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Casco Bay Lines GM steps down, proposed rates spark debate

By Ross Sneyd
Peaks Island News

Casco Bay Lines General Manager John Warnock has departed the agency after less than a year amid myriad challenges, including concerns about federal grants and debates on how much to raise vehicle rates.

Both the CBL Board of Directors and Warnock said he resigned.

“We thank John for his service and wish him well as he seeks new opportunities,” Jennifer Lavanture, president of the board of directors, said in a statement. Warnock also issued a statement of thanks for his time at Bay Lines.

The board held a closed-door executive session in February to discuss the general manager’s performance and afterward voted against granting him a bonus for his work in 2024.

Operations Director Nick Mavodones and Sales and Marketing Director Caity Gildart were appointed interim co-general managers as the board searches for a permanent replacement.

The upheaval at the top, only a year after the previous general manager retired, comes amid uncertainty about

CBL, continued on page 15

School’s leader to retire in June

By Ben McCanna
Peaks Island News

Kelly Hasson sat at a small, round table in her office sharing a lifetime of memories of Peaks Island and its Brick School, when suddenly her eyes welled up.

“This was not supposed to happen,” she said of her tears.

“There’s just no other place on Earth that I feel at home. There’s no other place. I know it like the back of my hand.”

It’s been sixty years since Hasson first set foot in Peaks Island Elementary School as a kindergartner. Now, as the school’s teacher leader,



Kelly Hasson

HASSON, continued page 6



Ben McCanna/Peaks Island News

Peaks Islanders Fill the Ferry, march to protest

Peaks Islanders prepare to disembark the *Machigonne II* during Fill the Ferry, an event aimed at getting as many islanders as possible to Monument Square for the Hands Off protest, which was held in cities throughout the United States on April 5. See IN PICTURES on pages 12 and 13.

Scenery, low traffic, length make island running ‘perfect’

By Ben McCanna
Peaks Island News

It’s a partly cloudy day in late March and Pi Crosby is in the midst of a 9-mile run. He’s averaging 6.53 minutes per mile — a brisk pace of roughly 9 mph. Along the way, he passes stunning views of Cushing Island’s bold cliffs, the lighthouse on Ram Island and the waves crashing against Whaleback.

What he doesn’t encounter is just as important: there are no traffic lights and almost no vehicles. The few cars that pass are moving at a modest 20 mph.

“What’s cool is it’s almost like rural running, except with rural running the cars are just zipping by,” Crosby said. “On Peaks, you’re not in the city but you’re also not on country roads where people are going 50 miles per hour. It’s that balance that’s pretty perfect.”

“Perfect” is something you’ll hear a lot from Peaks’ runners. The combination of scenery, traffic conditions and length — roughly a 5K outer loop — makes for a runner’s paradise. Island running has been a factor in Crosby’s varsity success and the successes of runners of every age.

Catching up with Crosby

Crosby, who will turn 18 in early



Ben McCanna/Peaks Island News

Distance runner Pi Crosby, a senior at Waynflete, strides along the Back Shore in March.

May, has already made his mark on the Maine running scene. In October 2024, the Waynflete senior finished first in the Class C South cross-country championship at Twin Brook Recreation Area in Cumberland. With a time of 17:21.99, he was more than a half minute faster than his nearest competitor.

A week later, on the same 3.1-mile course, Crosby finished second in the Class C statewide championship with a

time of 17:05.39, a little more than 10 seconds after the winner from Orono.

Earlier that month, he ran the Maine Marathon, finishing 86th overall — in a field of nearly 5,000 runners — with a time of 3:24:13.

In February, he qualified for the New England Interscholastic Indoor Track & Field Championships in the 2-mile run

RUNNERS, continued back page

Multifaceted Peter McLaughlin: Making waves on FM radio, island



RHYTHM OF
THE ROCK
BY
CHRIS
MAROT

Drummer Peter McLaughlin has arrived.

You've likely seen his imposing, bearded figure at Greenwood Gardens, in the Casco Bay Tumblers, or at SPACE Portland, but now the multifaceted musician and impresario is on the airwaves on both sides of the Mississippi. The band Dead Gowns is getting regular play on WCLZ and KEXP.

Dead Gowns is the brainchild of Maine singer/songwriter Genevieve Beaudoin. McLaughlin, 37, recorded and played drums on the debut LP.

Thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic, the album was five years in the making. The concept and recording of "It's Summer, I Love You, and I'm Surrounded by Snow" began in 2020 but was sidelined for other projects owing to the challenges of recording during the height of the pandemic. A portion of the album was recorded with social distancing — musicians spread out, masked and with windows open in the Playhouse at the Lions Club in 2021.

McLaughlin, who has lived on Peaks since 2019, owns and operates



Ben McCanna/Peaks Island News

Peter McLaughlin sits behind the drum kit at his home recording studio on Central Avenue. His work on a recent LP is getting FM airplay.

a home recording studio and label, Pretty Purgatory; organizes live music, such as the approximately 30 concerts he's brought to the island since 2020; performs in four bands; and manages the Musician-in-Residence program on Peaks. He does all this while also maintaining his day job programming

music at SPACE in Portland.

"I'm lucky to not be single minded and lucky to have the skills and interest to do different things," he said. "I enjoy all the different sides of the music world. It's also how I've been able to have a career in music: by learning all different sides of the industry and doing little bits of this and that."

There is a thread that runs through McLaughlin's many responsibilities. He's passionate about "community events where people get to experience music up close, created by skilled, unique creative musicians. It is an unbeatable experience that gets to the core of what making music is all about. Music as an oral and aural tradition is one that has always — in all cultures, all corners of the world, all historical timelines — existed in community. That up-close connection with the music and the people who make it is so important and so enriching to people and people's lives."

The up-close connection to music is what drives McLaughlin to bring artists to Peaks for the Musician-in-Residence program. The program attracts musicians who want time and space dedicated to creative expression. With the current level of funding, McLaughlin has been able to host one musician each year for the past three years. Each residency includes a public concert; a workshop available to all; and free, private music lessons for any islander who is interested.

McLaughlin has received "immensely positive feedback" for the program, noting that people seeking private lessons have "ranged in age from 4 years old to well into their 80s."

"With the young people, school-aged kids especially, it's really exciting to see them getting involved," he said. "I admit I'm a little jealous of them getting to connect with really cool and interesting musicians. It's an experience I wish I had as a young person. The feedback has been very positive from kids and parents alike."

Andrea Rosenberg, one of the island's music instructors, reached out to McLaughlin after three of her

students had taken lessons with the latest Musician-in-Residence, Thanya Iyer, in December. Rosenberg said the experience filled the students with joy and creativity.

McLaughlin sees the program and music instruction from teachers like Rosenberg and Faith York as complementary.

"Both Faith and Andrea are great teachers, and the musicians I bring out bring a different perspective. Students are trying out improv and songwriting for the first time and the musicians are getting people to jump out of their comfort zone," McLaughlin says. The energy they bring back to the lessons helps fuel their growth.

McLaughlin hopes to secure funding to host residencies more frequently.

McLaughlin's musical upbringing consisted of his parents' collections of folk and rock music, but he really started to develop his own taste when he first heard Jimi Hendrix albums in high school. He attributes his passion for jazz to the clubs in and around Boston he frequented as a young man. Some of the motivation to help others get up close with music and musicians was likely born during this time, he said.

McLaughlin is currently involved in four bands: Dead Gowns; Hour, a band of musicians from around the Northeast; Little Wings, a West Coast band that McLaughlin accompanies during its East Coast tours; and the Casco Bay Tumblers, which he joined in 2013.

The Tumblers, cofounded by Nancy 3. Hoffman in 1987, is releasing a new album this spring, the band's first in 20 years. An album-release celebration is scheduled for May 17 at SPACE Gallery, 538 Congress St., Portland.

McLaughlin says there are more events and releases coming later this spring and summer, as he continues to help make space for a wide variety of musicians, genres, experience levels and interests. Whether you see him on the island drumming at Greenwood Gardens, or make it to town for one of the SPACE acts he programs, I'm confident McLaughlin's music will make an impact on you in 2025.



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Inaugural meeting of political action group draws crowd, ideas

By Ben McCanna
Peaks Island News

Bill Zimmerman wants to get people talking again.

That was the gist of Zimmerman's opening statement to a crowd of more than 40 islanders who gathered at New Brackett Church on March 20 to form a left-leaning political action group.

Zimmerman, one of the organizers of the group's inaugural meeting, said he doesn't want to create an echo chamber.

"We don't want to limit participation to one perspective, one point of view," he said. "We want to reserve the right to disagree, which is a great American tradition made perfect by Peaks Island."

In a wide-ranging discussion that lasted more than an hour, attendees exchanged names of trusted media sources; weighed options if U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement comes to the island to look for asylum seekers; considered concrete actions that could be taken in Maine and in Washington, D.C.; and even made tentative plans to "smash Alexas," the Amazon-branded smart speakers associated with billionaire Jeff Bezos.

But the overarching theme of the meeting was reaching out to people with opposing viewpoints.

Citing the book "Bowling Alone," by Robert D. Putnam, Zimmerman said Americans have lost their ability to communicate neighbor to neighbor. "We have stopped talking with one another," he said. "We have stopped talking with people we disagree with, even though we live next door to one



Ben McCanna/Peaks Island News

Bill Zimmerman addresses a crowd of about 40 islanders during a meeting at New Brackett Church on March 20 to discuss the formation of a political action group.

another."

Rhonda Berg suggested taking that message to Augusta. "We need to encourage all the Democrats to pair up with Republicans, one to one, and have coffee together and talk about the issues," she said. "Maybe all the Dems need a lesson in how to listen — actively listen without judgement."

Betsy Hays said she is "a big proponent of conversations," but added that people need to be mindful of language because words and tone can either aggravate or de-escalate situations.

"If we really want to have a conversation with someone who disagrees with us, we need to be able to talk in a way that doesn't get them upset," she said. "There are ways of saying things ... expressing what you really feel

and think without fanning flames. Some training along those lines would be really helpful."

Betsey Ramage-Healey said she had recently attended a social event and was seated with a group of outspoken Republicans. The group managed to avoid politics, but it was a lesson in shared humanity that could eventually lead to broader discussion, she said.

"We had a fun conversation," she said. "I felt very heartened by it."

Chuck Radis offered a slight rebuke to the premise of talking to people with extreme viewpoints, citing a hate group that tried to establish a militia training camp in northern Maine.

"It wasn't conversation with them that made them back down, sell the

land and move out of Maine. It was confrontation," he said. "There's a limit to the kinds of conversations you can have."

Earlier in the meeting, Zimmerman suggested areas where left- and right-leaning voters tend to agree. "Education, Citizens United, term limits," he said. "There are any number of things that Republicans and Democrats and independents can come together and say, 'This is worth fighting for.'"

Zimmerman also encouraged debate within the group as long as arguments are made in good faith. "We want to strive for disagreement based on truth, so as we go forward, if you have an opinion, try to cite your sources. Try to give us some indication where you're getting your information from," Zimmerman said. "Disagreements are fine as long as they're based on information we can all access."

Jaimie Schwartz offered a concrete action point, citing a recent trend of people cancelling Amazon memberships.

"What a savings!" he said, eliciting laughter from the group. "Use your savings and subscribe to a publication that has actual journalists working for it. ... Preserving professional journalism is critically important. It's one of the things that fascists and authoritarians do — destroy the press immediately."

The group plans to meet twice monthly at 6:30 p.m. on the first and third Wednesdays at the Community Center.

(Full disclosure: Berg is board vice president of Peaks Island News.)

CBL extends winter schedule to save money, imposes 'damages'

By Ross Sneyd
Peaks Island News

Casco Bay Lines' winter sailing schedule will be extended through the spring this year in a bid to cut expenses.

CBL management also targeted slight savings in construction of the new Battery Steele car ferry by imposing damages for delays.

The scheduling move was char-

acterized by board members as a down payment on efforts to reduce spending by as much as \$400,000 in the budget year that runs through September.

"We need to narrow this deficit," said Jean Hoffman, chairwoman of the finance committee. "We do need to evaluate schedules and we do need to cut runs."

The finance committee authorized a resolution at its March

meeting to decrease its reliance on federal grants for ongoing operations to \$1 million by the 2028 budget.

The current budget projects the need for roughly \$2.6 million in grants to make up the difference between revenues on ticket sales and the cost of running the ferry service.

That operating deficit could be closed even further if a vehicle rate change under consideration by the finance committee is implemented this summer.

Running the winter schedule through May 22 would save Bay Lines slightly more than \$40,000, according to estimates prepared by the ferries' finance team.

The savings would come from avoiding the expense of fuel and crews to run one extra boat in the mornings on the Peaks Island run and one extra evening boat on Down Bay runs.

The change means that daily morning departures from Peaks would be 6:15, 7:15, 8:15, 10, 11:15 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. Traditionally that schedule is shifted slightly in the spring and summer to accommodate one more run in the morning. The extra boat will now be added starting May 23.

There is concern among Bay Lines crews that as the weather warms and people begin returning to open their cottages — and contractors' work picks up — car ferries will fill and vehicles will be left behind, said Joe Donovan, operations committee chairman.

"But I think the potential cost savings are enough that we should give it a shot," he said.

