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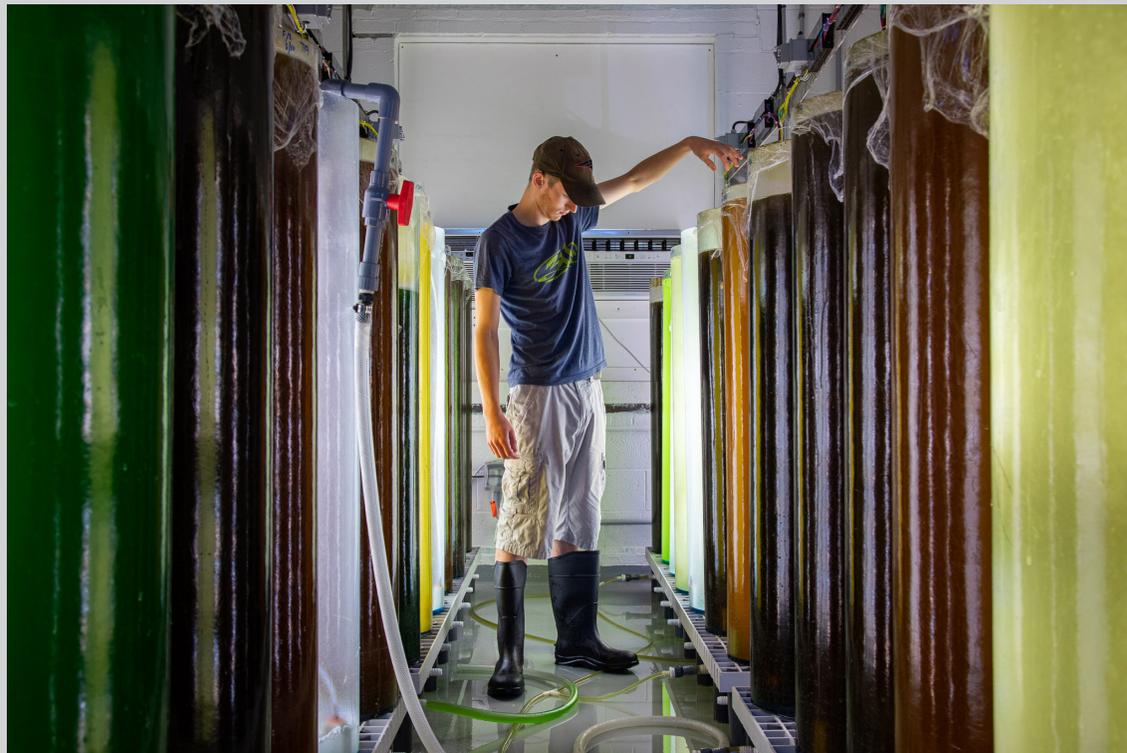
HARPSWELL ANCHOR

Local news, local people, local stories

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NOVEMBER 2021 | VOL.1, NO.6



Isaac Myers inspects a “K-tube” of algae at the Running Tide oyster hatchery on Harpswell Neck. The business grows several species of algae to feed the oysters.

Mitchell Field hatchery to expand

BY J.W. OLIVER

Running Tide Technologies Inc. plans to expand its oyster hatchery at Mitchell Field and grow kelp there for what the startup, which is attracting nationwide press attention and millions of dollars in investment, boasts will become “the most efficient carbon removal system in the world.”

In December 2018, the town leased a run-down garage and a 1.08-acre parcel on Middle Bay to Running Tide, which renovated the building to create the hatchery. The business has grown and is now ex-

ercising an option to expand onto a second, larger lot — 3.85 acres of meadow behind the hatchery, where it plans to build a new, state-of-the-art facility.

The Harpswell Board of Selectmen approved an addendum to the lease Thursday, Sept. 30, retroactive to July 1.

Running Tide will pay \$28,624.86 in rent for the second half of 2021 and \$58,960.68 for 2022. Rent will increase by 3% per year until the lease expires in 2028, at which time the sides could negotiate new terms.

The new building would al-

low Running Tide to move its kelp-growing operations from Portland to Harpswell, according to a joint statement from the business and the town. Running Tide expects to have 20 full-time employees at the site.

“In its current location, Running Tide hatches millions of oyster and clam seed per year,” the business and the town said in the statement. The document describes Running Tide as “a leading producer of Casco Bay-grown shellfish” that sells oysters and surf clams in the Portland area and

See HATCHERY on Page 13

New leaders of middle school aim to engage families

BY J.W. OLIVER

The new principal and assistant principal at Mt. Ararat Middle School in Topsham have set goals to engage families and increase enrichment opportunities for students, all while they adjust to their new roles and guide the school through the pandemic.

The school serves about 600 children in grades six through eight who live in Bowdoin, Bowdoinham, Harpswell and Topsham. Of the 600, 85 live in Harpswell.

Neither Principal Megan Hayes Teague nor Assistant Principal Kaili Phillips set out to work in school administration.

Hayes Teague grew up in Kit-

tery. As a sophomore at Bowdoin College, she took an education class and “fell in love with the idea of teaching and working toward a common good,” she said. She majored in archaeology and classics, with a minor in education.

After graduation, she taught middle school Latin for six years and high school math for another six. Along the way, she earned a master’s degree in mathematics from the University of New Hampshire.

“When I became a teacher, I had no intention of being an administrator,” she said. But a supervisor encouraged her to take leadership classes. She soon realized that an

See MIDDLE on Page 22



Mt. Ararat Middle School Principal Megan Hayes Teague (left) and Assistant Principal Kaili Phillips. (J.W. OLIVER PHOTO)

Orr’s Island man, 96, emerged from WWII to pioneer a new way of childbirth in America

BY J.W. OLIVER

A 96-year-old Orr’s Island man served as a machine gunner in World War II, helping to liberate Europe from the Nazis — then returned home to become an obstetrician who pioneered modern childbirth methods in America.

Philip E. Sumner grew up in Massachusetts, often vacationing with his family at their property on Lowell’s Cove. Coming of age during the war, he attempted to

enlist in the Navy. He failed the physical with an irregular heartbeat, but was soon drafted and passed an Army physical.

Sumner entered active service in August 1943, at the age of 18. He became a heavy machine gunner in the 26th Infantry Division of Gen. George Patton’s 3rd Army.

“Fortunately I was not wounded, but I was in the front lines for nine months,” Sumner said, from the fall of 1944 to the spring of

1945. His company fought its way through France, Luxembourg, Germany, Austria and Czechoslovakia.

He served in the Battle of the Bulge, a costly but decisive victory for the Allies. The battle raged in the Ardennes Forest from Dec. 16, 1944 to Jan. 25, 1945 and the Americans alone suffered more than 80,000 casualties.

“I could easily have been killed, but the good Lord was with me

and I survived,” Sumner said.

Germany surrendered on May 8, 1945 and Japan on Sept. 2, 1945. Not yet eligible to return home under the Army’s point system, Sumner studied at a university in Grenoble, France and taught English to French soldiers.

He arrived home on Feb. 12, 1946 and was honorably discharged at Fort Devens, Massachusetts five days later. His rank was private first class. In 1949, he

received the Bronze Star Medal for “exemplary conduct in ground combat.”

Like many American soldiers, Sumner brought back souvenirs

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Harpswell businesses report strong season, despite challenges

BY J.W. OLIVER

Harpswell businesses are reporting a strong season, despite challenges that include an unreliable supply chain and an unrelenting labor shortage.

A candy store, a construction company, an inn and a restaurant all spoke of excellent numbers and supply anomalies during interviews in mid-October.

"It was our best season ever," said Melinda Richter, owner of Island Candy Co. on Orr's Island. The candy store is in its 21st season.

While Richter was sorry to see several nearby businesses struggle to find workers, the changes at those businesses drove customers into her store "because there were no other shopping opportunities out here," she said.

Morse's Cribstone Grill closed in August, saying in a Facebook post that it had "a dozen people doing the work of 30." Cook's Lobster & Ale House closed for the second half of August, citing a lack of kitchen staff, then re-opened for Labor Day weekend.

Other businesses cut their hours.

Richter was able to stay open thanks to long-term employees, including family members.

The candy business did not escape interruptions in the supply chain. Ice cream dishes and straws were hard to find at times, as well as a crucial ingredient: chocolate. The store needs about 220 pounds of chocolate a month for its homemade confections.

Island Candy Co. will remain open on weekends through the last day of its season, Christmas Eve. November hours are noon to 6 p.m. Friday-Sunday. The store will reopen April 1, 2022.

At R.A. Webber & Sons Inc., a construction business on Cundy's Harbor Road that specializes in septic service and site work, "demand is really, really strong," General Manager Perian Haslam said.

The coronavirus pandemic has increased that demand. More time at home means more use of home septic systems, which means more calls for both routine and emergency septic service. The boom in home construction during the



Island Candy Co. owner Melinda Richter (right) with cousin and longtime employee Megan Smith. (J.W. OLIVER PHOTO)

pandemic means more demand for site work, like building driveways and clearing lots.

The business has many long-term employees, but could use more laborers and truck drivers. And "supplies are a huge problem," Haslam said. Culverts and PVC piping are not always available and prices for some items have doubled or tripled.

R.A. Webber operates year-

round and is currently preparing to provide another of its essential services: plowing and sanding Harpswell's roads.

On Bailey Island, the nine-room Log Cabin Inn was full all season.

"We could have filled 50 rooms as much as the phone rang," said Matt York, son of proprietor Sue Favreau.

People were so desperate for a

place to stay, they would rearrange their vacation plans to coincide with the inn's few available dates. On the way out, many were making reservations for next year.

"It was a great year," York said.

The family has owned and operated the inn since 1980. "We've always been pretty busy," York said, but the 2021 season was "one of our best."

York attributes this to a combination of regulars who come back year after year, as well as a boom in tourism after the pandemic shut people in last year.

Like the candy store, the inn was able to avoid the staff shortage plaguing many Harpswell businesses.

"Fortunately, we have a small crew who's been here for years," York said. His wife, Aimee, works alongside him at the inn. In addition to the three family members, the business has three long-term employees.

The Log Cabin serves a free breakfast and offers dinner for an extra charge. With Bailey Island
See BUSINESSES on Page 5

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The Harpswell Anchor is published by Harpswell News, a soon-to-be 501(c)(3) sponsored by the Holbrook Community Foundation.



Letters to the Editor

Coming to our rescue

Need another reason to believe we live in a great community? Well, here's my Harpswell story:

My husband and I were taking our 17-foot Boston Whaler out for the season on a beautiful early October morning. We were headed to the New Meadows Marina and decided to go "the back way" through the Gurnet Strait. We had just passed under the Ewing Narrows Bridge when our boat stopped because one of our gas tanks was empty.

We tried to switch to the other tank, but despite our best efforts (including pumping the gas line ball repeatedly, adding gas to the empty tank, etc.) we couldn't get our Yamaha outboard going again. We paddled ineffectively with a tiny canoe oar and ultimately drifted back under the bridge before tying on to a lobster buoy.

We were in the lengthy process of trying to arrange a Sea Tow to somewhere (and looking at many hours of delay) when, all of a sudden, the Harpswell harbor master's boat appeared with its blue light flashing and Harbor Master Paul Plummer and his deputy, Greg Coyne, on board.

They immediately assessed the situation (including the fact that we were clueless) and Coyne came on board, cleared our fuel line, got the engine started and got us on our way. Plummer said that someone had called his office and reported that there appeared to be a boat in trouble by the bridge. He didn't get the caller's name.

We just want to thank that mystery caller and the outstanding Harpswell harbor master's team for coming to our rescue. We are so fortunate to live in a caring community with a local government team that responds quickly in times of need!

Pam Berry
Orr's Island

Survey story all too familiar

I was dismayed to read your report about the apparently angry objections of two school board members to a student survey. The story was all too familiar to me.

I worked for 30 years in the field of substance abuse prevention. Information from student surveys and other data was an important component in planning effective and efficient prevention programs.

