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Island Times, July 2002

Mary Lou Wendell

David Tyler

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**Uncharted waters**

How two friends went off looking for a day sailer and ended up with a 72-foot schooner

**BY DAVID TYLER**

Scott Reischmann and Twain Braden wanted to buy a small sailboat for the summer. They ended up with a 72-foot wooden schooner and a new business taking tourists out for day sails. Reischmann and Braden have been friends for two years.

"I called Twain and said, 'Hey, this is kind of a wild idea - what do you think about chartering a schooner out of Portland?'"

run together every morning, and the two thought it would be fun to buy a sailboat. This spring they went to the annual boat show at Portland Yacht Services looking for a boat.

They didn't buy anything, but Reischmann brought home a copy of Wooden Boat magazine. In the back of the magazine, Reischmann saw an ad for a 72-foot-long wooden excursion schooner, named Bagheera. The ad made him think. "I called Twain and said, 'Hey, this is kind of a wild idea - what do you think about chartering a schooner out of Portland?'"

Instead of questioning Reischmann's sanity - after all, this was the first boat Reischmann had ever bought - Braden decided his friend had a good idea. "Literally 24-hours later we had an offer on the boat," Reischmann said.

This is how the Portland Schooner Company was born. 

**Sailing Bagheera home**

**BY JOHAN ERIKSON**

It's 5 a.m., the sea is nearly smooth but the breeze is picking up. The sky is cloudless, yet the purple, red, and orange colors clearly mark where the sun will soon rise off our bow.

I'm right where I like to be the most - up on the bow tending sails. More specifically, I'm straddling Bagheera’s bowsprit 25 miles offshore Long Island as we motor northward at 7 knots, unfurling the jib as we prepare to set sail in the rising breeze. It's beautiful - just the way open-ocean dawns are supposed to look.

Seven of us are sailing the 72-foot schooner Bagheera back to Maine after decades away from the waters in which she was launched in 1934. Our crew consisted of six Peaks Islanders: Twain Braden, Gus Karlsen, Chris Mayo, Evans Huber, Albert Prongee, and myself; plus Bryan McLellan from The Apprentice School in Rockland.

Designed and built in East Boothbay, Maine as a racing schooner, Bagheera had spent years in the Great Lakes as a pleasure racing yacht, then served during World War II in the Mediterranean as a training vessel. More recently, she had worked the charter trade in Florida and sailed through parts of the Pacific before reaching San Diego and San Francisco as a charter boat. Two Peaks Island residents, Scott Reischmann and Twain Braden, had recently purchased Bagheera and were trying to "bring her home" for a new charter business here in Portland. 

**Reclaim returns**

Portland begins using recycled asphalt again on Peaks roads

**BY MARY LOU WENDGELL**

After banning the practice on Peaks of using recycled asphalt, or reclaim, to smooth the roads on the island for more than a year, the city began using the controversial material again last month. The city brought about 450 yards of reclaim to Peaks from the mainland and spread it at the intersection next to the transfer station on Brackett Street.

The city also plans to use reclaim on a number of roads in coming months as the material becomes available, according to Bob Cook, manager of public works maintenance for the Public Works Department. Those roads are Spruce Street, Upper A, Lower Ryefield and Third Proposed (which runs from Winding Way to Smoak Avenue), according to Cook.

The practice was put on hold after a number of islanders complained to the city last year. While some islanders approve of reclaim and see it as a way of getting pot holes fixed quickly, others raised environmental concerns. Many also don't like the way the material looks because it's black and

**New Newspaper on Peaks Island**

**BY DAVID TYLER AND MARY LOU WENDGELL**

With its July issue, the Island Times marks its debut. The newspaper will include a range of features, such as profiles, photo pages, stories about island businesses, short news items and community announcements. The Island Times plans to seek out writers and illustrators on the island. There will also be a forum for the views of island residents through letters and guest columns.

The monthly paper will also include stories on issues such as reopening island roads, OceanGate and the lack of affordable parking on the mainland for island residents.

The Island Times follows a long tradition of island journalism. The Maine Historical Society has editions of the Casco Bay Breeze, which covered all of Casco Bay from 1903 to 1917.

In 1960, Nor' Eas'T, based on Peaks Island, covered the bay islands. It was published by the Casco Bay Island Development Association, a nonprofit group. In the summer 1960 issue, Robert E. Skellings was listed as editor.

In 1993, the Peaks Island Opinion, was published by Jenny Yassi, Kim Norton and Kathy Skel for about one-and-a-half years. The paper was published during the secession movement to facilitate conversation about the effort, according to Yassi.

Yassi started Harbor Voices, a monthly newspaper, in February 2000. The paper featured a combination of poetry, fiction, essays and news and was published through September 2001.

The Island Times is a free paper. Subscriptions will also be available.
In Brief

Abutters' concerns aired

A meeting for abutters to the proposed $1.5 million affordable senior housing proj­ect and health center was held at the end of June. There will be 12 units of housing, including one unit for the building's manager. About 20 people attended, according to Kay Taylor, president of the board for the Peaks Island Health Center. The major concerns of abutters were traffic, parking and the size of the building, she said.

The project is proposed for a city-owned, one-acre parcel on Central Avenue. In March, the Portland City Council donated the parcel to the project. The city also agreed to sell the current home of the Casco Bay Health Center, on Sterling Street, and use money from that sale for the new health center.

