxville, Tennessee.
7. The Illinois Fighting Illini and the Northwestern Wildcats.

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off the mark by Mark Parisi



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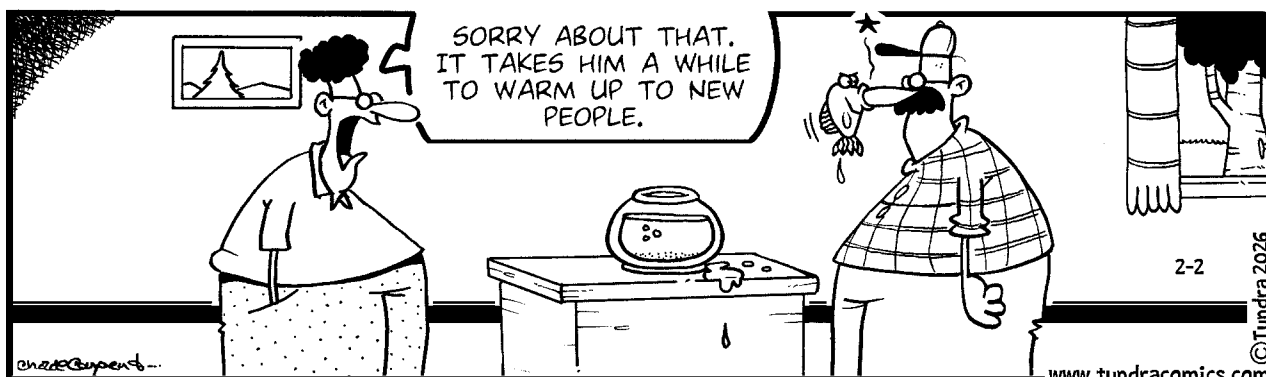
Placing Classified Ads On-line: Ads can be placed on line at: www.wanderer.com

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Tundra
by Chad Carpenter



performances, exhibitions, demonstrations, and 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 basis as submissions come in. To view the evolving schedule and learn more, visit artweeksouthcoast.org.

Mattapoisett Library Online Learning Platform to Empower Adults 55+

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

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

Key Features of Gale Presents: GetSetUp:

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

-Peer-led instruction by older adult educators

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who understand the unique learning styles of their audience.

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

Why It Matters Now:

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

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

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

Mattapoisett Library is committed to supporting the well-being of older adults in Mattapoisett by offering inclusive, accessible, and engaging resources. Whether aging patrons are looking to learn a new skill, connect with others, or simply stay active, GetSetUp has something for everyone. With practical, tech-focused classes like "Online Safety: Protect Your Personal Information" and "Using Your Android Smartphone," seniors can confidently navigate today's rapidly changing



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Weekly SUDOKU

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| | 4 | 6 | 9 | | | 1 | 7 | |
| 9 | 2 | 8 | | | 7 | | 4 | |
| | | 7 | | | | | | |

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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digital environment. At the same time, courses such as "Ease the Ache with Gentle Stretches for Back Pain" and "Brain Boost: Keeping Young with Music" can help older adults stay mentally sharp, physically active, and creatively inspired - all while connecting with peers who share their interests and experiences.

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

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

For more information, please visit us at 7 Barstow Street, online at www.mattapoissettlibrary.org, or call the library at 508-758-4171.

Marion Social Club Ham & Bean Dinner

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

Rochester Republican Town Committee

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

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

Marion Art Center

DATMA joins the Marion Art Center as they host the third installation of *Being Seen: Celebrating Pride in the SouthCoast*. Being Seen is a monumental community tapestry created by over 100 SouthCoast residents from Fall River to Wareham. Over an 18-month period, this work travels throughout the region, concluding in November 2026. The indoor exhibition expands on the public art installation with additional context, honoring the LGBTQIA+ community through stories, archival

materials, and recognition of local advocates. The exhibition features the legacy of figures such as David B. Boyce (1949–2014), memorialized in George Segal's renowned sculpture The Gay Liberation Monument, as well as SouthCoast residents whose advocacy for Massachusetts's Marriage Equality Act helped shape national progress.