Despite the importance of this data, objections from parents about data collection from students presented a constant barrier to its collection. Community anti-drug coalitions, often the result of concerned parents, were at times deprived of the information they needed to make their case that indeed drugs were a problem in local schools.

Ironically, often the barrier to getting this information was reluctance to allow a student survey triggered by fear of parental disapproval of its content. Despite all the concern expressed over various questions on various surveys, I never once heard of a child being led astray because he or she was asked to answer one.

Mel Tremper
Topsham

Democracy: one local story at a time

Many thanks to the team at the new Anchor. These are tough times for running a newspaper, let alone launching a new one.

Here in my house, my wife and I are convinced that having a good local newspaper is one of the keys

to a genuine democracy. As long as citizens like you and me can keep factual, reality-oriented track of local events — town budgets, school board meetings, fishing community concerns, new ideas on the horizon, big real estate sales, etc. — all of us can hope to root out shenanigans and help strengthen the hand of the "good guys."

Personally, I believe in the intelligence, decency and honorable intentions of most of my neighbors. But for 300 years in America, thoughtful people have known that a solid local newspaper is one of the best ways to shine a light on ourselves — and keep ourselves honest. So ... keep up the good work!

George Simonson
Harpowell Neck



A Story of Thanksgiving (?)

From its earliest days as the pilgrim meal of celebration and gratitude, Thanksgiving has revolved around food. Thanksgiving Dinner traditions abound. The traditional centerpiece is a turkey, but indeed there are many variations. Some folks like terducken, or tofurkey. Some traditions are regional, like quail in Texas, or dungeness crab in parts of the West Coast. In Alaskan villages, whale meat is sometimes what is on the table.

At this time of year, on the very special place on the coast of Maine where we live, the VERY rare, *Homarus arboricola* ("Maine Tree Lobster") is a real specialty. Graced with excellent natural camouflage, they are quickly plucked off the trees by eagle-eyed residents before the foliate crustaceans can scurry off. Strangely, late fall is the only time of the year when they are visible at all.

Of course, the most important thing about this great holiday is not the food itself, but with whom you are able to share it. On this holiday, please enjoy the dinner, the day and particularly those around you!

by Tom Brudzinski, Orr's Island Visual Storyteller Instagram "lobstartstudios"



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From grandfather to granddaughter, a fishing tradition continues in Harpswell

BY SUSAN OLCOTT

“My great-great-grandfather’s boat blew into Cundy’s Harbor in a storm and he decided to stay.” That’s Rob Watson describing how his family ended up there back in the 1850s. The Watsons have run the general store in Cundy’s Harbor since Rob’s grandfather, who worked in the saltfish business, founded it. Since then, they’ve sold everything from molasses to ice cream and life jackets. Rob, who is in his 70s, now runs the store, but for over 60 years of his life, he spent much of his time carrying on the family’s maritime tradition as a lobsterman in local waters.

While past generations shared secrets among fathers and sons, Rob has passed his fishing knowledge on to his granddaughter, Lexie Saxton. Lexie started setting her own traps at 8, the age when a Maine resident is eligible to get a student lobster license that allows the holder to have five lobster traps.

Lexie Saxton is now 18 and has her own boat, I Mean Bu\$ine\$\$, which she operates out of South Harpswell, where her family runs the Dolphin Marina and Restaurant. Her mother, Amy Saxton, is Rob’s daughter. Amy grew up in Cundy’s Har-



Lexie Saxton helms her boat, I Mean Bu\$ine\$\$, (CHRIS SAXTON PHOTO)

bor before meeting her husband, Jeremy Saxton, whose family has run the Dolphin since 1966.

Lexie’s boat, an 18-foot Pointer with a 115-horsepower outboard engine, allows her to tend her 40 traps and run a charter business in the summer, Lexie’s Lobsters. She takes people out on her boat to show them how to haul traps. She will even cook up their catch at the end of the day. Her boat’s name is a testament to her determination to make working on the water a successful business.

She credits much of her success to her grandfather. “My grandfather is one of the biggest influences in my life,” she said. She pointed to the lessons

her grandfather taught her early on – lessons that established a foundation for fishing smart and fishing safe.

“Before my grandfather actually set me up to go lobstering, he made me read a whole book on lobsters — the regulations,

how to use all the necessary tools, and how to find those ‘honey holes,’ as he would call them,” she said. A young fisherman has a lot to learn, and having her grandfather to pass on that knowledge was critical to starting off right. “He taught me how to coil the rope, how to bait the iron, and how to band a lobster. He taught me everything,” Lexie added.

In addition to his knowledge of the fishery, Lexie’s grandfather also passed on his love for it. “I went out lobstering with him one day and completely fell in love with fishing,” Lexie said, remembering her first trip aboard her grandfather’s boat. “I wanted to be just like him.”

But she decided to be just a little bit different. When she turned 8 and her parents bought her a 14-foot white wooden skiff named the Miss Lexie, she

decided that her buoy colors would be exactly the opposite of her grandfather’s – a blue buoy with an orange dot in the middle versus his orange buoy with a blue dot.

“I remember the day I set my five traps,” she said. “My Grampy and I went out on my little skiff and set my five traps right over all the ledges in the harbor.”

Since that day, she has dreamed bigger and worked harder to save for more traps and a bigger boat. “I wanted the big boat with 800 new traps,” she said. She isn’t up to 800 yet, but she’s getting there. She has even built some of her own traps — another nod to family tradition. “I cleaned out my savings bank to do it – but it was worth it,” she said. “They fish so much better.”

While there are certain traditions that remain the same from **See FISHING on Page 19**

US HARBORS

www.USHarbors.com

South Harpswell, ME - Nov 2021 Tide Chart

Date	High				Low				Rise	Set	Moon
	AM	ft	PM	ft	AM	ft	PM	ft			
1 Mon	8:43	8.9	9:01	9.3	2:24	0.6	2:46	0.8	7:15	5:33	☾
2 Tue	9:29	9.6	9:51	9.8	3:12	0.2	3:37	0.0	7:17	5:31	☾
3 Wed	10:13	10.3	10:40	10.1	3:57	-0.2	4:25	-0.7	7:18	5:30	☾
4 Thu	10:57	10.9	11:29	10.3	4:42	-0.6	5:14	-1.3	7:19	5:29	☾
5 Fri	11:43	11.3			5:29	-0.7	6:03	-1.7	7:21	5:28	☾
6 Sat	12:19	10.3	12:31	11.5	6:17	-0.7	6:54	-1.8	7:22	5:26	☾
7 Sun	1:11	10.2	12:21	11.4	6:06	-0.5	6:46	-1.6	6:23	4:25	☾
8 Mon	1:04	9.9	1:14	11.1	6:59	-0.2	7:41	-1.3	6:24	4:24	☾
9 Tue	2:01	9.5	2:12	10.6	7:55	0.2	8:41	-0.8	6:26	4:23	☾
10 Wed	3:04	9.1	3:16	10.1	8:57	0.6	9:46	-0.3	6:27	4:22	☾
11 Thu	4:10	8.8	4:24	9.6	10:04	1.0	10:52	0.1	6:28	4:21	☾
12 Fri	5:17	8.7	5:33	9.3	11:14	1.1	11:58	0.3	6:30	4:20	☾
13 Sat	6:21	8.8	6:40	9.1			12:24	1.1	6:31	4:19	☾
14 Sun	7:20	9.0	7:41	9.1	1:00	0.4	1:29	0.8	6:32	4:18	☾
15 Mon	8:12	9.3	8:36	9.0	1:55	0.5	2:25	0.5	6:34	4:17	☾
16 Tue	8:58	9.5	9:24	9.0	2:43	0.5	3:13	0.2	6:35	4:16	☾
17 Wed	9:39	9.6	10:08	8.9	3:26	0.6	3:57	0.1	6:36	4:15	☾
18 Thu	10:17	9.7	10:49	8.8	4:04	0.8	4:37	0.0	6:37	4:14	☾
19 Fri	10:53	9.7	11:28	8.7	4:41	0.9	5:14	0.0	6:39	4:13	☾
20 Sat	11:28	9.6			5:16	1.1	5:50	0.1	6:40	4:12	☾
21 Sun	12:05	8.5	12:02	9.4	5:51	1.3	6:26	0.2	6:41	4:12	☾
22 Mon	12:42	8.3	12:38	9.3	6:26	1.5	7:02	0.4	6:42	4:11	☾
23 Tue	1:20	8.1	1:16	9.1	7:04	1.6	7:42	0.6	6:44	4:10	☾
24 Wed	2:01	7.9	1:57	8.9	7:45	1.8	8:25	0.8	6:45	4:10	☾
25 Thu	2:46	7.8	2:44	8.7	8:31	1.9	9:12	0.9	6:46	4:09	☾
26 Fri	3:34	7.8	3:35	8.6	9:22	1.9	10:01	0.9	6:47	4:09	☾
27 Sat	4:25	7.9	4:30	8.6	10:17	1.8	10:52	0.9	6:48	4:08	☾
28 Sun	5:16	8.2	5:28	8.6	11:14	1.5	11:45	0.7	6:49	4:08	☾
29 Mon	6:08	8.7	6:27	8.8			12:14	1.1	6:51	4:07	☾
30 Tue	7:00	9.3	7:26	9.1	12:39	0.5	1:13	0.4	6:52	4:07	☾

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1 November 2021 Community Calendar

Through Oct. 31

The Elijah Kellogg Church, in partnership with the Harpswell Heritage Land Trust, presents a **story walk** based on the book "The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid of Anything" at Wid-geon Cove Trail, 709 Harpswell Neck Road. Families will enjoy a whimsical Halloween story full of haunting refrains, as the little old lady gets the scare of her life! The story leads hikers along a half-mile loop to the end, where they might find a surprise!

Nov. 18

The **Harpswell Garden Club** will hold its monthly meeting via Zoom from 1-2:30 p.m. Andrew Capelluti, of Ecological Landscape Design and Restoration, will speak on invasive species management and native restoration. Email harpswellgardenclub@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

Cooking at 43° North will host

"Batter Up," a cooking demonstration, via Zoom from 4-5 p.m. For more information, contact Julie Moulton at juliemoulton28@gmail.com or 207-330-5416.

"**Conversations From the Fishing Community**," the second installment in "Living and Working in a Waterfront Community: A Conversation Series," will take place at the Cundy's Harbor Community Hall from 6-7:30 p.m. Generations of Harpswell fishing families will share stories and talk about changes in the fisheries. A question-and-answer session will follow. Advance registration required. Contact Julia McLeod at 207-837-9613 or outreach@hhltmaine.org.

Ongoing

The **Grand Slammers**, an intermediate-level contract bridge group, plays at the town office at 1 p.m. every Tuesday, except holidays. Congenial but serious players welcome. A \$2 donation

covers card supplies and supports town recreation programs. Due to COVID-19, space is limited to three tables and players should be vaccinated. Masks may be requested. More information: harpswell@me.com.

A **mobile food station**, free to anyone in need, is available at the town office from 10-11:30 a.m. every Thursday.

The **John Leo Murray Jr. American Legion Post 171** meets at Merriconeag Grange at 7 p.m. on the third Monday of each month.

Brunswick and Beyond

Through Nov. 27

The art show "**Transformation/Identity**" continues at the Chocolate Church Arts Center Gallery, 804 Washington St., Bath. Work by Kathryn Geismar and Jennifer Goldfinger explores memory and

identity through mixed media and oils.

Nov. 5

The Chocolate Church Arts Center and Studio Theatre of Bath present "**Impossible Dreams: A Musical Revue**" at the center at 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 5 and 6. Stars of past productions perform songs from "Wicked," "Les Miserables," "Hamilton" and more. Tickets: \$12 in advance, \$15 day of show.

Nov. 8

Connected, a nondenominational group for widowers, widows, divorced people and singles 55 and over, meets at St. Charles Borromeo Church Hall, 132 McKeen St., Brunswick, from 7-9 p.m. The group will meet every first Monday thereafter. Guest speaker, light refreshments. Masks preferred if unvaccinated.