In response to concerns about parking, on-street parking on Herman Street was re­moved, Taylor said. A city engineer has also examined the proposal for how it will impact traffic. Some at the meeting asked if the proposal could be scaled back to eight units, Tay­lor said. She said that is not possible because the federal Department of Housing and Ur­ban Development has already awarded $1 million for the project based on 12 units.

There was also talk of eliminating the patios for the units as a way to reduce the build­ing's footprint, Taylor said. Some wondered why the new health center needs to be bigger.

Taylor said that the space in the existing health center is not adequate, and it does not provide privacy for patients. It makes sense to have the health center with the af­fordable housing, since most of the patients are seniors, Taylor said. "It just seemed to us that we could both serve the seniors by being right there to help them age in place," she said. "This is one of the goals now, so that people don't have to go into special-care places."

On July 9, the Planning Board will address the proposal in a workshop meeting at City Hall. Taylor said the final vote on the proj­ect is expected to be taken at the Planning Board's Aug. 13 meeting, which will also be at City Hall.

-David Tyler

Dump rates increase

Rates for dumping trash at the transfer station on Peaks are going up nearly 100 percent beginning July 1. The fee for leaving a cubic yard of garbage at the transfer station will increase from $15 to $28, according to Bob Cook, manager of vehicle maintenance for the city of Portland. The new rates will be more in keeping with fees charged on the mainland, which are $25 per cubic yard at the Riverside facility, Cook said. The new rates for Peaks are a little higher than that because of the increased costs to take the trash off the island, Cook said.

"People would go out and take a chain saw and cut their garages up and put them out. And we'd pick it up. Those days are gone."

Workers at the transfer station have also been directed to be vigilant about collecting fees, Cook said.

The reasons behind the rate increase is to dis­ourage builders working on house renova­tions on the island from using the transfer station to dump their construction debris, Cook said. The transfer station rates were so low that people found it cheaper to dump there than to pay for their own containers, Cook said, adding that the city was losing money when it came to hauling construction debris off the island.

"I don't like to increase the rates, but it's very costly for us," Cook said.

How islanders will react to the price in­crease remains to be seen. Under the city's curbside bulky item collection program, get­ting rid of construction debris used to be a lot easier. But that program has been cut back to include fewer types of waste. "People would go out and take a chain saw and cut their garages up and put them out. And we'd pick it up," Cook said. "Those days are gone."

Cook encour­aged residents to use the punch passes that are mailed out every year. These allow a certain num­ber of items and up to four cubic yards of miscella­neous trash to be left at the transfer station at no cost, Cook said.

-Mary Lou Wendell

Library survey results

The results of a survey asking residents what is needed at the Peaks Island Library are in. The Friends of the Peaks Island Library have spent the last year-and-a-half looking into the possibility of expanding the current library.

The work has been done with the help of the library friends, the Peaks Island Lions Club and a grant from MRNA. The major needs that came out of this survey were longer hours of operation and more space, according to Carol Eisenberg, president of the friends of the library. People also asked for more quiet space, more space for little kids, more books, more computers, comfortable chairs and couches and space to separate adults and children.

Respondents praised the book deliveries, book order program, the kids' book tubs and the safe and friendly environment. "People raved about our staff, and the homely feel of our library, and the responsiveness of the staff, despite the limited space," Eisenberg said.

The task force is working with the Portland Public Library to see if it makes sense to com­bine the fundraising for the expansion with a campaign to renovate the Portland Public Library. While stressing that this is an island­based project, "we would get the benefits of their professional fundraising expertise," Eisenberg said.

Eisenberg is confident that the money can be raised for the expansion. "The plan that we come up with is going to be so exciting, it will be such a great addition to our community, that the support will be there for it," she said.

-David Tyler
Pies, pies, pies

One of the more notable PeaksFest events was the pie-judging contest.

The panel of pie judges included Mayor Karen Geraghty, City Councilor Peter O'Donnell, City Manager (and resident Peaks Islander) Joe Gray, Fire Chief Fred LeMontagne, and Police Chief Mike Chitwood.

Chitwood said he is always happy to help out when it comes to judging pies. The highest score any pie could get in any one of three categories was a five, he explained.

"I'm a junk-food junkie," Chitwood said. "So everything started out with at least a three." However, he gave out only two fives, he said. His highest score was for pie number 26. "The pecan pie was my favorite." Jeannie Ashmore won the first place blue ribbon for her lemon meringue pie, with Jennie Goodell and Barbara Hopkin taking the second and third place awards, respectively.

(For full story, see page 8)
Writing for the community

You have in your hands the first issue of the Island Times.

We hope you are pleased with what you see. Our aim is to bring to you the news of the island and to keep you on City Hall. Our hope is that the Island Times will become the spokesperson for a healthy exchange of ideas. While breathtakingly beautiful, the island can also be a complicated place to live at times. We invite our readers to use our editorial page to discuss the issues of the day and features about islander’s lives are what’s going to make this paper fun to read. We also want to have fun ourselves, so you will find a “Guess What This Is” feature in every issue that will include a photograph of an islander in their childhood years. We’ll have a crossword puzzle and occasional contests.

These are our goals. We want to help you along to let us know what you think. Point out our errors, but don’t forget to let us know what you like.

So far, the outpouring of support for this effort has been overwhelming. Islanders have turned it into reality by offering suggestions for a name for the paper, along with words of encouragement and business advice, just to name a few things.