An additional boat can be added during the lunch hour if demand warrants it, he said, although several board members discouraged adding the extra run very often.

The higher summertime fares are still scheduled to go into effect April 19.

Additionally, evening runs beginning with the 7:15 p.m. departure from Portland on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays will be aboard a passenger boat rather than the car ferry until May 23.

Bay Lines will recoup slight savings in construction of the new Battery Steele car ferry. The contract for the boat allows CBL to impose "liquidated damages" for any delays in delivering the boat beyond April 1. The \$22 million vessel is currently expected to be delivered by Sept. 15, and those damages would total \$100,000 by then.



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Editorial: Peaks Islanders’ protest proved ‘we the people’ are powerful when united

We may feel powerless as the Trump administration dismantles our federal government, betrays our most-loyal foreign allies, tanks the world economy and cozies up to dictators.

Hope may seem lost as much of Congress abdicates its check on presidential overreach out of apparent fear of retaliation, and as the administration openly defies judicial orders without consequence.

Yet Peaks Islanders were anything but powerless and hopeless on Saturday, April 5, when more than 200 of us — roughly a quarter of our island’s year-round population — joined a crowd of thousands in Monument Square for Hands Off, a nationwide protest against the Trump administration.

Peaks Islanders’ voices were heard loudly when some of our own, like Warren Hathaway and high-school sophomore Avery Olson, took the microphone beneath the Our Lady of Victories monument to lead a chant or gin up the crowd.

For those of us who stood shoulder to shoulder in a sea of Mainers, the atmosphere was charged with energy, a palpable feeling that we will not take this anymore. We will not let our nation, our hard-fought and unrivaled democracy, be unraveled by an unchecked administration.

For those of us who rode the 8:15 to Portland, it was encouraging to see scores of people already carrying protest signs toward the 11 a.m. rally. But for those of us who joined with 200 riders aboard the 10 a.m. boat for Fill the Ferry, an event planned by our own Irv Williams, it was clear that we had created a movement as we marched to Monument Square.

It was an encouraging lesson that we can stand united against the fast-moving changes to our country. And we must make our voices heard. Acting together, we are the people of Irv Williams, Avery Olson and Warren Hathaway.

And we the people are stronger.

Op-Ed: Crackdown on campus speech echoes history’s worst chapter

By WB Zimmerman, Peaks Island

With the March 25 detainment of Tufts University student Rumeysa Osturk, the Trump regime has stepped up its persecution of foreign nationals who exercise free speech.

Osturk, who hasn’t been charged with a crime, coauthored an op-ed in the school’s newspaper that was critical of Tufts’s response to demands that the school divest from companies with ties to Israel. Now, a full year after the op-ed was published, Osturk’s student visa has been revoked and she has been transferred to a detention center in Louisiana where she awaits deportation to Turkey.

Osturk’s plight echoes several high-profile cases, including the detention of Columbia University student Mahmoud Khalil, the deportation of Brown University assistant professor Dr. Rasha Alawieh and, more recently, the detention of University of Alabama student Alireza Doroudi.

President Donald Trump, Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Homeland Security Advisor Stephen Miller seem determined to stifle perceived enemies on college campuses. They are sending chilling messages to other college students that this administration will not tolerate dissent. This administration’s actions call to mind Nixon’s response to protests against the war in Vietnam, but they also echo something darker.

There is an adage from the 1990s called Godwin’s Law, that basically says the longer an argument rages on, the greater the likelihood someone will compare their opponent to Adolf Hitler or the Nazis.

But sometimes the shoe just fits.

It is worth noting that Trump’s rhetoric mimics Hitler’s when he identifies enemies as “vermin” or immigrants as “poisoning the blood of our country.” It’s also worth noting that Trump’s action, like Hitler’s early solution for dealing with opposition, has been expulsion.

Whether the Trump administration is right about a so-called terrorist threat posed by the foreign nationals targeted for detainment and deportation, the methods defy bedrock American legal standards that entitle people to due process.

To anticipate Trump’s next steps, we need to revisit what Hitler ultimately did to those who resisted his will.

German citizens under Hitler failed a moral test by choosing patriotism over resistance; however, as World War II raged on and the consequences of Nazi policies began to affect more and more people, small pockets of resistance blossomed within the country.

Protest by German youth evolved from mundane misbehavior like the Swing Kids’ public dancing to American jazz music, to the formation of the White Rose, a group of student protesters that distributed

pamphlets openly criticizing Nazi policies.

Hans and Sophie Scholl were the children of a small-town mayor. The siblings were musically inclined and bright students. At Munich University, Hans studied medicine while Sophie trained to become a teacher.

Initially troubled by what was happening to their Jewish friends, the Scholls became increasingly incensed by persecution of non-Jews who challenged the Nazi cause. They joined a movement to protest the suppression of free speech.

The White Rose did not advocate a violent overthrow of the Nazis, only the restoration of freedom of speech. Their formal crime against the government was the publication of six pamphlets. One such pamphlet, written by Hans and distributed shortly after the Soviet victory at Stalingrad in January 1943, said:

The day of reckoning has come, our German youth’s reckoning with the most abhorrent tyranny that our people has ever endured. In the name of all young Germans, we demand that Adolf Hitler’s State return to us our personal freedom, the German’s most valuable possession, which he has cheated us out of in the most disgraceful way.

A month later, buoyed by their earlier successes and perhaps youthful exuberance, Sophie threw about 100 leaflets from a third-floor balcony into the courtyard of the main university building. Sophie was detained by a janitor and turned over to authorities. Within days, the members of the White Rose were tried for treason and beheaded. Hans was 25, Sophie was 21.

Sophie had known the risk they were taking in simply speaking out against the Nazis when she said, “So many people have already died for this regime that it’s time someone died against it.”

Hitler executed 100,000 German citizens who opposed the Reich, many in the last days of the war when vengeance dominated his behavior.

Trump’s intolerance of campus protest echoes history. There is a risk in speaking out, and anyone doing it at any level needs to be aware of that risk.

But failure to speak collectively against tyranny could mean failing our own moral test, and eventually losing one’s voice altogether.

We have seen the beginning of a massive, national resistance movement in the Hands Off demonstrations of April 5. Peaks Island responded admirably with a literal boatload of enthusiastic protesters.

Similar opportunities lie ahead on Patriots’ Day, April 19, the 250th anniversary of the shot heard ‘round the world at Concord and Lexington. Citizens of Maine and Peaks Island have just begun to resist and we will continue.

Peaks Island News

This newspaper is a nonprofit organization *Created By Our Community For Our Community*. All members of the Peaks Island community are encouraged to have a voice in this paper, to contribute their ideas, writing, photography, illustrations and energy.

Our Mission

We aim to create a true community newspaper, delivering news about Peaks Island people, schools, businesses, government, organizations, current events, arts, history and island culture, while being supported by the people who live here and advertisers that connect businesses with locals and visitors alike.

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Open house offers glimpse into rental units at 18 Central Ave.

By Ben McCanna
Peaks Island News

A group of about 20 people were among the first to tour the newly erected rental units at 18 Central Ave. during an open house on March 21.

The tour came a little more than a week after the units' six prefabricated components and roofing arrived on Peaks by barge and were craned into position.

The tour was led by Austin Gregory, owner and founder of Backyard ADUs, and Betsey Remage-Healey, president of Peaks Home Start, the nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing the supply of affordable year-round housing on the island.

Gregory and Remage-Healey both acknowledged that demolishing the previous building – an abandoned brick structure that was originally owned by St. Christopher's Parish and later by a family, was divisive.

"We lost half of the (Peaks Home Start) board," Remage-Healey said.

However, the asbestos within the parish hall made renovations untenable. Also, the configuration of the new building's modular units allowed for greater living space across three apartments, according to Remage-Healey.

The apartments, which are net zero thanks to thick insulation, heat pumps and, eventually, solar panels, are considered affordable and "must be rented affordably for 45 years," according to the terms of a forgivable loan, Remage-Healey said.

The rents for the apartments — one 3-bedroom and two 2-bedrooms — are \$2,543, \$2,201 and \$1,772, depending on size and amenities. Heat and electricity are included.

"These are staggering numbers, even



Above, a group gathers outside 18 Central Ave. after a tour of its three rental units on March 31. Right, Mark Gorski, Betsey Remage-Healey and Irv Williams peer through the back window of the center unit.

for affordable housing," Gregory said, but added that the amenities and interior finishing are high quality.

Applications for tenancy were due April 15. Construction is slated to finish in June. Occupancy begins July 1.

Peaks Home Start purchased the property for \$50,000, the amount of back taxes the city was owed. The total estimated cost of the project is \$1.4 million, 20 percent of which was raised by the nonprofit.



Photos by Ben McCanna/Peaks Island News

Peaks Island sculptor's lion the subject of naming contest in April

By Ben McCanna
Peaks Island News

Robert Van Der Steenhoven never named his sculpture at the entrance to Greenwood Garden.

"Lion" was its name for me," he said.

Soon a contest will change that.

Throughout April, the Peaks Island Lions Club is sponsoring the Name the Lions' Lion Contest. Island residents 19 years or younger are encouraged to enter. Forms are available at the library and Unruly Girls' Café. The winner, who will be announced at a Lion's Club Burger Night sometime this spring, will receive a gift certificate to Down Front.

Work on the lion began in fall 2023, a little more than a year after a devastating microburst swept over the island, toppling scores of trees, including the once-towering Norway maple whose stump became Van Der Steenhoven's raw material. He used a chainsaw, grinders, a belt sander and a variety of other tools to free the lion from the wood. He finished it with a torch to "seal up some of the surfaces," colored the eyes with oil paint, then coated it with deck stain.

Van Der Steenhoven, who has lived on the island since the 1990s, spent about 60 hours on the project, chipping away in 4-hour increments. The Lions Club approached him after seeing the ornate owl he sculpted from a tree



Ben McCanna/Peaks Island News

Peaks Island sculptor Robert Van Der Steenhoven stands next to his creation, a wooden lion at the entrance of Peaks Island Lions Club.

stump in his yard — another victim of the Aug. 26, 2022, storm. The lion was completed in 2024.

"It was fun," he said. "I'd never done a lion before."

The 69-year-old Central Avenue resident has been sculpting for more than 20 years. His primary medium is stone.

"It's a good medium for me. It gets my aggression out," he said with a laugh. "Stone is tough, so I can hy-

per-focus on it."

Originally from Haarlem, in the Netherlands, Van Der Steenhoven said pivoting to wood after the storm was fun. He's sculpted a few stumps over the years and soon will create an eagle for arborist Stan Newell. Van Der Steenhoven said he's in favor of the contest, and has "no real preference" for a name.

Burger Night is a semiweekly

community-building event held on Wednesday nights during the warmer months. The suppers take place outdoors at the Lions Club's Greenwood Garden.

Since the 1950s, volunteers for Peaks Island Lions Club have been "committed to charitable and community-focused endeavors and caretaking the historic Greenwood Gardens," according to member Ian Stevenson.

Sixty years later, Hasson's career in education to end where it began

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she'll soon be retiring. Hasson will complete her career in education at the same place where she began her educational career.

Hasson will stay through the end of the school year and until late June, after she's helped her as-yet-unknown successor transition into the role she's held since 2018. Afterward, she plans to travel and spend time with her three — soon to be four — grandchildren.

In the meantime, Hasson, 66, is savoring her last months on the island and in her beloved school.

"I still feel really excited to come to school every day," she said. "I'm not crossing off the days."

Hasson was born at Mercy Hospital in 1959 and lived with her parents in a house on Whitehead Street until the family moved to Portland when she was in third grade.

Those early years at the island school left a lasting impression. She remembers attending kindergarten with Jeanann Alves, Billy Flynn, Marty Mulkern, Carol Spear, Bobby McTigue and Rose Ann Walsh. There were more school-aged children on Peaks at the time.

"Back then, of course, there were 25 of us in each class," Hasson recalled. "Enrollment was so high, every single space was a classroom."

Her current office space, however, was a teachers' lounge. She remembers visiting her mother and aunt, both teachers' aides, in the lounge.

"Oh God, the cigarette smoke!" she laughed.

Hasson recalls walking home for lunch every day with her friend Carol Spear. The pair didn't take Snake Alley because they preferred the vibrancy of Down Front, walking past the filling station, Coffee Cup and Abe's.

"We would stop along the way and talk to everybody," she said. "But my mother, our mothers, would start getting phone calls like, you know, 'Mary, the girls just passed. They're going to be late again. They're petting all the dogs. They're picking flowers.' That was just part of the day, part of the adventure. I don't think you can



Ben McCanna/Peaks Island News

Kelly Hasson, PIES teacher leader, joins with students on the playground during recess. Hasson is retiring at the end of June.

replicate that experience."

Hasson went on to graduate from Portland High School. She earned her undergraduate degree from University of Maine-Orono in 1981. Afterward, she taught for several years in Camden and Cape Elizabeth.

Then, in 1996, Hasson earned a master's degree from Harvard Graduate School of Education. Later, she returned to UMO for a second master's degree in educational leadership.

Her very first principal job was at PIES from 2005 to 2007.

"I kind of applied on a lark. 'Oh, that would be so amazing. That would be the best.' And I got the job," she said.

