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Mary Lou Wendell
David Tyler

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City makes “two-track” negotiation proposal

By David Tyler
City of Portland negotiators have proposed a “two-track” negotiations meeting as part of the secession process.

The proposal is that the city negotiates with the Island Independence Committee (ICC) in one of two meetings:

1. With Solutions, not Separation, as the first track.
2. With ICC, as the second track.

The city also will ask if anyone is interested in contributing to the ICC’s initiative.

The city intends to take the ICC’s proposal to its next meeting on Aug. 30.

Chebeaguer create company to provide high-speed internet

By David Tyler
On Chebeague Island, islanders could often be seen parked outside the library at night, their laptops open, to take advantage of the library’s high-speed wireless internet connection.

That’s because of a private company that operate offered high-speed internet in island residents. So with typical island resourcefulness, a group of 12 Chebeaguer got together to form their own internet company to get the island connected.

The company, chebeague.net, was incorporated July 28 when 12 islanders put $60,000 in capital to get started, according to David Hill.

The Norway maple in Phil Munn’s yard was planted 100 years ago this year. It may be one of the oldest trees on Peaks Island.

Photo by Mary Lou Wendell

After 100 years, this Peaks Island maple is still going strong

By David Tyler
In 1906 the late Margaret Randall planted a Norway maple tree in front of Winchester Cottage on Peaks Island when she was just a young girl.

This year is the 100th anniversary of that planting. The tree has had support cables put in, “but it’s still a healthy tree. It’s a lawn to go,” said Stanwood Newell, who runs Stanwood Newell Tree Service and has taken care of the tree since the past 25 years.

After Newell pruned the tree in early August he and Phil Munn, who now owns Winchester Cottage, talked about what the 75-foot-tall tree means to them.

“This is a big tree,” said Munn. He has appreciated the tree since 1986, when he first rented the cottage. “Everybody who’s seen it feels it is beautiful,” Munn said.

Newell is impressed by the tree’s majesty and by the size of it.

The city also will ask if anyone is interested in contributing to the ICC’s initiative.

The city intends to take the ICC’s proposal to its next meeting on Aug. 30.

Chebeague.net’s chief executive officer and Hill is the chief operating officer and they both contributed money to the new company.

Hill is extremely grateful for the other 10 investors who made this project happen. It said it is independent of the town’s network, but that he preferred not to name them.

Hill and Johnson had approached Verizon and Time Warner about establishing high-speed internet. “We weren’t getting anywhere, so we finally came to the conclusion that there’s only one way to do this—that is, to do it ourselves,” said Hill.

They are working with another company, Mainly Wired, which is supplying the technical knowledge and training and will do the first connections to homes.

A private mainland company hooked up one home to a high-speed internet in 2005, but then pulled out, according to the chebeague.net Web site.

In early September, a dedicated data line that was already hooked up to the Chebeague Island line will be re-activated, Hill said. Owner Martha Dunman is helping the company by allowing a 15-foot antenna to be installed on a roof to run along with other computer equipment in the home.

Cliff applies for new state pay phone program

By David Tyler
Three years ago the only pay phone on Cliff Island was removed. Islanders fought back and helped get a state public-interest pay phone law passed. On Aug. 9 at the Island Association’s annual meeting, residents filled out an application for Cliff Island to receive a pay phone through a new state program that provides pay phones where they are not provided by phone companies and would help the public health, safety and well-being.

In addition, 41 Cliff Island residents signed a petition for Cliff to be designated the first public-interest payphone, if their application is approved.

State Rep. Herb Adams (D-Portland) sponsored a bill to create the new program after hearing from constituents who had lost pay phones due to cost cutting by phone companies.

Cliff Island residents sought help on PHONE, page 11

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In Brief

No rehab work on dirt roads

There will be no major rehabilitation of any dirt roads on Peaks Island this year, according to Public Works Island Services Supervisor A.J. Alves. "We're just working away at the pot holes," he said. The island crew, which consists of six workers on Peaks and one each on Great Diamond and Cliff Island, has been hampered by rainy weather in the spring and early summer. "It was raining so hard, with the washouts on the paved roads, we have to do that before we get to the dirt roads," Alves said. And the rain made it difficult to do any work on dirt roads. "You've got to let them dry out—if you add gravel to water you just create mud," he said. The island crew has also been busy with heavy-item pick-up and with its regular duties, Alves said. "We just have so many things that we do that are weather-related." —David Tyler

Operation Helmet a success

The island effort to raise funds to provide helmet liners for soldiers serving in Iraq was a tremendous success. Long Island resident Judy Paulini started a drive in June to raise money through the group Operation Helmet to provide helmet liners for Long Island soldier Corp. Steven Early is the new city official responsible for public works on Portland's islands. Early assumed the job after Bob Cook retired on July 29 after 25 years with the Department of Public Works. Early, who is the DPW's street and utilities manager, said that the role he plays in the department is essentially that of operations manager. This will be helpful for the islands, because he is the one in charge of mainland crews that help with island work. "I have this whole operations crew that I have available," he said. "With the islands being under me it will be more seamless." For example, some of his crews did much of the work on the Peaks bathroom. When asked about island priorities, Early mentioned the hazardous waste pick-up day that was held on Peaks in August, which he said would become an annual event. He would like to expand recycling from Peaks to all the other city islands.

On Cliff Island, the main priority is to get the new barge landing constructed. In the mean time, the DPP has to negotiate permission with a landowner to make barge landings. And the city has been picking up the trash at the state pier, dumping the trash onto an empty container on a barge. It's a logistical hassle for us, we have to work at low tide," he said. "But they say it will be at least one or two years before the new barge landing is finished.

On Great Diamond Island, the city is planning to build a parking lot and to get the current parking lot up to specifications. Right now, vehicles are parked along the side of the road on Diamond Avenue. The city just signed a 99-year-lease on a parcel of land on the right side of Diamond Avenue, as you approach the gates for Diamond Cove Associates. "That's a big priority for us, so we can get the equipment off the road for the winter. Once the lot is finished, a container can be left there so the island can begin recycling again," Early said.