More specifically, we’d like to thank Frank at the Sun Journal in Lewiston for designing the paper. Craig Davis spent several days laying out this first issue. Thanks to every one of our advertisers, who readily agreed to participate in the first three issues. We hope that support continues.

Thanks to Ray Fotie, owner of the Southern Maine Newspaper Printing Company. He is a first place for editorial writers, and they always give us some solid advice for getting started. Celina and Stephen Asturie were all very helpful, particularly because of their recent experience publishing The Island Diaries. Morten Asbjornsen, owner of the InformaMedia Group, Inc., has been very helpful advice. Thanks to our contributors to the first issue, Nate Gray, David Coham and John Erikson.

We’d also like to thank the following who helped us with everything else: Scott Benschmaun, Tim Nilhoff, Chrsyte Batterson, Nadya Pearson, Sharron Dupont, Anne Pearson, Laura Trask.

Mary Lou Wendell
David Tyler

Letter to the editor

City parking policy unfair

The recent history of how the city of Portland has dealt with islander parking highlights gentrification issues facing the island. The city has declared that they want to park on the main street and that they will have to pay. Some islanders, especially those who do not own a vehicle for transport to work, may find an extra $45 to $50 per month rather burdensome. I know I do. Currently, I do what I can and park on the two streets within walking distance to the ferry that do not have residential restrictions. It is difficult to find a spot and I typically have to leave the island on Sundays and on Mondays to move the car for street cleaning. Other residents of Portland are entitled to residential parking stickers allowing them to park as best they can.

Portland referred to refuse the same consideration to islanders that is given to other Portland residents then we should at the least get a tax break

The importance of economic diversity in our island community and preservation of our location is a reasonable solution to mainland parking and transportation before it is too late.

If Portland refuses to give the same consideration to islanders that is given to other Portland residents then we should at the least get a tax break.

Sharron DeFont

OceanGate concerns

As an island resident, I obviously have a strong connection with the Casco Bay Island Transit. District terminal and its immediate vicinity.

I care about this area, and I care about Portland. I support the wise use of the City’s waterfront property, and I do support the goal of making a profit, but only if it also supports Portland’s neighborhoods and its residents.

I do believe that the proposed plan for the former Bath Iron Works site and the adjacent OceanGate facility is a passing grumble. I do believe, however, that islanders should be made to tolerate such experiences just because we are capable of doing so with them without more than a passing grumble.

The success of any aspect of the future use of the waterfront and Casco Bay is in the hands of people in the Casco Bay and upland and marine areas will hinge on how well the city involves residents, listens to, pays attention to the needs of the residents and in the end enforces it.

Following the City Council’s June 3 affirmative vote on the OceanGate project, the city has decided to approve the plan. The city will continue to pay close attention to the decisions and the progress moving forward.

Due in part to active citizen involvement, the current plan has a smaller scope and scale and has more public participation than the old plan. With continued involvement from the residents, the potential for this project to influence the process so that the end result provides more benefits than costs for residents. I do believe, however, that islanders must continue to pay attention to the process moves forward. To stay informed about ongoing developments, check the city website at www.ci.portland.me.us or call the City Planning Department at 874-4721 or the waterfront office at 773-1800.

Charles T. Enders
Births

Lucia Gabriella Daranyi, 7 lbs. 2 ozs., was born to Ellen Mahoney and Ed Daranyi on May 17, 2002.

Isabella Pearl Buchbaum Levine was born to Elizabeth Buchbaum and Michael Levine on May 19, 2002. Isabella has been in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Maine Medical Center since her early birth. Her father says she is doing well and is expected to come home in August.

Jonah Alan Green, 7 lbs. 12 ozs., was born to Jeanne Gulnick and Mark Green on May 23, 2002.

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Peaks Island School graduates
day!

The following is the winning submission
from the American Legion, Randall MacVane Post 142's annual student essay contest. The winner, Sidney Ortiz, is a fifth-grade student
at the Peaks Island Elementary School. She received $20 prize and a certificate of appreciation, and read her essay on Flag Day. The contest was organized by elementary school teacher Roberts Deane. Cooper VanVranken finished second and Jeffrey Morris finished third.

IN SIDNEY DRITZ

People say America is the land of opportunity, where dreams come true. Because of this, we have a very diverse culture. People from all over the world come here. People with many different backgrounds and beliefs come together with one thing in common, they are all proud to be Americans.

I've seen a lot of America, as I am sure many others have, but have they seen what I have - a land of freedom and pride? A land

Sweet land of liberty

where freedom reigns? Only true Americans have. In September, our loyalty to our country was put to the test. After the towers fell, so many ran to help at the scene of the disaster. Many others raised money, some for the Red Cross, some for the hurt or those who lost jobs, and yet others for the families of the victims.

All of these efforts were not for personal gain, but for others. This, if nothing else, proves how many loyal and true Americans there are.

Americans fought for freedom. They lived and died for freedom. It is them who we may thank for the liberty we have today. And nobody can deny we have freedom. Sure we have taxes, but any country would fall apart without them. In America we have freedom to live as we want.

America is beautiful. It has many different regions, from desert to aralnd, from forests to mountains, from hills to plains, it is beautiful. As Samuel Francis Smith once wrote, America is the "Sweet land of liberty."

