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HHLT wraps \$2M 'Forever Campaign'

BY J.W. OLIVER

The Harpswell Heritage Land Trust has completed its "Forever Campaign," raising \$2.14 million to create an endowment and acquire a 57-acre preserve on Great Island.

With support from more than 200 donors, the campaign surpassed its goal of \$2.1 million before concluding around Labor Day weekend, according to HHLT Executive Director Julia McLeod.

Of the \$2.14 million, \$500,000 will cover the purchase price of the future Anna M. Tondreau Preserve on Great Island. Another \$65,000 will cover stewardship and transaction costs. The Land Trust hopes to close on the property in
See FOREVER on Page 18



Fall splendor Oak leaves take on shades of red along Widgeon Cove Trail. See more photos from the Harpswell Heritage Land Trust's This Week in Harpswell project on Pages 10 and 21. (BRANDON ANDRUSIC PHOTO)

HCA to close at end of school year

BY J.W. OLIVER

Harpswell Coastal Academy will close at the end of the 2022-23 school year, following the Maine Charter School Commission's decision not to renew HCA's charter.

In a series of votes on Oct. 11, the commission rejected Harpswell Coastal Academy's request to delay the decision, 4-3; then declined to renew the charter without conditions, 7-0. The commission voted 4-3 in favor of renewal with conditions, but a supermajority — at least five members — was necessary for approval.

The commission's staff had recommended against renewal, citing concerns about chronic absenteeism and academic performance, as well as the school's finances and the size and condition of its building.

A report by the staff emphasized Harpswell Coastal Academy's high rate of chronic absenteeism, double the state average, and its failure to meet 10 of 14 targets for academics during the last four years.

The report calls Harpswell Coastal Academy "a financially fragile organization" that has struggled to enroll enough students to remain sustainable. It refers to "crowding" in the building after the school's consolidation from two campuses to one earlier this year. The report also questions whether three yurts, now under construction, would make suitable classrooms during the winter.

Harpswell Coastal Academy closed its Brunswick campus at the end of the 2021-22 school year.

See HCA on Page 26

Voters to elect new state representative

BY J.W. OLIVER

Residents of Harpswell and east Brunswick will elect a new member of the Maine House of Representatives on Nov. 8.

After four consecutive terms, state Rep. Joyce "Jay" McCreight, D-Harpswell, cannot run for reelection because of term limits.

For the last eight years, McCreight has represented Maine House District 51 — Harpswell, northeast Brunswick and West Bath.

The Maine Legislature redrew district boundaries last year as part of a once-a-decade process that ensures roughly equal populations in all 151 districts, as required

by the Maine Constitution. Harpswell is no longer in the same district as West Bath, but joins a larger slice of Brunswick in Maine House District 99.

District 99 voters will choose between two candidates: Cundy's Harbor Republican Stephen "Bubba" Davis and Harpswell

Neck Democrat Cheryl Golek.

Both candidates sat down with the Anchor in October to talk about their priorities and answer questions about current issues, such as inflation, abortion rights, the housing market, the future of the lobster fishery, and Maine's labor shortage. ☞

Cheryl Golek



"If we're going to rebuild our workforce, we have to look at our workforce shortage and our housing shortage as a crisis in our state — together. They feed one another," Golek said.

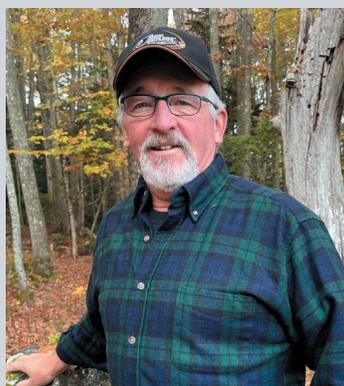
Housing was a priority for Golek before her campaign. But on the campaign trail, she hears more about housing than any other issue.

"Everybody's talking about it," she said. "Everybody has a child or a neighbor or somebody in the community (for whom) either rent is insane or they're struggling or they're living with their family."

See GOLEK on Page 28

Harpswell Neck business owner and activist Cheryl Golek wants to find solutions to the state's shortages of housing and workers.

Stephen 'Bubba' Davis



in Augusta.

Davis counts fisheries as one of four priorities, along with the elderly, veterans, and vocational education.

Davis fishes commercially in semi-retirement and works a part-time job on the wharf at Watson's General Store in Cundy's Harbor. If he wins the election, he has a goal to visit every wharf in the district at least once a week to hear fishermen's questions and concerns.

He wants to protect Maine's fishing heritage. "The heritage
See DAVIS on Page 29

Lifelong Cundy's Harbor resident and retired Bath Iron Works engineer Stephen "Bubba" Davis wants to serve as a voice for the fishing industry

INSIDE:

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Senate District 23 candidates differ on Maine's best path forward

BY JOHN TERHUNE,
THE TIMES RECORD

Voters in the newly redrawn Maine Senate District 23 will choose between two competing visions for Maine's future.

Democrat Matthea "Mattie" Daughtry, who currently represents District 24 in the Senate, hopes to build on her four terms in the Maine House of Representatives, as well as her current work as assistant Senate majority leader.

Like Daughtry, Republican Brogan Teel wants to improve the state's education and health systems while making life easier for business owners. Yet while Daughtry hopes to expand government programs to improve affordable housing and child care options, Teel believes the state must instead roll back regulations and lower taxes.

The winner of the general election on Nov. 8 will serve a two-year term. The district covers Brunswick, Freeport, Harpswell, Pownal and part of

Yarmouth, as well as the area's islands.

Q&A with Matthea Daughtry *Tell the voters about yourself.*

As a Brunswick native and proud graduate of BHS and Smith College, I was fortunate to find work back home after I graduated college during the recession. Like many Mainers, I had to work multiple jobs to make ends meet. Eventually, I started my own photography and videography business, and in 2018 my partner, Philip Welsh, and I were able to open Moderation Brewing in the heart of downtown Brunswick.

After experiencing firsthand the challenges young Mainers face trying to make a life here, I wanted to help make a difference. At 25, I was first elected to the state Legislature, where I served four terms representing my hometown and was able to pass legislation helping students, young Mainers, farmers, fishermen

and small-business owners and making our environment safer.

Why are you running for this seat?

I am proud of all the achievements we have accomplished during my first term in the state Senate. I'm particularly proud of the work we've done to protect working Maine families, to fully fund our schools for the first time and to invest in career and technical education, to support property tax relief, to craft a paid family and medical leave system, and so much more. We did all of this without raising any new taxes and while bringing our state's Rainy Day Fund to a record high. But there is still so much work to do. I'm running to protect and help our area thrive and to be a strong advocate for all Mainers — especially young Mainers who are still trying to put down roots in our incredible state.

What are the biggest challenges or concerns facing

your district in the coming term?

As a small-business owner, I see every day the difficulties we all face. Whether it's buying supplies, finding staff or simply filling the tank, life is harder. The lack of affordable housing in our area is preventing so many from being able to stay in the community. Our wallets are getting stretched further and further, all while our civil liberties are threatened by national politics. Despite all of this, I still see so much to be hopeful about when it comes to our state's future if we work together.

What are your top priorities if elected?

- Passing paid family medical leave. I'm currently the Senate chair of the commission that's working to create a plan written by Mainers, for Mainers.
- Strengthening and protecting access to reproductive health care for all Mainers.
- Continuing to ensure that

Augusta is committed to helping us have a robust economy by supporting small businesses, investing in quality career training programs, ensuring we defend and protect our working waterfronts, strengthening Maine's agricultural sector, and championing pro-family policies like affordable housing, education and affordable child care.

Q&A with Brogan Teel

Tell the voters about yourself.

My name is Brogan Teel, and I'm an eighth-generation Mainer and licensed massage therapist who has owned and operated a holistic health practice since 2009. I have also worked in the hospitality industry for over 10 years. My passion is helping and serving people in all areas of life. I have volunteered on several international humanitarian missions in Uganda, Mexico and Belize as well as working

See SENATE on Page 15

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November 1st through December 16th
at 1845 Harpswell Islands Rd. Orr's Island



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Visit our website:
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Contact Information:
Harpowell News
P.O. Box 448
Harpowell, ME 04079
207-504-4428
info@harpowellanchor.org

Editor:
J.W. Oliver

Director of Development
and Operations:
Janice Thompson

Advertising and
Sponsorship Manager:
Jane Warren

Administrative Assistant:
Sam Allen

Contributors:
Tom Brudzinski, Kathy
D'Agostino, Joann Gardner,
Tyler and Lew Hinman, Butch
Lawson, Sam Lemonick, Erin
O'Mara, Ed Robinson

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Letters to the Editor

Law limits landowner liability

The October issue of the Anchor included a letter from Alex Piper with a concern about property owners' liability. His letter raises a concern about liability that is inaccurate. He states, "Property owners who let people on, for whatever reason, have significant liability exposure." Not in Maine.

Decades ago, the Maine Legislature enacted the Maine Landowner Liability Law in response to the frequency with which people travel across property belonging to others while engaging in recreational or shellfish-harvesting pursuits.

Limited liability for recreational or harvesting activities, also known as the "recreational use statute" or Maine Landowner Liability Law, provides that as long as the landowner is not charging for the recreational use of their land, they will generally not be liable to anyone who might be injured while on the property. The intent of the law is to limit the duty that a landowner may have to keep those using their land safe.

I encourage the Anchor to work with local partners to research and distribute additional information on this important law that enables access for traditional and future uses of our common assets.

Alicia Pulsifer Heyburn, Bethel Point

Local support most gratifying

Meraki Gallery would like to thank the Anchor for its ongoing support of our new business in Harpswell. The visibility we gained from the wonderful article and advertising has been immeasurable. The local community has responded positively and frequently mentions the Anchor.

We all feel very grateful for the resurrection of the paper and its

excellent content. While our small gallery is dependent on tourism, it is the local support that feels most gratifying. It is because of this that we will be here again next season. So we wanted to send a special thanks to the Anchor and to all our neighbors and new friends we have made in Harpswell and beyond.

Lee Centeno and Suzanne Wakefield, Harpswell Neck

Impressed with Golek

I had the pleasure not long ago of driving Cheryl Golek door to door as she campaigned to become our new representative for Maine District 99 (Harpowell and the Cook's Corner area of Brunswick). She'll be replacing Harpswell's very popular Jay McCreight, who has termed out.

I was really impressed with Cheryl and wanted to share my enthusiasm for her candidacy with friends and neighbors here in the pages of the Anchor.

I watched for hours as Cheryl walked up to door after door and rang the doorbell with an open mind and open heart, had spontaneous conversations of all lengths and styles on "both sides of the aisle," and came back to the car to make quiet, sincere notes on what she'd learned. Her remarks to me about the people she'd met were entirely constructive, interested and kind.

I could tell that Cheryl is hardworking, fact-based and positive. As you might know, she grew up in Cook's Corner in poverty — yet went on to co-found and run Harpswell's successful Vicarage by the Sea for dementia care. In my opinion, she knows and understands our needs and cares about all of us — and will work hard for us in Augusta.

