2-2006

Island Times, Feb-Mar 2006

Mary Lou Wendell
David Tyler

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Education debate sparked during talk of secession

BY DAVID TYLER

After months of work, the committee looking into education for the Peaks Island School has released a report. The committee is made up of parents and former students.

Salary and insurance costs for the school in 2005 were $509,580, according to figures from the Department of Marine Resources.

In 2005 secondary school students on Peaks Island spent about $1,371,000 on education, according to Michael Langella, the Education Committee's chair.

The committee also recommends creating a contingency fund, and contributing $50,000 a year for special education and 

The committee is still seeking funding for some education costs. Langella said.

At a Jan. 12 public forum, the Education Committee asked the Island Independence Committee to look into education for the Peaks Island School for 2005.

The Education Committee has been meeting since last April, when the Peaks Island secession

Islanders mourn the loss of Sam McCain

BY DAVID TYLER

Peaks Island resident Sam McCain, who died on Feb. 4, loved to go to different church services.

The late Sam McCain is pictured with his beloved dog, Gioia, in this 2003 Island Times file photo.

Sam McCain died, graduated from the Episcopal Theological School in Cambridge, Mass. in 1945. Although much of his career was spent

Chebeague negotiates with school district

BY DAVID TYLER

One of the biggest challenges for the Chebeague secession effort is that agreements have to be worked out with two, separate

The lease was requested by Tollef Olson, of South Portland, owner of Aqua Farms LLC, who already

Olsen sought a 10-year lease to anchor three mussel floats in a two-and-a-half-acre area in the eastern part of the island.

Inside

Love stories

Peaks Islanders Mike and Vanessa Sylvestre were married in Norway, Maine, on Sept. 7, 2006. The story of how their romance began is one of six pieces featured in this issue of the Island Times. Photo courtesy of Vanessa Sylvestre
In Brief

Students receive scholarships

The Peaks Island Lions Club is providing scholarships for numerous Peaks Island college students. For this academic year, the Lions Club has awarded $30,000 in scholarships, according to Michael Langella, club president.

Last fall, the club decided to award $1,000 per college student, Langella said. That means that 18 island students received money from the Lions Club. The only requirements are that the student be active in school and a Peaks Island resident.

"Every year we make a decision about what level of scholarship we will provide," he said. "The commitment is to provide scholarships for the kids who live on the island."

Last year, the Lions Club sent out checks to students totaling $14,000. The Peaks Island Lions Club donates annually to island institutions, in addition to providing the scholarships. The money is raised through lobster bakes by the Lions Club holds at its facility in Greenwood Gardens.

Forum on Peaks' future

There will be a discussion regarding the future of Peaks Island, to be held on Sat. Feb. 11 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., at the Peaks Island School. Coffee and muffins will be available from 8:30 a.m. The forum will be facilitated by professional facilitator Jonathan Pottman.

"The goal is to discuss the challenges we face as a community and brainstorm strategies to address those issues," stated Brenda Buchanan, one of the meeting's organizers, in a press release.

While the potential of secession is sure to be discussed, the purpose of this meeting is not to debate pros and cons. It is to look at the island's future through a broad lens and talk about how to best sustain our vibrant community," Buchanan wrote. "Creative thinking will be encouraged and diverse viewpoints welcomed."

The discussion is not sponsored by any specific organization. Child care will be available.

- David Tyler

Deer program underway

As of Feb. A 17 deer have been killed on Peaks Island, as part of the deer management program, according to Tom Fortier, the city's island/neighborhood administrator.

"It is out goal to be done as soon as possible," Fortier said. He expects this year's program to be finished by the end of February.

Peaks Island resident Robert Briggs volunteered to shoot the deer. Each time he goes out, he is accompanied by either Fortier, or Phil Bozehard, of the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. The shoot takes place from a stationary site and moving or running deer are not shot at. No shooting is done during holidays, on weekends or during school vacations, according to Fortier.

All deer are given to Peaks Island residents, he said.

On Cliff Island, the deer removal program took place from Dec. 1 through Jan. 20, according to Fortier. Cliff Island residents Dave and Edi MacVane volunteered to shoot the deer on Cliff. This year, 23 deer were removed. Fortier said. Cliff Island has a carrying capacity of between seven and eight deer.