Nov. 13

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick reopens its Concerts for a Cause series with "**A Night With the Novel Jazz Septet**" at 7:30 p.m. Novel Jazz specializes in the work of Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn. Tickets: \$15 in advance, \$18 at the door, \$10 for students and children; available at the church office, Gulf of Maine Books, or ticketstripe.com/novel-jazz. Two-thirds of the proceeds benefit the Mid Coast Hunger Prevention Program and the Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project. Masks and proof of COVID-19 vaccination or negative test required.

Nov. 20

GoldenOak performs at the Chocolate Church Arts Center at 7:30 p.m. The Maine band's most recent album reflects on the emotional and physical impacts of the climate crisis. Tickets: \$15 in advance, \$18 day of show.

Ongoing

TOPS, or Take Off Pounds Sensibly, meets in the basement of the Berean Baptist Church, Brunswick, from 6-7:30 p.m. every Thursday. More information: 729-6400.

Have a calendar item to submit for a future edition of the Anchor? Email joliver@harpswellanchor.org or use the form at harpswellanchor.org/submissions. ☎

Businesses

From Page 2

land restaurants closing or cutting hours, the inn fed a lot more guests than usual.

"We're tired. It's been a long season," York said. "We've been able to keep up, but we're ready for the end of the season to come."

The inn will close Oct. 31 and reopen for the 2022 season around the first weekend of April.

On Harpswell Neck, business at The School House 1913 restaurant was "absolutely nuts" from the Fourth of July through Labor Day, co-owner Christopher Gardner said.

The School House opened in November 2019 and the pandemic hurt business last summer. After almost two years, it was "awesome" to see the restaurant full, Gardner said.

At the same time, "The back end was a complete and total nightmare," he said, due to a lack of staff and supplies.

About 10 people worked at the restaurant this summer, when it could have used double. The restaurant wanted to add lunch, but couldn't, and it recently had to halt Sunday brunch, too, although brunch will return in November.

Every time a truck arrived to deliver a food order, it was a "game of roulette as far as what would show up," Gardner said. Gaps in each wholesale order would send Gardner and co-owner Joe Arena scrambling to fill them at farmers markets and grocery stores.

When they could find supplies, costs were up. Gardner estimated that the wholesale price of meat and seafood has risen an average of 30%.

Gardner worries about what next year holds. Problems with the supply chain are growing worse, he said, and he sees no end to the labor crisis in sight.

Arena, the restaurant's chef, believes The School House has yet to show its full potential. "I'm proud of what we're doing," he said, but he knows they can reach another level. He needs two line cooks, a prep cook and a dishwasher for the kitchen to operate at full strength.

The School House 1913 will remain open through the holidays, then close for about six weeks. The restaurant serves dinner beginning at 5 p.m. Thursday-Saturday. Sunday brunch will return Nov. 14 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. ☎



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NEWS BRIEFS

Task force to take on comprehensive plan

A new task force will update Harpswell's 16-year-old comprehensive plan — a job that could take more than a year of work and a six-figure investment.

The state requires municipalities to update their comprehensive plans every 10 years. A comprehensive plan expresses a vision for a municipality's future and serves as a guide for the development or revision of land use ordinances, among other functions.

The Harpswell Planning Board was going to lead the effort, but Chair Allan LeGrow said the board is not "fully capable of really doing justice to this plan."

The planning board wants to maintain an oversight role. "We made a commitment to you that we will spearhead this effort and that commitment is strong," LeGrow told the select board on Oct. 7.

The task force will have about 10-12 members who should represent all parts of town, LeGrow said. He hopes to have representatives from town committees, the business and real estate sectors, the fisheries and Harpswell Aging at Home.

Prospective members of the task force should understand that it will be a significant commitment. "We are expecting that they will dedicate an appropriate amount of time to this effort," LeGrow said.

LeGrow asked the select board to support the use of \$10,000-\$12,000 from the town's planning budget to hire professional assistance for the effort through the end of the year. He expects the task force to ask for more money at the annual town meeting in March 2022.

"The thing that we need to be very clear about is the cost to do this," said Amy Haible, a member of



A new communications tower rises 199 feet over the Harpswell Community Garden and Harpswell Neck Fire and Rescue's Irving F. Chipman Station. Work continues to install equipment on the tower and at its base, with the intent to improve cellular service and emergency communications. (J.W. OLIVER PHOTO)

the planning board. "It might run six figures. It might be \$100,000."

"This plan will not succeed, it will not be adopted at town meeting, nor should it be, unless the community visioning process is done really well, it is transparent, and it gets to as many people as possible," Haible said. "This is a public document and the citizens of the town must be involved. That takes effort, time and money."

In addition to the short-term expense of assistance with the comprehensive plan, Haible asked the select board to consider a long-term investment.

"There's an awful lot going on and I urge this board to consider employing a full-time planner," she said. The town currently has a part-time planner, Mark Eyerman.

The select board approved the creation of the task force.

As an early step, the town will request a proposal from the Mid-coast Economic Development District to develop a "build-out analysis" for the town. The town is a member of the organization.

"The idea of the build-out analysis is really fairly simple, and that's to figure out how much potentially developable land remains in the town and what could potentially be built on it under the current land use regulations," Eyerman said.

LeGrow hopes to send a comprehensive plan to voters at annual town meeting in 2023.

Eager to attract subs, MSAD 75 offers 32% raise

Eager to attract substitute teachers, the Maine School Administrative District 75 Board of Directors raised the daily pay from \$95 to \$125 on Oct. 7.

At the same time, the school board raised the hourly rate for substitute paraprofessionals from \$13.85 to \$16. Paraprofessionals include educational technicians, the majority of whom work in special education.

"We've been facing a real shortage of substitute teachers and substitute paraprofessionals, like many districts have been, throughout the first six weeks or so of the school year," interim Superintendent Bob Lucy said.

"When we talk about a shortage, every day we have schools that have insufficient substitutes," Business Manager Mark Conrad said.

During the 2021-22 school year, the rate for substitute teachers was \$85 per day. The district temporarily raised the rate to \$125 in the spring. The Oct. 7 vote reinstated that rate and made it permanent.

Substitute teachers work about seven hours a day, so their rate works out to \$17.86 per hour. Substitute paraprofessionals work about 6 1/2 hours a day, so they will earn about \$104 per day.

The new rate for substitute teachers will make MSAD 75 competitive with neighboring districts, according to Lucy.

The district estimates the annual cost of the increases at about \$92,000-\$93,000. This year's budget includes funds to hire two "floating" substitute teachers, but the district has not filled those positions. The savings from the vacant positions and the inability to find subs in general will offset the increase in daily rates, according to Lucy.

Eric Lusk, one of Harpswell's four representatives to the board, suggested a smaller raise for substitute teachers and a larger raise for substitute paraprofessionals.

"As I look around the different retail stores, the demand for people getting paid \$15, \$16 an hour is real high," Lusk said.

Alison Hawkes, another Harpswell representative to the board, said the new rate for substitute teachers was inadequate.

"I don't want to say that I want to keep pace with other districts," Hawkes said. "I would rather pay a little more and get what we need to get."

Lucy suggested that the board could revisit the rates as it develops a budget for the 2022-23 school year.

In the end, the board voted unanimously to approve the increases.

Lucy encouraged anyone interested in subbing to contact Human Resources Director Jessica Factor at 207-729-9961 ext. 1041 or factorj@link75.org.

continued on next page

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NEWS BRIEFS

continued from previous page

MSAD 75 includes Bowdoin, Bowdoinham, Harpswell and Topsham.

Town hires deputy clerk, planning assistant resigns

The Harpswell Board of Selectmen hired a deputy town clerk on Sept. 30. Tracy Gaudet started work on Oct. 4.

Gaudet, of Harpswell, spent the last 10 years at Stantec in Topsham. She replaces Catherine Doughty, who now serves as interim town clerk. Town Administrator Kristi K. Eiane said that Gaudet brings a “really strong office skill set” and “very good interpersonal skills.”

The town has another vacancy to fill, as Diane Plourde recently resigned after nine years. Plourde worked as a full-time assistant to the code enforcement officers, town planner and planning board.

Allan LeGrow, chair of the planning board, hopes the town will replace Plourde as soon as

possible.

“This departure is coming at a critical time, as you know, as the town begins to work on a comprehensive plan and building applications and projects continue to rise,” LeGrow told the select board on Oct. 7.

“In reality, it’s my opinion that, given the anticipated future pace of activity involving these offices ... perhaps more than one person will be required to provide adequate support in the future,” LeGrow added.

Eiane said that the town “is committed to building the code office to the level that is expected” and the staff is discussing how to move forward. She advised patience, however, as a tight labor market could slow the hiring process.

Kevin Johnson, chair of the board of selectmen, thanked Plourde for her service to the town. He said she did “a great job” in the position and “we’re really sorry to

see her go.”

Corridor referendum tops November ballot

Harpswell voters will go to the polls with the rest of Maine on Tuesday, Nov. 2 to decide three referendum questions — about the construction of a transmission line to bring hydropower from Quebec to Massachusetts, a \$100 million transportation bond, and a “right to food” amendment to the state constitution.

The polls will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Harpswell Community School.

Question 1 reads as follows: “Do you want to ban the construction of high-impact electric transmission lines in the Upper Kennebec Region and to require the Legislature to approve all other such projects anywhere in Maine, both retroactively to 2020, and to require the Legislature, retroactively to 2014, to approve by a two-thirds vote such projects using public land?”

Question 1 has attracted the

most attention of the three issues, along with more than \$60 million in campaign spending. The question results from a citizen’s petition led by opponents of the transmission line.

A yes vote favors a ban on the project’s construction, while a no vote would allow construction to continue.

The 145-mile line would bring power from Hydro-Quebec across the Canada-U.S. border and through a remote section of western Maine to Lewiston. Central Maine Power Co. would then deliver the power to Massachusetts, which wants to boost its portfolio of renewable energy.

Question 2 asks, “Do you favor a \$100,000,000 bond issue to build or improve roads, bridges, railroads, airports, transit facilities and ports and make other transportation investments, to be used to leverage an estimated \$253,000,000 in federal and other funds?”

Of the \$100 million, \$85 million would go toward the construction and maintenance of highways and bridges. The other \$15 million would go toward railroads, airports, public transportation, harbors and other transportation projects.

Question 3 asks, “Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine to declare that all individuals have a natural, inherent and unalienable right to grow, raise, harvest, produce and consume the food of their own choosing for their own nourishment, sustenance, bodily health and well-being?”

Known as the “right to food” amendment, the question stems from legislation introduced by Republican state Rep. Billy Bob Faulkingham, a lobsterman from Winter Harbor. Media reports say the effect of the amendment is not clear.

Volunteers wanted for search team

Harpswell resident Gareth S. Anderson, retired coordinator of the Maine Warden Service’s search-and-rescue operations, now hopes to establish a search-and-rescue team in Harpswell.

The team will need at least 20 volunteers. If there is enough interest, a training program will start in the late fall or early winter. All are welcome to serve, regardless of age or ability.

Team members would learn how to find clues and track people, as well as how to survive and practice first aid in the wilderness. Instructors

would include game wardens and health professionals.

The team will respond statewide when needed by the Maine Warden Service. To volunteer, call Anderson at 833-2320.

Harpswell News launches NewsMatch campaign

Harpswell News — the non-profit that publishes the Harpswell Anchor — is excited to announce its first-ever NewsMatch campaign. NewsMatch is a collective fundraising initiative offered to members of the Institute for Nonprofit News, to which Harpswell News was recently granted membership.

The Institute for Nonprofit News raises funds from large foundations across the country and grants a portion of those funds to member organizations, which use the funds to match every tax-deductible donation they receive from individuals in their communities, from Nov. 1 to Dec. 31, up to \$10,000. The cap on the match is \$1,000 per donor.

Four local businesses have come together to provide sponsorships of \$2,500 each, so the NewsMatch is now double: \$20,000 in matching funds. These generous organizations are Harpswell Realty, R.A. Webber & Sons, Roxanne York Real Estate and The School House 1913.

