



Spring forward  
Daylight saving time starts Saturday.

Chefs who serve  
Island chefs feed the homeless. **B1**

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The rally drew a large crowd to protest the invasion of Ukraine by Russia.

JEREMY DRIESEN

## Islanders unite in support of Ukrainian people

Rally at Five Corners provides an opportunity to denounce war. **BY ABIGAIL ROSEN**

A sea of blue and yellow enveloped Five Corners in Vineyard Haven on Saturday as dozens of Islanders gathered to show their support for the people of Ukraine. Passing cars honked approval for

the crowd, many of whom stood holding the colors of the Ukrainian flag, many holding up signs expressing the urgency to support those affected by the ongoing humanitarian crisis unfolding in Eastern Europe.

Holly Mackenzie and Carla Cooper, both longtime Vineyarders and active officers of the Democratic Council of Martha's Vineyard (MV Dems) helped

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## TestMV site to close with numbers shrinking

COVID cases drop significantly; Island is at 'low risk.' **BY GEORGE BRENNAN**

The TestMV site, which has been providing COVID-19 testing since June 2020, is closing at the end of this month due to a precipitous drop in the number of people using the testing site in West Tisbury, according to a press release.

The Times asked about the future of the site earlier this week after noticing just 33 people had used the site last week for testing. In an email Monday, spokeswoman Mary Breslauer told The Times the future of the testing site was being contemplated. On Wednesday, a press release confirmed the site would close effective March 31.

This comes as the number of Island cases has dropped to just two last week. Although there has been a slight uptick in cases this week, according to daily reports from the Island boards of health, the number of positive results are nowhere near the surge the Island experienced in January.

For the first time in 2022, the number of weekly positive COVID-19 cases is in the single digits. The number of positive test results was just two last week, according to the latest report from the Island boards of health. So far this week, there have been 19 cases. This comes as students are returning to classes Monday, March 7, after a week's vacation. Those students are returning to classrooms where masks are no longer

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## Fire guts Ocean View

The Ocean View was hollowed out by fire

Thursday, March 3. Quick work by Oak Bluffs firefighters and utility workers helped downgrade

the dangerousness of the fire scene, and lay the groundwork for the all-Island fire response that extinguished the building.

A popular Oak Bluffs bar and restaurant on the north side of Washington Park, the Ocean View had been temporarily closed when the fire broke out. Nobody was inside. The fire was reported shortly before 10 am, and was largely suppressed by 11:30 am. Ocean View owner Mike Santoro expressed shock at the loss, and gratitude for the work done by firefighters and other first responders. Santoro's landlord, Charles Hajjar,

Owner lauds firefighters.

Landlord intends to rebuild.

**BY RICH SALTZBERG**

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## Yellow and blue for this scalloper's boat

Berube shows his support for Ukraine.

**BY EUNKI SEONWOO**

Island scalloper David Berube is the latest Islander to show his support toward Ukraine, by painting his boat in the yellow and blue of the Ukrainian flag.

Other Islanders have shown their support for Ukraine in a variety of ways, such as spreading awareness about where to donate and gathering at Five Corners to wave pro-Ukraine signs.

Berube's idea to paint his boat came from seeing various sites in the world, such as the Eiffel Tower in Paris, lighting up with yellow and blue colors to stand in solidarity with Ukraine. "That kind of inspired me to show my support in that way," he said.

The boat's visibility was not a factor in Berube's plan to paint it. "I painted it on Friday [March 4]," Berube said. "It was too cold for scalloping ... and it just dawned on me. Normally, the boat is all blue, so it wouldn't take much to paint the other side yellow."



The normally blue boat has added yellow paint to support Ukraine.

DAVID BERUBE

How long the boat will remain this color is uncertain. "Maybe when Putin gets the hell out of Ukraine," Berube said. "Really depends on what happens over there, I guess."

For Berube, supporting Ukraine was not only a concern for that country, but the danger the invasion poses for the world's

democratic nations.

"This thing by Putin, it seems black and white, like good and bad," Berube said. "There have been a lot of wars where I haven't really supported either side because it's, like civil wars, not as clear-cut. To me, [Russia's invasion is] pretty clear-cut that it's like democracy versus autocracy. Democracies around the world, they're hurting, including the United States. I don't like the way things are happening. If I can help another democratic country ... I don't know, but that's where I'm coming from."

There was a sense of helplessness, but Berube plans to send some money to non-profits directly helping the Ukrainians, such as UNICEF. "At least that's more than just painting my boat," he said.

The boat is moored at North Wharf in Edgartown. **MVT**



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