

The Martha's Vineyard TIMES

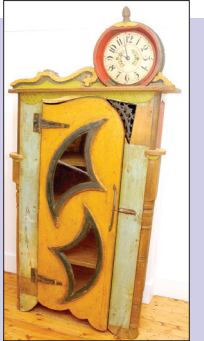
Thursday, September 17, 2009 Volume 26, Issue No. 37 2 Sections

Songwriter's Fest this weekend *Calendar, Page C3*



Featherstone furniture show

Calendar, Page C8



Moffett Race starting line madness



PHOTO BY LOUISA GOULD

Forty boats vied for starting position in the 32nd annual Moffett Race on Saturday. The winner – this year, Steve Besse — earns bragging rights over an Island full of accomplished sailors. Story and more photos on page 21.

HIGHLIGHTS

Banker William M. Honey, dead at 89

William Honey of West Tisbury, one of a dwindling number of Vineyard banking executives who made their careers here, died Tuesday afternoon.



See Page 3

Oceans Act hearing set for Wednesday

State officials will hold a public hearing here Wednesday on legislation governing development in state waters that designates two commercial wind farm sites off Island shores.

See Page 5

MCAS results show steady improvement

By Janet Hefler

Island school students continue to improve their scores on standardized state tests, according to preliminary results of the 2009 Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) exams released at 11 am yesterday. While scores for a few student subgroups in some schools remain areas of concern, school administrators are pleased overall with trends over time.

"I think our kids did extremely well if you compare their individual growth from year to year, Island-wide, we did extremely well this year in student growth," superintendent of public schools James Weiss said yesterday. "Our kids have learned a lot, and it's obvious from the tests."

Mr. Weiss qualified his enthusiasm by noting that MCAS testing is just one of many measures that the Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS) use to determine how well students learn. One factor to keep in mind when looking at MCAS results, he said, is that the standardized tests match

Individual student test scores tracked through successive test cycles confirm progress.

scores from different groups of students from year to year. "One of the things that I have Laurie Halt do for me is to prepare some information comparing a student who took the test in third grade, fourth grade, and fifth grade, and following the student over time," Mr. Weiss said. "And if you look at those numbers, they are constantly getting better and better. Kids are moving from the needs

improvement to the proficient to advanced across the board, and that's what we want to see."

There are some areas of concern, Mr. Weiss said, in a few Island schools that did not make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in some student subgroups. Those include Oak Bluffs School and Edgartown School.

"We will of course look at that data and do some other examination of the kids in terms of assessment and try to determine what they need, and we'll focus our energy on

Continued on Page 25

Good idea spurs invite for soldiers

By Nelson Sigelman

On Monday, seven men and women, wounded in the service of their country and bound by their love of fishing, will arrive on Martha's Vineyard where they will be treated to five days of Island hospitality, inspired by gratitude for their military service and their sacrifice.

The group will be treated to a stay in the Beach Plum Inn in Chilmark, fishing trips with Menemsha charter captains and a clambake on Menemsha Beach, as well as a showing of the signature Martha's Vineyard fish movie, "Jaws."

The visit reflects the Island way of doing things: energetic personalities coupled to a

Continued on Page 23

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Wounded vets get Derby fishing invite

Continued from Page 1

good idea that spreads through the community by word of mouth and taps neighborly generosity, all helped along by attitudes that eschew formalities in favor of getting things done.

The idea to invite soldiers to enjoy the therapeutic benefits of fishing in the Martha's Vineyard Striped Bass and Bluefish Derby sprang from Jack Nixon, an eight-year-old Chilmark seasonal resident who loves to fish. His father and mother, Bob and Sarah Nixon, owners of the Home Port Restaurant, the Beach Plum Inn, and the Menemsha Inn in Chilmark, took it from there.

The story began three weeks ago during family reading time at the Nixon house. The book was "The Big One," David Kinney's entertaining tale of the annual Bass and Bluefish Derby published this spring.

Bob Nixon happened to put the book down next to a newspaper photo essay

about the challenges facing Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. Jack looked at the book and the photos and told his dad, "I wish some of them could fish the Derby."

The next day, Mr. Nixon called Doriana Klumick, Beach Plum assistant manager and asked her to see if there was any interest in the community. She contacted Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, a nonprofit group that assists military personnel who have been wounded, injured, or disabled with their physical and emotional recovery, by introducing or rebuilding the skills of fly fishing and fly tying.

Time appeared to be short. Maybe it would have been best to shoot for next year.

