In the News

The Other Side of Paradise

By Kevin Attra

On Sunday, May 16 Irina Meceneff, 17, and Karissa Ireland, 17, were members of a kayaking accident while returning to Peaks Island from Ram Island. The tragedy had a devastating effect on the local community and on hundreds of people who turned out to find them when they went missing.

The Meceneff live year-round in a suburb of Boston. Senior, where Jack Meceneff is CEO of 8th degree, a large event planning company. They adopted their five children from Russia in the late 1990s, and have been summering on Peaks Island for 10 years.

Three years ago, former Peaks Island resident Bill Dickinson, an adopted child himself and a fairly radical thinker, developed such a favorable impression of the family that he learned them in a fundraising event for a troubled youth program he was involved with in Portland.

The Meceneff children were all orphaned by parents who had died or had been abusive to them. Two of the children died before the Meceneff left Russia, and last year the oldest boy suicided while participating in a teenage game.

During this trying period Irina managed to graduate from high school and had just finished her freshman year at a Christian college in Florida. She and Karissa, whom she befriended in college, were on summer break.

May 16 was a beautiful day, and we were able to calm on the southeast shore of the island where the Meceneff had their summer home. Chris and Barbara Hoppen were out on a walk in the early afternoon when they ran into the girls near Pointo Point just as they were bringing their kayaks to the water.

"We didn't think anything of it," said Chris. "The water was flat. There was no wind. It was beautiful," said Barbara.

But those conditions were just an illusion. A 22 mph wind was actually blowing offshore from Portland whipping up white caps in the bay on the opposite side of the island, but owing to the shape and position of the island none of that was occurring where the women launched their kayaks. Meanwhile, a small craft advisory had been issued by the National Weather Service.

Ram Island sits within sight of the Meceneff's house, seemingly so close you could hit it with a rock, but in fact is about a mile to the south. Currents in the bay are significant. They will conspire to push things out to sea or pull them into Portland depending on the tide.

"Even on a nice day things can go south on the ocean," said the U.S. Coast Guard's South Portland Station Chief Chris Wheeler. "Like, badly."

The girls left Peaks Island around 1:30 and were seen on Ram Island an hour later by Irina's father, who saw them through binoculars from his house.

They were due back at 3:30. When they hadn't shown by 5:30 p.m. Irina's mother called the South Portland Fire Station who sent in the coast guard.

Bay Lines to study wireless internet service

By Kevin Attra

Largely through the efforts of board member Matt Hoffner, Casco Bay Lines will start providing wireless internet service for riders as early as this summer.

Tests will begin this month using an AT&T 3G wireless network at a terminal and on the Augusta III. "I think we're going to know pretty quick whether this is working," said Hoffner.

The move was approved at the monthly board of directors meeting at Casco Bay Lines on Thursday, May 27. The directors anticipated possibly using the wireless service to administer the boats' mechanical systems, record passenger ride information and facilitate electronic ticketing.

But its greatest boost is expected to be in revenue from advertising, which can be put on a temporary window that pops up when users log on, called a splash page.

"The window lets users know they're on the Casco Bay Lines wireless network, but can also be used to direct them to local businesses, shops and restaurants who advertise with the company," Hoffner said.

Clink recycling service has already agreed to sign on if the service works out, according to Hoffner. Board members were hopeful that all revenue will offset the cost of operating the service.

Several years ago the company investigated wireless service for the Bay Lines but found it to be impractical. In the mid-2000s the advent of 3G (third generation) network technology changed that, making the internet fully mobile.

Third generation networking allows devices like the iPhone and Blackberry to simultaneously use speech and data transmission. A 4G network was developed in 2009, and will no doubt replace 3G in the near future.

Late February a New York Times article about a wireless system that had been installed in school buses at a California school inspired Hoffner to revisit using the technology on the ferry boats.

In mid-March he tested the signal strength of AT&T's wireless tower in Falmouth, which services the Casco Bay area, down the bay from Great Diamond to Cliff and back into town using a handheld device on the Augusta III, and found there was no loss of signal anywhere along the route.

"The issue, I really believe, on the boat is going to be bandwidth," said Hoffner. "Bandwidth is comparable to the number of lanes on a highway. The more there are, the more freely vehicles can travel.

AT&T's basic 3G service has a 5-gigabyte bandwidth, which is accredited with a maximum downloading speed of around 14 Mbps (million
On the cover:

Summer sailing season began last month for the crew of the Portland Schooner Company, owned and operated by Peaks Island residents Scott Reischmann and Michelle Thresher.

PIC addresses fire safety concerns

BY KEVIN ATTRA

In a regular meeting of the Peaks Island Council on Wednesday, May 26, the members found themselves heading into the high season with less than half of their operating budget and a spurter of their transportation fund left, and only three people in the audience to listen.

Concern about the risk of fire prompted Councilor Lynne Richard to look into helping residents clear away limbs and other debris from their property after the latest bunch of storms.

Earlier in the month she met with Maine Forest Service representatives who said they were more than willing to provide a wood chipper and train volunteers to operate it at no cost other than transporting the machine to the island.

She added that she would like to get the city's fire department involved as well, in light of the new assignment replacing a police officer with a firefighter on the island.

According to Richard, the Forest Service inspected neighborhoods down front on Peaks Island in the early 2000s through a program called FIREWISE, looking at the density of trees and brush around homes to ensure there was adequate space against fire.

She would like to have the island reassessed this year. "I would really like a forestry management plan on Peaks Island," Lynne said. "We can't afford to leave our forests unmanaged and be safe.

Summer resident Skip Cummings, who attended the meeting, said "The landfill has been very good to me about taking brush this year. I had to sweet talk them last year."

The wood chipper can only be used to clear debris in people's yards. The Federal Emergency Management Agency is responsible for clearing downed trees in the undeveloped areas of the island.

According to an email distributed the following day from Mike Murray, in case of fire the island, please see COUNCIL, page 4.

Wendameen

Summer sailing season began last month for the crew of the Portland Schooner Company, owned and operated by Peaks Island residents Scott Reischmann and Michelle Thresher.

The historic Bagheera and Wendameen were brought out to their slips at the Maine State Pier in early May, and the Wendameen has already made a few day sails. Both ships are popular for weddings and are available for cruises around the bay and overnight charters all summer.

www.portland schooner.com

Landmark Jordan's Meat plant burns into memory

BY KEVIN ATTRA

Some time after lunch Thursday, May 6, the former Jordan's Meats plant in Portland started burning. It quickly turned into a three-alarm fire, the largest in a decade according to Portland Fire Chief Fred LaMontagne.

Newscasts from all the local TV stations provided continuous coverage, but the initial report on the Channel 13 website gave the most vivid description:

"Heavy black smoke can be seen pouring from the building, witnesses say they spotted flames pouring from the roof of the building. The fire broke out around 1:15 this afternoon. Dozens of firefighters are on scene. The Jordan's Meat Factory was in the process of being torn down. No word yet on what caused the fire."

Channel 6 News contacted the building owner, Mark Woghom, who said it was being demolished to make room for a hotel. "Demolition crews left the building to go to lunch and discovered the fire when they returned," the station reported on its website.

Remarkably, no one was injured during the blaze. For a brief period the city's fire stations stood empty as all 42 Portland firefighters who were on duty at the time responded, as well as 60 off-duty firefighters and two companies from the South Portland Fire Department.

Fire companies from Cape Elizabeth, Falmouth, Cumberland and Gorham eventually filled in to cover the city while Portland dealt with the fire.

Chief LaMontagne said that because of the high winds the fire travelled through the entire 1,000-foot length of the building faster than they could get crews in place.

Demolition equipment was used to punch large holes into exterior brickwork so that firefighters could douse the flames without having to enter the building.

"We have to go to different tactics and different methods to gain access to the deep-seated fires that have occurred," said the chief in a press conference during the fire.

"It was a defensive attack," said Chris Alves, Peaks Island resident and firefighter with Engine Company No. 4. "The first hour you're really busy, but once apparatus is set up you're just pouring water on it. Put the wet stuff on the hot stuff!"

He was stationed on the lee side of the building at Franklin and Fore streets where there was a lot of smoke and flame when his engine pulled up.

Heavy smoke continued to blanket firefighters on that side of the building.

please see FIRE, next page
Hoffner is not sure that’s enough. If the system bogs down and people’s computers lock up all the time, he’s worried that they’ll get frustrated and stop using it.

With so many factors involved, from the weather to the number of people online, the actual performance of the system can’t be predicted. “It may end up being a great system on the 700 a.m., but loopy on the 500 p.m.,” said Hoffner.

The basic service, which utilizes a dedicated laptop equipped with a 5-gigabyte “air card” and wireless modem at each location, will cost up to $300 per month to operate, providing wireless internet access at the terminal and on five boats. Each additional set of 5-gigabyte cards costs another $300 per month.

“If it ends up being a bad user experience, we can add more cards,” said Hoffner, “but at some point we have to wonder if it’s worth it.”

Testing begins this month and will run through August, with the expectation that the bugs will be worked out by the start of the next school year.

**FIRE, from page 2**

for nearly two hours.

“They were the ones that took a beating,” said Lieutenant Patrick Flynn with Engine Company No. 5 from Central Station. “They’d stand in the street fire, but at some point we have to wonder if it’s worth it.”

Engine No. 5 was stationed on the west side of the fire at the corner of Hampshire and Middle. “The wind was blowing the other way, so we took our gun and put it there.”

At some point the demolition crew advised the fire department that there were two sets of acrylonitrile welding tanks in the building. One set was on a loading dock near Engine No. 4, and Chris Alves was one of the men who got them out of the building away from the fire.

He said it wasn’t too risky at that point because the fire hadn’t reached the tanks yet, but for firefighters on India Street where the other pair of cylinders were inside the building, it was a different story. Unable to reach the tanks, firefighters had to cool them with water continuously throughout the blaze and hope they didn’t explode.