King Middle School Awards

A number of Peaks Island students at King Middle School received awards this year. Here they are:

Sixth Graders
- Sara Cannon, Scholarship Science Award
- Erica DeMichelle, French Scholarship Award
- Echo Presgraves, Math Scholarship Award
- Nathaniel Walden, Social Studies Scholarship Award

Seventh Graders
- Shelly Flynn, English Lab Scholarship Award
- Alexander Kinner, Spanish Achievement Award

Eighth Graders
- Molly Rands, Physical Education Award
- Matthew Mulkern, Computer Scholarship Award
- Mitchell Murdock, Rending Scholarship Award
- Sarah Walden, Language Arts Scholarship Award
- Matthew Mulkern, King Spirit Award, which is based on all-around commitment, scholarship and involvement in King Middle School

Peaks Island School news

When kids return to the Peaks Island School next fall, they will see lots of changes. There will be a new teacher and a new playground. Before--and after--school care will also be available.

The new playground is currently in the early planning stages. For those interested in participating in this process, there will be a planning meeting held at the school on July 8 at 10 a.m.

Barbara Hoppin, the school's principal, said she is looking forward to having a new playground for the kids.

The current playground has been wonderful, "It has been great. I've taken a lot of splinters out of kids," Hoppin said. "And we had a couple of accidents with kids falling off of things. So it's a safety factor."

On the new teacher front, resumes are beginning to come in for the new position, which will be for grades one and two, according to Hoppin. Interviews will be conducted on July 9, Hoppin said. A number of parents will participate in the interview process, including two who were asked to be on the committee and two who volunteered.

More than 50 kids are expected to attend the school next year. This past school year, enrollment started out at 40 but increased to as many as 53 at one point, according to Hoppin. The new person will be the fourth full-time classroom teacher at the school.
Congratulations graduates

Josh Lynch
Stella Beecher
Chelsea Goguen
Aaron Schult
Sam Callow
Tonya Mulkern
plans to attend USM
plans to join the
Marines
will attend Evergreen
State College in WA
is going to equestrian
school in W. Virginia

Matt Dame-Bruise
Stephen Taylor
Nick Clark
Jess Hagan
Chris Rockwell
Isaiah Oliver
plans to join the Army
will attend Union
College in New York.
is going to USM

High School Seniors relish graduation

BY NATE GRAY
Twelve high school seniors from Peaks Island received their diploma during Portland High School's graduation on Wednesday, June 5, while two received theirs from Deering High School on Thursday, June 6. Josh Lynch, Matt Dame-Bruise, Tonya Mulkern, Nick Clark, Isaiah Oliver, Chris Rockwell, Brian Conley (photo unavailable), Aaron Schult, Sam Callow, Kate Herbert, Jessica Hagan, and Stephen Taylor were awarded diplomas from Portland High School, while Stella Beecher and Chelsea Goguen received theirs from Deering High. Graduation was a moment that each of the seniors relished. Matt Dame-Bruise says that accepting his diploma provided him with a strong "sense of accomplishment," while Chris Rockwell described graduation as one of his "happiest days," though the moments leading up to the acceptance of his diploma filled Chris' stomach with "butterflies," a final stressful end to his high school career. Surely, he, and each of the graduates, share Stella Beecher's "sense of relief" that accompanied graduation. Though the past four years have been very special, each senior looks forward to the next stage of their life. Many will go to college in the fall, Chelsea Goguen and Matt Dame-Bruise are joining the military, and others are going to take some time before they decide their next step. In the mean time, summer jobs beckon, while each graduate will enjoy a well-deserved reward for all of their hard work: relaxing with friends for a summer without school.

Can you guess who this is?

(by page 8)

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Hundreds turn out for PeaksFest

BY DAVID COHAN

PeaksFest, the weekend-long celebration of the community of Peaks Island, was held over the weekend of June 21 - 23 with hundreds of neighbors participating in over two dozen events and activities.

The cool and sometimes wet weather didn't dampen the spirits of those folks who took part in activities like the 24-hour island-wide scavenger hunt and trivia contest, pie-eating and pie-baking competitions, tours of the Portland Fireboat and Schooner Bagheera, and open houses at the police and fire departments. There were also community yard sales, bake sales and barbecues on the lawn at the American Legion, and dozens of people could be spotted walking around sporting new PeaksFest T-shirts designed by island artist Marty Braun and with their faces painted.

The PeaksFest festival weekend began on Friday night, June 21 with a gathering of people at the "Images of Peaks Island" event held at the Community Center. Over 100 people stopped in to see the exhibits of vintage and current photographs, slides, videos, news clippings and scrapbooks.

Some favorites from the evening included images of the fire that destroyed the old Gen Theater, the historic photo postcards that captured the houses, ferry and life of the turn of the century Peaks Island, old Casco Bay Lines brochures, and dozens of individual scrapbooks prepared by Peaks Island Elementary School students, each showing a child's perspective of what is so special about living on Peaks.

The acapella singing group the "Uncalled Four" also performed and had the crowd clapping and laughing as they harmonized about such lovable Peaks Island eccentricities as our Umbrella Cover Museum, island "junker" cars, and seeming perpetual race to make the ferry. Neighbors mingled with old friends and introduced themselves to new friends as everyone came together in a true spirit of community celebration and sharing.

Many groups participated in organizing PeaksFest, created as a way to celebrate community. Among those were the Peaks Island Elementary School, the Peaks Island Neighborhood Based Planning Group, the Peaks Island Neighborhood Association, the Peaks Island Land Preserve, the Peaks Island Environmental Network, the Children's Development Workshop, the Eighth Maine, the Fifth Maine, the Lions Club, the Diamond Center, Maine Island Kayak Company, Hannigan's Market, and Happy Cooking.