Restoring roses

Jane Gerard and Jim Lauzier, who owns Lauzier Family Gardens, are heading up an effort to restore the Rugas Roses in the downtown from parking lot on Peaks Island. Once the new bathroom was installed "we lost all the roses," she said. "It used to look so beautiful with all the roses." The City is going to provide $2,000 to purchase roses and a dumpster, said Tom Porter, the city's island neighborhood administrator. Gerard said the dumpster will be necessary to dispose of all the weeds that need to be pulled. Porter said the roses will be purchased from Lauzier Family Gardens. Volunteers will be needed for this project, which will take place on a weekend in September, Gerard said. Volunteers will clear out weeds, put new grass down, and place the roses, she said. Volunteers should wear grubby clothes; bring gloves and a shovel, if you own one. Porter said he and City Councilor Will Gorham will help out, along with staff from the City Parks and Recreation Department. Those interested should keep an eye on the bulletin board for the date.

Fishing tradition continues

This summer, at an event attended by many Chebeague Island residents, Alex Todd hosted his new, 42-foot-long boat, Jacob and Joshua. The boat is named for Alex and Heidi Todd's two children, Jacob, 8 and Joshua, 5. Todd, who grew up on Chebeague Island, is the twelfth generation of his family to work in the fishing industry. He lobstered in Casco Bay and plans to bring the new boat to go groundfishing, shrimp fishing, and scalloping, he said. Before this, he owned a 35-foot-long Novi boat. He hopes to be able to use more of the 26 days he is allotted to do groundfishing with the new boat, which has a greater radius. The new boat carries 400 gallons of fuel compared to 200 gallons in the old boat and has a fish hold, which he did not have in the old one.

The hull was molded at H&H Marine in Steelhead, he said. They also installed the QSL Cummins 400-horse engine and the drive shaft. But Todd did all the rest of the work to complete the boat, starting in January 2005.

Todd had help building his boat from Harold Stewart of Long Island, his father, Danny Todd and his brother, Stephen Todd, Justin Doughty, Rusty Parmenter and Zach Mills. His sternman is Graham Hartford.

So far this summer he's pleased with his new boat. "It's working great," Todd said.

Transition meeting upcoming

The selection of the Chebeague Island Transition Committee has been set for Sun., Sept. 10 at 1 p.m. at the Chebeague Island Fire Station.

This is the official beginning of the transition of Chebeague Island from being part of Cumberland to becoming its own town, which will happen July 1, 2007. The meeting will be moderated by Cumberland Town Councilor Stephen Moriarty and Town Clerk Nadeen Daniels will run the meeting.

At this meeting, those who are registered to vote on Chebeague will elect nine people to become the Transition Committee.

Meet the Inn on Peaks Chefs. L to R: Chris Rockwell, Kevin Heenan. Craig Pacheco Sr., Bill Hinderer, and Executive Chef Chris Gordon

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For Events:
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Bathroom clogged

There is an ongoing problem with the new public bathroom on Peaks Island getting clogged up, said Tom Fortier, the city’s island/neighborhood administrator. The weekend of Aug. 26-27, the toilet was found clogged with rocks and seashells. “Hopefully this is not an act of sabotage, as it is just kids playing around,” said Fortier. The bathroom was supposed to be fixed by Aug. 30.

Cats trapped

Three wild cats were trapped in early August in the Torrington Point/Greenwood Street section of Peaks Island, according to Tom Fortier, the city’s island/neighborhood administrator. Fortier said there are about 30 wild cats in this area, which pose a hazard to people and their pets. He has stopped the trapping for the time being because the place he was taking the wild cats, the Animal Rescue League of Westbrook, is full. “They would still take the cats, but they would be put down,” Fortier said. “I don’t want to risk that — I’d rather do it when the shelter is able to take them.” He does plan to continue the effort, working with Police Officer Randy Richardson, so residents in this area should make sure that their domestic cats have a collar or have tags.

In addition, Fortier said he received a complaint of two raccoons from a resident of Windy Way. He will work with that resident to trap the raccoons and release into the wild on the mainland.

Preservation effort launched

A collaboration between public and private conservation groups was celebrated in a ceremony held on Aug. 22 at the Maine Maritime Museum Bath.

The program, called the Maine Coast Protection Initiative, was started in 2003 and seeks to bring together land trusts, state and federal agencies, municipalities as well as landowners, fishing and conservation groups to help preserve coastal land. The initiative was started because of economic and demographic pressures on the coastline. “Maine’s coastal zones represents essential component of a unique coastal and estuarine ecosystem and the backdrop for the region’s rich cultural heritage,” according to a statement on the Maine Coast Protection Initiative Web site. “The Maine coast is also the foundation of an expanding regional economy based on tourism, commercial fishing, manufacturing and services,” according to a statement on the Web site of the program. “While the coastal zone represents just 15 percent of Maine’s land area, it contains more than 40 percent of the state’s population. This coastal region continues to absorb nearly all of the state’s economic and population growth.”

One of the players in the new program, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Coastal Service Center, based in Charleston, S.C., is also providing grant money for this new initiative. The project’s primary sponsors are: The Maine State Planning Office, Maine Coast Heritage Trust, the Land Trust Alliance and the Coastal Service Center, according to the Web site for Maine Coast Protection Initiative (www.protectcoastmaine.org).

There are over 70 other organizations taking part in the program including the Cape Elizabeth Land Trust, the Casco Bay Estuary Project, Friends of the Royal River, the Island Institute, the Maine Island Trail Association, the Oceanaside Conservation Trust, the Phippsburg Land Trust and the Yarmouth Land Trust.

The long term goals of this new program are increase support and funding for coastal land conservation; providing technical and professional support for land trusts so they can be effective, long-term stewards and create a network of conservation land that protects coastal habitats while also supporting commercial and recreational uses.

The program includes $250,000 in grants to increase the professional and technical capacity of land trusts. There is also $220,000 focused on organizations creating data and working with other groups on coastal land preservation.

Already, $70,000 was awarded to three engaging resource centers along the Maine coast. The Royal River Conservation Trust was awarded $33,000 to help build a new organization of three small mid-coast land trusts. The grant allows the group to hire a part-time stewardship coordinator and better follow-up on land and conservation projects.

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OSTAL TIMES

PAGE 3

September 2006

ISLAND TIMES

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Full treatment?

In a letter to the editor (June 20), I have been called selfish and divisive because I favor secession. Let me describe for you my current situation and then you can judge whether I am selfish or divisive.

