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Mary Lou Wendell

David Tyler

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Island man killed in Florida accident

BY DAVID TYLER

Peaks Island's James Bergstrom was struck by a car and killed on Feb. 2 while on vacation in the city with his wife, Christine King.

A memorial service to celebrate his life was to be held at 3 p.m. on Wed., Feb. 2 in Tavener Hall, Fy. Knox University.

The accident occurred at 1:45 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 2 in the Florida Keys town of Marathon.

Bergstrom was struck by a car and killed on the highway.

"What a shock," said Bergstrom's wife, Whitehead Street neighbor and friend, Richard Kinney. "I can't believe it."

Kinney has known Bergstrom since he and his wife moved to Peaks Island several years ago.

Bergstrom and his wife fixed up the cottage they purchased on Whitehead Street.

Several friends from Massachusetts, where Bergstrom is from, came up and helped out. Kinney said, while working on the house, "they didn't have a place to go so we put them up."

The accident took place in front of the Copper Kettle restaurant in Tavener Hall.

Bergstrom's family, including his son, are being assisted by the Florida Highway Patrol.

Shuttle bus part of plan during Ocean Gateway construction

BY DAVID TYLER

During the construction of Ocean Gateway, some island residents and operators of island businesses have concerns about parking and the shuttle bus service.

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In Brief
Gravel pit plans
A discussion of the restoration and potential uses of the former gravel pit at the Jan. 10 meeting of the Peaks Island Neighborhood Association (PINA) led to the creation of a temporary committee to explore those options. The 5.5-acre city-owned gravel pit, which is no longer used for Department of Public Works, could be restored and dedicated to the community. The Junior League of Portland has offered to provide volunteer help and possible financial assistance to help improve the site for a project day on April 30. However, the Junior League needs details of the project by March 1, "so we are under pressure to respond," said Joe Kane, PINA president, who was named chair of the temporary committee. Kane said the spirit of these improvements should focus on recreational uses. But he said the temporary committee has not made any decisions or recommendations yet. Given the time constraints, Kane said the committee will give people an opportunity to respond to their recommendations.

The city has committed $25,000 to towards landscaping and seeding of the gravel pit, according to Tom Fortier, island/neighborhood administrator. The parcel is zoned for open space and recreation, he said. "I want to emphasize my commitment to restore the gravel pit," Fortier said. "It is the right thing to do." Fortier said it's up to the community to decide how it wants to use the gravel pit. But he said any short-term improvements should not make an impact on any future long-term use of the site. "We don't want to add projects that are going to have to be torn down," he said.

At the Jan. 10 PINA meeting, suggestions for the Junior League project included natural restoration, creating a community garden or a community park. Long-term suggestions for the gravel pit included a skateboarding park, a community center,affordable housing, or natural restoration in a park.

Kane said the committee will also suggest that a permanent committee be created to come up with plans for long-term use of the former gravel pit. The following are on the temporary committee: Brad Burklein, Barbara Hoppin, Joe Kane, Dana Lash, Walter Schneller, Michelle Braum Tranes and Jenny Yast. —David Tyler

Machigonne off-line
The main ferry to Peaks Island, the Machigonne, will be out of service on Feb. 16 and 17 for scheduled maintenance. There will be no carry ferry on those dates. The Machigonne is also tentatively scheduled for its annual March Coast Guard drydock inspection on March 19. That inspection will not occur any earlier than March 19, but it might occur later due to weather and shipyard availability, according to Pat Christian, general manager for Casco Bay Lines. For example, the Machigonne would not be sent to Rockland for its inspection in a storm, he said. Normally, the inspection requires the ferry to be in Rockland for three to four weeks. There will be alternative transport for vehicles during this period, but it will require a reservation to be made. Call Casco Bay Lines ticket office at 774-7871 to make a reservation. —David Tyler

Ventres property to be sold
The three homes owned by late Albert E. Ventres are being appraised and will be sold, according to Don Kopp, of the Portland law firm Drummond, Woodsum & MacMahan. Kopp, who is the executor of Ventres' estate, said he will supervise the sale. Ventres, who was 84, was discovered on Nov. 4, already dead, at one of his homes on Prince Avenue. He owned two homes on Prince Avenue and one home on Pleasant Avenue. It is not clear when he died, but it is possible he had been in the home, dead, since late autumn, neighbors said. Kopp is empowered to be left alone. Kopp also located Ventres' only surviving relative, his sister Evangeline Mary Venire's property to be sold.

Deer program update
As of Jan. 30, 13 deer had been killed as part of the Peaks Island deer management program. The goal of the program is to remove as many deer as necessary to keep the deer population to the island's carry capacity, which is about 15 to 20 deer, according to Tom Fortier, the city's island neighborhood administrator. Island resident Robert Briggs volunteers to shoot the deer, and is accompanied each time by Fortier and Pinel Bournehard, of the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. Each hunt begins at 4 p.m. and ends before 10 p.m. This year's hunt had a hunt on Jan. 18 and Jan. 25, the program takes place from a stationary site and moving or running deer are not shot at, according to Fortier. There will be probably two more BRIEFS, page 3

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Ice fills Casco Bay on a freezing cold day this January. (By the way, this is the very same spot where just a few weeks after this picture was taken a bunch of islanders jumped in the water to raise money for tsunami victims. See story on page 1.)

Photo by Anne Pearson

Goodbye January!
Ferry, water taxi crews brave freezing spray, ice

BY DAVID TYLER

Where the weather becomes frigid, Gene Willard, who owns Portland Express Water Taxi, brings a rubber mallet on board.

It's an essential tool to knock off the thick coating of ice that builds up on his water taxi. When the weather is really cold, he uses it before every two trips. Sometimes you knock six inches off of the stern," he said. "The ice doesn't affect the stability of the boat, but it really slows the boat down."