Cheryl supports our fishing heritage, education for our kids' future, stronger health care, affordable



housing, real solutions for poverty, fair taxation, reproductive and disability rights, racial and Indigenous rights, and more. She's really something! I'll be voting for Cheryl in November — and I hope you will, too.

George Simonson, Harpswell Neck

Teel is the real deal

I am voting for Brogan Teel, a new candidate for Maine Senate District 23 (Brunswick, Chebeague Island, Freeport, Harpswell, Pownal and Yarmouth). In the last six months, my wife and I have met Brogan Teel at no less than seven events affiliated with at least four different organizations. One thing that stands out is that Brogan knows the things that matter to people. As a small-business owner who engages in the community, Brogan knows the changes needed to support the people against bureaucratic agendas and narratives.

A single mom and eighth-generation Mainer, Brogan Teel understands the issues of real people.

She often mentions the farmer and fisherman on the state flag. She handily discusses the challenges that the people of these iconic livelihoods face, not from nature, but from over-regulation. Additionally, Brogan says we have to do more to support law enforcement personnel. She recognizes how difficult recent years have been for so many people. We need change now.

Brogan Teel believes in solving problems by working with all people. She's focused on what matters, to include improving education and confronting out-of-control costs. At some of the events I attended with Brogan, there were many people getting involved in the community at the grassroots level. I watched her work to understand and respect people from all walks of life, and different political viewpoints. I know that Brogan Teel can deliver the changes that we need. Vote for her on Nov. 8.

Todd Kousky, Brunswick

Drop in on Thursday mornings for Friends Together!

Thursdays, September 22-November 10 | 9:30 am-1:00 pm
Harpowell Town Offices | Transportation available

This free drop-in center program hosts a wide-range of activities including easy movement exercises, hands-on activities, an information-packed health and wellness session, plus plenty of time to chat and enjoy friends old and new.



Harpowell
Aging at Home



Come for all or part of each week's program.
Come once or come every week. You choose!

**NO REGISTRATION
NECESSARY!**

For more information:
Email: hah@hah.community
Call: 207-833-5771, ext 108

1 November 2022 Community Calendar

Nov. 3

Harpswell Aging at Home and Harpswell Recreation and Community Services host Friends Together from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Town Office, 263 Mountain Road, Harpswell. Friends Together is a free drop-in center with a wide range of activities. This week's activities will include chair yoga, a hands-on workshop on making earrings, and a session about dealing with memory loss. Transportation is available. Come for all or part of the time; come once or come every week. No registration necessary. For more information, email hah@hah.community or call 207-833-5771 ext. 108.

Nov. 5

Harpswell Aging at Home presents "Cooking Thai: Healthy Food Without a Sigh" from 4-6 p.m. at the home of Stacy Standley. In this hands-on workshop, Standley will show participants how easy it is to prepare delicious and healthy Thai recipes at home. Together, Standley and participants will make dishes like tom yum soup, Thai summer salad, and crispy Thai chicken and apple salad. Register by Nov. 1. In-person space limited to 12 people; all welcome by Zoom. Email Karin Soderberg with questions: karmardalin@gmail.com. Address provided upon registration.

Nov. 10

Harpswell Aging at Home and Harpswell Recreation and Community Services host Friends Together from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Town Office. This week's activities will include chair yoga, a hands-on workshop titled "Nature for Your Table: Make Your Own Centerpiece," and a session about how to avoid scams. More information: hah@hah.community or 207-833-5771 ext. 108.

Harpswell Aging at Home presents Lunch with Friends from 1-2 p.m., following the Friends

Together program. Come for the program or just for lunch. HAH will supply soup and a sandwich, fruit and dessert, packed in a brown bag. Eat lunch at the Town Office or take it home.

Nov. 17

The Harpswell Garden Club hosts its monthly meeting at 1 p.m. via Zoom. Heather McCargo, founder of the Wild Seed Project, will talk about native plants that do well in shade gardens. For the Zoom link, email harpswellgardenclub@gmail.com.

Nov. 18-20

Harpswell Community Theater presents a comedic whodunit, "Any Body for Tea," at Centennial Hall, 929 Harpswell Neck Road, Harpswell. The company's fall production features six spinster ladies, a handsome Irish detective and a tea party turned deadly. Come laugh along and try to identify the guilty party in this one-act murder mystery. Shows will be followed by desserts, coffee and tea. Showtimes at 7 p.m. on Nov. 18 and 19 and 1 p.m. Nov. 20. Tickets: \$10, available at the door or for advance purchase. For more information or to buy tickets, call 913-787-6582. Seating will be limited.

Save the date

Dec. 18

Harpswell Aging at Home presents a holiday cookie swap at 1 p.m. in the parking lot of St. Katharine Drexel Church, 419 Mountain Road, Harpswell. Make four dozen festive cookies, pack four to a package and include a recipe. If weather permits, bring a chair and a hot drink to do some sampling. For more information or to sign up, email juliemoulton28@gmail.com or text or call 207-330-5416.

Dec. 21

Harpswell Heritage Land Trust hosts a winter solstice lantern

walk and bonfire from 5-6:30 p.m. at Curtis Farm Preserve, 1554 Harpswell Neck Road, Harpswell, with music by Stan Davis from 5:30-6. Participants in this family-friendly event will walk along a short trail lined with lanterns and light installations. At the end of the trail, they will warm up with songs, fire, hot cocoa and sweet treats. Participants are encouraged to bring their own lanterns and travel mugs; HHLT will provide battery-powered lights for the lanterns. Registration required. Register and learn how to make a solstice lantern at hhlmaine.org.

Ongoing

Cundy's Harbor Library, 935 Cundy's Harbor Road, Harpswell, hosts a children's reading club from 5-7 p.m. every Thursday. The library

invites all young readers and their parents to read, talk about books, earn doubloons and participate in an activity.

The Grand Slammers, an intermediate-level contract bridge club, meets at the Town Office at 12:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month and 1 p.m. all other Tuesdays, except holidays. Not a class or drop-by game; new players should email harpswellen@me.com. Space limited to four tables.

Meals in a Pinch delivers four meals to Harpswell residents in need every other Tuesday. Upcoming dates are Nov. 8 and 22. The Nov. 22 package will include a special Thanksgiving delivery in addition to the regular meals. The program can deliver meals on an ongoing or

temporary basis and can provide emergency meals when necessary. There is no income qualification. For more information, contact Julie Moulton at juliemoulton28@gmail.com or 207-330-5416.

Merriconeag Grange, 529 Harpswell Neck Road, Harpswell, hosts a public breakfast from 8-10:30 a.m. on the first Saturday of each month. Blueberry pancakes, French toast, omelets, waffles. Price: \$10 for adults, \$6 for kids under 10.

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

US HARBORS  www.USHarbors.com
South Harpswell, ME - Nov 2022 Tide Chart

Date	High				Low				☀️		🌙
	AM	ft	PM	ft	AM	ft	PM	ft	Rise	Set	Moon
1 Tue	5:17	8.5	5:30	9.6	11:10	1.1	11:59	0.2	7:15	5:33	☾
2 Wed	6:25	8.6	6:41	9.5			12:20	1.1	7:16	5:32	☾
3 Thu	7:31	8.8	7:50	9.5	1:07	0.2	1:32	0.9	7:18	5:30	☾
4 Fri	8:32	9.2	8:53	9.5	2:11	0.1	2:38	0.5	7:19	5:29	☾
5 Sat	9:26	9.7	9:50	9.6	3:08	0.0	3:36	0.1	7:20	5:28	☾
6 Sun	9:14	10.0	9:41	9.6	2:58	0.0	3:28	-0.3	6:22	4:27	☾
7 Mon	9:58	10.2	10:29	9.5	3:43	0.1	4:15	-0.5	6:23	4:25	☾
8 Tue	10:40	10.2	11:14	9.3	4:26	0.2	4:59	-0.6	6:24	4:24	☾
9 Wed	11:20	10.1	11:56	9.1	5:07	0.5	5:41	-0.5	6:25	4:23	☾
10 Thu	11:58	9.9			5:46	0.8	6:22	-0.2	6:27	4:22	☾
11 Fri	12:38	8.7	12:37	9.6	6:26	1.1	7:03	0.1	6:28	4:21	☾
12 Sat	1:20	8.4	1:18	9.3	7:06	1.5	7:45	0.5	6:29	4:20	☾
13 Sun	2:04	8.1	2:02	9.0	7:49	1.8	8:31	0.8	6:31	4:19	☾
14 Mon	2:52	7.8	2:51	8.6	8:36	2.0	9:20	1.1	6:32	4:18	☾
15 Tue	3:43	7.7	3:44	8.4	9:28	2.2	10:11	1.3	6:33	4:17	☾
16 Wed	4:36	7.6	4:40	8.3	10:23	2.2	11:03	1.3	6:35	4:16	☾
17 Thu	5:28	7.8	5:36	8.2	11:20	2.1	11:55	1.3	6:36	4:15	☾
18 Fri	6:19	8.1	6:31	8.3			12:17	1.8	6:37	4:14	☾
19 Sat	7:07	8.5	7:25	8.5	12:44	1.1	1:12	1.3	6:38	4:13	☾
20 Sun	7:51	9.0	8:14	8.8	1:31	0.9	2:02	0.8	6:40	4:13	☾
21 Mon	8:32	9.6	9:00	9.1	2:15	0.6	2:47	0.1	6:41	4:12	☾
22 Tue	9:13	10.1	9:46	9.3	2:58	0.3	3:32	-0.5	6:42	4:11	☾
23 Wed	9:55	10.6	10:32	9.5	3:41	0.1	4:17	-1.0	6:43	4:11	☾
24 Thu	10:39	10.9	11:20	9.5	4:25	0.0	5:04	-1.3	6:45	4:10	☾
25 Fri	11:26	11.1			5:12	-0.1	5:53	-1.4	6:46	4:09	☾
26 Sat	12:10	9.5	12:16	11.0	6:02	0.0	6:44	-1.3	6:47	4:09	☾
27 Sun	1:02	9.4	1:09	10.8	6:54	0.1	7:38	-1.0	6:48	4:08	☾
28 Mon	1:58	9.2	2:07	10.4	7:50	0.4	8:37	-0.7	6:49	4:08	☾
29 Tue	2:59	9.0	3:11	10.0	8:52	0.6	9:39	-0.4	6:50	4:07	☾
30 Wed	4:04	8.9	4:18	9.6	10:00	0.8	10:42	-0.1	6:51	4:07	☾



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Brunswick and beyond

Nov. 1

Orr's Island author Ed Robinson gives a presentation, "The Mystery of Maine's Wildlife," at 7 p.m. at Curtis Memorial Library, 23 Pleasant St., Brunswick. Based on essays from Robinson's latest book, "Nature Notes from Maine Vol. II: Puffins, Black Bears, Raccoons & More," the presentation will cover eight charismatic native species, including the Atlantic puffin, black bear and Canada lynx.

Nov. 5

St. Charles Borromeo Church will host a Christmas fair from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the church hall, 132 McKeen St., Brunswick. Nineteen booths will feature a selection of gifts. The fair will include raffles with cash prizes and a food court with breakfast sandwiches, haddock chowder, homemade pies and more.