There were many individuals who worked hard to make PeaksFest happen, including John Gove, Chris Hoppin, Barbara Hoppin, Lynne Richard, Kristen Chalmers, Bob Love, Steve Pedersen, Paul Donaldson, Doug McVane, Bill Hall, Peg Astarita, Cevia Rossol, Keith Hults, Lalania Mandeville, Steve Nilsen and many, many others.

Highlights of the PeaksFest weekend included the PeaksFest pie contests. Almost two dozen kids covered in plastic bibs raced to be the first to finish a large, messy chocolate pudding and whipped cream pie in a raucous scene reminiscent of every great country fair. The pie baking competition also turned out to be a wonderful surprise since no one had anticipated that there would be 29 gorgeous pies entered into the contest.

Later in the day, the Portland Fireboat did a water ballet display as it left the public landing at Peaks and sailed in water canons high into the air. And islanders took a rest before adults and children alike convened at the contradance that the Eighth Maine host- ted to celebrate its 130th anniversary.

Sunday's events culminated with teams racing to complete their scavenger hunt tasks, and creativity and perseverance were rewarded with ski-pass tickets, DownFront ice cream store certificates, Sea Dogs tickets, a massage gift certificate, and other prizes. Next year's PeaksFest is already in the planning and all islanders will be welcome to get involved. A post PeaksFest organizational meeting will be held on Monday, July 1st at 7:00 p.m. in the St. Christopher's Church Rectory. Planning meetings for PeaksFest 2003 will begin just after the New Year, so watch the island bulletin boards and papers for notices of meeting times and locations.
All the Right Moves
by Cevia & George Rosol
copyright 2002

ACROSS
1. Drift to leeward 1. Puppeteer Lewis
2. Vestment for 2 down 2. Superior father
3. UV wireless service 3. These get you points
4. Head MD exam 4. 1992
5. Hotel rm. amenity 5. Argo competitor
14. _dyed 6. differ
15. Tundra 7. "Coffee Cantata" composer
17. Taking down 9. Get a better look
21. Air and sea moves 11. Bother
23. Bisby reducer 12. Flourishes
24. Perfect, with tee 13. His family's Stone
26. Userdefinablekey, at times 15. Student mess
30. One of 25 27. Former Sheraton owner (abbrev.)
34. Michelin stars 28. One of 25
35. Collection 29. Short
42. Orono county seat 30. Please the way?
43. Dra ELEMENT 31. Wanted poster letters
44. Course standard 32. Gumbshoe
45. "The Planets" composer (with init.) 33. Acne?
50. Expert follower 35. Secure
53. La La 36. Poetic preposition
57. Move covering a short distance 37. A drink with Roy
60. Alfresco 38. Lamprey (Old English)
61. Kosovo War combatants 39. Type of camera (commonly
62. Needle point 40. Botanist gray
63. Collection 41. Goldberg movie
64. Slavic name ending 45. It's the big one for convicts
65. Formerly 47. Chose a path
66. Amateur Hour's Mack 48. Trip maker, for short
67. WWII craft 49. Snuff choice
68. West Pointer turned Neb 51. Subject of slow jokes
69. AARP group 52. Construct

DOWN
5. These get you points 53. Members only retailer
10. Head MD 54. Acropolis, e.g.
11. His family's Stone 55. African chieftain
12. Fluishes 56. Altered spaces
13. His family's Stone 58. Goeth before a fall
14. Superior father 59. Prominent court figure
15. Drift to leeward 60. Expert follower
16. 1988 61. Kosovo War combatants
17. Taking down 62. Needle point
18. Ownership of 63. Collection
19. Ownership of 64. Slavic name ending
20. Tundra 65. Formerly
21. Air and sea moves 66. Amateur Hour's Mack
22. Michelin stars 67. WWII craft
23. Bisby reducer 68. West Pointer turned Neb
24. Perfect, with tee 69. AARP group

Crossword couple challenge themselves (and others) by creating puzzles

BY DAVID TYLER

Cevia Rosol held her own against Will Shortz.

For those passionate about puzzles, one of the highest honors is to compete in the Sunday Puzzle, held every week on National Public Radio’s Weekend Edition.

The game is hosted by Shortz, the crossword editor for the New York Times. Each week the mild-mannered puzzlemaster gently grills a listener in an on-air quiz. The competitor is picked, at random, from listeners who correctly answer a puzzle that Shortz has on the show. The listener must compete alone, and Shortz has admonished competitors who have tried to enlist help from friends or family.

At the time, the Rosols were running the Sunday Puzzle, which is broadcast on NPR just after 8:30 a.m. Cevia had sent off answers before and had never been picked. So she was excited when they received a call one Thursday from NPR producers telling her she was picked for the Sunday Puzzle.

Her first surprise was that the show was not live. "It’s taped, you pretend that it’s Sunday," she said. "It’s kind of weird." Her session with Shortz, and her quiz, was to name words with "spring" in them. "My children were very impressed that I knew Bruce Springsteen," she said. She even correctly guessed the homophone for "today" to refer to Sunday.

After the Friday taping, she and George called all their friends and family to make sure and listen on Sunday. She did well. Her quiz was to name words with "spring" in them. "My children were very impressed that I knew Bruce Springsteen," she said. She even correctly guessed the homophone for "today" to refer to Sunday.

