

STORM

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the larger regional metropolitan areas of Boston and Providence, but hit Plymouth County and the Cape and islands the hardest.

Although the storm was fairly short-lived, its winds were enough to force the Steamship Authority's *M/V Eagle* to return to Hyannis Sunday on its 2:45 p.m. run to Nantucket, stranding scores of Nantucketers who either were booked on that boat or were trying to get back to the island after the Hy-Line cancelled its boats. Barnstable County Airport also closed earlier that afternoon. Planning Director Andrew Vorce described a turbulent ride that he believed came within eight miles of the island before turning around. (The Steamship Authority reported that the *Eagle* was 10 miles from Hyannis when she returned to port.)

"The waves caused the boat to go up and down. It was a really rough ride," he said. "There were many people getting sick. The impact of the waves hitting the boat was tremendous.

"The boat was fairly crowded with all the people who were trying to get back, a lot of people with families."

Vorce said that the PA system on the *Eagle* appeared to be malfunctioning, as some passengers heard the announcement of the return to port. He relied on a friend who called the Nantucket terminal to see when the boat

would be getting in, only to learn that the boat had already turned around. Vorce guesses the *Eagle* got back to Hyannis around 7 p.m.

"By then, the storm had been reaching full intensity on the Cape, so people were deposited there in blizzard conditions that had been building all day," he added.

Once back in Hyannis, Vorce said those islanders with vehicles on the boat helped many without cars get to accommodations. He was able to catch one of the first flights back to Nantucket at around 4:30 p.m. on Monday.

Hy-Line Cruises owner Murray Scudder said that his company suspended service between Hyannis and Nantucket on Sunday after just two trips to the island with the *M/V Lady Martha* and resumed her schedule with the last boat on Monday night.

"We got back online yesterday evening at the 7 p.m., and then we went on full schedule at 6:30 a.m. this morning [yesterday]," said Scudder.

Nantucket Memorial Airport shut down Sunday afternoon at 1 p.m. and reopened at 9:30 a.m. on Monday morning, said Airport Operations spokesperson Janine Torres.

Wet snow freezing on power lines, coupled with high winds, caused outages to more than 1,500 customers (including the beacon of Sankaty Head Lighthouse), with most losing power for no more than four hours.

"The effect of the storms began for us with scattered outages beginning Sunday afternoon between 4 and 5 p.m.," said National Grid spokesperson Debbie Drew.

DAVIES

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ever tried out for an orchestra before, and when I did get in I was very happy about it. I really enjoy classical music, so I wanted to stay with the orchestra," Davies said of his initial acceptance and desire to continue the experience this year. He is considering the symphony as a career. "I was very happy I have advanced enough to be accepted in the second orchestra. It's quite a big step. I was happy to see I've progressed a good deal over two years."

Davies said he began playing instruments at the age of eight. Though he wanted to start with the saxophone, his lungs were not yet fully developed. The clarinet was a good fit for his physical ability, and he liked the sound.

Being accepted as one of the 440 youth orchestra members carries plenty of responsibility. Except for a break from mid-June to September, the musicians must attend regular Sunday rehearsals at the orchestra's residence in the College of Fine Arts at Boston University. Davies and his mother, Elizabeth, usually travel from Nantucket to Boston on Sunday mornings and return Sunday night so rehearsals do not interfere with Davies' school schedule.

"At the start it was a big deal but it's more of a routine now," he said.

The rehearsals are important to ensure that the students are well prepared for performances. On January 20 they presented Mozart's "Cosi fan tutte" in Sanders Hall at Harvard University. Upcoming performances will take place at Symphony Hall, Jordan Hall at the New England

Conservatory, Sanders Theatre and the Tsai Performance Center at Boston University. This spring they will perform with cellist Yo Yo Ma and in June will give concerts in Germany and the Czech Republic.

"I'm very proud. When you see them performing at Symphony Hall it's just sensational," said his father Wayne Davies, who moved to the island from Australia in January 2006 with his wife, Elizabeth, Nicholas and Nicholas's sister, Sophie, 11, who plays the flute and also is a Nantucket New School student. "He's always been musically inclined. My wife and I can't hold a tune."

Davies, who has already written some original compositions and wants to develop that talent, said he thinks rather than his parents being musically 'hopeless' they are simply being modest about their own abilities.

"It was an accident how [Nicholas] fell into the whole thing. I took piano lessons and I tried to teach myself guitar, but I can't clap in time," said Elizabeth Davies. "When we lived in Australia he was encouraged to enroll in music class and his talent emerged. One day he came home with a cello." ■

"As the storm intensified, we began to see the majority of the outages in the Eel Point Road, Madaket Village and Polpis Road areas. Through Sunday evening, we had as many as 1,200 to 1,500 customers out at varying times."

By early Monday morning, Drew said that National Grid had all but 200 customers powered up with the last few reenergized by 2 a.m. Tuesday morning. ■

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