But Mr. Nixon ran into Joe El Deiry, a member of the Derby committee, to whom he described the idea. The committee was meeting the next night.

In Menemsha, one person spoke to another person. Charter fishermen

spoke to one another.

The answer to the question of whether there was any community interest was a resounding, "Yes." And nobody wanted to wait until next year. The result was the creation of "The Beach Plum Inn American Heroes Saltwater Challenge."

On Monday, six retired men and women from the Togus Veterans Administration Hospital in Augusta, Maine, and one active duty Army man from Walter Reed Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland will arrive on Martha's Vineyard and enjoy dinner at the elegant Beach Plum Inn with members of the Derby committee and volunteer organizers.

A group of five Menemsha-based charter captains have volunteered to take the veterans out Tuesday morning and again Wednesday afternoon. Captain Scott McDowell, one of those who volunteered, said he is happy to be a part of an effort meant to show appreciation for the sacrifices of men and women in uniform. "Sara Nixon

called, and I said, count me in," he said.

Others have stepped up. The Menemsha Galley will provide lunches for the Tuesday afternoon fishing trip. On Monday night, Larsen's Fish Market will host a beach clambake. MV Island Tours and Your Taxi will assist with transportation.

The Derby committee is donating free registrations to those fishermen able to fish within the Derby rules of landing a fish unaided. The committee has also created a special plaque for those fishermen who cannot fish without assistance.

Derby chairman Greg Skomal said that when the idea was presented to help host a group of veterans the Derby members were extremely supportive. He said the committee is taking it slow and wants to do its best to make the veterans feel a part of the tournament.

"I certainly hope these guys weigh in a fish," Mr. Skomal said.

Before they leave Satur-

day, the service men and women will enjoy breakfast at the Beach Plum Inn with "Big One" author David Kinney, who will present each member of the group with a signed copy of his book.

Healing Waters, the fishing group coordinating the visit, began more than four years ago. Retired Navy Capt. Ed Nicholson, a fisherman and hunter, decided that fly fishing could help veterans in their recovery. It now has chapters across the country.

"The goal is simple," Mr. Nicholson said in an earlier interview. "You have a guy who lost a leg, he's in physical therapy, we get him out there wading a stream, he gets a boost. Or a guy who lost an arm, we start him casting, he has a chance to use his new arm and actually do something that's enjoyable."

Dr. Tamar Martin-Franklin, project coordinator of Veteran Anglers of New York, the local chapter of the Healing Waters, and her husband will accompany the group to the Vineyard. Ms. Martin-Franklin, a counseling psychologist with a specialization in rehabilitation and neuropsychology, told The Times yesterday that she became involved with the group after reading about it in a magazine.

Ms. Martin-Franklin said it seemed like a good way to combine her professional life and love of fishing. Describing the people she has met and worked with in the program, she said the entire experience has been professionally and personally rewarding.

Stanley Munson is looking forward to his first fishing

trip to Martha's Vineyard. He is no novice. "Fishing is what I do best," he said in a telephone conversation Tuesday evening from his home in Belfast, Maine. "I think I was born with a fishing pole in my hand."

Mr. Munson was an Army helicopter mechanic. A severe motor vehicle accident in December 1980 left him with multiple injuries and a long road to recovery. "A lot of operations and a lot of TLC got me back on my feet," he said.

Mr. Munson picked up fly fishing after he lost his sight. He was introduced to Healing Waters through the efforts of Theresa Olsen, a VA medical center recreational therapist, who helped begin a Healing Waters chapter in Maine with Trout Unlimited.

A self-described workaholic, Mr. Munson said that after his injury he wanted to keep working but encountered many roadblocks. "Recreation, literally, gave me my life back," he said. "Knowing what it did for me, I can only imagine what it has done for the other veterans in the area that have picked this up in the same aspect. I think we are all in the same boat, and it has given us a focus and something to look forward to."

Mr. Munson said he has fished for striped bass but never caught one. Assured that his luck was about to change, Mr. Munson said, "Sounds like a good plan to me."

For more information or to donate to the saltwater challenge, call Doriana Klumick at 508-645-2521. ♦

Comment on mvtimes.com

Derby

Continued from Page 22

when you fish alone?"

Jim is a straightforward fellow. "Well, I do," he said seriously. "But I know a lot of people."

I laughed. "I'll accept that," I said.

Jim added, "I thoroughly

enjoy myself on the beach, me and the Lord. I tell you, I just love it. I love every bit of it."

Kids Day is Sunday

The Kids Mini Derby is this Sunday from 6 to 9 am at the Oak Bluffs Steamship pier. No casting skill is required and a simple fishing rod will suffice.