The following morning, Lt. Flynn was on the 8:45 from Portland, having just come off a 24-hour shift fighting the fire. “You’re not going to make me look bad again, are you?” he asked.

He was at the scene until 9:00 that night, but said some crews stayed until midnight. “We had to go back down there I think around 2:00, because some people saw a little smoke and we poured more water on it.”

“Then some other people had to go down there like 4:30 this morning for a little smoke that wasn’t going to go anywhere. But people saw it and wanted to call it in.”

“That thing could burn for a while. They’ll be down there again today, leaving it spurt and dumping more water on it.”

The following day Chief LaMontagne held a press conference at the site. He said the fire was most likely the result of an accidental spark caused during demolition of the building, but the actual cause could not be confirmed due to the amount of damage sustained by the structure.

“Biggest one I’ve been at in a long time,” said Lt. Flynn.

In other news, Hank Berg locked in next year’s fuel price at $2.45, leaving the meeting at 8:30 to call the fuel company and let them know. He was given until 9:00 that morning to make the call, but waited for an approval from the board even though he didn’t need it.

According to board President Patrick Flynn, the vote was intended to avert any possibly controversy similar to the one surrounding Catherine Debo when she allegedly disregarded advice from the board in locking in last year’s fuel price.

In the last two months the fuel price has been slowly dropping, but seemed to level off around $2.50 by mid-week. When Berg called at 8:30 a.m. the price had already crept back up to $2.48.

Fuel cost is the third-highest expense after payroll and boat maintenance costs at the Bay Lines, according to board member Frank Peretti, running at 17 percent of the company’s gross revenue. Peretti also reported that the company lost $49,682 in April, far less than the predicted loss of $114,560 that had been budgeted. He said payroll costs also went down by $36,000 due to needing only four pay periods this year instead of five. Charter sales were also down.

The Jordan’s Meat fire as seen from Peaks Island about 45 minutes after it started. A strong off-shore wind blew smoke away from Portland to the northeast, later turning east. That was fortunate for the city, but not so pleasant on the island where a foul-smelling haze tinged the afternoon. (staff photo)
KAYAKS, from page 1

in the water, but each time they went over to investigate it would be a seal and quickly disappear. Firefighters checked the tiny Marine 3 stuff managed to avert a fire while searching Cushing Island when they came across a candle burning in an unoccupied cottage. It turned out later that the owner had been out for the weekend and forgot to put it out when he left.

The Jay Hawk took off at 6:40 that evening and arrived on scene an hour later. The sound of it flying over Peaks Island was the first indication many people had that something was wrong.

The Falcon was dispatched at 7:12 p.m. but because it flies more than twice the speed of the Jay Hawk it is actually arrived in the area first. The search team had only 35 minutes of daylight left before having to go to night-vision goggles.

Lt. Victor Yaguchi, a Coast Guard pilot who was working dispatch from Air Station Cape Cod during the search, said the station ran a total of seven sorties. There were four sorties from the 6:40 group and three from the 7:30 group.

Throughout the search, the captain of Cape Elizabeth's Water Rescue Team, John Norton, kept trying to find out what the girls were wearing, not only so they would know what to look for but also because the water temperature was 48°F.

He said his group was very hopeful about finding the girls when they got there around 7:50 p.m. when they learned the girls were wearing shorts and T-shirts. "It changed the emotion," he said. "Anybody on the ocean at this time of year should have a wet suit."

Coast Guard Chief Warrant Officer Terri Young, who knew Irina, a kayaker, offered: "My guess is she's still in the water. You can't get a punch pass, but they were dressed for a spring day."

He said it's an issue peculiar to Maine. "The water is so cold here. People think it's like home," he said. "They are dressed for a spring day."

He said in the last two years a number of similar incidents have occurred. "When it's warm outside people assume it's warm in the water."

Firefighter Dave Crowley said that at that temperature the girls would have been unable to help themselves after 20 minutes. "You can't move, motion in the fingers is lost right away as blood is shunted to the body's core."

Around 8:30 p.m. the Jay Hawk crew reported that they'd found a water-filled blue kayak east of Richmond Island. John Norton's team was called in to investigate and found the second, green kayak nearby.

The search continued throughout the night. Sometime early Monday morning a search boat found a set of paddles, and this information was related to the South Portland station who redirected the search to that area.

On the fourth leg of the changed flight plan the Jay Hawk found one of the girls and lowered a rescue swimmer on a harness to pick her up.

As soon as they found her, a 65-foot Coast Guard cutter steaming to the site found the second girl. Since the helicopter could get to Maine Medical Center much faster than the ship, it stood by until the Jay Hawk could pull her out as well.

According to Lt. Yaguchi, the exclusion of both girls from the water and transfer to the hospital took less than four minutes. The search had lasted almost 16 hours and covered 300 square miles.

The women were found approximately seven miles southeast of Richmond Island. "If the tide had been coming instead of going they'd probably be alive," said Crowley. "It would have brought them into Peaks instead of pushing them out."

Every person involved in the search who is familiar with kayaking gave the same explanation of what probably led to the accident that Maine Kayak guide Tom Bergh, who knew Irina as an experienced kayaker, offered: "My guess is the other one got into trouble with the wind and Irina went after her."

COUNCIL, from page 2

island neighborhood liaison with the City Manager's Office, Portland had been given a green light from FEMA to begin cleaning up debris in forested areas on Peaks Island, Cliff Island and Cushing Island caused by the Feb. 25 storm. He said loggers working on Peaks and Cushing islands would need to be housed on Peaks for the several months it will take to do the work, which could begin as early as July on Peaks.

In other news, Councilor Richard said speed bumps had been requested on the lower road (Island Avenue) in the vicinity of her house (not by her). "Since the city paved the road last year people have been flying down there, reaching speeds of up to 40 mph," she said.

She also said a Catch-22 situation exists about the requirement for punch passes at the landfill. "You can't get a punch pass, but you can't dispose of certain items without one."

Hazardous Waste Day on the island is tentatively scheduled for Aug. 21 from 9 a.m. to Noon.

Councilor Tom Bohan reported that in a Citizen Police Advisory Board meeting last month he learned that the code enforcement office was not enforcing codes, lacking staff and budget. "I think that is the height of stupidity," he said.

Crime is down again, but statistically the changes are not significant, he added.

Chair Mike Richards suggested that the PIG study the nature and volume of emergency calls on the island in order to get a more accurate picture of the demand for police coverage than the city's figures indicate.

POLICE LOG

May 2010

Provided by Lisa Perrette
Planning & Research Coordinator, PPD

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June 2010 I S LAND TIM E S

That was the younger brother's name into Czechoslovakia. the Germans went over the border radio here. We went up to the Stevens' remember being on the island when Stevens. Van Stephens was her father. (I was friends with Jean cottage, on my stomach, and listening to this radio broadcast and wondering too, and Patty was the sister.)

You know, there was radio. I remember lying on the floor of that house. (I was friends with Jean Stevens. Van Stephens was her father. That was the younger brother's name too, and Patty was the sister.) I remember lying on the floor of that cottage, on my stomach, and listening to this radio broadcast and wondering what it was all about, our parents sitting in there around the kitchen table talking very seriously afterward. I would have only been 12 or 13.

Of course, we had the blackout and the area warden would come around to check that we weren't leaking any light, and sometimes we'd be upstairs and the bed would start shaking when they dropped depth bombs out back, practicing or whatever it was. People did say they'd seen them towing in a submarine they'd caught sometimes. I never saw that myself. They did drop the charges for practice, too, I believe. We always said that if they had fired off those 22-inch guns the island would have sunk. [Laughs].

Did you ever see a picture of them? I have a picture of myself sitting on the end of one of those 22-inch cannons at the end of the war, taken by a friend of mine from college. We were walking around and she took a picture of me sitting up there on the end of the gun.

I used to sail my boat. I always had a girlfriend with me. I didn't go by myself. I would go down across Hussey Sound and I remember, oh my, if I were ever caught by the destroyers that were there.

The whole North Atlantic fleet was anchored behind Diamond Island and they would come in from patrolling, a whole line of destroyer escorts, one after the other around Greek Island where you see the markers for the channel. The submarine net went from the end of Peaks Island over to Long Island and they'd open the nets to let them in.

I was beating my way back across Hussey Sound one time and my girlfriend was sitting in the bottom of the boat putting rollers in her hair, she didn't see how close they came. I had just gotten across the channel and the sailors were there waiting at these two girls. [Laughs].

Then one day - by then the war was over - there was my last escapade. It my boat was a very safe boat because it was a dory, lap strake construction. Couldn't tip it over, but it only had a center board, just so deep. And I said I always wanted to go outside the harbor and down the coast.

So, I did on this beautiful day, and I had the same girlfriend with me, and we went out and I sailed before the wind down to South Portland and I said, 'Oh, I'd better turn around and go back now.'

The waves were deep, they were swell. So I make a tack way out - [gesturing] the harbor entrance is here and I had to come about here - tack way out to try to come back in the harbor, the harbor being a pretty wide opening.

But every time, those swells would just roll me back out because I only went forward in the trough of the wave and then the swell would set me sideways back down the coast.

We went back down the coast and into a cove. My girlfriend ran up to the house and phoned the Coast Guard. They said, 'yes, they'd come for us, you can row the oars.' So, we got in the dory and we were just sitting there in the cove and we heard this big noise. They sent a LSTP, a landing barge, the kind they ran into the shore on Normandy.

They sent this landing barge for us and they were just looking ahead down the coast and they went right by the cove, so they turned around and came back and we rowed out so that they could see us. They tied us with this great big rope and towed us home.

Of course, the only place to stand is where the pilot steers the boat, and so there were two sailors and just two girls standing there and they said, 'Oh, of course we have to make a report, so we have to have your names and phone numbers.'