1. My current land, on which my cabin is located, is assessed at $3,167,000 per acre.

2. My current annual real estate tax is greater than what I paid for my land and cabin when I purchased it.

3. My cabin is on the intersection of two dirt roads, which wash out into a series of runs at least once a year.

4. This season I will use my cabin for only a few days out of the five and a half months that water is available.

I pay for my share of the garbage collection through the purchase of hugs.

6. Once my mail is forwarded, there is only a minimum fee for Peaks Island.

7. I am taxed but have no representation.

There are new rules for vehicles waiting to be- or es-cap-e, would you want to be next in line and be given the right of the road?

Can anybody see anything wrong with the scenario where the U.S. negotiating partners at the Paris Peace Accords are the Viet Cong?

Let's get more contemporary. Israelis helped it negotiate a cease-fire with Hezbollah. Nothing wrong with that picture right?

(continued if you think you or your group is being compared to terrorists, gorillas fighters, or es-sages, get a grip. They are just examples. Any resemblance to persons living or dead, living on this island or dead on this island, is purely in the fevered brow of the author.)

Let me get straight this the group that didn't want the secession vote to come to me. Let me get that straight. I am a member of the negotiating team with the city. And they don't see anything odd about that?

The committee is democratic. Folks, it ain't always pretty. Yes, to the victors go the spoils. Along with a responsibility to be responsive to minority needs. But that doesn't mean let your opposition allies in as part of the negotiations with the opposing entity.

Unless you think Derek Jeter should help Doug Mirabeli train Craig Hansen.

O.K. O'Brien, Peaks Island

Democracy is not always pretty

Final Welch Street plan presented

BY ROE KANE

A plan for improving public safety in the area of the ferry landing was finalized at a public meeting on Aug. 15, hosted by the Peaks Island Transportation Committee.

The plan represents the efforts and views of a significant cross-section of year-round and seasonal Peaks Island residents and business people over several months of public meetings. The Peaks Island Transportation Committee was formed following the Peaks Island Today and Tomorrow meeting in February 2008.

The plan has also been reviewed with Tom Forster, the city's island neighborhood administrator and former transportation engineer, and both of whom attended the Aug. 15 meeting.

The plan itself is a comprehensive extension of existing practices, focusing on having clear and enforceable rules and regulations for vehicular and pedestrian traffic and parking on lower Welch Street and on the west side of Island Avenue in both directions from Welch Street. It represents a best effort to accommodate everyone's needs, while keeping things as simple and safe as possible.

Some parts of the plan will take time to implement and others. The committee will work to make the plan and its implementation as visible as possible and expects that where ticketing or towing is planned, warnings will be given for an indefinite amount of time.

The following is a brief summary of the main points of the plan. The plan in its entirety can be viewed at www.piainfo.org and click on item under "Headlines" dated Aug. 16.

Rather than trying to force arriving pedes-trians onto the sidewalks on lower Welch Street, they should be encouraged to leave the area of the ferry landing as promptly as possible, using the street if they must linger, they should do so on the sidewalks.

The overall goal is to keep vehicle traffic stopped while the boat is in and passengers are disembarking in and out of the direction of the ferry crew.

Four parking spaces on the north side of Welch Street, below the Ijoneck driveway, are set aside. One is for the volunteer taxi, two for those who are disabled, frail, elderly or have a medical need and one for the Peaks Island Police. These vehicles should arrive before the ferry does and remain there until pedestrian traffic in the street clears.

The turnaround at the parking lot entrance will be one way (clockwise). 15-minute parking only and drivers must stay with their vehicles (they are required to move their vehicles). Double parking is allowed. Vehicles in the turnaround should remain there until pedestrian traffic in the street clears.

The entrance to the parking lot will be a "no parking or standing" zone, prominently marked as such.

There are new rules for vehicles waiting for the car ferry in the busy summer months. The current designated parking spaces on Welch Street will be reserved for waiting vehicles year-around. On Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, from Memorial Day through Labor Day, between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. additional parking spaces on the west side of Island Ave. from Welch Street to the 15 minute zone in front of the Post Office will be reserved for waiting vehicles.

A 72 hour parking limit will be enforced in the island lot on Welch Street and on the developed lots on Island Avenue southwinds from the intersection with Welch St.

Additional bicycle racks will be installed on the east side of the accessible pathway, and turnaround to the wastewater treatment plant, beside the parking lot barrier and between the existing light poles.

The committee wishes to thank everyone who worked and commented on this plan and hopes that, with the help of the City of Portland, it can be implemented in a timely, efficient and safe way.

Joseph Kane represents the Peaks Island Transportation Committee.

Letter to the editor

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This island life

BY GEORGE ROSOL

The World Book of Records should list Peaks Island as staging more variety shown than any other community of its size, anywhere. The 2006 series was, simply stated, loaded with free, unscripted, and unplanned.

For those of you who missed out, here were the events:

A daredevil tap dancer tripping around a stage loaded with live, un-handled, and unhappy lobsters. An 18-month-old girl bared her sharp teeth when the performer recited: "The Week of the Pussycat." A rapper broke dancing with a fire cracker in his back pocket set to go off in five minutes.

A guest stand-up comedy routine by Bob the Barber. Impersonators he the car-loads with pretty fair copies made of Richard Nixon, Ed Sullivan, and Groucho and Donkey, as well as other island notables.

There were island sound effects: howling wind, crashing surf, dog fights, cat fights, dog-owner and cat-owner differences.

Great excitement island-wide with the appearance of our tax bills. The fiscally endangered town of Peaks formed the Slippery Slope Seniors coalition to cope with numbers that are at historic highs.

"This trend where crossword puzzle solvers are moving to the Sudoku camp. Can it lead to the day when we converse numerically?" (Level two: This simple language with its nine-letter alphabet may slow or reverse the advance of civilization if adopted."

It could be a good thing, like rebalancing and starting over. Also, evolutionary forces, now comfortable with our decimal makeup of tenths and tentimes, may take a hand in this and go for nine digits.

It just had to happen. I have observed, as an amateur astronomer, how our stars affect what we eat or what we should eat. I combined astrology with gastronomy giving us astrology to live by.

