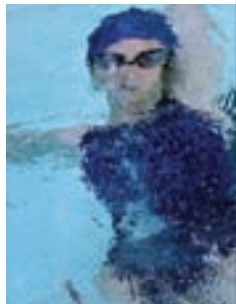




PAGEANT TRADITION
 Greta Feeney's musical career comes full circle with this weekend's Pageant appearance.
PAGE 17



DOLPHINS EXCEL
 The Dolphins demonstrate strength in numbers and talent in home meet Sunday.
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QUOTABLE
"Touch passion when it comes your way ... it's rare enough as it is. Don't walk away when it calls you by name."

~ J. Michael Straczynski

Prank closes schools | Administration, police take words seriously

By STEVE SHEPPARD
 INDEPENDENT WRITER

All three Nantucket schools were closed immediately after the final bell last Thursday afternoon when a scrawled message was found in a high school boys' bathroom. The schools were closed for the remainder of the day and night.

The message said: "Bomb CPS 1700 The Blood Frost Prince." On Wednesday, in a different high school boys' bathroom, the words, "The Blood Frost Prince" had been written on a mirror and tiles and the word "bomb" had been added in different handwriting.

School administrators and Nantucket police did not perceive Wednesday's mes-

sage as a threat but Thursday's message prompted closing and searching the high school, Cyrus Peirce School and elementary school. Nothing unusual or dangerous was found in the search, police said.

The words "the Blood Frost Prince" are evidently part of an online role-playing game called "The White City," police said, noting

See PRANK, page 4

PURSUING THEIR PASSIONS

Two islanders find fulfillment in, and the healing powers of, athletics

By STEVE SHEPPARD • INDEPENDENT WRITER



MICHAEL GALVIN/The Independent

James Martinsson returned to competitive skiing after a serious car accident

While many Nantucketers enjoy winter ski vacations during the slower months, one islander takes his love of skiing to the highest levels — literally.

James Martinsson recently got back from training in Vail, Colorado and in Hintertux, Austria, where he tested his abilities on a 12,000-foot high glacier. The training was necessary, he said, for what he intends to do this winter — ski downhill events from just after the new year through April. He leaves this week for the western United States where he will compete in the Rocky Mountain Division of the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association. The competitions demand the highest level of

See MARTINSSON, page 24



ROB BENCHLEY/The Independent

Jamie Ranney discovers the benefits of walking after back surgery

Island attorney Jamie Ranney is known as a "Clydesdale" when he takes part in triathlons. It's because of his size — he admits he's a big guy.

For years he trained upwards of four hours a day, lifting weights, running, biking. The intense activity, combined with his frame and perhaps a genetic predisposition, gave him back troubles, serious back troubles: doctors found a cracked vertebra. At the end of September, he underwent eight hours of surgery at Massachusetts General Hospital to fuse his lower spine.

He was back at his office in two-and-a-half weeks. Less than three months later, he's exer-

See RANNEY, page 25

Clearing the way

Study seeks to solve ferry terminal congestion

By PETER B. BRACE
 INDEPENDENT WRITER

Finding smooth transitions for ferry traffic is the subject of a study being initiated by Transportation Planner Michael Burns and the Nantucket Planning & Economic Development Commission.

"We'd like to identify all the problem areas for vehicle access, pedestrian access and public transportation access around the core area and the ferry terminals, then we'd like to identify and evaluate improvements that solve identified problems," Burns said.

Some of Burns' congestion alleviators include ideas like making Broad Street one-way in certain sections; making Centre Street between Broad Street and India Street one-

See TRAFFIC STUDY, page 4

Maxwell is new deputy fire chief

By MARY LANCASTER
 INDEPENDENT WRITER

Last Friday, Ed Maxwell was appointed as the new deputy fire chief rounding out the department's staffing to the level it held before former Fire Chief Everett Pierce resigned last summer. Maxwell, who has served as fire alarm superintendent since the end

See MAXWELL, page 8