

HARPSWELL ANCHOR™

SEPTEMBER 2019, VOLUME 22, NO. 3

AN APPLE A DAY

Rising Costs of Education Resident Raises Concerns Over MSAD75 Spending



On the Way The new Mt. Ararat High School is approximately 50 percent complete. Some of the cost will be borne by local taxpayers. (ROBERT ADNERSON PHOTO)

BY KARA DOUGLAS

As the school year begins, there are some in Harpswell who have raised concerns over the financial contribution taxpayers make to be a part of Maine School Administrative District 75 (MSAD 75). Of the four towns in the school district, which also includes Bowdoin, Bowdoinham and Topsham, Harpswell will pay the highest annual cost per student at \$22,889 for the 2019-2020 school year.

“We could tuition students into another system for half that cost,” says Eric Lusk, a financial advisor who lives in town.

Lusk refers to the Maine Department of Education’s \$11,000 cap on the cost to send high school students to schools out of their home district. The cost for middle school students is under \$11,000. He asks, “What are we getting for the additional amount we’re paying (to MSAD 75)?”

The contribution each town makes to
See SCHOOL p. 16

Old Schoolhouse Days

BY KELLI PARK

Harpswell was once home to six one-room schoolhouses, scattered among the islands and peninsulas in communities where children walked everywhere and played outside from dawn ‘til dusk. Former students of the schoolhouses gather once a year to share memories and preserve the connections that were formed around the wood stove in decades past.

Old Schoolhouse Days will be held on Saturday, September 14, from 11:00 am - 3:00 pm, at the Orr’s Island Schoolhouse. Former students from Harpswell (not limited to those who attended the schoolhouses) are encouraged to attend the reunion and potluck with old photos, stories, and memorabilia to share.

Ruth Perry, who attended the Orr’s Island Schoolhouse from 1941 to 1955, started the event over two decades ago in collaboration with her classmates, Lorraine and Lucille Snow. The event was originally intended for Orr’s Island Schoolhouse students and has since grown to include students from every school in Harpswell.

The Orr’s Island Schoolhouse was di-



Graduates Jim Jones, Sharon Jones, Gerald Stilphen, Lorna Stilphen, and Ruth Perry plan class reunions for those who attended Harpswell’s village schoolhouses.

(KELLI PARK PHOTO)

vided into two classrooms, each of which housed groups of 10-15 students in three different grade levels. One teacher instructed each group of students in every academic subject. “Considering the way she had to teach us, she was pretty talented, thinking about teaching all those different grades and keeping everybody in order,” said Lorna

See REUNION p. 19

House Numbers: Can Fire and Rescue Find Your House?

BY DOUG WARREN

During an emergency, minutes, even seconds, can mean a lot.

First responders heading to the scene of a fire or a call for medical help need to know exactly where they’re going – particularly at night or in difficult weather conditions. Any delay in getting to the right address can literally be a matter of life or death.

“When you get a call that someone has stopped breathing, and then you have trouble finding the house where that call came from, it adds time to that crucial window for rescue,” said Meriel Longley, a Harpswell per diem firefighter and paramedic. “The whole thing is when a call comes in, can I find you?”

And that’s not always easy in Harpswell, with its many long driveways and private ways running off the main roads and with houses in obscure spots, many without clearly visible numbers – or any numbers at all.

To address that issue, Longley, a member of the Cundy’s Harbor Volunteer Fire Department and president of the department’s active auxiliary, is spearheading a town-wide effort to distribute signs with highly visible, reflective house numbers to community residents.

“The idea started with the per diems talking about ways to improve response times and I decided to take the project to the boards of the town’s three volunteer



Be Seen Firefighter and paramedic Meriel Longley installs a sign with reflective numbers at a house on Orr’s Island. (PAM BERRY PHOTO)

fire and rescue departments,” Longley explained. “That really got the ball rolling.”

The signs cost \$15, with \$10 covering costs and \$5 going to the individual departments that sell them. So far, Longley has sold more than 30 signs, 25 of them at the 26th annual Yard Sale and Auction sponsored by the Orr’s and Bailey Islands Fire Department in August. The signs are currently available online at the Cundy’s Harbor Fire Department Auxiliary’s Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/CHVFDA/>) or by sending an email to info@obifd.org.

“I am totally supportive of any and all efforts to get houses effectively numbered,”

See NUMBERS p. 18

Letters to the Editor

Off the Air—Temporarily
 Harpswell Community TV, W14DA-D, has temporarily lost the ability to broadcast due to antenna failure. We are currently investigating opportunities to replace or repair it. We are sorry for any inconvenience you may be experiencing and we miss providing programming to our antenna-TV viewers. Unfortunately, it may take some time to fix this problem. You can still watch Harpswell TV in Harpswell, Topsham, Bowdoin and Bowdoinham on Comcast cable channel 14 and some of our programs are available online at www.vimeo.com/harpswelltv.
*Donna Frisoli, Station Manager
 Harpswell Community TV*

Thank You
 It is not often both of a married couple are subject to major surgery in the same time frame and we do not recommend it. To quote that peerless philosopher, Carole Bibber, "Growing old is not for sissies!". However, Anne and I can recommend Harpswell as a good place to live should the unthinkable happen. We wish to thank our children, grand children and greats for their love, help and support. Surely, no couple ever had better! Thanks are extended also to siblings and in-laws for their food and prayers and to Harpswell

Aging at Home for their work in anticipation of our home coming. These workmen are total strangers and ask nothing in return. They are cheerful, respectful and very hard workers. They have made our home more comfortable and much safer for mobility impaired people. I will not mention names for fear someone should be omitted. However, we very much appreciate the food, encouragement and support from all quarters of our town including Rev. Carson who tracked us down as we went through the system. We are doing well and hope to be able to do more in the near future. Once again thank you all very much and God Bless You All!
Gareth S. Anderson and Anne F. Anderson

Funds Raised
 With Hook, Line and Dinner now in our wake, I wanted to take a moment to thank the Harpswell Anchor for its support of the Maine Coast Fishermen's Association and our summer fundraiser. We believe that by working together, we can ensure that what makes Maine such a special and amazing place, our fishermen, marine resources and fishing communities aren't just a part of our heritage, but instead are an integral part of our shared future.
 We can't do it alone though

and we are incredibly grateful to our community, neighbors and businesses like the Anchor who share this journey with us and lend support towards achieving this goal.
 Through Hook, Line & Dinner we were able to raise over \$27,000, which will help us empower fishermen to have a voice in policy, research and community planning. Whether it is advocating for sustainable fisheries practices and good science, preserving access for fishermen through permit banking and working waterfront preservation or helping fishermen build innovative and forward-thinking businesses, MCFA is here to ensure that Maine's fishing future is bright and we are very thankful for your support in the getting the word out about the event.
 Together, we persevere.
Ben Martens, Maine Coast Fishermen's Association

Life-Saving Thanks
 I would like to thank EMTs Peter, Ray, Joel, and their ambulance driver from Cundy's Harbor for their swift response and the expert care they gave me after I collapsed in the kitchen on Sunday morning, August 4th. At the time our ambulance from Orrs Island was already out on another call. My disrupted heart rhythm was ap-

parently caused by a tick bite in July, I was treated for lyme but it persisted. The cardiology team at Mid-Coast was also terrific, they installed a pacemaker the next morning and now have me on a more powerful antibiotic. I am feeling much better, and am thankful most of all to my wife Ingrid, she was there when I went down and made the call to 911.
Willy Holmes

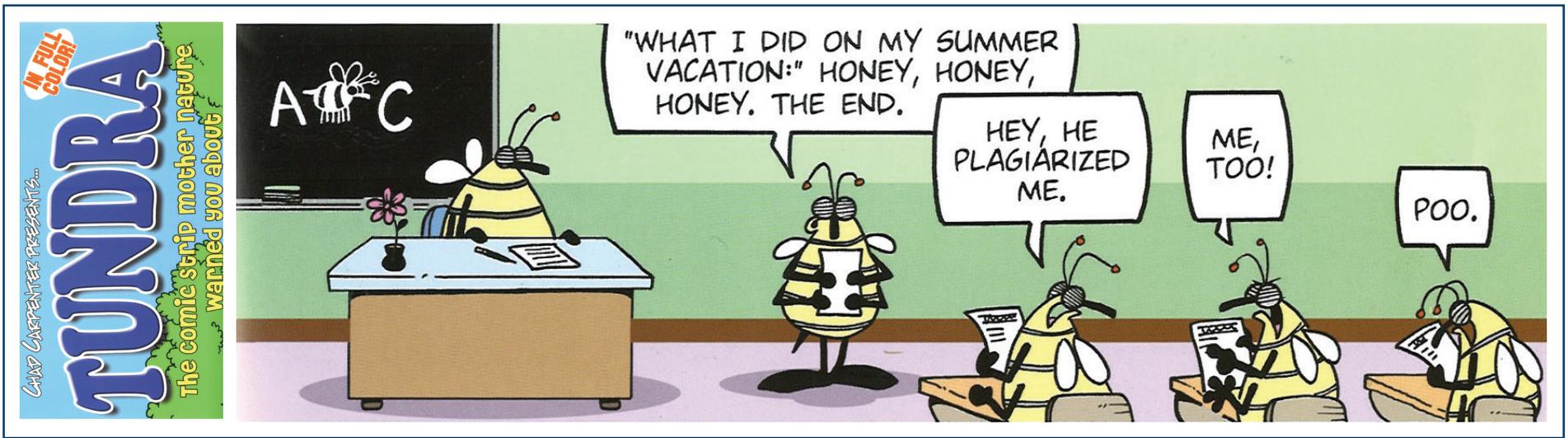
Seeking Quiet
 Forty years ago, living in along coastal Maine was quieter—life seemed simpler. Over the years it's gotten busier and noisier. Coastal residents used to pay little mind to early morning lobster boats heading out onto the bay; the muffled sounds quickly dissipating into the surroundings. But, not true of the airboat.
 Over the past 30 years the airboat has increasingly become the shellfisherman's transportation of choice, and the noise produced by these machines has risen astronomically. If you live anywhere near a bay with mudflats, you have no doubt experienced the roar of an airboat's engine and the shriek of its propeller blade.
 I'm sure many coastal residents suffer silently as airboats go about their business, feeling powerless against the noise. But excessive noise is a known cause of stress in

the human body, especially when generated beyond one's control. Sirens, vehicles with straight pipes, trucks, construction machinery, airplanes; one experiences many loud sounds created in the human environment. Excessive noise raises adrenaline levels and causes psychological stress, reactions proven by medical research.
 It's time for solutions. Are there better ways to access mudflats without the noise pollution? Are State and local laws useful? Can shellfishermen acknowledge the impact their airboats have? How much noise are coastal residents willing to tolerate? How can we partner with the fishermen to solve the problem and achieve a "win-win" for everyone? Let's begin to address the problem of airboat noise and come up with solutions so everyone gets what they need.
Thomas Haible

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To receive a copy of a back issue send a check for \$1.50.