It is as simple minded as, say, astrology. Aries (Ram) - foods that enhance romantic notions. Taurus (Bull) - diets of red meat for vigor and athletic prowess. Gemini (Twins) - small portions, usually two of whatever is eaten. Cancer (Crab) - diets of shellfish and happy meals to control our dispositional eruptions. Leo (Lion) - foods that are surprisingly spicy, sharp, crunchy, snappy.

Virgo (Virgin) - processed and organic only, please, with as little handling as possible. Libra (Scales) - portion controlled, low fat, vegetarian, vegan. Scorpio (Scorpion) - eats that sting and punish exotic and raw, Sagittarius (Hunter) - lean meats, preferably caught in the wild, mushrooms and foraged foods, Capricornus (Goat) - anything edible. Aquarius (Water-Bearer) - liquid and pureed diets (yuck). Constant water bottle suckers are totally Aquarian.

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Chebeague Chronicles

In this issue the Island Times introduces the new Chebeague Island columnist, D. J. Colbeth, who taught English in the Cumberland school system. She will continue the island column started by Gordon Murphy, who stopped writing in June after he and his family moved off the island. We are extremely excited to have the Chebeague column back in the paper and we know you’ll enjoy Colbeth’s writing.

By D. J. Colbeth

I imagine that if you asked any of the Chebeaguers who live here or summer here what it is about the island that speaks to them, they might tell about their love of the place, or of the people or of the independent spirit of island living. Perhaps it is, in part, all of these connections that influence how we conduct ourselves and the business of being of an island community.

Second Wind Farm

On a cold, gray day last February, Chuck Varney began a job he would not be able to finish, the clearing of forested land that would become a roadway leading to a Royal Hill Road subdivision. He was to continue the clearing to accommodate three house lots with accompanying septic systems and winding driveways. Nine years earlier, Chuck was offered these same eight acres plus seven more and a small farmhouse for the sum of $70,000 because the owner, an longtime islander, trusted that he would care for the land and use it well. “I didn’t even walk the property at the time,” he said, “as I didn’t want to fall in love with something I couldn’t have.”

His second day on the clearing job, he said he was so sad thinking about an old island way of life going out the door that he began formulating a plan that would replace that of a subdivision with that of a working farm. But now the price of a little better than half the original 15 acres minus the farmhouse was $470,000.

He thought about it and he wrote about it in a poem he titled, “Yes. This Is Sad.” I may be a man of lesser means. But I’ve been dreaming farming dreams...

And what were Chuck’s farming dreams: a community-based farm that would sell fresh fruits and vegetables, a greenhouse that would grow flowers, plants and shrubs, a barn that would house exhibits of past and present farming equipment and provide a place to do spinning, an artisans’ gallery and pastures that would hold sheep and alpacas. This is a part of what he dreamed.

And so he approached the owner of the land and offered him his own home and land in exchange for the subdivision. And eight acres more.

And that, he said, “was the beginning of some serious negotiating.” In the end, he made a deal that did not require him to give up his home but would require him to figure out a way to pay off a hefty loan in three years. It’s to be good work, he says, when he speaks of his farm. “I don’t want to take a new truck, make a cigar and say, look what I’ve done. This project is big enough for everybody has something to offer. It’s a cooperative venture which I hope will create jobs for other islanders.”

Already, some folks have volunteered their services, their time and their money to help bring a farm and a community meeting is planned in the fall to discuss the necessary details that will keep this project moving forward. In the meantime, if you are interested in helping, please call Chuck Varney at 846-0503.

Theater at the hall

Theater at the Chebeague Island Hall has provided a stage for local actors for over a century. From the minstrel shows staged during WWI with proceeds going to the Red Cross to this year’s productions, “Hello Dolly” and “Love List” with proceeds going to community projects, it’s always been about the island people who give of themselves while entertaining their friends and neighbors.

The August production of “Hello Dolly” featured island actors and stagehands from all walks of life: a carpenter, a surveyor, a college student, a professor, a fashion designer, a rug dealer and more.

And how did they prepare? Some were heard muttering their lines while walking down the road or travelling on the boat, one young man took a few days off from work to polish his lines and Dolly was reported to have been hearing singing coming from a packed house three nights running. “Love List,” a readers’ theater production, featured a masterful cast of three (B.J. Abrahamson, Mary Holt and Rich Brewer) who sometimes read the scripts they held and other times abandoned them and made it up as they went along. This created a delightfully light element of surprise for both the audience and the actors. Here’s hoping that we will see all three again next summer in another round of adult readers’ theater.

Independence

Earlier this summer, there were multiple sightings of a pick-up truck sporting a homemade bumper sticker that read: “I believe in self-government. I’ll govern myself and you govern yourself.” And so it goes that islanders generally know how to govern themselves and yet take care of each other at the same time. I suspect it’s an old island tradition belonging to whichever island in the bay you call home.

Dj Colbeth is a retired teacher who currently holds her island’s community record as she traveled to and from her mainland job for 37 years. She holds no other known records. Currently she works at the Chebeague Boat Yard and is threatening to write a book about the unique relationships of people to their boats.

Page 6

Chebeague Island Times

September 2006

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Cliff Island News

By LEA CARTER

Activity on Cliff Island reaches a crescendo every August. House rentals boom, and many summer regulars manage to return to their homes or offices in the city, only to be replaced by tourists and gulls, autos and animals. Boats and bikes all move about, creating a buzz that is distinctive, with the sound of tennis strings, the pound of jogging feet, and the breeze for friendly talk.

This brief population surge creates a kind of Brigadoon, which melts into the ping of tennis strings. The pound of joggers and the whisper of tourists combine to soothe the tensions of the week.

People gathered to enjoy a delightful selling, good food and a chance to share thoughts with friends.

ACE holds picnic

ACE Athletics, Conservation and Education sponsored a picnic at Griffin’s Cove in the late afternoon of August 6. More than 100 people gathered to enjoy a delightful setting, good food and a chance to share thoughts with friends.

The ACE board voted at its August 15 annual meeting to make Earl MacVane, who is retiring from its board, Trustee Emeritus in honor of his extensive service to the island over many years. Earl joins Tony Brackett as the only people to have been so honored by ACE. The board also elected Ben Bernard as a new trustee.

