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April Fools Edition

Because of the nature of the news this month there are no tricks in this edition. Hat April fools! But seriously, because of the nature of the news this month there is only one trick in this edition. A question to find it.

Spring Break starts April 18 for Portland public schools. Earth Day Friday, April 22. Easter Sunday April 24. This month also marks the birth of William Shakespeare on April 23 and Leonardo da Vinci April 15, the same day the Titanic went down in 1912.

A couple of Peaks residents wrote back thanking the sergeant for his response, including Richard MacQueen, who wrote, "A rumor, if not contradicted, becomes fact. Thanks to all of you."

New police blog may stop rumors in their tracks

By Kevin Attra

In February, a rumor circulated Peaks Island that Andrei Schneider, who was being held at the Cumberland County jail on assault charges stemming from a home invasion in November, was out on bail.

The rumor was false. He has not been released and is currently still in custody.

Under the conditions of his bail, he would not have been allowed back onto the island anyway, but the news of his alleged release greatly upset the victim of the attack who was afraid he would come looking for her.

The rumor also raised concerns at the Peaks Island Council's regular meeting on Feb. 17, where some people were angry that the police hadn't notified the community.

At the meeting, Councilor Scott Kelley said that an online police blog was being developed by the Portland Police Office, and that this police Luterbach in an effort by the Peaks Island police force to address that problem.

The blog, now located on Facebook at www.facebook.com/pages/Peaks-Island-Bureau/144850448859222?ref=ts, apparently went online Tuesday, March 20.

It came out of a community meeting with members of the Peaks Patrol and Portland Police personnel in December in response to complaints about inaccurate or incomplete information from the police.

At the meeting, Commander Vern Mallock of the Uniform Operations Group agreed that information in the police logs given to the public "isn't accurate enough".

The Schneider case was cited as an example.

In that case, the victim tricked Schneider into letting her call for medical assistance after she'd been hurt.

She told him she'd tell the 911 dispatcher that she had fallen down the stairs, which she did.

As a result the call was logged in as a medical emergency and did not appear on the police log. It wasn't until she was safely aboard the fire boat that she told the attending officer what really happened.

The Peaks Patrol's new Facebook page may help solve that type of problem, though it will also test the limits of police accountability, if not their patience.

In what appears to be the first public post to the blog, PIC member Russ Eaton wrote, "I don't know if comments are working allowed (to this post) for the last week's arrest on Peaks - is it true the arresting officer had to leave the island for 1 hour to take the suspect into custody?"

PD Patrol Sergeant Troy Bowden responded the next morning and gave what seemed to be a fair accounting of the incident, emphasizing in all caps, "THERE WILL BE AN OFFICER ON PEAKS ISLAND AT ALL TIMES."

HGC member Russ Edwards. "I wouldn't draw any conclusions until we've been vigilant and serious for a while."

The rumor also raised concerns surrounding the previous secession attempt centered on the accuracy of the proposed town budget, and the City Manager's Office posted financial cost and revenue statements for Peaks Island on its website, www.portland.me, to be used for that purpose.

Written material accompanying the data featured a cautionary note that secession would lead to a six-fold increase in sewer fees. Currently, users pay $8.87 per hundred cubic feet of wastewater, which is only a portion of the actual cost.

According to Ronald Miller, general manager of the Portland Water District which operates all the city sewer facilities, the city pays approximately $10 million annually for sewer service and in turn charges $20 million to its rate payers.

In Maine, each municipality can charge according to its own needs. Portland spreads the cost of the sewer use over its entire tax base. According to resident Gene Taylor most municipalities face this type of problem, though it will also test the limits of police accountability, if not their patience.

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HGC member Russ Edwards. "I wouldn't draw any conclusions until we've been vigilant and serious for a while."

HGC members have been pouring over the figures in order to develop a realistic budget, but said they wouldn't have a final report until late this month.

In other news, the PIC is facing a decision whether to fund private school annular passes and the Children's Workshop and the taxi for the 2012 fiscal year as has been done previously, or to fund only the 2012 fiscal year passes for private school residents, or to stop funding student passes altogether.

According to Foster, the former PIC offered the new council an allocation budget that would pay for student passes, the Children's Workshop and the taxi at current levels, in hope of that the funding would be continued as its legacy.

PIC plans community meeting on secession

By Kevin Attra

The Peaks Island Council meeting Wednesday, March 30 at the Inn on Peaks Island. All council members present. 18 people attending.

The Maine Legislature's Joint Standing Committee on State & Local Government has scheduled a Public Hearing on the Peaks Island secession bill, LD 1079, for April 11, at 10 a.m. in Room 214 of the Cross Building in Augusta.

In light of that news, the PIC elected to host a public discussion on secession, to be held on April 30 if the Government Committee endorses the bill. It is expected to have made its decision before that date.

The council had previously considered hosting a panel discussion with legislators and members from the Island Independence Committee and the Peaks Alliance, but according to Chair Russ Foster the Peaks Alliance declined to participate, which made it moot.

But Councilor Eric Eaton argued that there were no forums for discussion other than HGC or Alliance meetings and as a result, people would feel like they are being held up by the state of Maine. He believes that the council should be considering the secession issue and take a decision in favor of secession even if it means that it will end up with itself.

Many of the controversy surrounding the previous secession attempt centered on the accuracy of the proposed town budget, and the City Manager's Office posted financial cost and revenue statements for Peaks Island on its website, www.portland.me, to be used for that purpose.

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In Maine, each municipality can charge according to its own needs. Portland spreads the cost of the sewer use over its entire tax base. According to resident Gene Taylor most municipalities do this, but he said there was no guarantee the town of Peaks Island would elect to do this.

"It would certainly worry me," he said.

Miller said that Peaks Island's sewer system costs just under $700,000 to operate, but the rate payers on the island only pay around $117,000 because Portland distributes the cost across the city. If Peaks were to secede, the island would assume responsibility for the entire bill.

In practice, the actual cost to the users will depend on the terms of the negotiated settlement with Portland as to how the town's own policy.

"We've still got to go through the arbitration and negotiation process," said HGC member Russ Edwards. "I wouldn't draw any conclusions until we've been vigilant and serious for a while."

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According to Foster, the former PIC offered the new council an allocation budget that would pay for student passes, the Children's Workshop and the taxi at current levels, in hope of that the funding would be continued as its legacy.
Arbitration panel decision on Bay Lines employee contract is released

BY KEVIN ATTARD

The final decision of an interest arbitration panel, created to resolve differences regarding collective bargaining negotiations between the Casco Bay Lines Transit District and the employees union, United Maritime Division Local 333, has been released. It calls for a 1 percent wage increase for Bay Lines employees in the first two years and a 2 percent increase in 2011. The recommended 1 percent raise in the first year is actually a "signing bonus", based on FY2009 earnings. Otherwise, the recommendation is for a 0 percent.

The CBITD board unanimously accepted the decision on Thursday, March 24. "It's definitely a raise and they're doing really well, considering the economy," said board President Patrick Flynn.

In a letter posted on the Facebook site for Casco Bay Lines in mid-March, Union President William Harrigan stated, "Mr. Flynn may try to tell you that times are tough, and that many employees are struggling to keep their benefits... this simply is not the case at Casco Bay Lines, which has done very well in the last two seasons."

The employees have been without a contract for over two years. Negotiations were suspended in March 2009 to allow the Bay Lines to recover from a period of high costs and low ridership. Last April, employees circulated a two-page letter asking islanders for support in getting higher wages and better working conditions. At the time, they were allegedly seeking a 6 percent to 7 percent wage increase over the three year period from 2009 to 2011. The CBITD board reportedly offered a 0 percent increase for the first two years with a 1 percent raise this year.

The arbitration panel's report, which was released April 3, is largely nonbinding with regard to wages and benefits, and neither the board nor the union have to accept its terms. However, it is unlikely the board will reject them.

The three-member arbitration panel heard testimony from Roger Kelley for the Transit District and William Harrigan for the employee's union. "We believe [the decision] best balances the financial realities which the District confront with the legitimate needs of the Union and the workers whom it represents in a struggling and uncertain economic environment," the report stated.

"Both sides have negotiated hard," stated Flynn in an interview about the board's decision in March. I can state that the report represents compromises from both sides on salary, insurance, pension and minimum pay provisions.

He added that the Bay Line employees "never let the fact that they were working without a contract negatively impact in any way the quality of service extended to the public."

At this point, Flynn said he's anxious to finish the process and move on. "The biggest thing right now is waiting for the union to make a decision."

BY SANDRA LUCAS

Garden equipment in a pile, pea fences needing mending, table and chairs ready for company, and garlic sprouts reaching for the sun - the Peaks Island Community Garden is ready for its second wonderful year. A workday is planned for Saturday, April 30, at 9 am. Visitors always welcome. For information on membership please contact Vinnie Demos at vinnie100@earthlink.net.
The City of Portland Public Services Department's third annual compost promotion got into full swing last month, offering compost bins, wing diggers, kitchen waste pails and rain barrels at discounted prices. Last year more than 500 pieces of equipment were sold through the program.

According to information on the City of Portland's website, 25 percent of household waste consists of easily composted material. "Home composting combined with recycling and yard waste programs can reduce household waste by up to 80 percent," the city states.

According to the city's site, "sustainable lawn care practices such as yard clippings (which includes reduced mowing and aerating along with the use of compost) help the environment by growing lawns that are less dependent on chemicals, fertilizers and watering."

The Peaks Island Environmental Action Team is handling orders on the island and has provided order forms at the MacVane Community Center and Hannigan's Market. Orders should be placed by April 21. Contact Bill Oliver at 31 Sterling Street (766-5152).

Through the program, compost bins are $45, rain barrels $60, compost stirring gadgets $20 and garbage pails $10. These prices include free delivery to your door on or about May 15, according to Mitchell. Orders can also be placed in person or via mail at the Department of Public Services, 55 Portland Street, Portland ME 04101 until April 25. Order forms are available online at http://publicworks.portlandmaine.gov/compostform.pdf. Payment in the form of check or money order should be made payable to MRRA (Maine Resource Recovery Association) and must be made when placing your order. All orders will be available for pick-up on Saturday, May 21, at the Solid Waste Division on District Road. (Entrance at 2360 Congress Street) from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

In addition to composting organics, the city is encouraging residents to "mow high," for shorter grass clippings which compost better. It is estimated that a lawn mower pollutes as much in one hour as an automobile driving 350 miles.