Nov. 6

The Mt. Ararat High School Class of 2023 hosts the Run Now, Pie Later 5K run/walk and 1K fun run at the school, 68 Eagles Way, Topsham, with registration at 7:30 a.m., fun run at 8:30, 5K at 8:45 and pie breakfast from 9-11. Costumes encouraged. Register in advance at tinyurl.com/pierun5k by Nov. 4: \$20 for adults, \$15 for students, \$5 for fun run (fifth grade and younger). Prices increase on the day of the race. Registration includes breakfast. Breakfast for non-racers is \$8 for adults, \$6 for students, \$3 for kids under 6. Proceeds benefit Project Graduation.

Nov. 7

The Kibbe Science Lecture Fund presents a lecture by Charles F. Gammie, "Portrait of a Black Hole," from 7:30-9 p.m. at



Friends Together participants make beach art during a class with Christine Reed on Oct. 6. (HARPSWELL AGING AT HOME PHOTO)

Kresge Auditorium, 239 Maine St., Brunswick. Gammie will describe how the Event Horizon Telescope imaged the black hole in the center of the Milky Way and what the image reveals about black holes. Gammie is a professor of astronomy and the Donald Biggar Willett chair in physics at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He studies images of black holes and the formation of the Earth's moon.

Nov. 10

The Pejepscot History Center's Zoom at Noon series presents "Confronting Our History: Rinterpreting the Skolfields

and the Slave Economy" with Genevieve Vogel, the center's summer 2022 research intern and a student at Whitman College. Vogel will lead this lecture and conversation about the Skolfields, builders and residents of the Skolfield-Whittier House, now a Pejepscot History Center museum. Tickets: \$5 for members, \$8 for nonmembers. Register at pejepscothistorical.org.

Nov. 12

The Bells of St. Mary's Christmas Craft Fair and cafe takes place from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at St. Mary's Church, 144 Lincoln St., Bath. The fair features many

crafters and a "cookie walk." More information: 207-443-3423.

The Brunswick Downtown Association hosts the Rolling Slumber (Bed) Races at 10 a.m. on Park Row in Brunswick. Organizers encourage creativity — teams may enter anything with at least four wheels that can carry one rider and be pushed by two to four people. Prizes will be awarded in three categories: speed, creativity and team spirit. Only adults may participate. More information and rules: 207-729-4439 or admin@brunswickdowntown.org.

Nov. 13

The Pejepscot Genealogical Society meets at 2 p.m. in the Morrell Meeting Room of Curtis Memorial Library. Member Ronda Randall will present "Our Road to Shiloh: How a Holiness Sect in Durham, Maine, Planted the Roots of Our Family Tree." Randall will discuss how the paths of her great-grandparents intersected with the Shiloh community. She will also speak about how her interest in genealogy led her to researching the Bear Brook cold case in New Hampshire. For more information, contact Steve Gilchrist at 603-454-4094.

Nov. 16

The Bowdoin College Museum of Art presents "Visions of Antiquity: Thomas Jefferson, James Bowdoin III, and the Role of the Antique in the Early Republic" from 4:30-5:30 p.m. at Kresge Auditorium. Emilie Johnson, associate curator at Monticello, and Sean P. Burrus, curator of the Museum of Art's ongoing exhibit titled "Antiquity & America: The Ancient Mediterranean in the United States," will converse about Colonial and early American networks forged through shared appreciation of ancient art and

architecture, featuring recent research on the sculpture of Ariadne at Monticello, a gift from James Bowdoin III to Jefferson.

Nov. 17

2013 Bowdoin College graduate Linda Kinstler returns for a lecture titled "Come to This Court and Cry: Memory and Justice in Ukraine" from 7:30-9 p.m. in the main lounge at Moulton Union, 6 South Campus Drive, Brunswick. Kinstler is the author of "Come to This Court and Cry: How the Holocaust Ends" and a contributing writer to The Economist and Jewish Currents magazine.

Nov. 18-20, 25-27

The St. John's Community Center, 43 Pleasant St., Brunswick, hosts the Midcoast Tree Festival. Individuals and organizations decorate trees for display at the festival, which raffles off the trees to benefit All Saints Parish, the Southern Midcoast Maine Chamber, and Spectrum Generations Meals on Wheels. The festival will take place from 4-8 p.m. Nov. 18; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Nov. 19, 20, 25 and 26; and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nov. 27.

Nov. 26

The Brunswick Downtown Association hosts its annual tree-lighting ceremony with Santa on the Brunswick town mall. The festivities will begin at 2 p.m. with horse-drawn wagon rides, hot cocoa, coffee and cookies. At 2:30, Santa and Frosty the Snowman will arrive on a firetruck. Children can visit with Santa in the gazebo. The Una Voce Chamber Choir will perform at 3 and the Brunswick High School chorus will sing carols at 4. At 5, Santa will flip the ceremonial switch to light the Christmas tree.

Ongoing

The Pejepscot History Center, 159 Park Row, Brunswick, presents the exhibition "Immigration Stories: Exploring the Diverse Cultural History of the Brunswick, Topsham, and Harpswell Communities," in the main gallery through December. The History Center is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, closing from 12-1 p.m. daily. Free, donations welcome.

Have a calendar item to submit? Email joliver@harpswellanchor.org or use the form at harpswellanchor.org/submissions.

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NEWS BRIEFS

State reopens 500 acres of clam flats

The Maine Department of Marine Resources has reopened about 500 acres of clam flats in Harpswell for year-round harvesting, thanks to improvements in water quality.

The areas include Gun Point and Long Point, Gurnet Strait to Laurel Cove, and Long Reach on Great Island; as well as Beal's Cove, Long Cove and Reed Cove on Orr's Island. The state reopened those flats Oct. 13, according to Harpswell Harbor Master and Marine Resources Administrator Paul Plummer.

The action stems from a review of closures by the Harpswell Marine Resources Committee, according to Plummer. After the review, Plummer asked the Department of Marine Resources to take another look at several areas subject to restrictions because of poor water quality.

Most of the areas were subject to seasonal closures through the height of summer, when clam prices peak. Gun Point had a year-round prohibition on harvesting because of overboard discharges in the area, according to a report by a DMR scientist.

An overboard discharge releases treated wastewater from a business or home into the ocean. Maine no longer licenses new overboard discharges, and the overboard discharges in the Gun Point area have been removed in recent years.

The flats on the New Meadows River from Gurnet Strait to Laurel Cove had been subject to seasonal closures since 2019. Plummer said the other areas were restricted before he started working for Harpswell in 2017.

After conducting shoreline surveys this summer and reviewing the results of water testing, DMR agreed to reopen the flats.

DMR needs 36 days of water samples to reclassify an area, according to Plummer. Plummer and the town's marine patrol deputies take the samples for most of Harpswell. DMR handles the area from Cundy's Harbor to Gurnet Strait.

Plummer does not know exactly why water quality has improved, but believes awareness is growing that factors on land — like fertilizer use and inadequate septic systems — affect the health of the ocean.

The availability of the New Meadows flats will make the biggest difference for harvesters, because of their productivity and the size of the



Harpswell resident Jean Palmer-Smith displays a plaque recognizing her as the 2022 Career and Technical Education Teacher of the Year during a conference in Lewiston on Oct. 7. From left: Julie Kenny, president of the Maine Administrators of Career and Technical Education; Dwight Littlefield, director of career and technical education for the state of Maine; Palmer-Smith, creative digital media teacher at Region 10 Technical High School; Pender Makin, Maine's commissioner of education; and David Keaton, executive director of the Maine Administrators of Career and Technical Education.

area, according to Plummer.

The town is working with a consulting firm, FB Environmental, to identify sources of pollution in other areas, including Morgan Cove and Spruce Cove, off-limits year-round; and Doughty Cove, closed from June through October. The town hopes to address the problems in those areas and work with the state to reopen them.

Harpswell has 55 commercial shellfish harvesters. In 2021, the value of the hard-shell and soft-shell clam harvests topped \$1.26 million.

Harpswell's Palmer-Smith is CTE Teacher of the Year

The Maine Administrators of Career and Technical Education recognized Harpswell resident Jean Palmer-Smith last month as 2022's Career and Technical Education Teacher of the Year.

Palmer-Smith has taught creative digital media at Brunswick's Region 10 Technical High School for 4 1/2 years. She received the award during a conference at the Lewiston Regional Technical Center on Oct. 7.

Maine Commissioner of Education Pender Makin and Maine Administrators of Career and Technical Education President Julie Kenny congratulated Palmer-Smith.

In her introductory remarks, Kenny quoted from Palmer-Smith's nomination by Paul Perzanoski, former director and superintendent of Region 10 Technical High School.

"Having observed Jean's teaching firsthand on many occasions, and having seen the impact she's had on both her program and our school community as a whole, it is without exaggeration that I say that she is among the most talented, dedicated and extraordinary educators I've ever experienced in my many decades as an educator," Perzanoski said in the nomination.

Palmer-Smith has transformed a half-time program that struggled to attract students into the school's most popular program, Kenny said.

"She has made significant contributions to her students' technical and cultural education, to Region 10's web presence and

functionality, and to all the school's marketing, outreach and recruiting efforts," Kenny said. "Like so many of you here today, Jean is a tireless and unyielding advocate for her program and her students who will spend every last moment, penny and resource to improve the lot of her students and her program."

The accolade was not the first of Palmer-Smith's career in education — she received the I Make a Difference Teacher of Excellence award while teaching graphic design in Palm Beach County, Florida, a district with 13,000 teachers, according to her biography on the Region 10 website.

Town inks deal for new website

The town will soon launch a new website after signing a contract with GovOffice LLC, of Minneapolis, on Sept. 15.

The town will pay GovOffice \$4,900 per year for three years to build and host the new website, plus a one-time fee of \$4,990 and an annual charge of \$4,490 for

a communications module that will allow the town to send mass emails, robocalls and text messages, either throughout Harpswell or to a specific area.

The total cost comes to \$14,380 for the first year and \$9,390 for each of the next two years, after which "we'll reevaluate and decide about how to proceed," Deputy Town Administrator Terri Lynn Gaudet said.

Funds from the American Rescue Plan Act will cover the bill for the first year. Harpswell voters approved the use of \$25,000 to improve the website at the annual town meeting by referendum in April.

The select board approved the contract 3-0 on Sept. 15. The town has not set a target date for the new site's launch.

Mingo Club awards 2 scholarships

The Mingo Club, of Bailey Island, gives a \$1,000 grant to a graduating Harpswell senior every year. This year, it gave two, both to graduates of Mt. Ararat High School.

Barrett Thiboutot served as a captain of two varsity teams, tennis and soccer. She coached Little Dribblers basketball, cleaned up the streets of Harpswell on Earth Days, and volunteered for Cundy's Harbor Days. She wrote with pride about her hometown: "Harpswell is nothing like any of the neighboring towns. I grew up going to events at the town hall, getting lobster rolls at the Block and Tackle, and sweeping Watson's General Store for a gold dollar."

Thiboutot is attending Rollins College in Florida. "My greatest challenge has been being so far away from my family," she said of her first semester. "Although I spent many days feeling lost, now I'm so busy with schoolwork that I don't have

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NEWS BRIEFS

much time to think about anything else."