We just had to laugh that one off. They brought us right in onto the beach. It was fall, and by then there were hardly any people down the end of the island anyway, until several years after the war.

It took a long time. My mother's sitting there sunning herself on the beach, looking at this landing barge coming in on the beach - it was her daughter being brought home by the Coast Guard!
Island Views

Letters

Dear Editor:

The Peaks Island Community Emergency Response Team is a group of volunteers on the Island who train to assist first responders in the event of an emergency. This past Saturday, May 22, we participated in a training day with members of the Portland Fire Department.

On behalf of the CERT members who attended, I would like to thank Captain David Jackson and Firefighters Tyler Nash, Matthew Hawkes and Wendell Howard for making this exercise both productive and enjoyable.

Captain Jackson and his team were well prepared as we ran a number of exercises designed to expand upon our previous training and make us a better run team. We reviewed procedures for things such as setting up a command post, communicating with police and fire teams, and assessing building damage as well as practicing first aid, rescue techniques and fire extinguishment.

I think all CERT members benefited not only from the exercises but from the coaching provided by Captain Jackson's team. We divided our training between the Community Center and the Transfer Station, and I would also like to thank Joe Gillooly of Public Works for assisting our training there.

CERT members meet monthly (except in the summer), and Captain

Jackson and Tyler are joined by Firefighter Caroline Harein in these meetings. We at CERT appreciate their professionalism and look forward to continuing working with them.

John O'Brien

Thank you John for your initiative and sentiments. It is good to see a Peaks Islander publicly thanking and showing appreciation for one of the many services provided to Peaks residents by city employees. Too often, comments in the press from Peaks residents are critical of the city, its policies and representatives.

Gert Taylor

Peaks Island Tax and Energy Assistance

Spring on Peaks Island has been sunny, warm and beautiful. The trees, bushes and flowers have appeared early and our feathered friends arrived early as well.

Peaks Island Tax and Energy Assistance is gearing up for another fundraising season. During the past year we were able to assist a number of homeowners on Peaks with their property taxes, thanks to the generosity of so many who call Peaks home, and to our summer friends who are so supportive of Island activities.

The fundraising we have done has proven to be worthwhile with a very satisfactory outcome. Through our energy fund we were able to help islanders pay for oil, propane, electricity and K-1 fuel.

We hope to continue working over the summer months so that we will be prepared to assist islanders once the increased tax bills come out and the heating season begins again.

Every month the Tax and Energy Assistance program sponsors a Luncheon at the Peaks Island Baptist Church Hall on Pleasant Avenue. The food is delicious and the company superb.

Adults are $6, children $2.50. All proceeds go directly to Tax and Energy Assistance.

John O'Brien attacks a large oil fire during a mock-disaster training Saturday, May 22, assisted by Portland firefighter Tyler Nash.

photo by Jerry Garman

Taxi on line

On March 22, 2010, Peaks Island Transportation (also known as The Taxi) made a comeback under the new management of Rita Ramsay and myself, Juli Simanov, both of Portland.

The Taxi's goal is to provide full transportation services to the residents and visitors on Peaks Island.

Our philosophy is, "if we don't already provide the service, we can and...just ask."

The Taxi also has a third driver, Joan Blake, a resident of Peaks Island. Joan's ties to the island provides a comfort knowing the taxi may be utilized off hours if necessary to the residents who are well cared for. Our approach is family oriented. We have fun with everyone and our goal is to treat everyone as we would want our own family treated.

The current hours of operation are 10am to 8pm, seven days per week. The hours will most likely extend as we head into the busy summer season and more people arrive on the Island. We will most likely extend our evening hours.

We encourage folks to call ahead and arrange transport to and from the ferry. We will meet all ferries unless we have a pre arranged call. A sandwich board will be placed at the Taxi stand informing people of our whereabouts. Also people can call the taxi phone 588-0000 to request transport.

In addition to meeting the boats, the Taxi provides delivery of fresh flowers, groceries and take out from the local restaurants. If you ship something from Portland we can pick it up and deliver it to your door. Our "door to door" service hopefully will add a convenience factor of knowing we will safely deliver the items right to your door.

For take out deliveries, we have met with Peak Island Inn and the Cocked Gull and both will provide a full take out menu. Place your order and we will deliver your food. We will also deliver pizza from the Hannigan's Island Market.

We want the Taxi to have a friendly feeling always. We are in the learning process of getting to know the Island and the wonderful folks who make our job enjoyable. It is so cool to be driving and having folks smile and wave. Even on the ferry, people smile and say hello. The goal of getting to know everyone's name and address is of utmost importance to Rita and I.

I moved here from Boston in August of 2009. Life here is different. I have learned to relax and enjoy life more. As a Veterinary Technician I trained weekly and also an Emergency Medical Technician. Rita has lived in Maine all her life. She works as a L.I. Bean and Life Good in the Old Port area. Her two children, Alex and Maria are thrilled with their mom's new venture. I am also a mother to two young boys. Sam is 5 years old and Jonah is 3 years old.

Our fare structure is one that intrigues people. It is based on a "pay what you want" concept, which...
Lines from Casco Bay Lines

BY CHRIS HOPPEN

When homeowners look at an architect's plans for a new house or renovation they may not see all the details that the buyer will experience walking through a model in development. And, whenever someone considers offering a new car from the dealership, it's very helpful to sit in the floor model or drive the demonstrator to see how it works and feels.

The same can be said for new ferry boats and that's an important factor missing in the pros and cons discussion about plans for the Casco Bay Island Transit District's new ferry.

Maine's Senators Olympia Snowe and Susan Collins, Representatives Chadlong Prince and Mike Michael, and the Maine Department of Transportation were very helpful with the District's application for a new replacement boat. Casco Bay Lines was able to obtain $35.5 million, nearly ten percent out of $60 million awarded nationwide, thru a national competitive process.

Key parts of our successful application included that fact that the old Island Romance is nearing the end of its useful life and that the Aucocosis Iii, designed and built in 2005, included recent plans for a "shovel-ready project.

Some islanders have complained that the Auc and its predecessor the Aucocosis II are classic examples of that old saw defining a camel as a horse designed by committee. And it is true that both were designed with considerable input from islanders and CBITT employees.

However, there is no doubt that both arrived from their respective shipyards with a few glitches and surprises and when they were actually put into use on Casco Bay.

Although the Auc's old steel boats are the most obvious example (clearly an oversight by the New England designers who assumed the southern builders would use neutral temperature composites), using the Auc for the past five years has illustrated what we want in a new ferry.

It's important to note that the new boat will be using the frame and shell of the Auc but with internal changes custom-designed to address specific needs Casco Bay Lines has identified by using it.

Our experienced captains, deck hands and staff provided considerable input in the new internal design, which will include more inside and outside seating and better space for passengers' belongings to handle and store their freight. The Operations Committee of the board of directors and the board itself have approved the plans, which are available on the CascoBayLines.com.

On the new boat, for example, during inclement weather passengers will appreciate loading thru the forward part of the upper cabin, in the rain, as well as the outside aisles as they are shielded by a bulkhead.

The elevator has been moved forward to open more space for passengers to congregate and be seated at the stern of the ship's main and upper decks. Rearranging freight storage will permit more interior seating in the bow of the main deck and the upper deck cabin.

And, like the Aucocosis III, the new ferry will be completely handicap accessible.

Other discussions have focused on the difference in freight handling capability between the Aucocosis III and the Aucocosis II. Although the latter boat has a crane, which is useful occasionally with heavy and awkward freight, it takes a lot of time to use. Roll-on roll-off is the most efficient way to move cargo, and, in fact, most freight moves that way on the decks has been done by the crane. So, again, custom designed -- to better separate cargo movement.

Fuel usage and environmental standards are other important factors. The Aucocosis II and III have used Casco Bay Lines ferries, and the new ferry will, too. Although the Auc is longer than the Island Romance, CBITT officials are in the business of identifying options to address this issue.

Finally, there is one other factor that should be mentioned, and that's financing. CBITT's initial working budget is around $5 million, and paying for a new boat is always a challenge. To ignore the opportunity to use these newly-acquired federal funds would prevent us from using all the ferry's costs, would have been fiscally irresponsible.

When the time came for me to propose a plan for our May PIC meeting, I couldn't help but wonder: Is it really worth the effort? Should I even make an agenda? Does it make any sense what we offer? Our FY10 budget request was denied in its entirety, so our FY11 plan may just need explaining, and we're way ahead of schedule.

Well, one of the reasons the city lists us as adding one police officer on Peaks was enough (except for summer weekends) was that their data showed that downtown Portland had many more police officers required than Peaks Island did. The island officers have not included the calls for service made directly to the Peaks police station in their documentation, only police calls are recorded.

OK, we need to document the consequences of the city's decision.

How many times do situations requiring two police officers happen in one day on Peaks? How long does it take the second officer here? What are the results of the delays in the response time?

Is there a better model for providing back up for a Peaks officer? We already have volunteer EMT's and firefighters.

We also need to discuss the $30,000 the city allocated to us, though it's a drop in the bucket compared to our needs. It appears the city supports our request to include the Peaks Island Children's Workshop among the potential recipients of the city's largesse, so we have that working for us, which is nice.

Last I was accused of city-bashing, please understand that I spend half of every day in the city and expect the streets there to be paved and plowed, the trash to be picked up, the police to protect me, the fireman to hose me down if my office burns, and the EMT to transport me to the hospital if I can't make it there myself. But I'm just like the other 200,000 people Portland serves except most of them don't pay taxes to the city.

We need to somehow spread some of the cost of running this area service center to the people in the surrounding towns who use Portland daily. That requires policy changes at the state level as well as an agreement with the police. EMT and the PIC to the city and the city to help each other.

