

The Martha's Vineyard TIMES

Thursday, April 23, 2009 Volume 26, Issue No. 16 I Section



A pullout inside

- Film and discussion C2
- Earth Day C3
- Horseshoe crab survey C5



HIGHLIGHTS

SSA numbers lag

Steamship Authority traffic is down this year, according to a report made at the members' monthly business meeting Tuesday. The meeting also included a request for a trial New York City fast ferry run over the July Fourth weekend.

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Tisbury says yes, again

Tisbury voters will get another shot at the question of allowing restaurants to serve beer and wine. On the second night of annual town meeting, voters agreed to authorize the selectmen to file a home rule petition that will set the stage for a ballot contest in 2010.

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All politics is local

Geoghan Coogan, unopposed for Tisbury selectman in the April 28 annual town election, knows something about Island politics. His father, Edmond Coogan, was a selectman in Oak Bluffs before moving to Tisbury where he was a selectman until his death in 2001. His uncle, Greg Coogan is a current Oak Bluffs selectman.

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Burglar cops plea deal

Brian D. Gromoshak was the mastermind behind a short-lived winter burglary spree in Edgartown. On Friday, he pled guilty in Edgartown District Court as part of a plea agreement that includes jail time.

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Bombs away

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers this week began a cleanup of former munitions on South Beach and Chappaquiddick. While most of the practice bombs are believed to pose no risk, every now and then one turns up that "can make you physically disappear."

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A week at Safe Haven



Camp Safe Haven, now in its 15th season, welcomed 36 young people whose lives are affected by HIV/AIDS. Katrina and Davonda (above) were among the campers who enjoyed a week-long stay in West Tisbury and many outdoor activities.

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Last picture show

After more than 30 years of service, the West Tisbury Free Public Library will run its 16mm film projector for the last time Monday. Beginning in May, the Monday Night Movie Program will use a DVD projector. Relive some of the history and humorous moments behind the 16 mm experience.

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Pennywise Vineyard students reap savings rewards



PHOTO BY JANET HEFLER

Benjamin Davey, a fifth-grader at Tisbury School, celebrates his selection as the national grand prizewinner in a "super saver" contest with recognition from Patti Leighton, left, and Richard Leonard of the Martha's Vineyard Savings Bank.

By Janet Hefler

Thriftiness paid off in more than interest recently for Island students Benjamin Davey and Jack Sayre. Both won prizes in a Super Saver 2009 contest as regular depositors in their school saving accounts through the Save For America (SFA) program, sponsored locally by Martha's Vineyard Savings Bank (MVSAB).

The two students' names were drawn from a pool of 3,532 who qualified as "super savers" in grades K-8 at participating schools in 28 states.

Benjamin, a fifth-grader at Tisbury School,

was chosen as the grand prizewinner and will receive a \$250 gift certificate redeemable at Amazon.com.

In addition to the grand prize, two runners-up in the contest from New Hampshire and Texas will receive \$50 gift certificates.

Six super savers, including Jack, a fourth-grader at Oak Bluffs School, two other students from Massachusetts, and three from Connecticut, Oklahoma, and Texas, will each receive a \$25 gift certificate.

In a ceremony last Friday morning in the Tisbury School library, Benjamin received a certificate of recognition from MVSAB executive vice president and chief operating officer

Richard Leonard and executive assistant and school savings coordinator Patti Leighton.

"We do the school savings program in all the schools on the Island, but the Tisbury School has the most consistent, steady super savings program going," Mr. Leonard told Benjamin. "And you and all of your other fellow students here in Tisbury and on the Vineyard that got entered into this, it's amazing. One person in the country gets this award, and that is you - congratulations."

Benjamin's eight-year-old brother Jason, a second-grader at Tisbury School, attended

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Chilmark takes up \$6.7M budget, wind energy rules

By Nelson Sigelman

Chilmark voters face a \$ 6.7 million operating budget and zoning bylaw amendments intended to regulate wind turbines and noisy machinery at Monday's annual town meeting, which begins at 7:30 pm at the Chilmark Community Center.

On Wednesday, voters return to the familiar wooden hall off South Road to elect town officers. There are no contests. Polls are open from noon to 8 pm.

In a telephone conversation with The Times, selectman J.B. Riggs Parker described the warrant as "pretty straightforward." He said cost of living increases (COLA) and the wind turbine bylaw might spur some discussion.

"Certainly the town budget," said selectman Warren Doty when asked Tuesday what might prove to be a topic of discussion. "This time of year that is what everybody is interested in."