Aquaculture in the New Meadows River

BY KELLI PARK

Although the Damariscotta River has long since been recognized as the heart of Maine’s oyster industry, the New Meadows River is on its way to making a name for itself. Now the home of fifteen oyster farms, spanning Harpswell, Phippsburg, West Bath, and Brunswick, the farmers on the New Meadows River are churning out oysters like it’s their job.

In the face of a rapidly changing marine economy, where warming waters are pushing the lobster resource farther north, Holbrook Community Foundation, a local nonprofit organization based in Cundy’s Harbor, has made it their mission to promote an understanding and increase awareness of the changing working waterfront, one conversation at a time.

In 2017, Holbrook Community Foundation supported Beyond the Bow: A Fisheries Needs Assessment of Harpswell with Maine Coast Fishermen’s Association, which surveyed the needs of fishermen and local fishing communities; the results of the study determined that there was a need for increased public access to information about the local fishing community. As a result of these findings, HCF launched an endeavor to educate the public about the ecological and economic benefits of aquaculture in Casco Bay, specifically the New Meadows River, while finding new ways to incorporate this sector into traditional fisheries.



On the Half-Shell HCF supporters sample Iron Island Oysters with Dana Morse and John Swenson. (KELLI PARK PHOTO)

“Seeing new developments on the water can be scary if people are unaware of what’s going on around them. With increased awareness, I hope that community members can become more comfortable with the equipment, appearance, and customs of the farms,” said Chris Burtis, founder of Ferda Farms on the New Meadows River.

Holbrook Community Foundation recently received a grant to sponsor Aquaculture in the New Meadows from the Casco Bay Estuary Partnership, a Portland-based organization with the mission of conserving the ecological integrity of Casco Bay. Aquaculture in the New Meadows was designed to engage, inform, and educate the community about oyster aquaculture in Harpswell and consisted of three guided

boat tours to farms on the New Meadows. The goal of this project was to build connections among landowners, municipal decision makers, and farmers to proactively build trust and improve relationships within communities that are affected by this evolving fishery.

“We hear a lot about aquaculture and its importance in providing a sustainable food source. Seldom do we actually get to see and understand the challenges and environmental issues facing this industry,” said HCF Board Member Joe Smith.

On Thursday, August 15, members of the local community toured oyster farms, where they learned about the process of cultivating, harvesting, and marketing oysters. Two of the tours were led by Captain Peter Mulholland of Seacoast Tours, who has twenty

five years of experience developing marine educational programs. The third tour was led on sea kayaks by Registered Maine Guide Alicia Heyburn, who is actively involved with coastal conservation and creating connections between communities and the environment. Participants on these tours included state and local elected officials, HCF supporters, marine resource committee members, harbormasters, HCF board members, land trust representatives, community leaders, teachers, and local fishermen, who were given the opportunity to learn about oyster farming directly from the source.

“Aquaculture is a regulated use of public resources. The coastal waters of Maine are a busy place and there’s plenty to learn about. It’s valuable to get a firsthand look at an aquaculture farm because - like anything else - seeing it in person is usually better than only seeing a photo or video or a news story,” said Dana Morse of Iron Island Oysters on the New Meadows River.

Farms featured on the tours included: Iron Island Oysters, Ferda Farms, and Dingley Cove Oysters, all of which are located on the New Meadows River in Brunswick and Harpswell. Dana Morse started Iron Island Oysters in 2014 and, as a Marine Extension Associate for Maine Sea Grant, has provided guidance to local individuals starting their own oyster farms, including Peter Rand, who founded Dingley Cove Oysters in 2016, and

See NEW MEADOWS p. 17

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 Holbrook Community Foundation

To provide for the long-term protection of the coastal heritage of Harpswell by preserving Holbrook's working waterfront, supporting commercial fishing in Harpswell, and providing opportunities for education about our marine environment for the benefit of the local community.

2019 Labor Day Breakfast at Holbrook Wharf

Celebrate Labor Day with a community breakfast.
7:30-10:00 AM
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1	Sun	12:44	11.4	1:15	10.8	6:59	-1.6	7:19	-1.2	6:03	7:18	
2	Mon	1:37	11.2	2:05	10.9	7:49	-1.4	8:14	-1.1	6:04	7:17	
3	Tue	2:31	10.8	2:58	10.7	8:39	-1.0	9:10	-0.9	6:05	7:15	
4	Wed	3:28	10.2	3:53	10.4	9:33	-0.4	10:10	-0.5	6:06	7:13	
5	Thu	4:28	9.5	4:51	10.0	10:30	0.2	11:12	-0.1	6:07	7:11	
6	Fri	5:31	9.0	5:51	9.7	11:29	0.7			6:08	7:09	
7	Sat	6:35	8.6	6:54	9.4	12:17	0.3	12:32	1.1	6:09	7:08	
8	Sun	7:40	8.3	7:57	9.3	1:23	0.5	1:37	1.4	6:11	7:06	
9	Mon	8:41	8.3	8:55	9.3	2:27	0.6	2:39	1.3	6:12	7:04	
10	Tue	9:35	8.4	9:47	9.4	3:23	0.5	3:33	1.2	6:13	7:02	
11	Wed	10:22	8.6	10:32	9.5	4:11	0.4	4:19	1.0	6:14	7:00	
12	Thu	11:04	8.8	11:14	9.5	4:53	0.3	5:01	0.8	6:15	6:59	
13	Fri	11:42	8.9	11:53	9.6	5:31	0.3	5:40	0.7	6:16	6:57	
14	Sat			12:18	9.1	6:05	0.3	6:16	0.6	6:17	6:55	
15	Sun	12:29	9.5	12:51	9.2	6:37	0.3	6:50	0.6	6:18	6:53	
16	Mon	1:04	9.4	1:22	9.2	7:09	0.4	7:25	0.5	6:19	6:51	
17	Tue	1:38	9.2	1:54	9.2	7:41	0.6	8:01	0.6	6:21	6:49	
18	Wed	2:14	9.0	2:27	9.2	8:15	0.8	8:39	0.6	6:22	6:48	
19	Thu	2:52	8.7	3:05	9.2	8:52	1.0	9:22	0.7	6:23	6:46	
20	Fri	3:35	8.5	3:48	9.1	9:35	1.1	10:10	0.7	6:24	6:44	
21	Sat	4:24	8.2	4:38	9.1	10:23	1.3	11:03	0.8	6:25	6:42	
22	Sun	5:18	8.1	5:34	9.2	11:16	1.4			6:26	6:40	
23	Mon	6:19	8.1	6:35	9.4	12:02	0.7	12:16	1.3	6:27	6:38	
24	Tue	7:23	8.3	7:41	9.7	1:05	0.5	1:20	1.0	6:29	6:37	
25	Wed	8:27	8.8	8:45	10.1	2:09	0.1	2:25	0.6	6:30	6:35	
26	Thu	9:25	9.4	9:44	10.6	3:09	-0.4	3:25	0.0	6:31	6:33	
27	Fri	10:19	10.0	10:39	11.0	4:03	-0.9	4:22	-0.7	6:32	6:31	
28	Sat	11:10	10.6	11:33	11.2	4:55	-1.2	5:16	-1.2	6:33	6:29	
29	Sun			12:00	11.0	5:45	-1.4	6:09	-1.5	6:34	6:27	
30	Mon	12:27	11.1	12:50	11.2	6:34	-1.3	7:02	-1.6	6:35	6:26	

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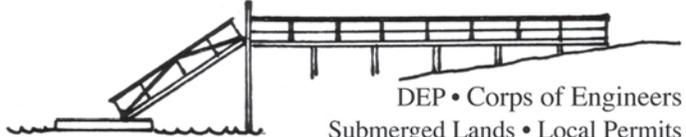


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Harpswell Historical Society

The Harpswell Historical Society is dedicated to the discovery, identification, collection, preservation, interpretation and dissemination of materials relating to the history of Harpswell and its people.

Memories of Passenger Ferry Service to Orr's Island

BY DAVE HACKETT

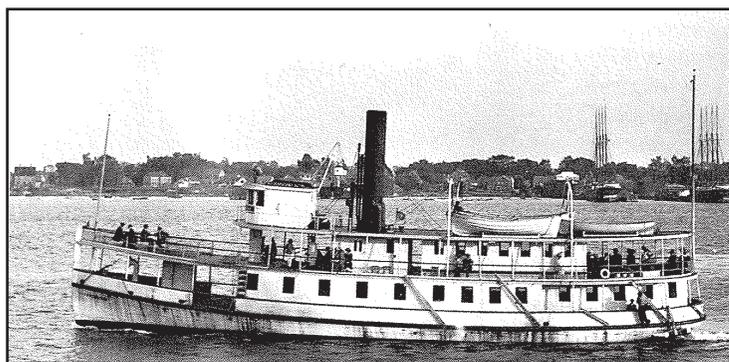
The following comes from Steamboat Yesterdays on Casco Bay. Written by Captain William J. Frappier.

By the last week of November 1918, old Merry, as her crew often dubbed her, had been back for two months on her familiar off season runs to Orr's Island. On Friday evening, November 29, she made the final landing of the day at Orr's Island wharf. As the steamer lay on a spring line, screw turning over slowly, her passengers trekked over the gang plank, exchanging perhaps a last "Good night" with Captain Morrill or the two deckhands tending the gangway. With everyone off, the crew tied her up securely for the night. Engineer Bill Mc Mullen answered the stop bell and the climbed below to shut down his plant while the fireman banked the fires.