Speaking to why he is sponsoring the program, Harpswell Realty’s Ron Hutchins said, “Having grown up in Harpswell, I feel it is important to have a means of communicating great local stories and events. We are fortunate to have so many talented residents willing to take on such a task and I’m proud to be able to show my support.”

Christopher Gardner, of The School House 1913 restaurant, agreed. “We are honored to be a sponsor of the newly rebooted Harpswell Anchor and to be involved in this campaign. We hope that we can encourage others to give, and further strengthen the already strong sense of community here in Harpswell.”

Harpswell News will launch the program with a letter mailed to all year-round and seasonal Harpswell residents. Harpswell News hopes everyone will participate so it can raise the \$20,000 necessary to receive the matches from the Institute for Nonprofit News and the four local sponsors. Donations support operating expenses and help to keep sponsored ad rates low for local businesses and nonprofits. ☪

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Orr's Island artist and oyster farmer sees connections in everything

BY KELLI PARK

The strength of the natural elements has come to define the life and work of Orr's Island artist Doug Bane, who now finds himself evolving with the changing tides in Gun Point Cove. There is little that Bane hasn't done — from living off the grid to logging with horses to exhibiting his art internationally to farming oysters — and there is nothing that will slow him down.

"Everything is connected. If you build a house, it's a creative thing. If you create a painting, you're building something," said Bane, 75. "Everything that I've done, in one way or another, is connected."

The nature of Bane's connection within his life and later within his work began in the woods before he was born. He grew up in the forest, among apple orchards, on a mountainous property in Bethel that had been owned by his family since 1750.

Bane spent a lot of time with, and learned a lot from, his grandfather, who spent the last 20 years of his life living in a cabin on the mountain, away from society. Bane continued the tradition by building a log-and-stone house on the same



Doug Bane leans on a sculpture of a tiger amid a diverse collection of work in his gallery on Orr's Island. (KELLI PARK PHOTO)

mountain, where he lived without electricity for 10 years with his wife and daughter, before his son was born.

"Living in Maine, you do everything," said Bane, who, along with his wife of 55 years, has owned and

operated different kinds of businesses for most of his adult life. "You have to be able to do everything to survive. I've done just about everything under the sun, which is fine, because if I want a house, I can put one up."

Although Bane first encountered Harpswell during his time as a park ranger at Reid State Park in the 1960s, it would be many years before he returned to the coast to lay down roots. In the meantime, Bane became a Renaissance man.

He studied with a European painting conservationist and eventually developed the skills necessary to restore \$400,000 paintings for museums, collectors and antique dealers.

His career as an entrepreneur began when, at 22, he opened a store that sold rare books, art and antiques, which preceded an antique business that he owned and operated in Palmyra for almost 20 years. When he wasn't dealing eclectic antiques with decorators and restoring pieces for clients who were traveling between New York and Bar Harbor, Bane was logging his land with horses, buying truckloads of Indigenous basswood to carve animal sculptures, and building houses.

In the midst of his entrepreneurial pursuits over the years, one thing remained the same. "No matter what I've done, I've always painted. I always have a painting on the easel," said Bane, who has painted since he was 17 and is currently working on three paintings. "I used to work all day doing carpentry and I'd paint until after midnight. I'm a great believer in discipline. ... I'll never stop painting."

Although Bane's artistic interests **continued on next page**



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continued from previous page are diverse, with wildlife paintings in exhibitions across the U.S. and in Italy, and whimsical sculptures of carousel animals adorning his property on Orr's Island, his lifelong focus on Native Americans has recently taken on a life of its own.

"It's a separate thing, but at the same time, it's connected," said Bane. "I've always had this interest. I grew up in the woods. I was brought up that way."

In the past six years, Bane has painted 400 portraits of Native Americans from archival photographs as a way of bringing awareness to the culture. The paintings had been exhibited as a celebration at his gallery every year on Indigenous Peoples' Day prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Bane is looking for an organization that will exhibit and auction the paintings in order to donate the profits to the American Indian College Fund. College scholarships are "the only way anyone's ever going to get ahead," said Bane, who hopes to call attention to the historical mistreatment of Native Americans in Maine and the U.S.

Bane's lifelong connection to the land has, in more recent years, undergone a metamorphosis, much like his work as an entrepreneur.

"I never really intended to be sitting here on the coast growing oysters at this time in my life, but here we are. Things happen," said Bane, who has lived on Orr's Island since 2006.

In the past, he hosted Second Sunday events at his gallery on Gun Point Cove. At Second Sundays, local artists could display their work and gather with fellow artists and the community. "I'm not afraid to jump into something and try something new. It makes life interesting," Bane said.

Bane began exploring his connection with the water five years ago as a part-time oyster farmer, hoping to create supplemental income from a cove steeped in a shrouded history of rum runners, smuggling and a house of prostitution. Now, however, the cove caters to a different palate.

"We're getting a lot of people coming here who used to go to Damariscotta (for oysters). I'm encouraged by the enthusiasm for the oysters here and people coming in and saying, 'Well, these are better oysters than I've had anywhere else,'" said Bane, who has become a full-time oyster farmer with 140,000 oysters, supplying two restaurants and his own retail business, Devil's Back Oysters. The business's motto



Doug Bane bases his portraits of Native Americans on archival photographs, with the intent to raise awareness of Native American culture. (KELLI PARK PHOTO)

is "Art and Oysters."

"The flavor is very salty and very sweet at the same time. It's that perfect brine because it's open ocean. It makes the flavor that much better," he said.

Bane has other projects in the works — from building a stone house to possibly resurrecting Sec-

ond Sundays — but for now, his connection to the water is steadfast.

"I love going out early in the morning, just as it's getting light. I love rowing out, hauling a bag of oysters, sorting them, watching the sun come up, waving to the lobster boats going by. ... You're built by the tide. You live by the tide," said Bane.

"It's absolutely beautiful. You can't ask for a better life."

Kelli Park, a freelance journalist and English language teacher, has reported for The Working Waterfront, The Times Record, The Coastal Journal and other publications. She lives in Cundy's Harbor with her son, Kieran. ☺

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'I'm good now' — Harpswell's 'umbrella lady' brightens days at recycling center

BY CONNIE SAGE CONNER

Standing by the town trash compactor with a smile as big as Casco Bay is a ray of sunshine. She's wearing a multi-colored, pint-sized umbrella on her head; purple glasses; a grubby, fluorescent-green T-shirt; and jeans.

"Hello, how are you today?" Donnette Goodenow cheerfully asks as Bill Wells gets out of his Volkswagen after wrangling for a parking space.

"How are you doing?" he automatically responds.

"I'm good now," the Harpswell Recycling Center and Transfer Station employee says with a grin. Most don't know that Goodenow (pronounced "good now") is her last name, and Donnette loves the pun.

Wells, like most others who come from every part of Harpswell to dump a week or two of trash, says Donnette is a treasure. "She's outgoing, very jovial and kind to everyone," notes the Bailey Island resident.

"Take care of this lady," another customer says as he walks back to his truck. "She's awesome."

Vehicles continue to pull in on a hot, end-of-summer day, loaded with heavy, black plastic bags stuffed with stinky garbage; piles of leveled cardboard boxes; empty mayonnaise jars; and crumpled soup cans bound for the compactor or for recycling. It's a nasty job that Donnette takes seriously, while at the same time being the happy-go-lucky greeter. Sharing duties with her is John Warner, whom she playfully refers to as "the grouch."

Donnette dashes between SUVs to direct traffic as heavy equipment rolls over fresh blacktop to make way for more parking spaces.

"I love this job," she says. "I meet great people and get to be outdoors. I drive a tractor. I like all of it."

Many simply know Donnette as the colorful "umbrella lady" who tells people where recyclables go and where trash is tossed. She plants fake flowers in the top of orange traffic cones near the one remaining trash com-

pactor while another compactor is being built.

Her distinctive "hat" is a dinner plate-size "umbrella" she wears with a black band across her forehead to keep it in place. It keeps out the sun and the rain. Her dad bought her one years ago and now she has a cardboard box of about a dozen of them with different colors and designs. She picks one to match her mood each day. "It beats wearing a sun-hat," she says.

"I guess people like me because I'm extra nice. I like seeing people smile," she says. "I've always been outgoing. My dad was and I'm one of those people — if I see something to be done, I do it."

She rushes to help a frail, older woman who drives up in her sedan. "I like to help the elderly who can't get out of their cars or don't walk well," she says.

After working for the community TV station for 10 years, Donnette trekked down the short hill to the recycling center, where she pitched in for three summers and now works full time.

"Hello, how you doing?" she asks as more drivers arrive to dump their household garbage. The response is always the same when she's asked about her own day. "Good now," she says, chuckling. "I say it all day."

Dave Keaney, who lives on Orr's Cove, tossed a bag of

trash into the bin and called Donnette "wonderful."

"They're all really good. I love this place," he says.

Everyone who walks by greets her and she teases them and loudly calls most of them by name across the parking lot. "I'm a boring, normal person," she jokes.

She prefers working in the winter, when it's cold and the trash doesn't stink as much. When the recycling center is really busy in the summer, it's wicked hot and the smell of rotting garbage is enough to make anyone lose their lunch. Donnette combats the smells by smearing Vicks VapoRub or cinnamon under her nose.

Donnette, who grew up in Bowdoinham and Brunswick, was named after her father, Donald, and mother, Pearlette.

"I'm 56 but I tell everybody I'm 47," she says, grinning. "I like to say 47 because it's odd, like me."

She lives in Harpswell with her husband, Richard Graves, an excavator. They have three children and seven grandchildren.

"I'm very family oriented," she says. They hike and camp and she likes arts and crafts and photography. She looks after the Harpswell Scout Hall near Kellogg Church on Route 123, mowing the lawn and taking care of its bottle bin.

In August, Donnette made her debut in a community the-



Donnette Goodenow wears one of her trademark umbrella hats as she stands next to one of her floral displays at the Harpswell Recycling Center and Transfer Station. (JERRY KLEPNER PHOTO)

ater production of "Leaving Iowa." She played a farm stand vendor, a hog farmer's wife and a "car chaser" whose spoken line was "Don't park there."

In the play's last scene, she walked on stage wearing one of her recognizable umbrella hats and happily announced: "I'm good now." ♪



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Love for 'nature's beauty and majesty' drives family's desire to conserve Great Island woods

BY J.W. OLIVER

A family's decision to forgo a payday from developers and instead offer their Great Island woodlands to the Harpswell Heritage Land Trust at a \$1.1 million discount stems from a commitment to conservation and a generational connection to the land.

"Virgin pine forest and coastal land are no longer in production, animal and fish habitat is being lost or compromised at an alarming rate, and there's increasing pressure on fresh water sources," said Roderick L. "Rod" Tondreau Jr., who owns the land with his four siblings. "Beyond that, there is nothing so restorative or awe-inspiring as being in the midst of nature's beauty and majesty."

The Tondreau family and the Harpswell Heritage Land Trust signed a purchase-and-sale agreement on Sept. 1. The land trust has two years to raise the \$500,000 purchase price — less than a third of the appraised value, \$1.6 million.

The property encompasses 57-plus acres of woods across Harpswell Islands Road from Harpswell Community School, with more than a half-mile of shoreline on Mill



Roderick and Anna Tondreau with daughters Beth (left) and Nancy.

Cove and Orr's Cove, both inlets of Quahog Bay. The land trust values the property especially because it wants to protect the vulnerable bay from the effects of development.

The Tondreau family's history in Harpswell dates back more than 100 years, according to a family history by Priscilla A. Rowe. Her father, Adjutor E. Tondreau, emigrated from Quebec to Brunswick with his family in the early 1890s, a time when many French Canadians came to Maine for work in textile mills.

As boys, Adjutor and an older

brother, Omer, earned money as shoeshiners at the Brunswick train station. Distinguishing themselves through hard work, they advanced at the station and eventually came to own a successful grocery business.

After a fire in 1926, they built a two-story brick structure at the corner of Maine Street and Bank Street. Ninety-five years later, the Tondreau Block houses Bombay Mahal, The Little Dog Coffee Shop and other businesses.