Mr. Doty said the warrant includes a request to move forward with the design and construction of three rental units at the Middle Line Road housing project. The article calls for the town to spend \$92,000 to hire a project manager, design the units and obtain

construction cost estimates.

Chairman Frank Fenner said every year the selectmen work with the finance committee (FinCom) to examine the budget. "This year we took extra pains to scrutinize every department," he said, adding that the budget is down to "barebones essentials" appropriate for the times.

The \$6,660,825 operating budget for the 2010 fiscal year (available at mvtimes.com) is \$20,574 less than the FY 2009 budget and \$92,000 below the amount that would require a Proposition 2.5 tax override.

The budget includes pay raises for town employees based on an eight-step compensation plan. With a satisfactory job review, employees may expect an annual step pay raise of 3.4 percent. In some cases, employees who may no longer qualify for a step increase do receive increases based on length of service.

The budget also includes three percent cost of living adjustments for town employees, a subject of considerable discussion by selectmen and finance committees across the Island, in advance of the annual round of town meetings.

The topic provided lively debate at a joint meeting of the Chilmark selectmen and mem-

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Tisbury voting is about water, public works

By Janet Hefler

Tisbury voters head to the polls for the annual town election from noon to 8 pm on Tuesday, April 28, at the American Legion Hall opposite the Tisbury School. Although several races are uncontested, competition remains for candidates vying for one water commissioner and two public works commissioner seats.

(Election results will be available online at mvtimes.com)

In the race for one three-year term as a water commissioner, Roland M. Miller is challenging incumbent Ralph M. Packer Jr., one of three water commissioners who currently oversee Tisbury Water Works (TWW), the town's water system.

Established under a charter in 1905, TWW has operated as an independent entity. At a special town meeting held April 7, however, voters approved incorporating TWW as a town department effective June

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Pennywise students reap rewards

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 the ceremony along with his parents, Allan and Anne Davey, who teaches kindergarten at Oak Bluffs School. In an interview beforehand, Benjamin said he knew nothing about the contest until Esther Teves, school banking parent coordinator, came into his band class on April 10 to tell him he won. "It was like being hit by lightning," Benjamin recalled. He estimated he saved about \$600 since starting the program in kindergarten, adding a few dollars every week from allowance money for doing some chores at

home, along with contributions from his parents. When asked why he decided to participate in the savings program, the 11-year-old answered with practicality, "It makes sense to — you get money for putting money in the bank." Although Benjamin spends a little every now and then, he said he's building a nest egg to cover expenses like school class trips when he's older. He hasn't decided yet what he will buy with the Amazon gift certificate. Asked what he has learned from news about the recession, Benjamin said, "You need to always make sure you can pay back money if

you take a loan. The bank needs to be able to trust you." In a ceremony during Oak Bluffs School's weekly assembly, also held last Friday morning, Jack received a certificate of recognition from school banking parent volunteer Susan Wallo. In a phone call Monday, Jack said his win came as a complete surprise, especially considering that, "I usually don't win anything — and there were over 3,000 in the contest." The nine-year-old started his savings account in kindergarten, adding about \$3 at a time. Some of his money goes towards his hob-

by, collecting baseball cards and baseball memorabilia. Jack said he does not know yet what he will buy with his gift certificate. He is the son of Dawn and Jeffrey Sayre of Oak Bluffs, and he has a three-year-old sister, Julia. With more than 100 students taking part every week in the MVSB savings program, Tisbury School leads among the participating schools, which also include Edgartown School, Chilmark School, West Tisbury School, and the Martha's Vineyard Public Charter School. "It was our goal when we started this program 14 years ago to encourage consistent, good savings habits among students," Ms. Leighton said. Every week on a school's

bank day, students make deposits using their schools' computer, with the help of adult supervisors. SFA, a not-for-profit organization founded in 1980, administers the school savings program online. SFA compiled the list of students who qualified for the contest drawing by making more than 10 deposits through April 3 from its database of deposit records from participating schools. At the end of the school year, MVSB rewards "super savers," who deposited money into their accounts every week from September through June, and "steady savers," who deposited money at least 90 percent of the banking days. In addition to receiving a

certificate at their school's award ceremonies, steady savers receive a \$5 deposit to their accounts and super savers a \$10 deposit. The super savers' names also go into a drawing for one winner at their school for a \$50 savings bond. "The program does not run without the volunteers — they commit to it and understand the importance of it, and love to provide it," Ms. Leighton said, noting that Ms. Wallo has continued to help with the savings program long since her daughter graduated from Oak Bluffs School. Ms. Teves also credited parent volunteers Katherine Mendez, Beth Mello, and Cheryl Backus for helping her at Tisbury School. ♦ *Comment on mvtimes.com*


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