Simply bait a weighted hook with a piece of squid or sand eel and drop it to the bottom where a hopefully a hungry scup or sea robin lies in wait.

Derby committee members led by long-time kids' chairman Cooper Gilkes (assisted by keeper-of-the-records Lela Gilkes) will be available to provide advice and assistance. The mini-derby is

strictly for kids old enough to hold and reel a fishing rod through age 14. It is the one and only time fishing is allowed from the pier.

A reminder, this is for the kids. The committee frowns on adults who, under the guise of "helping," do the fishing. ♦

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64th Derby Results

(Through Tuesday, September 15)

Grand Leaders

Boat bluefish: Joseph P. Canha, 13.27.
Shore bluefish: Clinton A. Fisher, 10.23.
Boat bass: Stephen J. Pietruska, 44.68.
Shore bass: David A. Nash, 26.15.
Boat bonito: Mark W. Jones, 6.51.
Shore bonito: David Balon, 6.07.
Boat Albacore: Rob D. Morrison, 12.12.
Shore Albacore: Victor Colantonio, 8.23.

Overall Leaders

All-Tackle Division
 Boat bass: (1) Stephen J. Pietruska, 44.68 (2) Kib Bramhall, 32.77; (3) Evan Metropoulos, 32.22. Shore bass: (1) David A. Nash, 26.15; (2) Ashton L. Hannah, 25.43; (3) Ron Domurat, 24.97. Boat bonito: (1) Mark W. Jones, 6.51; (2) Alphonsus D. Simmons, 6.47; (3) Jules BenDavid, 6.42. Shore bonito: (1) David Balon, 6.07; (2) John F. Schillinger, 5.89; (3) Bernie B. Arruda, 4.98. Boat bluefish: (1) Joseph P. Canha, 13.27; (2) Mark W. Jones, 12.63; (3) Carl P. Sherr, 12.53. Shore bluefish: (1) Clinton A. Fisher, 10.23; (2) John Hathaway, 8.76; (3) Daniel R. Roy, 8.00. Boat albacore: (1) Jared E. Fisher, 11.42; (2) Kevin A. Ludwig, 11.00; (3) Mitchell J. Pachico, 10.71. Shore albacore: (1) Victor Colantonio, 8.23; (2) Joel M. Graves, Jr., 7.76; (3) Peter Sliwkowski, 7.67.
Fly Rod Division
 Boat bass: (1) Tim P. Sheran, 15.84. Boat bonito: (1) W. Brice Contessa, 5.73. Boat bluefish: (1) W. Brice Contessa, 7.81; (2) Jack T. Josephs, 4.91. Boat albacore: (1) Rob D. Morrison, 12.12; (2) John C. Rapone, 10.63; (3) W. Brice Contessa, 10.37.
Junior Division
 Boat bass: (1) Giovanni M. Paone, 13.45. Boat bluefish: (1) Elizabeth S. O'Brien, 10.14; (2) Cameron Maciel,

10.05; (3) Giovanni M. Paone, 8.91. Boat albacore: (1) Alec B. Cobban, 10.53; (2) Emily M. Turney, 10.31; (3) Elizabeth S. O'Brien, 7.85.
Mini Junior Division
 Boat bonito: (1) Dylan Kadison, 5.40; (2) Brendan R. Morris, 5.33; Mike B. Metcalf, 4.09. Boat bluefish: (1) Dylan Kadison, 10.05; (2) Victoria Scott, 9.97; (3) Brendan R. Morris, 8.50. Boat albacore: (1) Katherine G. O'Brien, 7.90.

Daily Winners

Sunday, September 13

All Tackle
 Boat bonito: (1) Mark W. Jones, 6.51; (2) Mitchell J. Pachico, 6.33; (3) Chris T. Chandler, 6.12; (4) Adam T. Golding, 5.96. Shore bonito: (1) John F. Schillinger, 5.89. Boat bluefish: (1) Carl P. Sherr, 12.53; (2) Henry R. Fauteux, 12.43; (3) Manuel M. Nieto, 11.68; (4) Paul Medeiros, 11.43. Shore bluefish: (1) Daniel J. Benedetto, 7.40; (2) Kevin Donovan, 7.28. Boat bass: (1) Stephen J. Pietruska, 44.68; (2) Kib Bramhall, 32.77; (3) Scott D. MacCafferri, 17.78; (4) Leah H. Pachico, 15.79. Shore bass: (1) David A. Nash, 26.15; (2) Paul Bradshaw, 24.78; (3) Peter Sliwkowski, 22.61; (4) Joseph J. Rogers, 21.90.
Junior Division
All Tackle
 Boat bonito: (1) Dylan Kadison, 5.40. Boat bluefish: (1) Elizabeth S. O'Brien, 10.14; (2) Dylan Kadison, 10.05; (3) Victoria Scott, 9.97; (4) Giovanni M. Paone, 8.91. Boat bass: (1) Giovanni M. Paone, 13.45.