One of the challenges of the deer removal program is that deer often swim from island to island, so the deer populations in Casco Bay often fluctuate, Fortier said.

- David Tyler

Repairs made to Aucocisco III

The Casco Bay Lines ferry, Aucocisco III, is undergoing repairs for a misaligned propulsion system at the Rockland Marine Shipyard.

"The repairs should be finished and the vessel back in service by mid-February, according to Nick Mavedonnes, operations manager for Casco Bay Lines. Aucocisco III is a new, $8 million vessel which was christened in May, 2005. Mavedonnes said workers discovered the problem last December, when they took apart some of the ferry's components to see if there were bad bearings. Instead, they discovered a misalignment in the propulsion shafts. The ferry had to be sent to Rockland to be fixed, he said. The problem became apparent during the ferry's warranty, which is good until the end of February.

- David Tyler

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Above: A herd of deer on the rocks near Trefethen Landing, Peaks Island, preparing to swim across Diamond Island Pass to Great Diamond Island. Below: Deer swimming from Peaks Island to Great Diamond Island. The deer swam between the islands at one of the lowest tides of the year. Photos courtesy of Tom Fortier
February/March 2006

co Bay Lines has to be for the repairs, which could be as much as $80,000, before submitting the bill to Steiner Shipyard of Alabama, which built the vessel. "We have no reason to think they won’t honor their responsibilities," he said.

In addition, the main deck of the Maquoit II will be lengthened by 13 feet sometime between March 1 and May 1, if the request for proposal comes in under budget. The work will be done during the bi-annual U.S. Coast Guard inspection of the vessel and would be paid from a state transportation bond issue.

Last summer, Casco Bay Lines had to replace turbochargers on both engines, which are just two years old, Mavodones said. "It is lengthened by 13 feet sometime between March 1 and May 1, if the request for proposal comes in under budget. The work will be done during the bi-annual U.S. Coast Guard inspection of the vessel and would be paid from a state transportation bond issue."

New fishing limits set

The groundfish industry faces further restrictions, with the New England Fishery Management Council reducing the number of fishing days each boat is allowed from 52 days a year to 47. The action comes just two years after major cuts to the amount of time at sea for fishing boats to catch cod, haddock, flounder and other groundfish.

The council also decided that each day spent fishing inshore would count as two days at sea at a meeting held last Fri., Feb. 3 in Portland.

The regulations are meant to cut the amount of cod caught. In the Gulf of Maine by 32 percent and the amount of yellowtail flounder in the gulf by 46 percent.

The rules still need to be approved by the federal government. If approved, the new restrictions would not take effect this summer. Fishermen at the meeting said the new cut in sea time would cause huge damage to an already struggling groundfishing industry.

Island without women

The Town of Long Island is one of three communities in the United States being considered for a television show produced by The Learning Channel (TLC). For the show, provisionally titled "The Week the Women Went," all the men in the town would be taken on a one-week vacation, paid for by the show’s producers. The show would focus on how the men cope with all the women gone. Two television producers visited Long Island in December to do research for the show.

As of press time in early February, TLC had not selected candidates for the show, but "it’s a series that is still in development here," said Don Halcum, spokesperson for TLC: "It has been green lit yet, let alone picking a town."

Funds sought for chapel

Supporters of the Cousins Island Chapel are in the midst of a capital campaign to raise $200,000 for repairs to the 111-year-old building. So far, over $50,000 has been raised, according to David Tyler, public relations coordinator for the Cousins Island Chapel Association. The association is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Kenney and his wife, Mildred, were married in the chapel 56 years ago. "We saw the advertisement for the position, and took a ride on the Machesnyme to interview for the job. "I love the island, I love water and I love working with kids, and it was part-time—it just fit the bill," she said.

The workshop needed a director after Colleen Mitchell, the director for the previous four and one-half years, resigned on Oct. 31, 2005, the workshop announced it was cutting Mitchell’s full-time post to half-time and also laying off teacher Julie Dougherty due to decreased enrollment in the workshop’s pre-school program.