Visit http://publicworks.portlandmaine.gov/ for more information.

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"Worst Road in Maine" Contest

FROM KATHRYN BUXTON
BUXTON COMMUNICATIONS

The Maine Better Transportation Association is accepting entries for the second annual 2011 Worst Road in Maine contest, deadline on May 15 at midnight.

"This is the time of year that we really notice just how bad our roads are," said MBTA Executive Director Maria Fuentes. Mainers can find contest rules and fill out an entry form at either www.FixMaineRoads.org or www.facebook.com/FixMaineRoads.

"This is the time of year that we really notice just how bad our roads are," said MBTA Executive Director Maria Fuentes. Mainers can find contest rules and fill out an entry form at either www.FixMaineRoads.org or www.facebook.com/FixMaineRoads.

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The secession movement has returned for the third time in recent memory, and, it allows all of us to reflect on the issues we have been through and how we feel about them. It is a debate that we may not be able to resolve, but it is a debate that we need to have.

The secession movement, like those in the past, has two main goals. First, it seeks to protect property taxes and the state, and second, it seeks to ensure that the islanders have a say in how their money is spent. Both of these goals are important, but they are not the only ones at stake.

The islanders have petitioned to have their property taxes reassessed, and they have been successful. However, the process has been slow and there are many questions about how the reassessment will be done.

The islanders have also petitioned to have the state take over the running of the town, and they have been successful. However, there are many questions about how the state will handle the transition.

The secession movement is not new, and it is not likely to go away. However, it is important that we continue to have these discussions and to find ways to work together to solve the problems that we face.
For the love of Peaks!
Profiles by Fran Houston

I met my first wife Gay when I was going to graduate school, and we hit it off and fell in love. The first time I set foot on Peaks Island was to announce our engagement.

I was over here and I guess the family was all around and they were having lobsters. Of course, where we lived, our only experience with lobsters was we would get them maybe once a year. Coburn lobster tails, which was a specialty.

But I came up here and they had the live lobsters, and I never had much experience with them. I came in and they had a self-set in the back of the house. I noticed the lobsters were sitting in this bag and I thought that these things are going to die. So, I filled the thing up with water and put the lobsters in and killed the lobsters. That was almost the end of the romance and the engagement!

We were married in November 2nd of that year. My wife had been coming here every year of her life in the summer. After we got married, that became the standard. The kids came, and I would come for my once a week, two weeks, three weeks, five weeks of vacation.

What happened, it was a lovely set up in the fact that this cottage became really home and all the other places -- the 17 places we lived were really homes.

We came back here, and had you been here at that time you would have known your parents, your brothers and sisters, your aunts and uncles and, of course, your grandparents, all of these people, because they were all here, all those generations.

A lot of that is gone now because the passing down of the houses has gone. My grandchildren are the sixth generation that has been exposed to this house.

The house alone was one that was heated initially by kerosene. At that time you got a little container of about 2 1/2 gallons, and you got a kerosene oil heater and put it in the stove, and it emptied and you went out and got some more. I finally talked to the man who owned the place to let me put in a gravity feed, which we did.

And we finally did some wiring... we put wiring all over, and put in a regular heating system and fixed it up. When we moved back from our travels, back to the east coast again, we did buy everybody else out who had an interest in the cottage and we fixed it up and then moved here year round. It's been year round for about 20 to 25 years. I think it was probably in the '80s. I first started coming here in 1958 when I married, and then it was the one week, two weeks. I think the very first weekend we were here was the fair at Trefethen, at the club, and we got involved in that. My wife was already involved in it.

I went down there and I've been involved in the club ever since. I can't remember how long I've been a board member. Probably 40 years, and we've probably been chairman of the House Committee for almost the same amount of time.

That's been an interesting project, to bring that place back to where it was. It was built in 1912, a casino which the club bought in 1921 for $3,500. I don't think that anybody could afford it now.

Back in 1980, I guess it was just a time when the whole island was taking off, and we became a "Coney Island" with all the tours coming in, the Gem Theater and the big hotels everywhere. I think, according to the clerk (MacIsaac), there were about 2,000 to 2,500 rooms here at one time. It became the place to come to.

I'm not sure what brought the Scoffs here initially, the ones who owned the house. The Scoffs were ship owners up in Harpswell but they decided that they were going to come here. John Scoffield asked his wife where she wanted to live. She gave her three or four choices and she picked the spot here.

So that's where they built a house, on a property that they purchased from Captain Trefethen. They came back the year after they built it and for some reason they never acquired the land to the north, and there's a house 6 feet away from ours. Why is that I don't know.

The other thing that changed was, just about the time I came here, the Back Shore, which was taken over by the Army for the Second World War, that land became available. The CRDA had control of it and they needed motion, so they raffled off lots back there for $1,000 each and that's how people got these lots.

Have you lived on Peaks for a long time?

Do you have a Peaks Island story to tell of memories from childhood or that illustrates why you love living here? Please email or call Fran Houston. She has already heard some great stories and she wants to hear your, from houston@bellsat.com, or call 766.2586.

Timeless on Peaks Island, I now depend on delightful island time to guide my day:

6:30 a.m. - Our cat "Paws" meowing wakes me.
6:55 a.m. - AJ passes house on way to Transfer Station, time to depart for ferry.
5:45 a.m. - Wake Nelson with aroma from a milk-frothed espresso.
7:00 a.m. - Pass Larry Walden at Seashore and Centennial avenues.
7:02 a.m. - Make car-to-car transfer of morning paper with Bernie in front library.
7:04 a.m. - Park car and greet arriving passengers.
7:15 a.m. - Nelson departs car for boat when Carol Eisenberg starts down the hill.
7:30 a.m. - Buy stamps from Catherine as the post office opens.
7:35 a.m. - Have a Peaks Island story to tell of memories from childhood or that illustrates why you love living here? Please email or call Fran Houston. She has already heard some great stories and she wants to hear your, from houston@bellsat.com, or call 766.2586.

7:30 a.m. - Greets Joe Gillooly and drops him off at transfer station (Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday).
8:00 a.m. - Say hello to Bob and replenish milk at Hannigan's Island Market.
8:15 a.m. - Plante's open for gas and air (add air to left rear tire).
9:00 a.m. - Transfer station closed for 15 minutes coffee break.
10:00 a.m. - Island times open Wednesday & Friday (look for the flag), drop and replenish books.
11:30 a.m. - Post Office closed for 45 minutes lunch break.
12:00 p.m. - Transfer station closed for 45 minutes lunch break.
1:00 p.m. - Library closed (8pm Tuesday, 4pm Wednesday, 2pm Friday, 12pm Monday).
2:00 p.m. - Transfer station closes.
3:00 p.m. - Transfer station closes.
4:30 p.m. - Purchase $20 worth of gas (4.3 gallons) before Plante closes.
5:40 p.m. - Pick up Nelson at ferry, 7:00 p.m. - Street lights go on.
7:59 p.m. - Pick up load of bread before Hannigan's Market closes.
12:00 a.m. - My bedroom light goes off.

Retire your watch and feel fine, just operate on Island Time.
Letters

To Nick Mavodones, mayor of Portland, Island Times, and to interested or interested in Peaks vs. Portland issues:

First let me thank the mayor of Portland for reaching out to the Peaks Island community in an effort to keep Peaks a part of Portland. I agree that we are better off together in the big picture.

As a long-time resident of Peaks I had the opportunity to witness and experience the many changes that have occurred over time in both the city of Portland and the state of Maine. Years past, the towns and cities had considerably more control over local issues and policies.

To the past, the city taxed property owners on Peaks at a highly raised assessment because we did not get much in the way of services, etc. That fact has essentially not changed. What has is the tax policy. That is what I see as the problem.

Over time, the state has eroded local control by requiring local property be taxed according to the same formula. This sounds fair enough on the surface but creates an unfair and huge burden to Peaks Island residents and property owners. To put it bluntly, the costs of living on Peaks and dwelling on Allen Avenue?

The city and state are (gladly) sucking up any and every cent as a way to pay for the constructing of a new bridge. The city has started the construction of a bridge that will cost the taxpayers of Portland over $3,000 or $4,000 for ferry and parking is a huge burden to Peaks.

It's only fair to provide parking and ferry service as a part of the high tax burden. We are justifiably upset about this. It is not a party place for those of us who live here.

To saddle "average Joe", his wife and kids with a $5,000 or $8,000 property tax bill, and another $7,000 or $10,000, and another $3,000 or $4,000 for ferry and parking is ludicrous. This is why the secession issue continues to surface.

Let's see if the city and state have the guts and foresight to make this happen.

Sincerely,

Richard P. Caron
Peaks Island

Respect Our Community

At a recent Island Independence Committee meeting, chairperson Jane Gerard said, "I don't understand the reasoning behind the bill. It was referring to the final vote by Peaks Island residents contained in the secession bill (LD 1079) current before the Maine Legislature.

I believe it is healthy and responsible to be concerned about a vote for secession which only requires a simple majority (50 percent plus 1) to pass.

No issue in Peaks history approaches the importance of the currently proposed change in governance. We have been part of Portland for 177 years, and for all practical purposes secession is a oneway trip. A slim majority for secession will indicate that Peaks residents are seriously divided and not committed as a community to the task they would face.

One cannot successfully create a new town on a divided and resentful foundation. As a relevant bit of history, Peaks voted 73 percent for secession on Chebeague the majority was even larger. The people in these communities were clearly committed to a shared future.

From the U.S. Constitution to state constitutions, homeowners associations and corporate bylaws, it is commonplace when considering significant changes to require a super-majority in favor, usually at least a two-thirds majority, though often four-thirds or even higher. The aim is twofold.

First it recognizes that far-reaching changes must have a significant majority. Second, a super-majority removes volatility from the law, governance and rule making process. People feel more comfortable when the economic and social environment is stable and the future is predictable. If major changes are to occur, people know that building a super-majority will require time, trust and well informed constituents.

It is very interesting that Representative Windol Weaver of York, who is the prime sponsor of LD 1079, is a co-sponsor of another bill (LD 603) which would amend the Maine Constitution to require a two-thirds majority vote for each branch of the legislature to raise taxes.

Mr. Weaver understands the reasons for a two-thirds majority very well. Unfortunately he and the HC don't think that Peaks merits the same respect. I do. We all should.