Before long, Captain Charlie and his engineer walked up Steamboat Hill road to their homes on the long knoll over-

looking Merriconeag Sound. Most of the crew went on their own ways to spend the evening at various haunts, not the least of which was the local pool parlor over at the village, or the traditional poker game in the back room over at Prince & Daniels General store. The two deckhands were left onboard as a sleep-in watch and, with the only prospect of a long dull night ahead, both turned in early.

The acrid smell of smoke brought them rudely out of their slumber at about 10 P.M. hurrying topsides, they were greeted by flames already roaring and well advanced over varnished woodwork of the main cabin and engine spaces. Realizing quickly that the situation was far beyond what they could handle alone, a swift exchange of words sent one bounding onto the dock and dashing off to seek help. The other hoping a head of steam might have been built up with all that tremendous heat around the boiler, raced up the ladders to the pilot house and hauled frantically on the whistle cord. He was immediately



Steamer Photographed about 1914, the *Merriconeag* leaves Portland Harbor for the eastern bay islands. (PHOTO COURTESY HHS)

relieved to hear a strong blast of steam hit the chime and pierce the still air with a sharp wail.

The urgent whistle coming through the air at such an ungodly hour jolted islanders on both sides of Will's strait! Poker hands had been tossed down and chairs tossed aside, while mackinaws and caps disappeared from the wall hook at Prince & Daniels. A small army of men rushed headlong toward the first deckhand almost before he had set foot on the dirt road leading from the wharf.

At the top of the hill, Captain

Morrill, with his wife close at his side, starred momentarily in disbelief from their porch as the whistle blasts continued and the flame continued to glow through the evergreens sloping down to the shore. His heart in his throat, and his wife left standing on the broad veranda, the skipper made for the roadway just as a motor car chugged toward him, bound from the village with more of his crew. When it abruptly halted, he climbed on the running board and yelled for the driver to hurry along. By now, most island-

ers were rushing down toward the wharf. Over on Bailey Island people were bundled up against the cold and were standing on the beach, their anxious faces illuminated by kerosene lanterns. Even now, several lamp-lit dories were pulling away out of Garrison Cove toward Orr's, loaded to the gunnels with hardy farmers and fishermen, all bent on doing their best to save a faithful old friend – The steamboat Merryconeag.

Bucket brigades were forming as captain Morrill arrived and quickly surveyed the scene. He judged the fire to be out of control now, and engineer Mc Mullen concurred. Fighting the fire proved futile, but fortunately a small U.S. government war patrol vessel had anchored nearby that afternoon, and although it possessed little firefighting equipment, it was soon underway and standing off the wharf. Once the patrol craft positioned itself close off the Merriconeag's bow, its crew let fly a heavy line and grappling hook. When the hook had landed and bitten its way solidly into the wooden guardrail just aft of the burning steamer's stem post, all lines on the wharf were axed away and the patrol boat went ahead on her engine, hauling the blazing Merryconeag slowly away. After great effort, the steamboat was clear and the fire brigade began quenching fires on the wharf. Everyone at the scene stopped short in a moment of suspended animation as a massive boiler explosion shook the doomed Merryconeag in a deafening report, but most could not see the port side of her main cabin as it was blown seaward by the pressure of the blast.

Now a bewildering sight greeted them. It was the Aucocisco, barreling down past the west shore of Bailey at full steam, after a futile but record speed run from Portland to try to aid her stricken running mate.

There was little for the crew of the Auco to do but stare at the still smoldering ruin of the Merryconeag as their own steamer maneuvered into the fire damaged slip. But she was, all the same, in ample time to make the scheduled stops to Portland. ⚓

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1 September 2019 Community Calendar

September 1, 2-4PM

Harpswell Historical Society Museum is open every Sunday 2-4 PM from Memorial Day in May until Columbus Day. Tours available. Free. 929 Harpswell Neck Road, (Rte. 123). FMI 833-6322. Please note this event repeats every Sunday throughout the month (9/8, 9/15, 9/22, 9/29).

September 4, 2-3:30PM

Harpswell Invasive Plant Partnership (HIPP) monthly meeting held at Harpswell Heritage Land Trust, 153 Harpswell Neck Rd. Volunteer your ideas and

help restore our town's native habitats. FMI go to: hhlmaine.org/hipp or email: hipp.maine@gmail.com.

September 5, 10:30AM

Cundy's Harbor Library Children's Story Hour. 935 Cundy's Harbor Rd. FMI 725-1461 or email chldirector@cundysharbor.me. Please note this event repeats every Thursday in September (9/12, 9/19, 9/26).

September 5, NOON

Lunch with Friends, free and open to all Harpswell residents. Presented by Harpswell Aging at Home at the Great Island Church of the Nazarene, 806 Harpswell Islands Road, Harpswell. To volunteer to cook a dish or help set up, call Surrey at 833-0092 or email surreysh@comcast.net, or call Cheryl Dunning at 522-3575 or email ca-dunning48@gmail.com.

September 5, 7PM

Kelli Park presents her new book *The Harpswell Waterfront*. Kelli is documenting people who live and

work on the Harpswell waterfront though her photos and the stories they tell. Orr's Island Library, 1699 Harpswell Islands Rd (Rte 24), Orr's Island. FMI call Dan Hoebeke at 833-6050 or email d anl-wilee@yahoo.com.

September 7, 8:30AM-2PM

Fun & Fabulous Fall Fest at Centennial Hall, 928 Harpswell Neck Road, Harpswell. Baked goods, bouquets, mums, crafts and yard sale items. Sponsored by the Harpswell Garden Club.

September 7, 9AM-NOON

Harpswell Invasive Plant Partnership (HIPP) Workday. Meet at Williams Field on Harpswell Heritage Land Trust's Curtis Farm, 1554 Harpswell Neck Road, Harpswell. Learn to identify and control invasive plants, and help restore our native habitats. Bring water, bug repellent, sunscreen, gloves and your favorite gardening hand tools (clippers, hand saws,

etc.). Please note this event repeats on September 14. FMI email hipp.maine@gmail.com.

September 7, 1PM

Cundy's Harbor Library presents *The Making of the "Seaweed Chronicles": A Reading, Talk & Book Signing* with author Susan Hand Shetterly, Community Hall, 837 Cundy's Harbor Rd, Harpswell. FMI call 725-1461 or email chldirector@cundysharbor.me.

September 7, 6-8:30PM

Brunswick Coastal Rotary's 12th Annual Feast to Feed. Entrees and desserts, live entertainment and silent auction. Proceeds support Rotary hunger prevention projects locally and worldwide. \$15/adults, \$35/family. Cram Alumni House, 83 Federal St, Brunswick. FMI www.facebook.com/BrunswickCoastalRotary.

September 9, 7-9PM

"CONNECTED", a nondenom-

inational gathering, invites all widowers, widows, divorced and singles 55 and over, St. Charles Borromeo Church Hall, 132 McKeen Street, Brunswick. Light refreshments will be available. We usually have an interesting guest give a brief talk in the beginning of the meeting. Come socialize, mingle and meet new friends! FMI call 725-1266 or 725-8386.

September 12, NOON

Lunch with Friends, free and open to all Harpswell residents. Presented by Harpswell Aging at Home at the Merriconeag Grange Hall, 529 Harpswell Neck Road, Harpswell. To volunteer to cook a dish or help set up, call Anne Taft at 725-5716 or email dtaft48@comcast.net.

September 12, 7-8PM

Kathleen Marra, chair of the Maine Democratic Party, will give a free public talk on the upcoming 2020 election at Cundy's Harbor **continued on next page**

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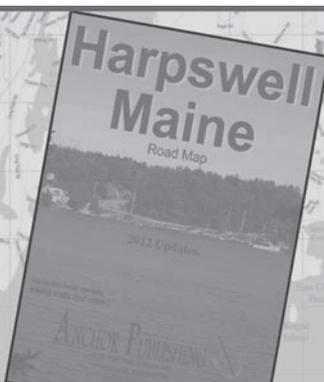
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continued from previous page
Community Hall, 837 Cundy's Harbor Road. All are welcome.

September 14, 9AM-NOON

Harpswell Invasive Plant Partnership (HIPP) Workday. Meet at Williams Field on Harpswell Heritage Land Trust's Curtis Farm, 1554 Harpswell Neck Road, Harpswell. Learn to identify and control invasive plants, and help restore our native habitats. Bring water, bug repellent, sunscreen, gloves and your favorite gardening hand tools (clippers, hand saws, etc.). FMI email hipp.maine@gmail.com.

September 14, 10AM-NOON

Learn about ferns with HHLT and Jeff Pengel. Location TBA. Advance registration requested. Free. FMI: call 837-9613, email outreach@hhltmaine.org, or visit <http://www.hhltmaine.org/>.

September 14, 11AM-3PM

Old School House Days. If you attended one of Harpswell's one room schools, please join us for our Harpswell school reunion and pot luck lunch. Feel free to bring old photos, stories and memorabilia. Orr's Island Schoolhouse, 1579 Harpswell Islands Rd, Orr's Island. FMI call Ruth Perry at 833-5890.

September 19, NOON

Lunch with Friends, free and open to all Harpswell residents. Presented by Harpswell Aging at Home at the Cundy's Harbor Community Hall, 837 Cundy's Harbor Road, Harpswell. To volunteer to cook a dish or help set up, call Surrey at 833-0092 or email surreysh@comcast.net, or call Meriel Longley at 837-1803 or email mare6m@gmail.com.

September 19, 1PM

Harpswell Garden Club meeting at the Old Town Meeting House across the road from the Kellogg Church, 917 Harpswell Neck Road, Harpswell. A "Flower Show Sampler" will feature a display and talk by the Judges Council of the Garden Club Federation of Maine. Parking at Kellogg Church. Free and open to the public. FMI call Becky 833-6159.

September 21, 10:30AM

Cundy's Harbor Library and HHLT present Little Ponds Preserve Talk/Walk with Reed Coles. Meet @ Preserve Parking lot on Bethel Pt. Rd just past the bridge & Little Ponds Rd. FMI 725-1461 or email chldirector@cundysharbor.me.

September 21, 4:30-6:30PM

Willing Helpers Pasta Plus Supper.

Assorted pasta dishes, rolls, drink, and dessert all included only \$10.00 per person. Eat in or take out. Hosted by Willing Helpers, Inc. The Bailey Island Union Church (downstairs), 2141 Harpswell Islands Rd, Bailey Island. FMI call Nikie at 504-6069.

