

# SUNDAY CAPE COD TIMES



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The Cape and Islands' Daily Newspaper

**ADVICE FOR THE AGES**  
BUSINESS G1

**A SECOND CHANCE  
FOR LOVE**  
AT HOME E1

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## INSIDE



### BASEBALL HEATS UP IN HEART OF WINTER

Times columnist Rob Duca previews the 2009 Red Sox, and Alex Rodriguez faces steroid allegations.  
Sports /C1

### OUR PICK /A2

#### Curtain falls on piece of Falmouth history

The Woods Hole home gutted in a fire this week once served as a rehearsal space for theater stars including Henry Fonda.

### CAPE & ISLANDS /B1

#### Red ink flows as white stuff mounts

Local town budgets are being strained to the breaking point as the cost of removing snow and ice grows ever larger during one of the harshest winters in recent memory.

## WEATHER



Breezy with a mix of clouds and sunshine, highs in the mid-40s. /E8

## TAKE NOTE

### FISHERMEN TRAPPED ON LAKE ERIE ICE FLOE

More than 130 ice fishermen were rescued yesterday after a miles-wide ice floe broke away from Lake Erie's Ohio shoreline. One man died after he fell into the frigid water while searching for an ice bridge.  
Nation & World /A3

### COMPLETE INDEX /A2

Cape & Islands	B
Sports	C
Travel	D
At Home	E
Viewpoints	F
Business & Finance	G
Classified	G9
Real Estate	H
Auto	H12



PAUL BLACKMORE/CAPE COD TIMES

Annika Gustafson and Nathan Bearse-Santos dive into play time during a day care class at the YMCA Cape Cod in Barnstable Friday. Local parents often face waiting times of up to two years to get into the day care of their choice.

# DAY CARE

Between a slash in state aid and rising expenses, many parents are finding quality, available child care out of their reach.

By AARON GOUVEIA  
agouveia@capecodonline.com

There's not enough of it, too many people need it and the number of those who can afford it is ever-shrinking.

That's the reality for thousands of parents seeking accessible, affordable and quality day care on Cape Cod, said Mary Pat Messmer, executive director of Cape Cod Child Development.

And a troubled economy, mixed with less state aid for child care, is forcing many parents to make some tough choices.

Money for state subsidized child care was reduced in the fall and again last month, when Gov. Deval Patrick announced major budget cuts. As part of the cuts, day care providers who participate in the subsidized program receive less reimbursement.

Andrew and Suzanne Powers

of West Barnstable looked at all the possibilities before the birth of their daughter, Abigail, 18 months ago. Both parents work full-time – Andrew as a self-employed contractor and Suzanne as a retail buyer for Talbots – and the pair considered child care centers, in-home providers, a nanny and even unlicensed day care operations. “We were completely ignorant of the struggle we would have. We thought it'd be a piece of cake,” Andrew said.

Eventually they found exactly what they were looking for at the YMCA Cape Cod, but with one major caveat: Abigail had to spend a year on the waiting list before a spot opened up.

The Powers initially used an in-home provider whom they liked, except the hours were prohibitive. The 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. time slot often clashed with the couple's

see DAY CARE, page 5

### COSTS OF CARE

#### Average cost of infant care

- Centers: \$244.48/week
- Home child care: \$198.86/week

#### Average cost of toddler care

- Centers: \$229.75/week
- Home child care: \$196.30/week

#### Average cost of preschool

- Centers: \$198.49/week
- Home child care: \$196.04/week

Source: Child Care Network of the Cape & Islands

LEARN MORE: State vouchers, day care openings detailed. /A5



ERIC WILLIAMS/CAPE COD TIMES

A fin whale that died Thursday on an Eastham beach is seen with a partially severed tail yesterday.

## Sheltered after the storms

Many elderly don't want to risk injury by venturing outdoors

By CYNTHIA MCCORMICK  
cmccormick@capecodonline.com

If 85-year-old Mary Pollard ventures outdoors at all these days, it's with extreme caution.

Reliant on a cane for walking, she finds negotiating the ice treacherous. The summer strolls she takes around her Centerville neighborhood, casually greeting the neighbors, are a distant memory.

“It's murder out there,” Pollard said. “I wouldn't walk. I could fall easily.”

Winters on the Cape are tough on the area's older residents, but this year's relentless ice and snow have been particularly isolating, say officials who work with senior citizens.