Members of the Maine Joint Committee on State and Local Government have the primary responsibility of determining the fate of LD 1079 in Augusta and can amend LD 1079 for a final, two-thirds majority vote by Peaks residents.

I invite you to join many of your friends and neighbors who have indicated their support for a two-thirds majority amendment to LD 1079. Send email containing your name, physical address, and whether you are a resident voter or a non-resident taxpayer to the following email address: twothirdsmajority@gmail.com.

If you do not have email, please have someone who knows you send your information. Your support will be used to encourage amending LD 1079 to call for a final vote requiring a two-thirds majority to pass.

Thank you,

Joseph Kane
Peaks Island

* * * *

The rhetoric surrounding the way the independence bill was submitted is full of indignation, high dudgeon and a willingness to assign suspect motives and treachery to anybody attached to the other side.

Though this may play well on Facebook and in public meetings, the facts are quite in opposition to this theme of backstabbing villains.

The reality is, any citizen, or group of citizens, of the state of Maine may propose a bill in any full, on any subject. The citizen just needs a legislator to sponsor the bill.

Furthermore, there is nothing in

Oil is driving Mainers to the brink

Over the last few weeks, Maine families have yet again reached the breaking point with gas and oil prices.

No one has had an easy time filling up their tanks in recent years, but our most recent oil crisis has made it unbearable for many.

This is just the latest episode in a long line of energy crises. Sadly, it won't be the last. Mainer work very hard for what they have, but what they have becomes smaller and smaller because the oil they depend on to fuel their cars and heat their homes has become so expensive.

Just 15 years ago, heating oil used to be 4 percent of the family budget. Now it's 15 percent, and it's only going up.

What's worse is that the dollars we spend on fuel don't even go into our communities. Former Governor Angus King called oil money, Maine's biggest export — when the price of oil goes up by a dollar the Maine economy loses a billion. The vast majority of that goes to big oil companies and other countries.

That money does not create jobs in Maine. It doesn't improve our schools.

It doesn't repair our infrastructure.

In fact, the more we spend on oil, the less we have to address these critical priorities for strengthening our economy, and for families to secure their own financial security.

Mainers are in dire need of temporary relief in the latest crisis, which is why I've called on the president to release oil from the strategic oil reserve, take proposed hearing assistance cuts off the table, and provide emergency legislation to give the Federal Trade Commission the tools they need to keep oil companies from unfairly taking advantage of the situation.

We should also continue efforts to make our homes and businesses more efficient.

But so many Mainer have already turned down the thermostat and cut car trips. What more can we ask them to do?

If we don't take steps toward a permanent solution — real systemic change — these crises will come more often and be even more severe. This month, trouble in the Middle East is causing prices to spike. In 2008, it was speculation and historic demand, and in 2005 there was Hurricane Katrina. What's next? The resource is in short supply, in volatile areas, and becoming harder to collect. It's not fair for the lives of Mainer people to be so dependent on something they have so little control over.

Our energy needs are straining...
YOGA FOR LIFE
A yogic perspective on health and simple living

BY REBECCA JOHANNA STEPHANS

Rebecca Johanna Stephens teaches private yoga lessons on Peaks Island and in Portland. You may direct your comments, inquiries, or column ideas to 766-3017 or rebyoga@gwi.net.

Wisdom frequently shows up in disguise. That’s why it is so important to learn how to let go of expectations, pay attention and follow your intuition. Here are two stories of “foolish” wisdom.

STORY 1

In a large city somewhere in the United States, a huge crowd gathered in great anticipation to hear a revered teacher speak. The day was fine, so the roof of a brilliant, clear blue sky. Folks waited outside the gates for hours to make sure they got a seat.

The football stadium was opened to reveal wearing monks’ robes walked out onto the platform, bowed to the huge crowd, and sat down in the lotus position on a maroon and gold cushion. There was a silent tension in the arena as the seats in perfect stillness with the crowd awaiting her first words.

After what seemed like an eternity, she opened her eyes and smiled a smile that warmed the hearts of even the most cynical, the ones who had been coerced into attending against their better judgment.

Just as she was about to speak, a songbird flew into the stadium, landed on the rail of the platform behind her and began to sing. The sophisticated sound system carried the birdsong to the farthest balconies of the stadium and the audience’s attention was captivated.

A few minutes later, the bird flew off and silence once again enveloped the crowd. The teacher put her palms together in four to eight breathing patterns and began to sing. The audience listened as she sat in perfect stillness, as the teacher once again closed her eyes. When she opened her eyes, the shaman gazed at her with sad eyes, nodded, and left the room.

The young woman took the potion home, but couldn’t bring herself to touch her mother-in-law’s feet. Then one day when the complaints were particularly venomous, she surprised them both by offering a foot massage. Her mother-in-law muttered and grumbled, but accepted because she liked the idea of her daughter-in-law groveling at her feet.

The sophisticated sound system carried the birdsong to the farthest balconies of the stadium as the teacher once again closed her eyes but sustained her smile.

Day after day, the young woman knelt down and massaged her mother-in-law’s feet. After about a week of daily rubs, her mother-in-law gave a genuine sigh of pleasure at the end of the massage. At the end of the second week, she started telling the story of her life as a young married woman. At the end of the third week, the two women laughed and cried together as they began to share an understanding.

Towards the end of the fourth week, the young woman felt her heart swell with love for her mother-in-law. And then she panicked. Over the course of the month, as things improved with her mother-in-law, she had completely forgotten that she had been poisoning her, and soon she would die. In horror, she ran to the shaman to beg for an antidote to the poison.

I imagine you know how this story ends. The shaman took the young woman’s hands in hers and said, “The antidote is in your hands and your heart. You have not poisoned your mother-in-law and she will not die tomorrow. The potion has done its magic exactly as I had hoped it would.”

The young woman thanked the shaman and arranged marriages, a young woman who struggled mightily with the burden of her mother-in-law’s criticism and complaints. She tried everything she could think of and followed all of her sister’s suggestions, but nothing she did was ever good enough, and the criticisms and complaints only escalated and became more vicious as the years passed.

In desperation she went to the village shaman with a very unusual and risky request. She asked for a potion to kill her mother-in-law. The shaman gazed at her with sad eyes, nodded, and left the room.

Rebecca Johanna Stephens, Kripalu Certified Yoga Teacher since 1994, has 23 years experience in the healing arts.

You are cordially invited to join us for a

Business Banking Reception

Peaks Island Branch
33 Island Avenue
Peaks Island, ME 04108

Thursday, May 5th
5:00pm - 7:30pm

This will be an opportunity to meet and ask questions of our Consumer & Commercial Banking Specialists.

Hors D’Oeuvres & Beverages will be served.

Door Prizes.

Please RSVP by April 29th
To Melissa Childs at Melissa.Childs@peoples.com or 766-2960

The Casco Bay Ferry leaves Portland at 4:30pm and returns from Peaks at 7:40pm
ACROSS
1. Lake, in Languedoc
2. Bricklayer
3. Village on Isle of Skye
4. 20th C. American novelist
5. Girl's name
6. Female relative who believes in spirits?
7. Fairy
8. Idiotic
9. Row's partner
10. Row's partner
11. Goals against while on ice?
12. Row's partner
13. Row's partner
14. 20th C. American novelist
15. Row's partner
16. Row's partner
17. Row's partner
18. Row's partner
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60. Row's partner
61. Row's partner

DOWN
1. Still not in the Constitution (abbr.)
2. Well-sunned AM radio host?
3. Rhetorical question?
4. Broadway Joe
5. Facial expression
6. Bon
7. Triumphant exclamation
8. Hard and tartar
9. Ready
10. Acadia (abbr.)
11. Carpets of urchin roe?
12. Answer to 3 Down?
13. Trad. measure of productivity
14. Gob or tur (sl.)
15. Pane of Allied shipping
16. All seats taken
17. Forbidden (var.)
18. Seized
19. A Stoolie
20. Aldebaran or Deneb
21. Leather maker
22. Biblical land
23. Cum
24. An apple's cousin
25. Bane of Allied shipping
26. All seats taken
27. Forbidden (var.)
28. Seized
29. A Stoolie
30. Aldebaran or Deneb
31. Leather maker
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54. An apple's cousin
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56. All seats taken
57. Forbidden (var.)
58. Seized
59. A Stoolie
60. Aldebaran or Deneb
61. Leather maker

SOLUTION TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLE

GREAT PIZZA
Only steps away from your boat.
Eat in or "Island Baked" to travel.

by Palmetto
WINNING CAPTION for March (See page 19 for this month's cartoon)
Send caption ideas to kattra@islandtimes.org

but after examining the stains, Angela Adams realized they would make a great pattern for carpet - Felicia Finch, Portland
Star Gazing

British writer T.S. Eliot said 'April is the cruellest month,' and not only for the showers that bring May flowers but also for the painful memories they sometimes inspired for him.

As we’ve past the vernal equinox, the world has turned its northern half more toward the sun. We get more light than dark each day, and the light we get is more direct. It warms the air, ground, and water, waking the plants and animals that slumbered in oblivion through the cold, dark winter and driving the migrating birds north to eat them, as the annual fight for survival and rebirth begins anew.

The sun itself has 11.5-year cycle in its activity level, and is also waking up from a deep sleep. It occasionally tosses out huge arms of plasma, and those plumes that escape the sun’s gravitational grasp going off into space. When one heads in Earth’s direction, we get about three days notice.

Earth’s own magnetic field shepherds the charged particles to the poles, where they rain down into the ionosphere, creating gigantic shimmering curtain of red and green—the Aurora Borealis, or “Northern Lights”—and big displays can reach south to Maine.

This month Earth plows through the dust of a comet discovered in 1861, and not due back near the sun for another 265 years. This dust path creates the Lyrid meteor shower later this month; and some of the meteors can be bright, but this year’s show is supposed to be uninspiring. Good thing we have a thick enough atmosphere to burn them up and protect us. Otherwise, even just a grain of sand hitting you at 30,000 m.p.h. would leave a mark.

STARS

The winter constellations are setting out, but the brightest star in our heavens, blue-white Sirius in Canis Major, is still visible low in the southwest at dusk. At twice the sun’s size, it’s not a huge star, but it’s 25 times brighter than the sun, and only 8.6 light years away. Procyon in Canis Minor is directly above it, which in turn leads us to Castor and Pollux, the Gemini twins.