Next, Hasson worked a five-year stint at Hall Elementary School — what's now the Amanda Rowe School in Portland. She then returned to Cape Elizabeth and served as principal for five years. She was planning to retire but delayed those plans after she

received a call asking if she'd be interested in returning to PIES and Cliff Island for a half-time position, which quickly became full time.

"Coming back here, I mean, I am just profoundly grateful for the opportunity," she said. "It just kind of fell into my lap in terms of the timing, and there was never any hesitation."

PIES is simply different from other schools and other districts, she said.

"We're a true family. We are connected. The relationships we have with all of our students — and it's not just that every classroom teacher has a relationship with their students — we know them all," she said. "There's a lot of anonymity that can happen in a large school for obvious reasons. You couldn't possibly get to know every student. The teachers don't even leave certain floors or certain wings."

Hasson said the district plans to replace her with two educators: a teacher for fourth- and fifth-graders

and a separate principal position. The district is open to how the new principal assists with classroom learning.

"They're going to see what kinds of skills some candidates bring that could enhance what we have here," she said. "I think it's a smart move."

Hasson said she will miss both being on the island every day and working with children.

"And I'll miss my amazing colleagues," she said. "We have wonderful people who work here that I know will carry forward what we've all worked hard for. I feel really confident that I'm leaving it in a good place."

Cate and Ian Stevenson, parents of a PIES fifth-grader, said they will miss Hasson.

"Kelly Hasson is the lifeblood of PIES," said Ian. "We were so fortunate as a community to have her dedication to the children as a teacher leader, from the classroom to the helm of the school, and we will miss her dearly."



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The Daveis sisters: A force for good, a legacy for all to enjoy



HISTORICALLY
SPEAKING

BY
SUSAN
HANLEY

Daveis Sanctuary, with its towering firs and views of the rocky coast, is available to modern-day ambler thanks to the foresight of two sisters more than three-quarters of a century ago.

Mabel Daveis, who died in 1946, stipulated in her will that the property be set aside as a sanctuary and arboretum “for the attraction, propagation, and preservation of songbirds.” Although the language was in Mabel’s will, the sanctuary was the shared vision of Mabel and her sister, Mary Daveis, who died in 1942.

Today, the conservation area — 6.8 non-contiguous acres on the northeast side of Peaks Island — is owned by the Oceanside Conservation Trust of Casco Bay and held in a conservation easement by the Peaks Island Land Preserve.

The Daveis sisters enjoyed an affluent lifestyle, but they also devoted themselves to causes to help the less fortunate. They belonged to dozens of clubs and committees, often in leadership roles. With access to Portland’s wealthiest citizens, mixed with their own generosity, the sisters raised money for the organizations they supported.

Mabel, who was born in 1859, was



Ben McCanna/Peaks Island News

A granite marker and plaque stands at a trailhead at Daveis Sanctuary on Reed Avenue.

particularly interested in helping boys and young men break the cycle of poverty by providing “influences that would not only make life more pleasant but elevate and develop them into better citizens.” In 1885, she helped establish an evening program of instruction and games at the Fraternity Club for boys “drawn from the streets and rough places in the city.” Then, in 1887, Mabel helped found the Fresh Air Society to take sick children to the country for a few weeks “to get the benefit of nature’s restoratives.” Mabel’s concern for young men continued to evolve and in 1906 she became active in Portland’s local prison committee, advocating for prison reform that emphasized rehabilitation over punishment.

Mary, born in 1855, was interested in helping women and children. In 1896, as

chair of the Building Committee of Temporary Home for Women and Children, Mary led the effort to build a new wing of the shelter. She first obtained a \$500 donation from a wealthy citizen and then leveraged it to raise over \$2,000 in additional donations. Mary continued to serve on various committees of the Temporary Home and in 1901 became its vice president. She remained on its board for at least 25 more years.

The Daveis sisters never married. They lived most of their lives with their parents. Their father, Edward H. Daveis, was a successful lawyer before he became president of the Portland Gas Company for 40 years and a director of Casco National Bank. As a prominent citizen with a prosperous career, Edward Daveis hired John Calvin Stevens to design a large brick home on Portland’s

West End and went on to build a summer home that overlooked the Back Shore of Peaks Island.

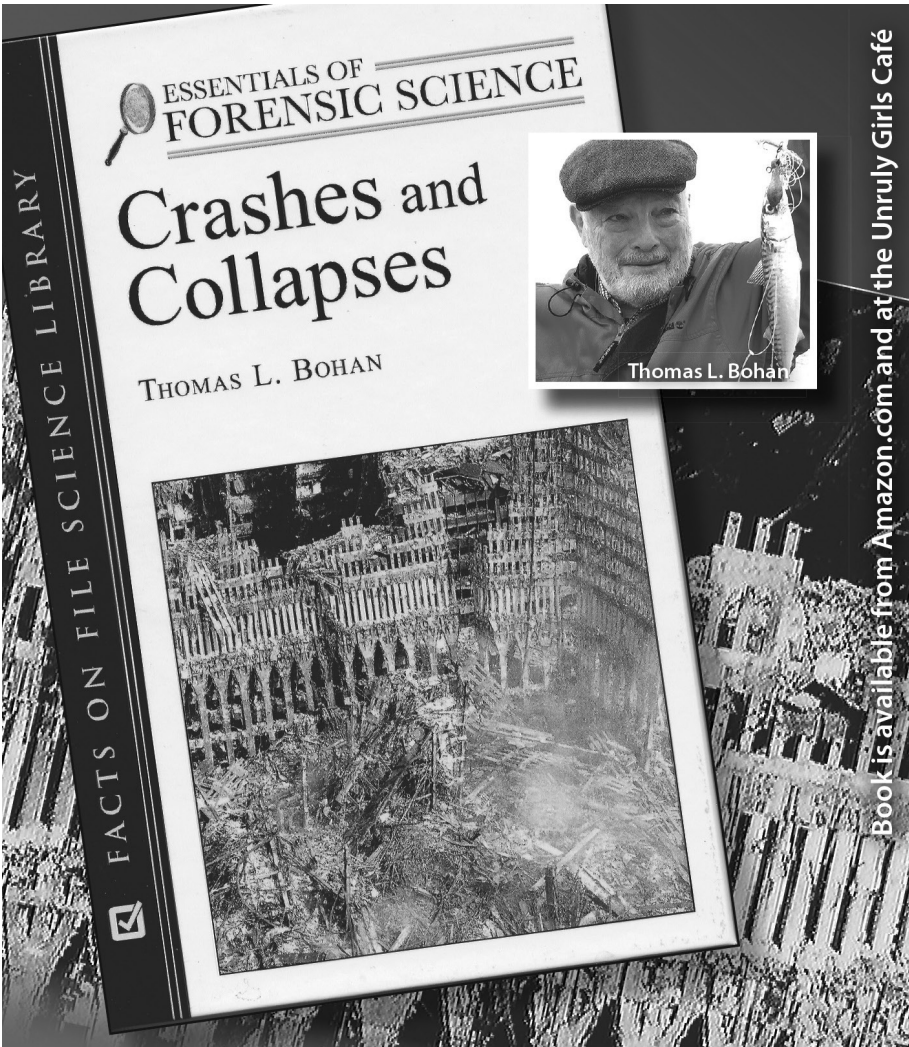
Here on Peaks Island, the Daveis sisters were instrumental in the creation of the Trefethen Evergreen Improvement Association. The sisters hosted the first meeting in their home on September 7, 1912, and Mary became the group’s first vice president. Fueled by their love of nature, the women were concerned by what they saw as the overdevelopment of the island and hoped to keep Trefethen and Evergreen from emulating Forest City Landing, with its amusements and throngs of day trippers.

Mabel and Mary supported TEIA in many ways including financially. Their donations helped to purchase the Dayburn Casino in 1922 to establish a permanent home for the TEIA clubhouse. They also funded a large stone fireplace inside the clubhouse in memory of their father. The fireplace remains a centerpiece of the TEIA lounge, featuring stones gathered on the island and cemented together with sand that came from the beach in front of the clubhouse. At its dedication in 1924, the sisters were given the honor of lighting the first fire in the fireplace.

The Daveis sisters happily shared their nature walks on their wooded property at Evergreen. Jesse Trefethen described the area in her book, “Trefethen: The Family and The Landing.”

“It was like a fairyland, and people

DAVEIS, continued on page 16



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* Tamano; Casco Bay, Maine - NOAA Incident News — In the early morning of July 22, 1972, the tanker Tamano grounded on Soldier’s Ledge in Casco Bay, Maine, tearing a 20-foot hole in a starboard tank.

Local Author



Photos courtesy of Collections of City of Portland – Planning and Development, Maine Memory Network images #85978, top, and #87660

Mabel Daveis’ cottage, Magpie House, top, sat closer to the ocean at the back of Evergreen. Mary Daveis’ cottage, Sunset Cottage, was above Mabel’s home.

May the skies be clear and starry in May



SKY
WATCH
BY
MICHAEL
RICHARDS

May is named for Maia, the daughter of Atlas, the oldest of the seven Pleiades sisters and the Greco-Roman goddess of fertility. At the start of the month, sunrise is at 5:30 a.m. and sunset at 7:45 p.m., but by month's end, it rises at 5 a.m. and sets at 8:16 p.m., adding another full hour of sunlight to warm the Northern Hemisphere for planting.

The constellations slowly shift westward, so the Gemini twins are now in the western sky at dusk. Leo the lion is marked by bright-white Regulus, the dot of the reverse question-mark that forms his head and forefoot. In the north, the Big Dipper is high in the sky, its front edge pointing toward Polaris, and its handle arcing to Arcturus, the red giant star in Boötes the herdsman. Further east is little Corona Borealis, the C-shaped grouping including a recurrent-nova star that astronomers expect to brighten very soon.

Low on the eastern horizon, blue-white star Vega is rising out over the Atlantic. Vega is young and hot, and spinning madly. It's twice the size of the sun but rotates once every 16 hours, compared with our sun's leisurely 27 days. Its rapid rotation causes Vega to be quite fat around the middle. If Vega rotated any faster, it would fly apart.

May 2

Just before dawn, Venus is near Neptune to our line of sight, but the two planets couldn't be more different. In a telescope or binoculars, Venus is a bright crescent and Neptune is a small blue dot. Although they will appear just 2 degrees apart – the width of your little finger-tip at arm's length – Venus is our nearest planetary neighbor and Neptune is our most distant.

Neptune is an ice giant – four times wider than Earth. It has an Earth-sized core, surrounded by a thick, flowing sea of water, ammonia and methane, and orbited by five rings and 16 moons.

Venus is about the same size as Earth and has a rocky crust. Unlike the other planets, it rotates westward, and slowly at that. Its thick atmosphere is hellish: sulfuric acid at 900 degrees and pressure like being a mile beneath the ocean's surface. The Russians landed several probes on Venus, and in the few short hours before they disintegrated, they transmitted photos of a barren, rocky landscape constantly scoured by a yellow hazy wind.

May 3

Right after sunset, see the waxing crescent moon appear just above Mars in the western sky over Portland. Note how white the moon is compared to the rusty surface of



Mars. With binoculars, you might also see the faint Beehive Cluster of stars in the background, with Cancer the crab constellation just to the left of them.

May 4

First-quarter moon is highest at dusk and best for telescopic viewing along the terminator line between light and dark, where the moon shadows are longest, giving the lunar landscape a three-dimensional effect. It's best to have a moon filter on your eyepiece, as the magnified moonlight is quite bright.

May 6

Eta Aquariid meteor shower peaks today, and best viewing is early this morning before dawn. The gibbous moon will have set by then, and you might see a streak across the northeastern sky about every few minutes. The shower started mid-April and will last until the end of May. The shower is the result of Earth passing through a broad swath of dust particles left behind by Halley's Comet, which swings around the sun every 87 years.

May 8

Lyrind meteor shower peaks this morning in the northeastern sky before dawn, but expect only about three meteors per hour.

May 12

Full "Flower" moon is a micro-moon because it's near apogee, when its elliptical orbit has veered farthest away from Earth.

May 14

The fat gibbous moon appears near Antares, the red super-giant star that is the heart of Scorpio. They're so closely aligned that the moon eclipses Antares in Argentina, Chile and Uruguay. Antares means "rival

to Mars," but it's no contest: it's a double-star system, with its primary star bigger than the orbit of Mars around the sun.

May 20

Last-quarter moon is high at sunrise.

May 22

The waning crescent moon slides over Saturn early this morning. Binoculars are best to find the yellow planet just below and right of the moon. Nearby, Neptune is a blue dot in the distance.

May 23

The thin crescent moon seems to encompass brilliant Venus before dawn this morning.

May 25

The moon is at perigee, its closest point to Earth, and perihelion, its closest point to the sun, and near new, when it lines up with the sun. All that combines to pull tides higher and lower than usual around noon and midnight over the next few days. The next few days are best for boat-launching near mid-day.

May 26

New moon means no moonlight to interfere with stargazing.

May 28

Highest tide this month is at midnight, and the lowest tide this month is at 6:30 this morning, with more than 13 feet of difference between them. The thin, waxing crescent moon is near Jupiter in the western sky this evening.