“A lot just don't go out. They don't visit each other,” said Hilda Davenport, an outreach worker with the Yarmouth Senior Center. “You go to their house



PAUL BLACKMORE/CAPE COD TIMES

Carol Koepf, left, talks with Mary Pollard in Barnstable during a Meals on Wheels visit. Pollard stays indoors because icy conditions outside are too treacherous.

and they're still in their nightgown.”

Being stuck inside most of the winter can lead to depression, anxiety and even physical problems, outreach workers and a physician said.

But for the frailest seniors – particularly those who need assistance walking – a tumble on the ice can lead to a

see ELDERLY, page 5

## Would-be whale-tail thief cuts it close

Official says a slicing of the fin whale that died on a beach in Eastham could draw a \$10,000 fine.

By K.C. MYERS  
STAFF WRITER

EASTHAM – Police and federal authorities are looking for one or more suspects who tried to sever the tail of a 40-foot fin whale that stranded and died Thursday on Dyer Prince Beach.

The 18-ton juvenile male fin whale died just a few feet from the high tide line after becoming stuck in shallow water that had turned to ice near Rock Harbor.

Fin whales are the second largest whale in the world and an endangered species. Adult fin whales

see WHALE, page 4



**WHERE TO GO FOR HELP**

For service referrals and other information about Meals on Wheels, visitor programs and reassurance programs, call your local senior center or Elder Services of the Cape and Islands at 508-394-4630 or the toll-free number at 800-244-4630. Senior outreach workers can also help older residents find pantries and grocery shopping services that do home deliveries.

**Elderly: People asked to check on housebound**

from **A1**

fracture that sends their health into a downward spiral.

"You fall and break a hip, you're out for a year" or end up in residential care, said Claudia Borden, an outreach worker for the Barnstable Senior Center. "I know they sit there and weigh this."

The older people get, the more trouble they have with balance and even clearly seeing ice, said Hyannis internist Dr. Jeffrey Martens, many of whose older patients have fractured bones this winter.

Hip fractures are particularly dangerous because they can lead to dehydration and more serious medical problems, he said.

But seniors who are shut in all winter can experience depression and become physically deconditioned from not being able to walk around, said Martens, who works for Medical Associates of Cape Cod. He said walking has been proven to strengthen seniors' strength and posture and to delay the onset of Alzheimer's.

If it's too dangerous to walk outside, Martens suggested that seniors walk some place indoors, like the mall.

Lynne Waterman, outreach for Mashpee senior services, said her town offers seniors van rides to grocery stores, doctor appointments and to run errands.

A tumble on the ice can lead to a fracture that sends their health into a downward spiral.

One danger of being housebound is that food and medicine may run low, said Borden, whose senior center has helped people restock their pantries in an emergency.

Worries about falling indoors also are particularly acute during the winter, when seniors fear their neighbors wouldn't notice newspapers and mail piling up. Many seniors address that fear by signing up for local reassurance programs, in which officials make daily phone calls to check on their well-being.

And hundreds of Cape housebound seniors use the Meals on Wheels program, which provides a home-delivered meal for a minimal token price.

Seeing the people who deliver the meals – volunteers who are often younger retirees – makes their day, said Leslie Scheer, director of Elder Services of the Cape and Islands, which provides about 1,000 meals a day.

"The Meals on Wheels driver may be the only person they see all day – or all week," she said.

"Many could care less about the meal," said Gail Murray, who coordinates the Meals on Wheels program for Yarmouth. "They look forward to the volunteers coming to say, 'Hi. How are you?'"

Pollard gets Meals on Wheels five days a week and keeps her wits sharp by doing the newspaper crossword puzzles and reading.

"I get plenty of Agatha Christies," she said.

"These people are very stoic," Borden said. As long as they have a TV, radio and phone most get through the winter fine, she said. "You just adjust."

Davenport asks neighbors and family members to make regular phone calls to seniors housebound by the cold weather.

"We all need to keep watch on each other with the economy and the weather on the Cape," she said. "We need to go back to the olden days when people checked on each other."

**INSIDE** Snowstorms take a toll on Cape towns too. Cape & Islands /B1



PAUL BLACKMORE PHOTOS/CAPE COD TIMES

Children 15 months to 2 years old engage in play at YMCA Cape Cod in Barnstable on Friday. As a result of state budget cuts for subsidized child care, day care providers who participate in the subsidized program receive reimbursement far below the going market rates.

**Day care: Providers stop taking vouchers**

from **A1**

work schedules, as opposed to the YMCA's hours of 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

But with added hours comes added expense.