To their east is the Beehive Cluster of stars, nearly directly overhead, which binoculars show as a loose amalgamation of multi-colored lights. In such clusters it might just be possible to travel from one solar system to another, but our sun is in a thankfully remote area, so we can travel only to other planets.

Further east is theickle, or reverse “r,” which is the head of Leo the Lion, whose alpha star, Regulus, sits right on the ecliptic—the pathway of the sun, moon, and planets across the sky.

Looking further north, we find yellow Capella in Auriga the Charioteer in the west and red-giant Arcturus in Boötes the Herdsman in the east.

Even further north is the Big Dipper, now nearly as high in the sky as it gets. The Dipper’s front edge points to Polaris, the dim North Star. Just for fun, point to Polaris with one arm and keep it there as you turn slowly around it (don’t fall down). You’ll get a sense of our 44° latitude here in Maine.

Illustration by Jamie Hogan

Easter Brunch

11 am – 2 pm
$20 per person
$10 kids 12 and under

Please call 207-766-5100 x2 for reservations

Tickets also available online at brownpapertickets.com/event/143369

Mug Club Member Specials:
Become a mug club member. Annual membership $40.
Sundays – Enjoy $2 drafts in your own mug with half price appetizers. Wednesday, Thursday & Friday – Half price chef selected appetizer.

Family Night in the Pub:
Every Wednesday from 4:00 – 8:00pm. Family night dinner specials. Musical guest Dave Gagne.

Mug Club Appreciation Party in the Pub:
Friday, April 15th at 7:00pm. Mug Club members – $2 draft special and complementary hors d’oeuvres.

April 2011 Sky

BY MIKE RICHARDS

PLANETS

Mighty Jupiter reached inferior conjunction (on the far side of the sun) on April 6, and Mercury reaches superior conjunction (between Earth and sun) on April 9, so last month’s star showers are offstage this month.

Venus is still the bright “morning star” over the ocean, dropping a little lower each day as it races ahead of Earth around the sun.

Mars is just coming into view but too low on the horizon to be seen well. Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto are also in difficult spots.

Saturn, on the other hand, is now in prime time. It reaches opposition to the sun in early April and is brighter than it has been the last few years, because it’s thin, delicate rings are tilted more toward us. Saturn is always the best thing you can see in a telescope, and even binoculars, if they’re steadied, will show the rings. I tried this once against a tree and wondered why Saturn was moving until I looked up and saw the tree swaying slightly in the breeze.

ALMANAC

April 1- Sun rises at 6:24 a.m. and sets at 7:06 p.m. Before dawn, a thin waxing crescent moon shares the ocean horizon with Venus.

April 2- Moon’s at apogee, furthest away from Earth this orbit, so tides are moderate.

April 3- New moon means no moonlight to spoil the hunting for the Beehive Cluster overhead or maybe the cluster of galaxies between Leo and Virgo. Dress warm, get binoculars and a lawn chair, sit out, look up, and wander among the heavens before heading off to dreamland.

April 6- Down front just after dusk, Pleiades is the star cluster just above the crescent moon in the west.

April 11- First-quarter moon is high at sunset, pulling the tide up to high and along with it.

April 16- Saturn sits above and left of the still waning gibbous moon.

April 17- Full “Egg,” or “Fish” moon arrives this morning at 5:11 and rises again tonight at 7:23. It will be big again because it’s also at perigee, its closest to earth this orbit, magnifying tides to nearly 13 feet between high and low over the next few days.

April 22- Lyrid meteor shower peaks tonight and tomorrow. The moon rises just after midnight, so best viewing is just before dawn.

April 24- Last-quarter moon is high at sunrise, counteracting the sun’s gravitational effect, so tides are falling to just over 7 feet between high and low over the next few days.

April 29- The moon’s at perigee again.

April 30- Beneath a little waning crescent moon, Venus leads Mercury, Mars and Jupiter above the eastern horizon, but you’ll have to look before 5 a.m. The sun also rises at 5:36 a.m. and doesn’t set until 7:41 p.m., giving us a full 14 hours of sunlight.

The Inn on Peaks Island – 53 Island Ave. Peaks Island, ME 04071-5100 www.innonpeaks.com
Now in its second year, J-Club is the journalism club of students in grades one through five at the red brick schoolhouse, Peaks Island Elementary School, established in 1832. Members: Madison Alves, Nick Boyle, Audrey Byrne, Jameson Childs, Calvin Days, Maui Derti, Bianca Devos, Gabi Dumas, Dudley Holdridge, Illo Holdridge, Eleonora Johnson, Isabella Levine, Elisa Membreno, Anna Mitchell, Eddie Sylvester, Ishmael Sylvester, East Underwood, Kaethe Marie Wilson, Maisy Winter. Advisors: Diane Eacret, Editor; Lisa Penalver, Art Director; Sandra Lucas. Contact: peaksjclub@gmail.com.

Peaks Island Fiber Arts Camp
Summer 2011
June 27-July 1 Wizard Camp
July 8-12 Medieval Camp
August 1-5 Creating Artscapes
August 9-13 French Camp
Contact Susan Hanley at 332-2243 or susan@peaksislandfiberarts.com
www.peaksislandfiberarts.com

STRETCH of IMAGINATION – Part 2

Who's That Horse-Throwing Lady
BY ELISA MEMBRANO, GRADE 4

One day I was taking a walk in a grassy field. My legs were getting achy when I saw a cottage in the distance surrounded by an extra-large wooden fence. I headed toward it. As I reached the cottage, I saw a huge Dutch door. I walked right up to the door and knocked. No one answered, so I peeked in the large window on the left side of the door. I blinked three times; I couldn't believe what I was seeing! I bit my hand and still couldn't believe it.

I wanted to stay and watch, but Bess Call and the English dude she was fighting kicked up quite the dust storm, so I was forced to retreat. I knelt down for a second to tie my shoe. When I looked up, I saw Bess throwing the dude's horse over the massive fence!

She sure showed him who was boss! For the next two days, rocks and dirt fell from the sky! What a mess.

Shock and Stunned Witness Sees Woman Show Amazing Strength
BY ANNA MITCHELL, GRADE 5

It was an ordinary day until a woman by the name of Bess Call was spotted wrestling a man in her backyard. A bystander happened to be walking by Bess Call’s farm when the events unfolded.

A few hours later, I ran into this man, who still looked startled and shocked. I asked him what was wrong.

He replied: "Earlier this morning, I was out for my daily stroll when I came across Bess Call. She was wrestling a MAN! And when I finally was able to think straight, the man was gone! She done threw him that man right over the fence --- and next went his HORSE! Well, I'll be darned, that Bess Call is somethin'! She must be the strongest woman in the whole land!"

So, be on the watch, next time you pass by the Call farm, for you too may witness a show of Bess’s extraordinary strength.

Peaks Island J-Club
Girl Lifts Steer
BY T.J. FLYNN, GRADE 5

Have you ever heard about someone lifting a steer? Well, you are about to now. Bess Call has hoisted an 800-pound steer.

It all started when Bess’s brother Joe lifted a steer so he could check the condition of the animal’s shoes. Then Bess, amazingly and one-handedly, heaved the steer over her head for the A Journalist’s Tale
BY LUNA SOLEY, GRADE 5

Now ladies and gentlemen, I’m sure you saw some, shall we say, disturbances in the sky yesterday and I’m also sure you’ve heard some rumors. But, I’d like to tell you the real story.

So, listen up, for you’re about to hear a story stranger than the legend of Anokiay the Warrior, stranger even than the Ballad of Lady Lou and the Black Cactus.

I know my tale ain’t much stranger than that, but folks, whether you believe me or not is yours to decide. At any rate, I do hope you’ll listen to my tale.

On the morning of July 26th, at 12:00 a.m., I was just walking out of the Black Stallion Inn on Fifty-Second Street after having a good drink of whiskey the night before. I had been at the Catri Tavern with my pal, Billy Bob Joe. I walked down the street, paid a few coins for a ride in the back of good old George’s milk cart and finally arrived at the Three Brothers Ranch.

Told ‘em I needed a strong sturdy pony for the mountain path to Summersest County where I had a debt to pay, but they set a hard price. So, I dumped my money pouch on the counter and grabbed a pony, real quick, ‘cos they couldn’t change their minds.

A few hours passed and I was just about to turn off the hell’s gutch footpath when something caught my eye. I urged the pony around and up the rise we had just climbed down. There, down in the valley, was a very odd scene! The legendary cowboy, Pecos Bill, was frantically trying to restrain a crazy white stallion.

Now that might seem odd, but up above them, something much stranger was taking place! A beautiful girl in a white wedding dress, complete with bustle and ‘round ten layers of ruffles, was flying through the air! Then, to my horror, she began the long descent toward earth! But, not to worry, she landed squarely on the stallion’s hindquarters. But, the poor lass, her bustle was so large, she just bounced right back up again!

Now, this cycle went on for quite some time, and I’ll admit to much more than that, but folks, whether you believe me or not is yours to decide. At any rate, I do hope you’ll listen to my tale.

A few hours later, I ran into this man, who still looked startled and shocked. I asked him what was wrong.

He replied: "Earlier this morning, I was out for my daily stroll when I came across Bess Call. She was wrestling a MAN! And when I finally was able to think straight, the man was gone! She done threw the man right over the fence --- and next went his HORSE! Well, I'll be darned, that Bess Call is somethin'! She must be the strongest woman in the whole land!"

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St. Patrick's on Cliff

BY KEVIN ARMAR

Thursday, March 17 was a beautiful day, sunshine, finally getting warm it seemed. The following day was actually the hottest on record for due date, but unfortunately it didn’t even last the night.

So we were lucky to be warm on St. Patrick’s Day, and my partner, Ronda, and I jumped at the chance to visit Cliff Island for the neighborhood celebration with a potluck supper and Bingo at the Community Center.

The event started at 5:30 p.m., but to make it from Peaks Island meant catching the 12:45 p.m. boat into town and then riding out to Cliff on the 2:45 p.m. down-the-bay run, which put our little delegation in quite early.

The center is a single-style building near the ferry landing, and looks more like a house than a municipal building. The Cliff Island Historical Society and the post office are also located there, in the basement, which is actually above ground on one side.

Everything about it is big. It has a long, wide set of stairs leading up to the front door, with a landing that leads off in two directions, a 5-foot double door entrance and a large hall with a theatrical stage in back.

The coolest feature is the enormous kitchen, renovated just last year, with two refrigerators, two commercial sinks and a six-burner commercial stove, maybe a Viking, but top-of-the-line at any rate. It’s a hardship not to work in there.