Johnson is new workshop director

Deborah Johnson, who visited the island with her dog recently to get the lay of the land, is the new executive director of the Peaks Island Children’s Workshop. Photo by Mary Lou Wendell

Deborah Johnson, the new executive director of the Peaks Island Children’s Workshop, has always loved working with young children.

"When I was 10-years-old, I started babysitting," she said. "I just have always loved working with little people." Johnson, who has long career in Maine public schools, has found away to continue her work.

"It’s just amazing how much they know, and how quickly they learn, and how much fun it is to be with them," she said, of young children.

She saw the advertisement for the position, and took a ride on the Machesnyme to interview for the job. "I love the island, I love water and I love working with kids, and it was part-time—it just fit the bill," she said.

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Johnson said she was told in her interview that fundraising is an important part of the job. "That will be a big piece of it, trying to find different ways to fund the program," she said.

In July of last year, Johnson retired from public education, having served as a teacher and principal since 1973. After retirement, she did accept a part-time post as interim principal at a Kennabunk elementary school, which ends in June.

She began her career in Presque Isle and worked as a teacher and teaching principal in Skowhegan from 1976-1983. She taught first grade, high school English and special education during this part of her career.

In 1983, Johnson became a kindergarten teacher in the Falmouth schools, also serving as part-time assistant principal. From 1986-2005 she was the principal at the 950-student Lun School, which had a staff of 75.

She began her job as the new workshop director the week of Feb. 6. What is new for her in the fund-raising aspect of the job is to help prepare, she has signed up for grant-writing and fund-raising workshops at the University of Southern Maine.

"I’m excited to start; I’m really looking forward to it," she said.
Island Views

Letters to the editor

Response to Forecaster article

The members of the Island Independence Committee (IIC) wish to respond to Karen Hooper's article in the Portland Forecaster. Peaks Island teachers, seceders and IIC members believe that addressing the secession issue is critical to the health and diversity of our school district.

It is tempting to dismiss her letter by justifying her statement in the article that the "community, after secession could simply ship all 300 of its children off island for a better school because an elementary school on the island is too expensive to operate." This is wrong, very wrong. In our opinion, Karen Hooper's statement is not supported by facts. We have calculated the cost of sending secondary students at the mainland schools. The cost includes tuition, transportation and other fees. The cost to send secondary students to the mainland schools is not too expensive to operate.

We have found that the cost of sending secondary students is not a reason to oppose secession. As a matter of fact, it may drive the ISD to continue and meet the needs of its community. If we are able to send secondary students to the mainland schools, we will have a full-time school district. This will have a positive effect on our community.

The Island Times is the official newspaper of record for the Island School District. The Island School District is made up of islanders who live on Peaks Island, Long Island and the other islands in the jurisdiction of the ISD. The Island Times is the official newspaper of record for the Island School District. The Island School District is made up of islanders who live on Peaks Island, Long Island and the other islands in the jurisdiction of the ISD. The Island Times is the official newspaper of record for the Island School District.

February/March 2006

Get ready for Winter Carnival

By BETH PELLEGRIN

Are you ready to head down island and have a blast by adding some fun to your life? An old-fashioned, fun-filled Winter Carnival is coming to Peaks Island during February vacation week, Feb. 18-25. Peaks Island Tax Assistance (PIATA) started looking for events to add to our carnival plans. We have received a number of suggestions from islanders, and we are continually adding to our list of events. Some of the events that have been suggested include:

1. Carnivalia at the Baptist Church with amusement rides, games and food
2. Valentine's Day Carnival at the Baptist Church
3. Winter Carnival at the Baptist Church
4. Carnival on Peaks Island
5. Winter Carnival at the Baptist Church
6. Winter Carnival at the Baptist Church
7. Winter Carnival at the Baptist Church
8. Winter Carnival at the Baptist Church
9. Winter Carnival at the Baptist Church
10. Winter Carnival at the Baptist Church

We hope to have a full week of fun and games for everyone to enjoy. If you have any suggestions for events, please let us know. We are looking forward to a great winter carnival on Peaks Island.

Happy Valentine's Day!

Publishers: Mary Lou Wendell/David Tyler

Member of the New England Press Association.

