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CAPE COD TIMES

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THE CAPE AND ISLANDS' DAILY NEWSPAPER | PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK



Upper Cape Cod Regional Technical School senior Timothy Spencer guides a diesel dump truck onto a heavy duty lift at Balise Ford of Cape Cod in Hyannis on Aug. 15, where he is working for the summer. The school has received a \$419,996 state grant that will, starting in September, train more diesel service technicians and welders.

PHOTOS BY STEVE HEASLIP/CAPE COD TIMES

Forging the future

Cape school responds to need for diesel mechanics, welders

Denise Coffey Cape Cod Times | USA TODAY NETWORK

Christopher Sneed hopes a new diesel service technician program at Upper Cape Cod Regional Technical School will funnel mechanics his way. The service and parts manager at Balise Ford of Cape Cod is on the front lines when it comes to the demand for mechanics who can work on diesel engines.

“It’s hugely necessary in my arena,” he said in a telephone interview Aug. 13. “Those skills are in high demand.”

Unfortunately the workforce isn’t robust enough to meet that demand. It’s part of the reason why the Healey-Driscoll administration recently awarded \$24.2 million in grants to 23 school districts across the state. Those grants will train nearly 2,500 individuals in a skilled trade. The Career Technical Initiative grants awarded Aug. 5 focus on adult learners

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Ashley Desprez works full-time at Balise Ford of Cape Cod in Hyannis, and plans to attend the continuing education diesel mechanic program at Upper Cape Tech in the fall.

Cape church calls suit ‘baseless’

Worker alleges forced labor by nonprofits

Denise Coffey
Cape Cod Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

A complaint filed July 17 in U.S. District Court alleges that the Community of Jesus, based in Orleans, and two other nonprofits, engaged in forced labor, trafficking and illegal racketeering in the Community of Jesus’ Performing Arts Building in Brewster.

The complaint alleges the Community of Jesus, Arts Empowering Life and Performing Arts Building Foundation violated nine federal and state laws. They include forced labor, trafficking with respect to forced labor, conspiracy to recruit, obtain, and transport with respect to forced labor, and unjust enrichment.

Jeffrey Robbins, attorney for the Community of Jesus, called the lawsuit “baseless” in a phone call Aug. 18.

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Alyssa Wang named Cape Symphony’s music lead

Gwenn Friss
Cape Cod Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

Alyssa Wang, award-winning co-founder and conductor of the Boston Festival Orchestra, has been chosen as the Cape Symphony’s music director. She replaces Jung-Ho Pak, who led the Cape Symphony for 17 years before leaving in 2023.

Wang, 30, was one of five finalists who conducted a public concert during the two-year search. She led “Symphonie Fantastique” by Hector Berlioz in November as part of her audition for the new position. It was not her first time on the Barnstable Performing Arts Center stage in Hyannis.

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Yarmouth woman pursues new career with boost from Neighbors Fund

Cape Cod Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

At 62, this Yarmouth grandmother has spent a lifetime caring for others—professionally as a nursing assistant, and personally as a guardian to her two grandsons. Recently, she made a bold move: she enrolled in a licensed nursing program through a scholarship, determined to increase her



cape cod times
NEIGHBORS FUND

earning potential and build a better future for her family.

This spring, she proudly graduated and

has already secured a job that will significantly increase her hourly wage. But while she was investing in her future, life didn’t pause. The rent climbed an astonishing 71% in just a few years. Between balancing classes, caregiving, working part-time and the increased cost of living, her husband’s income wasn’t enough to

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