Adjutor would often deliver groceries to the Huntoon family on

their saltwater farm in Harpswell, at the end of a point that extends for a mile into Quahog Bay. Around 1917, he would buy 20 acres there with three of his brothers and two brothers-in-law. That mile-long point would later come to share the family name.

Over the years, the family accumulated more land on the point and in the surrounding area. Adjutor died in 1964 at the age of 82. A daughter-in-law, Anna M. Tondreau, bought the 57-acre lot in 1996, after negotiations to develop the land stalled.

Anna was having a cottage built nearby and wanted to keep the area quiet for her husband, Dr. Roderick L. Tondreau, who had Alzheimer's disease. The elder Roderick Tondreau died in 1999, followed by Anna in 2018. Their children inherited the land.

In the 25 years since Anna's purchase of the land, it has remained undisturbed. The only structure on the land was a cottage near the corner of Harpswell Islands Road and Tondreau Point Road, which Anna had torn down in 2003. Also along Harpswell Islands Road is an old artesian well made of brick, now dry

and covered to prevent falls.

The current owners of the land spent childhood vacations with their grandparents, Adjutor and Bernadette Tondreau, at their cottage on the point.

"We would swim or fish off the dock, or rent a boat for the day from Pinkham Point," Rod Tondreau said in an email. "On Tondreau Point's western shore, Orr's Cove was virtually empty of recreational boats. There was no Great Island Boat Yard, no marina and there were very few moorings."

They remember the property their mother would buy many years later as "magical, virgin forest" and want to keep it that way. Rod lives in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, but spends part of each summer at the cottage his mother built. His brother, Greg, also has property in town.

"Playing a part in preserving any land is a greater and more lasting legacy than we could have imagined for ourselves, let alone preserving this special tract in particular," Rod said. "As hikers, it's a joy to make the land accessible for others to enjoy — the way we have enjoyed open spaces and trails that other people's gifts of land have made possible." ☘



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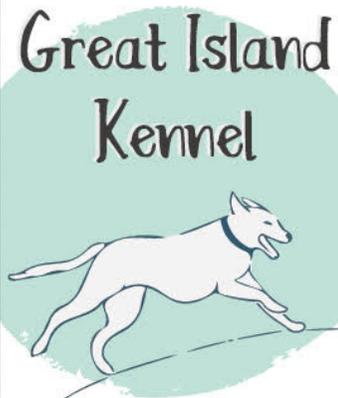








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Veteran

From Page 1

captured from the Nazis — a dagger, a Luger pistol and a "huge" Nazi flag measuring 9 feet by 15 feet.

Back home in Massachusetts, Sumner graduated from Harvard College and the Tufts University School of Medicine before going into practice as an obstetrician and gynecologist in Connecticut.

Sumner's wartime experience influenced his career path.

"I liked bringing new life into the world rather than destroying it, which they wanted me to do in the Army," he said.

For 30 years, he chaired the obstetrics department at Manchester Memorial Hospital. A history of the hospital describes his work.

"In 1969, Manchester Memorial Hospital opened some of the first home-like birthing rooms in a community hospital setting thanks to the advocacy and determination of Dr. Philip Sumner, who was among the first American doctors to study the Lamaze method of childbirth in France," the history states. "The goal of this pioneering effort was to create a birthing program that is both emotionally fulfilling and medically secure."

During the postwar baby boom, hospitals would deliver babies in a manner Sumner compared to an assembly line at an auto factory.

"The mother was totally unconscious when she delivered, and the father was out in the waiting room or at the local tavern having a couple of beers," Sumner told Tufts Medicine magazine in 2011.

Sumner heard about the Lamaze method in the 1960s and it sparked his curiosity. He had friends in France from his time at the Grenoble university, so he decided to visit in 1967 and see the method in action.

Adapted by Dr. Fernand Lamaze from his observations of childbirth in Russia, the method emphasizes education prior to labor and a more natural delivery employing breathing and relaxation techniques.

"It was a revelation," Sumner said of the French system. The women in labor "were working hard, but they were not fearful."

Sumner admired the emotional aspect of the method, which encourages constant reassurance from the partner and a nurse. "It was a team effort, which was a beautiful thing to watch," he told Tufts Medicine.

There were Lamaze educators in the U.S. at the time, but Sumner's peers were skeptical of the method. Nevertheless, he established "the first birthing room in America" back at Manchester Memorial in 1969, according to his account to Tufts.

Sumner and a colleague co-authored an article about their techniques in a 1976 edition of the Journal of Obstetric, Gynecologic & Neonatal Nursing.

"The combination of medical safety, the warm and secure feelings of the home, and an atmosphere of celebration of childbirth is the aim of the Lamaze program at Manchester Memorial Hospital in Manchester, Connecticut," they wrote.

The hospital acquired a French labor-delivery bed in 1972 and added another in 1973, as the program grew in popularity. A third was on order at the time of the article's publication. Manchester patients could still choose a traditional delivery, but most opted for Sumner's birthing room.

"The integrated concept of a labor-delivery room is one means of further humanizing and simplifying the childbirth experience, while at the same time, providing

medical security to the mother and infant," Sumner and his colleague wrote. "By supplying couples with a beautiful and fun place to have a baby, we are giving them permission to enjoy childbirth and celebrate it."

Sumner was an evangelist for the method. At medical conferences, other doctors "ridiculed" him, he said in the Tufts interview. Although the obstetrics community has come around in the years since, Sumner said that it never recognized his work to reform childbirth in America.

Sumner often vacationed on Orr's Island during his career. He retired to the island in 1993 and lived there year-round until 2018.

He served as an emergency medical technician with the Orr's and Bailey Islands Fire Department for a year after retirement and did two stints as commodore of the Orr's-Bailey Yacht Club. He supported the Orr's Island Library, which named its Sumner Family Room in honor of his ancestors; and the building of the island's veterans memorial. He now lives at Thornton Hall in Brunswick. ☺



Dr. Philip E. Sumner in 2002.

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Hatchery

From Page 1

grows kelp for carbon removal.

The business "aims to scale its operations to be able to provide consumers with healthy, low-carbon proteins and make a dent in our fight against climate change," according to the statement.

The new building must comply with town ordinances, including standards specific to the Mitchell Field Marine Business District, and receive approval from the Harpswell Planning Board.

The expansion has been in the works for some time.

"Because of the pandemic, we put off negotiations for about a year or so, and in 2021 we resumed negotiations," Town Administrator Kristi K. Eiane said. Steve Levesque, executive director of the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority, led negotiations at no cost to the town.

The Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority manages the former Brunswick Naval Air Station. George J. Mitchell Field is another former military property. Once a fuel depot for the U.S. Navy, the federal government transferred the 120-acre property to the town in



The Running Tide oyster hatchery overlooks Middle Bay. (J.W. OLIVER PHOTO)

2001.

Running Tide paid below-market-rate rent under the original lease because "it was kind of a pilot project" and because the business was "taking over a dilapidated building that they were going to rehab," Levesque said. The new rent represents the market rate.

Levesque called Running Tide's work "really, really exciting" and "a really good fit for the marine business district in Harpswell."

Marty Odlin, CEO and founder of Running Tide, spoke briefly at the meeting.

"Right now it's purely a production facility," he said of the hatchery. The new building would enable

research and development "of different strains of oysters or clams or macroalgae," such as kelp, and "would allow us to increase the size and scope of our operations."

Running Tide has yet to design the building, but Odlin said it would stand no more than two stories high and might be a steel-frame structure. The next step is to secure financing.

Of a potential timeline for construction, Odlin said, "It would be optimistic for me to say that it would start in the next year. COVID caused a lot of delays for us in our business plans."

He wants to schedule construction outside the business's "shellfish season," which coincides with the

heaviest use of Mitchell Field by the public.

The owner of a house that overlooks the site asked Odlin about how the building would impact his view. Odlin was not sure, but said he would communicate with the neighbor about his concerns.

The neighbor said that if the building blocks his view, he will request "a major tax reduction" from the town. He noted that the business had been responsive to noise concerns in the past. "We'll be good neighbors," he said.

Running Tide and its ambitious goals have attracted attention from The New York Times, NPR, CNN, Scientific American and Fast Com-

pany, as well as millions of dollars in investment.

Running Tide's website says it uses "new technologies to optimize shellfish growth," which allows for "higher output in much smaller spaces." This, in turn, means "more people can rely on this delicious, low-carbon superfood as a source of protein."

Of its kelp operation — the subject of much of the media attention — it says, "With the help of photosynthesis, ocean currents and gravity, we can use kelp to store carbon in the deep ocean," where it will remain "for thousands to millions of years."

Kelp sequesters 20 times more carbon per acre than a forest, according to The Pew Charitable Trusts, and a tree only stores carbon throughout its relatively short life cycle.

After it grows kelp, Running Tide attaches it to a biodegradable buoy and deploys it in the ocean. As the kelp continues to grow, it sinks to the ocean floor.

The high-pressure, low-oxygen environment at the bottom of the ocean means the kelp will remain intact and in place indefinitely. Odlin believes most of the kelp will eventually turn into oil or sediment.

Running Tide makes money on its kelp operation through the sale of "carbon credits." Potential customers include corporations with net-zero carbon pledges, eager to offset their emissions through the purchase of such credits. The e-commerce company Shopify is one of its early customers and investors.

A Running Tide executive told Scientific American the business has deployed about 1,600 buoys as part of an experimental phase. It hopes to one day deploy millions.

A grant from the Broad Reach Foundation supports the Harpswell Anchor's reporting on climate change. ☺



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MSAD 75 releases assignment at center of board complaints

BY J.W. OLIVER

A homework assignment at the center of complaints from school board members during a September meeting focused on the "seven dimensions of wellness" and, while it included a link to an online survey with questions about sexual activity and substance use, did not ask students to turn in their answers.

Maine School Administrative District 75 interim Superintendent Bob Lucy released the assignment Friday, Oct. 15 in response to a Freedom of Access Act request from the Harpswell Anchor. The district had not responded to previous requests.

Lucy declined to answer questions about the assignment, including what school or class received the assignment.

The introduction to the assignment calls on students to explore how each dimension of wellness contributes to a healthy and productive life, as well as to evaluate their own wellness.

The seven dimensions are emotional, intellectual, occupational, social, spiritual, environmental and physical wellness. After reading about each dimension, students had to fill out a chart with two behaviors they practice related to each dimension, as well as one behavior they could practice more often.

The next step was an online "self-assessment," on a website connected with North Dakota

State University. The assessment asks students to review a series of statements and rate their behavior in connection with each statement from 1 (almost never) to 6 (almost always).

Statements for the physical dimension of wellness vary from "I eat a balanced and nutritious diet" to "I use illicit drugs (e.g. marijuana, cocaine, ecstasy etc.)" and "If/when I engage in sexual activity, I use a protective barrier such as a condom or dental dam" to protect against sexually transmitted diseases.

Assessments for the other six dimensions include one more question about substance use and none about sexual activity.

Upon completion of the survey, the student receives a score for each dimension on a scale of 1-6. The MSAD 75 homework assignment asked for these scores, but not for the students' answers to individual questions.

The assignment closed with a series of questions on wellness, such as which dimension students deem most important to their health and which dimension they deem most impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.

At the Sept. 9 school board meeting, some members objected to the survey. Alison Hawkes and Eric Lusk, two of Harpswell's four representatives to the board, were the most outspoken.

Hawkes said the survey "violated" kids, while Lusk said the survey ran afoul of district policy and

suggested that the board should fire someone. The policy in question requires parental notification and/or consent to survey students about certain subjects, including sexual "behavior or attitudes" and illegal activity.

Lucy, the interim superintendent, said he was reviewing the matter. Board Chair Holly J.P. Kopp said it is "not the board's job to fire employees" and that the board did not have all the facts.

The board scheduled a special meeting to address members' concerns, but canceled it when it did not have a quorum.

At its next meeting, on Sept. 23, the board entered an executive session to consult with lawyers about its "legal rights and duties." The private session lasted about 90 minutes.

The board did not address the survey upon returning to public session, but Lucy mentioned it briefly at the end of the meeting.