Ice forms everywhere that spray hits the boat. The problem is the worst when a northwesterly wind is blowing. "It's the coldest wind," said Willard, who is also a Casco Bay Lines captain. "As soon as spray hits the boat, it's frozen."

Freezing spray is one of the many challenges for those who crew the boats that keep islanders connected to the mainland during the winter. Cold weather, winter storms and snow are other hazards ferry and water taxi crew have to face.

So far, this winter has not been as cold as it was last year. "I remember going through skids on the surface in late November," said Willard, about the winter of 2002-2003.

But during the last two weeks of January, Casco Bay experienced an intense cold snap. From Jan. 16 Jan. 31, everyday weather

BRIEFS, from page 2

be between two and three more lumps during this year's program. In 1998, 243 deer were shot on Peaks Island. The deer management program that year cost $60,000 for Peaks Island alone, Fortier said. Now, the entire year's program costs less than $300.

"I don't think people realize how much time and effort goes into a successful program," Fortier said. The deer which are killed are distributed to island residents from a list that Fortier maintains. Call Fortier at 766-8288 if you want to be put on that list.

-Author Written

Aucocisco III progress

Casco Bay Lines' newest vessel, Aucocisco III, has taken shape at Steiner Shipyard in Bayou La Batre, Alabama. In December, the vessel was painted and insulation installed. Windows on the main deck and second level were put in and piping for the heating and cooling system was installed. The name on the stern was also installed on the port bulwarks. At the end of January and beginning of February members of the New Vessel Technical Team, including Capt. Bill Winters, Capt. Larry Legere, Capt. Gene Willard and Maintenance Manager Howard Woodside were at the shipyard for several days

low the normal temperature, except Jan. 30, according to Tom Hawley, meteorologist at the National Weather Service Office in Gray.

On Peaks Island the temperature went below zero on two days, hitting minus 1 on Jan. 21 and minus 2 on Jan. 22, according to a weather station maintained for the Web site Weather Underground.

"Once you start getting those below-zero readings, ice forms very, very quickly," Hawley said. Seawater freezes at around 28 degrees compared to 32 degrees for fresh water, because the salt lowers the temperature at which seawater freezes, he said.

Ice is another concern for ferry and taxi operators. It's less of an issue for vessels run by Casco Bay Lines, which are large enough to break through the ice that forms in the bay. "You might slow down a little, but the ice is not that thick," said Capt. Mike Bryant, of Casco Bay Lines. "It doesn't really freeze that solid."

What can get complicated is when high tides float thicker ice off the shorelines or down from rivers into the bay, Bryant said. That ice, which moves with the tide and wind, can surround docks and slips, trapping smaller vessels.

Ice and ice dams play havoc with operations of the Chebeague Island Transportation Company that island's main ferry route to the mainland. In the second half of January, the ice was so bad that trips after 6:15 could not be run. The transportation company's boat cannot break through the ice, and operating it in ice is harmful to the vessel. This problem was much worse for the

phone see page 6

High test scores on Peaks

The Peaks Island School was recently recognized by the state Department of Education for its achievement on Maine's Learning Results. An important aspect of the No Child Left Behind Act is the recognition of schools achieving consistently high performance in reading and math. According to a letter that was sent to the Superintendent of Portland Schools, Mary Jo O'Connor, from state education Commissioner Susan Renfro, the Peaks Island School was recognized as a "consistently high performing school" for grade four reading. This means that 70 percent of the fourth-graders who took the achievement test in the year met or exceeded the standards, according to the letter.
Family dinners American Legion style

BY DAVID TYLER

It's midwinter on Peaks Island and people can get a little stir-crazy. But this time last year, we all knew we go every week to get out of the house and have a family-style meal.

The dinner is held every Wednesday night at the American Legion, Randall MacVeagh Post 142. The dinner was started in October, and was an average of people come each week, with sometimes as many as 50 or 60 taking part in the meal.

Carolyn Parker, her husband, Bob Love, are the main volunteers who cook and prepare for the weekly gathering. Love, who served as a Marine in Okinawa in the late 1980s and early 1990s, is a member of Post 142. The Legion's finance officer, Steve Pederson, buys and delivers the food. And Legion members volunteer in the kitchen to help.

"We decided not to just make it for the general people who go up there, but try to entice other people to come up, by keeping the cost very low," said smoking is still not allowed during the meal. The dinner, which is served from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., is $7 for adults and $5 for seniors and children.

"We try to get people out," she said. "Because it's not just a kitchen. The diners become family. A lot of people really look forward to it on the days they're here. We get a lot of regulars. For those who are housebound, Legion members put together dinners and deliver them.

Parker came up with the idea of holding weekly dinners as the Legion as a way to raise money for the annual Memorial Day Parade, sponsored by Post 142. The post also puts on a meal for islanders and all parade participants. In the past, members ran a bottle-collection drive to raise money for the parade. But one member, who used to transport the bottles to the mainland, was no longer able to do so, so the Legion stopped collecting bottles.

"Although this is not a huge money-maker, "it seems to work out," Parker said. "We're not trying to be in competition with a restaurant. It's just something people can afford, and hopefully we can make a few dollars for the Memorial Day parade." Parker decided to hold it on Wednesday, because that's an evening that the only restaurant open in the winter, the Cockeyed Bull, is closed.

Parker said the menu is geared towards "comfort food." Examples of offerings served at some of the recent dinners include meatloaf and mashed potatoes, roast beef, chicken, spaghetti and meatballs. She also prepares three or four different vegetables, that vegetarians can take part. "We try to put out a lot of different things," Parker said.

Special dinners are served during up-coming holidays. A Valentine's meal will be offered on Feb. 12 at 6 p.m., featuring enter­ tainment by a group of musicians. A St. Patty's Day dinner is planned on March 17.

Although whipping up a weekly meal for 50 to 100 diners is tiring, she said. "It's something we really look forward to," she added. "We're thinking of a Neighborhood Plan. It's something we really need, and I hope people come out." Parker said.