In fact, on second thought, it looks like the PIC has a lot of work to do. After all, every knotty problem has a kernel of opportunity hidden inside.
YOGA FOR LIFE
A yogic perspective on health and simple living
BY REBECCA JOHANNA STEPHANS

Rebecca Johanna Stephens teaches weekly yoga classes and private yoga lessons on Peaks Island and in Portland. You may direct your comments, inquiries, or column ideas to 766-3037 or ryoga@rcn.net.

Recently I was sitting on an outdoor bench at the Casco Bay Lines terminal with my face in the sun and bicycle nearby when a fellow islander approached and asked what I was knitting. I replied that it was a prayer shawl and explained that we knit and pray and meditate, weaving blessings into the fibers, and then give the shawls to folks near and far for comfort and/or celebration.

My neighbor responded by telling me of a study in which the people who knew that folks were praying for them reported the least satisfaction with the outcome of medical treatments. Because I like my neighbor, who has a big heart and a great sense of humor, I decided to eschew the pitfall of feeling insulted in favor of contemplating the vast misconceptions about prayer and the profound difference between curing and healing.

In yoga teachings, two of the root causes of suffering are attachment to difficulty and clinging to life out of fear of mortality. The devastating irony is that when we are caught up in terror or denial of illness and death, we tend to miss the joy of living while we are still healthy and alive.

Buddhists explain this phenomenon quite succinctly: “Pain is inevitable; suffering is optional.” The path to liberation from suffering is to let go of the question, “Why is this happening to me?” accept the situation, and seek a creative response.

Two of the precepts for personal discipline in a holistic yoga practice are surrender and contentment (in the list of niyamas in last month’s article). A discussion of surrender brings me back to this question of what prayer is. I understand prayer to be an intention to return to alignment with what is, to gather strength to continue, and to express gratitude. I suspect that the disappointed subjects in the study mentioned above were hoping that prayer would result in a specific outcome, rather than simply provide support, comfort and guidance.

In my practice, a call for help is accompanied by my own best effort to help myself. Sharing responsibility for my own deliverance is very different than presuming that the universe ought to grant my request just because I asked. Each time I get on my bicycle, I both request protection and guidance, and promise to be vigilant and ride safely. Even so, life occasionally throws curve balls that test our resilience.

In this culture that celebrates youth and wealth we tend to have a very hard time accepting the fact that, no matter how well we live or how rich we are, we will all experience misfortune, illness and death. Some yoga students are dismayed to learn that I live with depression and addiction. “But you are a yoga teacher,” they exclaim with genuine surprise, as if practicing and teaching yoga will somehow exempt me from pain.

This apparent paradox brings me to an exploration of curing, healing, and contentment. The best way I know to express this concept is that healing and contentment are possible even in cases in which there is no cure. Auto-immune disorders are near-epidemic chronic illnesses whose source is complex and often mysterious. Cancer is so prevalent that we all have close friends and family members in treatment.

Yoga practice and prayer can neither guarantee longevity nor prevent grave illnesses, but they can be part of a very effective healing program. Healing is the process of finding balance and alignment, and creating the best possible conditions for the body to restore itself. Contentment is the practice of acceptance and gratitude which guides us to an inner source of peace and joy. These practices give us strength to weather difficulty without despair, and encourage us to simultaneously embrace life and death. The yoga on my business card bears this inscription: “Live fully now. As you are. As it is.”

At their core, spiritual disciplines have many common practices, including repetitive prayers or mantras. Catholics use rosary beads, Buddhists use mala beads, and Yogis have japa, a repetitive mantra practice often using mala beads.

A string of seeds or beads is held in one or both hands, and as each prayer is recited, the practitioner moves one bead. A larger bead marks the starting and ending point, which allows the practitioner to focus entirely on the energy of the chant, and not on counting repetitions.

Because I am human just like you are and I sometimes forget what brings me true well-being and joy, mantra and prayer are very important elements of my yoga practice. One of the yoga prayers is, ‘Lead me from the unreal to the real, Lead me from darkness to light.”

Twelve step programs also have a beautiful prayer: “God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.”

Many Christians find solace in these simple prayers: “Fear not!” and “Thy will be done.”

For about a year now, I have been knitting prayer shawls that have 108 stitches across, the number of seeds in a traditional mala string. Stitch by stitch, I repeat words or simple prayers. Both the fibers of the shawl and the core of my being absorb the energy of those blessings.

Yoga practice and prayer don’t always give us exactly what we want, but they often give us what we need—fortitude, courage, reassurance, the embrace of a loving community at a time of difficulty, and peace of mind and heart—as we are, as it is.

Morning Poem
by Mary Oliver

Every morning the world is created.
Under the orange sticks of the sun
the heated ashes of the night
turn into leaves again
and fasten themselves to the high branches-
and the ponds appear like black cloth
on which are painted islands
of summer lilies.

If it is your nature to be happy
you will swim away along the soft trails
for hours, your imagination alighting everywhere.

And if your spirit carries within it
the thorn that is heavier than lead-
if it’s all you can do
to keep on trudging-
there is still somewhere deep within you
a beast shouting that the earth
is exactly what it wanted.

Each pond with its blazing lilies
is a prayer heard and answered
lavishly every morning
whether or not
you have ever dared to be happy,
whether or not
you have ever dared to pray.

Nadi Shodhana (Channel Clearing): A sweet, balancing, soothing breathing pattern. With your dominant hand, rest index and middle finger pads at the center of your forehead. This leaves thumb and ring finger for closing nostrils. You can support your elbow with the palm of the other hand if your arms tense or get tired. Close the right nostril and inhale slowly thru the left nostril. Open the right nostril as you close the left exhale and inhale slowly thru the right nostril. Open the left nostril as you close the right exhale and inhale slowly thru the left nostril. Continue for 5 minutes or longer, and finish with an exhale through the left nostril.

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

BY JERRY GARMAN

Premiering in 1977, the TV show Fantasy Island featured white-suited Mr. Roarke and his sidekick Tattoo, who rang a bell and shouted “Dec plane! Dee plane!” at the beginning of each episode. Passengers would then deplane on the island where their wildest dreams could come true.

Today, while no one says “The boat! The boat!” or rings a bell (the captain of the Machigonne II does issue a warning of the loud horn blast as the boat departs from Portland) daytrippers to Peaks Island, known to some as Portland’s largest park, seem to lose their inhibitions and throw caution to the wind.

Perhaps it starts with the 20-minute ferry ride. Free of responsibility and full of expectations, everyone rushes to the highest level on the boat and digitally records every move. Several women spread their arms and become human bowsprits reminiscent of a scene in The Titanic.

When disembarking, visitors move excitedly to the top of the hill and quickly get a sense of the island traffic, which has many different modes of transportation – cars and trucks (mostly un-inspected), golf carts, bicycles, scooters, skateboards, roller skates and of course pedestrians – all moving in an environment without traffic signals or parking meters and with only 13 stop signs.

At the island kiosk they either turn left to rent a bicycle at Brad’s Bike Shop or turn right to walk the island’s four mile circumference. Most daytrippers seem to believe that they have the right-of-way, and that all other modes of transportation should yield accordingly.

As they explore the island’s natural environment they develop an unrealistic sense of their own safety, extending themselves obliviously across the road as if they are some modern form of “The Magnificent Seven”. But what could be more dangerous than a driver on a cell phone trying to pass a walker or biker listening to an iPod?

After breathing invigorating ocean air for the last half hour they finally arrive on our magnificent rockbound back shore, oblivious to poison ivy and deer ticks. After creating a stone sculpture, it is amazing that they remain fully clothed.

As they leave the one-and-a-half mile stretch of ocean views they momentarily are concerned only with the location of the nearest restroom. Chancing upon the TIEA clubhouse with its tennis courts and sailing fleet they spend a few moments recalling their happy summer camp experiences and then proceed, relieved, with smiles on their faces.

Returning their undamaged bikes they move into our restaurants for refreshment and reflection. There they recount their adventure and share their treasures of drift wood, rocks and sea glass.

As they slowly board the return ferry the credits begin to roll, and carefully balancing their dripping ice cream cones they do not even notice two figures dressed in white who wave and mark their departure with a quiet bon voyage.

Shortly before disembarking in Portland they must quickly recope some of the street smarts they had just hours ago to assure their survival. An elevator ride to retrieve their cars and a spiraling descent through a series of stop and warning signs plus a signal light followed by a warning blast of a car horn rapidly ends their fantastic journey, bringing them back into the present world reality; all that remains are digital records and lovely memories.

Unlock Portland’s Working Waterfront

This summer give your child the key to uncover the mysteries of Portland’s working waterfront. Week-long camps on Casco Bay. It’s all things water and all hands on deck.