September 23, 7-8:30PM

Merrymeeting Audubon hosts Jeanette and Derek Lovitch, owners of Freeport Wild Bird Supply, who will present many bird photos with narrative about bird watching in Maine. Free and open to the public. Curtis Memorial Library, Brunswick. FMI visit maineaudubon.org/merrymeeting.

September 24, NOON

Lunch with Friends, free and open to all Harpswell residents. Presented by Harpswell Aging at Home at the Orr's Island Schoolhouse, 1579 Harpswell Islands Road, Orr's Island. To volunteer to cook a dish or help set up, call Surrey at 833-0092 or email surreysh@comcast.net.

September 28, 9AM-2PM

Red Cross Blood Drive at the Elijah Kellogg Church, 917 Harpswell Neck Rd, Harpswell. Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or 833-6026, or visit redcrossblood.org and enter 'HarpswellME' to schedule an appointment. Walks in are welcome. ☺

Harpswell Recreation Fall Youth Programs

NEW Fall Sandlot Baseball (Grades 3-5) 9/18-10/26

Calling all Harpswell girls and boys who love baseball! Meet us on the diamond to practice fundamental skills and play in casual, noncompetitive games.

Harpswell Harriers XC (Grades K-5) 9/10-10/20

Come hit the trails with us! Harriers XC provides a unique experience in which kids compete as a team, but with a sense of individual performance and accomplishment.

Pee Wee Soccer (Ages 3-4, & 5 year olds not in kindergarten) 9/17-10/3

Provides littles with an introduction to the game of soccer. Fun based program where skills are applied through game play and teamwork!

NEW Ultimate Frisbee (Grades 3-5) 9/10-10/1

Let it fly! Participants will use a frisbee in a non-contact game that combines the speed of soccer with the aerial passing of football. Introductory and fun!

Please note the registration deadline for fall programs is September 5 (September 12 for baseball).

We are looking for coaches! If you'd like to help out, please contact the Recreation Department. 207.833.5771.

To find more information and schedules visit www.harpswellrecreation.com.

You can now sign up for programs in the comfort of your own home! Use our new website, www.harpswellrecreation.com to register and pay with a debit or credit card from your computer, tablet or phone!

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Lunch with Friends Ready to Restart September 5th

On September 5th Harpswell Aging at Home will launch its popular Lunch with Friends program for the Fall of 2019. This year the luncheon schedule features more dates at more locations. Lunches will be offered weekly moving between the Nazarene Church on Great Island, the Merriconeag Grange on Harpswell Neck, Cundy's Harbor Community Center and the Orr's Island Schoolhouse (see sidebar for dates and details).

Now that each Harpswell 'village' hosts a LWF site, organizers hope that folks of all ages and from all over town will continue to attend lunches at all the different locations. Lunch with Friends (LWF) has become the place to socialize with Harpswellians from near and far and with friends of all ages. Last spring lunches were attended by people ranging in age from 1 to 90+, caregivers and their clients, and friends bringing neighbors who are otherwise confined to home.

Local civic groups full of wonderful cooks are the back-



Buffet Volunteer cooks and servers and community people all enjoying Lunch with Friends.

bone of LWF. Linda Kremer began cooking for LWF in its first year when the Orr's Island Library was a sponsor. She says "I've met people from the Neck whom I didn't know before, and it's been enjoyable to see places on the Neck that I wasn't familiar with." She also notes, "as the food is arriving, there are always comments about having too much food, and then, no matter how many people attend, it's always all gone! I'm grateful to be a small part of such a valuable organization."

Kathy D'Agostino has been cooking for LWF for about a year and a half when her schedule permits. She says "the lunches are an ideal solution for folks to get out and meet, exchange stories and laugh, all while enjoying a good meal at no cost to them. All one needs to do is listen to the noise level to know that the lunch is a success." On a personal note, she adds "I do enjoy that moment when a dessert I made is polished off right off the bat!"

Another cook, Craig Sipe,

has been cooking for LWF since its inception. He figures that he probably cooks four or five times a season. He says "What I like best about the program is the sense of community it fosters during a time of year when it is needed most. These lunches bring the warmth of food and friendship to all who attend and to all who are visited at home with a meal. This is why I continue to support it. Plus, I like to cook!"

With its expanded schedule, LWF seeks additional local group sponsors and additional individual cooks who can fill in here and there. Do you belong to a local group that might be a first-time sponsor of a lunch this season? Do you like to cook and like the idea of contributing to a community meal? Contact Surrey Hardcastle at surreysh@comcast.net or 833-0092 to volunteer and become a part of this outstanding community effort. You'll have a great time, and your neighbors will be grateful. †

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OBIFD Auction a Success

The 26th annual Yard Sale and Auction put on by the Orr's and Bailey Islands Fire Department was a huge success thanks to countless hours put in by dedicated volunteers and to the generous support of Harpswell residents and our summer visitors.

The two-day event on the weekend of Aug. 10 & 11 netted about \$53,000 to help fund the life-saving services of the all-volunteer OBIFD. That total is among the highest in the history of the always-popular community gathering.

Professional auctioneer and volunteer firefighter Daryl Pelletier, along with emcee and responder Ed Levine, helped drive up the bidding during Sunday's live auction, which featured a variety of

boats, travel experiences, antiques and a treasure trove of Captain Marvel-related items.

Locally baked pies were also auctioned to support the Sue Cary Scholarship Fund. This year, \$2,500 scholarships were awarded to Laney Phillips and Alexandra Hamm.

The two-day yard sale offered bargains galore for many eagle-eyed shoppers and an expanded silent auction also promoted vigorous, but quiet, bidding battles.

"Margaret Broughall, Cathy Coyne and their crew did an outstanding job on the yard sale this year," said Christine Donovan-Hall, the organizer of the event. "And Stephanie Petkers outdid herself on the silent auction.

But so did all of our volunteers, who made this year's Yard and Sale and Auction one to remember. We'll see you all next year!"

The Yard Sale and Auction is one of the key fundraisers for OBIFD, the nonprofit, volunteer department that provides fire and rescue services for Orr's and Bailey Island and portions of Great Island east of the Mountain Road bridge and south of Stevens Corner Road on Route 24. ☞



Auction Scholars Laney Phillips (left) and Alexandra Hamm received the Sue Cary Scholarships announced by OBIFD board member Al LeGrow. (PHOTO BY PERIAN HASLAM)



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9/19	People Plus 35 Union Street, Brunswick 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
9/23	Sagadahoc County 52 High Street, Bath 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
9/23	Pine Tree Society 149 Front Street, Bath 1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.
9/24	Bowdoinham Fire Department 57 Post Street, Bowdoinham 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
9/24	Mid Coast Senior Health 58 Baribeau Drive, Brunswick 4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.
9/25	Georgetown Town Office 50 Bay Point Road, Georgetown 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
9/26	Topsham Town Office 100 Main Street, Topsham 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.



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Milkweed and Monarchs: Giving Nature a Helping Hand

BY TOM ALLEN

We have given over large and expanding patches of our yard here in Harpswell to the rampant growth of milkweed. Each time I mow I veer a little wider to avoid the new stalks breaking through the lawn. It spreads by sending shoots underground, like invaders tunneling under a castle wall, and even if we wanted to get rid of it, any effort short of digging it up would be wasted, for it comes back from the root. It's tenacious, plus it's poisonous or distasteful to most insects and wildlife. Why do we allow it, even encourage it to grow?

You may or may not know that milkweed is integral to the life cycle of the Monarch butterfly. It is on the plant's leathery leaves--and only there--that Monarchs lay their eggs. Once hatched the caterpillars devour the leaves, sometimes starting at the edges leaving the foliage in tatters, other times chewing holes through the middle of the leaf until it resembles a crocheted doily.

The same milky sap that makes the plant noxious makes the crawlers unpalatable to most birds and other predators. (This last part has had me curious: do birds know instinctively that Monarch caterpillars are yucky? Or do they have to eat one to find out? With its bright yellow and black markings the caterpillar tries its best to warn them, but how often does a predator wind up with a mouthful of bitterness?)

Growing up in a farming and gardening family, prejudice against



Crawlers Monarch caterpillars' voracious appetites speeds them through the stages of growth (above), taking them from just hatched (above right) to chrysalis (next page) within 10 to 14 days. (SUSAN CARLSON PHOTOS)

the weed was bred into me. Whenever I saw a shoot of the stuff I felt an irrepressible urge to run the mower over it. I would often regret it later, as mowing left a rigid stump that was murderous for bare feet.

It was my wife who convinced me to allow the milkweed to grow. My argument for extermination was that there was plenty of milkweed elsewhere. She has proven to me that this is false and it seems clear that the loss of farms is tied to

dwindling Monarch populations. Milkweed at one time was, perhaps, as common as farms. It was most frequently found in pastures, where it thrived as plants palatable to livestock were grazed back. However, in the few remaining open fields, you'll discover nary a stalk of milkweed. The heavy, clustered blossoms that used to nod in the wind are rare and still often persecuted where they do show their heads.

And what a loss is those blos-

soms! A clump of milkweed grows just yards from our bedroom window. Any breeze carries the fragrance of the flowers into the room and across our faces. The scent is as sweet as any pedigreed rose. For me all the perfumers in France could not devise a more pleasant smell nor one more evocative of late summer.

Mostly we do not have to propagate the plant. It does well enough if we leave it alone. Which is fortu-

nate, for we need a good crop of it to support the caterpillars that my wife raises in special tents. She has lost count this year but estimates that she currently is feeding over two hundred caterpillars. These are quickly growing to full size and pupating, but in harvesting the eight or ten stalks of milkweed they reduce to twigs each day, she finds more caterpillars and even the eggs.

You can see how this activity **continued on next page**

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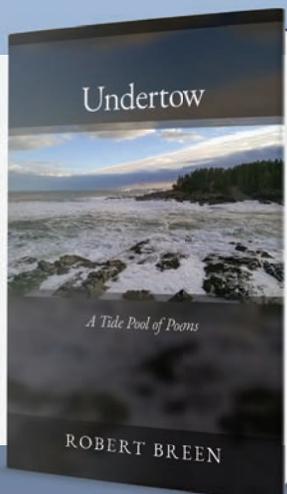
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continued from previous page
spirals out of control: the more caterpillars you raise the more you find, even when you aren't looking for them. When the raising of Monarchs grew to take up an average of two hours a day, I protested. Leave nature to do the job, I said. It has done well enough for millions of years.