May 31

In the predawn sky, Venus reaches its greatest westward elongation from the sun and in binoculars appears as a half-moon shape.

2025 residential boarding passes now available

Peaks Island residents can obtain preferential boarding passes for Casco Bay Lines ferries again starting May 1 at the ticket window.

Bay Lines said that anyone who held a pass in previous years would qualify for a new one this year. All passholders must fill out a renewal application on the CBL website at cascobaylines.com. A different form is available for first-time applicants.

The passes enable Peaks residents to get first shot at boarding the ferry between May 23 and Oct. 13 for all runs between 9:15 a.m. and 7:15 p.m.

The passes cost \$10.

New group eyes impacts of cruise ships on Casco Bay

A newly formed volunteer group, Portland Cruise Control, plans to meet monthly in Portland or online to better understand cruise tourism.

The goal, according to a news release, is to educate the community, study the human and environmental impacts and find solutions to mitigate the negative consequences of cruise ships.

This year's cruise season begins April 17 and will continue through Nov 7. During that 7-month period, Portland will receive nearly 100 cruise ship visits. More than three-quarters of those vessels will have exhaust gas cleaning systems (EGCS), also known as scrubbers.

"These devices deceptively reduce the appearance of air emissions by 'washing' pollutants into the harbor, a practice that is being banned throughout the world," the release states.

Portland Cruise Control plans to investigate "fuel and scrubber use, air emissions and water pollution from toxic scrubber wash discharge, communication protocols for norovirus outbreaks on cruise ships, effective reporting of complaints from excessive noise, air pollution, charter bus emissions, passenger congestion and financial data to calculate the costs of hosting cruise ships."

Founded by Portland residents Matthew Day, Maggy Wolf and JoAnn Locktov, Portland Cruise Control will meet monthly, beginning at 6 p.m. April 16 at Hill House, 92 Congress St., Portland, or on Zoom.

The group's second meeting will be held at 10 a.m. May 24 at the same location. For more information, visit portlandcruisecontrol-maine.org or write to info@portlandcruisecontrol.org to receive meeting dates, agendas, Zoom links and more.

WEDDING GUIDE

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Gifts

City Point Studios: What better gift for Peaks Island newlyweds than affordable Peaks island artwork. www.citypointstudio.net

Danielle D. Madore: Island artist, offering Peaks island landscape paintings. Contact danithepirate@iCloud.com or 207-807-6850

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Music

Casco Bay Tumblers: Klezmer Band specializing in Jewish music. Contact Nancy 3. Hoffman at 207-939-0301

Danielle Madore: DJ services. Contact danithepirate@iCloud.com or 207-807-6850

Jeff Cusack: Acoustic Guitarist/Vocalist available for wedding ceremonies, cocktail hours and small receptions. Call 207-671-2792 or email jefcusack1954@gmail.com

Maine Squeeze: Accordion Ensemble - International hits! Contact Nancy 3. Hoffman at 207-939-0301

Nancy Hoffman: Accordion player for your wedding or event! Contact Nancy 3. Hoffman at 207-939-0301

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American Legion's Maine HQ reorganizing Peaks post

By Ross Sneyd
Peaks Island News

Peaks Island's American Legion post is being reorganized and officials from state headquarters say they're confident it will soon reopen.

Post 142 closed late last year, ostensibly for a kitchen renovation that the post commander at the time said should be complete by the end of 2024.

But the post has not reopened and the commander, Todd Doyle, has since stepped down.

Jason Hall, adjutant for the American Legion Department of Maine, said a previous commander of Post 142 might return to take the helm, but more officers and members are needed to run the group.

"We really need a team," he said. "Running a post, its programs and serving veterans isn't a one-person job."

Although there was discussion a few years ago of permanently closing Post 142 and selling its property, that is no longer the case, Hall said.

"The goal was to keep the American Legion a vibrant part of the island community and to maintain the military

history of Peaks Island," he said.

Post 142 is known for its popular bar but Hall said it also needs veterans to volunteer to support its four-part mission, which he defined as "veterans affairs and rehabilitation; Americanism; children and youth programs; and national security."

"Post 142 is fortunate to have support from the American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of the American Legion," he said. "Both groups have been instrumental in keeping the community center open over the years. That post has a huge support from the community as well. We need to boost veterans' supporting veterans at this point."

There are currently 62 legion members at Post 142, although 20 "are not in the community," Hall said, because they're "snowbirds."

A committee from state headquarters is being formed to visit the post and confirm that the promised renovations have been completed and to "assess any other needs prior to the revitalization," he said.

No dates have been set other than Hall's assurance that "Post 142 will be back soon."

No date for Seashore Avenue repairs

Peaks Island News

Federal and state officials still have not worked out plans for repairing Seashore Avenue 16 months after a pair of storms washed out large sections of the road.

Portland's Public Works Department is "working through the process" with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), along with a consulting engineering firm, said Bill Patnaude, DPW operations manager and liaison to the islands.

There are also currently no plans to improve the road to minimize threats from future storms.

"No bids have gone out at this point and the only resilience efforts that may take place from this storm is increased size of rip rap," Patnaude said.

"I think most folks realize that the reality of the situation is that every once in a while, Seashore Avenue is going to flood over," he said. "To prevent that, most of the road would have to be raised and a robust seawall installed."

But he said the state Department of Environmental Protection and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which would both have to agree to a more robust resilience plan, have indicated that they wouldn't go along with much more than a rebuild.

Frozen in rime

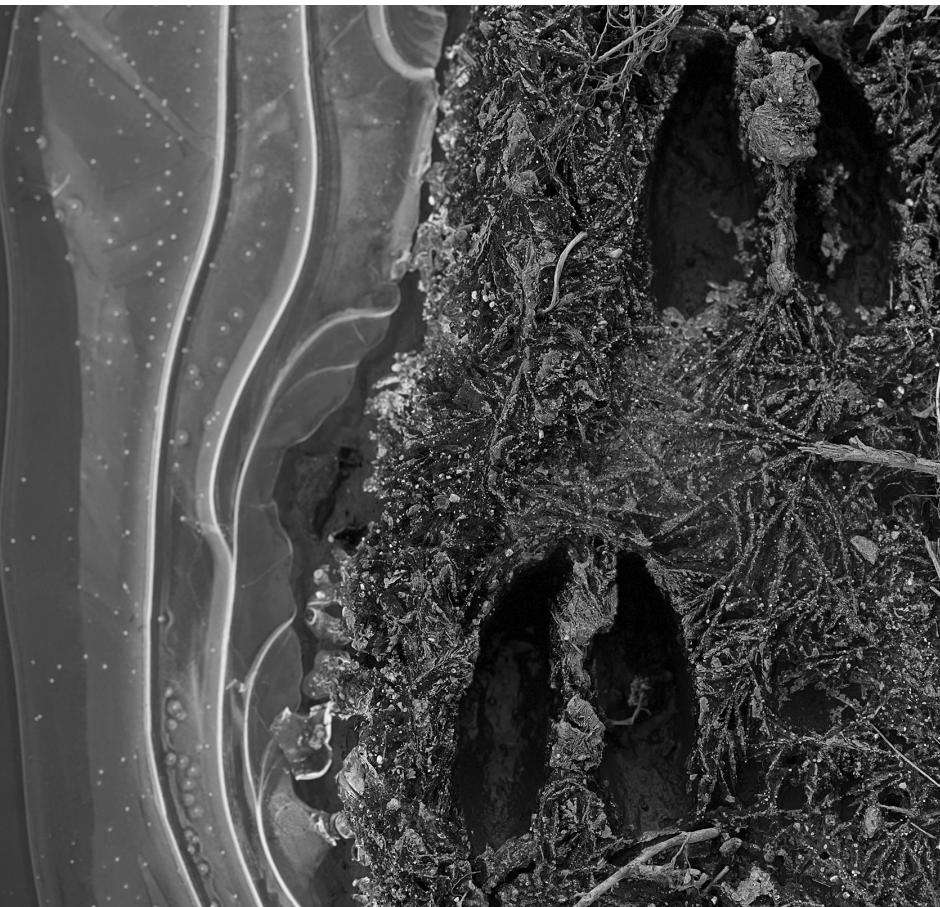


Photo by Heather Waskiewicz

Deer tracks skirt an icy puddle near Battery Steele on an early April morning.

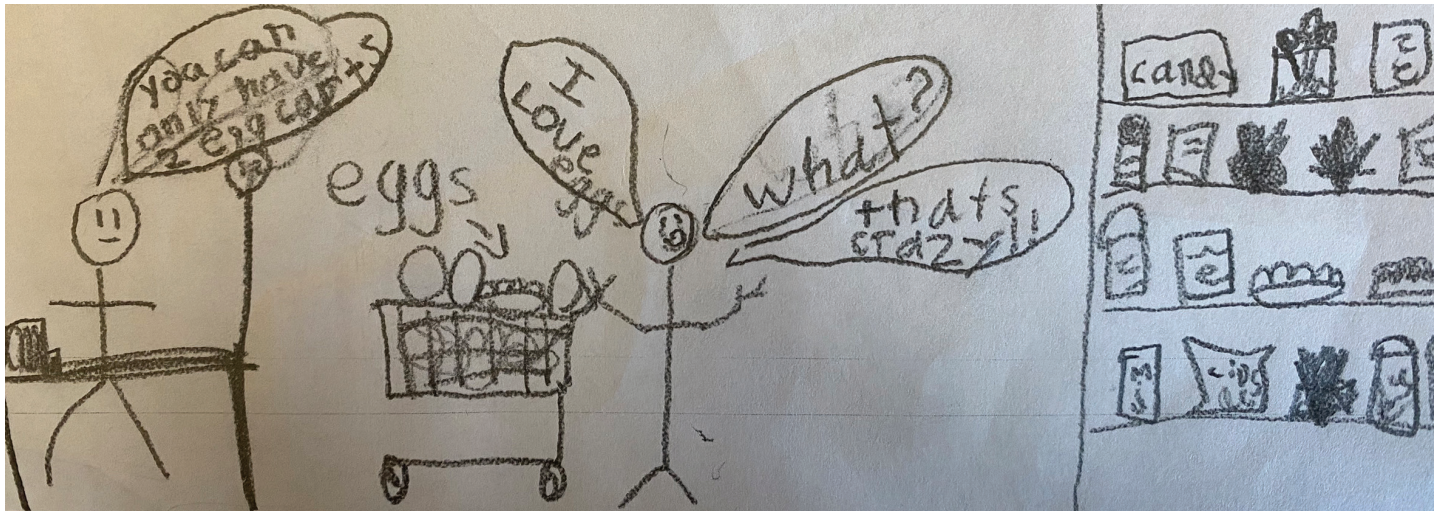
PIES second- and third-graders clearly swayed



Peaks Island Elementary School second- and third-graders dance in their seats while music teacher Faith York plays piano in March.

Ben Robinson/Peaks Island Elementary School

Crackdown on eggs? Avian flu prompts retailer restrictions



Story and illustration by Lucy Fennell
Grade 4

Many stores are limiting customers to buying only two cartons of eggs per person. Egg prices have gone up because of the bird flu. Because more than 57 million birds have contracted the disease, people have had to kill the birds to help prevent it from spreading. According to the New York Times,

the bird flu is the largest outbreak of avian influenza in U.S. history. That is the reason that fewer hens can produce eggs. Scientists and economists predict that egg prices could continue rising in the spring because people buy so many eggs during Easter and because of shortages linked to the bird flu outbreak. Hopefully, scientists can find a way to prevent the bird flu disease from spreading any more than it already has and, with any luck, egg prices will go down.



Photos by Tammy Drew/PIES

Top, Milo Ryan watches the syrup-making process at PATHS. Bottom, Eben Feldman-Orr, left, Henry Torres Conley and Dashiell Feldman-Orr try maple syrup on ice cream.

Kindergartners take sweet first field trip

By Tammy Drew
Kindergarten teacher

Peaks Island kindergartners recently attended their first field trip. The excitement was palpable as our littlest explorers disembarked the ferry to board a yellow school bus for the first time. The group ventured to Portland Arts and Technology High School to see how maple syrup is made.

Kindergartners have been learning about the Wabanaki culture, traditions and history, which includes the use of maple syrup as a food, medicine and as a trade item. Our field trippers were most excited to discover how delicious Maine-made maple syrup is on ice cream.