The Island Times is a community newspaper serving the islands in Casco Bay. We welcome letters to the editor, columns, engagement announcements and obituaries. Our office is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Our newsroom is located at 146 Longwood Rd., Peaks Island, Maine. Our phone number is 766-0951. Our fax number is 766-3018. Our website is www.islandtimes.org. Our email address is editor@islandtimes.org.

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This island life

BY GEORGE BOSOL

It started with a cry from the bathroom: I gained three pounds in one day! Then another voice, that of a guest in an adjoining bedroom, chimed in. It was way off, she said, in a voice suggesting she was doing us a service.

The first voice, with thinly disguised mildness, asked the second voice the added poundage used in the correction. Suspecting a probe into her weight, the adjuster invoked visitor privacy and remained silent.

This interaction led me to consider island visitation rights and wrongs. Guests have every right to be treated with our famed island hospitality as long as they abide by the rules.

A partial list would begin with the landmark "hands off the scale" incident above, followed by: no relocation of doggie bowls or litter boxes, no solving daily crossword puzzles without subscriber’s permission, no drinking directly from open water bottles in the fridge, no psychotic pets (including diggers) or leakers, no noise, and no use of island vehicles without knowledge of risks, and no overt display of affluence that may clash with island sensibilities. I recognize that old habits die hard, but a friendly reminder now and then into our way of life can’t hurt.

Small makes a big difference in how little things happen on Peaks Island. Small. Here, little bigness comes in many shapes. Ten people at a free movie at the community room is a large crowd. Seventy-five at a church service isn’t bad. A hundred and thirty people at the Fifth Maine Museum fills every chair. One pinball machine and one pool table at the library. Smallness turns to miniat ure in the island artists’ gallery, umbrella cover museum, and apartment all under one roof. On a pleasant summer’s evening, art lovers with refreshments in hand spill from the Grotto onto the sidewalk and the show goes on. Once again demonstrating that the good life on Peaks comes in little bites.

The recent warm spell, predicted by few and surprising to many, was appreciated. There was enough ground thaw for me to dig down a few inches and do some arctic gardening. I planted a couple rows of iceberg lettuce and some strings of snow peas. These should sprout with the usual February thaw. Our little Mummskin fruit tree will blossom then and give us some early blackberries. And speaking of fragrant places, my Russian friend says the season the Siberian Sleddog is the fastest in the world is because the trees in that area are miles apart.

The Pothole Chronicle—The Saga Continues. When life gives you potholes, drive into them after a rain and wash the car. This is what I did after a significant rain event. I drove into Hussey Pond, a Depression Era land’s only car wash. It was a party atmosphere until the Constable pulled up in the cruiser. He informed us that it was against a city statute to use road run-off as waste water. There was plenty of evidence that the water in the pond was not running off and, left to its own devices, it would stagnate there until May. The rule of law caused the line to disperse. I drove out but barely escaped hitting the cruiser because wet brakes.

My fellow islanders who were shocked away from Hussey Pond might consider the use of the eternal waters of the backshore roadside hose a few yards downhill of Big Daddy. Then again, check for the existence of an ordinance prohibiting the use of drinking water as cleaning fluid. I believe it’s okay as long as you wash and don’t drink.

Please call us with your story ideas at 766-0951, or send us an email at itimes@maine.rr.com. Anyone who would like to write articles for the Island Times is also invited to contact us with your story ideas. Thanks.

Your input is invaluable to this community newspaper.

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Chebeague Chronicles

BY GORDON MURPHY

The Chebeague Island Boatyard, a vital service provider for Chebeague residents, especially Island fishermen, has changed hands out of the Brewer family for the first time in 45 years. Harriet and Diane Brewer sold the boatyard to Scott Searway and Paul Bellesca, who will continue to operate the business as a boatyard and gas station. Best of luck to Harriet and Diane in their retirement.

Tolfe Olson, whose Maine Department of Marine Resources (MDMR) aquaculture hearing in November had many fishermen up arms about his Aquafarms LLC mussel lease proposal southeast of Chebeague Island, has had his application denied, in a proposed decision. (See "Mussel lease denied in proposed rule," December 2006.)