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

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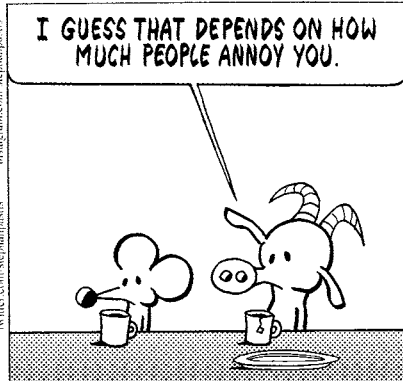
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PEARLS BEFORE SWINE by Stephan Pastis



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,



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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 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.

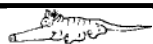
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|-----------------------------------|--|----------------|---|------------|------------|
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| Hodge, Lezan M | Gwozdz, Matthew J | 48 Pine St | Rochester | 01/20/2026 | 130,000.00 |



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Local Tides

| Day | Date | High | | Low | |
|--------------------|-------------|--|-------|---|-------|
| | | a.m. | p.m. | a.m. | p.m. |
| 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 |
| Monday | February 9 | 1:05 | 1:21 | 6:46 | 6:33 |
| Tuesday | February 10 | 1:54 | 2:12 | 8:12 | 7:39 |
| Wednesday | February 11 | 2:53 | 3:14 | 9:36 | 8:54 |
| Thursday | February 12 | 4:02 | 4:21 | 10:33 | 10:02 |
| Friday | February 13 | 5:02 | 5:16 | 11:19 | 10:56 |
| Saturday | February 14 | 5:47 | 6:00 | 11:59 | 11:43 |
| Sunday | February 15 | 6:25 | 6:40 | | 12:36 |
| Phases of the Moon | | Last Quarter New Moon First Quarter Full Moon | | February 9th February 17th February 24th March 3rd | |



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 29, 2026 edition the Aardvark was on page 40

PUZZLE ANSWERS

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

| | | |
|----------|-----------|------------|
| ENTITLED | PEERAT | PSALMS |
| LEASHES | ALTARS | STREET |
| MAJOR | APPLIANCE | ARMADA |
| AFAR | ALDO | APSOS |
| OREOS | NOW | BLAIRWITCH |
| HEATH | FAMILY | ALMOST |
| AMSTEL | TOED | OAK |
| RAY | DUST | BROWN |
| APAR | IAMS | NEE |
| ENIGMA | ENT | AWARDER |
| BRITISH | PRIM | MINISTERS |
| EASTERS | TDS | ONTIME |
| NYTOL | AYE | UPTO |
| JOHNSON | GRASS | ONEG |
| INE | PEI | SUEZ |
| ARRIVE | EDEN | RAIRIE |
| MAYBE | ETLES | EER |
| NOELS | ADULT | EKES |
| TEED | RECOIL | CHURCH |
| ILLDOWNS | ALCOTT | PALLOR |
| IMADEIT | TEAMED | OWLETS |
| MODESTY | | |

SCRAMBLERS

solution

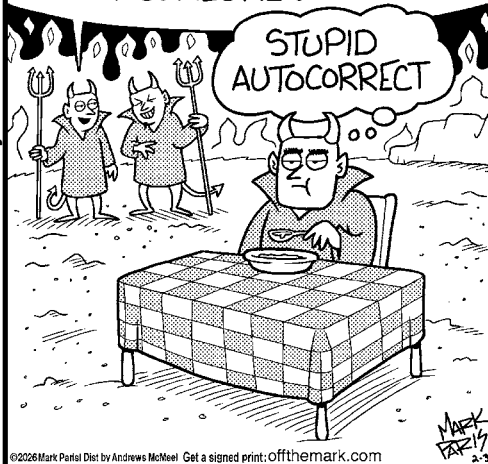
1. Caramel; 2. Code;
3. Inside; 4. Inept

Today's Word
INCOME

Sudoku Answer

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

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