She offered the following advice to graduating seniors: "First, really enjoy your last year — it will go by so fast. Second, do not put off applying to colleges until the last minute. I did this and it caused so much unnecessary stress."

Thiboutot said that going to Rollins has put a financial burden on her family and she was grateful to be able to relieve some of that stress with the Mingo grant.

A self-described "island girl," Maggie York has made Christmas ornaments and holiday baskets for the elderly and sick; bought and wrapped presents for children in need; placed American flags beside veterans' graves at the Bailey Island cemetery; and collected returnables for Smile Train, an organization that repairs cleft palates. At Mt. Ararat High School, she participated in the jazz and marching bands, the civil rights team, the art club and LGBTQIA club, and Mt. Ararat Stage Company.

York plans to combine her interests in art and helping others by studying fashion media at Lasell University in Massachusetts. "I want to work with people to help them



Barrett Thiboutot (left) and Maggie York are this year's recipients of scholarships from the Mingo Club.



find their personal styles and to feel good about themselves," she said.

She deferred her admission for one semester to take advantage of Maine's free community college initiative. "I can get my core courses out of the way," she said. This will allow her to save money and give her more time close to home.

York advised current high school students to take advantage of help that is offered, because teachers want their students to succeed; and not to be afraid of making their own decisions about college, because

everyone's path looks different and that's OK.

The Mingo Club members are proud of their contribution to these two students' bright futures.

Anchor earns recognition in statewide contest

In its first year of eligibility, the new Harpswell Anchor earned recognition in 10 categories of the Maine Press Association's Better Newspaper Contest for 2021-22.

The Anchor captured notice for both its journalism and its business

practices, placing second in the categories of General Excellence — Print, Arts/Lifestyle Feature, Best New Revenue Idea, Editorial Cartoonist and Outdoors Story; and taking third in Freedom of Information, Health Story, News Story, Religion/Spirituality Story and Self-Promotion.

Anchor staffers collected the honors during the Maine Press Association's annual awards banquet at the Atlantic Oceanside Hotel and Event Center in Bar Harbor on Oct. 22. The banquet caps the association's conference, a full day of professional development and talks about industry trends.

The Better Newspaper Contest divides newspapers into three divisions: dailies and large and small weeklies, by circulation. The Anchor competes in the division for large weeklies. Newspaper professionals from outside Maine judge the entries.

Established in 1864, the Maine Press Association works to protect the freedom of the press and the public's right to know, and to promote and foster high ethical standards in journalism.

The list of Anchor honors follows:

Second Place, Arts/Lifestyle Feature: "The Harpswell Sound: How four young mothers became local celebrities," Sam Allen

Second Place, Best New Revenue Idea: 2021 NewsMatch challenge, Janice Thompson

Second Place, Editorial Cartoonist: Tom Brudzinski

Second Place, General Excellence — Print

Second Place, Outdoors Story: "Accessible to all, Strawberry Creek section of Cliff Trail reopens after half-year of construction," J.W. Oliver

Third Place, Freedom of Information: "MSAD 75 releases assignment at center of board complaints," J.W. Oliver

Third Place, Health Story: "Cundy's Harbor 10-year-old looks forward to life after leukemia, 5 years after original diagnosis," J.W. Oliver

Third Place, News Story: "MSAD 75 releases assignment at center of board complaints," J.W. Oliver

Third Place, Religion/Spirituality Story: "Dingley Island cancer survivor founds charity to help others," Doug Warren

Third Place, Self-Promotion: 2021 annual report, Janice Thompson. ☺

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Marjorie Johnson: Bailey Island's favorite poet

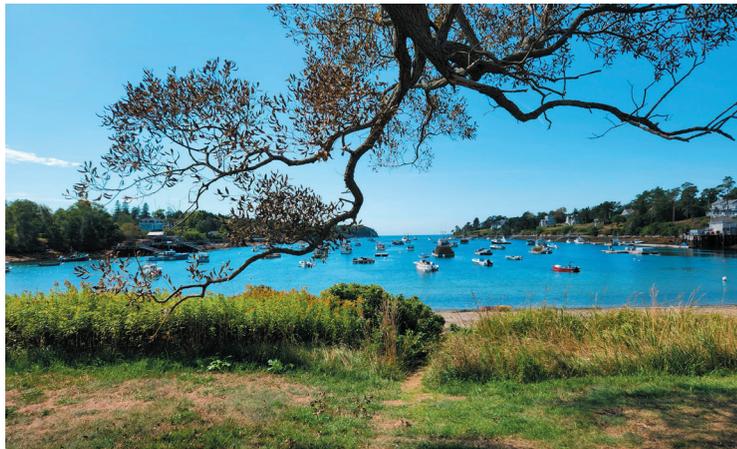
BY JOANN GARDNER

For most of her 80-plus years, Marjorie Johnson lived in a modest house on Bailey Island, on the side of a hill overlooking Mackerel Cove. Her father was a fisherman; her mother, the proprietor of a summer boardinghouse and cottages known as The Willows. Above her, on the main road, was Skillings' general store, and across the road was Library Hall, where, from the age of 16, she served as librarian.

Johnson lived from 1900-1981. Although details of her life are somewhat sketchy, it is clear she had a strong attachment to the island and its people. She attended local schools, reveled in the sights and sounds of her surroundings, and spoke the dialect of coastal Maine. While regional in preparation, she was not indifferent to the outside world. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from the University of Maine at Orono; took on various teaching jobs, locally and in New York; did graduate work at Columbia University; and toured Europe, California and the Caribbean with friends. While these experiences were personally enriching, she always returned to Bailey Island for a sense of home.

Johnson's father died when she was 24, a loss that impacted her family significantly. Her brother Lawrence was still in high school; Marjorie, it seems, midway through her college career. Her mother became head of household, and Marjorie, her eldest child, a principal means of support. When Lawrence married in 1939, Marjorie and her mother became co-managers of The Willows, and, after her mother died in 1951, Marjorie became the property's sole manager and only full-time resident. She later worked in real estate, buying and selling island properties in a growing market.

Such a profile hardly suggests that of a serious poet, but Marjorie Johnson was one. She read extensively, reveled in the poems of William Blake and Rainer Maria Rilke, and adopted the rich imagery and stylistic understatement of an Emily Dickinson or an H.D. She also studied European painters, such as Tintoretto, Giovanni da Rimini and Georges de la Tour, for their expressive use of light, and she shared her poems with other writers whose opinions she valued. Her literary friends recognized her talent, and her island neighbors expressed quiet admiration for the way she mirrored their lives. In "The Evolution of Bailey Island,"



Poet Marjorie Johnson's front porch looked out at the head of Mackerel Cove. (JOANN GARDNER PHOTO)

published in 1992, Beth Hill referred to her as "the island's favorite poet." Undoubtedly, she was.

Johnson published her first and only collection of poems in 1975, just five years before her death. Titled "Songs from an Island," it consists of 112 pages of mostly short lyrics, ranging in subject matter from cherry blossoms, to the play of light upon the cove, to the enduring tragedy of the Vietnam War. It also includes one quietly humorous poem about a Mr. Church from Turner, who came ashore for one night and ended up staying 35 years. In it, Johnson assumes the voice of an elder, capturing the dialect and laconic rhythms of coastal Maine:

He lived
with Gramp and Gram
on the island
for thirty five years,
caring for the cattle,
helping with the chores,
lobstering in winter,
seining in summer.
Then he took sick,
and his daughter come
and took him home ...

Like so much local storytelling, "Mr. Church" finds its beginning in an actual person and an actual event. It has no moral or point, except, perhaps, the pleasures of island life or the reward of storytelling itself. It takes us back to a time when such tales were a source of entertainment, and it helps us remember who and what we are.

Most of Johnson's lyrics include strong imagery. References to rubber boots, silvered fish on the wharf, drifted kelp and crumpled waves help situate us in her environment, inviting us to feel rather than simply "understand" what the poet is saying. Especially in her later poems, Johnson reaches beyond description toward

an experience of the divine — as in "Beneath This Broad and Starry Fastness." Here, she begins at the edge of the cove at night and ends in dreamlike ecstasy:

The little cove
lies silent in the haze
and one day
you will stand
beside me there.
And lay the moon
within my open hand,
and drift
the dust of stars
upon my hair.

Even if you don't believe in hand-sized moons or stardust-sprinkled hair, you can feel the calm of

surpassing love.

The tragedy of Johnson's career is that she published so little, so late in life, and that today, almost half a century after "Songs from an Island" appeared, her accomplishments are no longer celebrated. Most of the physical reminders of her presence have faded. Family and friends have died or moved away. The Willows boardinghouse and cottages have been sold and replaced by a new house looking down on Mackerel Cove. Even the press that published her book has folded; the book itself, no longer in print.

Still, there are traces of her impact available, if you know where to look: A copy of "Songs from an Island" is in the Library of Congress. She is represented in the Maine Women Writers Collection at the University of New England's Abplanalp Library. A handful of copies (now collectors' items) can be found online or in secondhand bookstores, often with inscriptions to people she knew. If you are willing to make an effort, you too can immerse yourself in Marjorie Johnson's world.

I can't help but think that she deserved more literary attention, but fame is not the point. For her, poetry was a way of dealing with life in all of its imperfections. Death was a natural conclusion, after which worldly concerns no longer mattered. In her poem "Transition," she depicts

her own passing in ecstatic terms, showing us that what she really wanted lies beyond. In that spirit, we will let her have the last word:

Then
She ran as the wind,
earth free,
down the wide, sweet meadow
of her youth.
Old age lay withered,
outworn beside her.
The sea glittered,
daisies shone.

Time reversed itself
and stretched,
ribbed and sharded,
before her.
The winnowing wind
thundered,
sea sweet on her face.

Then
She ran as the mist,
across gold, drifting meadows
of her life,
the vast clouds of Paradise
folded about her
into numinous Light.

A former English professor at Florida State University and a Maine native, Joann Gardner now works as a freelance poet, essayist and book reviewer. She divides her time between Tallahassee, Florida, and Bailey Island. ♪

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HARPSWELL  ANCHOR

Running Tide puts Mitchell Field expansion on hold

BY J.W. OLIVER

Plans for Running Tide Technologies Inc. to expand its operations at George J. Mitchell Field with the construction of a new building are on hold.

Running Tide operates a shellfish hatchery in a town

building on Middle Bay. The business has an option to lease more town land for the construction of a new building, but wants a year "to evaluate a number of business issues" before it decides whether to exercise the option, according

to a joint statement from Running Tide and the town.

The Harpswell Board of Selectmen approved the statement on Sept. 30.

In December 2018, Running Tide leased a 1.08-acre parcel with a run-down garage from the town. The building dates to Mitchell Field's days as a U.S. Navy fuel depot, before its transfer to the town in 2001.

Running Tide renovated the building to create its hatchery, where it grows oysters; hard-shell clams, also known as quahogs; and surf clams. About seven people work at the hatchery year-round, according to Adam Baske, who heads Running Tide's aquaculture operations.

In September 2021, the Harpswell Board of Selectmen approved a lease addendum that would allow Running Tide to expand onto a second lot — about 3.85 acres of meadow behind the hatchery.