The group reviewed progress on many projects such as trail maintenance, breakwaters, ACE Olympics and the summer recreational program, which voted to continue.

The management of dogs at the Griffin’s Cove area was discussed, and after four years of allowing leashed dogs in the area it was voted by an overwhelming majority to ban dogs from the beach due to safety and sanitary considerations.

On August 21 a trio led by Myana Pontoppidan’s saxophone held forth with jazz from the top drawer. This entertainment was enjoyed on the wharf with the sunset providing a delicate framing, against which Myana lives and plays professionally in the Boston area. She combined her performance with a visit to her family who are long time Cliff Island summer residents.

Roger Berle founded his island business in 1972.

Photo by Alice Carter

He and his friend, Beverly O’Beirne, who is a member of a long time Cliff Island family, decided that a backhoe-based business was needed on Cliff. They started Finestkind Excavators in May of 1972, and brought the first backhoe to the island in order to efficiently help people to modernize their waste management systems.

After four years of digging it was time for Roger to go it alone so he became the sole owner.

In 1996 Dale dyer took over the management position. Dale spent 15 years with the company having started while still in high school. Roads on Cliff Island have received Gary MacVane’s care at Finestkind’s primary tasks, plow and gravel pavers for nearly twenty years.

Cliff Island has been fortunate to have had Finestkind to provide so many useful services, but we value even more the man who makes it happen.

Height limits sought

The Cliff Island Association held its annual meeting on August 9. The meeting voted to continue Larry Sharp as president and Cindy Gildard as treasurer. Jim Coull and Heath MacDonald were re-elected to the vice president and secretary respectively.

The group voted to apply to the City of Portland for a zoning amendment to restrict all future construction to limits of 25 feet high and 2,500 square feet of living space. The current height limit is 33 feet. Bob Kranes, chairman of the CIA zoning amendment committee, indicated that the change is widely supported, and is intended to help ensure that the character of the island is maintained.

He indicated that a small number of islanders voiced reservations about further restrictions at a separate neighborhood meeting on the island.

Odds and ends

On the morning of the ACE picnic at Griffin’s Cove about twenty City leaders made their annual visit to Cliff Island. We notice that there is a cleaner freighth shed as a result of comments at the meeting. If what was not enough, that same day ended with a well-attended song service at the church. Paul MacVane provided over the service. Bonnie Rideout added her violin to the pianos of Chester Pettergill and Joyce Chaplain, and the vocalizing of the thirty or so folks was splendid. This was one of four song services held this summer. It has been a warm, clean, busy and very productive month on Cliff Island.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

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

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Little Diamond Dispatches

By Linda Tyler and Peter Walch

By the time this is printed, we will have had our last summer season Saturday Night Supper at the Little Diamond Island Casino. It has been a swell year summer cooks all around. Thanks to all who made it such a special series. Neta Barker once again headed a committee that prepared exquisite ethnic food this year. Morroccan, just in case islanders were getting too set in their lobster and lasagna ways, Kip Moore picked island blackberries for his richly decorated dinner. Chicken Marbella proved still to be an island favorite.

There seems this summer to be a special series. Neta Barker once again headed a committee that prepared exquisite ethnic food this year, Moroccan, just in case islanders were getting too set in their lobster and lasagna ways, Kip Moore picked island blackberries for his suitably rich dessert. Chicken Marbella proved still to be an island favorite.

There seems this summer to be an especially ripe feeling of community. There will be what has become a community, there will be what has become island nostalgia a good read of the book can bring, do we hope no one feels obliged to bring such a dish as humming Betty: I can tomato soup, I onion, filed in butter, I pound cheese, through meat chopper, I egg, beaten, little cayenne, salt, mustard, and a little Worcestersauce his submitted by G.P.L. Anyone know who this was?

The cookbook will be available for purchase and proceeds from it and other events will benefit Portland Cultivating Community program further strengthening our motivation for food and community. The program is committed to building sustainable communities... through community food work, through youth and community development programs, and by promoting social and environmental justice.

So far, Cultivating Community has made 65,000 pounds of locally grown produce accessible to families and elders with low incomes while creating meaningful, paid work experiences for more than 60 young people. Next time you drive up Franklin Arterial, take a look at the bountiful garden in the median. More about the program at the event: the website is www.cultivatingcommunity.org.

One more note about the evening: our famous team Seta Barker and Alison Band will demonstrate 1920s dance steps so that everyone can Charleston and Fox Trot the night away, and while we won, make Alle play, we promise authentic music, perhaps from Caleen Lewis' collection. Period does encourage you to co-inclined, not required if you're not.

Before we stray too far from the Casino and island nostalgia, the energetic team of David Inman and Vicki Marlin-Smith is collecting memorabilia in the form of digitally formatted materials (to Dave, inman@maine.edu) and documents, slides, and/or photographs (to Vicki) before March 1, 2007, for a Little Diamond Casino Anniversary DVD to be featured at a 2008 celebratory event. Sometime before then, Vicki will meet with small groups of islanders to record stories and memories, and Libby Zercher and Paul Stevens will narrate existing histories such as those by Hal Hackett and Jesse Stuart.

And before we stray too far from our concern for community and the environment, thanks to Priscilla and Dale Doucette, Linda Hackett, Jim Hackett, Kip and Emily Moore, Dodo and Paul Stevens and Barbara and Phil Lee for hosting an informational evening with Friends of Casco Bay Aug. 10 at the Doucette cottage. Wonder ever about the water quality of the bay?

This past year, the group advocated for a ban on all vessel discharge into the bay, destroying aimed at cleaning up the kind of dumping polluted snow from city streets into the harbor. While water quality reports are encouraging today, Baykeeper Joe Payne knows there is more we must do, from monitoring sewage discharge to all spills to periodic side pollution audits. Sometime in the near future will be honored for his fifteen years of conflict-free the harbor.

September 10, 4 to 7 p.m., at Southern Maine Community College in South Portland. It is $20 per person for food and drink, $7 per person for food only, cash bar and the honor of helping this program thrive and honoring this person who works so hard to keep threats to Casco Bay at bay. For more information call 799-8574 or e-mail keepercascobay.org.