"I believe that as a district, we owe it to our students, our staff and community to be clearer about whether the mere asking of these questions should require prior notice and consent of parents," Lucy said.

He recommended that the board's policy committee review and clarify the policy in question and that district administrators conduct training on the policy. Until the policy is clarified, all staff must notify parents and obtain their consent for any survey

or assignment that asks questions on the topics listed in the policy.

Some attendees at the Sept. 23 meeting expressed dismay with board members' comments at the previous meeting.

Mike Timberlake, a candidate for school board in Topsham, said that some board members "chose to step way outside their lane and made inflammatory statements regarding a specific unnamed teacher."

"One board member said multiple times, 'Kids are being violated.' That's a very strong allegation to make without having the facts," Timberlake said. "Another member said out loud, 'When are we,

as a board, going to say somebody gets fired?' That is not your role."

"This aggressiveness towards teachers needs to stop. You're damaging reputations with false narratives and a rush to judgment," Timberlake said. "You should not entertain or amplify every extreme viewpoint that's brought forth. Everyone in our community deserves due process, but this felt like pitchforks in the night, a witch hunt and, as one member stated, trial by fire."

To see the assignment, go to tinyurl.com/fy86j829.

MSAD 75 includes Bowdoin, Bowdoinham, Harpswell and Topsham. †

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On the lookout for buckthorn

BY JEFF STANN
HARPSWELL INVASIVE
PLANT PARTNERSHIP

When the Harpswell Invasive Plant Partnership was launched a few years ago, we consulted with the invasive plant specialists at the Maine Natural Areas Program. They recommended including the two invasive buckthorns on our list of 20 target plants for Harpswell. Yet during the seven years that we have been working, the only plants we have not come across are the buckthorns. Have we been missing something?

We are hoping that homeowners and other residents and visitors can help us find out just how much buck-

thorn may be in Harpswell. Why? Because both common buckthorn and glossy buckthorn are severely invasive in Maine. They crowd out native plants and reduce the number of birds, butterflies and other wildlife.

Autumn is a good time to identify buckthorn, because it often keeps its leaves after other plants have dropped theirs. Both common and glossy buckthorn can be large shrubs, more than 20 feet tall. Common buckthorn has dark green, oval leaves with distinct, deep veins. The leaves appear almost opposite each other along the stem and the edges have small teeth.

If you scrape away the dark-gray outer bark, the inner bark is orange.

From left: common buckthorn, glossy buckthorn and alder-leaved buckthorn. (LESLIE J. MEYERHOFF/ROB RUTLEDGE/BUGWOOD.ORG PHOTOS)

Twigs usually end in a sharp thorn and thorns sometimes appear along the branches. The fruit is small and changes from green to purplish-black. In spring, the yellow-green flowers have four petals and grow in small clusters. Common buckthorn occurs on uplands, though it can also be found in wooded wetlands.

Glossy buckthorn also has dark-green oval leaves with distinct sunken veins, but they alternate along the branch, have smooth edges and are very glossy on top. The bark is grayish-brown with small white spots or lenticels, and no thorns. The fruit changes from red to black. In spring, flowers are in white clusters with five

petals. Glossy buckthorn occurs in all wetlands but can also move into uplands.

Maine also has one native species, alder-leaved buckthorn. Alder buckthorn is smaller, only growing about 8 feet tall. The oval leaves are alternately placed along the stem and are very glossy, with as many as eight pairs of deep veins. Leaf edges have a double serration. The bark is covered with grayish-brown hair when young. There are no thorns and the greenish-yellow flowers have no petals. The fruit is bluish-black. Alder-leaved buckthorn occurs in wetlands.

The other native shrub that often

keeps its leaves late into fall is winterberry, but its fruit is bright red, so it can be distinguished from buckthorns. Hawthorns also have thorns like some buckthorns, but not at the tips of branches. More information is available at hhlmaine.org/hipp, maine.gov/dacf/mnap and gobotany.nativeplanttrust.org.

If you find any buckthorn in Harpswell, HIPP would appreciate learning about it. You can write us at hippmaine@gmail.com.

Established in 2014, the Harpswell Invasive Plant Partnership is a volunteer effort to respond to the explosion of invasive plants on public lands. ☺

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Whatever happened to ‘The Pearl of Orr’s Island?’

BY JOANN GARDNER

In the summer of 1852, Harriet Beecher Stowe and her family relocated from Cincinnati, Ohio, to Brunswick, Maine. Her husband, Calvin, had just accepted a faculty position at Bowdoin College, and Harriet came to establish their household, attend to their five children and engage in social functions required of a faculty wife.

A woman of remarkable energy, Stowe did not just spend her time keeping house. She attended presentations and events, arranged family outings and continued her participation in the abolitionist cause, even harboring a fugitive slave in her home. She also gave birth to a sixth child, and by the end of her two-year stay, had produced her literary masterpiece, “Uncle Tom’s Cabin,” the bestselling book of the 19th century.

Stowe also found time to begin “The Pearl of Orr’s Island,” a novel about two orphans, Mara and Moses, and their love for each other. The plot centered on their childhood misadventures, but the real focus of the story was the island and its inhabitants. There was Captain Kittridge, who wove fantastic yarns from his seafaring adventures; sisters Roxy and Ruey, who had their finger in every birth, death and accomplishment on the island; Zephaniah and Mary Pennell, who took on the challenge of raising the children; and Parson Sewell, who kept a secret passion buried deep in his bachelor heart.

Stowe embellished her tale with strong visual elements, scenes that many of us would recognize today: “The whole sea was a waveless blue looking-glass streaked with bands of white.” And she captured the cadences of island speech: “I declare, that boy! I never know what he will do next.” Writing to Calvin shortly after her departure from Brunswick, Stowe enthused about the book’s prospects. “I must go to Orr’s,” she told him, “and see old Jonas again.”

But life intervened. The family moved to Andover, Massachusetts, distancing the author from her subject. Tensions between North and South exploded into the Civil War, and the controversy sparked by reactions to “Uncle Tom’s Cabin” demanded continuing attention. Stowe also made several trips to Europe during this period, where she met and befriended such European notables as Elizabeth Barrett Browning and Lady Byron, and she wrote two other full-length works — “The Minister’s Wooing” and “Agnes Sorrento” — before turning her at-

tention to “Pearl.”

Most important for this delay, however, was her son Henry’s drowning in 1857. Her appetite for her Maine story gave way to personal grief. When she returned to “Pearl,” childhood delights were overwhelmed by grim challenges; her celebration of local color transformed into a meditation on spirituality and death. “How would you like it,” Miss Roxy explained to readers, “when everything was goin’ smooth and playing into your hands, and all the world smooth and shiny, to be took short up? I guess you wouldn’t be reconciled. That’s what I guess.”

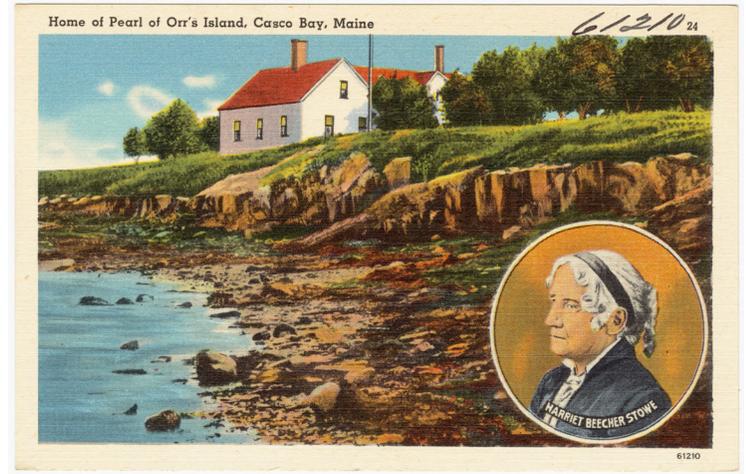
“The Pearl of Orr’s Island” appeared first in serial form between January and April of 1862. It consisted of chapters Stowe had written while still in Maine. Stowe then asked for and got a pause in publication, citing overwork. When the story resumed several months later, she was sufficiently sensitive about its shortcomings as to write a disclaimer. “We beg our readers to know,” she told them, “that no great romance is coming, only a story pale and colorless as real life and sad as truth.” Little did she realize that truth and life were at the heart of her accomplishment.

“The Pearl of Orr’s Island” appeared in book form in 1862. By the time of Stowe’s death in 1896, it had gone through 34 printings and had earned the respect of her contemporaries, including Sarah Orne Jewett and Oliver Wendell Holmes. John Greenleaf Whittier, the so-called “barefoot” poet, preferred it over all of Stowe’s previous works. “The Pearl of Orr’s Island” is my favorite,” he wrote. “It is the most charming New England idyll ever written.”

But the success of Stowe’s “Pearl” was most apparent in the changes it brought to Orr’s Island, transforming it from a remote fishing village into a lively tourist destination. A cot-

tage industry grew up around “The Book,” as curious visitors sought the originals for its characters and visited spots where key scenes were said to have taken place. Where once there was only a single hardscrabble road leading to the island and no public amenities to speak of, restaurants, inns and ferry service were established to accommodate the influx, and postcards bearing Stowe’s portrait and the house in which she stayed flooded the mail. The book’s popularity had not waned by the time of the book’s centennial. As one enthusiastic contributor wrote, “(you) will never forget the thrill of pleasure which accompanies a visit.”

Today, “The Pearl of Orr’s Island” is a historical artifact. It graces the shelves of libraries and special collections, but the excitement it once inspired has settled into a quiet familiarity. Sites once associated with the book — the house in which the orphans grew up, the beach where they



A postcard commemorates Harriet Beecher Stowe’s “The Pearl of Orr’s Island.”

played, the pirate grotto where Moses mused about his future — have reassumed their anonymity. Reading it now, however, I am still struck by Stowe’s imagery, her affection for the island and its people, and her ability to render a sense of place, sometimes, in just a handful of words: “but they had come from neighboring points, crossing the glassy sea in their little crafts, whose white sails looked like

millers’ wings.” “Pearl” reminds us of Stowe’s extraordinary talent and explains why many of us love being and living in this special place, as she obviously did.

Joann Gardner was an associate professor of English at Florida State University for 39 years. Now a freelance book reviewer and essayist, she divides her time between Bailey Island and Tallahassee, Florida. †

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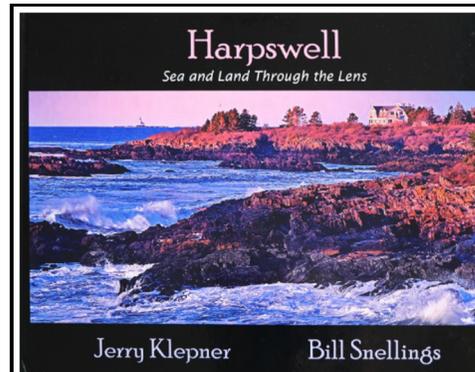
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Partnerships make Harpswell Aging at Home programs possible

BY ROB MONTANA
HARPSWELL AGING AT HOME
Amazing volunteers ensure Harpswell Aging at Home's programs thrive, but those programs wouldn't be possible without partnerships with other area organizations.

"What strikes me right away in looking at our list of supporters is that we share a mission of working to be a significant part of the community of Harpswell," said Surrey Hardcastle, chair of HAH's Food Committee. "This makes them appreciate our needs and want to help out whenever they can. Often, they offer above and beyond what we would ask for."

The town of Harpswell is a key partner, fielding phone calls from people seeking to contact Harpswell Aging at Home, as well as offering space for programs and contributing \$1,000 annually.

"They have continually been our No. 1. booster in anything we do," said Hardcastle. "Whether it is the need for the use of town land, a truck to move tables around, a place to distribute information, there is always a smile and 'Sure, we can help with that.'"

The Harpswell Santa Fund and Maine Women's Giving Tree also provide financial support, while Harpswell Heritage Land Trust partners on programs and Bowdoin College offers assistance and volunteers.

Habitat for Humanity 7 Rivers Maine works in close partnership with HAH's home repairs program, and the rides program is an offshoot of People Plus' Volunteer Transportation Network.