The Islands Times received a grant from the Peaks Island Fund. To read the Neighborhood Plan, go to islandtimes.org and click on resources and documents.

The following is an opinion piece written by islandtimes.org reader, Lynnie Last.

BY JENNIFER HAYES

We've been hearing a lot about it, but what exactly is a "neighborhood plan?"

"A neighborhood plan shouldn't be a list of projects to build, or new laws to pass but I think the people who say we just want to 'get this done,' are thinking of a Neighbor­hood Plan in the wrong way.

A neighborhood plan, just like a house­hold plan, or a state plan, is something that will never be entirely done. A good neighbor­hood plan says "these are issues that need to be addressed," but it leaves open the discus­sion about the possible ways of addressing these issues.

For example, 75 percent of respondents to the Peaks Island Community Survey (which was about equally divided between summer and year-round residents) strongly agree, agreed, or were neutral that noise has become a threat to the quality of life on Peaks Island. There are many, many potential ways of addressing this issue, and it's beyond the scope of the neighborhood plan to spell out all the possible solutions. In spite of the com­plexity of the issue, the survey results could and should full without comment on our neighborhood plan, because noise pol­lution is a threat to the area.

Neighborhood plans should describe cri­teria, which later can be used to inform and evaluate similar community programs or plans. What are criteria? When planning for teens, one criterion in the plan might be to provide a variety of activities. Another might be that public programs or facilities ought to offer at least "light" supervision. Another criteria might be to prioritize teen programs which offer credentials or certifi­cates of achievement. This leads to many possible implementation strategies for building a skateboard park. Can we sub­sidize the cost of selling lessons and tennis courts at TIR? Can we provide a tennis/skateboard program? Is there energy on the island for a community recreation facility that can address the needs of all age groups?

A neighborhood plan is the big picture that can hold all our best ideas. In good planning, if one wheel is squeaky, we recognize it's just grease that just one. We need to check them all.

The current draft of the neighborhood plan, worthless to all who have sworn to it in one of the surveys we asked. It is a snapshot at the moment where it really is a plan. Finishing it—editing, revising, refining—is essential to fulfill all the hard work everyone has contributed just to get to this point. Hang in there! Support the revision! Then when someone does propose something like a skateboard park or an expansion of the library or an educa­tion grant, they can compare that specific proposal up against the criteria for successful community that we've described in our neighborhood plan. Peaks Island is fortunate to have a community that can foresee to coordinate efforts, to save mon­ey and resources, to plan on knocking down more than one pin with that shot.

It took a huge effort, but The Peaks Island Neighborhood Association (PINA) is now slightly backed against their title. PINA, is now referring to this version of the Neighborhood Plan— in many areas just a listing of programs that certain people wanted to get done—is the final, finished draft. PINA erred in attempt­ing to close the plan to comments. Approv­ing the Peaks Island Neighborhood Plan shouldn't be tantamount to offering pre­approval and closing discussion on a som­times controversial list of community pro­posals.

The reason I worked so hard on the Peaks Island Community Survey, which received about 600 responses from island property owners and residents, (divided almost equally between summer and year-round residents), is because people who attend meetings are not necessarily representative of the whole community. Outreach and openness is essential.

The survey revealed in hundreds of pages of scientifically gathered data, with 85 percent response rate, it is a tremendously broad re­flection of island issues and attitudes. Re­sults are available and analyzable at the Peaks Island Library. Cross-search ques­tions for PLAN. page 8

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**This island life**

BY GEORGE ROSEL

Notes from the most recent meeting of the Peaks Cafe Condominium Owners. One old-timer tells how, in his home, a single tablecloth was used at all meals for a month and then folded into the big soup pot as a flavoring ingredient. Mighty tasty, he swore.

Instead of slate boards, the classroom walls of Peaks Island school were once coated in green. Might as tasty, Peaks Cafe Cogger Conference. One old-timer that served as a chalkable surface. The eighth grade classroom walls of Peaks Island school were once coated in green. Might as tasty, Peaks Island school staff often did double duty. The janitor taught the building trades, including the language and work habits essential for success in construction. Many of the smaller cottages on Peaks were said to be owned by sixth and seventh graders. Eighth graders supervised. Some are still standing. The cottages, that is.

Fists. Old air. Someone says that he recently deflated a tire from an ancient Jeep and detected the faint odor of sushi with hints of terrytowel and snailshell. Wheel assembly at Toyota could have been located near the cafeteria. Air in a Volkswagen tire smelled of shampoo and rancid ham. One old islander says that the smell of the backshore fire in the 50s, somebody says. Then came old air with the smell of foxes and bait fish. Ahh, the winds of times past. The meeting closed with the benediction: “Never pay more than 3 cents a pound for cabbage.”

***

He is a German coon cat and his name is Herr Bahl. He is the leader of the Bracken Point colony of feral cats of Peaks Island. We speak one wintry morning. Sitting on an island pioneer’s headboard, share my bag with Herr Bahl. He speaks with a bit of Alaskan accent and a hint of meow. I am not amazed. If talking to a cat is to be found anywhere in the world, why not Peaks?

He says that his colony is one of five on the island. Each group numbers several dozen—not counting partners, associates, and trainees. Most come from comfortable homes. Some summer cats were left Home Alone. If conditions are not ideal, a cat will bolt, says the top cat. Each has a story. Herr Bahl went frenzied after he made the mistake of speaking a few words to his owner. He was immediately slapped into a cage while they frantically searched for an agent who would believe there exists a talking feline. Bahl made his escape after telling a Girl Scout that he would buy cookies if freed to get his checkbook.

One pet was constantly criticized by a comically-crazed keeper for not being more like Garfield. Another was forced to watch the musical Cats at least once a week. When he showed up at the colony, he could purr through every tune of that show. Many cats were dropped, inverned, at least once a week, to show that they would land on their feet. Some stopped flipping and then exited at the first opportunity.