Running Tide said that it planned to build a new, state-of-the-art facility and move its

kelp-growing operations from Portland to Harpswell. At the time, CEO and founder Marty Odlin told the select board it "would be optimistic" to say construction would start in the next year.

According to the recent statement, Running Tide never executed the addendum because of "business considerations."

Town Planner Mark Eyerman said that Running Tide told the town that "with everything that's going on in the economy, the oyster business, and their internal plans, they were not prepared to go forward at this point with signing the lease addendum," but would like to retain the option to do so.

The statement says the select board will give Running Tide until Sept. 30, 2023, to decide whether to lease the 3.85-acre lot, referred to as Parcel B. If Running Tide does not lease Parcel B by Sept. 30, 2023, its option to lease Parcel B will end.

The 2018 lease also gives Running Tide the option to lease a third parcel.

In addition to its shellfish business, Running Tide grows kelp to remove carbon from the environment, then sinks it in the deep ocean. It sells "carbon credits" to customers like corporations that want to offset their carbon emissions.

Running Tide's work with kelp has attracted national media attention and millions of dollars in investment.

Baske, the aquaculture head, said by phone that the business does not need a bigger shellfish hatchery in Harpswell right now. Whether it will in the future depends on the direction and growth of the business.

The Harpswell hatchery was Running Tide's first facility aside from its Portland office space, according to Baske, and it has space on the former Brunswick Naval Air Station where it builds its own aquaculture equipment. The business also operates a facility in Iceland. It has not moved its kelp-growing operations to Harpswell.

Maine Public reported in July that the Icelandic government had granted Running Tide a four-year permit to release up to 50,000 tons of biodegradable kelp rafts off Iceland's coast, with the understanding that it could release up to 450,000 more tons in international waters.

Baske said the business has a "fantastic" relationship with Harpswell's town government and wants the Mitchell Field facility to remain a "cornerstone" of its operations. ☪



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MSAD 75 short 23 special educators, 10 drivers

BY J.W. OLIVER

Maine School Administrative District 75 has 23 vacancies for special education staff and 10 for bus drivers, a shortage the superintendent expects to grow worse.

"If anybody out there is interested in driving a bus, have I got a job for you," Superintendent of Schools Steven Connolly said during a meeting of the Harpswell Board of Selectmen on Thursday, Sept. 29. "By the middle of October, we'll be down a total of 10 drivers."

"We've already run into two situations this year that we could not meet our obligation without having to double up some groups and also to send a bus back out to make sure that we could get all the kids to school. They weren't able to get everyone there on time," Connolly said. "That's certainly not something we want to see, but we know the problem's going to get worse, it's not going to get better."

The district trains new bus drivers and pays for their fingerprinting, as well as the cost to obtain a commercial

driver's license with a school bus endorsement. New drivers can start with vans before they move up to buses.

"In special education, we're down 23 staff people across the district," Connolly said. The number includes paraprofessionals, also known as educational technicians, as well as other positions.

Connolly urged anyone interested in work as a special education paraprofessional to contact him directly at connollys@link75.org or 207-729-9961.

"It's not an easy role," Connolly said in a phone interview. The positions are not year-round, although some paraprofessionals stay for summer school.

Connolly said the district could also use 15-20 more substitute teachers. The shortage of substitutes means schools have to shift staff away from their regular responsibilities or ask teachers to give up preparation time.

"It just puts a lot of pressure and a lot of tension on a system to operate like that," he said.

School staff shortages are a nationwide problem, he said, as

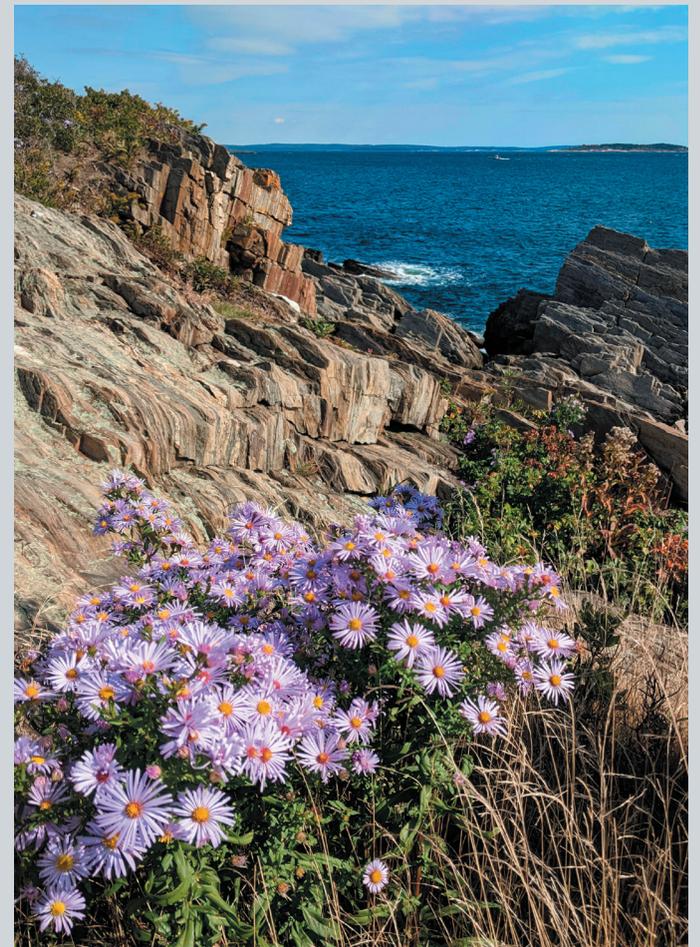
teachers and other staff flee the profession because of stress from the COVID-19 pandemic and political and social divisions that find their way into schools.

"There's nothing coming down the pike that shows us these numbers are going to increase," Connolly said of the education workforce. He said that MSAD 75 is "trying to be as creative as possible" to attract and retain employees.

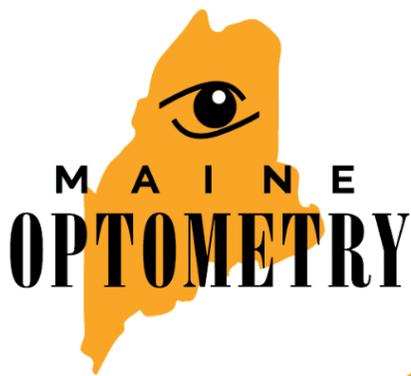
Connolly, who started work July 1, attended the Harpswell meeting as part of what he called his "listen and learn tour." He discussed the budget process, fielded questions, and asked the select board to fill out a survey.

"Give me the unvarnished impressions on what's working, what's not working. If you were me, what three things would you focus on first, or what one thing would you focus on three times?" he said.

Connolly told the board that he has family connections to Harpswell. His grandmother was born in Cundy's Harbor and owned land on Jaquish Island, south of Bailey Island. ☞



Fall flowers Asters abound at Giant's Stairs. See more photos from the Harpswell Heritage Land Trust's This Week in Harpswell project on Page 21. (RUTH ZUMSTEIN PHOTO)



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Harpswell News launches 2022 NewsMatch campaign

BY JANICE THOMPSON

Harpswell News, the nonprofit organization that publishes the Anchor, is launching its 2022 NewsMatch program. Any tax-deductible gifts received between Nov. 1 and Dec. 31 will be matched, dollar for dollar, by local and national sponsors, as well as the organization's board of trustees.

Harpswell Realty, Land's End Gifts, R.A. Webber, Safe Harbor Great Island, and The School House 1913 restaurant are NewsMatch's Leadership Sponsors. Sustaining Sponsors are Engel & Völckers Real Estate, John Libby Construction and Roxanne York Real Estate.

Steven Rowe, who with his wife, Stephanie, runs the Safe Harbor Great Island marina, is a new local Leadership Sponsor this year. "Harpswell is a wonderful group of communities spread across many islands and miles of shorefront — with no singular town center," Rowe said. "The local news within the Anchor

helps to link us all together and create a shared sense of community across the town. It's why we at Safe Harbor marina are pleased to sponsor the 2022 NewsMatch program."

NewsMatch's local sponsors are sending a strong message to the community: The paper is a vital resource for the town. Christopher Gardner, of the School House 1913 — a Leadership Sponsor for the second year in a row — said, "We here at The School House 1913 are very proud, in this small way, to be able to support our local paper, the Harpswell Anchor. Local journalism, and its continued future, is fundamental to everything we stand for. We are so proud to be able to be part of this wonderful promotion for another year."

Board members have seeded the year-end campaign with their own pledges. "We are pleased to be initiating this drive with our own personal support," said Greg Bestick, president of the board. "We have believed in the nonprofit

model for local news since we launched in June 2021. It gives us all the chance to publicly express how important we think it is to provide nonpartisan, unbiased reporting to our community."

Anchor readers will receive an appeal in the mail in early November. The letter emphasizes the impact that Harpswell News has had on Harpswell, beyond publishing an award-winning newspaper. For example, when a group of Harpswell residents launched the Anchor last year, they never expected to attract regional and even national attention. Even before renowned journalist Bill Nimitz wrote about the project in his Maine Sunday Telegram column last November, they were receiving calls from other local news startups around the country, asking for advice about how to replicate the Anchor's success.

Doug Warren, vice president of the board and a former editor at The Boston Globe and the Miami Herald, said, "The Anchor's nonprofit model offers a potential way forward for local news operations, and as such, has drawn the attention

of state and national media. It's an exciting time to be at the Anchor!"

Roughly half of Harpswell News' revenue is composed of tax-deductible gifts from readers. These donations support everything the Anchor does: report the news and publish features in print as well as online (harpswellanchor.org), the community calendar, tide chart, letters to the editor, and posts on Facebook. They also help the paper support the community through its online Nonprofit Corner, free design help, discounts on nonprofit ads, free subscriptions and low advertising rates.

Donations also help the organization pay freelance writers and do in-depth reporting on issues important to Harpswell, such as the working waterfront. Other programs include Harpswell News' Small Business Marketing Initiative, a program that provides free marketing consulting and a free, well-designed ad for new small businesses in town.

The third part of the match is provided through the Miami Foundation and the Institute for Nonprofit News.

These organizations have raised millions of dollars from large, national foundations like the Knight Foundation, IndependenceMedia, and the Democracy Fund. The funds are divided among members of the Institute for Nonprofit News, including Harpswell News, that successfully apply for the grant.

Last year's NewsMatch program was wildly successful, with more than 550 readers making donations. Donors reported that they loved the paper and were glad to have it back in operation under the new nonprofit model.

"We were amazed and humbled by the community's response," said Connie Sage Conner, a member of the Harpswell News board. "But we were also new last year, and people were excited about the expanded paper. Now it's vital that we continue the momentum, that our readers maintain and even increase their support." The organization hopes to exceed its 2021 results, since costs are rising commensurate with inflation.

Several months ago a reader wrote to the Anchor: "Harpswell doesn't have a real center, and we are all spread out across many geographies. The Anchor provides a virtual town common, a bridge that connects us all."

