



The High School View

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Pavilion prompts praise for student builders



PHOTOS BY MADDIE SCOTT

Andrew DiMattie (left) and (right photograph, l-r) Judy Crawford and Jill Robie, enjoy the celebratory luncheon held at the YMCA pavilion, built by regional high school building trades students.

BY NATHANIEL HORWITZ

Last spring, building trades students and teacher William Seabourne constructed a post-and-beam pavilion for the YMCA. On Friday, November 8, current students and graduates who had worked on the project attended the pavilion's opening ceremony, where they were individually recognized with an award, a t-shirt, and a luncheon. Turnout was high - more than 25 of the 35 students who had worked on the project, including all of last year's senior participants, were in attendance. Said senior Benjamin Lukowitz, "The pavilion was fun to build because I got to use my hands, and the community will benefit from it."

Students prepared the pavilion's component parts in

the high school's workshop throughout the early months of 2013. The materials, funded by a \$60,000 grant from the Heckscher Foundation, were then loaded onto a trailer and taken across the road to the Y, where groups of 10-15 students took turns erecting the 24' x 40' pavilion. A video of the project's progression can be found on the Martha's Vineyard YMCA's Facebook page.

During previous years, building trades students have worked on the Aquinnah Public Library deck, a building for the high school's drama department, and sheds for the Island Grown Initiative. Said Mr. Seabourne, "We like to do one community service project each year, and we're always looking for new projects." **msv**

Library expands holdings by millions

BY MADDY MOORE

Regional high school students have two valuable, new tools for writing research papers--Questia School and EasyBib. Questia School provides

more than seven million electronic books, magazines, and journals. Additionally, Questia School allows students to take notes, highlight text, cite sources, make bibliographies, and plan an outline for a research paper. Unlike Google,

which many students already use for research, Questia School concentrates more on the area a student is researching, and omits questionable sources such as Wikipedia.

The other new addition to a student's toolbox is

EasyBib, which formats formal bibliographies from a student's notes and links students to other bibliographies of papers on the subject they are researching.

The new school librarian, Kevin McGrath, is responsible for the subscriptions. "The school I used to work at had

[these websites] and people loved it," he said.

Said Mr. McGrath of the subscription fees, "I justified [the subscriptions] through the thinking that if you had to buy the books in print, the costs would be much higher."

More than 200 students have already registered, and many are enjoying the assis-

stance the websites provide.

Said junior Mac Sashin, "EasyBib helps me make bibliographies for my papers. I can type in my sources and it will make the bibliography for me."

Students can register for either website by logging in with their Google usernames and passwords. **msv**

Islanders living off-Island

BY OLIVIA JACOBS

Like a flock of restless birds migrating to more suitable territory, many Island young people take flight to the mainland every year. And while many soon return to the Vineyard, some make their off-Island addresses a permanent, new home.

Emma Conley is a native Vineyarder now living in Portland, Oregon. "The reason I originally left, like many people, was to go to college. I think the college experience you have can really affect your transition from Island life to off-Island life. If nothing else, it's a useful segue," she said. "I never felt like I would find a job [on Martha's

Vineyard] that I liked, was year round, and could support me. I preferred to live somewhere with a lower cost of living that allowed me to experiment with different life trajectories."

Jon Mone, also Vineyard-born, left the Island for similar reasons. He said, "I originally moved off for college in Vermont but came home every summer to work. After college, I got into law school at Georgetown but deferred for a year to take some time off. I moved out [to Los Angeles] and decided to cancel law school and stay in LA to pursue a career in the movie business." Mr. Mone is now Executive Vice President of Production at the Universal-based Bluegrass Films and

recently served as Executive Producer of the movie "Ted."

Elliott Vecchia, a 2004 graduate of the regional high school, now living in California, discussed his struggles when he moved off-Island for college at Massachusetts College of Art and Design. He said, "When I left the Vineyard, a lot of things were different. It was hard for me to get used to living in the city and being around so many people and lives all the time. It's hard to get used to being in a world where not everyone knows everyone."

"It was also easier for me [off-island] because the Vineyard was a very judgmental place, and, when I left, people on the mainland seemed to like who I was. The Vineyard can be a close-minded place. Part of my



ARTWORK BY THORPE KARABEES

opinions could be due to the year I spent in Ecuador when I was seven. When living in a third-world country in a giant city, I saw a lot of things that changed the way I looked at the world." Mr. Vecchia is now working for companies in the skating industry in Los Angeles producing video content through the web.

Ms. Conley also reflected on her adjustments to mainland life. "There were two ways I can remember

struggling to acclimate--driving on freeways and thinking I should buy everything in the mall just in case I couldn't go shopping again for three months. Life off-Island is convenient," she said. "Everything is made to be easier, cheaper, and more accessible. Whether or not this is a good thing is up to the individual."

Jon Mone had less trouble with the changes. "Luckily, I didn't struggle too much

acclimating to college because I went to a small school in a small town, much like MV. Los Angeles was, of course, way different, but since my roommate out there was a longtime friend from MV, I had that to build from," he said. "Holly Bario Jenkinson is also a fellow Vineyarder who helped me acclimate to the film business in LA, so I was lucky enough to have these people aiding my transition into city life."

Despite this happy transition, Mr. Mone said, "I wake up and want to be back on MV almost every day. It's easy to take it for granted when you live there full-time, but being away from the Vineyard makes you really appreciate it."

Said Ms. Conley, "I still call the Island home, and I'm sure I will for a long time." **msv**

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