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A Matter of Degree - by Anna Tierney

ACROSS
1 Male herbivore
5 "Let be be finale of____." (Wallace Stevens)
9 Sort of finals
14 Bucu
15 Like a butterfly wing
16 Kind of engagement
17 Kind of gun
18 Denizen of Sigma Chi
19 Lopez,
20 1967 film (with "The")
21 In stages
22 Dim
24 Charge
25 "Ignorant____ clash by night." (Matthew Arnold)
28 Difficult task
33 Horse shade
34 Coin of no value
35 Exclamation of gusto
36 What you say to 20 Across
38 Path prefix
39 Adam____, English musician
40 Home of the Venice Film Festival
41 Where to buy a grand piano in Portland, ME
43 Kisses can be
45 Aquarium fish disease
46 32 Down didn't bother with these
47 Jarhead
48 Hillary Clinton, for example
49 Newman's Own sells these now
50 Swallow
51 Kind of sci, non-fi
52 Good on linguine
53 Way
60 Scots philosopher
61 Horned fellow
62 As well
63 Senior____

DOWN
1 Canticle
2 Anastasia's father
3 Turkey's locale
4 Fleming invention
5 Caesars
6 Fill with pride
7 Relaxation
8 Character in 20 Across (with 37 Down)
9 Punctually
10 Odd duel (with 11 Down)
11 See 10 Down
12 Penny
13 Arrived home in a hurry
14 Abu Dhabi it's cap.
21 Star of adventure?
22 Heard on tennis court
23 Spanish hill town
24 What hasn do
25 Ray
28 Dog
29 What the "phi" stands for in phi beta kappa
30 Bubbling over
31 Round in Avenignon
32 Iron Mike
34 Undaunted
37 See S Down
42 Diamonds (sl.)
43 Ancient Greek poet
44 Cooking abbr.
46 Dumps
47 Domestic tools
48 Neighborhood
49 Musical term
50 Tiny amount
51 Double
52 Grimace
53____ matter
54 Row

SOLUTION TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLE

ACROSS
1 Palawan
2 Erasmo
3 ABRULES
5 ABUSO
7 TEOSHOT
9 LENTIL
11 PARADISE
13 MIST
15 ENSILE
17 TENTILE
19 ENTRY
21 KOAN
23 MIKE
25 ETAL
27 ROL
29 CREW
31 DAD
33 AUDEN
35 STATES
37 ESES
39 BARD
41 BARD
43 WISP
45 STAINS
47 SEND
49 LUT
51 PYROLODGE
53 HAT
55 HUNARO
57 ATARI
59 ON
61 AGONAL
63 DAK
65 WRI
67 PHOTOGR
69 ES
71 SCAPED

DOWN
1 PES
3 AN
5 MAT
7 TIE
9 ETE
11 S
13 A
15 N
17 N
19 STI
21 LE
23 S
25 TA
27 DE
29 N
31 T
33 R
35 E
37 L
39 E
41 N
43 M
45 N
47 E
49 N
51 S
53 T
55 H
57 E
59 N
61 S
63 S
65 P
67 A
69 S
71 E
73 A
June 2010 Sky
BY MIKE RICHARDS

June is named for June, who in Roman mythology was the wife of Jupiter and goddess of marriage. It is the month of the northern summer solstice, when the sun rises and sets at the northernmost points of the eastern and western horizons. This provides the northern hemisphere with an overabundance of light and heat and makes stargazing strictly a late-night activity.

Fortunately, the planets are on parade this month and some are best seen right after sunset, and the moon is always fun to watch, even in the daylight. In fact, the sun is fun to watch, too, but you must have a sun filter on your telescope (use the shadow of your scope to line it up). Or better yet, use a hydrogen-alpha telescope to check out the sunspots, flares and prominences that are beginning to reappear on the surface, as the sun pulses in a 11 year cycle and is now waking up after a few years long (and unusually deep) hibernation.

The best and the brightest planet is Venus, that hellish world with a perpetually white face, our closest neighboring planet, and the most luminous object in the sky after the sun and moon. It is now an "evening star" hovering over the city skyline after sunset, and the first object visible in the twilight. One can only wonder how many "wish upon a star" have not come true because they were wished on Venus instead.

Earth comes next, of course, and then Mars. This month the rust-colored planet passes very close (from our perspective) to bright white Regulus, the alpha star in Leo, allowing us to easily track Mars' proper motion eastward and to compare the colors. Mars' inner moon, Phobos, is being studied by the European Space Agency's orbiter, looking for a place for the Russian spacecraft to land in a few years, gather some soil samples, and then return to earth.

Next out, past the asteroid belt, is mighty-white Jupiter, which has perplexed astronomers recently because one of its two dark equatorial belts has all but disappeared. Jupiter rises after midnight, so it is not particularly convenient for working people to view, but it has an added attraction: Uranus is right next to it in our line of sight.

After Jupiter, the next planet out is Saturn, and it is like a golden eye in the head of Virgo. Its amazing ring system is still nearly edge-on to Earth, so it's not that bright now.

Next is blue-green Uranus, and it's relatively easy to find right next to Jupiter. Blue-Neptune is the last major planet out, but you'll need to check the online Sky & Telescope Finder Chart to locate it, as you will for tiny minor-planet Pluto, which reaches opposition to the sun later this month.

STARS

When the summer sky finally grows dark, almost directly overhead is the red giant star Antares. Given its color and brightness, it looks like Mars to the west, but Antares is easily identifiable by following the arc of the Big Dipper's handle. To the Southwest is Spica, the alpha star in Virgo. To the southeast is red super-giant Antares in Scorpion. To the east, Vega, the blue-white star in Lyra, is fast-spinning star in Vega, the blue-white star in Lyra, attracts your attention first, and Altair in Aquila is just above the eastern horizon.

Stars are attractive and like company, so many of them are actually double stars, but you often cannot see their lesser companions. Eta Carinae in the southern hemisphere is both massive and unstable, and it's getting steadily brighter, perhaps because it's blowing up mass and energy from its companion star, as they orbit each other every 5.5 years. That's fairly fast for a couple of hefty objects, but astronomers have now located a pair of white dwarf stars that orbit each other in only 5.5 minutes. "They're only about 25,000 miles apart, too tightly embraced to split them on direct observation, but the nature of their double identity is detectable from the pulsating x-rays they emit.

ALMANAC

June 4 - Last-quarter moon is high at sunrise, and it will appear small, as spogee was yesterday. As the moon's gravitational attraction is also being countered by that of the sun, tides are barely over 6 feet between high and low, but what goes down, must come up.

June 5 - Tonight, about halfway up in the southwest tonight, Mars is within a pinky-finger's width of Regulus.

June 6 - This morning around 4 a.m., see Jupiter next to the waning crescent moon.

June 8 - It's 2 a.m. and you can't sleep? Might as well grab your binoculars, run outside, find Jupiter and Uranus right next to each other.

June 12 - New Moon means no moonlight to wash our atmosphere with light, so tonight's best to set back in the lawn chair and scan the sky with binoculars.

June 14 - A long, thin crescent moon hangs below Venus in the dark.

June 15 - The moon at perigee, its closest to Earth this time around, and so nearly new, combines its pull with the sun's creating 12 foot tides and stirring up the atmosphere.

June 18 - Ceres, our planet's largest asteroid, reaches opposition today and can be found in the wee hours of the morning streaking through Sagittarius. That's Saturn's dawn's-width above the moon.

June 19 - First-quarter moon is high at sunset, and the next week is best for viewing the lunar surface, as the shadows cast by the mountains, craters and rills are long.

June 21 - Summer solstice occurs at 7:28 a.m. and makes for a long day and short night. Twilight begins at 2:39 a.m., sunrise is at 5:49 a.m., sunset is at 8:25 p.m., and twilight ends at 10:49, and by then the moon is up. This morning before dawn, Comet McNaught passes by Capella, the yellow alpha star in Auriga. This interloper from the Oort cloud was discovered just last year, and given its hyperbolic orbit, scientists think this is its first trip around the sun, and they don't know quite what to expect from it.

June 26 - Full "strawberry" moon sets at 4:56 a.m. and rises again at 8:48 p.m., but with our early spring, ye better have gathered ye berries before now.
**Around the bases**

**BY ILO HOLDRIDGE, GRADE 1**

**The Triple A Game**
Eleven kids — yes, in full uniforms! — had four games and won four games. They are the triple A baseball team from Peaks Island.

Mr. Bergh is the pitching coach. Mr. Sylvester is the catching coach. Mrs. Conrad is the general manager.

The Peaks Island team was playing Dorlings Hearing and Plumbing. The two teams played for six innings. Beau Boyle coached the Peaks team.

The game started at 3 p.m. The Peaks catcher for the first three innings was the Mokeme. The catcher for the remaining innings was Jerry Sylvester.

Peaks pitchers were Nick Boyle and Danny Hanley.

Peaks Island's team won. Additional games are every Monday or Tuesday and Saturday.

**ToaT**

We don't have full uniforms — we just wear hats and T-shirts. But that's not why the game is called T-ball (or Tee Ball).

Players hit the ball from a batting tee. Peaks Island T-ball coaches are John Holdridge and Meg Springer. We get lots of help from Kyle Green and Jamie Semion.

Each T-ball game is three innings. Each player bats and runs every inning. There are no outs.

We rotate players in the field so everyone gets a chance to play all positions.

We have 11 players, if everyone shows up.

Coach Holdridge said, "I was really happy with the game last week. The players played well; they were good sports and we all had fun!"

**Brushes with Obama**

**BY MAISIE WINTER, GRADE 3**

It was a warm spring Thursday in early April. Five lucky kids from Peaks Island went to see President Obama's motorcade. They were Lucia Daranyi, Maisy Davis, Elisa Membreño, Simone Daranyi and Calder Davis. They all went in one car with one brave parent, Ellen Mahoney.

"I thought I would faint," said Maisy.

Elisa said, "It's a dream."

They both said they never thought they would see President Obama in Portland, Maine, live.

Near the Expo, where the president spoke, they parked. They saw about 10 dark cars accompanied by Secret Service agents. The agents are not so secret, because everyone can see them, always hanging around the president and trying not to attract attention.

The kids raised a sign. It said: Thank You. The president's limousine approached. The president nodded and waved. Next to them, a young black girl, about 4 or 5, chanted, "Obama! Obama!"

Later, Audrey Byrne sent a "Flat Stanley" message to President Obama. In May she received a reply from the White House, returning the Flat Stanley drawing and including a letter from the president and his photograph.

"I was so happy," said Audrey.

**Peaks kids shine in solar technology**

The youngest competitors in the state, Peaks kids in grades three through five designed, built and actively willled their sun-powered cars across the finish line in the qualifying races for the Maine Junior Solar Sprint sponsored by the Maine Energy Education Program. Clockwise from left: Danny Hanley, Maisy Davis, Lily Ann Bergh, Arthur Johnson, Jameson Childs, Phineas Underwood and Nicholas Leong watch the start of a close heat.

The youngest competitor in the state, Peaks kid wins the first-place finish as Annissa Carey, on the winning team, rejoices; this car, made from an egg carton, went in the category of "Most Creative Use of Recycled Materials."