The board and staff of the Anchor agree, and hope that readers do, too. Questions or comments can be sent to Janice Thompson at janice@harpswellanchor.org or 207-504-4428. ☺



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PFAS in Brunswick-Topsham water supply may come from former base

BY MARINA SCHAUFFLER,
THE MAINE MONITOR

A recent U.S. Navy report finds that perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances concentrated near the runway of the former Brunswick Naval Air Station "may be a primary source of PFAS in (area) groundwater and springs," potentially contaminating the aquifer that supplies two well fields of the Brunswick & Topsham Water District, which serves roughly 18,000 residents.

The new findings reinforce concerns among community members that persistent chemicals from past military use are migrating off the former base into groundwater and ecosystems.

In routine water sampling done last year at its Jordan Avenue well fields, the district found an average PFAS level in its lower well field of 40 parts per trillion, double the state's interim drinking water standard of 20 parts per trillion for the sum of six PFAS compounds.

The Jordan Avenue well fields lie roughly a quarter-mile downslope from the northern edge of the former base, and the aquifer that feeds those wells sits partially beneath the end of its runway.

Those two well fields provide a quarter of the district's water supply. Water from the lower well field has not been used since testing revealed the PFAS, and that lost output has been problematic during the drought, said Craig Douglas, the district's general manager. If the whole well field had to be taken offline, the district would likely need to activate an emergency interconnection with Bath to meet peak demands.

The district installed 10 monitoring wells between its well fields and the runway, generating data that indicated the contamination source lay in that vicinity. The Navy also installed 17 new monitoring wells. On Sept. 9, it issued a testing report that showed the highest reading — at roughly 350 parts per trillion for six combined PFAS — came from a deep monitoring well located near a storm drain line by the runway.



Craig Douglas, general manager of the Brunswick & Topsham Water District, stands by a monitoring well near a district well field (rear) where PFAS levels averaging twice the state's interim drinking water standard were discovered last year. (MARINA SCHAUFFLER PHOTO)

"The Navy's recent testing confirms the presence of PFAS, but it's not enough to characterize the entirety of the problem," said Suzanne Johnson, president of Brunswick Area Citizens for a Safe Environment, a nonprofit citizens' group formed in 1990 to support environmental cleanup of the base. "Where are the chemicals coming from and where are they running to? Intensive efforts need to be made now to safeguard the public."

Containing the plume

The most prevalent PFAS found in the district's lower well field testing was PFHxS, or perfluorohexanesulfonic acid. No federal health advisory level has been set for this PFAS compound, but the state of California earlier this year recommended a notification level of 2 parts per trillion for PFHxS, writing that exposure "above certain levels can cause adverse health effects, including harmful effects to a developing fetus, the thyroid, and the liver."

PFHxS is associated with use of aqueous film-forming foam, called AFFF or "A-triple-F," which fire departments, airports and military bases began using in the 1960s for fire training and to suppress combustible-liquid fires. For decades, AFFF formulas relied heavily on PFAS, mobile chemicals that migrate readily into water systems.

When sampling first revealed elevated PFAS in the lower Jordan Avenue field, the district tried to run only its upper well field. But testing in subsequent weeks showed that the lower field's closure might be driving the contaminant plume toward the upper wells.

The district quickly installed an organoclay treatment system not designed for long-term use but capable of treating the lower well field water down to non-detectable levels before discharging it back into the ground. That strategy has worked to keep the PFAS plume contained, Douglas said.

District staff are collaborating with the Navy, the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, the Maine Drinking Water Program, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and Brunswick Area Citizens for a Safe Environment. There's "a lot of data-sharing, a lot of good science," Douglas said.

Going with the flow

The most contaminated water sample in the Navy's recent testing, taken near the runway, came from about 60 feet below ground in sandy soils that lie above a layer of clay. In 1994, hydrogeologists mapped

the subsurface soil types and water flows in this vicinity, research that helped guide the recent investigation.

"Hydrogeology is a driving factor of where PFAS go in groundwater," explained Andrea Tokranov, a hydrologist with the U.S. Geological Survey's New England Water Science Center. "If you understand the hydrogeology, you've gone a long way to understanding where PFAS are moving."

Tracking that movement is generally easier in a stratified-drift aquifer with sandy material, where water tends to move through pore spaces, Tokranov said; bedrock aquifers have fractured flow that Tokranov described as "spider veins" through which water can move unpredictably.

While water movement within aquifers can be mapped, the source of a contaminant plume may remain unidentified, particularly with PFAS, said Chris Evans, a DEP hydrogeologist. "Because it does not degrade, you can have a plume of PFAS without a readily identifiable source (in soil)."

Without a defined soil source, ongoing management of the contamination becomes harder. "If a source is not remediated," Tokranov said, "you can continuously feed the plume."

The PFHxS found in monitoring wells and the district's well field may come from the breakdown of PFAS precursors in the AFFF used decades ago. Ongoing degradation, through microbial action or other processes, may transform chemical precursors



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into a more stable and enduring PFAS compound like PFHxS, which can then persist for decades, Tokranov said.

"Once you have a large plume," Evans said, "it's going to take a very long time for those concentrations to be reduced."

'What makes this story so difficult'

Five years before testing revealed the plume, the Brunswick & Topsham Water District had begun sampling for PFAS under an EPA program designed to detect unregulated contaminants in drinking water. (Even today, PFAS remains largely unregulated at the federal level.)

The agency's early detection program "used a high reporting threshold so compounds were often present in water and detected, but not reported back to EPA," noted Rainer Lohmann, who directs a federally funded PFAS research center at the University of Rhode Island.

Back in 2016, Douglas said, "there was little awareness of PFHxS and we didn't have a lab that could detect below 20 ppt."

The district later undertook voluntary monitoring for 25 PFAS compounds, two years before the state mandated PFAS testing by public water suppliers. The state set an interim drinking water standard last year, and this past June the EPA dramatically lowered its drinking water



After installing new monitoring wells north of the runway at the former Brunswick Naval Air Station, the Navy reported that a storm drain line near the runway could be a primary source of a PFAS contamination plume affecting a well field of the Brunswick & Topsham Water District. (MARINA SCHAUFFLER PHOTO)

health advisory level for two common PFAS compounds, PFOA and PFOS, from 70 parts per trillion to nearly zero.

"That's what makes this story so difficult," Douglas said. "Every few months the PFAS narrative changes."

Another major challenge is the compounding cost of the routine water monitoring now required to ensure safe drinking water. Each well test costs more than \$300 with a 75% markup for expedited service. Analysis ordinarily takes six weeks, Douglas said, so

to get timely results the district frequently has had to pay the added fees. Between the costs of testing, treatment equipment, monitoring wells and staff time, the district spent more than \$386,000 to manage this problem between February and mid-August, Douglas noted.

Those costs are not likely to be covered by the Navy, Douglas indicated, but will be reimbursed by \$450,000 in federal funds coming to the district through an emerging contaminant grant awarded by the Maine Drinking Water Program.

With no effective means to remedy the PFAS plume, the district will need a permanent treatment facility for the entire Jordan Avenue well field, Douglas said, an expenditure that comes atop the \$30 million it just invested in a new water treatment plant in Topsham. The district is assessing PFAS treatment options but has not determined the installation and ongoing maintenance costs.

"We are working with the Navy," Douglas added, "to develop an agreement for them to cover construction and operation costs going forward."

David Barney, the Navy environmental coordinator for the cleanup program at the former Brunswick Naval Air Station, wrote in response to questions from The Maine Monitor that "the Navy, with U.S. EPA and the Maine DEP, is proactively assessing its ability to utilize removal action authority under the Comprehensive

Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (the Superfund program) to address impacts from historical use of firefighting-foam products at the facility."

Removal actions are typically "interim actions that allow the Navy to respond quickly to environmental conditions, such as PFAS-impacted groundwater" and "could include groundwater treatment or other engineering controls," Barney noted. "Currently, the Navy is confirming its legal authority to fund a response action at the Jordan Avenue wellfield."

A bipartisan group of 40 senators, including Angus King, recently wrote Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin criticizing the Department of Defense for "not sufficiently prioritizing PFAS testing, remediation and disposal as part of its annual budget process" or adequately planning for further PFAS funding from Congress. Nearly 700 military installations nationwide have known or suspected PFAS contamination.

King, a resident of Brunswick, has already pushed the Department of Defense for further cleanup action, according to the Bangor Daily News. After learning that PFAS contamination in the town's water supply appears to come from the former Naval Air Station, Matthew Felling, King's director of communications, noted that thoughts in the senators' recent letter "speak to how seriously we want all identified PFAS cases dealt with expediently to reduce the threat to community health." The senators called on the Department of Defense "to match Congress' urgency for addressing testing and remediation by developing requirements-based plans, policies, and programs."

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Known for his racing engines, local mechanic's passion is for antique cars



Bob Bailey works in his Dingley Island machine shop. (SAM LEMONICK PHOTO)

BY SAM LEMONICK

Bob Bailey retired a couple years ago, but you'd never know it standing in his Dingley Island workshop.

He's currently building or repairing a dozen or more engines for customers and friends across the Northeast and all the way down to Florida. One engine belongs to a 2016 pickup truck, another to a racing lobster boat, a third to a 1906 Maxwell, the defunct car company that would become Chrysler.

It doesn't make much difference to him how old an engine is. "I don't care whether it's a 1910 or 1999," Bailey says. He figures he's probably worked

on just about every kind of engine at one point or another.

His shop and towering barn are crammed with engines, cars, motorcycles, and enormous machine shop lathes, drills, and other equipment. Bailey has loved cars since he was a kid growing up in Topsham in the early 1960s, when he and a friend would cobble together unpowered carts from a local junkyard.

Not long after he got his driver's license, Bailey bought his first antique car, a Ford Model A pickup truck. He's been collecting and restoring them ever since. In addition to a 1906 and a 1909 Maxwell,

Bailey and his wife, Elizabeth, currently own a 1913 and a 1915 Ford Model T and a 1941 DeSoto sedan.

Antique cars are Bailey's passion, but he made a name for himself in the world of race cars. Bailey was inducted into the Maine Motorsports Hall of Fame in 2019 for his work building race car engines. He wound down his Hi-Torque Engines business when he retired, but he still builds for some of his racing clients.

His engines have powered winning stock cars in NASCAR and other racing leagues, including at the famed Daytona International Speedway in Florida. Bailey's Hall of Fame class also included legendary Maine NASCAR driver Ricky Craven, who started his racing career in cars Bailey helped to build.

Bailey says his success building engines stems from his attention to detail. Not every shop takes the same care to make sure each piece in an engine fits snugly and squarely, he says.

That precision comes across when Bailey describes some of the work he's doing on different engines. He mostly talks in terms of thousandths of inches, about the thickness of a strand of hair.

One engine has a few holes that need to be opened up slightly. A variance of just one-thousandth of an inch too big or too small can be the difference between parts that turn smoothly and parts that seize. Another engine part isn't quite flat on top, so Bailey will grind off about five-thousandths of an inch. The flatter surface

will mean a better fit with other parts, which will help squeeze a little more power out of the car.

Even if Bailey knows how to make cars fast, his own automotive interests remain more sedate. For the last 20 years or so he has focused on collecting and restoring cars built before 1915, in what's known as the Brass Era. He's also worked on cars for other collectors, some of which have won awards at prestigious shows like the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance in California.