Chebeague Rescue was the latest victim of special interest, has changed incorrectly had Deputy Chief Marlene Bowes from Island Avenue, whose Maine Department of Marine Resources, has changed career, as planning for a new fire chief,大海 town, that she should do more, the back door to Christmas. She would have ended up planning for a new fire chief,大海 town, that she should do more, the back door to Christmas. She would have ended up planning for a new fire chief,大海 town, that she should do more... The annual Chowder and Chill Festival will be held the weekend of December 11-12, with a skating party at Sanford's Pond to be held Saturday from 4-7. If the pond isn't frozen, the back door to Christmas. She would have ended up planning for a new fire chief,大海 town, that she should do more... The annual Chowder and Chill Festival will be held the weekend of December 11-12, with a skating party at Sanford's Pond to be held Saturday from 4-7. If the pond isn’t frozen, the back door to Christmas. She would have ended up planning for a new fire chief,大海 town, that she should do more...
Cliff Island News

By LEGO CARTER

Every year the winter season brings wondrous traditions to Cliff Island. There are parties, lights and decorations and there is getting names for the Christmas gift exchange. There are planks for the winter like projects or vacations in warm places. The summer cottages are but toned up, and the snowbirds are flying. For a good part of the winter season we will be missing Gordon and Ivy Griff, Charlie and Sandy Green as well as the Norman and Pam Anderson. Thus, we hunker down with less than 60 souls on "the rock".

But first there is the school Christmas Party sponsored by the Parent's Association and the Cliff Island Association. This year after a pleasant roast beef dinner there was a skit by the school children, Julian Bernard, Jessica and Dave Griffin, Camilla and Olivia Crowley, and Connor and Cade Lest. Music presentations included cello by Evan Anderson, (Grandson of Pam and Bob) as well as lively piano music for children marching and everyone singing. This, as is usually true, was provided by Joyce Chapalain and Chester Pettingill. The crowning event was the appearance of Santa Claus. After the thrill of seeing the great one, and the inevitable questioning and guessing by some older children, the gifts were distributed by the children to those present. Congratulations to Cliff's School teacher, Judy Macvane, for bringing a $2500 Best Buy Teacher award to our school. Another holiday treat!

We have been enjoying the cheerful holiday decorations and lighting that many have done. In recent years Cindi Gildard and Gary MacVane have created marvelous displays on the windshielded fences and well beyond all the way up to their home. I saw Mark Milington helping put up some of the lights. After those lights are on there is an evening when the Casco Bay ferry brings a lively good natured group from around the bay (many from Long) to enjoy the seasonal wonder. Their stop on Cliff this year was greeted by best Buy Teacher award to Marcia Donohue for this prize painting by Marcia Donohue of "Slim Pickins" to the southeast shore during the past year. Steve Anderson brought the brand new white 38-foot boat for approval. The motion to approved id.

The remainder of the meeting focused primarily on the ongoing dispute over the new big landing with the consensus being that mediation should be pursued, and that residents should let the opponent know the devastation that would occur to the island if large service were not available. People expressed concerns that the lack of trash and vehicle removal and the lack of road maintenance would lead to health and safety problems. Even worse they worried that the island's impaired ability to provide essential services could jeopardize the existence of our school. It might follow that home values would plummet; the year round community would be wiped out; and tax revenues to the city would fall.

The winter hours for the island store, Miller's, have declined with the temperatures. Owner, Mark Millington, says that he will be closed for February, and then gradually increase the hours as the summer season approaches. The Fisherman's Cove Store continues to supply fuel for boats, homes and vehicles through the efforts of Holly Beach, Bob Howard and others. So far this winter has not seen many tracks in the snow, partly because of the rain and January thaw. There is still plenty of time to flood the tennis court for skating, but the road comes out at the back of Ed's hill to provide safe sledding, or for Bob O'Reilly to beat some trails through the snowy woods. Hopefully, we will soon be going out on our skis, snowshoes, cross country skis or snow shoes if... let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!

At the conclusion of the meeting Cindi Gildard's treasurer's report was accepted.