**Peaks J-Club**

*BY ISABELLA LEVINE, GRADE 2*

I think the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico is horrible. Remember, I live on an island.

I think that it would be horrible if I sat on the ferry looking out the window and saw a big, big, BIG puddle of dark water and I suddenly realized that the big puddle of water was actually oil.

Think about it. How would you feel? The answer is, probably bad. Bad, bad! Anyone or thing in the oil's path, especially endangered animals,
could get killed. And the oil will make lots more become endangered. How terrible.

How can we help the earth?

Don't be a litterbug. Go to the beach and pick up trash. You can also go in a friend's boat and pick up trash in the water.

If you have an old car or truck, slip cardboard under it to catch any leaking oil. If you find a leak, fix it.

To help repair the earth you can also plant trees. Trees take in carbon dioxide. Trees give off oxygen and you need oxygen to live.

Don't take or make more paper than you need—unless you make paper for other people.

Reuse water and soda bottles. Reuse small plastic containers and bags in lunch boxes.

Remember the three Rs: reduce, reuse, recycle. Remember to care of mother earth.

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**Students hatch and release trout in Sebago Lake watershed**

Riffles, runs and pools, a rocky bottom, shady spots and clean, fresh water. That's what brook trout need, and that's what Peaks fourth and fifth-graders found May 19 on Mill Creek (bottom photo), a tributary of the Presumpscot River in the Sebago Lake Watershed, where they released some 200 small fry they'd raised from the "eyed egg" stage.

The release was the climax of the school's participation in Portland Water District's TroutKids program, directed by Environmental Education Coordinator Lynne Richardson. Parents Tom Bergh and Jack Soley provided instruction.

The project began in January with the introduction of 300 eggs into an insulated tank equipped with a chiller and a filter to mimic the cold rushing water of a river. Students tended the tiny trout (top photo), made observations and monitored water temperature and pH.

The journey of 200 from hatchery to school to stream was a remarkably successful blend of a great deal of good stewardship and a little good luck. About a dozen other area schools raised trout, and in some cases none survived.

Photos by Mr. Thompson and class.

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**Clean Your Room in Three Easy Steps**

**BY ANNA MITCHELL**

1. A simple way to keep your room clean is to stuff everything under the bed.
2. Another way is to shove it in the closet.
3. The third way is to try to fit it on your shelves and in your drawers.

But wait!

Don't be so quick to leave, it's not as easy as it seems. When your parents ask you, "Did you clean your room?" you say "Yes!"

So take them up the stairs, through the hall and in the doorway to your room. Make sure that you are first into your room.

As you say to them, "Does it pass?" you should stand right in front of wherever you put all of your stuff. For example, if you put all of your junk under the bed, you should stand in front of your bed.

But remember, you should only use these methods about three times in a row. Then you should be ready to clean your room.

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**Seven Days of Daisy**

Story and pictures by Jamie Hogan, Peaks Island illustrator.

Take a colorful summer romp through the week as a young girl awaits a visit from her Nana. Available at The Peaks Cafe and GEM Gallery, Peaks Island and Casco Bay Lines. Or contact Jamie at 766-9726.
From the FIFTH MAINE

Whatever Happened to Peaks Island’s ‘Boston Post’ Cane?

BY KIM MACISAAC
FIFTH MAINE MUSEUM CURATOR

In 1909 Boston Post owner, Edwin A. Grozier, came up with a unique marketing idea for his struggling newspaper. He ordered several hundred very ornate, gold tipped canes and offered to donate one cane to each of some 700 towns in New England (no large cities were included).

The canes were crafted of black ebony imported from the Congo and topped with a 14 carat gold head inscribed “Presented by the Boston Post to the oldest citizen of [name of town].” Along the bottom it read, “To Be Transmitted”, which meant the canes belonged to the town, not to individual recipients.

It was to be presented to the oldest male resident as a way to honor his longevity. Women were not considered eligible to receive the cane and, hopefully, motivate them to purchase the newspaper.

A process was developed for determining who the oldest resident was. Basically, he or she had to be at least 90 years old and a resident of the town for a certain period of time, but each town used a variety of ways to search for the oldest resident.

The lucky recipient was honored with a public ceremony and presented with the cane and a birthday cake. When the honoree passed away or moved out of town the cane was presented to the next oldest resident. This became known as the Boston Post Cane Tradition.

In its day the Boston Post was considered one of the leading newspapers in the country. Upon Mr. Grozier’s death in 1924, ownership of the newspaper passed to his son Richard who was not as successful and eventually died in a psychiatric hospital. Competition caused the Post’s circulation to decline, and it ceased production in 1957.

Peaks Island had its own Boston Post Cane. The name of the first fortunate islander to receive it is lost to history as are the names of most of the recipients. The last known recipients were Ed Haeger and a Mrs. Watson - both passed away more than 20 years ago.

As the keeper of island traditions, the Fifth Maine would love to revive this old-fashioned yet lovely tradition. If only someone could locate the cane. Anyone having any information about Peaks Island’s Boston Post Cane or the lucky islanders who held it are urged to contact the Fifth Maine. Any information would be greatly appreciated.

Migratory piano returns to summer home

An example of the Boston Post cane inscription, this one given to a town in Massachusetts. from Fifth Maine collection until 1930.

Naturally, the cane’s inscription, “Boston Post”, was a not so subtle way to remind people of who provided the cane and, hopefully, motivate them to purchase the newspaper.

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Peaks Island is a truly special place, with its rocky shores, its woodlands and its wetlands. Your membership (only $15 individual/$25 family and one donation are crucial in helping us maintain our caves.

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Cover design by Jamie Hogan

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It Takes a Village
BY PATRICIA ERIKSON

Like most parents, I wish I could teach my child everything she needs to achieve a fulfilling life. And, like most children, she doesn’t want to learn everything from me, especially if it feels like I’m teaching her something. Sigh.

Then there’s the fact that there are certain skills that are not my forte. For example, I’m not the right person to teach her how to sew. Let’s consider the childhood memory of pinning her finger under the sewing machine needle as too traumatic for words here.

Also, I’m not the right person to teach her how to sail. My father was a gear head who thought he was allergic to canvas. Motorboats I can do. Sailboats? Not really. I’m the one who needs the lessons.

Wait! I could be the right person to show her how to ride a horse, or more importantly how to bury her face in the horse’s mane and make the rest of the world go away. But there hasn’t been room in my life for horse ownership in a number of years.

There are lots of things I do share with her, joyfully every day, but fortunately, for me, I live in a community of incredibly talented people who love to share with children. Perhaps it’s not surprising in such an amazing community that Peaks Island hosts seven, yes seven, summer day camps. Each camp, in turn, offers several different programs, including sewing, sailing, horseback riding, painting, cooking, and much more.

I’m the self-professed history geek (insert image of daughter rolling her eyes here), so my passion is developing children’s programs that explore the past and its connection with the present. This year I’m teaming up with Susan Hanley to offer a Civil War History camp, and with Jamie Hogan to offer a History Comic’s Camp, both at the Fifth Maine. And one of the Rovers’ theme weeks, all I’ll say is that it involves a treasure chest and an art show.

But, I’m also pleased to serve as coordinator for the new collaborative of camps on the island, Island Adventure Camps.

Whether you’ve only visited the island once or have summered here your entire life, it’s likely that there are summer camp programs that you might know nothing about.

Did you know you could learn to train ducks on the island? That you could immerse yourself in learning to speak French or experiencing Medieval times? Thanks to the generosity of the Peaks Island Fund and the supportive board and staff of the Peaks Island Children’s Workshops, the collaborative has produced a website “gateway” at www.pic.org/camps to answer any questions about camp offerings that you might have.

Check out all of the choices. Or, just get in touch with me and share your sewing machine needle stories.

Photo by Justin Palmer

Girl Scouts green up Trott-Littlejohn
BY JUDITH MCALLISTER

Members of the Peaks Island Junior Girl Scout Troup 1977, under the guidance of Troup Leader (and Master Gardener) Diane Ricciotti, planted three apple trees near the perimeter of the community garden on May 23.

Daisy Braun and Imogen Moxhay dug holes, mixed soil, planted and watered the trees, which were donated by the City of Portland for National Arbor Week, May 16 thru May 22.

City Arborist Jeff Tarling said the trees were all disease-resistant, semi-dwarf varieties of apple: an Empire, a Liberty and one unknown because the tag had been removed.

After the plantings, Imogen said, “It will be nice to see the trees here and that I helped to plant them. I feel proud to have helped.”

“I’m really excited to be able to come here and see the trees that I help planted, and eat the apples,” said Daisy, when she was finished.

Digging holes was no easy task because of the many rocks that lay buried under the grass, but the girls were hard working and got assistance from several adult helpers who took turns with a pick-axe to work the rocky ground.

The Girl Scouts also named the trees. The southernmost one is now called Prudence. Michelle is in the middle and Joe is farthest from the garden in the field beyond the fence.

The community garden, located at Trott-Littlejohn Park, is taking shape and individual plots will be planted within the next few weeks. There are still several plots available. If interested, please call Justin Palmer at 232-3353.

Imogen Moxhay (left) and Daisy Braun worked hard planting apple trees in Trott-Littlejohn Park on Sunday, May 23.

photo by Judith McAllister
ART
Roamings

Cast Changes in Collective

BY JAMIE HOGAN

The collective of island artists known as the Gem Gallery has seen some shifts in membership during the past year. The Gem's annual Affordable Art Show this year will include work by one of the newest artists to join the group, Paula Coward, who moved to Peaks Island two years ago.

"I fell in love with the progressive community here," she says.

Paula grew up in Hollywood and attended the Los Angeles High School of the Arts, and the California Institute of the Arts. Although she exhibited in the gallery circuit in Los Angeles, she found that art-making for her is a personal experience, like journal entries, taking note of things that happen.