In this also has my wife been the wiser of us two. Taking into account the challenges these creatures face--indiscriminate insecticide use, changing weather patterns, loss of wintering grounds in Mexico--the small population of remaining Monarchs needs all the help it can get. The clinching piece of data, however, was the estimate that in the wild only ten percent of monarch caterpillars hatch into butterflies. This is due to the fact that despite their reputation for being repellent, there are enough predators and parasites that attack the eggs and caterpillars to greatly reduce their numbers. My wife's average for successfully hatching butterflies is ninety percent. I assume Mother Nature does not begrudge the helping hand.

We've seen more Monarchs in our yard each year since she started raising them. This may be mere coincidence. There's no evidence that descendants of butterflies return to the fields where their forebears were hatched. There's no doubt, however, that once a Monarch flutters south, it does not return. And this is a fact I find most amazing: The butterflies my wife is raising are part of a super-generation. These butterflies fly thousands of miles to overwinter in Mexico. They die in the southern



Flyers In another ten to 14 days the chrysalis turns dark and the butterfly emerges. They are weak at first and sometimes hang out on nearby plants while their wings dry. (SUSAN CARLSON PHOTOS)

U.S. after reproducing in the spring. It then takes three or more generations, following the warming seasons, for Monarchs to return to their summer reproductive grounds.

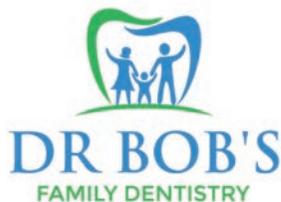
You may argue, why bother? Why devote so much time, yard space, energy, care, and so on and on to supporting the continued existence of a species that is relatively worthless, both to humans and to the natural food web? They aren't prolific pollinators like honeybees. They aren't an irreplaceable food source for other creatures. They are, in fact, as useless as the milkweed on which they are so dependent.

This is an argument I can't win. There's no logical reason to do this other than it seems like the right thing to do. In an age of human-caused mass extinction, any species we save reclaims a bit of our souls. In contrast, with each blotted out species were are reduced. We become smaller and weaker, poorer of spirit and imagination. We become a race defined by the memories of things that used to be, instead of a race of what is and will be. Encouraging milkweed to grow so that Monarch butterflies can thrive will scarcely slow the pace of our own destruction. But at least it does not hasten it.

And frankly, we find comfort, a richness, a healing--if we allow it--in these small endeavors. Each butterfly my wife launches on its journey across the continent lifts the burden of our spirits on its tissue paper wings. Tonight as we drop into sleep we will, for a sweet moment, set aside the many worries of this world, and breathe deeply of the scent of milkweed. †



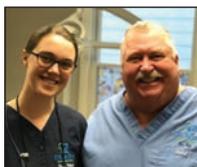
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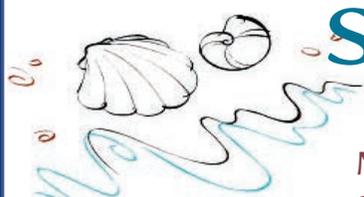
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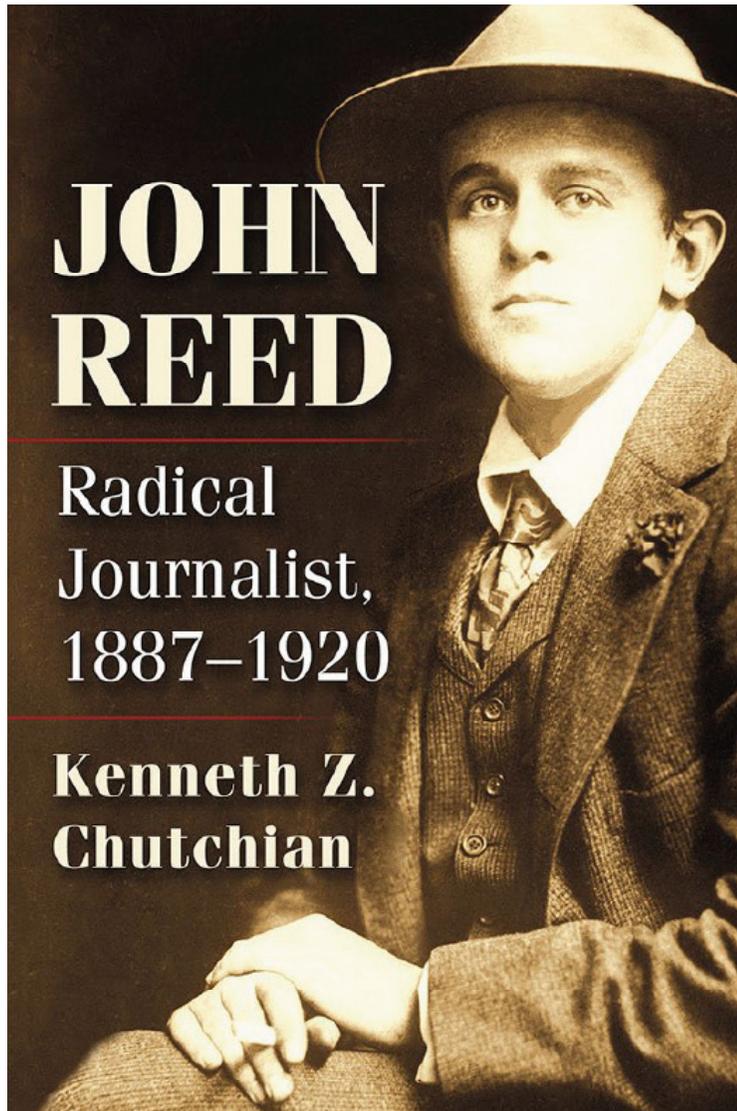
Harpswell Resident Ken Chutchian Is a First-Time Author

Former Anchor contributor Ken Chutchian, a Harpswell resident since 1987, will have his first book published this fall by McFarland Books. John Reed: Radical Journalist 1887-1920, tells the life story of a man who rose to fame during the World War I decade with his reporting, political activism and unruly behavior.

Reed was one of America's most dynamic journalists from 1911 to 1920, while the nation struggled with domestic conflict as toxic as our political debates a hundred years later. An unabashed advocate for the working class and an unapologetic critic of capitalism, Reed's reporting made him a star before his relentless crusade turned him into a target of the U.S. government.

America had no shortage of rebels, socialists, anarchists and revolutionaries during that period. Reed set the standard for descriptive writing at labor strikes in New Jersey and Colorado, in Mexico while riding with Pancho Villa, in Germany's trenches, and in Russia. With his outsized personality and command of language and audiences, Reed may have been the most dangerous rebel of them all.

Neither adversaries nor allies expected Reed to go the distance (or to Russia) with his convictions. He seemed to enjoy life and merriment too much to sacrifice everything for a second American revolution. But they all underestimated the anger that fueled him, the



memory of a father who sacrificed his reputation to fight white-collar crime. C.J. Reed died as a fighter, and so did his son John.

John Reed: Radical Journalist 1887-1920 is currently on the McFarland Books fall catalog and is available for pre-ordering through the McFarland Books website.

Chutchian's byline appeared in the inaugural edition of the Harpswell Anchor in the late 1990s. He is about to begin his 20th year teaching history, government and economics at Poland Regional High School. He spent the previous 20 years writing for daily and weekly newspapers throughout New England. ☞

Alfred M. Senter Fund Seeks Grant Applicants

The Alfred M. Senter Fund is a private charitable trust authorized to make grants to any public charity which provides a service in the State of Maine and which meets the requirements of the trust documents. The Fund was established by Alfred Senter and it was his wish that public charities benefiting from this Fund be involved in promoting the cultural, educational, environmental and general health and welfare of the inhabitants of the Towns of Brunswick, Durham, Lisbon, Harpswell, Topsham, West Bath and the City of Bath, all in the State of Maine.

The Fund especially seeks to support charities for which small grants will make a significant difference. The Fund does not normally award grants supporting annual operating budgets or to add to the endowment of other non-profit organizations.

The Fund Committee is soliciting requests for grants at this time with a requirement that grant applications be submitted by mail

with an original and five copies and that they be received no later than October 31, 2019, for this current calendar year. Application forms may be obtained by contacting Senter Place Management Office in Brunswick by telephone at 207-725-6610, facsimile at 725-6612, e-mail at senterplace@gmail.com or by visiting our website at www.senterplace.com.

Alfred Senter was the owner of the former Senter's Department Store on Maine Street in Brunswick and of the Greenery Restaurant at that location. This property today is Senter Place which is occupied by a variety of businesses offering services to the public. The net income from Senter Place contributes to the funds in the Alfred M. Senter Fund from which these annual grants are made. ☞

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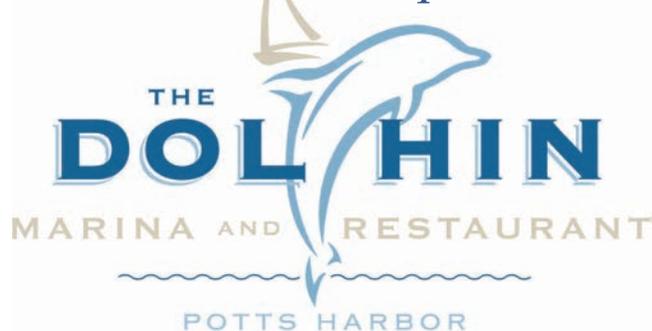
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FUN AND FABULOUS FALL FEST AT CENTENNIAL HALL

The Harpswell Garden Club will host its annual Fall Fest at Centennial Hall, 928 Harpswell Neck Road (Route 123) in Harpswell Center Saturday September 7, 2019 from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

As part of the fair, a yard sale will be held in Centennial Hall. Mums and cut flowers will be for sale on the lawn. The event will also feature baked goods made by Harpswell Garden Club members. Crafts for sale by vendors include jewelry, nature-inspired art, home and garden décor, gourmet food items and more.