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Cliff Island News

February/March 2006

INLAND TIMES

PAGE 7

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"Save the Island Predator" seeks to preserve and protect open space in its natural state for the use and enjoyment of citizens and visitors. Contributions and membership dues are used to purchase lands and provide appropriate land management. We also work with the City, State and Island to preserve open space through conservation easements and gifts of land. Please join us in this important effort.

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EDUCATION, from page 1

efforts started. On Jan. 6, the IJC submitted
608 signatures on a petition asking for a hearing with the city regarding secession.

The City Clerk's office certified 395 of those signatures as valid. These signatures require that
half the island's registered voters must sign the petition to ask for a hearing for Peaks Island,
that figure is 580, according to the city.

The City Council could set the public hearing
for the end of March or early April, according to Tom Fortier, the city's Island/neighborhood administrator. The IJC's next public hearing is scheduled for 7 p.m. on
Feb. 16 at the Peaks Island Community Center.

Members of the Education Committee talked at the Jan. 12 forum about their vision
for the Island school, if secession is successful.

Island residents, those who have children and those who do not, support the school,
Langella said. One of the main goals of secession
"is to maintain the diversity of the Island so young families can afford to live on
the Island, and send their kids to the school," he said. In a phone interview.

Peaks Island is sending between $4 and $5 million in property taxes to the City of Portland,
with about half of that being used for education, he said. The committee is con-
vinced that an independent Peaks Island would have both the resources and the abil-
ty to maintain teachers and staff at the Island school.

"Change is difficult, I don't want to mini-
mise that," he said. But change also means
the opportunity to create "a vision for the school that involves everyone on the Is-
land-I see that as very exciting."

But Kelly Hassan, principal of the Peaks Island School, is concerned about the qual-
ity of education in a school run by a Town of Peaks Island. "When I think about what the Island could be giving up in terms of educa-
tion, it would be, in my opinion, a tremen-
dous loss."

Hassan, at the Jan. 12 Education Committee
meeting, expressed concerns that staff at the Peaks Island School have about seces-
sion.

Speaking for the 12 full-time staff mem-
ers at the school (which includes four
teachers), Hassan said the entire staff would
be retained in the Portland school sys-
tem. If secession is successful, no staff
would work for a school run by a Town of
Peaks Island. "There is just too much to for-
et in terms of tenure, salary and benefits," said Hassan, in a phone interview.

"In no way was my announcement at the Island Education Committee forum
meant as a threat in any way," she said. "It was meant to inform the island community.
It is important that islanders know this, be-
fore any secession vote occurs, she said. "As a
staff, we are very concerned about the future of the school. We care deeply about the stu-
dents and their families."

Langella realizes the staff is concerned.
"Everyone who worked on the committee
recognizes and wants to honor the staff's po-
sition on this matter," he said. They have le-
gitimate reasons why they want to maintain their seniority. Having said that, I think their decision was premature."

There has been reaction on the Island to
Hasson's announcement. A copy of an article from the Portland Forecaster paper, quoting
Hasson's statement at the forum that teach-
 ers would not work for a Town of Peaks Is-
land school, was posted on island bulletin
boards, with remarks criticizing the teachers' handwritten near the article.

"Frankly, teachers were very disappointed with things posted on bulletin boards saying very unflattering things about them." Hassan
said.

Langella said that the derogatory note was
just the opinion of one person. All the mem-
bers of the IJC have been polite and respect-
ful as they gather information, he said.

"We're all looking out for the best interests of the children on this Island, and making
sure they get the best possible education," he
said.

City officials have been very helpful in providing information, Langella. But since teachers from other Portland schools come
out to Peaks on a regular basis, it is hard to assemble all the financial data, since those
figures are part mainland elementary school budgets.

The $58,000 figure does not include the
cost, which is still being obtained, for some
special services provided by mainland
teachers and staff, such as occupational therapy or psychological services, he said.

It's precisely these special services that will be
hard for an independent Island school to provide. Hasson said. An independent school
would not be able to provide the staff development and support Portland already
maintains.