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The bird is the word: First-graders find fun in feathered friends

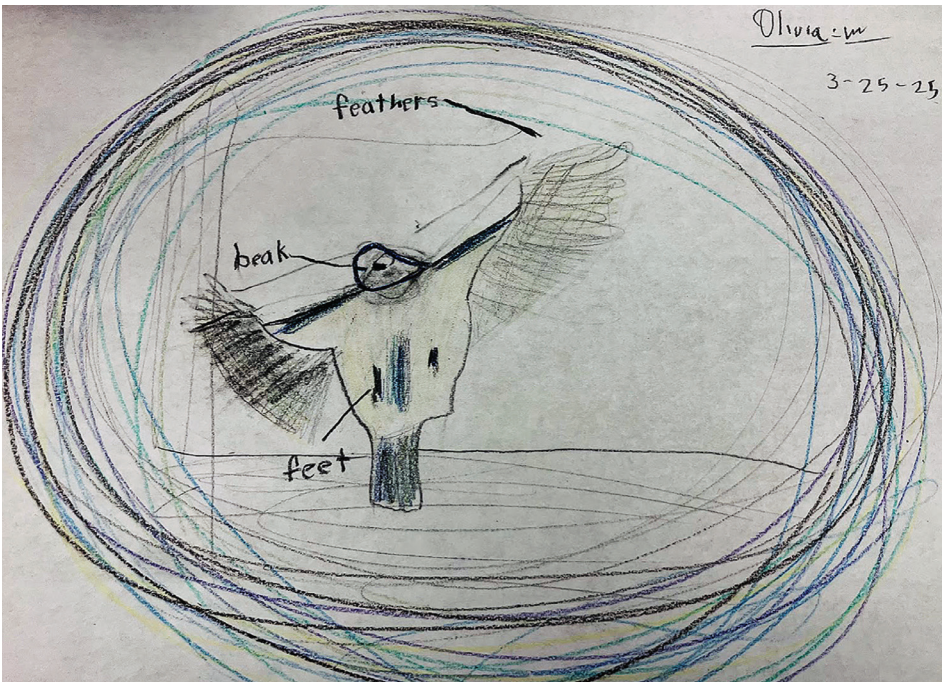
First-graders at Peaks Island Elementary School are in the middle of a unit on birds. Together they have generated a list of 158 birds so far and drawn pictures of birds.



Quinn Sanderson

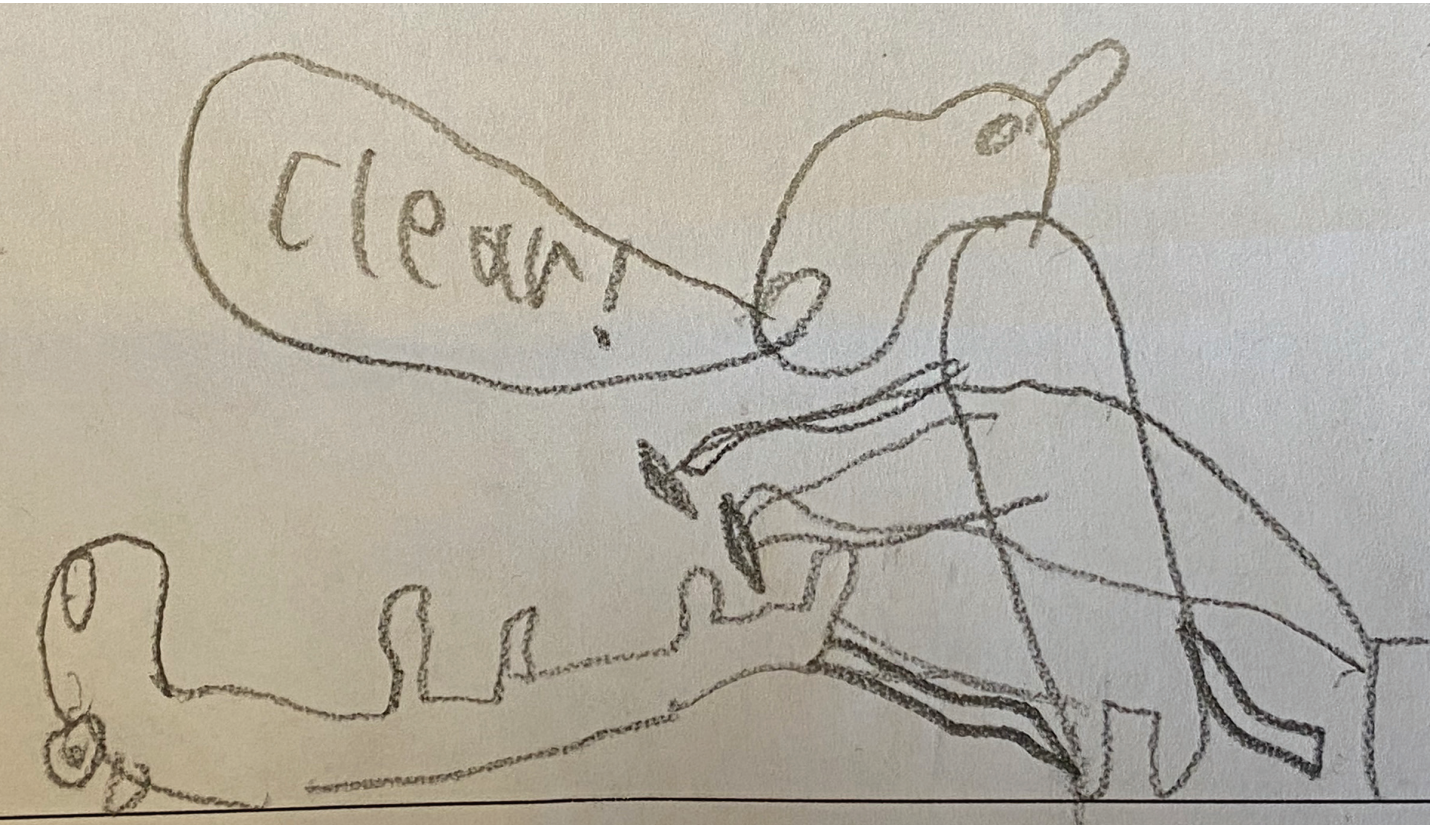


Peri Kraft



Olivia Mulkern

Mouse-to-mouse resuscitation? Scientists say yes

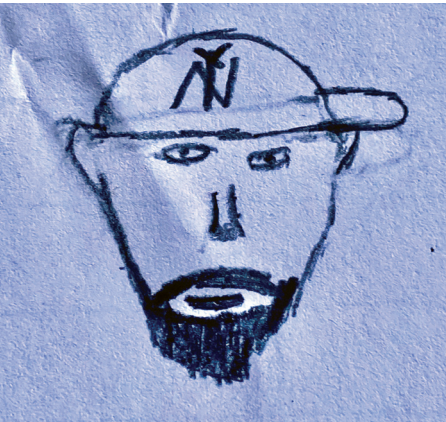


Story and illustration by Owen Stevenson
Grade 5

Did you know that mice are able to perform first aid to revive their stricken peers?
A new study, reported in the journal Science, has shown that when a mouse is unconscious, another mouse will try to help it! Scientists noticed that mice pawed, licked, and pulled

aside the tongues of their stricken companions.
The mice were more likely to rescue each other if they had met before. The mice in the study had never seen an unconscious creature so their behavior is thought to be instinctual.
The mice were successful 80% of the time, and scientists hope to perform new studies to observe this behavior in the wild. While all scientists are not convinced, we hope to learn more.

New York Yankees lift beard ban



Story and illustration by Evans Shaw
Grade 5

The New York Yankees have lifted their no-beard policy after 49 years.
Their no-beard policy affected the team in a negative way because a vast majority of men in America have beards.
I think it's pretty ridiculous that if you really wanted to be on the New York Yankees, but you had a beard, you were forced to shave it off.
Since the ban affected team recruitment to attract the best players, the Yankees lifted the ban.
Maybe we will see a lot of bearded Yankees on the field this year!

In pictures: Peaks Islanders turn out for Portland protest



Carol Eisenberg holds a hand-painted protest sign as more than 200 Peaks Islanders board the Machigonne II for Fill the Ferry, an event aimed at getting as many islanders as possible to Monument Square for Hands Off, a protest against the Trump administration that was held in towns and cities throughout Maine and the United States on April 5.

Story and photos by Ben McCanna
Peaks Island News

Irv Williams was the first person waiting for the 10 a.m. boat to Portland on Saturday, April 5. Nearly 30 minutes before departure, he sat alone on a bench at Forest City Landing with a protest sign at the ready. He was hopeful more people would show up.

The event was dubbed Fill the Ferry, a name that came to Williams in his sleep. The idea was to get as many islanders as possible on the Machigonne II and then march to Monument Square in Portland for Hands Off, a nationwide protest against the Trump administration.

Williams mentioned his plan to a few people at church, he said. “The idea grew legs. All of a sudden people are saying, ‘Yeah, let’s fill the ferry.’”

At the bottom of Welch Street, over the next half hour, dozens of sign-clutching islanders began to arrive. Peter Seraichick was one of them.

Ringling a cowbell and wearing a tricornered hat, Seraichick said he was going to the protest as a tribute to an ancestor who fought in the Revolutionary War.

“I gotta do something,” he said. “He fought for this — these rights — I need to fight to keep them.”

After the crowd boarded, a Casco Bay Lines deckhand said he counted more than 200 riders – about half of the Machigonne’s 399-person capacity, but nonetheless a robust crowd for an early Saturday passage.

In Portland, the crowd marched through the Old Port to Monument Square, where a few thousand protesters had gathered. Williams climbed onto the granite base of the Our Lady of Victories statue and surveyed the scene of people lining both sides of the nearby streets.

“At one point I thought how easy it would have been for the protesters to simply step off the sidewalks and totally block Congress Street in one massive moment of civil disobedience, but everyone remained in place, traffic flowed as it should,” he said. “Even though people are immensely angry about the lawlessness of Trump and Musk, we maintained law and order in exercising our rights to peacefully assemble.”



Left panel, Irv Williams, center, who dreamed up the name Fill the Ferry, clangs a coffee can with a spoon while leading a group of Peaks Islanders off the ferry and toward Monument Square. Right, siblings Fiona and Frank board the Machigonne II on the Peaks side shortly before the 10 a.m. Saturday departure.



Photo above by Paul Nakroshis, photos below by Ben McCanna



Clockwise from top: thousands of protesters fill Monument Square in Portland for Hands Off, part of a nationwide demonstration against the Trump administration; Garry Fox holds a protest sign while standing on the base of the Our Lady of Victories monument; Brian Richardson chants along with the crowd; Peter Seraichick sports a tricornered hat while standing along Congress Street; Nicole d'Entremont, left, and Eleanor Morse carry a banner while marching from Casco Bay Lines' terminal toward Monument Square.

Making room for adventure: Leah Bradenday, owner of Lighthouse Bikes



Five years ago, Leah Bradenday succeeded in completely changing her life. Her shift from a career as a social worker to a bike shop owner was driven largely by her thirst for adventure. Bradenday so thoroughly enjoyed a cross-country bike ride with her son in the fall of 2019 that it was harder than ever to sit at a desk from 9 to 5. So, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, Bradenday decided to open a bike shop.

Starting from scratch meant a steep learning curve, but Bradenday has built a community space centered around bike riding that still gives her a chance to go off on new adventures every year.

"I'm not a bungee jumper or deep-sea diver or a solo climber, but I like adventure," she said. "When you show up on a bike, people are kind, especially when you're vulnerable. I think people are good and it feels good to have it reaffirmed over and over again."

What was it like to start a business during COVID?

I got the idea less than three months before I opened the store Memorial Day weekend 2020. It was very quick. My thought was that people were going to need to be outside so I thought the bike shop would be one of the few businesses that could still take off and it did.

What is your core business?

It is a four-legged stool: Lighthouse Bikes, tours, rentals and repairs. The tours and rentals take up the bulk of the summer. In the spring we do a lot of repairs. We sell a fair number of bikes, but we don't make much money on bikes. This year I'm trying to be more of a resource center for people who want to do longer tours. We can help with route planning, we can outfit people with everything they need for touring, we can rent them equipment. So, if people wanted to fly in from Missouri for a bike tour in Maine, they could come to Lighthouse Bikes to get a bike, and we could set them up soup to nuts and send them out the door.

What is your typical day like?

I like it because my days are really varied. From May until November is our busiest time when we have three tours a day: 9 a.m., 11:30, and 3 p.m. I do some of those tours, at least one. I might go out on the 9 o'clock tour to take eight people to see the lighthouses. When I come back, I do a lot of the low-level mechanics – adjust brakes, fix flats, change headsets. I don't do the



Ben McCanna/Peaks Island News

Leah Bradenday, owner of Lighthouse Bikes in South Portland, poses on her bicycle on Seashore Avenue on a foggy March 19.

heavy mechanics. I then spend a lot of time responding to emails, booking tours, answering questions. At the end of the day, we wash all the bikes and put them away. I have 11 people working at the shop now, so I manage that.

What do you do in the off season?

I have been going on a bike trip every year. The first trip was with my son, Oakley, across the country and that inspired the whole bike shop idea. The next year I did a couple of short trips and then I decided to go across South America, which was really scary because I'd never done a trip by myself. Then I went across Morocco and Spain. This winter I went to Cuba for a month. I just loved Cuba so much and the people are great. I stayed with families. They have a system called Casa Particulares, where anyone who wants to rent a room has a sign with a little blue house on their door. You just knock on their door, and you have some juice together in the living room. They decide whether they want you to stay, and you decide whether you want to stay. After the little meet and greet they show you the room.

Where will you go next?

I would love to ride in Patagonia. I'd also like to bike in Japan.

What is the biggest challenge for you at Lighthouse Bikes?

Well, I don't really know what I'm doing (laughs). That's the biggest challenge. It all happened very easily and I'm learning a lot. I feel like I've gone back to school for a business degree. Also, I'm really not a capitalist. The fact that the business is about money is the hardest part. What I love is having people on the bikes. It sounds corny, but people are

so happy on a bike ride. I love being outside all day, I love how people feel so good about themselves afterwards, even people who have never ridden a

bike before. In that way I don't think it's that different from social work because you're working on people's confidence and happiness.