"They set up everything and keep track of all the trips, mileage, etc.," Hugh Hardcastle, chair of HAH's Transportation Committee, said of the Volunteer

Transportation Network. "There are times when a needed ride falls outside the VTN standard protocol, and HAH drivers have stepped in to help out a Harpswell resident — for example, a Harpswell resident with a doctor appointment in Portland."

Aside from the organization as a whole, Harpswell Aging at Home's food programs benefit the greatest from its partnerships.

The Mid Coast Hunger Prevention Program, Merrymeeting Gleaners and Harpswell Community Garden are among the biggest organizational boosters.

Mid Coast Hunger Prevention provides "so much to us so often that we can pass on to our cooks to make into some incredible homemade meals," said Surrey Hardcastle. "Merrymeeting Gleaners have been incredibly generous, providing organic produce throughout the year that we pass on to our cooks. The sharing tables around Harpswell were entirely their idea, and they supply those tables with produce weekly from June through October."

Sanctuary Baking, a nonprofit started by Isabella Mastroianni,

"has provided gourmet food for almost every food experience we have had," Surrey Hardcastle said.

She also noted that there are more than 25 other Harpswell organizations that have supported HAH's food programs with space or other supports.

"They are the community; their members use our services and provide our volunteers," said Surrey Hardcastle. "The venues are small nonprofits as well, but they have welcomed us with open arms. We literally could not do what we do without them."

For more information about Harpswell Aging at Home, visit its website at hah.community or find it on Facebook. ♻️



A man unloads trash from his SUV in the new parking area at the A. Dennis Moore Recycling Center and Transfer Station in Harpswell on Oct. 14. The area provides more room for drivers to maneuver, which the staff hopes will cut down on fender-benders. (J.W. OLIVER PHOTO)



A pickup rounds the downhill curve at the A. Dennis Moore Recycling Center and Transfer Station in Harpswell on Oct. 14. Main Line Fence Co., of Cumberland, built the new wooden guardrail. (J.W. OLIVER PHOTO)



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Thinking in Public: The little things



BY BUTCH LAWSON

“Bob?”

“Yep,” I said with a genuine smile, “it’s me. And I’d know those blue eyes of yours anywhere.”

Bob was the name I had chosen to escape the family nickname bestowed upon me by my father even

before my birth. I thought “Bob” sounded more grown-up and less like the difficult child I was. A kid named “Butch” sounded to me like an obnoxious troublemaker. In the end, I couldn’t escape it and so I still wear it, admittedly unwilling and unable to make as much trouble as came naturally in my youth.

Sixty years had passed since we last spoke to each other, but in that moment in the parking lot I could smell the Aqua Net and almost feel it stiff and damp on my cheek as we danced in the hot, humid gymnasium on a summer Saturday night while the jukebox in my memory played the songs of the day. Chubby Checker, Danny and the Juniors, Bobby Rydell, The Ventures, Buddy

Holly, Elvis. After two fast songs, the DJ customarily played a slow song by Brenda Lee, Roy Orbison, The Everly Brothers, Patsy Cline. Now, for an old man standing in the warm summer breeze, the music once again played on an infinite loop, running as a soundtrack to a movie last seen six decades ago.

I still remember the ending. It was as if I had just seen that movie last night, but in those blue eyes was evidence to the contrary. Neither of us had escaped the insults of time run amok, but for a moment, at least in my memory, the clock was turned back to that steamy dance floor with its chaperones around the perimeter, staring steely eyed at barely moving couples who showed not even a sliv-

er of the required light between their bodies. The middle of the floor was the place to be — less chance to be observed breaking the “light rule.”

“Where do you live now? Have you come home?”

Her voice was the same, although with a slightly different accent. I told her, but small talk has never been my strong suit. I’ve always preferred awkward silence to blurting out something foolish, but I’ll admit I don’t remember much of our conversation, so it’s entirely possible I royally embarrassed myself unknowingly. Those blue eyes . . .

Coming back home after four-plus decades was an easy decision given the circumstances. But I now know some of what I didn’t know

then. I knew the place, the islands, the sights, sounds and smells of an active fishing community. I knew how to get around to find needed goods and services. I didn’t expect to come face to face with my long-forgotten youth, most of which has been consigned to blissful oblivion. But secreted among the mistakes are a few beautiful memories — warm, comforting and slow to reappear. They are the things that make me smile and, in the early winter of my life on this little blue space ball, they are also the things that even my life’s score. They are almost always the little things. Like the bluest eyes I’ve ever seen.

Butch Lawson lives on Bailey Island and is an observer of life. ☺

Fishing

From Page 4

generation to generation, Lexie realizes that her family has had to adapt over time. “The lesson lobstering has always taught me is that as a human, you have to be able to adapt and change,” she said.

From the schooner her mother’s family arrived on over 150 years ago to the wooden traps her grandfather started fishing with to her own boat’s GPS

and sonar, the technology has changed quite a bit. Lexie knows it takes more than practical knowledge to keep up. “It’s not just driving a boat and pulling traps up and setting them back,” she said. “There’s math involved, learning to read a plotter, radar and GPS. There are so many little important pieces to fishing.”

Rob helped Lexie to see the value in skills like reading and math and showed her how she could apply them to fishing. Even though reading a book to learn how to use a plotter may

seem modern, Lexie pointed out that “they are all necessary skills to keep the tradition of lobstering going in our small towns” — something she values very much as a seventh-generation Harpswell resident.

Lexie’s mom, Amy, said that she and Lexie’s father are proud of their daughter. “She’s incredibly driven and hardworking,” Amy said. “We love watching her on a boat — she is a competent fisherman after years of learning from the best.”

Lexie’s family is an example

of a multigenerational fishing family that has both adapted and held on to the heritage of fishing in Harpswell. As for what the future holds, she sums it up by saying, “The world doesn’t stand still for us; we as young fishermen have to run to catch it.”

To learn more about Harpswell’s fishing families and traditions, join the upcoming event “Conversations From the Fishing Community.” This event is part of “Living and Working in a Waterfront Community: A Conversation Series,” organized

by the Cundy’s Harbor Library, Harpswell Anchor, Harpswell Heritage Land Trust, Holbrook Community Foundation and Maine Coast Fishermen’s Association, with support from the Broad Reach Foundation.

“Conversations From the Fishing Community,” an informal storytelling roundtable with members of different generations of Harpswell fishing families, will take place at the Cundy’s Harbor Community Hall from 6-7:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 18. To attend in person or online, contact Julia McLeod at outreach@hhlt.org.

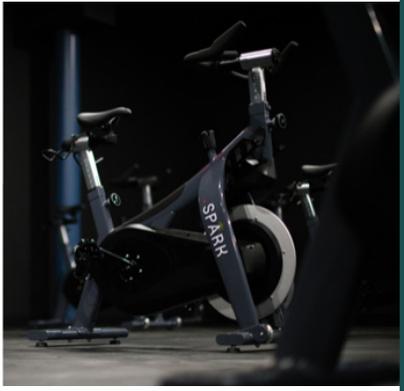
Susan Olcott, of Brunswick, is the director of operations for the Maine Coast Fishermen’s Association. She has a weekly column, “Intertidal,” in The Times Record, and writes for Maine Women Magazine.

A grant from the Broad Reach Foundation supports the Harpswell Anchor’s reporting on the working waterfront. ☺

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Live Well, Harpswell: Renewable Energy and You

BY G.T. SIMONSON

Ten years ago, you had to be a hardy soul to live with electric vehicles. They were expensive, didn't go far, and were hard to find chargers for.

Today, a lot has changed — except the old stories. Yet electric vehicles have reached a key tipping point, locally and globally. (You see them all over Harpswell now.) So let's take a look at the realities beyond the myths.

Myth 1: Electric vehicles cost too much

Yes, today's electric vehicles still cost more to buy than internal-combustion-engine cars. But they're much, much cheaper to run. And so, in the end, they're cheaper overall.

Here's the math: Kelley Blue Book says the average new gas car costs \$40,472. This spring, I did an informal survey and test-drove all the long-range, mid-price electric vehicles sold in Maine at the time, including the Chevy Bolt, Hyundai Kona, Kia Niro, Nissan Leaf, and Tesla Model 3 Long Range. They averaged around \$46,000. (I ignored six-figure luxury electric vehicles, because I'm not rich.)

When you buy one, the feds give you a \$7,500 tax credit and Efficiency Maine gives you a check for \$2,000. Walletgenius.com says average annual fuel costs for electric vehicles are \$485 versus \$1,117 for conventional cars. And Consumer Reports says average lifetime maintenance and repair costs are 3 cents a mile for electric vehicles versus 6 cents for gas cars. (It's no wonder electric vehicle owners joke that all you have to do is add wiper fluid and rotate the tires.)

Then on top of that, manufacturers say they'll be offering electric vehicles at around \$25,000 by 2023.

So in reality, electric vehicles already cost less than gas cars — and will soon cost a lot less.

Myth 2: Electric vehicles don't have enough range

Yes, old-time electric vehicles often had a range of 100 miles or less. My 8-year-old Nissan Leaf, for example, only went 88 miles on a good day.

But today's electric vehi-



George Simonson with his Tesla Model 3 Long Range.

cles typically go 250 miles on a charge. The new Rivian pickup truck goes 314 (and tows 11,000 pounds)! My Tesla goes 353. And the 2022 Lucid Air will go 520. Meanwhile, the average American drives ... less than 50 miles a day.

So in reality, electric vehicles already have plenty of range — and it's growing fast.

Myth 3: There's nowhere to charge

I knew someone once who drove from California to Maine in an old electric vehicle with 70 miles of range — when chargers were rare. Yikes! She was made of stern stuff.

Since then, chargers have been springing up like dandelions as people realize there's money to be made. I recently re-counted and found, to my

surprise, that there are now 36 chargers between my home in Harpswell and downtown Portland — up from the 19 I reported here last June.

Tesla has installed 25,000 super-fast superchargers, is adding 20 more a day, and will soon open them to all electric vehicle drivers. The Hill says there are 102,000 chargers in America right now, and the feds aim to build another 400,000 by 2030. Meanwhile, modern phone apps have made finding chargers (and planning long-distance trips) easy.

Little-known fact: Charging at home is the easiest, cheapest way to go. My charger cost me \$600 plus \$500 to install. (It's a 220-volt line, like a clothes dryer.) Like most electric vehicle owners, I do 99% of my charging right here — which

means I save money and always have somewhere to charge.

So in reality, there are already plenty of chargers — and thousands more are coming.

Myth 4: Building electric vehicles is worse for the climate

Yes, building an electric vehicle can create more carbon pollution than building a gas car. That's because of the energy needed to make the battery.

Still, according to the Argonne National Laboratory, the total lifetime greenhouse gas emissions from manufacturing, fueling and driving a conventional car are almost 50% higher than for an electric vehicle. This is because electric vehicles don't have tailpipe emissions.

So in reality, building electric vehicles is already better for the climate — and will only continue to get better as batteries improve (less energy-intensive to build, fewer rare or toxic materials, and easier to recycle).

Myth 5: Running electric vehicles is worse for the climate

Yes, electric vehicles run on electricity made elsewhere, in power plants. But here in Maine, 75% of ours comes from renewable Canadian hydropower — which is cleaner than solar.

Even in slow-moving states like Oklahoma, where most power still comes from coal, the lifetime carbon cost of mining, transporting and burning coal to make electricity for electric vehicles is lower than the cost

of drilling and transporting oil, refining it to make gasoline, transporting it again, and burning it in gas cars.

Meanwhile, the use of coal is collapsing around the world because renewable technologies like solar and wind power have evolved rapidly — and become cheaper than coal. (The cost of solar panels, for example, has fallen 90% over the past 10 years.) The result, thanks to market forces, is that the world's electric grids are growing cleaner every year.

So in reality, running electric vehicles is already better for the climate — and will only continue to get better.

In the end, here's what you need to know:

Electric vehicles are good for ordinary people like you and me who try to be smart about their money. They're fun to drive, with amazing acceleration. And they're new technology — clean, quiet and beautiful.