The Shop at Greenwood Garden
- Works by local artisans
- Maine made items
- Gifts and collectibles
located on the grounds of Greenwood Garden
Peaks Island, Maine
766-5552

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Peaks Island Fuel
766-5700
Home delivery and service
#2 oil, Kerosene, Propane
Fully-licensed Master Oil Burner
Propane, Electricity, Plumbing & Air Conditioning
Ray Peppers - Master  •  Rick Ivers - General Manager
Gas Grill Tanks - New - $42 plus free refill
Homeowners’ tanks filled & delivered $14
Servicing Peaks, Long, and Cushing Islands
They obtained a $250,000 loan from Key Bank.

Braden is the schooner’s captain and Reischmann will handle the business side. They obtained a $250,000 loan from Key Bank to pay for the $150,000 boat and provide the capital to start the business. For their business plan, Reischmann looked at other parts of the Maine coast where day schooners operate. He found that in Camden alone there are 12 schooner excursion companies. “What we see in the market is there’s nobody else in Portland doing this right now,” Reischmann said.

“It’s a great boat. It would have been a disaster if we didn’t live on Peaks.” For example, six of the seven-member crew who sailed Bagheera from Maryland were all volunteers from the island.

“It’s been difficult starting the first-ever schooner business in the city. There was some confusion as the partners sought dock space in Portland, which is quite scarce. Before they purchased the boat, they approached the City of Portland’s Department of Transportation and Waterfront to see if the harbor commissioners discussed the proposal in a meeting in June, and plans to hold a public hearing on the dock proposal on July 11. In the meantime, Braden and Reischmann have leased docking space at the Portland Yacht Services on Fore Street and are operating out of that location.

The perfect boat

What made Braden jump when Reischmann showed him the ad in Wooden Boat magazine was the Bagheera. Since Braden had been a schooner captain, he knows what is needed for this type of business to succeed.

As Reischmann described Bagheera — a new, a new Coast Guard inspection and a connection with Maine — he knew this was the boat. “If I or anyone else was ever going to do this, this was the perfect boat. The only problem was the boat was in San Francisco, which turned into more of a problem then we could have ever imagined."

Braden said, “It’s more of a problem than we could have ever imagined.”

For Braden, this is going back to a business he knows intimately. Before becoming a journalist, he was a schooner captain in Camden, sailing traditionally-rigged ships and training vessels between 30- and 130-feet-long. Over the past two years, he and his wife had talked about buying a schooner, but had never seriously pursued the idea. “For him (Reischmann) this was an epiphany,” Braden said. “I’ve sort of flirted with the idea for years.”

The chance for independence

For Reischmann, this is not just a business venture. It’s a way to create a life centered around his family, rather than around work. “Both Tawn and I were looking for an opportunity to have our own business and be more independent, and create a lifestyle that is more fitting to the family, while doing something we enjoy,” he said.

Reischmann and his wife, Michelle, moved to Peaks Island in 1999. Before that, they lived in Boston. Michelle managed the faculty mortgage program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Scott worked for a small consulting group. As they thought about having children, they knew that meant leaving Boston. Unlike most Boston couples, they did not move to the suburbs.

In 1997 they bought a cottage on Peaks after seeing an ad in the Boston Globe. As they thought about places to move, Peaks Island offered a type of life that they did not find elsewhere. “It’s just such a wonderful community of people,” Reischmann said. “It’s the type of place we wanted to raise our children in.”

So they moved to Peaks Island. Scott got a job at BankNorth, and Michelle worked out an arrangement where she kept her job at MIT, working from home and going to Boston one day a week. Since they moved to the island Michelle was promoted to the administrator of MIT’s life income program. When their daughter was born, Scott quit his job to take care of Bush.

The schooner is a way for Reischmann to go back to work, but not sacrifice time with his family. “Michelle and I just love the ocean and love sailing,” Reischmann said. “To have the opportunity to run a business with a direct relationship to the ocean and to sailing, it’s a real passion and a real enjoyable experience.”

Braden’s view of the business was more pragmatic. “It’s not going to be a glamorous thing, necessarily,” he said. “What it does offer us is the possibility to have our own business — that’s the big thing.”

Braden and his wife, Leah Day, moved to Peaks Island in 1997. They have two boys and a girl between the ages of two- and six-years-old. When Braden first moved to Portland, after skipping schooners in Camden, he got a job as a copy boy at Navigation Publishing. He became an editor at Professional Mariner magazine, then was named managing editor of Ocean Navigator.

He plans to continue to write for the magazine, and he’s working on a non-fiction book about a high seas adventure that is scheduled to be released next year. Right now the schedule is grueling, and the partners are working 14- to 16-hour days, but he hopes in six months it will settle out. “We’ve had a lot of curve balls, a lot of things that we didn’t anticipate,” Braden said. “I think we’ll come out the other end. It’s just a huge amount of work to start a new business.”

Bagheera sails daily from Portland Yacht Services Inc., 58 Fore St. The trip costs $25 for adults, $12 for children 12 and under. During July and August, Bagheera sails every Tuesday from the public landing on Peaks Island. Call 766-2500 for more information.
Stormy seas, beautiful sunrises on the sail home

HOME, from page 1

restrictions in the southern New England states prevented delivery of Bagheera by a special low-riding flatbed truck directly to Portland. She was to be splashed in the upper Chesapeake at Georgetown, Md.