We walk of survival—especially in winter. Houses on posts are warm hideaways, lying next to a deer’s belly, the home of Houdinis galore. Many cat owners forget what their pets look like. So many cats resist re-domesticating. You can’t go back, says Herr Bahl. With that, he excuses himself and turns to go. And he is gone. This interview taught me that island cats have options. And that cat owners who prize their pets should know who their cats’ friends are. They go at night, and at what time they expect to be home. Incidentally, I see Herr Bahl from time to time, and he sees me. He keeps his distance but always greets me with Meow. After all he is a cat.

...A dog jumped ship from an Australian freighter that was moored near Peaks Island during WWII. It swam to shore and wandered on to U.S. Army property. It was a strange looking animal. Very large, with a shaggy-dirt-brown coat and long muscular hind legs and enormous feet. It could have been accurately mistaken for a tiny kangaroo, considering it also sported a pocket in its abdomen.

No one knew at the time that it was a cross between a standard poodle and a kangaroo. A rare podaroo, bred for strength, speed, and the ability to leap over tall obstacles in a single bound. This superdog was made mancado and named Boing. Boing Boing for short. It also served as messenger and made express trips to the post office carrying mail in its pouch and, if space permitted, returning to base with small grocery items. It was quite a sight—rising puffs of dust as the podaroo bounced along the island’s gravel roads. But Boing Boing grew terribly homesick for the outback, packed its pouch, and was last seen paddling out to the freighters hoping to hitch a ride. It never looked back. Some time later, a seaman on the North Atlantic ferry run saw he this strange big-footed dog-like critter raising puffs of snow as it bounded through the streets of Murmansk. Bolingvich rides again!

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**ISLAND TIMES**

February 2005

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stroke and the sunshine helped." She raised about $500. "It was a last-minute idea," Newkirk said of her body suit. Also, the advice I got was the less clothes the better. What a blast! I could probably do it again."

Tara Fahey went in twice for the Cockeyed Call. "It was actually great," Fahey said. "It was not as cold as I thought it would be." She wouldn't be that bad."

Lisa Lynett, owner of Peaks Cafe, referring to people who came early. "I think that Heather Erico deserves this huge round of applause."

Marcy Alves, who was one of the women dressed in a suit, said she jumped in the water "to raise money and have fun. It was also really cold. I got in ice cream headache."

The idea of a winter dip was talked about by several people for quite a while before it was decided to do a plunge to raise money. Island business owners and employees realized that an unstructured plunge would mean too many people trying to raise money. So it was decided to limit the number of people who actually jumped into the water to one from each business, and that smaller group would raise pledge money from the island. "It's just after Christmas and so one has a lot of money so, we didn't want the entire island to go into the water, and ask people for money," said Heather Erico, one of the organizers of the event, and a cashier at Hannigan's Island Market, which donated the marshmallow and hot chocolate.

"We are so lucky here on Peaks," said Erico. Rarely does "anything happen to us as a community that is bad. We are an island community that has a lot, able to do something for island communities who don't have much of anything."

The idea of a plunge into the ocean was symbolic, since the sea in the Indian Ocean basin was so destructive. "A plunge seemed like a way for the ocean to do a lot of good," Erico said.

Until all the pledges are in, organizers won't know how much was raised, but it will be a large amount, Erico said. When it is all tallied, a receipt will be created and framed with a photo of the dip, to hang in the community center.

The event represented the generosity of Peaks Island residents. "The reason that it worked, was that everyone was asked to do something or provide something," she said. "You can't stress enough the generosity of people's time, effort and money, and that sums up Peaks Island."

Erico said that any conflict in the timing of the event with church services was an oversight.

Among the numerous volunteers who helped make the event possible were the Peaks Island Fire Department, which provided personnel, a fire truck and an ambulance.

Paul Erico, Patty Latham and Pete Flynn did a lot of work preparing the beach, providing marshmallow-toasting sticks and building and tending the fires.

And many people who work on the island but live on the mainland came out to take part, including Keith Keane of Peaks Island Fuel and island police officers Steve Taylor and Randy Richardson.

Dippers who actually went twice into the freezing water included Ayes, Janal Cassia, Bob Love and Jeremy Semen. "That really takes guts," said Erico.

Erico herself took part in the plunge. "It was kick-ass cold. I'm never doing that again," she said.

Despite recent warm temperatures, snow that fell in January continues to cover the ground. Cars are not quite as buried as they were, but there's still plenty of snow for sledding at places like Tolman Heights. And more snow is on the way, according to weather predictions.

Photos by Arne Pearson, Mary Lou Wendell and Judi Biro
many of the teenagers on Peaks and many of the elderly residents, along with many other people. Taylor, 37, has been working for the Portland Police Department since he was 18. He chose to leave Peaks for regular patrol duty in Portland because he wants to spend more time with his children, he said. He has an 8-year-old son and an 11-year-old daughter. Working on Peaks made it too difficult when it came to spending time with his kids in the evening because of his late night shifts on the island, Taylor said, adding that he will miss Peaks Island.

"I loved him," said Lisa Lynch, owner of Peaks Cafe. "He was so wonderful and had a good sense of humor and a lot of respect for the kids. He was very active at really being out there." Lynch said she liked seeing him drive by on the fire truck, which Taylor often did to make sure the island's rescue equipment was in working order.

"He just created a positive police presence and he was funny," Lynch said. "We became friends. And he was good to a lot of people. He knew things were going on with them and he made sure they were okay. He truly did wellness checks."

"He really was a part of our community," Lynch added. "He will be missed."

Lynch and others gave Taylor a going-away card and presents at the care on the day he left. Deborah Kendall, who works at the cafe, said she gave him a pair of plastic handcuffs covered in sea glass.

"What was so great about him was his ability to do community policing," Kendall said. Taylor said that even though he will be going back to patrolling his beat by car in town, his new area include Portland High School. So he will still be able to see the kids from the island, he said.