The conversations I fell into started on the topic of secession, mainly because I asked. There wasn’t much support for it. Several people were concerned that if Peaks separated from Portland, the taxes on Cliff would go up again.

After dinner we played Bingo. Steve Little hosted the game, often entrusting the children to call out the numbers. Instead of saying the number as written, he would have them pronounce each digit separately.

For instance, if N39 came up he had them say, “N-three-nine!” and then someone in the audience would groan, and it went on like that until someone said Bingo. If you play the game you probably know that, but it was all new to me.

There were prizes - apparently a bunch of stuff from Steve’s house that he wanted to get rid of - and no one was allowed to leave without one. Our delegation won a ceramic wine cooler just for being there.

“Still like the idea, whoever doesn’t win has to go up and get prizes,” said Dave Crowley.

Bob Howard agreed, “That would’ve gotten rid of them a lot faster.”

Not sure if he was talking about us or the prizes, but we did leave early. The last boat from Cliff left at 7:00 p.m., and then in Portland we caught the 9:15 p.m. back to Peaks.

That night I dreamed I’d been given a grant to build an inter-island ferry service.
Peaks Island nurse Joyce Perron in Cambodia

This past November, Partners for World Health (see PWH details next page) sponsored a three-week combination visit and volunteer experience for fourteen people to Cambodia. Peaks Island resident Joyce Perron, an RN at Maine Medical Center, was part of the team that included a nursing supervisor and visited orphanages, hospitals, and other potential new sites where PWH may get involved in the future.

Joyce had already been on two previous traveling nurse adventures, the first several years ago to Zimbabwe. She absolutely loved that experience and couldn’t wait to do it again.

The people that ran the orphanage in Zimbabwe had (tried to) do the 7th Day Adventists in Ethiopia, and Joyce wanted to go there to volunteer specifically. She built a bigger, longer experience.

Both of those trips as well as this latest one to Cambodia have been on her own dime.

“For Ethiopia, basically I just took six months off from work, I didn’t make any money, I paid my own way there and lived off my savings, and just worked. And it was a fabulous experience.”

Peaks Island’s Brackett Church supported Joyce’s Cambodia trip by collecting shoes, clothing, and financial donations.

“And the kids at Brackett wrote letters to the kids in the orphanage, who are so touched to know that somebody else on the planet knows about them and cares about them. That’s huge.”

This trip to Cambodia was Joyce’s first time volunteering directly for PWH though she had taken PWH-collected medical supplies with her to both Zimbabwe and Ethiopia.

“Elizabeth McClennen [PWH founder] is a nursing supervisor at Maine Medical Center. She’s one of the group of administrators who basically work on staffing the entire hospital, and in troubleshooting when issues come up, She is a dynamo. I don’t know if the woman ever sleeps. I’ve never seen a person with so much energy. And she established Partners for World Health out of her home.

“The first year that I found out about this I walked into her basement and my jaw just dropped. I could not believe the amount of stuff she had rescued that would have ended up in landfills or in incinerators. And I found tons of stuff to bring with me to Zimbabwe.

“When I was leaving for Ethiopia I went back to Elizabeth and just gathered as much as I could.

“And that is her whole point: to equip people that are going to third-world countries with medical stuff that can be readily used and is really needed there that we just simply throw away because of health and legality laws.

The Cambodia trip was sponsored by

PWH but Joyce still paid her own way. She said if you don’t have the money yourself you can fundraise for PWH and go that way.

“I chose not to do that because I felt that having someone pay for me to go on vacation was a little bit too much to ask for.”

“Vacation?! We were able to tour Phnom Penh, we were able to visit the palace grounds, we were able to take a bike tour around one of the outlying Cambodian islands which was really fun, and visit the real Cambodians that do the living, the working, the breathing and the dying there.

“To be honest I think we had more free time than I wanted. I wanted to do more working.”

“Elizabeth’s whole focus is getting people to be going there routinely, bringing equipment, teaching in clinics and hospitals, and having a vacation at the same time. She’s trying to set it up so it’ll be as inexpensive as possible; mostly it’s the flights.

“Joyce has already begun preparations for her next traveling nurse experience, this time with Doctors Without Borders.

“MSF, which is what it’s known as internationally, Medicine Sans Frontier, is sort of the go to. They’re the big dogs. They go in where other people don’t want to go. They go into war-torn areas, they go into famine areas. Sometimes they have to pull their people out. It can be a tricky job.”

After participating in a three-week total immersion French language intensive in a small town near Quebec, Joyce will be heading back to Haiti for an extended period.

“MaineMed has said that if I come back within a nine-month time frame, and work for a little bit, I can maintain my relationship with them on a per diem basis, which is where I am right now. Which means no insurance, no guaranteed hours, no benefits. Just work and get paid, which I’m willing to do.”

Why do you keep doing this, volunteering your expertise for no pay at all and in fact at your own expense?

“I hate to say it’s fun, but it’s fun. It really teaches me in a way that my regular job doesn’t. Yeah it’s a financial hardship, but I don’t care. Money’s not all it’s cracked up to be.”

Joyce Perron

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GOOD HUE ALYCE A. BAUE R LE JI LL KEEFE

DEB
**What’s For Dinner?**

"Island Springtime Scavenging with Tom Bergh"

On a rainy chilly day in mid-March I sat with Tom Bergh in his red barn on Peaks Island chatting about...well, many things. Tom is an interesting guy. I had gone there to talk about scavenging around the islands for food cues. In the end I got ideas for at least 15 different articles: the history of the area since the ice age, including amazing tales of Native Americans catching swordfish from canoes; how to camp on islands and not get eaten by the sharks and the Diamond; maine shrimp; soil contamination on Peaks; cats, coyotes and songbird population decimation; common sense conservation; medicinal plants; etc.

Tom and I talked about how in addition to being an outdoorman/adventurer/knowledgeable survivalist and respected guide on land, sea and mountaintops, he was a lawyer once upon a time. There are articles on the web about him, by him, blogs, posts and comments.

This one’s a fun read and also is the site from which I stole the photo used here, http://tombergh.com/features/feature-tombergh-unfiltered.html. Or check out the site for Maine Island Kayak company, which Tom founded in 1986 on Peaks Island, www.mainelakekayak.com.

Here is a list of ideas and things to take with Tom for future LT articles. For this issue we focus on what could be for dinner as spring season comes to Peaks.

**What’s out there for scounaging this time of year?**

"Depends how hungry you are. Generally people are pretty hungry this time of year. You’re starting to see buds coming up on the maples. We don’t have sugar maple down here, we have Norways mostly.

But those buds-you can taste a little bit of sugar. We’re tapping tomorrow morning on the school, right here (from a maple in his yard), the sap is starting now.

"With all the trees there’s the inside, and then there’s a bark, the outside edge. That’s no good to eat. But there’s a layer in between which is the new bark. Bark grows from inside out. And the new layer, those tender layers, that’s what the deer eat all winter. Beaver eat it. I’m not saying you and I wanna do a lot of that but it’s moister, there’s food in it.

"The cattail shoots are starting. They make flour out of the cattails themselves, the roots. Dry it out and pound it down and you can make a flour out of it.

"One of the very best foods—everybody should have it every year, it’s such a blood purifier—is dandelion greens. And they’ll be coming really soon. Just don’t take em all off a chlorinated lawn.

"And now down on the beaches in the spring—it’s only good in the spring, right along the edge of the beaches—the rock beaches, you know what I mean? The Maine beaches, the end with the big granules, not the sand beaches; generally at the high end you’ll see beach tea. And they’re great, really good.

"Mussels are year-round protein. Go during the spring tides when the water is lowest so you don’t get your wet.

"Where are the musseals?

"The south end of the island has some little spots, small amounts, also near the north. You don’t want mussels from along the beach because there’s lots of sand, they’ll grow peals. Those are hand on your teeth. Don’t have to wait next to storms either.

"The seaweeds are year-round, too. Where’s the best place to harvest edible seaweed?

"Anywhere where there’s deep vertical walls you can just see the layers, and they’re really good—well, for your garden but some of them are edible.

"Way way down, at the super super low tides, you get the bright lime green stuff. It’s pure phospholipid, it’s one-cell thick and that stuff’s really, it’s like the blue-green algae. Just pure goodness.

"There’s one that you wouldn’t want to eat—not that they’re gonna hurt you, they’re just not very good. Like rockweed, which is the dominant seaweed in Maine. Basically all life forms around here come from rockweed. ‘Cause that’s where all the little stuff starts. So it’s a really important plant, and you could probably cook em down and do something with them. But in terms of just eating, um, like a salad, they’re not very good.

"He said it’s a lot of work for not much food, but you could still get all little bits and fish it in the meantime, and small stuff like that.

"There’s all these pools here, all the little bits and stuff that are swimming around. Those are all little protein units. A lot of them are comin’ in close and with a simple recipe you could really eat those things up.

"How did you learn all this stuff about which seaweeds to eat, into scavenging, etc?

"It’s mostly just different books, and literature, and word-of-mouth. And then it’s trial and error a little bit. And I even, like when I eat mussels, I still do a little trial and error. I look for tingling lips or on the tongue a little bit, you know, because they can have red tide, which is a neuro-toxin which paralyses your diaphragm in the worst case. And that’s really bad.

"How come nobody eats mussels? Seagulls are not so good. Ducks are good but you know they’re not a lot of meat on em. And it’s really hard to catch or shoot an Eider. I haven’t checked this year but I think a year or two ago they allowed all winter long a person could shoot seven a day. No wonder they don’t fly by for the minutes at the minutes because you go down East and some of the Ducks’ll fly by for five minutes, seven minutes.

How would I know what’s okay to harvest, what I should leave alone as not to deplete?

"I think the problem is people don’t get it, they don’t see it, right? They don’t see how long it takes for something to take. Like I remember when I was studying the eelgrass in Colorado, and they grew about this big (four five inches tall). And it takes like 60 years to get that big because the summer’s about four weeks, six weeks. And oneootiptwisting in the big boot wets 60 years of growth.

"The most expensive ‘LNT’, leave no trace. It’s a program and anybody can study it, and there’s a website, but basically it’s about being smart, you know, just be conservation-oriented. Reducing the trips across the tide line, to do everything you’re walking in the tide line you’re killing hundreds of critters every step. If there’s only one little clump of seaweed on the wall then maybe you don’t take it.