Andrew Powers said it costs \$1,100 per month for full-time day care at the YMCA. Although it's roughly the same as a mortgage payment, Powers said it's well worth it to know your child is in capable hands as opposed to an unlicensed provider.

That's why they've already saved a spot for their next baby at the YMCA, due in seven weeks.

"There's a liability issue and you want peace of mind knowing there are people there who are qualified in case of an emergency," Andrew said. "We'll be looking at \$2,000 a month with our second but with our

lifestyle, it's worth it."

But many other parents are unable to find available, quality care they can afford.

There are 1,166 children who receive state vouchers entitling them to subsidized day care in Barnstable County, according to the Child Care Network of the Cape and Islands.

In addition, more than 800 children from 606 Cape families are on the state Department of Early Education and Care's (EEC) waiting list for vouchers.

To qualify for assistance, a family of three has to earn a gross income that is 50 percent of the state median income, or less than \$3,127 a month, according to the EEC.

Even if a family meets the income eligibility requirements and is accepted after up to two years on the waiting list, there's still no guarantee

of finding an open day care slot at a facility that accepts vouchers.

Many day care providers have stopped accepting the vouchers because the reimbursement rate from the state is so far below the going market rates, said Jennifer Sheehan, director of the Cape Cod Neighborhood Support Coalition.

"It's kind of like health care in that doctors say they won't accept Mass Health because the rate of reimbursement is so low," Sheehan said. "So even though they love kids, the providers can't take the vouchers because they can't afford it."

That's the case with Georgianna Leonard, 40, who runs Georgie's Care Bear Club, a licensed day care in Mashpee since 1996.

Leonard is licensed to accept six children, and has three openings. But she does not have any children receiving subsidized care and said

she most likely plans to keep it that way.

"It's great for families, but providers who accept them only get about half of it back," Leonard said. "Right now it's really tough."

Beth Gaffney, program director at the Child Care Network of the Cape & Islands, said the waiting list for vouchers is lengthy, but it is not exploding in this bad economy as she expected. The main reason, she said, is people can't wait two years for help.

Gaffney said many parents dismiss a two-year wait out of hand because their needs are immediate. But more often than not, day care is just the tip of the iceberg.

"We find that for a lot of families it's not just a problem with child care bills, but also housing, food and rent," Gaffney said. "This is impacting their whole life."

**STATE VOUCHER PROGRAM**

■ Child Care Network of the Cape & Islands administers income eligible vouchers for the Department of Early Education and Care (EEC).

■ There are 1,166 vouchers in CCN's active caseload.

■ The state's centralized waiting list for tuition assistance vouchers currently has 800 Cape & Islands children from 606 families.

■ The towns of Barnstable, Yarmouth, Falmouth and Bourne have the largest numbers of children on the waitlist.

**Abigail Powers, 18 months, at YMCA Cape Cod. Abigail's parents waited a year for an opening.**



**LOCAL DAY CARE OPENINGS**

*Child care providers licensed through the state can never have more children at a given time than the number listed as their licensed capacity. They may however, choose to enroll less children than their licensed capacity.*

■ Number of family child care providers	<b>223</b>
■ Desired capacity	<b>1,365</b>
■ Vacancies	<b>203</b>
■ Number of child care centers	<b>67</b>
■ Desired capacity	<b>2,678</b>
■ Vacancies	<b>198</b>

Source: Child Care Network of the Cape & Islands

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE STATE VOUCHER PROGRAM GO TO [WWW.EEC.STATE.MA.US](http://WWW.EEC.STATE.MA.US)

**Tribe: Reinstatement vote upheld**

from **A1**

But there's a potential for a show-down.

Vice Chairman David Pocknett sent a letter to the election committee saying there is a no trespass order in effect for the shunned members and the tribe's enrollment committee took a vote on Jan. 29 not to accept the Jan. 9 reinstatement vote because it wasn't taken by the full tribal council.

The four members were shunned under the leadership of former tribal council chairman Glenn Marshall for blowing the whistle on alleged financial misconduct.

After Marshall agreed in December to plead guilty in federal court to political corruption and embezzling nearly \$400,000 in tribe funds, the majority of the tribal council moved to lift the punishment against the four members.

In August 2007, Marshall resigned after the Times exposed his 1981 rape conviction and lies about his military record.

Some tribe members had questioned the validity of the Jan. 9 reinstatement vote because only seven of the 13 tribal council members attended the emergency meeting and one of those seven, Chief Vernon Lopez, had told tribe elders he planned to resign.