Today's Big Ones: Jim Woodberry turned 80 Aug. 7; her family came from near and far for a huge celebration including tractor rides and a required 100 cookout dishes. The big event was the cake, which was based in Windham, and a sure hit, and while we won, make Allee play, we promise authentic music, cash bar and the honor of helping this program thrive and honoring this person who works so hard to keep threats to Casco Bay at bay. For more information call 799-8574 or e-mail keepercascobay.org.

Birthday: big ones three: Jean Wherry Woodberry turned 80 Aug. 7; her family came from near and far for a huge celebration including tractor rides and a required 100 cookout dishes. The big event was the cake, which was based in Windham, and a sure hit, and while we won, make Allee play, we promise authentic music, cash bar and the honor of helping this program thrive and honoring this person who works so hard to keep threats to Casco Bay at bay. For more information call 799-8574 or e-mail keepercascobay.org.
Rock sculptures on the back shore of Peaks Island

Photos by Arne Pearson and Mary Lou Wendell

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INTERNET, from page 1

The installation fee can be broken down into 24 payments of $12.50 per month, Hill said. Users must have computers with Windows 2000, XP or Apple OS operating systems.

The island Internet company is using "last-mile technology" in which the Internet signal is sent through the dedicated data line to the inn, then broadcast using a radio frequency directly to subscribers' homes. Each house will receive an indoor or outdoor antenna and a modem.

Engineers from Mainely Wired will be on the island the week of Sept. 5 to set up the base station at the inn consisting of an antenna, a router and a network switch, said Peter Petersen, owner and CEO of Mainely Wired. The antenna work can only be done in good weather, he said.

After equipment is set up in the inn, an engineer will stay on the island to work on any problems that might occur with the data line and train islanders in installing the home connection, Petersen said. He hopes the first homes will be connected by the end of the Labor Day week.

Hill and Johnson decided to work with Mainely Wired after researching the company and spending a day watching engineers install equipment in Swans Island. Johnson was impressed at how hard the company worked to set up a connection when it appeared that a mountain would block the signal. "They have already proven themselves," Johnson said.

Petersen purchased the Skowhegan-based Mainely Wired in January. This summer, the company opened a microwave office in Swans Island. The company has 220 customers in between 10 and 15 communities. "There is a huge demand in these areas that are underserved," he said.

He has been an engineer for 40 years, finishing his career as team leader of the Pressure Research Center at Honeywell International in Morristown, N.J. His work at Honeywell involved investigating chemical reactions under high pressure. His son, Tristan Petersen, is the company's Webmaster and information technology consultant.

Mainely Wired has a special partnership with Verizon, he said. The company is also part of Gov. John Baldacci's New Connect Maine program to make sure Mainer's have high-speed Internet connections.

Petersen said the biggest challenge on Chebeague is the higher ground in the middle of the island. "Topographically, it is split almost in two," he said.

For the first phase of installation, Petersen said the goal is to use home installations as relay stations to re-broadcast the signal. "We might use relay stations to reach as many people as possible," he said.

However, it might be necessary to set up another antenna in the middle of the island. The island Internet company has talked to land owners who would consider allowing the antenna on their land, Hill said.

Internet service is already at the library as part of the Maine School and Library Network, a program that connected all of the state's schools and libraries to the Internet. While the library's signal can reach out onto the street, it can't go much further than that. "If we're in the middle of winter, there are cars parked and people sitting in their laptops, when the library is closed," Hill said.

Hill and Johnson started the company so that part of Gov. John Baldacci's new Connect Maine program to make sure Mainer's have high-speed Internet connections.

"The challenge is going to be getting it to the entire island," Johnson said.

For more information on the Chebeague Internet company, go to www.chebeague.net or call 846-3587.

I have found about Mainely Wired at mainlywired.com.

August 2: Arrest warrant, no address given; property damage, Ocean Spray Road; EMS call, no address given; EMS call, no address given.

August 3: Six separate reports of criminal mischief, no addresses given; pedestrian check, no address given.

August 5: Animal complaint, no address given; loud party, no address given; parking complaint, Trefethen Avenue; dead animal pick up, no address given; animal complaint, Seashore Avenue; EMS call, falls, Windin Way.

August 6: Animal complaint, no address given; assist fire department, Island Avenue; animal complaint, Island Avenue; criminal trespassing, no address given; two general offenses, no address given; liquor/possession by a minor, no address given; EMS call, Oakland Street.

August 7: Pedestrian check, no address given; motor vehicle stop, no address given; follow-up, no address given.

August 8: EMS call, unconscious, Island Avenue; EMS call, no address given.

August 9: Theft, no address given; drinking in public, no address given; suspicious activity, no address given.

August 10: Criminal mischief, no address given.

August 11: Suspicious activity, no address, general disturbance, Upper A Street.

August 12: Debris in the road, Upper A Street; intoxicated person, one Island Avenue address; assist fire department, no address given; EMS call, pains, second Island Avenue address; EMS call, no address given; EMS call, no address given.

August 14: Suspicious activity, Island Avenue; theft, at one Epps Street address; theft at second Epps Street address; no address given.

August 17: Drinking in public, no address given; liquor violation, Island Avenue; loud party, no address given; motor vehicle stop, no address given; juvenile offense, Welch Street; EMS call; allergies, Mariner Court.

August 18: Check well being, Central Avenue; animal complaint, no address given; EMS call, no address given; EMS call, no address given.

August 19: Liquor possession by a minor, no address given; motor vehicle stop, no address given; burglary residential, Torrington Avenue; property found, Island Avenue; check well being, no address given; theft, Island Avenue; EMS call, pregnancy, Seashore Avenue.

August 21: EMS call, one address Island Avenue; EMS call, second address, New Island Avenue.

August 22: Loud party, no address given.

August 23: Follow up, Island Avenue; loud music, Hussey Sound Road; EMS call, heat problems, Upper A Street; EMS call, New Island Avenue; EMS call, falls, Welch Street.

August 25: Theft, Island Avenue; Possible OUI, no address given; theft, Island Avenue; property found, no address given; address given; accident with unknown injuries, Welch Street.

August 27: Suspicious activity, no address given; criminal mischief, no address given; EMS call, Upper A Street.

August 30: Persons bothering, Brackett Avenue; EMS call, Pleasant Avenue.

There will not be a hazardous waste pick-up during H.I.P. Guidelines for disposal of material will be posted.