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**Partners For World Health**

by Joyce Perron

Partners for World Health is a local nonprofit established by Elizabeth McIntosh, RN whose mission is to collect medical supplies, which would otherwise be discarded in US hospitals and distribute them to destinations around the world where they can make the most difference.

These supplies range from complex surgical equipment to personal hygiene materials. They are in sterile or otherwise acceptable condition; however, they cannot be reintroduced to the dispensing departments of hospitals and clinics in the US because of legal issues surrounding health care.

PWH also provides primary care services in third world countries.

Thus PWH has the triple effect of collecting the supplies, transporting and distributing them, and facilitating health care giving to places like Cambodia, Haiti, Guatemala, Peru, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, to name just a few places that have received materials and medical volunteer work through PWH.

PWH has worked with Kombe Same to send two shipping containers to Haiti this past year.

For more information regarding PWH, visit www.partnersforworldhealth.org/ or friend PWH on Facebook, www.facebook.com/PartnersforWorldHealth.

* USA and in Cambodia, Haiti, Grenada, Peru, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, to name just a few places that have received medical supplies leaves PWH in its mission to provide aid to those in need of health care.

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The statute, in practice, or by custom, requires the person who submitted the bill to show it to those in opposition prior to its submission.

I would submit a bill renaming Peaks Island to Gilligan's Island, it is perfectly legal for me to do so on my own. I don't need prior approval from the Professor, the City, the Steeple, and certainly not from Thurston Howell III, or his wife, Lovey.

There may be some good political reasons to meet with the opposition to craft a bill in a way that may help its ultimate passage. That would work strategically. But if the opposition has no intention of compromise or support, what would be the point? If the only thing that will satisfy Lovey is if it's called "Lovey's Island", then what could possibly be gained by showing her the bill?

Furthermore, neither Thurston and Lovey or the arbiters of that which gets to be done on the island.

And really, does anybody have to show their bill to the opposition? In real life, does Steve Jobs routinely consult with Bill Gates on what's next for Apple? Does Google ever seek feedback for its marketing strategy past Pepsi for their approval? Is Varick morally obligated to tell Jerry what the next pitch is going to be? It's just not done.

If someone has some people think they have some special right, some special mojo, that entitles them to say how things should be or what the future should be. Someone who thinks they are able to roll someone to a totally unrealistic standard, then to condemn that person and support of their notions of fairness to meet a frankly ridiculous expectation, seems a little unfair.

It may be good political strategy to show your bill to the opposition. But on a small island like this, where we have to live with each other no matter what, where we bring our concerns to the atmosphere, and it's just not possible.

Talk about the issues. Stop sowing suspicion and mistrust for the sake of scoring political points. One doesn't have to like what is in the bill. One does have the right to exhibit it to the facts, and stop the personal attacks.

It's one thing upon which we can all agree, and it will help improve life on the island for all of us.

(Note: Any resemblance between characters on Gilligan's Island and Peaks Island is purely coincidental, and likely the product of the fervid imagination of the reader.)

Dear Editor

From the accusations and reactions that have swirled on Peaks in the last months, no one has mentioned the question of where the numbers have provoked quite a bit of fear and anger.

Let's take a look at who the two sides really are.

Those who favor the possibility of Peaks Island becoming an independent town include a wide range of thoughtful, knowledgeable, concerned and engaged islanders. So do those who oppose secession.

Those who favor keeping Peaks part of Portland include families who have lived here for generations, people who’ve been part of the island community for decades, and some who’ve arrived recently. So do those who favor independence.

In a nutshell, those on either side are neighbors and fellow islanders. One thing that seems clear to me: everyone has a stake in whether or not to pursue independence (and undoubtedly those who are remaining quiet) is motivated by a love of Peaks. We'll be well served to root the conversation about which direction will better serve our island that common ground, rather than in our fears.

When we stand together on common ground we can begin to ask questions that include all of us, such as: How can we move forward with changes that better serve our community without screws the things that make Peaks such a great place to live? What if we focused on sharing our dreams for Peaks, not our nightmares?

We have dear friends who love being part of the larger community of Portland (I love that, too), and who feel that so much of what makes the island special could be jeopardized by separating from the city. I can understand their viewpoint.

I'm in favor of self-determination because I think it offers the most creative, flexible and sustainable future for our island. My dream is to uphold the talents, knowledge and fortitude of this extraordinary community to our finances, our school, our services and our environment, to create new possibilities we haven’t even imagined yet.

How about a model school, a thriving community theater, a public swimming pool, a transportation co-op, a tax structure that makes it possible for people of all income levels to live here? What’s your vision of Peaks as it is and as it could be?

Ann Holmes O'Brien
Peaks Island
From the FIFTH MAINE
April 12, 1861 - Hidden but not Forgotten

BY KIM MACISAAC
FIFTH MAINE MUSEUM CURATOR

Too many Americans today are unaware of the significance of this date. To our forefathers and foremothers it was a date that changed their lives forever; for it was on April 12, 1861 that rebel forces fired upon Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor igniting a conflict that had long been in the making.

The Civil War is a complex subject that has been debated by historians, politicians and everyday Americans for well over 100 years, and will likely continue to be debated well into the future. Who was right? Who was wrong? Could this bloody conflict have been avoided? What would our nation be like had the South won?

Maine responded to this crisis by sending some 70,000 sailors and soldiers, plus an uncounted number of women who served as nurses, relief workers, spies and, yes, soldiers. Peaks Island sent 12 of her sons. Only one did not return - Pvt. Wesley Scott, 1st Maine Cavalry, who died in a prison camp in Salisbury, North Carolina. Those who remained behind, especially the women, kept the home fires burning, running the family farm or business, tending to their children and making and gathering supplies for the troops at the front.

The Fifth Maine and Eighth Maine regimental halls are dedicated to preserving and honoring the sacrifices made by not only our regiments' families but also those of all Mainers who contributed to the war effort.

Hostilities ended in April 1865; the Civil War is all but forgotten in many parts of the country. But here on Peaks the presence of the Fifth Maine and Eighth Maine is a daily reminder of the devastating war that helped to shape the nation we have today.

The national Civil War Sesquicentennial Commemoration begins this month and continues through 2015. The Fifth Maine opens its doors to the community on Sunday, April 10 from 1 to 4 p.m. with an afternoon Open House. The Uncalled Four will entertain with songs from the 1860s; Historian Herb Adams will discuss his new project, The Civil War Day By Day; a scavenger hunt created by Jameson Childs will be available in the museum for kids; and, of course, there will be yummy refreshments.

During the next four years we, at the Fifth Maine, encourage you to reflect on the Civil War, those who fought it, and the effect of that war on our nation today.
Fifty small paintings
a conversation with Paul Brahmns

BY KEVIN ATTRIA

In early February a message went out over the Peaks Island community email list from artist Paul Brahmns that went something like this: "Hi, I am undertaking to make 50 small paintings between Feb 15 and April 15 and sell them on a first come first serve basis. If you’re interested in receiving a painting contact me at paulbrahmns@Fastmail.com."

I called him around 9:30 one morning in late March to talk about the project. He had apparently just woken up and still appeared groggy, explaining that his son, Lucas, had kept him up the night before. Then he asked for the zen, and when I told him, shouted, "Oh my god, the day is to end!"

This series you’re doing is phenomenal. I know you’re looking to make money, but you’re also created a real, I don’t want to say burden, but workload for yourself.

I did, yeah. On top of it I’m doing some commission work too. That was part of it, though, because this time of year I get kind of a motivational problem. I’m not really inspired. It’s the light. Everything’s brown-gray it seems like. It was like, try and make some money, keep painting and buy things to paint with, so I paid my rent and keep working, and also free myself up from commission work where I paint, very specifically, what people ask me to do, so that I could stretch my legs creatively a little bit. Actually I overbooked it, so it’s actually not fifty, it’s more like fifty-eight paintings, or something like that. I guess on the average, if I do sixty paintings in two months for this project, to give the paintings a kind of a glow. The sky, and it’s sort of light. Then when when I get there, I don’t want to do, but it wasn’t a great time for me emotionally.

Then did you go to school - the Rhode Island School of Design. Then, after school I just kept working at it. I really forgot how to draw and paint and I kept working at it. I was banging nails in Maine, you know, doing carpentry killing up there. It was really great.

In some of your landscapes the water looks calmer. I think I can’t possibly exist, I don’t know how you have there. Do you?

No, I don’t. I will. I mean, sometimes the reflections and the shadows cast on the water can be interesting because the water is not as calm, or you’re getting a little mirror, so you’re seeing the reflection of the sky, and it’s sort of light. Then when I get there, I don’t want to do, but it wasn’t a great time for me emotionally.

...The ’50s were an interesting time. There’s this artist I saw last night on Art2f, John Baldessari, who takes photographs and then manipulates them. He’s a huge, huge art star. One of the paintings he put in an important gallery was just lettering. There’s nothing fancy or visually beautiful about it. It’s probably worth a hundred thousand dollars, you know, and all it says is, How to Make Money as a Painter. In this interview he said, I wanted to do photographs because I didn’t want to flatten people’s taste. I wanted to offend them. Yeah. Things like that kind of stick in your craw, because here I am trying to make beautiful images.

Do you feel like you have something to get out there, but you’re not able to say it right now?

I think so. You know, before I moved to Peaks Island that was edge. I spent all my money buying, well if I wasn’t buying booze, pot, cigarettes, I was buying art supplies, and now it’s all silk screen of old advertisements from Saturday Evening Post magazines, just photo reproductions, you know, from the ’50s. That’s when things got serious, because we were so naive. Corporations knew everything, they knew lead paint poisoned children, they knew DDT killed all the wildlife, they knew all this, but they still kept pumping it to us, and laughing at us while they did it right in the advertisements. So, I reproduced those ads in silk screen and had the show right around the time that Jonathan Cather was trying to ban clear-casting in Maine. I did these big murals too, and one of them was a Dow Chemical ad for DDT. It was a big bouquet of flowers and it said, in sort of like the I Love Lucy script, "Your Health!", with an exclamation point. They’re selling us the DDT and then sending us flowers because we’re sick from it.

Do you have a new series coming up?

I’ve done the winter, so there’s spring, summer and fall. I’ll see how burned out I am in the fall, but that’s my plan for now. They’re not going to be bigger, but they’re going to be a little more expensive. They’re going to be a hundred and twenty-five. I thought I might take some selected ones from it and self-publish a small picture book. You know, that make for sale too. It would be good advertising, probably.