Working on cars from the beginning of the last century isn't always straightforward. Cars like his Maxwells aren't just old, they're rare; the company only made about 200 of the 1906 model he owns, and Bailey says fewer than a dozen exist today.

"Once in a while you can find parts," he says of old engines,

"but a lot of them you have to make." Bailey also hunts flea markets and antique car meets for parts, whether it's something he needs right now or something he'll stash away for the day he needs it.

What he can't make himself he can sometimes buy from other antique car enthusiasts. On the floor of his shop sits a brand-new crankcase for a 1910 Buick engine, reproduced this year by someone he knows in Massachusetts. Bailey himself owns molds to cast new metal parts for his Maxwells.

It's not all work for Bailey. When he's not in the shop or searching for a part, Bailey and his wife join other Brass Era owners on multiple-day driving tours.

Sam Lemonick is a freelance reporter. He lives in Cundy's Harbor. ☞

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Harpswell voters to cast ballots in state races, town referendum

BY J.W. OLIVER

Harpswell voters will head to the polls on Tuesday, Nov. 8, to cast ballots in state and regional contests, as well as a town referendum.

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

The state ballot features a race for governor among incumbent Gov. Janet Mills, a Democrat; former two-term Gov. Paul LePage, a Republican; and Dr. Sam Hunkler, an independent. The governor serves a four-year term.

For the 1st Congressional District, voters will choose between seven-term U.S. Rep. Chellie Pingree, a Democrat; and former Navy SEAL Ed Thelander, a Republican. Members of the U.S.

House of Representatives serve for two years.

For Maine Senate District 23, incumbent Sen. Matthea "Mattie" Daughtry, D-Brunswick, faces a challenge from small-business owner Brogan Teel, R-Brunswick. In Maine House District 99, the candidates are Stephen Davis, R-Harpswell, and Cheryl Golek, D-Harpswell. State legislators serve two-year terms.

Three races for county offices have one candidate each, all incumbents: Judge of Probate Paul Aranson, D-Scarborough; 3rd District County Commissioner Stephen Gorden, D-Yarmouth; and Sheriff Kevin Joyce, D-Standish.

Brunswick Democrat Jacqueline "Jackie" Sartoris is the sole candidate for district attorney

in Cumberland County. She currently serves as an assistant district attorney in Kennebec County.

Terms for the three county offices and the district attorney are four years.

In the special town referendum, Harpswell voters will consider transfers of \$25,000 and \$27,000 from surplus for the Harpswell Home Heating Assistance Program and the removal of the emergency communications tower at the Orr's Island Fire Station, respectively. They will also decide whether to accept a donation of quahog seed from Running Tide Technologies Inc. in support of the Harpswell Marine Resources Committee's efforts to boost the town's quahog population. ☞

Senate

From Page 2

locally with seniors, young families and youth camps. I have had the opportunity to live abroad and have traveled the country furthering my wellness education and entrepreneurial business development ideas and passions. However, my most important role is being a mom to my 4-year-old son, and through this blessing, I have learned just how crucial making a difference is to our future, educational choices, protecting parental rights and personal medical freedoms.

Why are you running for this seat?

Simply put, Maine is going in the wrong direction. We need to lower taxes across the board; no more out-of-control spending on a misguided agenda that does not represent Maine values. We need to grow and develop our local workforce through trades and other vocational programs. Our seniors need to be protected, and it is now our turn to make sure they have proper care and facilities, especially our veterans. While we are helping our seniors, our young children need better day care and early development programs, not critical race theory curricula or instructions from teachers

and administrators that exclude parents and challenge our Maine traditional value system.

What are the biggest challenges or concerns facing your district in the coming term?

Helping to change the course of our state back to a Maine that represents our core principles; honest, hard work; limit regulations on our lobster industry; transition our schools back to teaching fundamentals (not the latest social agendas); provide opportunities for Mainers to work and stay in Maine; truly support and fund our local law enforcement and first responders; have all elected officials represent our constituents, and not be influenced from out-of-state money.

What are your top priorities if elected?

- Lower taxes to help combat the increasing economic crisis we're facing with inflation.
- Grow our local workforce through returning to the trades.
- Protect and support our seniors and veterans.
- Improve child care and early education programs.
- Reduce regulations on our lobster industry and help businesses thrive, not just survive.
- Protect parental rights by fostering stronger relationships between schools and parents.
- Restore medical freedom of choice and strengthen health care options.
- Our state has been going in the wrong direction by ignoring the basics and ignoring traditional values that coined our motto, "Maine — the way life should be."

This Q&A appears in the Harpswell Anchor with permission from The Times Record. ☞



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Thinking in Public: A season too soon



BY BUTCH LAWSON

September, the first month of autumn, brings with it the suggestion of the season to follow. Although still three months away, the wonders of frostbitten cheeks, slips and falls on icy surfaces, snow shovels banging around in the pickup bed, clearing the snowdrifts from the dog yard so they don't have to subject their tender girlie parts to the drifted snow — these images loom large. This year, heralding in the winter season started with a visual explosion of lights, fake trees in all colors of the rainbow, and gaudy

decorations in red and white at the blue big-box store right after Labor Day. By right after Labor Day, I mean the next day, Tuesday.

Nothing shocks my sense of time passing like running into a store's entire inventory of Christmas trimmings, gimcrackery, and glittery ornaments, large and small, in the first week of September. I mean literally running into — it was right inside the entrance shoppers get herded through so we have to go by the stuff the store wants us to go buy.

On the same schedule in Labor Day week is the arrival of the first holiday sales catalogs in the mailbox. A \$50 pair of socks? How about a pair of high-top sneakers for \$275? No slash on the shoe, but what they do have in common with Air Jordans is price. There's a new pair of 6-inch leather boots, low-heeled and hand-finished to look "vintage," an ubiquitous euphemism for "worn out," only \$300!

The reasoning behind purchasing an expensive new item that appears to need replacement right out of the box escapes me. Just as confounding are the skeletal models who show off this stuff. A taco truck parked at the site of the catalog photo shoot could save some lives while making a fortune off some cadaverous fashion models if they would but eat something.

The fashion trend for the last, say, way too long, is the slovenly look of an unmade bed from head to toe. For us men, there are shirts in a deliberate "untucked" style designed, I'm certain, by a crack team of fashion-forward 14-year-olds who seem determined to tuck the shirt in anyway, but only in the front above the fly. There isn't even a belt buckle to explain the look. Additionally, men's clothing is almost all "relaxed" fit, or "classic" fit, both of which seem to allow a man to don a full snowmobile suit under his new dress shirt

and jeans, unless said man is the size of Larry the Cable Guy.

Today's clothing seems designed for comfort rather than fit, a factor contributing mightily to the look. In addition, rips, tears and artificially worn areas placed strategically on the garment suggest the wearer could have been busy digging out from under a rock slide, baling hay, or perhaps lion-taming. Nothing suggests to your friends that you've been physically industrious like a set of torn and threadbare, baggy clothes with some worn, ancient shoes. Fortunately, I can get that look delivered to my door brand new and fashionably too large if I make sure to order relaxed fit and vintage finish.

The "I live in my parents' basement" look seems to be a popular fashion trend

and an ill-fitting, tattered wardrobe says exactly that. I wouldn't expect that look to be particularly helpful for landing a date outside your circle of the one video-gaming friend who "gets" you. But, if I'm wrong about that, the ensemble should make a reliable contraceptive.

So there I was last summer, Labor Day week, unexpectedly surrounded by Christmas cheer and an avalanche of holiday sales catalogs hawking ill-fitting clothing, gifts, and geegaws for a day nearly four months down the road.

That just rattles my sense of order, switched around in the raucous melee over who gets my last dollar this year. Well just back off, merchant; I ain't done with autumn yet.

Butch Lawson is an observer of life. He lives on Bailey Island. ☸

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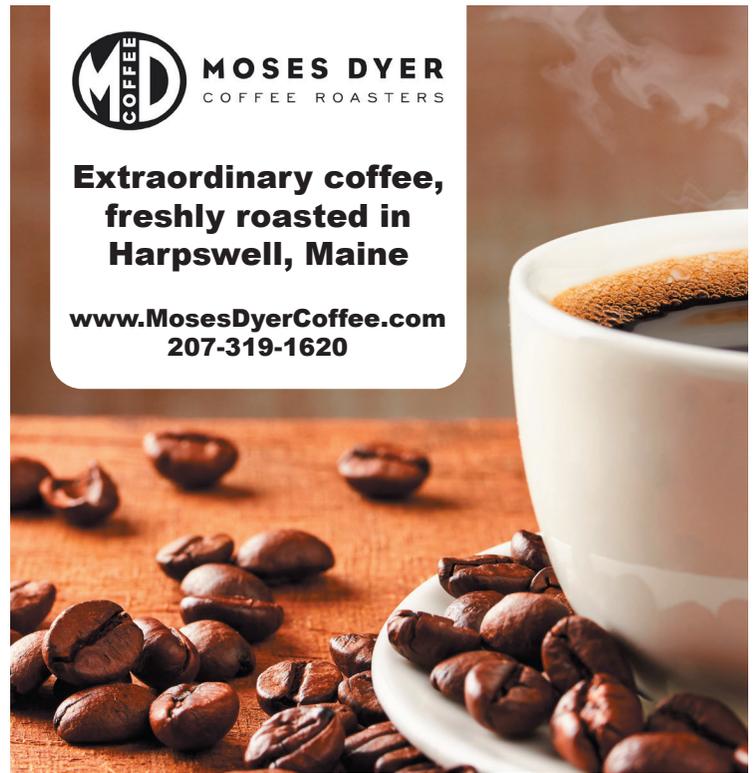
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Cooking at 43° North: From the garden to the table

BY KATHY D'AGOSTINO

Of the many blessings to celebrate this holiday, gratitude for our friends, cooks, and volunteers who help neighbors in need within our community certainly tops the list.

Thanksgiving is a time to pause and reflect on the past year. It is a time to be able to see beyond the struggles, conflicts and negativity that are so often reported on the evening news. A time to be grateful for the good in our lives. The holiday gives one comfort and time to consider those things that hold promise. Once we start focusing on the positive, we will find that it is contagious and leads to contentment and good health.

For me, one individual comes to mind when I think of positivity and promise: my friend Art Baur. I had the privilege of meeting Art and his wife, Elaine, three years ago. I don't believe I have ever met anyone who displays such a zest for life. Hailing from New York, he and Elaine relocated to Harpswell into the former Sunset Farms restaurant on Basin Cove in 2014.

Art loves to engage with all that Maine has to offer. He loves long-distance biking; enjoys hiking, camping, skiing and boating; and his No. 1 passion is golf. As for growing fruits and vegetables? He captures the concept of gardening with skill and precise detail. The results are a remarkable bounty every year.

Art also has a talent for cooking, so without hesitation, I asked him for his recommendations for side dishes that go beyond the



Art's butternut squash casserole makes a delicious addition to the traditional Thanksgiving side dishes. (KATHY D'AGOSTINO PHOTO)

traditional offerings. What follows are two delicious additions that will complement any Thanksgiving menu.