They're good for the environment, too.

And they're good for Harpswell — our own little corner of God's green earth. It's clean, quiet and beautiful here, too, right? I say we try to keep it that way.

G.T. Simonson is a writer from New York City living in Harpswell since 1992. Questions about renewable energy? Contact him anytime at george.simonson@gmail.com. &

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Harpswell Naturalist: Deer time

BY ED ROBINSON

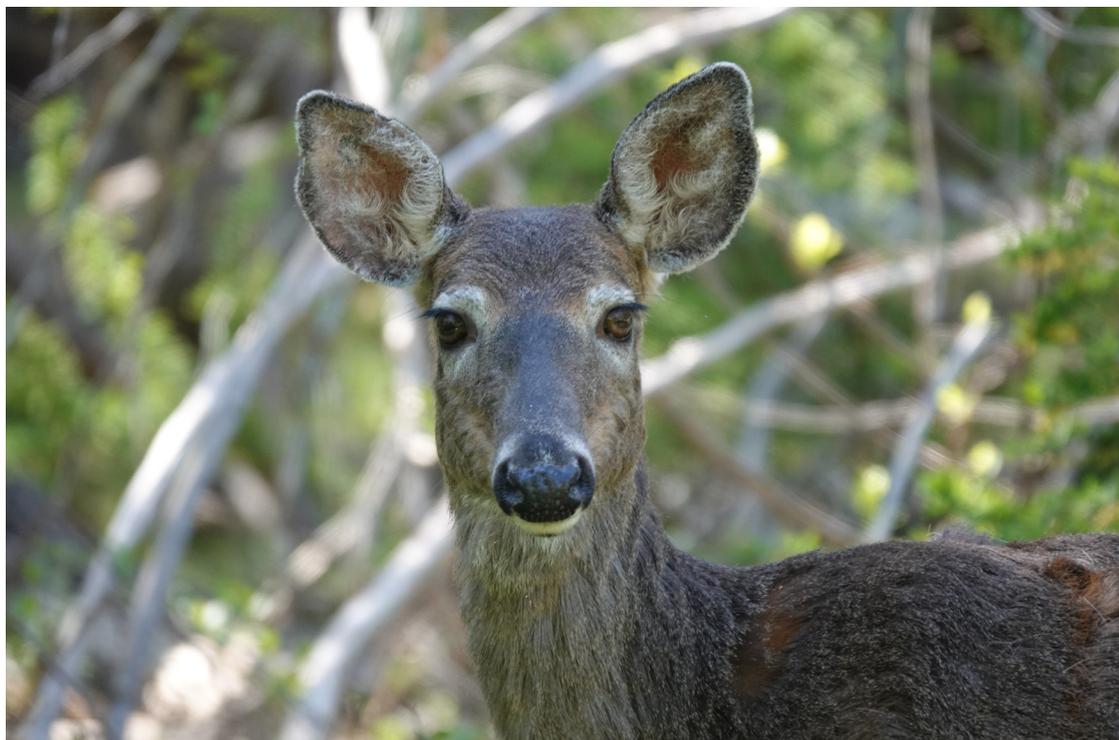
While November may not be as eagerly anticipated as October's foliage season, for many people it is a favorite time of year. As the days get shorter, our white-tailed deer population enters the breeding season known as the "rut." You can observe many changes in deer behavior as animals reluctant to make an appearance during daylight hours become more active as they search for a mate. This month is also prime time for deer hunting with firearms across our state.

White-tailed deer are one of the most popular creatures for wildlife viewing, from the time they appear as tiny, spotted fawns until they grow into mature bucks with sizable antlers. In recent years, however, the interest in having lots of white-tails around us has dimmed as they have overpopulated many parts of southern Maine. Not only can deer cause considerable damage to forest habitat, they also figure prominently in the growing incidence of black-legged-tick-borne diseases (primarily Lyme, anaplasmosis and babesiosis). Health experts have labeled the rising population of whitetails as a human health issue.

As northern Maine has reverted from small farms to forest, the population of whitetails has fallen, since there is less favorable habitat for an animal that depends upon browsing new growth of trees and shrubs, grasses and forbs. In southern Maine, the gradual conversion of forests to housing tracts has created ideal conditions for deer, since those new homeowners install a range of landscaping plants that often appeal to a deer's palate.

With restrictions on hunting in suburban areas, there are few checks on the growth of deer numbers. Predators like wolves, cougars, bears, lynx and coyotes are either absent from southern Maine or present in insufficient numbers to control the deer herd on their own. Maine registers over 3,000 deer collisions each year on our highways, sometimes with fatal results for humans.

When you are afield this month, look for small trees that have damage to their bark roughly 2 feet above the ground. This is called a "rub," caused by bucks scraping their antlers on the trees to build their neck and shoulder muscles and to leave their individual scents.



A female white-tailed deer. (ED ROBINSON PHOTO)

You may also see a "scrape," an area 2-4 feet in circumference where deer of both sexes have dug up the ground with their hoofs, leaving scent from urine and glands. As the middle of November approaches, rubbing and scraping activity reaches a peak, as the does come into estrous and bucks are traveling constantly in search of those "does in heat." If you are really lucky, you might encounter two bucks fighting with their antlers, trying to establish dominance and win a doe's heart.

There is a sizable deer population in Harpswell and a number of

people hunt with archery equipment or firearms (only shotguns and black-powder rifles are legal in Harpswell). The harvest provides a considerable amount of highly nutritious organic protein, and helps to keep deer numbers in check. Hunters should have written permission from landowners allowing them access and all deer stands must have the hunter's contact information. It is illegal to hunt over any kind of bait placed for the purpose of attracting deer. In fact, any feeding of deer is prohibited by state law between June 1 and Dec. 15.

Hikers should be alert to the possible presence of hunters in their favorite woods, and should wear bright-orange clothing through November and the first half of December. Dogs should be controlled to avoid disturbing hunters and an orange vest is also a good idea for your pet.

Ed Robinson's new book, "Nature Notes from Maine Vol. II: Puffins, Black Bears, Raccoons & More" is now available from the Harpswell Heritage Land Trust. All profits support the conservation and public education efforts of HHLT. &



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Middle

From Page 1

administrative role could enable her to help more students.

"Instead of just effecting positive change for the students in front of me, maybe I could effect positive change for an entire building of students," she said.

She was a K-12 assistant principal in the Monmouth schools for two years before becoming assistant principal of Mt. Ararat Middle School in 2015.

"I was really happy being an assistant principal," she said. She appreciated the opportunity to build relationships with "some of the most challenging students" and the students most in need of an advocate.

"To help a kid who hates school start to see some positive benefits of being here was really important to me," she said.

In late 2020, the Maine Principals' Association named Hayes Teague the 2021 Assistant Principal of the Year, calling her "a true educational leader" who "leverages positive relationships with students and staff to bring innovative changes to her school community."

In October of 2020, the principal of Mt. Ararat Middle School abruptly resigned to become a stay-at-home dad. The superintendent appointed Hayes Teague interim principal.

"It's a really interesting job to do in a pandemic," she said. "They don't train you for that."

Undaunted, she sought to become principal on a permanent basis.

She sees similarities between the Maine School Administrative District 75 community and her hometown of Kittery, where many residents work at a shipyard or on lobster boats.

"I loved growing up in that environment," she said, "and I felt like I found a home here."

In January, she bought a house near Williams-Cone Elementary School in Topsham, where her oldest child goes to school and her younger child will start next year.

"I really believe in this district," she said. "I believe in the educational vision and the work we do for kids here — enough that I wanted to bring my own family here."

Phillips, the assistant principal, grew up in a town of 600 in western Canada, where her mother was principal of the K-12 school. When she left to attend the Uni-

versity of Maine at Orono on a volleyball scholarship, a career in education was "definitely not" in her plans. With time and distance, those feelings began to change.

Growing up in a small town, teachers were "a big part of our lives," Phillips said. "They were additional parents. They were mentors. They were role models."

"I realized I wanted to do that for kids," she said.

She majored in secondary education with a concentration in English, then taught at Biddeford High School and Thornton Academy Middle School before coming to Mt. Ararat Middle School in 2013.

Phillips taught at Mt. Ararat before becoming an instructional coach for other teachers. She "fell in love with the leadership part of it" and, after Hayes Teague's promotion, became interim assistant principal.

Hayes Teague and Phillips started their positions on a permanent basis July 1 and immediately started planning for the year ahead, with a focus on emotional and social support for students.

The coronavirus pandemic continues to present challenges — and not just the challenges of masks and contact tracing.

The sudden shift from in-person to remote instruction in March 2020, followed by six months of hybrid instruction to start the following school year, affected students' readiness for school. When full-time, in-person instruction resumed in March of this year, "the stamina for learning wasn't there," Hayes Teague said.

"We want to have a rigorous academic program," Hayes Teague said, "but we also have to have students who are ready to learn."

Another "extremely large day-to-day challenge" has come in the form of a substitute shortage,

Hayes Teague said. Every day, she arrives early to review the list of absent staff and "piecemeal" coverage. She worries about what flu season will bring. "You can't just come to work sick" anymore, she said.

Hayes Teague has two primary goals for the school's future. First, she wants to increase engagement with families.

"There's a natural drop in participation when kids move from fifth to sixth grade," she said. At the elementary schools, parents know each other and "know how to be involved."

At Harpswell Community School, their student might go from a class of 25-30 kids who know each other to a class of 195-220 strangers from four towns.

As assistant principal, Hayes Teague sought to engage families with a program called Parent Academy. The program brought in experts to talk about topics relevant to adolescent parenting, like cellphone use and vaping. The pandemic derailed the program, but Hayes Teague plans to resurrect it.

The school has a brand-new food pantry — another effort to reach families and the larger community.

Over the summer, Hayes Teague contacted the Mid Coast Hunger Prevention Program and recruited parent volunteers. The W.I.N.G. pantry — the name

stands for "We Include, Nurture and Give" — is now open every Monday and Friday.

Another of the principal's goals is to offer more enrichment opportunities to students who need a challenge. For example, the school does not offer foreign-language instruction until eighth grade. "To be comparable with what other schools in our area are doing, we should start that instruction in seventh grade," she said.

Both Hayes Teague and Phillips are embracing the opportuni-

ty to lead the school toward these goals.

Phillips feels "grateful for being trusted to fulfill an important position for so many people — kids and staff and families," she said.

Last year thrust the pair into new roles, an experience Hayes Teague likened to "taking the reins of a carriage already in motion." This year, they were able to plan ahead and think about their vision for the school.

"It's been a really exciting time," Hayes Teague said. ☺



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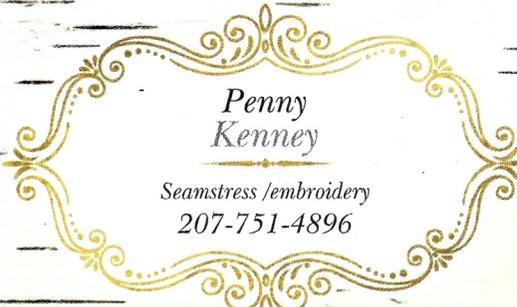
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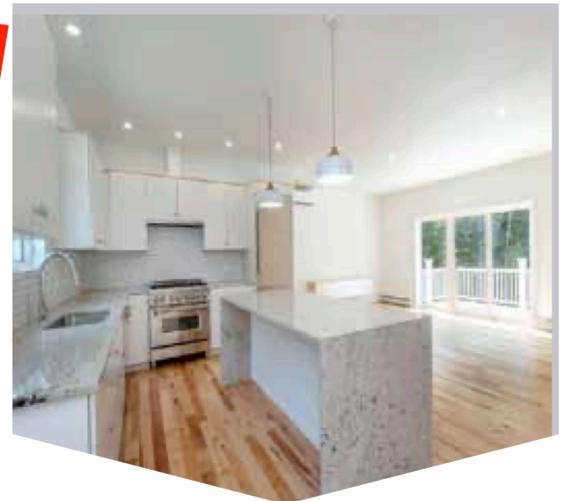


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