Founded in 1931, the Harpswell Garden Club maintains the Harpswell Historic Park Gardens, the Town Office gardens and the Friendship Garden at Brunswick Landing, the former Brunswick Naval Air Station. The Gold Star Families Memorial Garden at Brunswick Landing, designed and maintained by the Harpswell Garden Club, honors the families of military personnel who gave their lives for the country. The club also maintains the Union Church in Harpswell and provides floral arrangements for weddings there and at other venues.

Proceeds from the Fall Fest contribute to the maintenance of the various gardens and community projects, for example landscaping a Habitat for Humanity house. Scholarships like the Harpswell Heritage Land Trust Camp Scholarship and the Merrymeeting Audubon Camp Scholarship benefit as well.

The club is an active volunteer organization and welcomes new members. For a complete list of events and photos see www.harpswellgardenclub.org.



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Harpswell Radio Fundraising and Peopleraising in the Month of September

WHPW 97.3 - Harpswell Community Radio is entering a new period of growth with expanded informational, educational, and entertainment programming. In addition to our ever more eclectic mix of music we broadcast municipal events such as the Annual Town Meeting and the bi-weekly Selectboard meetings, local calendar events and, most importantly, emergency information. WHPW is part of the National Emergency Alert System.

Although we operate on an extremely tight budget, every year we must raise the funds to continue to do what we do. Because we are a non-commercial radio station and do not receive revenue from traditional ad selling or university or government budgets, we rely on the support of our listeners and underwriting sponsors to keep the station on the air. During the month of September we'll be working

toward reaching our funding goals. We hope you will consider supporting WHPW local radio.

Copyright licensing fees (royalties paid for the music we air) are among our largest annual expenses. We need to raise \$2,000.00 by the end of the month in order to continue airing music after September 30th and to continue our network affiliation which provides us with access to national programming.

Raising \$5,000.00 before the end of the year will cover the above expenses, begin internet streaming, and insure the station is funded into 2020. To learn more about becoming a member supporter or underwriting sponsor please visit our website: harpswellradio.org.

Harpswell Radio Project is a 503(c)3 non-profit. And Thank You for supporting community radio.

Coming in September:

- A 2 minute update five days a

week on election season: will run through November 2020

- Our Speak Your Peace/ Say Your Piece recording line. What's on your mind? Let us know and we'll put it on the radio. Details at harpswellradio.org.

- Once we cross the \$2000.00 threshold, we will begin streaming on the internet

- Another pot luck and recording gathering. Come and record a message for your organization, for WHPW, or any other public service announcement. A very fun way to participate in making radio and making friends. Details to be announced.

- A brand new online program guide.

- A volunteer sign up and training event - get involved in community radio! ☺

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True Nature of Sharks Belies Nasty Reputation

BY SUSAN OLCOTT

Seeing a dorsal fin gliding through the water gives many people the chills. But, would you believe that I used to take five year-olds snorkeling with sharks? Sharks sometimes get a bad wrap, but most of them are harmless and those that aren't certainly don't intend to harm humans. The sharks that I snorkeled with were leopard sharks in San Diego. They come right up into the shallow waters at the beach and you can reach out and touch their rough skin.

Of course there are sharks that can be dangerous and I certainly wouldn't snorkel with them. The first kind that comes to most peoples' minds is the great white shark. In truth, they'd rather eat squishy squid or bony fish. On average there are just 19 shark attacks each year in the United States and only one fatality every two years. Great whites are more likely to be frightened by people than to approach them. And they're not going to gang up on you, as they prefer to hang out solo.

While you might think of sharks in places like Hawaii and California, you might not know

that we also have them here in the Gulf of Maine. Of the 23 shark species found in the Gulf of Maine, great whites are the least common. Sharks are most often found in the Gulf of Maine in the summer when the waters are warmest. But, as with many species, warming waters have expanded their range northwards.

There are several species of sharks that are much more common in the Gulf of Maine. Sea Grant has a great online guide to these (<https://seagrant.uma.edu/maine-seafood-guide/shark/>). They range from the fastest—the shorfin mako, which can reach top speeds of 30 mph when pursuing its favorite prey, bluefish, to the largest—the basking shark that can be over 40 feet long, but merely eats tiny plankton that it filters through its giant jaw. There's also the oldest – the spiny dogfish that can live to 100 years old; and the thresher shark that uses its near body-length tail to stun its prey.

Blue sharks are a favorite target of sport fishermen; porbeagles are similar to mako but a bit smaller and slower; and sand tiger sharks are slow cruisers that are often seen close to the surface swallowing air to stay afloat.



Sharks are fish. And people like to fish—sometimes for sharks right off Harpswell. At this year's Bailey Island Fishing Tournament, there were a record number of whopper sharks caught. On the first day of the tournament Justin Elliot thought that the 369-pound thresher shark he brought in might take the prize. But, it didn't even make the top three.

As tournament organizer Peter Curtis said, "I'm sure he thought he had a distinct possibility of winning the shark division, but there usually aren't this many big ones. I was lucky enough to bring in a 450-pound porbeagle shark, but then my buddy Ian Bexon came in the next day with a 459-pounder. It was a beautiful gigantic shark. Then the last day of the tournament, Herman Coombs caught

a 454-pound porbeagle. I ended up with a tiny five-inch 3rd place trophy for a 450-pound shark! But, we're all friends – you don't mind being slapped in the dirt by a few friends. This is something we'll laugh about for years."

As for why there are so many big sharks this year, Peter pointed to the increase in the number of seals to explain seeing great whites around.

"The baitfish are also bringing them in closer to shore."

And what did they do with all that shark meat?

"We gave it all away," says Peter. "You can feed twenty households with one big shark." As for what Peter did with his share, he made shark bites dipped in flour, egg wash and then fried up with panko. "It's absolutely delicious especially with mango mayo."

These sharks that were caught

by sport fishermen. Commercial fishing for sharks is not allowed in the United States. This is in part because of the slow reproductive rate of sharks so that if you take too many, you can easily decimate the population. Sharks don't produce a lot of eggs like fish and they incubate their eggs internally for a long period of time. For example, dogfish take 24 months to produce one pup. For this reason, sharks are listed on the IUCN's (The International Union for Conservation of Nature) Red List of Threatened Species. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), a multistate management agency, adopted an Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Coastal Sharks in 2008 that increased protections for 40 different species.

Sportfishing is allowed, but you need a federal Highly Migratory Species (HMS) permit issued through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and you have to report what you catch. In addition, just this past March, NOAA put additional restrictions on shorfin mako shark fishing including strict size limits and gear limitations.

Sharks really are amazing creatures with some of the most impressive adaptations in the animal kingdom. For example, their cartilaginous bodies are extra light and flexible, allowing them to reach top speeds without the weight of a bulky bony body.

Also, most people know about sharks' teeth and that the reason you find them on the beach is that they replace them repeatedly throughout their lives.

But, the super neat thing is that their bodies are essentially entirely covered in teeth. These dermal denticles are tiny prickles

continued on next page

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Enjoy a bit of Harpswell History:
The Witch of Harpswell

The Witch of Harpswell is a faithful reproduction of a story concerning colonial Harpswell. It tells the story of Hannah Stover, reviled by some members of the community as a witch, and the attempts of the womenfolk of the town to give her a Christian burial at the Old Town Meeting House. It is believed to have been written in the early 1900's. Few original copies remain.

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Harpowell Coastal Academy Announces New Head of School

continued from previous page that cover their skin and reduce turbulence of water as it flows along their bodies. Professional swimmers have been known to wear "shark skin" swimsuits that copy this design.

Add to this that they have a lateral line along their bodies that can sense the electrical signals created by the muscles of their prey so that they can seek them out and eat them unawares. Their keen underwater vision and sense of smell are pretty helpful here as well.

And, in another athletic feat, their ability to absorb massive amounts of oxygen to fuel their stellar muscles is impressive. In fact, they have to swim both in order to stay afloat since they have no bulky swim bladder, and also to keep water moving past their gills.

In the end, sharks really are far more interesting to study and to worry about protecting than to worry about them posing any threat to us. ☺

Harpowell Coastal Academy (HCA) Board of Directors appoints Scott Barksdale Head of School, effective immediately; Carrie Branson steps down as Executive Director.

"Scott brings to the job a solid background in teaching, restorative practices, and school leadership, and a valuable familiarity with HCA and its educational model," stated Chair of the Board Cynthia Shelmerdine. "We have strong confidence that Scott will serve the school well in this role, as he has in others, and that he will set a good tone for the school both internally and externally."

In making the decision to appoint Mr. Barksdale, the Board identified key priorities for the coming years, including the school's academic and social climate, and ensuring the fiscal sustainability of the school.

"At HCA, we teach students how to change their worlds," said Barksdale. "For some students, this means learning the skillset

and mindset of successful entrepreneurship. For others, it means learning how to lead for social change." Barksdale continued, "For all of our students, it means figuring out more clearly what they care about and how they can change their world." In addition to solid academics, HCA's curriculum focuses on entrepreneurship and social change.

Speaking on behalf of the board, Shelmerdine said, "We very much appreciate Carrie Branson's efforts; she has been with the school from its beginning, and for the past two years has provided sensible, stable, and compassionate leadership." The school has made substantial progress in recent years, including the renewal of our charter, refining leadership roles and academic programs, strengthening relationships with community partners and other charter schools, and stabilizing of operations at our two campuses.

HCA is a free public charter school with two campuses: a

middle school in Harpswell and a high school in Brunswick. Due to increased demand, the school has announced expansion of its bus routes into the Lewiston and Lisbon areas for the 2019/2020 school year. Limited space is still available for the coming school year, and HCA encourages interested families to learn more about enrolling at this free public charter school at www.harpowellcoastalacademy.org.

Harpowell Coastal Academy is a free public charter school with a mission to educate and develop critical thinkers, leaders, and lifelong learners who are actively engaged in their communities and the broader world. This is accomplished through a vision of cultivating a place-based and project-based educational environment tailored to meet the needs of Mid-Coast Maine students. The core curriculum is reinforced with problem solving, task prioritization, and accountability of expectations while students become

immersed in a scholastic culture of social and intellectual integrity, creativity and civic engagement. All Maine students are eligible to apply for enrollment at this free public charter school.

Division I (serving grades 6-8) is located at the Harpswell School at 9 Ash Point Road.