Our job was to rig her and sail her back to Portland. Thursday, as we drove south on the New Jersey turnpike, we learned that the truck and Bagheera were delayed yet again. Andy Flux, the driver, was doing what he could, but there are an amazing number of highway restrictions on moving large and heavy (28 ton) sailboats through Midwest and Mid-Atlantic states. Bagheera wouldn't arrive until Monday. Fortunately, Andy had already delivered the mast and rigging on a previous cross-country trip.

Slashing the mast

The mast is 65 feet for the main mast and 54 feet for the fore mast, have a lot of surface area, which makes for a lot of scraping and sanding. After sanding, the masts require some form of preservative to prevent cracking and water damage. Varnish is standard, but I prefer polyurethane.

Twain, co-owner and experienced, licensed captain, vaguely remembered a recipe for a mast slush used on some schooners in the Camden area. In what became a regular pattern throughout the journey, "The bowsprit was plunging and waving around with the wave. As the bow dove a wave washed over [Twain]s feet up to his knees. Just as quickly the bow shot up 14 feet into the air till reaching Twain should have been sent flying."

Twain made several calls to Scott, the other co-owner, to track down the slush recipe. It turned out to be a simple recipe of petroleum jelly and raw linseed oil, both of which are difficult to obtain in large quantities on a weekend in rural Maryland.

After we attached the 30-odd pieces of rigging to the masts. It is far easier to rig masts while they are horizontal than after they have been stepped. Of course, it is also a bit of an organizational headache.

And showed up with Bagheera earlier than expected. He rolled in Saturday afternoon, mentioning something about expired permits and ridges without police escorts. The mainsail had been reefed hours earlier and the jib had been taken down to reduce sail area.

By 3 a.m., Twain and Bryan looked pretty tired from fighting the wheel as Bagheera rolled and yawed with the growing swells. The wind was blowing steadily around 25 knots with gusts well into the 30s; swells were generally around 8 feet with a few as large as 10-12 feet.

In the early dawn light, the jib started to unfurl and untie from the bowsprit. Not wanting it to fill with water, Twain and Chris went forward to tie it down. As they neared the bow, Twain sent Chris back to the cockpit because it was worse up there than he had realized. But the jib still had to be tied down. Clipping his harness to the rigging and grabbing a forestry strap for support, Twain walked out on the bowsprit.

The bowsprit was plunging and rising wildly with the swells. As the bow dove, a wave washed over his feet up to his knees. Just as quickly the bow shot up 14 feet into the air. By all reasoning, Twain should have been sent flying. Somehow he managed to tie down the jib and return to the cockpit. After we changed course and headed for Cape Ann and Gloucester. This put the wind on our beam and eased the strain on Bagheera and crew. Within two hours we were nearing Cape Ann. A small pod of porpoises was surfing on the swells and crossed just under our bow. Scott had been very busy. Soon after arriving in Gloucester on the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend, we found ourselves hoisted out of the water. A new propeller and parts were delivered by friends from Boston. By mid-afternoon, we were underway again, now joined by Scott.

The weather had cleared and the wind had dropped. We soon gave up sailing on too cold a day, as we were all anxious to get home. As we approached the entrance buoy for Portland at 2 a.m., everyone was wakening.

There was a quiet excitement amongst those on board in seeing Portland Head Light. We identified individual streetlights of Peaks' backshore and recognized familiar buoys around Ram Island.

The Peaks' waterfront was scrumby quiet and the water glassy as we tied to the dock just after 3 a.m., ten days after leaving Peaks.

Stormy weather

Around midnight the weather deteriorated significantly. By 2 a.m. Saturday, we found ourselves 25 miles off of Isle of Shoals fighting our way upwind.

The wind was not shifting to the north-east as predicted, nor lessening in intensity. The mainsail had been reefed hours earlier and the jib had been taken down to reduce sail area.

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The lights of Atlantic City disappearing beyond the horizon on our stern. The second full day of sailing, Thursday, had nice sunny skies, blue water, and endless horizons as we continued northeastward off Long Island.

Early Friday morning we reached Block Island and the entrance to Buzzards Bay and the Cape Cod Canal. The wind was picking up. Just as the night crew was readying for bed, it was discovered that we had no motor power. The engine was working and the shaft spinning, so we headed upwind, hearing far enough to convince ourselves that the propeller really had disappeared. Twain got on the phone again, while the crew enjoyed some of the finest sailing conditions of the trip. Eventually a tow was arranged to haul us through the canal.

Upon reaching Cape Cod Bay, we optimistically assumed the rigging and grabbing a forestry strap for support, Twain walked out on the bowsprit.

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The lights of Atlantic City disappearing beyond the horizon on our stern.
A mother and daughter, side by side on stage

BY DAVID TYLER

How many mothers and daughters have the chance to appear together in a professional production of a Broadway musical? Anne Sibley O'Brien, 49, and her 16-year-old daughter, Yunhee O'Brien got that unusual opportunity when they both appeared in the Maine State Music Theatre's first show, "Ragtime" by Terrence McNally and music by John Kander and Fred Ebb.

They spent four weeks together, through grueling rehearsals and performing seven shows a week. They both played the same role—Ann Medicus (female guard) and had to learn the same steps and songs. And it made their relationship stronger. "It was just a way to be able to work side-by-side," Anne said. And Anne found it interesting because Yunhee often taught her. "Yunhee remembered a lot of the details that I had a hard time holding on to," she said.