> 

Officer Steve Taylor spent his last day on Peaks Island in January. He will be missed by many islanders and was known for his concern for many island residents and for his focus on community policing. Photo by Mary Lou Wendell

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Officer Steve Taylor spent his last day on Peaks Island in January. He will be missed by many islanders and was known for his concern for many island residents and for his focus on community policing. Photo by Mary Lou Wendell

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Island Car

Island Car Log

December, 2004

Jan. 4: Parking complaint, Willow Street; criminal trespass, Alder Brook Road; EMS call, no address given.
Jan. 5: Parking complaint, Willow Street; criminal trespass, Alder Brook Road; EMS call, no address given.
Jan. 6: Alarm/burglary, Merritt Street; 911 hang-ups, Square Ave.
Jan. 7: Audible alarm, no address given.
Jan. 8: Check well-being, Upper A Street; EMS call, seizure, unclear address.
Jan. 10: Burglary, City Point Road.
Jan. 12: Property found, no address given.
Jan. 16: EMS call, pregnancy, no address given.
Jan. 17: Civil complaint, Lower A Street; check well-being, one address given; EMS call, Island Avenue; EMS call, Central Avenue.
Jan. 21: EMS call, breathing problems, no address given.
Jan. 23: EMS call, assist police, no address given.
Jan. 24: Juvenile offense, Central Avenue.
Jan. 27: Check well-being, Willow Street; test call, Island Avenue.
Jan. 28: Open door/window, Island Avenue.
Jan. 30: EMS call, service run, no address given; EMS call, assist police, no address given.
Jan. 31: Motor vehicle stop, New Island Avenue; motor vehicle stop, no address; EMS call, chest pains, Whitehead Street; EMS call, seizures, Pleasant Avenue.

January, 2005

Jan. 1: Keep the peace call, no address given; Police and EMS call, drug overdose, no address given.
Jan. 3: Assist citizen, Upper A Street.

PLAN, from page 4

I have been asked to report on surveys to find out things such as how many people live in different parts of the island, or how summer residents feel about cars as compared to your round residents, or if there was island parking affected by upcoming developments. I have included a survey dealing with this issue, and I will give comments more than 120 spaces. The Fore Street lot is not part of the first phase of Ocean Gateway construction.

The impact that Ocean Gateway will have on island parking, and the logistics of a shuttle system concern Joe Kane, president of Peaks Island Neighborhood Association.

"It's a hard idea," Kane said. "I mean that people will have to manage to meet buses and load stuff on and off the buses, in addition to getting into their cars." Then there's the problem of catching the shuttle buses. If only one bus per hour is operating, it's likely that "a lot of people are going to miss the shuttle," Kane said.

"It strikes me as awkward, at best," he said, about the shuttle idea. "I think that communication with the city on this is important." Tom Ferriter, island neighborhood chairperson, said that residents should keep track of this issue. "It's important for island residents to continue to stay on the policy-makers' radar screen by contacting city councilors and city personnel to remind them that an all-for-all plan will be essential," Ferriter said.

The project will be a balancing act, said City Councilor Will Gerham, who represents the islands. "My concern is to cause the least disruption for islanders," he said.

Islanders may get more time to use the Fore Street parking lot. Right now, it functions as an islander-only lot from November through April. The off season permit used to cost $100 for the winter. From May through October it is a general parking lot, with permits costing $50 per month. Permits for the front lot are $60 per month and the rear lot costs $50 per month.

The Fore Street lot had been slated to become a parking garage under Ocean Gateway plans. But the City Council's Community Development Committee decided to go with a plan proposed by Riverwalk LLC, led by Fred Forsley. The Chamber Company, and developer Drew Swenson. Riverwalk would instead build a garage next to the brewery land and surrounding park space. This proposal calls for a garage that could be as large as 1,300 spaces and 10,000 square feet of retail development.

In phase 1 of the project, a 620-space garage would be built. The CDC would lease 319 of those spaces, said Jack Luten, director of the city's Economic Development Division.

The city will use the garage to presell island parking lot to Ocean Gateway. However, these spaces will be leased at market rates, Luten said.

The CDC's garage lease for the 310 spaces is $50 per space. The RFP states that with the option to extend it another five years.

However, if the CDC ever terminates the lease, the garage owner must always keep 150 spaces available for island residents, Luten said. "We wanted to make sure that island residents have a safe haven to park their cars," he said.

If the Riverwalk proposal goes forward, there would be no immediate project slated for the Fore Street parking lot. Mead said if the Riverwalk proposal is approved, the Fore Street lot would be turned into a city-owned parking lot affected by Ocean Gateway. "As we're doing the construction work, we're going to turn it into a city-owned parking lot affected by Ocean Gateway," Mead said.

No meeting of the Riverwalk proposal is set for the Feb. 23 City Council meeting. Final action is slated for the March 7 meeting. City council meetings are usually held at 7 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, 309 Congress St.
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Words ‘r’ Us By Cevia & George Rosol copyright 2005

Across

1. With skill
5. See 33 Down
10. With 33 Down, PRAC-TITIONER OF ROAD RAGE?
14. Judicial document
15. Protection
16. First rate
17. Ancient library
19. Circle
20. Part
21. 15. Protection
23. Sixth from the Sun
28. MEALS ABROAD?
32. Judged document
33. Oov, 11
35. Popular scribbler
36. “It’s a long way to ___” in song
37. Suddenly
drop
38. ACP.