Division II & III (serving grades 9-12) is located on Brunswick Landing at 8 Leavitt Drive. ☺



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As American As Apple Pie?

- Apples originated in Kazakhstan millions of years ago and have been part of the human diet for tens of thousands of years. (history.com)
- One of the earliest known apple pie recipes is from England in 1391. (historyandheadlines.com)
- Crabapples are the only indigenous apples to North America.
- Although colonists in Jamestown harvested apples in 1607, they were for cider, not for eating. (history.com)
- Cider had become a popular beverage in England after the Norman conquest in 1066. (history.com)
- Due to sanitation concerns, colonists to the New World often drank cider instead of water. (history.com)
- The earliest record of cultivated apples in New England appeared in 1623. (newenglandapples.org)
- John Chapman (aka Johnny Appleseed) from Ohio is credited with helping to spread apple seeds across parts of the US and Canada. (historyandheadlines.com)
- Today there are over 7500 varieties of apples worldwide. (historyandheadlines.com)
- The highest concentration of nutrients is just under the skin, so leave them unpeeled! (ewenglandapples.org)
- China is the world's largest producer, accounting for over half the world's apple production. (historyandheadlines.com)
- It takes about 36 apples to create one gallon of apple cider. (maineapples.org)
- Americans eat an average of 19 pounds of apples a year. (history.com)
- Over 100 varieties are grown in Maine (maineapples.org)

School

From page 1

the district is based partly on property values. Of the four towns in the district, Harpswell, with a low student population but with highly-valued waterfront properties, pays the most. The way Lusk explains it is this: in addition to high property values, Harpswell maintains a low mill rate, something he credits to good financial management.

“Other towns in the district have higher taxes despite lower property values, which makes them eligible for tuition assistance from the state,” Lusk explains. “The state contributes no funding to assist with Harpswell’s annual per-student cost. In essence, we get penalized for managing our resources well.”

MSAD 75’s Annual School District Budget Report, published and distributed in May 2019 ahead of the public district budget meeting, states: “Local average assessments from among the District’s four member towns are increasing by 8.5%. The increase for each town varies based on state property valuation and student enrollment. Because of the high property values in Harpswell the State subsidy formula does not provide subsidy funds for Harpswell, leading to a larger increase compared to the other three towns.”

Mark Conrad, the district budget manager at MSAD 75 explains that he doesn’t calculate the budget based on per-student cost, but rather on the entire contribution

made by each municipality. Using contribution per town and student enrollment data, it can be calculated that Topsham, with nearly 50 percent of student enrollment, pays \$9,577 per student annually. Bowdoin contributes \$7,135 per student and Bowdoinham pays \$8,334 per student. These numbers are adjusted to reflect the state subsidy.

“The budget office has made every effort to be transparent about costs to taxpayers, especially throughout the ongoing high school construction project,” Conrad says. “I absolutely understand

“Other towns in the district have higher taxes despite lower property values, which makes them eligible for tuition assistance from the state. The state contributes no funding to assist with Harpswell’s annual per-student cost. In essence, we get penalized for managing our resources well.”—Eric Lusk

the concern and it’s true that Harpswell pays more than the other towns because their contribution isn’t subsidized by the state.”

Between 2013 and 2019 Lusk calculates that Harpswell’s contribution to the school district has risen approximately 30 percent. Over that same period, social security has risen only 8.5 percent.

“That’s how you put people out of their homes,” he says.

Lusk names the construction of the new Mt. Ararat High School, repairs to several school roofs and an increase in district salaries as three substantial investments that are happening concurrently.

“These are all important, but to do them all at once at the expense of taxpayers who get no assistance from the state is not sound financial management on the part of the school district,” he says.

At a well-attended district budget meeting on May 23, 2019, MSAD 75 proposed a 41.5 million dollar spending plan for the 2019-20 fiscal year, which included \$500,000 to increase teacher salaries, both in the form of raises and hiring of additional staff to meet student needs. Meeting attendees from all four towns convinced the district to increase that amount by an additional \$600,000 in order to bring teacher salaries more in line with those offered by neighboring districts. The increase was approved by voters in a June 11, 2019 referendum, increasing taxes to the four towns by an average of 11 percent instead of the district’s proposed 8.5 percent. In Harpswell, 197 voters approved the spending increase; 126 opposed it.

On average, homes in Harpswell are valued at \$434,000. The tax increase on a home of that value is estimated at \$253 annually.

Lusk, who is a volunteer ambulance driver for Harpswell Neck Fire & Rescue, sees a different reality. “There are plenty of residents

continued on next page

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continued from previous page
in Harpswell that are on a fixed income and plenty of taxpayers having to make decisions about whether they can afford to pay for the medicine they need, health insurance, home maintenance, heating oil or other essentials. Raising taxes by this amount for these people can put them out of their homes.”

According to Lusk, across the state, 41 municipalities have left their school districts. The process involves 22 steps that are outlined

by the Maine Department of Education (DOE).

“To get the ball rolling, we would need 365 signatures on a petition for the November ballot,” says Lusk, who is not yet certain whether he’ll initiate such action.

The petition would not be to determine whether the town would leave the district. It would begin the process of investigating what leaving would entail and establish a committee to collaborate with the town, the district and the DOE throughout.

Although the cost of tuitioning

students into another school system would be capped at \$11,000 per student, it’s unclear what the actual cost of leaving MSAD 75 would be. Student transportation, administrative costs and responsibility to pay the town’s portion of the debt service to construct the new Mt. Ararat High School are three

considerations in that financial equation.

“In the end, we may decide to remain in MSAD 75,” Lusk says, “but at the very least I think we have a responsibility to hold them accountable for the financial management that has led to Harpswell taxpayers seeing a 30 percent increase due to district spending over the last six years.” ☪

New Meadows

From page 3

Chris Burtis, who founded Ferda Farms in 2018. “One of the aspects I especially appreciated was learning from the folks getting started in this industry - their excitement and interest in working together. The aquaculturists we met on the tour [and on a larger farm on a separate occasion] embrace others doing the work and that ‘raises all boats,’” said Maine State Representative Jay McCreight, who attended the tours.

With the rapidly changing nature of the working waterfront, aquaculture promises to grow and evolve with the surrounding environmental and economic conditions. The market for oysters continues to expand as the demand for healthy, locally-sourced food increases. Oyster farms continue to materialize along the shores of Casco Bay as an accessible entrepreneurial endeavor with little environmental impact, except the positive effects of oysters which naturally purify and filter their surrounding waters.

“Aquaculture is an up-and-coming fishery in Maine and it is my hope that oysters become as beloved as lobsters and clams,” states Burtis. ☪

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Recipe Corner

Apple and Cheddar Scones

Adapted from smittenkitchen.com

Ingredients:
 2 firm tart apples
 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
 1/4 cup sugar
 1/2 tablespoon baking powder
 1/2 teaspoon salt
 6 tablespoons unsalted butter, chilled
 1/2 cup white sharp cheddar, shredded
 1/4 cup heavy cream or milk
 2 large eggs

Instructions:
 Position a rack at the center of oven and preheat oven to 375 °F. Line baking sheet with parchment paper.
 Peel and core apples, then cut them into one-sixteenths (chunks). Spread them in a single layer on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper and bake them until they feel slightly dry to the touch, about 20 minutes. They will be about half-baked. Let them cool completely (you can speed this up in the fridge). Leave the oven on.
 Sift or whisk flour, sugar, baking powder and salt together and set aside. Cut butter into 1/2-inch cubes and place in the bowl of an electric mixer with a paddle attachment, along with cooled apple chunks, cheese, cream and one egg. Sprinkle flour mixture over the top and mix on low speed until the dough just comes together. Be careful to not overmix.
 Set the scone dough on a lightly floured surface. Sprinkle with flour. Pat or roll the dough into a 1 1/4-inch thick, 6-inch circle. Cut circle into 6 wedges. Transfer them to a lined baking sheet. Leave at least 2 inches between each scone.
 Bake until firm and golden, about 30 minutes. With a spatula, lift them to a wire rack to cool for 10 minutes.
 Makes 6 generous scones.

Monthly Advertising Rates

October through May Rev. 08/13

SIZE	PRICE
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Numbers

From page 1

said Harpswell Fire Administrator Art Howe. "Having your house number properly posted not only meets the ordinance requirement, but it also makes common sense and improves the safety and welfare of you and/or your family."

The Harpswell Enhanced 911 Ordinance, originally adopted in 1996 and amended in 1997, requires that house numbers be "at least 4 inches in height, reflectorized...and easily visible." For houses within 50 feet of a road, the number needs to be displayed on the building. For houses not within 50 feet or visible from the road, numbers need to be "displayed on a post, fence, wall, mailbox, or on some structure at the property line adjacent to the walk or access drive leading to the residence or structure."

Fred Cantu, the town's code enforcement officer, acknowledged that the ordinance is difficult to enforce. There is no fine or other punitive action included in the ordinance. Cantu said he mails a letter to homeowners informing

them of the need to have a visible house number if he notices the lack of one during routine town business.

Longley said she understands the challenge the town faces, which is why she brought the project to a joint meeting of the boards of the three volunteer departments in July. OBIFD firefighter and board member Phil Taylor helped to arrange that first-ever gathering.

"We've been looking for ways to improve communication and cooperation among the volunteer departments that serve our town so well," said Taylor. "With our aging population and greater demands being placed upon our first responders, it's vital that we explore ways to work together more effectively."

The meeting, held at the Orr's Island Schoolhouse, gave board members and responders from OBIFD, Cundy's Harbor and Harpswell Neck a chance to meet, make connections and explore possible joint efforts. The plan to distribute potentially life-saving house numbers seemed like a good place to start, Taylor said.

"I support this project; finding the correct address in an emer-

gency is critical," said Chief Dave Mercier of Harpswell Neck Fire and Rescue, who attended the July meeting. Reed Coles, president of the HNFR Board of Directors, who was also there, said he recognizes the importance of the house number project and it will be discussed at the board's Sept. 4 meeting.

Longley said she is excited about the backing the house number project has received so far. She added that the signs will also be available at a series of open houses planned for the town's three departments in October.

"It's scary to think that 911 calls can be delayed because of improper or missing house numbers," Longley said. "Having a sign seems like such a simple thing, but it could save your life or the life of someone you love." †

What's in a Name?