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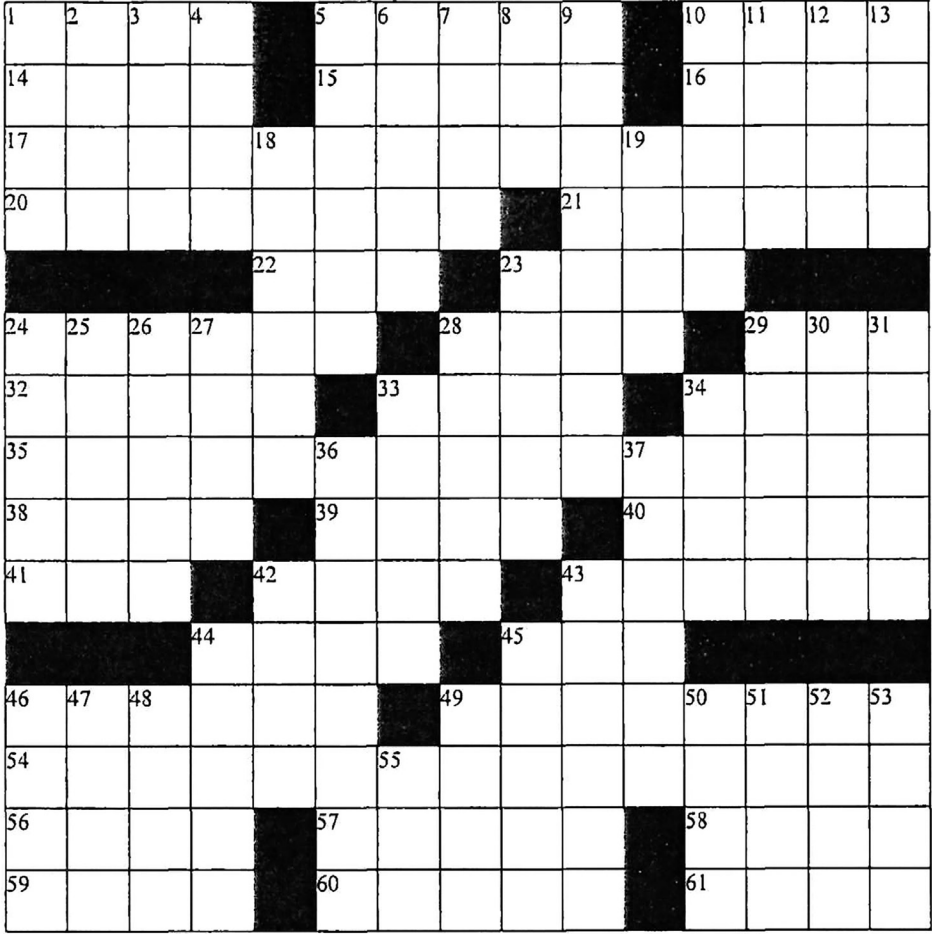
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Crossword challenge: *Formerly known as Twitter*

By John Whitman

Across

1. Bring to bear
5. Take _____
10. Self-righteous person
14. Inter _____
15. Modern communicator
16. Big-chinned car collector
17. Rickie Lee Jones standard
20. Good name for sports bar
21. American icon since 1952
22. Much-sought zone
23. College addresses
24. A black and white mammal
28. Hold your horses!
29. Grp that says "dentifrice"
32. Vive _____!
33. Not taped
34. Style and energy
35. Norman Mailer opus
38. Level
39. Dozes off
40. Remote command
41. Still a hazard in Iraq
42. Ship sunk by a whale
43. See 60 Across
44. UK gallery
45. Blue
46. Nissan model
49. Base
54. Steven Spielberg's biggest star
56. So-so
57. Cliffs of Dover material
58. Rival of Paul Newman
59. Sometimes is more



60. With 43 Across, Revlon rival
61. God of lust
4. Indian giant conglomerate
5. Odysseus's protector
6. "_____ the City"
7. Sicilian tourist attraction
8. Govt. org. dissolved in 1975
9. More au courant

Down

10. Solar _____
11. Paper measure
12. American empire
13. Hockey role player
18. Acknowledgement
19. Germ.?
23. Squirrel habitat
24. He was a 51 Down
25. Vex
26. Sparked
27. It is what it describes
28. Glass cleaner
29. Oral
30. Ballet Francais
31. Deadly sin
33. Unchaste
34. A hairy brother
36. Example
37. Shatner's law partner
42. Merit
43. Nader's 2000 running mate
44. Serving aids
45. Co-founder of Black Panthers
46. Praise to skies
47. Little critter
48. Swift journey
49. Junior's challenge
50. Positive
51. European ruler
52. Affleck's Best Picture of 2012
53. Luxury car
55. Exclamations

Answers on page 16

CBL vehicle rate debate continues, \$190 proposed for peak season

CBL, continued from page 1

the ferry service's finances. The board is attempting to reduce its reliance on federal grants, including steps to re-structure vehicle rates for the first time in 15 years.

The rate proposal generated dozens of written comments to CBL criticizing the plan, many of them complaining that it was unaffordable to people who travel infrequently.

"There needs to be another path to a discounted rate," Peaks resident Barbara Carter said at a recent finance committee meeting.

Committee Chairwoman Jean Hoffman said a revision attempted to address some of those concerns by improving the discount for anyone who holds an annual or 90-day pass.

Passengers with those passes could qualify for a discounted vehicle rate of \$46 any day of the week during the off season, rather than \$53 in the most recent proposal. Holders of 90-day

passes would have to pay \$50 under the proposal, but annual passholders would automatically qualify for the discount.

On Sundays through Wednesdays during the summer the rate would also be \$46, rather than the most recent proposal's \$62.25. The rate on Thursdays through Saturdays would be \$82.65 during the summer, as it was in the most recent proposal.

Vehicles with handicapped plates would pay \$46.

Rates for anyone without an annual or 90-day pass would be \$190 every day during the summer and, during the off season, \$120 Thursday through Saturday, \$82.65 Sunday through Wednesday.

Those so-called single-use rates have been criticized, as well, including by board member Joe Donovan from Long Island. "I think they're too high," he said. "I think they're an attempt to restrict people who come out to the island just for short trips whether it be weekends or weeks or even a day. I think it's unfair to summer residents."

Earlier versions of the proposal also called for commercial vehicles to be charged based on their length, rather than the current weight-based fee structure. Hoffman said that plan needed further work so that it didn't hit island businesses so hard. She proposed, instead, an across-the-board 23 percent increase in commercial vehicle rates.

Any vehicle that's 6,000 pounds or less would be able to qualify for the discounted rates, including pickup trucks with commercial license plates that currently have to pay commercial rates. Some committee members argue that any vehicle with commercial plates should still pay commercial rates and that plan may change.

A number of critics and supporters of the rate proposal said they believed prices needed to rise, especially since they haven't been adjusted in 15 years. "I do believe previous boards have been derelict in not increasing rates incrementally," said Peaks resident Ann Marie Barter.

"It's gotta happen," said resident Dickie Newcomb. "You can't keep fall-ling behind, behind, behind."

Hoffman said Bay Lines' reve-nues would increase by an estimated \$450,000 to nearly \$2 million annually if the proposal were adopted. One of the rationales for raising rates is to close annual operating deficits, the gap between what the ferry system raises in passenger and vehicle tickets and what it costs to keep the boats running. Federal grants currently fill that gap but concerns persist that the Trump admin-istration will cut that money.

Board member Bud Higgins of Peaks said federal grant dependence needed to be reduced. "We need to be proac-tive," he said.

Hoffman said her goal was to imple-ment rate increases by June 1. Any plan still needs recommendation from the finance committee, which meets again on April 17 at 12:30 p.m., adoption by the full board and approval of the state Public Utilities Commission.



POETRY
LANDING
BY
JESSICA
GEORGE

Sharon Henderson longs to be as free as a billow of rising wind or an animal that soars. Instead, she writes about them — which is one step closer to making it possible. Send submissions to: dreamstreampoe@tr@gmail.com

The Billows

By Sharon Henderson

The morning mist rises from the bright grass ... a soft shower from earth to the heavens ... flicks of blue and yellow wings waltzing in the onshore flowing breeze ... tickling, arousing cool flesh, on which fine hairs lavish in moisture

A plume of wildflowers crest the trodden dunes beyond the pastel houses ... nearby ... bare feet smothered in pale sands, with small scuffed toes ... step past with reverent care, then rage onward from the orange and brown slated walk ... to rush ... to cause great billows of sun-tinseled pebbles ... to thrash the gentle breakers and laugh ... to claim the barrage ... as heartbeats and joy claim this exclusive glory

Out there ... where gulls are glistening white winks ... their cries stranded and faded on momentary sand bars ... where time is but the burden of the sun, moon and boats anchored ... on silky, rippling sheets of glacier blue

And if only I could free them all ... to let loose and cause exuberant billows of foam ... to soar as dolphins do ... with fins of wind.

An Open Book from the Peaks Island Branch Library

**By Rose Ann Walsh
For the Peaks Island Library**

For 26 years the Friends of Peaks Island Library have been giving the island's newborn babies a Friends of the Peaks Island Library canvas bag. Inside each bag are two new board books and a welcome note.

Former Peaks Islander Bunny Clark designed the first set of bags. When it was time to reorder, islander Marty Braun was asked to design the second set. In 2024, Marty designed the current bag, which also serves as the Friends of Peaks Island Library logo.

Bags are also available for sale at the library and at the Friends Annual Book Sale in July.

If you know of someone on Peaks expecting a baby, please let us know.

Weekly Friday storytimes

10:15 a.m. — Rhythm & Rhymes,
infants to age 2

10:45 a.m. — Preschool Storytime,
ages 3–5

Writing group for children in grades 3, 4 and 5

3:15 p.m. on Friday afternoons.

Adult writing group

9 a.m. Saturdays. Each group meets for 45 minutes in the library; drop-ins are always welcome.

Knitting group

4 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month. Bring your current project or a craft you're working on. Join us for conversation and inspiration. All are welcome.

Crossword puzzles and coloring pages for adults

Enjoy daily crossword puzzles,



Rose Ann Walsh/For Peaks Island Library

word puzzles and coloring pages at the library. We have a table setup with colored pencils, pens and clipboards. Enjoy completing one at the library, pick one up to take home or for the boat ride.

Make a button or two

Join us Tuesday, April 22, from 1 to 3 p.m., to make buttons. We have lots of graphics and designs to choose from.

Dress up as your favorite book character or book cover

Join us Friday, April 25, from 1 to 3 p.m., when we'll have a variety of items to help you become your favorite book character or book cover.

Technology tutoring

Join us Tuesday, April 29, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. to meet with our technology librarian for free computer assistance. You name the topic, bring your own device or use the library's laptop. Registration is required. Stop in, call or email the library to reserve a 30-minute session.

Adult book discussion

The monthly group will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 13, in the Community Room to discuss "In the Sea There Are Crocodiles: Based on the True story of Enaiatollah Akbari," by Fabio Geda. The following month, the group will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 10, in the Community Room to discuss "Trust," by Hernan Diaz. Meetings are fun and mind broadening. All are welcome. Contact the library for copies of the books. Sponsored by the Friends of the Peaks Island Library.

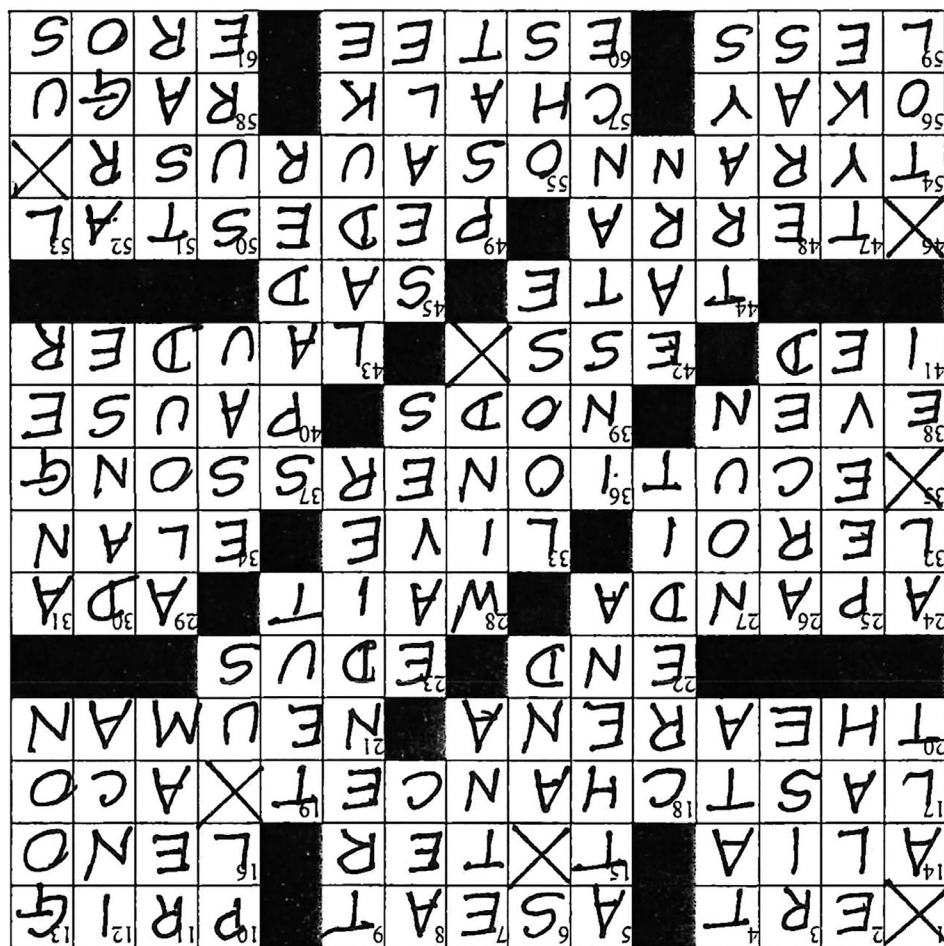
All-staff art show

In May, the all-staff art show will return to the Peaks Island Branch Library. Staff members throughout the Portland Public Library system will share their creative talents.