While working at the California Institute of Arts after graduation, she applied for a grant from the Avery International Community Foundation, and embarked on a three month China Adventure Program, part of the Institute of Arts after graduation, she visited them and found Maine suited her.

Paula now has a daughter who attends the Peaks Island Children's Workshop where she met Kriston Chalmers, owner of the Gem Gallery. The idea of being part of a collective reawakened the spirit to show her art again.

Paula's work has been mostly figurative, with energetic line marks, in mixed media such as ink and watercolor. More recently, her work is becoming more abstract.

In preparation for a solo show at the Gem Gallery in late August, Paula has begun a series of mandalas on wood. Perhaps inspired by her Asian travels, or a more subjective experience, the mandalas integrate her love of pattern and color with a concentric focus.

"I start from the center and the process leads me to a maze of designs. Using a compass and ruler, over time, they become something meditative," says Paula. Her exhibit at the Gem Gallery will be from Aug. 26 to Sept. 1, the last in a series of weekly summer exhibits.

The Affordable Art Show kicks off with an artists' reception during PeaksFest Friday June 18 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. featuring the work of over 20 island artists. Besides Paula, other new members in the collective include Kathy Newell, Adam Wilson, Laura Glendening and Jackman Wood.

WE ARE X

Peaks Islanders Cole Caswell and Jessica George are opening a "rest stop for the curious public traffic" in the Eastland Park Hotel called WE ARE X, the space will blend the idea of gallery, shop and studio, featuring art, fashion, handmade objects and a very tiny closet darkroom.

To transform the interior from its previous incarnation as a brownie bakery, they ripped up the carpeting, created sub-floors and fabricated a large wooden table in the center of the shop. It is a place to make art, have conversations and connect with a mainland audience beyond Peaks Island. They will showcase work by a dozen artists, including Peaks Islander Carol Carter. On First Friday in June, WAX will host Bunker Brewery serving a ginger home brew.

ABOVE: Untitled by Paula Coward, ink and watercolor. BELOW: Cole Caswell and Jessica George (center) prepare their new gallery/studio, WE ARE X, in the Eastland Hotel, which opened May 28.

Both Jessica and Cole earned MFA degrees at Maine College of Art, and have participated in Art Walks and regional exhibits while teaching art courses at Southern Maine Community College. Jessica's work is in the juried Center for Maine Contemporary Art's 2010 Biennial, now showing at the CMCA in Rockport. She will speak about her creative process at the CMCA on July 1.

MAINE COMIC ARTS FESTIVAL

Last year's Maine Comic Arts Festival was such a hit, the event expanded into two days this year, and a doubling of participants. Unlike a typical "con" with vendors selling major label merchandise, the festival featured local artists with self-published books as well as highly acclaimed author/artists, such as Canadian Jeff Lamire whose "Sweet Tooth" is the new must-read comic of the year.

This week-long day camp on Peaks Island will explore the real stories of piracy in Casco Bay as inspiration for a comic made by campers. Patricia explained to the curious about the benefits of hands-on learning, visual literacy, and boarding the Bagheera the day was packed with not only a sword and imagined scalawags shouting from the masts. The camp is aimed at 11- to 14-year-olds, disappointing a few adventurous adults.

Patricia Erikson, cultural historian and instructor on the University of Southern Maine, recruited kids for the Fifth Maine's History Comix Camp, at a table laden with a pirate flag, a sword from the Fifth Maine Museum collection, and a treasure chest. Blank panel pages and pencils beckoned aspiring cartoonists in the crowd.

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Maine Comic Arts Festival

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Lamire was among the speakers featured at the Portland Public Library on May 22, along with long-time comic artist Jay Piscopo. From cartooning lessons, a lecture on the history of comics and a dissection of panel strategies to live action readings the day was packed with not only a sword and imagined scalawags shouting from the masts. The camp is aimed at 11- to 14-year-olds, disappointing a few adventurous adults.

Patricia recruited over 20 island artists. Besides Paula, other new members in the collective include Kathy Newell, Adam Wilson, Laura Glendening and Jackman Wood.
BY KEVIN ATTARA

Sunday, May 30 started out gray and cloudy, but gradually cleared into a light haze for the Memorial Day parade on Peaks Island, which started at 1:00 p.m. at the Lions Club. By the time everyone had gathered for hamburgers and hotdogs on the lawn of the American Legion it was a bright blue, hot summer day.

The event is organized each year by members of the American Legion post 142, the Ladies Auxiliary and Sons of the Legion. Pastor Beau Boyle and Legionnaire Chris Hoppin officiated. The U.S. Army National Guard, Coast Guard and Marines were also represented in the parade.

Clockwise from top: Pastor Beau Boyle gives the invocation at the Forest City landing; the commemorative wreath floats in the water at the landing where it was thrown by Becky Lynch of the Women’s Auxiliary of the American Legion Post 142; the color guard of the U.S. Coast Guard South Portland march up Welch after the dedication ceremony at the landing; members of the 133rd Engineers (left) and 488th Military Police of the Army National Guard gather beside their HumVees at the Legion before the start of the parade; members of Girl Scout Troop 1977 wave to the crowd during the parade; Mahoney Middle School’s marching band stands in formation at the Lions Club before the parade; Avery Haskell, 5, of Westbrook sits on the Norton's front lawn on Island Avenue and puts a sprig of hiba in her hair while waiting for the parade to start.

Peaks Island veterans remembered:

John A. Allen
Richard Arsenuait
Dorothy Berryman
Frederick Boyce
Frank Boyce
Richard Boyce
Robert Boyce
William E. Britton
James Brown
Joseph Cadle
B. Mary Cadin
Mildred Casey
Francis P. Collins
Joseph P. Costello
Richard Errico
Patricia Elwell
Harry W. Fikes
Stanley Foster
Jack Fuller
Richard Goochet
Willard Goodnow
William Goodnow
Daniel Hanton
John Horton
Thomas H. James
Charles Kane
James Kane
William Kane
Pauline Libby
Carl Lincoln
Albert J. McCann
Arthur MacVane
Douglas MacVane
James MacVane
Leslie MacVane
Doris Rand Richard
Bernard F. Moritzil
Carroll Morganfort
James O'Brien
Joseph Page
Donald Perry
Handy Perry
William Perryman
Ralph Perington
George Clifford Randall
Margaret Randall
Walter T. Randall
Alma Rice
Wade P. Rockafellow
Alanson St. Blanchard
Walter Somon, Senior
Osmand Shaw
John W. Shute
George Smith
Seamus Sullivan
Rino Tardiff
Richard Watson
Robert Welwerth
Baptist Church Services
Sunday service: 11 a.m. Bible Study, 11:30 a.m.
Worship. Wednesday Services: 7 p.m. Teen Nights Thursday at Peaks Island gym; 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Children's Workshop
Friday infant-toddler groups from 10:15 a.m. to 11 a.m. while the older preschoolers go to the library for story time. For more information about the program, please visit our website: www.pepsi.org; call 766-7954.

The Workshop would like to thank its volunteers on the board of directors and various subcommittees, and also those who work directly with the children: Virginia Horne, our foster grandparent; Sue Ellen Roberts, who volunteers with the children as a morning or two a week; Norm Ravala, our "Born to Read" volunteer. The volunteers add depth to the program and we love them!

Peaks Island Library
Nursery-Rhyme Time - Wednesdays at 11 a.m. If you are the parent or caregiver of a child between 3 and 5 years of age, you are invited to join us. Story Time for Preschoolers - Fridays at 10:15 a.m.

The Peaks Island library is located at 129 Island Ave in the Community Center building. Hours are: Tuesday 2 p.m to 8 p.m; Wednesday 10 a.m to 10 p.m; Thursday 10 a.m to 2 p.m and Sat and Sun 10 a.m to NOON. For more information call 766-5540 or visit www.portland.lib.me.us/peaks.html

Peaks Island Health Center
home-care nurse and management of chronic conditions such as hypertension, elevated cholesterol and diabetes, routine physical exams, gynecological exams, and psychiatric services. Marla Barsby, Assistant/Administrator. Hours: Mondays; Wednesdays & Sundays; Kitty Gilbert, FNP, sees infants to school-age on Tuesdays and Wednesdays; ANP, sees ages 13 and older 8:30 to 2:30p.m. Physician visits: Dr. Kristy Fulbright Wednesday, hours from 8:30 to 2:00; Dr. Margaret Brown Monday, June 28 from 13 to 2:00. Please call the office at 766-2929 to schedule appointments.
The health center is located at 87 Central Avenue in Peaks Island.

For more information visit www.gpmctb.org

Community Food Pantry
At the Children's Workshop, open Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. during the Workshop's hours. For more information, please contact Susan Hanley at ruan@ig.com

Patty's Old Books
Free delivery to Peaks Island residents. Contact by email at paje@globalnet.com or call 233-6177.

Reeling Electronics
To recycle your old cell phones or music players, drop them in the collection box by the bulletin board at the library. They will be reconditioned and distributed to those who need them.

Furniture & Building Materials Exchange
If you are discarding reusable furniture, cabinetry or building materials, please don't leave them at the transfer station to go into the landfill. Contact one of the two island email lists (canobbegg@tcom.com or choppin@tcom.com) and describe what it is and where to pick it up. If it's free, be sure to say so. These folks provide a wonderful opportunity to recycle and reuse. If you have smaller items, donate them to the rummage sale held at the Brackett Church on the first Wednesday of every month from 2 p.m to 5 p.m. And if all else fails, wait for a sunny day and put things in front of your house with a free sign. Nearly everyone's trash is somebody's treasure!

17th Annual Clamshell Race
Sunday, July 4, weekly relay race from the Linus Club to the Fifth Maine where one member collects a clamshell, hands it off to a partner who runs it to Centennial Beach and dips it in the water. Starts at 10:00 a.m. in Island Avenue in front of the Linus Club. Peters will be giving away relay teams for the youngest, oldest, and most family members involved as well as first boys team, first girls team, best fun team and on and on. Proceeds benefit the Peaks Island Health Center.