40. With 59 Across and 2 Down, LITTLE LITTLE MICE
41. Serving soup, perhaps
43. CA airport
44. Sicily
45. Guard
46. Hot concrepncy
47. Trendy disco
50. Trampy discs
52. Feed
54. Having knowledge of
55. DRIVE-BY VIRGER?
57. Musical direction for both
60. East in Dresden and Berlin
61. Tied up
62. Tribe of Northern Quebec
63. Sudden difficulties (trivial)
64. Sicelo
3. CA airport
4. "It’s a long way to ___" in song
9. Dis. Red to Portland
10. Retreats in the woods, perhaps
11. Good source of fresh produce
18. Made a strike, perhaps
22. French rulers
24. Spanish under
26. Inter
28. Unauthorized foothold
29. World’s longest river
30. Thug to a sinister chef
31. With 25, trend
32. JUNE PARTY?
33. With 5 Across, PRODUCT OF ALCOHOL ON CAMPUS?
35. Popular server
36. Good place for an express
37. See 16 Across
39. Something to do on Bay
40. Model airplane medium
41. Rain comet’s rain
42. Kibitzer (abbrev.)
43. Whorl of fingerprints
45. Style of writing
46. Word often found in the closest
47. Two undergar
48. See in Roma
49. Common conjunctions
51. Rhet. Met’s hobby
53. Painted doorway
55. Screenwriters Guild of America, for short
56. Will & Grace character

Down

1. Shoemakers’ tools
2. See 40 Across
3. Beatles Paul’s late wife
4. So far this year, to a CPA
5. Sudden difficulties (trivial)
6. Broadside again
7. Gelling agent
8. "It’s a long way to ___" in song
9. Dis. Red to Portland
10. Retreats in the woods, perhaps
11. Good source of fresh produce
12. Panik author!
13. Resting places
14. Bad lads
15. Theater actor
16. Made a strike, perhaps
17. duplex
18. Made a strike, perhaps
19. See 37 Across
20. Good source of fresh produce
21. Evergreen
22. French rulers
23. Sixth from the Sun
24. Spanish under
25. Trend
26. Inter
27. Rain comet’s rain
28. Unauthorized foothold
29. World’s longest river
30. Thug to a sinister chef
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51. Rhet. Met’s hobby
53. Painted doorway
55. Screenwriters Guild of America, for short
56. Will & Grace character

WASTE, from page 1

household hazardous waste can be as much as 16$ per gallon. The grants stipulate that the funds will also be used so that the collection and recycling of electronic items, such as computer and television monitors, can be handled at the facility. In addition, automotive fluid waste will be collected. Shipping household hazardous waste from Peaks to the mainland will be handled by an independent contractor, to be hired by the city’s Department of Public Works.

Of the other Casco Bay islands, only Chebeague Island has a hazardous waste pickup-up. The town of Cumberland, to which Chebeague belongs, does budget for disposal on an annual basis. Clean Harbors, a national provider of environmental and hazardous waste management services, travels to Chebeague once a year, during which time residents can bring any hazardous waste they’ve been storing. Clean Harbors has also been collecting all waste off the island and takes it to a disposal facility on the mainland.

Of the other islands in Casco Bay, the majority rely on residents to find their own methods of disposal. Says Roger Herle, of Cliff Island, “Basically, there are a bunch of responsible people who will go to any lengths to make sure waste is disposed of properly, and there are unfortunately people who are less responsible.”

What happens, exactly, if someone is “less responsible”? In maintaining the delicate balance of an island’s ecosystem, improper disposal of household hazardous waste can be disastrous. “Islands accentuate limits,” explains Tom Fortier. “If limits are exceeded on the islands, we’re in a lot of trouble.” A lot of trouble can mean a wide range of things, according to Fortier, including the “elimination of an island’s water supply for years, or an aquifer were contaminated.”

In eastern Casco Bay, residents of Bailey, Orrs and Sebascoedgan islands, which are part of the town of Harpswell, can take auto-batteries and waste oil to the recycling center. Television, computer monitors and propane tanks are accepted, for a fee, at the town transfer station. However, neither facility accepts any other hazardous waste, liquid paint, antifreeze or medical waste.

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Peaks Island Writers Workshop
Eliza Taggart Gunnane, M.Ed., Leader
Tuesday Evenings 7-8pm beginning Feb 22nd
Limited participation; cost $150 with books

For more information and to register call Eliza at 766-5138
†Pat Schneider, writer

THERAPIST, from page 12

... straightened... feet shuffled around under the table...

The wreck of S.S. Portland

On Nov. 28, 1898, the 210-foot, paddlewheel passenger ship, S.S. Portland, on route from Boston to Portland, was caught in a hurricane. Struggling through the night with raging seas and 96-mile-per-hour winds, the Portland finally sank with all 196 passengers and crew on board. Little of the shipwreck and its victims was recovered, and even the exact location of the tragedy was a mystery. During the summer of 2002, using underwater teledeployment and submersible capabilities of Remote Operated Vehicle (ROV), the discovery of the actual wreck of the S.S. Portland, one of New England's greatest maritime mysteries, was confirmed...
Veteran newsmen writes about Peaks Island

Dick Dougherty is newspaper reporter, editor and columnist who worked for the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle and the Rochester Times-Union for 56 years, until his retirement on Jan. 1 of this year. Starting in 1977, he began writing a column called "Doug Dougherty Report." Originally the column was published in the fall of 2004 (to order the book go to www.dickdougherty.com or e-mail the author at doughertyearthlink.net).

Dick and his wife, Pat, first came to Maine on a camping trip to Acadia in 1963. In the late 1970s, their daughter enrolled in Bowdoin College, and they decided to look for affordable waterfront property. In 1980, returning from the final parent's weekend at Bowdoin, he and his wife, Pat, stopped for lunch at the Miss Portland Diner, where the waitresses told them about Peaks Island. They took the ferry over the island, and rejected that property. They did spot a cottage they liked on the back shore, and decided to buy that one. "After that we spent every June at our 'Box on the Rocks,' as we called it, until builder Bobby McKeague upgraded it with a screened-in porch and a second story," said Dougherty.