Hopefully, we have a little something for everybody. Stop in during our open hours: Tuesdays noon–6 p.m.; Wednesdays 9 a.m.–noon; Fridays 10 a.m.–4 p.m.; Saturdays 9 a.m.–12 p.m.

Call 207-766-5540, email peaks@portlib.org or visit us at portlandlibrary.com/locations/peaks-island-branch

Crossword solution - Puzzle is on page 15



DAVEIS, continued from page 7

wandered through as if entranced. The little paths followed natural contours and there were small hills topped by trees. Rock formations of great beauty stood almost like Druid stones where they belonged, but underbrush had been cleared away so that they had a naked look.”

When Mabel died, her will designated all her property as a songbird sanctuary. It also stipulated that the cottage called Magpie House be used as a visitor center “for the promotion of nature study” and she left \$10,000, nearly \$162,000 in today’s money, for

its maintenance. The home no longer stands but paved sections of its entrance can be seen. She made specific donations to a variety of organizations, but the bulk of her wealth established the Edward H. Daveis Benevolent Fund, a charitable trust that still exists to support early childhood and youth leadership programs in Greater Portland.

The legacy that the Daveis sisters left for Peaks Islanders to enjoy is a testament to their foresight. They were ahead of their time, understanding the power of community, the societal benefits of improving the lives of every citizen, and the power of nature to inspire and heal us all.



OBITUARIES

Charles Tweedie Hitt

Charles Tweedie Hitt died peacefully surrounded by family and friends at Memorial Medical Center in Springfield, Illinois, on March 12 after a battle with dementia.

Charlie was born Jan. 11, 1955, to James Brown Hitt, Jr. and Charlene Tweedie. He grew up on a farm near New Berlin, Illinois. Charlie married Karen Smarjes-



Charles Hitt

se in 1981. They moved from Illinois to Texas, beginning a journey that took them to many states. Recently, they returned home to Springfield, Illinois.

Charlie pursued a career in logistics and home delivery. He started as a contractor delivering lumber and worked his way up to become president of XPO Last Mile. He was well known in the home-delivery industry, and his colleagues fondly remember his lively personality and impactful mentorship. Charlie was a founder and director emeritus of the National Home Delivery Association. He served on the board of the Trefethen-Evergreen Improvement Association on Peaks Island.

Those who knew Charlie know he was incredibly passionate about cars.

He enjoyed restoring cars and racing on tracks across North America with his car-loving friends. also loved spending time on the Maine coast with his family and friends every summer.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother James Brown Hitt. Charlie is survived by his wife Karen, son Reid (Hilary Doyle) and grandchildren Theo and Odette (Dot).

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Alzheimer's Association (alz.org) or the Springfield Art Association (springfieldart.org) or Wooden It Be Lovely (woodenitbelovely.love/donate).

To read a full obituary, visit dignitarymemorial.com/obituaries/springfield-il/charles-hitt-12285427

Tonia Nadzo Medd

Tonia Nadzo Medd, 90, passed away peacefully at her Portland home on March 12, 2025. She was born on Oct. 22, 1934, in New York City to the late Guido and Marian Nadzo.

Tonia moved to Peaks Island from Gorham in the early 1990s after her husband



Tonia Medd

Charles died, seeking both community and a change.

Later, her two sons, Sean and Mark Mencher, also settled on the island for a time.

Next to Italy, Peaks was Tonia's favorite place in the world. She talked about it often, up until the last days of her life.

During her time on the Island, she worked tirelessly to save the deer, and always took great joy and comfort in her walks around the Back Shore.

Although she moved to the mainland in 2001, she often talked about how she was grateful for the happy memories she made with her Island friends, and while living in her home

at the bottom of the hill on Elizabeth Street, held a special place in Tonia's big heart.

Per Tonia's request, half of her ashes will be sprinkled on the Back Shore, the rest in Italy.

Tonia was a fiercely independent woman.

She was also true to herself while at the same time a beacon of strength for her family, friends and community. Her legacy of resilience, authenticity and unwavering love for her family and friends will be deeply missed but never forgotten, always cherished.

Contributions may be made in Tonia's memory to the Animal Refuge League of Greater Portland.

Stanley Joseph Piawlock

Stanley Joseph Piawlock, 86, of South Portland, died peacefully March 28 at Maine Medical Center with his son by his side.

The only child of Stanley J. and Mary (Dabrosky) Piawlock, Stanley was born in Portland on Nov. 15, 1938. After graduation from Cheverus High School in 1956 he proudly served his country in the U.S. Navy for three years. After being honorably discharged, he met and fell in love with Judith Cham-



Stanley Piawlock

berlin of Brattleboro, Vermont, and they were married in September 1959. The following year, he became a police officer for the city of Portland. He retired in 1981 after serving 21 years.

Afterward, Stan was hired as chief of security for Bates College. While there, Stan and Judith bought a piece of land on Peaks Island and eventually built a home on it.

After leaving Lewiston five years later, Stan took a job at the federal courthouse in Portland as a U.S. marshal. He traveled to Portland from Peaks on the ferry every day, an experience he genuinely enjoyed.

Stan retired from working altogether at age 76. When Stan and Judith decided to sell the house on Peaks, they moved to Buxton, then later South Portland.

Stan was predeceased by his parents, his youngest son Joe, and his

granddaughter Paige.

He is survived by Judith, his wife of 66 years, his children Vicki Hall (Dan), Laura Piawlock (Mike McNabb), Diane Seubert (Rod), Debra Piawlock (Frank Brume Jr.) and Mark Piawlock (Donise Price). He is also survived by his grandchildren, Abby, Jake, Amara and Brooke; his great-grandchildren Mason, Matthew, Lucas and Harper; and his daughter-in-law Yvonne Piawlock.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Stanley's name to the Johns Hopkins Myositis Center, Development Office, Mason F. Lord Building, Center Tower Suite 358, 5200 Eastern Ave, Baltimore, MD 21224. Please make checks payable to Johns Hopkins University.

To read Stan's full obituary, visit dignitarymemorial.com/obituaries/portland-me/stanley-piawlock-12312214

Thoroughfare to Casco Bay Lines subject of city's 'reimagining'

Franklin Street, the arterial connecting Interstate 295 and Casco Bay Lines, will be the topic of discussion during an open house in mid-April at Portland Public Library.

Reimagining Franklin Street, which will be hosted by the city of Portland's Planning & Urban Development Department, "invites attendees to learn about past planning efforts and discuss their ideas and priorities for an updated street design and land use plan," according to a press release from the city.

"The Reimagining Franklin Street effort will update and refine the conceptual design that was adopted by the City Council as part of the 2015 Franklin Street Master Plan, as well as develop a land use/urban design plan for the street," according to the release.

Planning is expected to take about 10 months.

The additional planning is necessary due to "changes in transportation patterns, and planning and design standards since 2015, as well as the updated zoning along and near Franklin Street due to the adoption of the City's ReCode effort."

The planning will also take into consideration the "significant development that has occurred along and near Franklin Street since 2015 as well as the opportunities that are now in place due to the availability of federal funds such as those the City and MaineDOT have been recently awarded."

The update will include an emphasis on safety, accessibility and connectivity for "all users of the street including pedestrians, motorists, bicyclists and transit users as well as strengthening connections between neighborhoods bordering Franklin Street. It will also apply a land use and urban design lens to integrate place-making and ensure the project includes vibrant and active streets, and integrates opportunities to meet the City's housing, sustainability, and economic development goals."

The open house is scheduled for 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 17, at Portland Public Library's Rines Auditorium, 5 Monument Square.

Bird mating delays Adopt A Tree's work

The presence of American woodcocks has delayed a spring project by the volunteer group Adopt A Tree.

Group organizer Thaea Lloyd sent an email to her squad of volunteers alerting them to the situation at the so-called Bermuda Triangle between Brackett Avenue, Florida Avenue and Reservoir Road.

"The birds are now mating and will be nesting and raising their young," Lloyd wrote. "They are ground-nesting birds so it is paramount that we are not in this area."

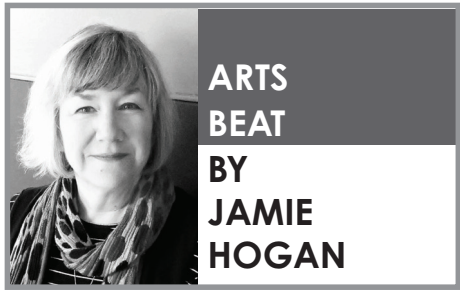
Adopt A Tree volunteers are tasked with freeing trees from bittersweet and other invasives. Their efforts can be seen along the nearby Alphabet Trail.

Obituary policy

Peaks Island News accepts obituary submissions for those with ties to the island.

Please send to news@peaksislandnews.org with 'Obituaries' in the subject line. Submissions should be 350 words or fewer. Peaks Island News may edit obituaries for length, grammar, punctuation and spelling, following Associated Press style.

Art teacher Julia Gordon brings color to PIES and community



ARTS
BEAT
BY
JAMIE
HOGAN

The art classroom can be a haven for kids with ideas.

Here on Peaks, that haven is facilitated by Julia Gordon, Peaks Island Elementary School's new art teacher. Islanders caught a glimpse of Gordon's teachings during an exhibit of student works at the library throughout March.

On a recent afternoon at PIES, as sunlight spilled into the gymnasium, Gordon moved from student to student, encouraging a half dozen second- and third-graders to draw still lifes of flowers. Small class sizes are a big part of the job's appeal.

"Everybody seems to know each other so well," she said. "The kids are almost like a family because they're together all the time."

Gordon also teaches art at Ocean Avenue Elementary School in Portland, where class sizes are much larger, about 20 students. She commutes to PIES just one day a week, which has its drawbacks.

"I wish I saw students a little bit more to really get that momentum going, build those relationships," she said.

Although it's Gordon's first year as art teacher on Peaks, she's no stranger to PIES. During her student internship at University of Southern Maine, she shadowed former art teacher Allison Villani.

Gordon has always gravitated toward art, beginning in her public school years in Portland. Later, she pursued a psychology major with an art minor at University of Maine at Orono, but transferred to USM to major in studio art for her junior year.

After graduating from USM with a bachelor of arts, Gordon was hired as an ed tech at Lincoln Middle and Deering High schools. There, her work gave her glimpses into art classrooms, which got her thinking about combining art and education.

She began taking classes at USM again, this time graduating with a bachelor of fine arts in art education and receiving her teaching certification. Afterward, Gordon taught art in Saco for eight years before landing the job at Ocean Avenue Elementary School in Portland, which includes Tuesdays at PIES.

"It's just so unlike any other school," she said. "Peaks is a small, tight community."

Peaks Island's library is just one example of that community. The space has become an annual venue for student expression, something that librarian Rose Ann Walsh brought to Gordon's attention. Gordon was all in.

"Definitely continue that tradition!" she replied.

For the show, Gordon gave each class group projects that align with



Ben McCanna/Peaks Island News

Art teacher Julia Gordon works with Peaks Island Elementary School second- and third-graders in the gym on March 18.

the Maine Learning Results standards for art students.

Pre-kindergarten students made shape stamps by using oil pastel and liquid paints on paper. Once dry, repurposed objects became tools for stamping shapes over the colors and textures, as inky silhouettes jumped over vibrant backdrops.

Kindergarten students explored warm and cool color shapes. By cutting out bright yellow, hot pink, or red shapes and placing them on a mixed media background of cool blues and purples, they learned the impact of color contrast. One wall of the library was a constellation of stars and hearts, each one glowing from cool depths spangled with bits of tissue paper.

First-graders created animal habitat pop-ups by practicing observational drawing skills while studying an image of a chosen animal. They made a paper cube pop-up and glued their animal drawing to it, adding elements from their animal's habitat by using paint and colored pencil. These became miniature stage sets for a story about to begin.

Second- and third-graders also drew from observation, sketching from a chosen flower. They traced their lines with glue and later blended oil pastels to make their colors bloom.

Fourth- and fifth-graders experimented with radial symmetry by creating mandalas. Using a single slice of their design as a template, students repeated the pattern, yielding eye-catching designs.