Summer Youth Bus Passes
For children and teens ages 18 and younger, $20 pass valid from June through August. Call 233-0317 or call 207-756-3450 to sign up for Peaks and Casco Bay, Island & Beyond!

Friends of the TELA Registration-- For "Camperships" begins in May for Peaks Island children who want to attend the club's sailing, tennis, and kid's camp program. All fees are paid by Friends of the TELA. Registration forms will be available at the Peaks Island School. Anyone interested in supporting this worthwhile endeavor either by volunteering or contributing financially should call Stephanie Castle at scastle@comcast.net or Barbara Hoppin at bahoppin@giant.com for more information.

Dance Classes
For class schedule and information contact Sharon at 776-5086 (cell) or by email, sharonu@gmail.com.

Yoga Classes
Contact Rebecca Stephens for the schedule at 766-5107 or rjyoga@ig.net.

Weight Training
Mondays and Thursdays 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the Community Room; ankle and hand weight training for strength and to encourage strong bones. Call Rhonda (248) for more information.

Summer Programs
Peaks Island Fiber Arts Camp will be offering eight one-week sessions this summer, from June 21 through August 13. Camp sessions include: Wilderness Crafts, Drawing & Painting on Peaks, Introduction to Fiber Arts, Creative Felting, Colonial Camp, Medieval Camp and French Camp. Please contact Susan Hanley, 332-2443, suanm@ig.com or Laura Glaubinger, 766-5703, laugla@ig.com for more information.

The Fifth Maine
A month of fun with Renaissance Voices, Sunday, June 6 at 7:00pm; 16. Jazz Night with Ronda Dale, Annie O'Brien & Friends, Saturday, June 12 at 7:00pm; 17 adult/16 youth & seniors; Songwriters Night with Ramblin Red and Connor Garvey, Saturday June 19 at 7:00pm; 18. Truth About Daisies Friday, June 25, 17 adult/15 children & seniors; Pancake Breakfast, Sunday, June 27 from 8:00am to 11:00am. 17 adults/14 children under 12.

The Eighth Maine--a living museum and lodge built in 1891 as a summer residence for the Civil War veterans. It features 12 rooms for overnight guests and history filled, guided tours daily from 11 am until 5pm. HistoricMaine.org. Call 766-5986 for reservations.

Brackett Church Services

Annual Blood Drive
The Peaks Island Annual Blood Drive, sponsored by the American Red Cross, will be held Tuesday, July 6 from 12:00 - 5:00 pm, at Greenwood Gardens.

Portland Recreation
Walk Program - Monday and Thursday morning at 8:35 (meet at community building). Indoor stretching when weather doesn't cooperate. Low-Impact Aerobics, weather dependent Mondays and Thursdays morning from 9:30 to 10:30. Adult Table Tennis Tuesdays afternoons from 2:45 to 4:00. For more info, contact Denise Macausland, Recreation Programmer, at 766-2790, or e-mail: dmacausland@mainetelco.com. Additional activities and updates can be found on island bulletin board.

Community Food Pantry
At the Children's Workshop, open Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. during the Workshop's hours. For more information, please contact Susan Hanley at ruan@ig.com.
Tuesday, June 1
Peaks Island Library First Tuesday Book Discussion - at 7 pm in the Community Center. 129 Island Avenue. Light Lunch by Monica Ali, moderated by Mary Douglas. To reserve call (766-5540) or email peakslibrarian@portlandlibrary.com and include your library card number. Please contact the library if you have a copy to share.

Saturday, June 5
Taxi Demonstration at the Maine Wildlife Park on Rte 24 from 11am to 2pm. Taxi Driver Dana Sosseck and Tom Berube will demonstrate mounting a deer head and waterfowl from start to finish. The Maine Wildlife Park is owned and operated by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to promote understanding and awareness of state wildlife, conservation and habitat protection programs and projects.

Sunday, June 6
Afternoon of Singing on the Grounds 3:30pm at the Brackett Memorial United Methodist Church. Chorus from Greater Portland and Casco Bay United Methodist Churches will provide an afternoon of spirit. Pianist, piano, Del, and a piano. Info (207) 766-5013, www.brackettememorial.org. Laura Glendening, Administrative Assistant, Rev. Deborah H. (Doug) Lamot, Pastor.

Monday, June 7
Portland Recreation First Monday Fun For Preschoolers (must be accompanied by an adult). Enjoy our own parade, complete with flags, pills, flowers, and more. Anytime between 11am and noon in the community garden.

Garden Day - 1-5pm at Trout Lake Park. Help plant herbs and flowers at the community garden plot of the "Portland Recreation Center." Personal plant donations accepted. Bring sun hat, sun glasses, sun screen, water and garden gloves if you have them.

Retirement Party for third-grade teacher Wendy Litchfield, celebrating 23 wonderful years! $5/pp in the Peaks Island School gym. Potluck, everyone is invited. Contact Robin Walden at walden@portlandschools.org.


Tuesday, June 8
Statewide Primary & Referendum Elections 7am to 8pm. Voters must be enrolled in a party to participate in the Primary Election. Unenrolled voters can enroll in a party at City Hall or their polling place through June 8. The Referendum Election is open to all voters. Peaks Island residents will also be voting in a special election for a member of the Peaks Island Council. City Clerk Sue will be open Saturday, June 5 from 8am to Noon for voter registration, or absentee ballots also available online at www.portlandmaine.gov/elecitonst/elecitonstool.html.

Saturday, June 12
Jamboree in Maine. 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm, produced by Maine Singer's Atelier. Director Julie Goell, featuring Annie O'Beirne, Ronda Dale and Julie Goell with guest cameo performances by other Atelier members and accompanist Kevin Attra.

Thrill Shop at Brackett Memorial Church 9am to 10am.

Wednesday, June 9
3rd Annual Word Parade; early afternoon along Island Avenue. Students at the Peaks Island School will march to the library dressed as their favorite words. Catch them along the parade route or go to the Community Center for a better view. Check library for exact times.

Sunday, June 13
All Church Picnic, 11:30am at the Yellow Cottage on the Rocks (84 Scarboro) or at Brackett Fellowship Hall in case of rain. Everyone is welcome.

Community Forum on Public Use of trout Littlejohn Park at 6:40pm in the MacVane Community Center. Informal brainstorming and organizational meeting to discuss public uses of the park and plan against undesirable future development. Sponsored by the Peaks Island Environmental Action Team.

Loaf and Ladle Dinner- make-your-own sub sandwiches with all the fixings and condiments, as well as side dishes, appetizers and the best desserts you have ever tasted. Join us at the Peaks Island Baptist Church Hall from 5pm to 7pm. Adults $6 and children $2.50. Proceeds benefit Tax Assistance.

Thursday, June 17
Travelogue - Island Of Hawaii (Croatia) 1pm in the community room. Guest speaker, Linda Forkapic, Library Ed Tech at Peaks Island School, will share the beauty of her home island in Croatia. Students welcome.

Friday, June 18
Peaks Fest - Activities run from 8pm to 10pm with Scenic Jazz at TEIA 6:30pm, followed by BINGO till 10pm with a Cooked Food benefit and scavenger hunt Kick-off and juneenth BBQ at the Brackett Church. www.peeksfest.com for details.

"Mystery" Tea on Peaks Island, Pre-registration required/sign-up sheet on Denise's bulletin board in Community Center.

Open Mic Night - 5pm at the Brackett Memorial Church. Stories, music, poetry, maybe dance to share, and enjoy a fun-filled evening. For more information contact Sam Saltonstall, 899-0922.

Saturday, June 19
Peaks Fest - Activities run from 8am to 10pm with tours of Peaks and House islands, and exhibits from numerous businesses and organizations, the Giant Yard Sale and Barbecue lunch at the American Legion, the MIWGO Outer Green kayak race, Kids games and storytelling down front, a kanzo parade, pie contests and the Songwriters by the Sea concert at Fifth Maine (see www.peeksfest.com for details).

Ladies Auxiliary Unit No. 54 Pancake Breakfast at the American Legion Hall (8am to 11am) with pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, hash browns, fruit, juice and coffee. Suggested donation $6 adults, $4 children under 12. All proceeds benefit the Ladies Auxiliary Scholarship Fund.

Fish Print-making with Jerri Blair in the Community Room 8am to 9:30am. This modern version of an art invented in the early 1800s by Japanese fisherman to record their catch uses rubber molds and tempera paint.

Peaks Fest Dock Day for island artists, crafts people, non-profits and other organizations to market and showcase themselves down front. To reserve a space call June at 207-993-0953 or visit PeaksFestDockDay@gmail.com.

Open House for Peaks Island Fiber Arts Camp, 8am to noon at 77 Sterling Street and 108 Brackett Avenue. See book binding, weaving, plant-dyeing, painting, felting, medieval illuminations and mud-dye cooking. Laura Glendening 766-5705 Susan Hady 332-2443.

Sunday, June 20
Peaks Fest - Activities run from 8am to 9pm with more tours on Peaks and House islands, the Lions Club pancake breakfast, historic schooner cruises, the Common Hound fair, softball game and concert at Brackett Church. www.peeksfest.com for details.

Brackett Church Support, 5pm to 6:30pm, concert and free ice cream. Open and free to everyone. For more information please call Wally Fischer, 758-0923.

Sunday, June 27
TEIA Family Picnic, 1pm, music by Ronda Dale, Kevin Attra and Johnny Clarine. Pancake Breakfast at the Fifth Maine from 8am to 11am. $7 adults and $4 children under 12.

Monday, June 28
Afternoon at the MOVIES The Blind Side (PG-13/120 minutes) at 1pm in the community room.

Tuesday, June 29
Story and Craft 7pm in the Community Room. The first of free programs by Mrs. Crowley-Rockwell for children ages 5 to 8, continuing through July.