"I strongly disagree," said Langella, who
worked to educate for 25 years, as a teach-
er, assistant principal and acting principal. "I think we would have the financial means to provide more for the school than we're pro-
viding now," he said.
I met my wife Pam in Germany in 1982. I was a young lawyer representing U.S. soldiers, and she was a first lieutenant in the 3rd Infantry Division. One of her troops was accused of a misdemeanor, and I was interviewing character witnesses.

The soldier was assigned to introduce us, so we complied. I borrowed a pencil from her, then "accidentally" forgot to return it; "I'll go back to it" to return it and apologize. After the case was over, I called and left her a note. We went to Germany and Italian restaurants in Wiesbaden and Hamburg, to Paris for a weekend, and to a Greek island for a week.

Leftovers

Leftovers

By JENNY YAO

Albert and I first discovered each other in 1984, at a potluck dinner at the Brackett Me­mento Museum. Albert was new to Peaks, and I was a graduate student who had just returned from my first trip abroad.

I was in the process of dumping and get­ting dumped by a musician boyfriend. "Rog­ers," and that became clearer when I tried to make him a soybean pie.

Soybean pie tastes a lot like pumpkin—or it could have if I hadn't scorched the beans. I needed to hide the burnt taste with spices, so I decided to make bean burgers instead. I invited Roger to the island for supper and a haircut.

"These taste burnt," he complained. We didn't really get along.

So, I had two vegetarian meatloaves near­ly making me sick (with guilt) in the fridge, and don't worry, Roger didn't get his back­rut. But by the time I dared look again, my soybean stuff was—not moldy, but sour. HINT: use vegetable food can be turned into souredough starter! Two days later, I made it into sourdough bread. The burnt flavor was gone, but the sourdough flavor and sturdy texture was... intense.

Imagine the young and poor, with all that investment in food in my refrigerator. I couldn't throw it away!

Finally, I grated the bricks into a lobster pot, shaped patties, and fried them to a delicious golden brown. I put paper between each one. And this time it was the charm! The taste of these bean burgers was sublime! And I had love.

So I brought some to the Brackett Mem­orial Church potluck. People gobbled them up. "You people said, Albert won't like it," he kept commenting. "These are delicious!" He ate two. "These have...such a subtle, in­teresting flavor!" He kept coming over to stand beside me and eat. "Yummy!" He said. And I was there!

He looked at me meaningfully. "Can I walk you home, and get that recipe?"

In 2001, Brenda and I both moved to Peaks. Brenda had lived on Peaks Island for years. Brenda, a Peaks resident since 1995, is fascinating and quirky, familiar and beau­tiful. She was smitten with the island, and with her. So I decided to make bean burgers instead. I invited Roger to the island for supper and a haircut. "These taste burnt," he complained. We didn't really get along.

When we decided to get married in Cana­da, what location did we choose? An island, also a lawyer, and with her. My home in Arrowsic was a mere... bridge and a bike ride on a trusty red Schwinn. An island, from which I was smitten with the island, and with her. My home in Arrowsic was a mere... bridge and a bike ride on a trusty red Schwinn.
**Star Gazing**

In the Evening

Saturn is coming into prime-dime view
ing, rising in the east just as the sun sets.
The ringed planet is sliding slowly under the Beehive star cluster hiding in Cancer. The stars in the Beehive are distant and faint, but find Saturn by binoculars and look just above it (and more to the left with each passing day).

These stars are close enough together that the planets among them just might intersect in ways we can only imagine. Mercury has swung from the dawn to the dusk sky, speeding around the far side of the sun. It’s headed toward us and coming fast, so it’s easy to see if the western sky is clear at sunset.

On March 8 back to Peaks, you can see it rising up over town, climbing higher until March 25: Just before dusk, look east over the islands and see Venus at greater elongation from the sun with the crescent moon to its right.

**Facts:**

Feb. 17: Waning gibbous moon occults Spica, the alpha star in Virgo late tonight.
Feb. 21: Last quarter moon is highest at dawn, with Scorpio’s red giant Antares to the left, and mighty Jupiter well to the right.
Feb. 24: A crescent moon sits to the right of Venus before dawn.
Feb. 28: New moon tonight, so the stars will seem brighter. It was at perigee yesterday, so it’s close, and it’s pulling together with the sun, making tidal swings extreme.
March 6: First quarter moon is highest at dusk.
March 8: The moon’s over Saturn tonight but by tomorrow night the moon will slip beneath it.
March 14: Full moon seems small, because apogee was yesterday.
March 20: Spring equinox at 1:26 p.m., as the sun passes over the equator. The sun rises directly east and sets directly west today.
March 21: Last quarter moon is highest at dawn.
March 25: Just before dawn, look east over the islands and see Venus at greatest elongation from the sun with the crescent moon to its right.