His book includes 14 columns about Peaks Island, but he did not regularly write while on vacation. "I tried writing columns while we were there, but the minute I inhaled that salt air I'd get into my vacation mode and couldn't make my fingers move to make words appear on the computer," he said. He and his wife have given serious thought to moving to Peaks Island year-round. "Yes, the winters can be brutal but we could get used to it," he said. "We've both got constitutional strains. Otherwise we wouldn't be living in Rochester. N.Y., would we?"

Dougherty has kindly allowed the Island Times to reprint two columns from his new book.

October the best month Down East

BY DICK DOUGHERTY

October is the best month up here Down East, we've decided.

The days are cool, the air is crystal clear and the stars are brilliant. But there is more to it than that.

TheMaine People. Peculiar as we are in back there, too. There is room to pack Down Front and the landscaping competition is over.

Telephone service is not interrupted by visiting cruise ships.

But this summer one anchored in front of the microwave transmission equipment, Portland, service to the island was restored as the tide changed, lowering the ship 10 feet and settling it 12 degrees.

The natives are in a good mood because the population is down to three digits and they have their island back.

Last week the islanders gave us a warm welcome, but when we explained that we were leaving next week they brightened up and told us "to have a good winter."

Of course nothing is a downside. The quality of life at the island "transit station" (formerly known as "the dump") falls off sharply. Some days the sky is so poor it's hardly worth the trip.

This grid was especially rewarding because I ended my unbroken string of repair and maintenance disasters by cleverly forgetting to bring my pool cleaner.

So instead of drilling a hole to install a patio door lock and shattering the glass as I did in June, costing me $40, I called a carpet installer, He charged only $20, a saving of $20.

The plumber still enjoys telling his friends about the time I broke the septi tank pipe with a pickaxe while planting a shrub.

One of the best ways to ingratiate oneself with these taciturn Maine building trades craftsmen, I've found, is to keep them supplied with personalized "crazy Mainlander" stories.

This year was our first season without a winter tenant and I was tempted to risk starting in another island community by single-handedly attempting that routine October ritual, "shutting off the water."

Vetern cottagers assure me "you can't go wrong."

"You underestimate me," I told them.

"Instead, I called plumber Danny Smith's answering machine.

"This is the guy who breaks the septic tank pipe with the pickaxe. Tell Danny I was thinking of arranging to have the pipes banned," I called.

"Danny?

"No, not Bob. Kenny, not Ken. Danny, not Don.

"It seems startlingly out of character for New Englanders to talk this way. Sure, in Georgia it's Jimmy and Billy Carter and in Texas it's Billy Bob and Willy. We're used to that, just as we're used to referring to fathers "as 'dad'."

Rut to call Bill Willy in the land of Ay-Yah, Yup-Nope. Never-Chec-My-Cabbage-Twice tactically seems strange to me. It's like calling FDR Frunkly or Stalin Iippy. Would William the Conqueror been an awe-inspiring figure if he'd called him Billy? Or how about George Washington, DADDY of His Country? Or Tommy Jefferson? Or Julius Caesar and Genghi Khan? What about Jef Franklin, Alfie Citizen, Hank and Sam Adams, Billy Jennings?

Bryan, Billy Shakespeare, Abe Lincoln?

They sound as out of place as James Carter, Alphonse Capone, William Nelson or Amos and Andy.

The dictionary defines the diminutive form as "expressing smallness, endearment or condescension," but none of these apply on Peaks Island.

One Danny we know up there is a plumber, fully grown and gritty. Treating him with endearment or condescension could get you a pipe wrench in the chops.

The other Danny is built like the boulder wrestler he is. He digs in septic tanks by hand. Detectors call him the human backhoe, but nasty to his face.

(If by the way, Donny in Peakspeak is pronounced Danny).

None of these folk have called me Dick yet. If they ever do, which seems unlikely since I'm not even a naturalized islander, I'll have to consider whether to be pleased or insulted.

On the one hand it could mean I've been accepted as a not-bad-guy-for-an-off-islander-from-Away.

But on the other hand, it could mean that I am being dismissed as an insignificant pipsqueak out-of-state mainland, unworthy of being taken seriously.

You never know with these Downeasters.

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Bodies and brains working together

PEAKS ISLAND occupational therapist is all about movement

BY KAREN HOUPPERT

On a Tuesday afternoon in December, the nine kindergartners at Peaks Island Elementary have been busy making the most of the physical education period. Please call Trefethen-Kelley, Quite Literally.

The group of five-year-olds has clustered in a circle, carefully arranging themselves in front of a mirror that displays a back-to-back pattern of their movements. They have been working on a backbend-bulging head up and reaching for the mirror, reminding the children of what they’re capable of. And if we had a howl, that would happen to our soup?...

The students at Peaks Island Elementary work with occupational therapist Callie Trefethen-Kelley, pictured at right.

At Peaks Island Elementary, Trefethen-Kelley does individual therapy with a few students who need extra help then makes her way through each of the four classrooms to make sure, as she puts it, “everyone’s bodies are working together with their brains.”

As an occupational therapist, Trefethen-Kelley is all about movement, both making sure kids have the strength and dexterity to control their movement as it’s developing (the fine motor skills necessary for writing) and making sure their movement compliments their academic work as it’s developing. She was diagnosed with Asperger Syndrome as a young child, and so understands the frustrations children experience when movement is not working as well as it needs to be.

In her room, she joins the/summer class, a group of five children, and begins their daily round of exercises designed to warm up and stretch out muscles. Trefethen-Kelley demonstrates each exercise, repeating it in ways that are engaging for children.

The students at Peaks Island Elementary are all about movement, both making sure kids have the strength and dexterity to control their movement as it’s developing (the fine motor skills necessary for writing) and making sure their movement compliments their academic work as it’s developing. She was diagnosed with Asperger Syndrome as a young child, and so understands the frustrations children experience when movement is not working as well as it needs to be.