To see the paintings in the series visit Paul’s website at: www.paulbrahmns.com

ARTISTICALLY I’M like any artist, I guess. It’s hard not to continue to dream that you’ll be important in the eyes of your peers. A lot of my artistic heroes are people that are very, very successful in the fine art world who don’t have to worry about offending, or don’t have to worry, it seems, about catering to people’s whims. And I guess on the other side of that sort of thing, you know. There’s this artist I saw last night on Art2f, John Baldessari, who takes photographs and then manipulates them. He’s a huge, huge art star. One of the paintings he put in an important gallery was just lettering. There’s nothing fancy or visually beautiful about it. It’s probably worth a hundred thousand dollars, you know, and all it says is, How to Make Money as a Painter. In this interview he said, I wanted to do photographs because I didn’t want to flatten people’s taste. I wanted to offend them. Yeah. Things like that kind of stick in your craw, because here I am trying to make beautiful images.

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Secession Depression

BY LISA GOELL SINCKI

Things on Peaks Island happen in cycles. Every spring the stove melts and our basements fill up with water. Every fall, the DPW comes around and hauls away our rusted out old washers and dryers. And every time the legislature allows, we investigate secession.

Yes once again, secession season is in full swing.

This presents a challenge for me. The scars from the last secession attempt still haven’t healed. And I don’t mean of our more, let’s say, passionate neighbors. You know the kind who opposed secession sat in the water, licked their fingers and looked at the ocean, then turned to me and said, “But isn’t this just like the war at home?”

Finally, one gentleman who was for secession stood up and pointed to the anti-secession delegation. “They’re people sitting at the table better watch out. They’re hungry.”

The comment hit me like a vacuum, sucked all the air out of my lungs. I felt betrayed by and immediately estranged from the community. I wanted someone to take this person to task, or turn the comment into a joke. Make things OK again. But no one did. Perhaps the other people in the room were embarrassed or assumed it was meant to be funny. Or hoped that no one would take the comment seriously. I love to laugh.

I left the room and paced around the school playground muttering to myself. Something had changed. This was not the type of community I had always thought of as not the Peaks Island I had chosen as my home.

As I walked home, I realized that this is how civil wars get started. I needed the need to control. No telling what could have happened if a few of the meeting attendees had been toting their muskets Civil War style. Or if our female residents, like the women in Texas, carried hand guns in their purses.

After that, I avoided community involvement for several years. I knew what it was like. The tension during secession disillusioned others as well, among them people who had previously been Peaks’ loudest cheerleaders. I watched people go off the market, including those belonging to leaders from both sides of the secession issue.

Secession didn’t happen, but no one won. Not really.

The depressing part is that both sides are driven by the same thing. Passion for making Peaks Island the best community it can possibly be. We just don’t all agree on how.

My greatest hope for our community as we go through this exploration is that we learn not to let our passion override our manners. That we all remember that we are neighbors and that we all want the same thing. I hope we’ll gather as much information on cost and procedure as possible, work together to assemble a thorough plan. What does independence look like? What does it cost? And most important, how will we run our town so the same passion that makes the secession exploration so painful won’t mar our daily lives.

Portland doesn’t always look out for us, but establishing a government is a difficult job. One that, to my knowledge, few have done well. How will we be able to sort it out when things like curb stones and road paving are community issues and when they are personal issues? How will we focus our efforts on what is best for the greater good and achieve compromise when necessary?

We need to listen to each other’s concerns. Respond to statements we disagree with using courtesy and patience. Create a dialog rather than an argument. If we all understand the costs, risks and rewards, we can vote based on knowledge rather than on instinct or emotion. We can each make our own choice as to what is best for our community. And we can respect that our community made an educated decision.

So regardless of what happens going forward, let’s all be nice to one another this time. Those people who disagree with us are our friends, families and neighbors.

Lisa is a freelance writer and 10-year veteran of Peaks Island. Her work can be viewed at www.likewhatsappen.com.

This is not a movie review (although I was inspired by the movie, Sun Come Up, about a community facing extinction). This is not a story about global warming (although global warming was the reason for the movie). This is not a love story (although the movie is one). The cinematographer fell in love while filming the movie.

This is a story about islands.

The Carteret Atoll is a horseshoe-shaped ring of low-lying islands in the Province of Bougainville, located off the coast of Papua, New Guinea. It has approximately 2,500 inhabitants who fish and farm in the island setting.

The ocean has always been their life blood. They spend their days working on the water, living near the water or playing in the water. But, the ocean has turned on them.

As a result of global warming the sea is rising. The encroaching salt water has infiltrated wells and arable land to the point where the islanders can no longer sustain themselves and must depend on donated rice to survive.

Within 10 years the ocean will reclaim their small community. The people have lost not only their independence, but also their future.

This is a story about losing home.

While the children play, the adults meet. They talk, they argue, they deny, they sit in silence. They spend many hours hoping for a solution to present itself. But there is only one answer. It is the answer that music and open arms. One village did not need to hear the story. They would take it in these strangers.

Each member of the village had set aside a portion of their time for the displaced islanders could build homes, grow food, raise families. They were not to be segregated, but allowed to weave their history, culture and skills into the fabric of their new home. They began to clear the land.

The lights came up. End of film.

The Carteret refugees have secured land in two locations on Bougainville, and in 2009 two families moved into their new communities. Eight more families plan to move soon.

This was not a movie review, diatribe on global warming or a love story. This is a story about individual sacrifice for the good of many. It is a story about an island and its people, and hope and generosity and finding home.

Those hearing the brunt of climate change don’t have to hear it alone. People can take direct action by raising funds for the Carteret Island relocation effort. For more information, go to www.carteretislands.com/file/Howtorestoreland.pdf.

Peaks Island Baptist Church

Sunday 10:00 AM Bible Study
11:00 AM Worship Service
Prayer Meetings Wed. 6 PM

235 Pleasant Ave, Peaks Island, ME10408, 766-3037, www.fibs.info
The Gem Gallery

The Gem Gallery is an artist/collective cooperative of over 100 artists in media of painting, drawing, sculpture, pottery, jewelry, photography, printmaking, assembly, fiber arts and writing. The small group exhibition changes weekly and is bi-weekly from June through October with larger themed member shows off-season and a solid group show. Please call the gallery at 766-5600 for more information.

Dowdell Gallery

GENERATIONS OF CREATION - mixed media of paintings, prints, photographs, fabrications, jewelry, books, cards and prints by families of female artists from Mary Hug, Denise Buxton, Renae Boyd currently at Portland High School, including works by Bernice Venets, Delores DeRe, LaRue Devine and Melinda and Valerie Floyd. Opening reception Sunday May 1 from 1 to 3 pm. Contact Maggie C. 766-4101. www.dowdell.com 2940 for more information. The Dowdell Gallery is located at the Long Island Learning Center on Gifford Avenue, Long Island. Hours follow the library schedule (766-2530, http://library.Long islandLibraries.com) or call Maggie Carla at 766-4101.

Addison Wooley

APRIL FOOLS - A light-hearted feature exhibit featuring paintings, mixed media and mixed media by Addison Wooley artists include; Alan Skowlick, Andrea van Vooren van Broeckhoven, Dan Dow, David Drake, Hudson Diane, Frans Vait-Taylor, Jane Bangert, Jannover O'Toole Hayman, Jim Kim, Karen Smoter, Robert Schumacher, William and Ruth Syman. Opening April 1, First Friday Art Walk, from 3 to 8 pm. The folk, joes, show and tell of Brenda Dalo and Kevin Attra will keep the magic and joy flowing throughout the evening. Dedicated to the art of photography, the Addison Wooley Gallery features works by local artists as well as nationally and internationally recognized photographers, located at 132 Washington Avenue (at the corner of Fox St., Portland, ME) 766-8499. www.addisonwooley.com. Gallery Hours. Wednesday through Saturday, Noontime 5pm, Curator Susan Porter.

Richard Boyd Gallery

"METALIC'S-The Golden Age," new works by painter Jeanne O'Toole Hayman and potter Richard Boyd. Featuring pottery, ceramic art and oil paintings incorporating metallic gold, silver and pewter tones. Show runs through April 24. Gallery hours are Thursday through Sunday 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM and Monday through Wednesday by appointment. Richard Boyd Art Gallery exhibits ceramic art, pottery, oil paintings and blown glass by nationally and internationally recognized artists. For more information or to schedule an appointment contact the gallery by phone: 207-722-1097, fax: 207-722-1049, email: richard@willow1.com or www.richardboygallery.com. Richard Boyd Art Gallery is located at 181 Ipsen St, Peaks Island inside a two-story brown building at the corner of Island Ave. and Ipsen St.

The Fifth Maine

OPEN HOUSE 10AM-2PM - 4PM.Open 10AM-2PM from 4PM. For more information call 207-766-1530.

THE EIGHTH MAIN

is a living museum and lodge built in 1891 as a summer resort for the Civil War veterans. It features 12 rooms for overnight guests and history filled, guided tours daily from 10am until 4pm. www.fifthmaine.org/summer.html.

Brackett Church

9 Church Street, Peaks Island, Pastor: Rev. Dan Leasure, 766-5831. The church meets Sunday 10:00 am with Sunday school and children's Church. Scripture Study, Thursday at 8:00 am in the narthex, Children's Choir, Mondays 2:45pm-5:15pm. All children are welcome, Contact Maconoseen Thompson, 896-1018. Prayer Shawl Ministry, Thursdays in the narthex from 1:30 to 3:00 pm. Contact Emily, 766-5545. Tween Night, Fridays, April 1 & 15, 6:30 pm to 9:10 pm. Open to all 6th to 8th graders. Contact Celeste at 766-5972. Taize Worship Service, (NEW TIME) Wednesdays, 6:30 pm. Quiet, low key worship with candlelight, silence, prayers, gentle music and ecumenical readings. Wine & Discus, Thursday, April 7 and 14, 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Keeping with tradition, this service is ecumenical and includes the gift of wine and a commemorative coffee mug from the church. Contact Emily, 766-5545. Please note: Taize service was held on Wednesday evening, April 8 at 8:00 pm. Please consider making a donation of canned and baked goods as well as used paper supplies. For more information, please contact Susan Leasure at 766-5545.