These celestial spectacles last just for a moment, before the sun emerges, seemingly out of the ocean, and fills the sky with light.

March 28: Moon at perigee today and will be new tomorrow, so tides will be high at 10:59 a.m., and lowest at 5:16 p.m., another change of nearly 13 feet, making currents fast at mid-tide.

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We are depending on subscriptions to help keep us going through the winter. So we’re counting on you!

We hope to hear from you soon.

Mary Lou Wendell
David Tyler

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Island Times, 146 Ledgewood Road, Peaks Island, Maine, 04108.
Valentine lunches

The students and staff of the Peaks Island Academy invited all Island seniors to a Valentine Lunch on Mon., Feb. 14, at 11:30 a.m. in the school gym. The menu included appetizers, vegetable rice, fresh fruit, milk, as well as a main course made by the staff and FTO. Please RSVP by calling the school at 766-2582 if you plan to attend.

Heartbreak Show

The Gem Gallery puts a spin on Valentine’s Day with its “Heartbreak Show,” featuring work by island artists inspired by their story of heartbreak that will be paired with narratives and poems. Reception is Fri., Feb. 10, from 5 to 8 p.m. The gallery will be open Feb. 11-12 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Valentine Knit Sale

On Saturday, Feb. 11, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., stop by the Gem Gallery and snack on some treats and pick up something to keep your sweetie warm and cozy. Knitted items donated by the island’s most talented knitters will be available. Proceeds go to the Peaks Island Community Library.

Valentine workshops

SPIRAL Arts, Inc. is hosting a intergenerational event on Sat., Feb. 11, from 1 to 5 p.m., at 1 High Street in Peaks. Supported grants at the door are a sliding scale from $5 to $12. Make a wide variety of Valentine gifts with these workshops: Scratchboard, encaustics, cards, origami, heart ornaments, vegetables, and chocolate. All workshops will be led by area artists who will also be face painting, a dance workshop and a workshop on creating “gusseted” valentines.

Community Notes

Sold of Chebeague boatyard preserves working waterfront

By David Tyler

It was a bright, sunny January day at the Chebeague Island Boatyard. In the background, a Caterpillar forklift, slowly positioning the fork under a wooden cradle which held a 22-foot-long sailboat, and let it go in a green tarp. To the left of the machine, David Burgess watched, giving the fork to help Bel­

 лица формируя крепко в снаряжение. Это было то, что я только что подумала. Вечером, с игрой на барабанах, с танцем и живым графиком. Впереди, на следующий день, я планирую посетить Beals. Утро я провел в работе на празднике, вечером — с друзьями.

Paul Belsca, owner of the Chebeague Island Boatyard, moves an Estonia sailboat.

1972; Hartley took it over from his father. It was a family operation: Dinne kept the books, and the Brewers’ daughters and grandchildren later worked at the yard on weekends and summers.

“It’s been fun work,” said Hartley. “It’s hard work. It’s a lot of different jobs. It’s working on mowing, or working on motors and boats: stepping masts or rigging sails. It’s a lot different.

The Brewers told Belsca about their plans to sell the yard during the winter of 2004-2005. Belsca told them to keep him when they put the yard on the market.

Belsca is a 1964 graduate of the Maine Maritime Academy. He served as an engineer on tankers, cruise ships, fishing vessels and container ships all over the world for 10 years. He then worked as a vice president for the naval architecture and engineering firm of Ives Coinc and Working Fel/ruary 9th, at the Saint Christopher’s parish hall on Central Street. The tuition for the four week session is $20, due on the first day of class.

In looking back at his time of service, Hartley said, “It was a family operation: Dinne kept the books, and the Brewers’ daughters and grandchildren later worked at the yard on weekends and summers.

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