Earlier this summer, more than 100 friends cheered as Friends of Casco Bay's new pumpout boat was christened the Headmaster. Executive Director Cathy Ramsdell explained that the boat's name was chosen from nearly 400 names entered in our boat-naming contest. Headmaster is a play on the word for a marine toilet (a "head") and gives a nod to the educational and ambassadorial role of our pumpout service.

It seems a waste (ahem) not to acknowledge some of the other names suggested. Imagine encountering our pumpout boat on the Bay with one of these entries:

Hook, Line & Stinker

How Now Brown Scow
Pumpty Dumpty
Scoopy Doo
Sue Edge

You might have been inspired to break into song if we had used: Wasting Away (obviously submitted by a Jimmy Buffett fan)
Peggy Loo
Ain't Too Proud to Pump
We Will Pump You
Pump the Magic Dragon
Pump & Circumstance

Or, we could have gone with the ever-popular, Pumpy McPump-face.

But this entry is for all those who suggested names for the newest member of our fleet: Tanks-a-Lot... "for keeping Casco Bay clean." ‡

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Reunion

From page 1

Stilphen, who attended Orr's Island Schoolhouse from 1937 until 1946.

Students learned the meaning of hard work at an early age, especially during the long, cold Maine winters. Jim Jones, who started attending Orr's Island Schoolhouse after moving to Harpswell from Lisbon Falls in 1949, was tasked with the early morning duty of retrieving water from the well down the hill to fill up the water cooler in the classroom. Gerald Stilphen, who attended the schoolhouse from the late 1930's until the late 1940's (and is married to Lorna Stilphen), worked as the student janitor during sixth grade, earning \$5 every two weeks. His duties included sweeping and dusting the classroom every morning and evening, and tending the wood stove during the winter. "I used to get the stove going some mornings so it was cherry red. I had to come in early, often before dawn in the winter," said Gerald. In addition to working hard at school,

Jim and Gerald also worked hard on the water while lobstering on the weekends.

When children weren't attending school, doing chores, and working, they spent their time running free on the islands and peninsulas. "We were just about free to do anything we wanted, within reason, as long as obeyed the rules," said Sharon Jones, who attended Orr's Island Schoolhouse during the 1950's (and is married to Jim Jones). Children spent their days swimming in the summer, and tobogganing in the winter, reading books, walking everywhere, playing ball, roller skating, watching films, and attending dances at Redman's Hall on Saturday nights. Although school was regimented, there was no shortage of freedom in an island childhood. "In the summer, we paid no attention to the property lines. Kids could go anywhere," said Jim.

Despite their idyllic childhood, the outside world managed to permeate the walls of the schoolhouses during World War II. Resources were conserved and gasoline was never used to drive children to school, who walked in all types of weather (toboggan in

hand during the winter months). "During the war, our teacher would say: Glasses, Seats, Duck! The kids would put their glasses in the desk, push their seats back, duck and crawl underneath so we'd be covered. Everybody would do it, but she didn't tell us what it meant," said Ruth Perry, who was six years old when the war started.

At the beginning of the 20th century, there were 50 students attending the Orr's Island Schoolhouse. By 1957, the students who attended the schoolhouses in Harpswell were merged within the Harpswell Islands School. Many of the schoolhouses have fallen into disrepair, become private residences, or are used for community events, like Old Schoolhouse Days. For those students who spent their days in the schoolhouses, it is a chapter in their lives that won't soon be forgotten.

"Looking back on it, I wish I'd paid more attention to how it was done. I'm not sure how a teacher handled three different grades, with anywhere from half a dozen to a dozen in each grade. Somehow it all worked. Now I wish I'd paid more attention to how that happened," said Jim. ☺

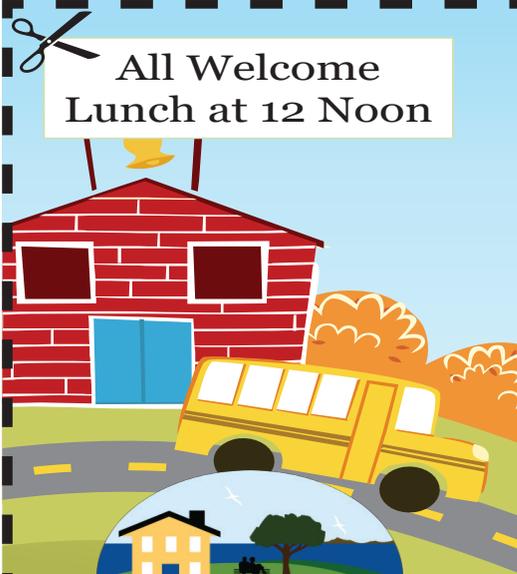
Anchor Writer Publishes New Photo Book

Kelli Park is a local documentary photographer and writer who started Due North Project, a study of the working waterfront culture in Harpswell. Due North Project shows what it means to have salt in your veins and explores the lives of individuals who are deeply connected to our natural surroundings, while depicting the ways in which they shape the collective identity and local culture. The project explores the concept of duality in relation to our connection with the ocean: the ways the tides change everyday, but are consistent in their change; the way island communities are composed of individuals who are both fiercely independent and strongly interconnected; the way fishermen struggle to preserve their heritage, while evolving within today's world; the way the ocean both isolates and connects us to faraway places.

Since Due North Project was launched in November 2017, Park has become a freelance contrib-

utor for: The Harpswell Anchor, The Working Waterfront, The Times Record, The Coastal Journal, The Midcoast Forecaster, Fishermen's Voice, Maine Boats Homes & Harbors, and is the photographer behind the Life Jackets for Lobstermen Campaign, which is currently running vans up and down the New England coast. She is in the process of launching her latest endeavor, Meridian Travel Company, which is a grassroots travel consulting service with the mission of enhancing and revitalizing local culture by facilitating authentic experiences for travelers. Meridian Travel Co. will support the expansion of Due North Project as Park moves forward with covering more ground, literally and figuratively.

She will present her new book, The Harpswell Waterfront, at 7pm on September 5 at the Orr's Island Library, 1699 Harpswell Islands Rd (Rte 24), Orr's Island. FMI call Dan Hoebeke at 833-6050 or email danlwilee@yahoo.com. ☺



All Welcome Lunch at 12 Noon

Harpswell Aging at Home

Lunch with Friends

September 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
01	02	03	04	05	06	07
08	09	10	11	Church of the Nazarene Great Island	13	14
15	16	17	18	Merriconeag Grange Harpswell	20	21
22	23	24	25	Cundy's Harbor Comm Center	27	28
29	30	Orr's Island Schoolhouse	02	03	04	05
06	07	08	09	10	11	12

Information on HAH about Lunch with Friends and Other Food Services in the Community call 833-0092 or email surreyh@comcast.net



Sticking Together

The Harpswell Historical Society and Yoga Camp join forces in carving walking sticks with children this summer. The kids are learning about the connection between themselves, the community, and the natural environment. Special thanks to Dave Hackett, Jennifer Nadeau, Centennial Hall, Elijah Kellogg Church, Jai Yoga, the Harpswell Garden Club, and Midcoast Hunger Prevention Program. Pictured: Jennifer Nadeau, Hudson Pierce, Carter LeClair, Cali LeClair, Maya Helean, Chase LeClair, Mia Pierce, Addison Rogers, Sophie McLeod, and Dave Hackett. †

“A Good Read”

Send your Good Read photo to news@harpswellanchor.com



An African Market Good Read

Tim McCreight enjoys a good read in Atakpamé, Togo, West Africa. Tim, a jeweler and head of the non-profit Toolbox Initiative, was dropping off jewelry-making tools to local artisans. (H. BOGART PHOTO)



HARPSWELL WATERFRONT ~ Enjoy captivating water views, sun and moon rises from this beautiful oceanside Contemporary Cape privately sited on 9 acres with 350’ of water frontage and private dock system. Features of this home and property include: gourmet kitchen, expansive living room, first-floor master bedroom suite, waterside hot tub room, second floor guest bedrooms and baths with great room, 10’ ceilings, wrap around porches, oceanside stone patio, attached 3-car garage, and much more!!! \$1,475,000



HARPSWELL WATERFRONT ~ This perfectly-sited year-round home on Gun Point offers endless elevated water views out to Casco Bay. Expanded and renovated in 2000, the original home has cathedral ceiling and an open floor plan, with lots of light, master bedroom plus sleeping loft, stone fireplace, large water view deck, and shared dock. A second structure built in 2012, includes a two-car detached garage with additional 576 square feet of guest space above, complete with full bath. \$595,000



BAILEY ISLAND WATERFRONT ~ This year-round 1980’s New England style home enjoys spectacular southerly views of Harpswell Sound and open ocean. Its large lawn leads to a private pebbly beach, convenient for launch and storage of kayaks and other small craft. The house features a large sunny eat-in kitchen, a full dining room, living room, spacious den, hardwood floors and a wood stove fireplace. 2-car garage. \$689,000



ORR’S ISLAND WATERFRONT ~ Unique waterfront property on west shore of Orr’s Island. Two vintage 2 bedroom cottages, each having amazing sunset westerly views across Harpswell Sound. Both cottages have stone fireplaces and screened porches. Road frontage on quiet town maintained paved road. Both cottages are complete with kitchen and bath facilities. Own your own water frontage on Reed Cove opening onto Harpswell Sound. \$395,000



HARPSWELL WATERFRONT ~ Private boat access only. Spend those hot summer nights on Birch Island. Property sits on the east side of the island which only has five cottages. There is deep water at the dock and float at all times. The septic and well are already installed. Cottage is one bedroom and one bath with a sleeping loft. Elevated water views from the deck. Property is wired for a generator. The wood stove will take the chill off on those chilly mornings. Come take a look at the peaceful living you too could enjoy on Birch Island. \$139,900



HARPSWELL WATERFRONT ~ Come build your dream home on this elevated 1 acre waterfront lot with 150 feet of frontage. Watch the sunsets over Middle Bay and Whaleboat Island. Stairs provide easy access to the beach at the head of Peter’s Cove. Canoe, kayak, or boat from your own waterfront lot. Close to Dolphin Marina and Erica’s Seafood. This lot is part of a larger parcel. Survey is being completed along with a septic design. \$354,900

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