The Eighth Maine

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9 Church Street, Peaks Island, Pastor: Rev. Dan Leasure, 766-5831. The church meets Sunday 10:00 am with Sunday school and children's Church. Scripture Study, Thursday at 8:00 am in the narthex, Children's Choir, Mondays 2:45pm-5:15pm. All children are welcome, Contact Maconoseen Thompson, 896-1018. Prayer Shawl Ministry, Thursdays in the narthex from 1:30 to 3:00 pm. Contact Emily, 766-5545. Tween Night, Fridays, April 1 & 15, 6:30 pm to 9:10 pm. Open to all 6th to 8th graders. Contact Celeste at 766-5972. Taize Worship Service, (NEW TIME) Wednesdays, 6:30 pm. Quiet, low key worship with candlelight, silence, prayers, gentle music and ecumenical readings. Wine & Discus, Thursday, April 7 and 14, 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Keeping with tradition, this service is ecumenical and includes the gift of wine and a commemorative coffee mug from the church. Contact Emily, 766-5545. Please note: Taize service was held on Wednesday evening, April 8 at 8:00 pm. Please consider making a donation of canned and baked goods as well as used paper supplies. For more information, please contact Susan Leasure at 766-5545.

Portland Recreation

Portland Recreation presents Galleries, Recreations Programmer Contact dir@portlandmaine.gov or leave a message at 766-2970. Denise works just part time on Peaks Island Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays. You may view the facility schedule online (http://portlandmaine.gov/recreation), but all reservations must be made through Denise. ON-GOING EXERCISE PROGRAMS for ADULTS at the MACAVEN CENTER - low impact Aerobics for beginners Tuesdays from 9:30 am to 10:30 am. - Table Tennis for Adults Tuesdays from 2 pm to 4 pm. Sponsored by Portland Recreation (766-5969).

MADOMETT - TUESDAY 6:45-7:00 pm at the PEAKS ISLAND SCHOOL GYM. Pick-up games for those 18 and above. Fee is $7.00 per night. Sponsored by Portland Recreation.

Children's Workshops

Sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Child Care when you need it, snow days included! Pre-school workshops for children 2 1/2-5, Part-day and week-part options available. Infall/ Toddler Play Group: Fridays from 10:15 am to 11:00 am. For more information, please contact Ellen Maloney at 766-2184.

Baptist Church Services

Sunday Service 10 a.m. Bible Study, 11 am Worship, Wednesday Service 7 pm. Feat. Nights Thursday at Peaks Island School gym 6 pm to 8 pm.

St. Christopher's Church

Good Friday Ecumenical Service Fridays April 3 at 6:00 pm. Easter Sunday Ecumenical Sunrise Service at Whalwell on the Backshore at 5:40 pm followed by a Pancake Breakfast at Brackett Church. Sunday Mass at 10 am. followed by brunch in the Parish House. Religious education for children meets at Mass with special lessons during the holidays and a once a month on Monday afternoons at 4:30 pm. For more information, contact Ellen Maloney at 766-2184.

Peaks Island Library

You now have a digital Talking Book player for patrons who qualify for the Federal Talking Book program, administered by the Maine State Library in Augusta. With the new players, an entire book can be in one thumb drive, which is far simpler than the previous cassettes. If you need this or know someone who might benefit, please let us know. We have applications and can help you sign up for this program.

First Tuesdays Book Discussions at 7pm in the Community Room. April 04, Poetry Magazine is supplying 10 free copies of the April 2011 issue. Come and explore the poems and their imagery. Participants will be asked to read the poetry aloud ahead of time. Nicole d’Estremont, moderator.

May 03, The Invention of Hugo Cabret by Brian Selznick. Jenny Blan, moderator, fourth- and fifth-grade classes from Peaks Island School attending.

New-York-Rhyme Time is on Wednesdays at 11, following the Community Playgroup across the hall. Preschool Story Time is on Fridays at 10:15. The Peaks Island Library is located at 129 Island Avenue, open Tuesday 2 pm to 6 pm, Wednesday 10 am to 6 pm, Friday 10 am to 7 pm and Saturday 9 am to 4 pm. For more information call 766-5400 or visit www.portlandlibrary.com/locations/peaks.htm.

Community Food Pantry

At the Children's Workshop, open Monday through Friday, 8 am to 5 pm during the Workshop's hours. Please consider making a donation of canned and baked goods as well as used paper supplies. For more information, please contact Susan Hayman at 766-5540.

10th Annual PeaksFest

Fridays, June 17 to Sunday, June 19. Starting April 7 and continues Thursday, 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm in the Douglas E. MacCown Community Center. We need creative activities, many ideas, generous donations, awesome prizes and lots of volunteers. In short, we need YOU! Please help.

Classes & Instruct

Dance Classes For class schedule and information contact Sharon at 776-1066 (cell) or by email darisin.com.

Yoga Classes Please contact Rebecca Stephens for the schedule at 766-0171 or reesespan@yahoo.com.

Weight Lifting Classes Mondays and Thursdays, 7 am to 8 am or 5 pm to 6 pm 135 for 12 sessions. Come join us! Contact Rebecca Stephens, reesespan@yahoo.com or Rhonda Berg, ibislands@maine.net FMI.

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COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

Monday, April 4
FIRST MONDAY FUN for PRESCHOOLERS 11:00 am to 12:00 noon
- Preschoolers and their parents are invited to drop in anytime for fun games, crafts and exercise. Sponsored by Portland Recreation (766-2970).

Tuesday, April 5
FIRST TUESDAYS BOOK DOCK - PEAKS ISLAND QUARTERLY is supplying 10 free copies of the April 2011 issue. Come and explore the poems and their imagery. Participants will leave with their own postmark of time. At 7pm in the Community Room. Nicole d’Ormeour, moderator.

Wednesday, April 6
ORGANIC GARDENING CLASS sponsored by the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association from 6pm to 9pm to provide gardeners with essential skills and knowledge to grow an organic garden. Topics include basic soil science, composting, crop rotation, weed control, natural insect management and more. Presented by seasoned MOFGA farmers and gardeners from around Maine. At the following locations in the Casco Bay Region: Ogunquit (Maine Coast Community College, 207-646-7282), Portland (RMU Adult Education, 207-443-8255), Brunswick (Brunswick Regional High School, 207-725-3000), Ellen Foster (Community Education Library, 207-865-3307), Instructor: Tracy Weber. Scarborough - Scarborough Adult Learning Center, 207-730-9848, Instructor: Lisa Fernandes. Topsham - Merrymeeting Regional Adult Education, 207-729-7323. Instructor: Nathan Drummond. Also offered April 16, 6 to 9 pm in Freeport at the Freeport Community Library. Instructor: Tracy Weber. Location is subject to change if there is not enough interest. Fee varies from $5 to $25. For more information, call 207-532-4890 or visit fijiaooeumradius.southeastmaine.com.

Friday, April 8
ICE CREAM SOCIAL from 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Brackett Memorial UMC for all kids and youth to design a garden for the church yard, and work on Fundraising Ideas. At the Winter House, 72 Elizabeth Street, 766-2438.

Saturday, April 9
CPR TRAINING 10 a.m. at the MacVane Community Center. Registration $50 contact Deputy Chief Dave Jackson at DDFP_Photography to reserve. Sponsored by the Peaks Island Community Emergency Response Team.
SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION breakfast from 8-11 $6 and $3.

Sunday, April 10
OPEN HOUSE at the Fifth Maine from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. April 2011 marks the start of the national Civil War Sesquicentennial Commemoration. Please join us as we remember those trying times with 1860's ough by the Uncalled Fret, "The Civil War Day By Day" with historian Herb Adams, a children's theater and hands-on activities. For More Information call 207-332-4890 or visit fijiiaschoolmuseum.southeastmaine.com.

Tuesday, April 12
PITEA LOAF AND EADLE DINNER from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Island Baptist Church, $10 adult and $2.50 per child. The menu will revolve around the two spring seasons, Passover and Easter, and the traditional foods revered for them. Another opportunity for PITEA cooks to display their culinary talents. All proceeds will go to Over the Moon", oil painting by Ronnie Wilson showing at the Addison-Woody Gallery in Portland through April.

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From the Home Start Board of Directors
Are you interested in joining the pool of families who have already submitted applications to the independent review committee to rent one of the green homes? Applications are available at the elementary school, library and outside of, on the Home Start website, http://peakislandhomestart.org. Plans for the project continue to move through the Maine Housing funding process along with identification of a partner who will work with Home Start as rental manager.
Initially, Community Housing of Maine had strong interest in this relationship. Unfortunately their growing commitment to projects already underway, including island housing on Vinalhaven has caused them to reconsider and withdraw.
On Feb. 5, Home Start participated in the second annual Peaks Island Weatherization and Sustainability Day. This was a cooperative effort with the Island Institute, Peaks Island Tax & Energy Assistance, the Bragg Church and the Peaks Island Children's Workshop.
Island Institute fellow Regina Pelos led a workshop on storm window construction, building wooden frames and covering them with plastic. Not all the storm windows planned for the Bragg Church and Home Start's house at 18 Lucket Street were completed at that time, so an additional work session has been scheduled.
Home Start board meetings are open to the public the third Thursday of the each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Senior Center community room. Please open with your questions.

Friends of TELA Summer Programs

This is the 11th summer the Friends of TELA will be offering fully funded "Campushops" to all island resident children to learn new skills in sailing, tennis, art, workshop weeks or the summer kid's camp program. Your child must have completed kindergarten for the camp's camp and tennis programs, so at least 8 years old and able to pass a swim test for the sailing program, or at least 10 for the art workshops. Last summer 42 island children participated in the programs offered at TELA.
Application required to receive a Campushop. Forms are available at the island school after spring break. Funds are available for every child to attend at least one program.
APPLICATION DEADLINE MAY 31. Application received after this date will be processed only if funds are available.
The Friends is also offering four grants for an Art Assistants CIT program this summer for Peaks Island seniors between the ages of 13 and 36. These grants are funded through the Peaks Island Fund. CIT APPLICATION DEADLINE APRIL 15.

MONTHLY CAPTION CONTEST: Each month we offer a new BRIO image having no caption so that you can make one up. Below is this month's cartoon. Send your ideas to Kaltrimislandtimes.org and we'll publish the best. See page 8 for the finalists.

Home Start in winter

Energy or Tax Assistance. For more information call 766-0047 or email phleawest@maine.rr.com.
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