But Judge Ducheneaux ruled that because Lopez had only verbally

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Recent Time coverage of the Mashpee Wampanoag tribe: [www.capecodonline.com/wampanoag](http://www.capecodonline.com/wampanoag)

**COMING TOMORROW**

See the Times for complete coverage of the election.

submitted his resignation and told the elders he would stay on until a successor was found, he was still a member of the council. It was Lopez who provided a quorum for the emergency meeting.

Tribal council member Yvonne Avant sought the tribal court opinion after the enrollment committee's Jan. 29 vote. Avant wrote in the letter that she wanted to preserve the integrity of the tribe's election because "tension is running high."

At the Jan. 9 emergency meeting, the tribal council also placed two officials on paid administrative leave: chairman Shawn Hendricks, who has served as the tribe's leader since Marshall's resignation in 2007, and tribal council secretary Desire Hendricks Moreno. Based on court records, tribal council members said Hendricks and Moreno may have breached their fiduciary responsibilities during Marshall's tenure.

Hendricks is not seeking re-election today. Moreno is on the ballot.

**COURT REPORT**



In court Friday:

**DISPOSITIONS**

**ALI, Tariq**, 38, Danvers Way, Hyannis; armed assault with intent to rob and assault with a dangerous weapon, Oct. 4 in Barnstable, not prosecuted; defendant indicted and arraigned in Superior Court.

**ALLEN, William H.**, 25, 100 Emerson Way, Centerville; admitted sufficient facts to operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol (OUI), Dec. 6 in Yarmouth, continued without a finding for one year, 45-day license loss, \$1,847.22 costs and \$50 fee; not responsible for another traffic violation.

**BATES, Christopher J.**, 28, Stoughton; guilty plea to two counts larceny of a value more than \$250, Nov. 22 and Nov. 28 in Barnstable, 60 days Barnstable County Correctional Facility; possession of heroin, dismissed.

**BROCKA, Blane**, 43, 1237 Route 28, Yarmouth; larceny of a value more than \$250 by single scheme, check forgery and passing a false check, Aug. 20, 2007, in Barnstable, dismissed on restitution.

**CASTRO, Jennifer**, 26, 48 Route 130, Sandwich; larceny of a motor vehicle, April 13, 2006, in Sandwich, dismissed.

**CURRY, Brittany**, 22, 4 Larch Arbor Road, Yarmouth; OUI, April 5 in Yarmouth, dismissed.

**DELUGO, Mark W.**, 48, 800 Bearse's Way, Hyannis; guilty plea to OUI for the fourth time and another traffic violation, Sept. 7, 1997, in Dennis, 18 months county correctional facility (129 days pretrial credit), 10-year license loss; responsible for another traffic violation, filed.

**EDWARDS, Dennis J. IV**, no age listed, 63

Sisson Road, Harwich; guilty plea to OUI, Nov. 16 in Yarmouth, one year probation, 45-day license loss, \$1,597.22 costs and \$50 fee; not responsible for another traffic violation.

**HOLLANDER, Catherine E.**, 51, 40 Apple Lane, Dennis; guilty plea to OUI, Jan. 6 in Yarmouth, one year probation, 45-day license loss, \$41,597.22 costs and \$50 fee; not responsible for two other traffic violations.

**LOPES, Gerald**, 28, 69 Route 28, Yarmouth; guilty plea to carrying a firearm without a license, Sept. 26 in Yarmouth, two years county correctional facility (11 days pretrial credit); possession of cocaine with intent to distribute, possession of a firearm without FID card and possession of a large-capacity firearm, dismissed.

**MCEACHERN, Alleesha**, 27, Stoughton; guilty plea to larceny of a value more than \$250 and possession of heroin, Nov. 28 in Barnstable, six months (suspended) county correctional facility, one year probation, \$780 costs and \$50 fee.

**TURNER, Nicole**, 17, 24 Crocker St., Hyannis; possession of a large-capacity firearm, Sept. 26 in Yarmouth, dismissed.

**ARRAIGNMENTS**  
(The following pleaded not guilty.)  
**CHAPMAN, Christian**, 18, 142 Pitcher's Way, Hyannis; distributing Percocet, Thursday in Barnstable. Pretrial hearing Feb. 13.  
**TURNER, Nicole**, 17, 24 Crocker St., Hyannis; possession of a firearm without FID card, Friday in Yarmouth. Pretrial hearing March 10.

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