Both mother and daughter have performed in community and independent theater. Yunhee, a junior at Portland High School, is part of the school's Shakespeare Club, where she performs in productions of "Hamlet," "Macbeth," "The Caucasian Chalk Circle" and staged a one-woman show, "White Lies." But it was the first time the two worked an entire Equity Association show, where the actors are mostly union members. "One of the really striking aspects was the sense of it being work," Anne said. "That was a very different feeling from anything else I've done." Yunhee didn't feel that way. "It was a lot of fun, it didn't feel like professional theater," she said. "It's coming in on time, doing what you're told. It wasn't too different from my school theater, although it was bigger."

The two also enjoyed being part of a predominantly Asian production. "Yunhee really liked being a part of an Asian ensemble," Anne said. "And Asian-American, cast. Anne was raised in South Korea, the daughter of Presbyterian missionaries, and Yunhee was born there and adopted as an infant. It gave a sense of connection," Anne said. "We made some wonderful relationships with some of the Asian cast members.

They became particularly close to two Japanese performers who had recently immigrated to the United States and are now living in New York City. Mika Saburi is already a professional on Broadway and Atsu Shinomiya teaches history and math at a Japanese school in New York and is training as a dancer and singer. "They're not people you run into every day in Portland," Anne said.

Yunhee enjoyed not having to wear much makeup. "White people had to layer and layer their face to make themselves look remotely Asian, it was quite amusing." Yunhee likes to ride horses and to draw Japanese animation figures. She's also in the process of typing up her first novel, a fantasy. She takes part in Exiles, an improv group at the University of Southern Maine. The group performs live action role play, in which some members act as storytellers and assign characters and storylines to other members for the evening.

Anne is a children's book illustrator and writer. She's illustrated 22 hardcover books and has written and illustrated another 60 smaller books designed to help kids practice reading. She's also working on two novels. She's sought out theater work as she develops her career as a writer. "White Lies: One Woman's Quest for the Release from the Enchantment of Whiteness," first staged two years ago, the show uses personal stories, music and metaphor to explore the damage racism and prejudice inflicts on society. It was directed by the founding artistic director of Portland's Mad Horse Theater, Michael Jafkin.

Although Anne had done a lot of theater 20 years ago, she had given it up. But then she started working on "White Lies," and decided "I guess I better get back into acting if I'm going to do this." Each had a different reaction to the experience of performing in a professional company.

"I don't know if I want to do it as a career because it doesn't seem to pay that well," Yunhee said. But she does want to try out for more shows in the Portland area, although she feels that being Asian American can be a limitation for musical theater. "This production needed a lot of ex-tromptus and they needed lots of Asian ensemble members," she said. "Most of the Broadway shows are set in very white areas, and there's not a call for me."

Anne said she realized she doesn't want to pursue traditional musical theater. For her, the independent theater, like her one-woman show, is an experience of exploration and transformation. With professional theater, "you pretty much are used to come in with what you've got to offer."

But this show was worth it, on many levels. "The Times Record of Brunswick also asked her to write a diary about being in the show, which was published on Thurs., June 13, "It was the perfect package — doing it with Yunhee, writing about it. The whole thing could not have been better."

City workers spread reclaim near the transfer station.
Photo by Mary Lou Wendell

RECLAIM, from page 1

doesn't blend in with the island's gravel roads, which most people think of as dirt roads. But he added, "that is why we have the policy now. The people who are S-or 9 on Aug. 1) and the U-10 (for boys and girls who are ages 6 or 7 on Aug. 1) and the I-10 (for boys and girls who are 6 or Aug. 1). The teams compete in the Portland Area Youth Soccer Association, and organizers hope to have all practices and games on the island. Please send in a registration form as soon as possible, before July 20.

Playground meeting July 8

Residents are welcome and encouraged to attend a meeting to discuss ideas for a new community playground at the Peaks Island School. At the meeting, scheduled for 10 a.m. on July 8 at the school, the city's landscape architect, Stephen Hoppin, will consider ideas for redesigning the playground. Barbara Bouchard, for more information, call 766-2344.

Art classes offered

A group of artists on Peaks are offering kids classes and adult workshops as part of an Open Studios program, organized by Renee Bouchard. For more information, call 766-2344.

Book sale

The Friends of the Peaks Island Library is holding a book sale on July 20, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., in the community room. The Friends will accept magazines and used books. There will be a bake sale and refreshments. Please bring donations of books on Friday, July 19, from noon to 6 p.m. If books must be dropped off earlier, bring them to Anne Sibley O'Brien, at 786-2483.

Soccer sign-up

Sign up for the youth soccer teams has started. There are two island teams: the U-9, for boys and girls who are 8 or 9 on Aug. 1) and the I-10 (for boys and girls who are 6 or Aug. 1). The teams compete in the Portland Area Youth Soccer Association, and organizers hope to have all practices and games on the island. Please send in a registration form as soon as possible, before July 7.

Community Notes

Anne Sibley O'Brien and her daughter, Yunhee O'Brien spent June performing in the Maine State Music Theatre's production of "The King and I." Photo by David Tyler

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One-woman show

Anne Sibley O'Brien will perform her one-woman show, "White Lies: One Woman's Quest for the Release from the Enchantment of Whiteness," will be performed on Aug. 9 and 10 at 8 p.m. at the Brackett Memorial United Methodist Church. The show is an examination of racism and prejudice through Sibley's own experiences. The show uses personal stories, music and metaphor to explore the damage racism and prejudice inflicts on society. It was directed by the founding artistic director of Portland's Mad Horse Theater, Michael Jafkin. The performance is a little over an hour and there will be a discussion afterwards. Tickets are $10.

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