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The city's position is that separate negotiations do not meet the spirit of the secession statute... The state's underwater cable...
Baykeeper’s 15th anniversary celebrated

BY DAVID TYLEN

This summer, Casco Bay was designated a no discharge area, which means it is now illegal for vessels to dump any sewage—including partially treated sewage—overboard. It was a major accomplishment, one that Friends of Casco Bay has worked for over 10 years to achieve.

It was an excellent way to mark Baykeeper Joe Payne’s 15th year as baykeeper. Friends of Casco Bay is also holding a “Bay Cap for the Casco Baykeeper” to celebrate Baykeeper Joe Payne’s 15th anniversary with the organization and the bay he has worked to protect.

The event will be from 4-7 p.m. on Sept. 10 at Southern Maine Community College in South Portland, with live music, celebrity guests and food prepared by students from the college’s Culinary Arts Department. The event is open to the public, but those interested need to register beforehand (see end of article for details).

Joe Payne was the group’s first full-time staff member, Casco Bay’s first baykeeper and the first to hold that title in Maine. He was also the seventh water keeper in the world. His job is to be the public face of environmental advocacy for Casco Bay.

“If Casco Bay had a state trooper, it would be Joe,” said Mary Cerrullo, the group’s associate director. “Joe likes to think of himself as a whistle blower but a fact finder, someone who’s tenacious on behalf of the bay. He’s so well respected because he listens to everyone when he speaks, they know it’s based on data and thoughtful consideration.”

It’s characteristic of Payne that when he’s asked about his 15 years as baykeeper he talks about the group’s accomplishments and how he feels about his work. “Everyone here is very talented and all too often people give me the credit—that’s the hardest part,” Payne said.

The concept of having a baykeeper is “crazy,” a person who people get to know and they know there’s a person to call about an issue, that’s why it works, he said. It’s also about gaining the public’s respect for the environment, he said.

“It’s a very studied approach, it took 49 years,” he said. “There have to be enough pumping out stations for the EPA to even consider this.” He said, 40 years ago, there was just one pump-out station; today there are 20 stations and they’ve gathered raw sewage for Casco Bay. It’s the culmination of a long effort to help protect Casco Bay from sewage dumping, according to Payne. It means the third step to control sewage from vessels. Payne said, which applies all along the coast to three miles offshore, which is the state limit.

Two years ago, Maine passed a law banning large vessels, such as cruise ships, from dumping grey water overboard, which is still

loved under federal law. Federal law also permits some discharge of oily waste water from vessels bilges. But in Maine, there is zero tolerance for oily discharge. Payne said. And the dumping of raw sewage has already been banned.

The new no discharge designation means that all boaters can now longer dump even partially treated sewage.

“There was a lot of lobbying to oppose this,” Payne said. “Everyone was telling the governor to do it a different way, and to exempt cruise ships. But the governor stood up and did the right thing.”

When asked about unusual aspects of his job, Payne talked about Friends of Casco Bay coordinating a project to move 35,000 lobsters from the path of Portland Harbor dredging in 1996. “That had never been done before,” he said.

Payne is also proud of the work the group did seeking regulations in Maine on cruise ship discharge. He talked about the water quality project, now in its 11th year. Volunteers are trained to take water samples at 45 stations around Casco Bay. When the project started, “People did not pay attention to citizen volunteers,” he said, which has now changed. The state Department of Environmental Protection uses the volunteer-collected data for federal water-quality reporting.

Fifteen years ago, 49 percent of Casco Bay’s clam flats were closed, which meant the loss of 200 full-time equivalent jobs. “We’ve opened hundreds of clam flats,” Payne said.

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7. Pansy cut of mint
8. Popular places for laps
9. Ready to fall
10. Fall
11. Expression of completion
12. Fall
13. Popular role for Gen. Truman
14. Fall
15. Popular role for Gene Tunney
16. Priced cut of mackerel
17. 25. Punishment for falling afoul of shipboard law
18. Creation of "After the Fall"
19. Co-star with Dickie Moore
20. Peter Fonda 1997 role
21. Atlantic and Pacific
22. Fall
23. French film
24. Popular dance
25. 18th-century British composer
26. Falling down label
27. Fall
28. Fall
29. Fall
30. Peler in 1997 role
31. "At the Atlantic and the Pacific"
32. Fall
33. Popular role for Gene Tunney
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Solution to last month's puzzle
Star Gazing

By Michael Richards

"September" means "7th month," but it's really the 9th month of the year.

The original Roman calendar began with March, but later ancient rulers added January and February, because the annual calendar wasn't keeping up with astronomical reality.

Last month, the international astronomical community met and decided to demote Pluto to a "minor planet," leaving the eight larger "classical planets" (in order from the sun): Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune.

Pluto is an odd-ball: it's the smallest, with an orbit so tilted and elliptical, it occasionally slides inside Neptune's orbit—a no-no for Earth's self-appointed planetary club gate-keepers.

The real problem was that modern astronomical instruments had discovered other bodies which could also be considered "planets": Ceres, the biggest of the innumerable asteroids circling the sun; Charon, the comparatively big moon of Pluto; and (most recently) Xena, another Pluto-like object orbiting way beyond Pluto.

The scientists felt compelled to say our solar system had either 12 planets or 8 planets, and they chose the latter.

The Universe-city of Saint John Presque Isle has erected scale models of the former nine planets (and several moons) along Route 1 from Houlton to Presque Isle (1 earth mile = 93 million space miles = 1 astronomical unit or a.u.).

I can't wait to go back to The County and see them again.

I'll stop first at the Houlton Visitors Center at the northern end of Route 95, pick up a free brochure, and see the new Charon (some humanoid stole the old one) on the wall—and now inside a protective glass case (at least my calculation (check my math), a run at an 8.33 minute/mile pace is moving at the speed of light (makes my eyes water!). The university is planning to add Ceres and Xena to its collection, as soon as they figure out where on Earth to put them.

Looking up, we find the brighter planets hiding along the horizons: Jupiter is still fairly high in the west over the evening, and Venus is looking east over the ocean in the morning, but both are dropping closer to their respective horizons each day.

Mercury is flying out from behind the sun and will pop up very low on the western horizon later this month. Mars is on the opposite side of the sun ("super conjunction") as it approaches Venus and is thus out of sight. Saturn is up above Venus at dawn but is somewhat dim, because its rings are less tilted than usual.