Gordon's exhibit of her students' art brings focus in visual, tactile and spatial ways. Their expressions enliven not only the library walls, but our island community. Fresh marks made by young observers can absolutely make your day.

Art educators are "emotional

first responders," according to San Francisco-based artist and advocate of drawing, Wendy MacNaughton, who believes that drawing "brings us together and turns overwhelm into focus."

Gordon's personal art practice is

limited by time. "I have a two-year-old. I have put him in his high chair and taped some paper down. He likes to paint! I'm excited to do art projects with him, excited once he's in school to see his art projects that he brings home."



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From Peaks Island to politics, Thomas Brackett Reed ruled Congress

By Kim MacIsaac
For Peaks Island Historical Society

Did you know one of Maine's greatest politicians was a Peaks Island boy?

Thomas Brackett Reed served in the Maine Legislature, as the state's attorney general, as a member of Congress and even campaigned for the presidency.

Reed was born in 1839. He lived in Portland with his parents Matilda and Thomas Brackett Reed Sr., and spent a great deal of time on Peaks, most often at the Trefethen Homestead — home of his aunt Emily Reed Trefethen — or with his grandparents Mary Brackett and Joseph Reed, the island's first schoolmaster.

Throughout his adult life, Reed returned to his beloved Peaks, visiting family and friends and attending reunions of the Fifth and Eighth Maine Regiments. Reed was well known for riding a bicycle around the island.

Reed graduated from Bowdoin College in 1860. Afterward, he taught school for a few years, then studied law. In 1864, during the Civil War, Reed enlisted in the U.S. Navy, where he served as assistant paymaster on the gunboat Sybil, patrolling the



Thomas Brackett Reed

Cumberland, Tennessee and Mississippi rivers. That service enforced his lifelong belief that the United States must maintain a strong navy.

In 1867 Reed was elected to the house side of the state legislature. Later, he served for three years as Maine's attorney general. But his greatest impact on politics was yet to come. In 1876, Reed was elected to Congress, where he served for 22 years in the House, several of them as

speaker.

At the onset of Reed's duties as speaker in 1890, the House of Representatives accomplished very little. James Grant, author of "The Life and Times of Thomas B. Reed, the Man Who Broke the Filibuster," described Congress at the time as a group of layabouts. "They sat in the chamber and read newspapers and spat into their spittoons," wrote Grant. "That's what they did."

Reed set out to change that. One of his first acts was to clarify what constitutes a quorum. Was the quorum the number of representatives seated in the chamber, or the number who answered the roll call? If you were there but didn't answer, you were considered not there, so no business could be done. Reed settled the issue.

"The chair directs the clerk to record the following names of members present and refusing to vote," he declared.

Reed was recognized as a top-notch debater with an acerbic personality and sharp wit. At 6 foot 3 inches tall and weighing 300 pounds, he was an imposing figure. He ruled the House with an iron hand, prompting many to call him Czar Reed. Cartoons

of the day portray him as an obese and ugly politician who made many enemies. Yet he was, in many ways, a man ahead of his time. He opposed capital punishment, advocated voting rights for women and African Americans, and promoted peace. He counted his wife, Susan Merrill, as a confidante and advisor.

In 1896, Reed sought the Republican nomination for president, but lost to William McKinley.

A staunch anti-imperialist, Reed opposed the war with Spain in 1898 and the annexation of Hawaii. He resigned from Congress in protest the following year to resume his law practice. He died three years later in 1902 of kidney disease.

Reed quickly faded from public memory. In 1910, however, Mainers erected a monument to him on the Western Promenade in Portland, which stands to this day. His good friend Henry Cabot Lodge of Massachusetts described Reed as "a good hater, who detested shams, humbugs and pretense above all else." Others noted his independent thinking and willingness to do the right thing regardless of what the majority thought was right.

Human composting can create garden-safe soil in 45 days, if you can find a facility



DYING TO
KNOW
BY
BRIDGET
JOYCE

As we watch new life spring from the decaying leaves of fall and winter, it can be comforting to think that we too can be part of this process after we die. Plants and trees are so integral to our life experience that joining with them in death feels like a symbol of hope.

Unfortunately, there is a lot of green washing in the funeral services sector. Claims such as being able to grow a tree

directly from buried remains appeal to our yearning to quickly return to nature after death, but our bodies' natural process of returning to the earth creates too much heat for growing trees and plants.

Currently, the best way to shorten the time between our death and feeding new life is the process of human composting.

Human composting, also known as recomposition, can transform our bodies into nutrient rich soil after just 45 days. Decedents are transported to a human composting facility, washed and wrapped in an organic shroud and then laid in a chamber layered with wood chips and organic mulch. At this point, loved ones are encouraged to add wildflowers and bid a final farewell. After the chamber is sealed, the facility maintains the perfect conditions for microbes to break every-

thing down.

During the 45 days, the chamber reaches temperatures beyond 131 degrees Fahrenheit, ensuring that any harmful pathogens are eradicated. When the process is complete, the result is about one cubic yard of garden-safe soil.

Perfecting the human composting process involved a great deal of trial and error throughout the years. The book "From Here to Eternity" by Caitlin Doherty devotes a chapter to this topic.

Now that there are successful methods and human-composting companies such as Recompose, Return Home, and Earth, states are passing legislation to legalize the practice. Maine introduced a bill (LD-536) in February 2023 and the governor signed it into law in June 2024. Even though human composting is legal

in our state, there are no local composting facilities. All U.S. human composting facilities are currently located on the West Coast, but Earth and Return Home have expressed interest in bringing their services to Maine. Legislation in favor of human composting in other New England states may be the final pull to get facilities on the East Coast. The companies listed above currently provide services for bodies to be transported to their facilities.

While our death doesn't immediately start life as easily as we may have been led to believe, we don't need to give up on the hopes of feeding plants and trees. Knowing that our bodies can each contribute healthy soil can bring us another step closer to making peace with death.

Notes from the Peaks Island Council

By the Peaks Island Council

Meeting items

The following items were discussed at the Peaks Island Council's monthly meeting on March 26:

- improvements to needs-based ferry ticket options
- Welch Street traffic studies
- access to the Community Center and lobby

The next meeting will be held at at 6:15 p.m. on Wednesday, April 23, at the Community Center or on Zoom: bit.ly/peakscouncilzoom, passcode 0000.

Please note the audio and video quality of online meetings are some-

times imperfect. PIC recommends attending in person if you are able.

Read all about it

Copies of "The Housing & Zoning Shoreland Vegetation Guide," pamphlets listing shoreland plant species on the island and the land use codes concerning them, are available for free at Hannigan's Island Market, the Peaks Island library or Unruly Girls' Café.

Did you know?

The PIC provides needs-based ferry tickets. Residents needing assistance may obtain one ticket per week. Stop by the Food Pantry at the New Brackett Church between 3:30 and 5 p.m. on the first, third and fourth Mondays of the month, and between 5 and 6:30pm on the second Monday of the month.

Wild goose cache



Ben McCanna/Peaks Island News

A pair of Canada geese try their best to hide from the prying lens of a photographer while peering from behind two logs alongside the Ice Pond on March 27.



Left, Pi Crosby, a senior at Waynflete School, ascends a hill on Seashore Avenue during a 9-mile run. Right, Rory and Timmi Sellers run a 2-mile loop on Pleasant Avenue.

with a time of 10:04.55.

This spring, Crosby will compete in outdoor track in the 2-mile run. Then, in the fall, he will run cross country as a first-year student at Bowdoin College.

Crosby, who lives on Central Avenue, started running at age 11 after the pandemic hit.

"I really needed something to do when we were on total lockdown," he recalled.

Crosby began with short runs around the block. Soon, however, the relative safety of the island allowed him to experiment with greater distances.

"There were a couple runs I did in seventh grade where I just set off and ran 8 miles, which at the time felt insurmountable," he said. "If I lived in Portland, I wouldn't have set off because it's like, 'I don't want to end up somewhere where I don't know anybody, and you know, I'm eleven years old.' Out here, I could just run the big circle. I'd know I could always find my way home."

Islands incubators for runners?

Crosby is not alone. Alexey Seredin, an Elizabeth Street resident, started running when he was a first-year student at Deering High School. Within a year, Seredin became Deering's top cross country runner for three years in a row. During his senior year in 2021, he qualified for the New England Cross Country Championships in Thetford, Vermont, and completed the 5K in 18:47.5.

Now at age 21, Seredin is a junior at St. Joseph's College where he competes in cross-country, indoor track and outdoor track. He is a distance runner, competing in 3K and 5K races in the winter and the steeplechase, 5K and 10K in the spring.

“Running on Peaks Island is a unique experience,” he said. “There’s something nice about running in a more protected area without having to worry as much about getting run over by cars or other dangers.”

Running helped Seredin learn his surroundings on the island.

"Over the years I have run every single road and trail," he said. "I have had some of the best runs of my life on the island and it has made my running experience that much more enjoyable."

Across the bay, on Long Island, Portland High School senior Aran Johnson trains on weekends and summers, averaging 40 miles a week. Last fall, Johnson won both the Class A South cross-country championship and state championship in Cumberland with times of 16:22.98 and 16:18.84. In February, at the Class A indoor track state championship, Johnson took third place in the 2-mile run with a time of 9:54.15.

While he doesn't exclusively attribute his running success to island life, it has played a part, he said.

"It probably has helped because on the island there are not as many things to do, opposed to Portland, so I just go for a run," he said.



Left, Alexey Seredin runs in Portland while training for outdoor track in 2019. Right, Long Island's Aran Johnson competes in a cross-country meet in Gorham in 2022.

Running long distances on Long Island can be challenging, too, because “the island is small,” Johnson said, and “multiple loops of the island can be boring.”

The big circle

Years ago, while living in Portland, Timmi and Rory Sellers used to take the ferry to Peaks just to run.

"We'd come out here because it was the perfect 3.78 miles or whatever it is," Timmi said. "For a training run, it was perfect. You'd do one loop, two loops, three loops. And it was pretty."

"And then you could get an ice cream cone at the end and take a boat ride. It was a perfect getaway from Portland."

The Sellerses moved to Peaks in 2012. Running played a small part in their decision.

“We knew it would be a good place to run,” Rory said.

At age 76 and 77, Timmi and Rory are still running strong. This month, the Pleasant Avenue couple is training for an 11 miler in Big Sur, California, on April 27. (They've used the opportunity to raise more than \$3,000 in donations for Back on My Feet, a nonprofit devoted to helping the homeless.)

Timmi started running on her 50th



birthday, when they were living in California. Rory soon followed.

"Timmi turned to me and she said, 'You know, I think I'm gonna run a marathon.' At 50? I mean, I didn't run at all. I wasn't athletic. I couldn't run across the street without getting winded. And I thought, 'OK, I'll try that,'" Rory recalled. "It's really easier than it looks. If you're physically able to run at 50 and you've never run before, running a marathon is surprisingly easy. It seems impossible, 'Oh, I could never do that,' but actually once you start running — say you're gonna run 10 miles — the first mile is hard, but after that it doesn't get harder. The human body is just meant to run."

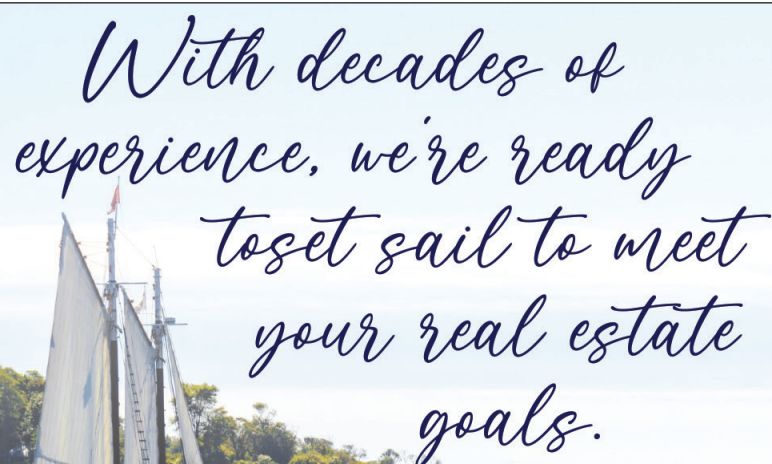
Since then, the couple has run in 11 marathons on 6 continents, including races in Costa Rica, Easter Island, Istanbul, Kenya, New Zealand and Stockholm. There are also marathons in Antarctica, something Timmi is interested in.

"You get to join the Seven Continents Club, which is a cool thing, right?" she said. "There aren't too many people."

In the meantime, Peaks is the ideal place to train, she said.

"It's a great place," she said. "What's special, too, is that people see you running. I remember one year we were doing five loops and Kat Farrin was out painting and we'd go by her every time. She'd say, 'What are you doing? Again!?' You see people supporting you. It's really nice. And there are places you can stop and rest that are so nice. You know, it's friendly. There's nothing to worry about, except occasionally, you know, a loose dog, but in general you don't have to worry. There are no fast cars. It's so pleasant."

"Right," joked Rory. "And there's at least one bathroom."

A sailboat with a large white sail and a red flag on the mast is visible on the left side of the image. The background is a clear blue sky with some light clouds. The text is written in a dark blue, cursive font, positioned on the right side of the image.

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