Monday, September 14

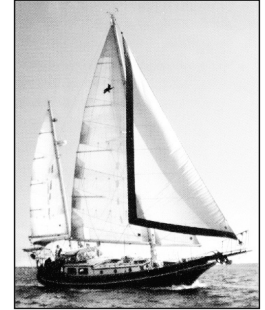
All Tackle
 Boat bonito: (1) Alphonsus D. Simmons, 6.47; (2) Jules BenDavid, 6.42; (3) Keith D. Stevens, 6.33; (4) Joan McKeon, 6.32. Boat bluefish: (1) Joseph P. Canha, 13.27; (2) Mike E. Mayrand, 11.87; (3) Michael Bigby, 11.55; (4) John D. Smith, 11.42. Shore

bluefish: (1) Clinton A. Fisher, 10.23; (2) John Hathaway, 8.76; (3) Daniel R. Roy, 8.00; (4) Ed McCarthy, 7.58. Boat bass: (1) Bob Tocchio, 27.92; (2) John D. Smith, 18.08. Shore bass: (1) Ron Domurat, 24.97; (2) Ashton L. Hannah, 23.98; (3) Stephen F. Amaral, 20.44; (4) Jared Stobie, 19.85.
Fly Rod Division
 Boat bluefish: (1) Jack T. Josephs, 4.91.
Junior Division
All Tackle
 Boat bonito: (1) Mike B. Metcalf, 4.09. Boat bluefish: (1) Brendan R. Morris, 5.44; (2) Mike B. Metcalf, 4.14; (3) Olivia M. Pate, 3.38.

Tuesday, September 15

All Tackle
 Boat bonito: (1) David C. Kadison, 6.18; (2) Brian P. Curry, 6.17; (3) Fred P. Collins, 6.05; (4) Donald T. MacGillivray, 5.66. Shore bonito: (1) David Balon, 6.07; (2) Bernie B. Arruda, 4.98; (3) Morgan T. Taylor, 3.80. Boat bluefish: (1) Mark W. Jones, 12.63; (2) Michael Spampinato, 11.74; (3) John D. Smith, 11.31; (4) Amanda L. McIntosh, 10.72. Shore bluefish: (1) Jonathan S. Pike, 6.12; (2) Clinton A. Fisher, 7.78; (3) Joseph J. Rogers, 5.08. Boat bass: (1) Evan Metropoulos, 32.22; (2) Bob O'Neil, 26.15; (3) Charles P. Finnerty, 25.37; (4) Mark W. Jones, 22.31. Shore bass: (1) Ashton L. Hannah, 25.43; (2) Jared Stobie, 23.19; (3) Michael Berninger, 21.98; (4) Janet Messineo, 14.34.
Fly Rod Division
 Boat bonito: (1) W. Brice Contessa, 5.73. Boat bluefish: (1) W. Brice Contessa, 7.81. Shore bass: (1) Tim P. Sheran, 15.84.
Junior Division
All Tackle
 Boat bonito: (1) Brendan R. Morris, 5.33. Boat bluefish: (1) Cameron Maciel, 10.05; (2) Brendan R. Morris, 8.50; (3) Emily M. Turney, 5.27; (4) Victoria Scott, 5.91.

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	Min. Size	Bag Limit
Black Sea Bass	12.5"	20 fish
Bluefish	none	10 fish
Cod	24"	10 fish
Fluke (season 7/1-8/13)	18.5"	5 fish
River Herring	<i>Harvest & use prohibited</i>	
Scup*	10.5"	10 fish
Striped Bass**	28"	2 fish
Tautog	16"	3 fish
Weakfish	16"	6 fish
Blue Crab	4 1/8"	50 crabs
	no egg bearers	
Shellfish	<i>Town license required</i>	
Lobster	<i>State license required</i>	
	<i>traps must have escape vents</i>	

*Maximum of 50 fish per private vessel with six or more fishermen on board. May 24-Sept. 26, 2009.
 **Striped bass may be taken only by hook and line. The discard of dead, legal size striped bass is prohibited.

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