



The High School View

The High School View is staffed and prepared entirely by students from the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School, and published on their behalf by The Martha's Vineyard Times, with the generous assistance of the sponsors whose names appear below.

Stop the presses! Let's all go to 'Chicago'

By Casey McAndrews

Ladies and Gentlemen, you are about to hear a story of murder, greed, corruption, violence, exploitation, adultery, and treachery." This is the first line audience members will hear at this year's high school musical, "Chicago," which opens next week.

"Chicago" tells the story of a woman in the Roaring Twenties named Roxie Hart (Penelope Dutton) who murders her illicit lover and uses the fame from her trial to try to get a place in vaudeville. On the way she interacts with an assortment of immoral characters, from the murderous nightclub performer Velma Kelly (Darby Patterson) to the corrupt warden Mama Morton (Aidee Espino) to the two-faced lawyer Billy Flynn (Jared Livingston). As she lies her way to the spotlight, she leaves her loving yet gullible husband, Amos Hart (Ben Nadelstein), in the dust.



PHOTO BY MOLLY HOUGHTON

From left: Junior Jesse Dawson, freshman Christian Schmidt, sophomore Alex Vasiliadis, freshman Harold Lowry, and senior Michaela Piche rehearse "Chicago" on Sunday, Jan. 31.

"This year we have the biggest cast that we've seen in at least four years. There are over 50 students in the cast, and there are even more helping with the technical aspects of the show. We have community members in the orchestra, we're doing the choreography from

the Broadway show, and it's going to be amazing," said Jared Livingston, who plays Billy Flynn.

Director Brooke Ditchfield said, "We are having a blast with this show so far. The music and the choreography are both fabulous. Everyone should come see it. It's the

perfect show to bring your valentine to. It's about murder. What's more romantic than that?" HSV

The performances of Chicago will be on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 12 and 13 at 7 pm, with a Sunday matinee on Feb. 14 at 2 pm. Tickets \$10; \$8 students, seniors.

Whose lives matter?

By Rose Engler

The rising controversy over whose lives matter in the United States was brought to the eyes and ears of regional high school students on Friday, Jan. 15. The Whose Lives Matter assembly was a multimedia experience, including videos, live talks, and interactive quizzes.

The live talks began with copy center manager Wade Johnson, who spoke about how sheltered Island students are from violence. Wade said, "None of you Island kids have pondered the thought that 'I can be shot in a second.'"

He continued to tell the audience that the situation surrounding the controversy of whose lives matter sits in the hands of the students. "You are the peace keepers — it's your world. If you want to be tough, help us," he said.

The next two speakers were school resource officer Sergeant Michael Marchand and Oak Bluffs Police Chief Erik Blake.

Sgt. Marchand explained to the students that his purpose in the school is to protect them from the violence that is happening throughout the rest of the country. "I'm here to make sure you guys are safe," he said.

Chief Blake spoke to the controversy surrounding the balance, or unbalance, of

respect between police officers and some people in this country. Chief Blake said, "People follow the law when they feel that the people who are enforcing it, and who made it, are legitimate."

Assembly speaker Caroline Miller, who has just moved to the Island from Tennessee, shared next. In reference to the violence happening throughout the country, Ms. Miller said, "This does not seem real to us here, but it's happening." She then recounted a story of her recent visit to her hometown in Tennessee, where an African-American boy in her neighborhood was shot and killed while he was playing video games.

When she was living in that town in Tennessee, she had believed that she was living in an accepting town. "Looking back now, I realize that kids of different color went to the theater on different days, and I didn't get an invitation when the white child was having a party. But that was all I knew," she said. The undertones of racism never occurred to her while she was living in the middle of it.

The assembly left an impact on sophomore Rose Capobianco. Rose especially enjoyed listening to speaker Caroline Miller. Rose said, "She had insight into segregation that normally isn't understood by students on the Island." HSV

Extreme makeover: Forest edition

By James Kelliher

A dilapidated shack in the Manuel F. Correllus State Forest is being redesigned by a group of MVRHS architecture students. It may become the forest's first visitor center.

The building, if it's constructed, will replace a structure located in the State Forest Center area, not far from the high school. As a visitor center for the 5,100-acre state forest, it will include a display area, helpful forest information, trail maps, and open space for future purposes.

"I am hoping it will be a place for people to get more information about the forest and its ecology, and a way for the high school to showcase its work," says Ginny Dau-

treuil, the new superintendent of the forest. Dautreuil reached out to the high school last fall about collaborating on the project together. Dautreuil became the forest's third superintendent in July 2014, and is the first woman to hold the position.

Architecture teacher Elsbeth Todd asked her incoming students if they would like to work on designing plans for the state forest structure, or if they would like to continue with the regular curriculum for the semester.

"I thought this opportunity was a lifetime learning experience, and they will know that they had an impact long after they leave high school," said Ms. Todd. Everyone in the class agreed that they would

rather work on a project that might become a real building.

Lohen Goodwin, a sophomore who worked on the project, said, "It's more fun

and motivating to know that there is a possibility of it actually being built."

The students decided on a post-and-beam structure to give the building a woody look. They hope the building will be built with white pine from the state forest. It's also

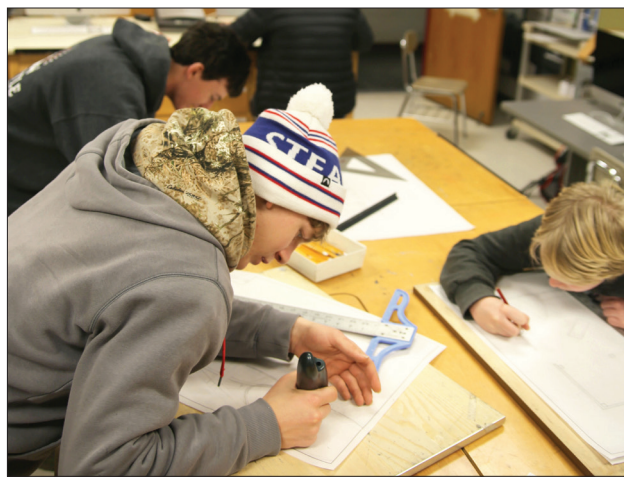


PHOTO BY JAMES KELLIHER

From left: Senior Anders Nelson and sophomore Lohen Goodwin work on the state forest building design in architecture class mid-December.

been designed for roof-top solar panels. The building will act as a hunting weigh-in station, replacing the old one, which had a scale that was difficult to use.

Lohen Goodwin and Anders Nelson drew the floor plan, roof plan and elevations. David Packer made a 3D model of the building using a digital drafting program.

"I was worried for a while it wasn't going to come together," said Ms. Todd. "But

as we got further along, and the group started to work together, it became a reality. I'm very proud of them; it's a big project."

After the presentation, Dautreuil said she was pleased with the project design. She said, "It was like they read my mind. Everything, from the functionality to the aesthetics, fit. I am excited to present this to my supervisor and to have the high school involved with this project." HSV

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