Trefethen-Kelley does not always work alone; sometimes she brings in a volunteer to help out with exercises or to work with a group. For example, a volunteer might help a student who is having trouble actually controlling her hands or who is having trouble doing tasks with their fingers. Sometimes Trefethen-Kelley will bring in a volunteer to help out with exercises or to work with a group.

The students at Peaks Island Elementary work with occupational therapist Callie Trefethen-Kelley, pictured at right.

On Tuesday, Feb. 14, the Peaks Island School will host its first Valentine’s Day celebration, with a variety of events and activities planned for students and staff. The theme of the day is “Love, Love, Love,” and the celebration will include a Valentine’s Day card workshop, a love-poem writing workshop, and a love-song circle.

The day will begin with a special Valentine’s Day card workshop, where students will be invited to create their own Valentine’s Day cards using a variety of materials, including paper, glue, scissors, and markers. The cards will be displayed in the school’s hallway, creating a festive and colorful atmosphere.

In the afternoon, there will be a love-poem writing workshop, where students will be invited to write poems about love and relationships. The poems will be read aloud, and the students will be encouraged to share their creations with their classmates.

To conclude the day, there will be a love-song circle, where students will be invited to sing love songs and share their favorite love poems. The circle will be led by Ms. Kelley, who will guide the students in creating a warm and supportive environment.

The Valley Times

Island knitting show

There will be a reception for a show featuring the work of Island knitters at the Gompertz Gallery, 62 Island Avenue, from 3-5 p.m. on Feb. 23. The show will feature works by local knitters, including those who have participated in the annual Island Knitting Show. The show will be open to the public, and there will be a reception to celebrate the opening.

Winter carnival

On Sat., Feb. 12, the Peaks Island School will host its first Winter Carnival to raise funds for the UNICEF Tsunami Fund. A donation is required to attend the carnival, which will include outdoor activities, such as ice skating, snowboarding, and sledding.

The carnival concludes with a pancake breakfast, which will include pancakes, sausage, and coffee. All proceeds from the breakfast will go to the UNICEF Tsunami Fund.

Vacation workshops

The Children’s Museum of Maine today announced that it will be hosting a series of 2 to 3-hour workshops during February vacation week. The workshops, aimed at engaging students ages 6 and up, will be led by local artists, musicians, inventors, and animal lovers. On Feb. 12, 23, and 24, the museum will host workshops on Russian Nesting Dolls, Ako

Valentine workshop

On Feb. 14, the Maine State Museum will host its annual Valentine’s Day workshop. The workshop will feature a variety of activities, including making Valentine’s Day cards, writing love letters, and making Valentine’s Day treats.

After visiting friends in the Portland area, she and her husband fell in love with Peaks. Since her husband is a “naturalist painter of flora and fauna,” he could bring his own nature and also have enough studio space to work easily by himself.

For her part, another occupational therapist’s year-long leave of absence provided the opportunity to work with the Peaks Island students and outside the classroom with individual students who needed extra support. This experience was also an opportunity to work with the Peaks Island Elementary School’s 53 students in all four classrooms, working with the entire student body on the island.

It is testament to Trefethen-Kelley’s skill and enthusiasm that the students are persuaded she’s only there to have fun with them. The faces of Peaks Island Elementary’s second- and third-graders light up when she arrives. They sing loud and clear and share some cross-cultural moves that have been taught to them. They sing up songs and sing up songs before they sing up songs and sing up songs before they sing up songs, and they are happy to share their songs with the rest of the world.

By developing a language for careful observation, the students are taught to notice and record what they see, using words and drawings. They are taught to think about what they have seen, and to communicate their thoughts with others. They are taught to notice and record what they see, using words and drawings. They are taught to think about what they have seen, and to communicate their thoughts with others.

PTO Valentine box

The Peaks Island School PTO is offering a Valentine Sweetheart Box of treats, which will be filled with homemade cookies and candies—made by island bakers, of course—and will cost $10 per box. You can order by calling the Peaks Island School at 766-2528 or by sending an email to PTO@peaksisland.org.

Use the taxi

It has been noted by several taxi drivers that community members are not taking full advantage of the free, community taxi. Volunteers drive twice a week, on Tuesday and Saturday, between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m., and are willing to take passengers to any destination on Peaks Island.

For more information, or to request a ride, please call 280-1234 ext. 221 and send an email to PTO@peaksisland.org.

Geology lecture

The second installment in the Community Lecture Series 2005 will be on Thurs., Feb. 10, at 7 p.m. in the Peaks Island Community Center. It will be led by Peaks Island resident Art Ariatt. Ariatt is a geologist and will be speaking about the geology of coastal Maine. Ariatt will answer questions such as: How was that rock in your backyard formed? What did the Maine coast look like before the glaciers? Where are the most interesting geologic spots on Peaks Island? He will be showing slides, maps, and other visual aids.

Winter carnival

On Sat., Feb. 12, the Peaks Island School will host its first Winter Carnival to raise funds for the UNICEF Tsunami Fund. A donation is required to attend the carnival, which will include indoor and outdoor events, such as, there will be games, a bake sale, Valentine making, food, face painting, a bean bag toss, a quilt raffle, ice cream making and musical chairs. Outdoor events will include making snow people, a sled race, obstacle course, snowball targets and snow castle making.

Island knitting show

There will be a reception for a show featuring the work of Island knitters at the Gompertz Gallery, 62 Island Avenue, from 3-5 p.m. on Feb. 23. The show features works by local knitters, including those who have participated in the annual Island Knitting Show. The show will be open to the public, and there will be a reception to celebrate the opening.

Winter carnival

On Sat., Feb. 12, the Peaks Island School will host its first Winter Carnival to raise funds for the UNICEF Tsunami Fund. A donation is required to attend the carnival, which will include indoor and outdoor events, such as, there will be games, a bake sale, Valentine making, food, face painting, a bean bag toss, a quilt raffle, ice cream making and musical chairs. Outdoor events will include making snow people, a sled race, obstacle course, snowball targets and snow castle making.