Uranus and Neptune, however, are in good position for telescopic viewing. Both are gas giants about 31,000 miles in diameter and about 1.8 and 2.8 million miles respectively from the sun. Uranus spins nearly on its side (98 degree tilt) and has 11 rings and 28 moons; Neptune tilts only 3° and has only 2 moons.

Both appear blue-green because the methane in their upper atmospheres absorbs red light. Pluto is "visible," too, but huffledmindedly unless you have a huge scope and limitless patience.

My favorite star, Vega, is directly overhead, a bluish-white giant spinning madly (twice each Earth day) in the constellation Lyra, the Harp. At 25 light-years away, Vega is relatively close and is more than twice the size of our sun, and it's burning it's hydrogen fuel 16 times faster, making it 30 times brighter than the sun. Because of the color difference between the two stellar partners.

Sept. 12, Venus is at its best at 0:56 a.m. and sunset at 7:17 p.m. The moon just past quarter, tides run barely 6 feet between high and low water, and that will change in a week or so.

Sept. 14: Uranus is at "opposition"—the planet's opposite side of the sun from Earth.

Sept. 17: A full Harvest moon rises at 7:12 p.m. Per those on the 7:15 boat to Pecks tonight, it could be glorious if the horizon is clear. Folks in Europe and Asia may get a peak at a partial lunar eclipse tonight; as the Earth's shadow moves over the moon, but for us in the New World, the moon won't be up yet.

Sept. 8: The moon at perigee tonight, closest to Earth this time around, and it's just past full, so tides and currents are building.

Sept. 9: Highest and lowest tides this month: low at 6:34 a.m. and 6:58 p.m., high at 12:21 a.m. and 12:48 p.m., and a 12.6 foot difference between them, so currents will run fast, especially at mid-tides, around 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

September means "moon" as September means "9th month of the year."

Last month, "the international astronomical community met and decided to demote Pluto to a "minor planet," leaving the eight larger "classical planets.""

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Tardy views tree work as caring for Chebeague Island

By David Tyler

For the past eight years, David Tardy has cut and pruned trees or cleared brush on nearly every property on Chebeague Island.

He’s a familiar sight, boarding the 8:15 a.m. Cumberland Transportation Company boat and getting into his light blue 1972 Chevrolet truck with his company logo, “Tardy Tree Service,” painted on the door, to drive to his next job on the island.

Each job is different, but Tardy sees his work as part of larger whole—“I consider the island one place, not 150 different yards,” he said. “It’s all one place, and every single tree is part of that place.”

On Friday in late August Tardy is preparing to finish cutting down an old maple tree in front of one of the original Hamilton homes on Chebeague Island East End. He had already trimmed the smaller limbs and dropped them into a neat pile at the base of the tree, to cushion the blow when larger pieces are cut.

The long line of trees in front of this house has succumbed to the effects of age. This particular tree may have looked healthy, with a leafy, slightly diminished canopy, but the center was rotten. Tardy pointed to another maple tree as he was passing through the front yard, with the same problem. The center section was a small stump where it rotted and broke off. It was a bad combination; a rotten center and limbs on either side still growing and adding weight to a weak trunk. It’s inevitable that the tree will split in half or die completely, he said.

If Tardy can preserve a tree, he will. “I have definitely saved more trees than I have taken down,” he said. Sometimes a client will call him to do work on a tree that looks like it can’t be saved. “But I can’t see the tree for what it can be later,” he said.

At the base of the tree, Tardy prepared himself for the job. He buckled on his harness, clipped the tree with his chainsaw, and began climbing up the tree, which he had reached a spot below the tree’s top, he began work.

With the harness on, Tardy said he feels completely comfortable at any height. Before starting work on this job, he had surveyed the time he would work for the former WGAN TV 13.

“Tardy has that same harness on, on top of that tower, it’s like I’m standing here with you,” Tardy said. “I get a rush out of being up at that distance, being able to look down and realize how small everything is.”

The tree maintenance was done at night, and once he went to the top of the tower to work on the lightning arresters. When asked if that experience working alone on the top of the tower was at all spiritual, he said, “If you can feel that comfortable in that situation, then it’s just like you said, it’s almost a religious experience.

Tardy talked about the Chebeague community. “It’s almost like one family, that doesn’t always get along, you know what I mean?” he said. He talked about working for two separate customers, neighbors, who did not like each other. After Tardy finished his tree work, one customer had a new view across his land and a new view of the neighbor he dislikes. “It’s not a radical change, but I think they might be getting along better than they were.”

The story reveals Tardy’s philosophical view of his work. “I’m opening up communications between people,” he said. “It stems from the fact that he’s a Zen Buddhist. “One of my purposes is to enhance our situation, whatever that may be.”

Community Notes

Chebeague Brass concert

There will be a free brass quintet concert on Thursday, Sept. 7 at the Chebeague United Methodist Church. The group performing is Capitol Brass. The five local musicians are Michelle Kingdon and Catrinia Shepherd on trumpets, Yvonne Murray on French horn, Meg Hauserman on trombone and Eric Sanborn on tuba. The music played will be a mix of classical and jazz. Directed and arranged for brass quintet.

Chili night at Fifth Maine

The Fifth Maine is sponsoring Chili Night on Sept. 16 with two seatings at 5:30 and 7:00 p.m. Our cooks are whipping up many t hings if you can’t enjoy them. Call 766-5514 to make reservations.

Art with Heart—Peaks Kids Create!

Kids artwork needed for show at the Gem Gallery, Sept. 29

Peaks artist Doug Smith is organizing a gallery show at the Gem, opening Friday Sept. 29, to showcase the artistic creativity of Peaks Island kids, from preschool through 6th grade. There will be an opening reception from 5 - 8 p.m. on Fri., Sept. 29, at the Gem. Come and have refreshments with the artists, their parents, friends and neighbors. There will be an opening reception from 5 - 8 p.m. on Fri., Sept. 29, at the Gem. Come and have refreshments with the artists, their parents, friends and neighbors.

For more information, call 766-5514 to make reservations.

David Tardy surveys the trees he’s working on for his next cut.

Photos by David Tyler