ART'S PUMPKIN OR BUTTERNUT SQUASH CASSEROLE

Ingredients:

- 1 1/4 sticks butter
- 1 1/2 pounds raw butternut squash or pumpkin, sliced 1/4 inch thick
- One very large onion (or two smaller onions) sliced 1/4 inch thick
- 5 plum tomatoes, chopped

- 6 ounces grated Parmesan cheese
- Salt and pepper to taste

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Grease a larger casserole dish with some of the butter to prevent sticking.

Start with a layer of squash or pumpkin. Cover with a layer of onion. Add 1/4 of the butter in pats over the layer. Sprinkle some Parmesan cheese and then some salt and pepper.

Repeat these layers until all the ingredients are used. The top layer should be just pumpkin or squash.

Top with chopped tomatoes.



Corn pudding complements any Thanksgiving menu. (KATHY D'AGOSTINO PHOTO)

Bake 1 3/4 to 2 hours, until squash is soft.

CORN PUDDING

Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup butter, melted then cooled
- 2 eggs, beaten and mixed with butter (when butter has cooled)
- 1 16-ounce can white corn (drain off liquid)
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 16-ounce can creamed corn
- 1 box corn muffin mix (like Jiffy)

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Grease 7-by-11 dish.

Mix everything together and spoon evenly into the greased dish. Bake for 45-55 minutes, until the top is browned and a toothpick comes out clean. Serve immediately.

Enjoy and Happy Thanksgiving!

Cooking at 43° North, a program of Harpswell Aging at Home, brings Harpswell residents together for cooking programs, in person and online. Watch the Anchor calendar for listings.

HAAH always needs cooks for its Meals in a Pinch program, which provides nutritious meals to seniors in need of emergency assistance. For more information, contact Julie Moulton at 207-330-5416 or juliemoulton28@gmail.com. ☞

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And thank you!

Forever

From Page 1

November.

The remainder of \$1,575,000 will go toward the creation of an endowment, as well as future land acquisition. The Land Trust has not determined how much to place in an endowment and how much to set aside for acquisition.

An endowment will ensure the Land Trust can fulfill its mission regardless of how membership or support might change in the future.

"We are making a commitment to forever every time we take on a piece of land, whether it's a piece of land we own or a conservation easement," McLeod said. Because of this "commitment to forever," she said, "we want to make sure we're going to be around forever."

"Our income stream comes largely from membership and we are really fortunate to have really dedicated members," McLeod said.

But an endowment will "help support us as a growing organization, help us do more for the community, because it's not just about land protection," she said. "The endowment's going to support all the areas of our work."

Wendy Batson, president of the HHLT Board of Trustees, said that diversifying the organization's income was "critically important — a legal and moral obligation."

The Land Trust embarked on the Forever Campaign about three years ago. When the opportunity arose to purchase the Great Island property, it merged the campaigns. Batson said the pandemic interrupted the campaign's momentum, but work intensified again by mid-2021.

Half of the purchase price for the Tondreau property will come from Land for Maine's Future, a state-funded conservation program. Strong support from the neighborhood was also important.

Many donors from the neighborhood have connections to the Tondreau family, while others simply "love that piece of land and really want to see it preserved," McLeod said.

The property has more than a half-mile of shorefront on Mill Cove and Orr's Cove, two inlets of Quahog Bay. Its conservation will protect the water quality of the vulnerable bay from the effects of development, according to Land Trust documents.

The property could accommodate 20-25 residences

under shoreland zoning, according to the Land Trust, which has described it as one of the largest undeveloped parcels in town.

The property also gives the Land Trust a large preserve — and the public an opportunity for outdoor recreation — in an area of town with fewer preserves.

An appraiser set the land's value at \$1.65 million, but the owners offered it to the Land Trust for \$500,000. The Land Trust and the owners signed a purchase-and-sale agreement in September 2021 that gave HHLT two years to raise the money.

The name of the preserve will commemorate the legacy of Anna Tondreau, a member of a family whose connection to Harpswell dates back more than 100 years. Her father-in-law, Adjutor Tondreau, was a French Canadian immigrant to Brunswick who worked his way up from shining shoes at the train station to become a successful grocer.

In 1917, Adjutor Tondreau, with three of his brothers and two brothers-in-law, bought 20 acres in Harpswell, at the end of what would become known as Tondreaus Point. In the years to come, the family acquired more land on and around the point.

Anna Tondreau bought the 57-acre forest, just northeast of the point, in 1996. She wanted to prevent the property's development and keep the neighborhood quiet for her husband, who had Alzheimer's disease.

Anna Tondreau died in 2018 and the land passed to her five children, who wanted to conserve the "magical, virgin forest" and offer an opportunity for fellow hikers to enjoy "nature's beauty and majesty," according to Rod Tondreau Jr., one of the siblings.

Before the Land Trust closes on the property, it has to meet requirements from Land for Maine's Future. An environmental assessment of the property turned up "an old farm dump," McLeod said, which the program asked the Land Trust to clean up.

Volunteers cleaned up the site on Oct. 5, working for about an hour to fill a pickup truck with rusted metal and broken glass.

After closing, the next step will be the construction of a parking lot and a trail system. "We'll have a loop trail on the upland portion of the land and then probably a spur trail down to the shore," McLeod said.

The parking lot and trailhead will be on Harpswell Islands

Road, across from the Harpswell Community School driveway. In the future, McLeod hopes to see the school take students across the street to explore the preserve.

Construction of the parking lot could happen this fall or next spring, depending on the closing date and the availability of contractors. Once the parking lot goes in, volunteers will build the trail network, which could open by fall 2023.

"We have amazing trail volunteers in this community," McLeod said. In early October, those volunteers were finishing a new trail system on HHLT's Helen and Walter Norton Preserve, on Birch Island in Middle Bay.

The Tondreau Preserve will be open for hunting. Land for Maine's Future requires projects it supports to allow hunting "and it's something we like to support anyway," McLeod said.

Batson, the board president, offered a "heartfelt thank you" to donors, as well as the organization's staff, trustees and volunteers. Their contributions are "evidence of the love we all hold for this community and what it gives us," she said.

"Together, we have secured the future of the Harpswell Heritage Land Trust," Batson said. ☺



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Never Not Amazed: On gratitude

BY ERIN O'MARA

I love a magic moment. Not the cocktail or the song but the warmth, strength and connection — a fleeting and magical sense of deep peace from knowing I'm in the exact right place at the exact right time.

The dance of candlelight reflected on a tin ceiling makes me happy.

The disco ball hanging in our living room casts a mosaic of light and delights me. It's the result of a pandemic dance party — just me and my partner dancing past midnight. When he joked, "The only thing that would make this better is a disco ball," we took a short break and, through the miracle of the internet, a mirrored ball and motor arrived two days later. It's mounted where a ceiling fan used to be. It spins. Anyone who sees it for the first time reacts with equal parts joy and confusion.

I'm grateful for the house the disco ball hangs in. I think of every scuff and ding as "patina" and the breeze through the living room walls as healthy air exchange.

I'm grateful for the technology that helps me find whatever's important to me and grateful for

the UPS man who always shows up and so consistently gives the dog treats that she salivates when he pulls up and once trotted outside, gave me a quick backward glance, and climbed into the truck.

Alphabet pretzels (all 26 letters plus "@") add an educational dimension to snacking. They're even better when they're baked in butter.

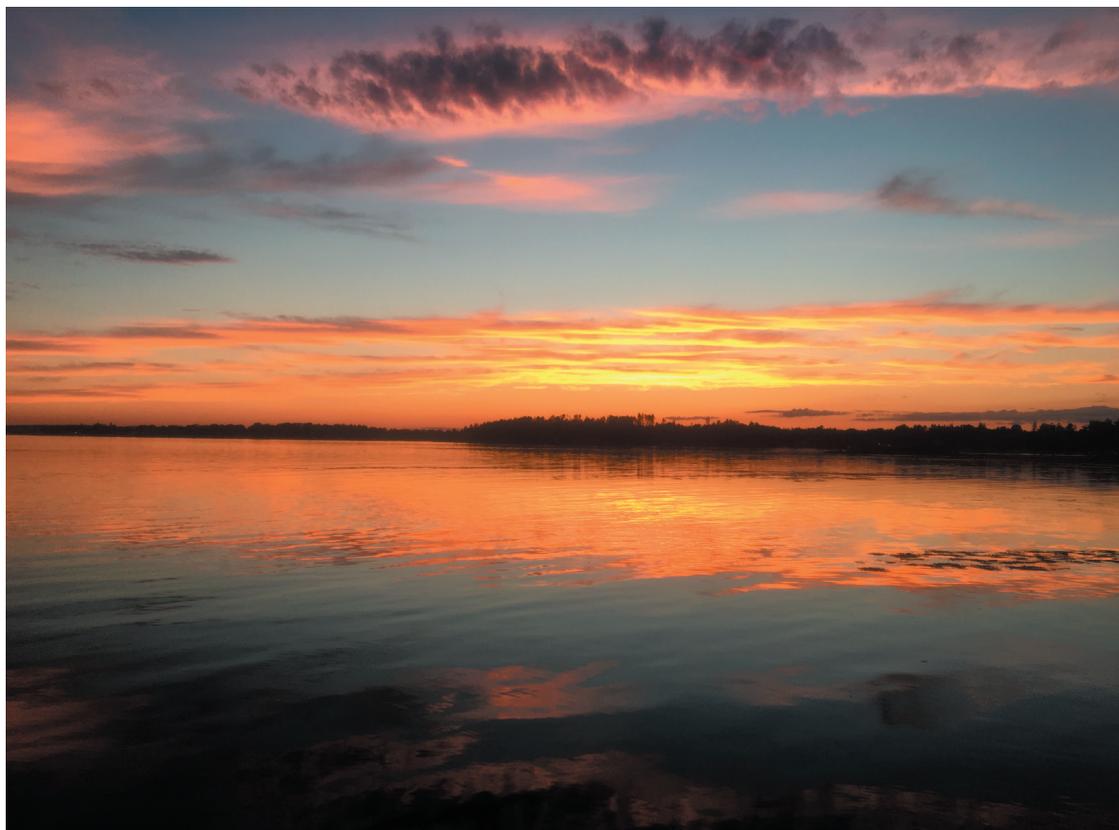
Brownies, a treat that's not quite a cake and not quite a cookie, are inspired. The person who invented them is a culinary genius who has contributed to my happiness too many times to count.

I appreciate a well-placed curse word. Sometimes, it's satisfying to let one rip, and a recent study that suggests people who use swear words are highly intelligent excuses my potty mouth.

I'm grateful for the grounding rhythm of seasons: when to plant, when to tell people they missed the turn to The Dolphin and Erica's, when to harvest ...

I'm lucky to have great role models and blessed to love and be loved.

I like snickerdoodles. They taste good but mostly I like them



Sunset over Potts Harbor. (ERIN O'MARA PHOTO)

because "snickerdoodle" is a silly word that feels good rolling around in my mouth.

I'm grateful to have choices and a network of support. I'm grateful for humor and the healing power of laughter.

My parents are together, happy, healthy, and busier than I am.

I like to make my bed with fresh, warm sheets straight out of the dryer. Then I like to get in it right away.

Volunteering makes me feel connected and I'm glad to lend a hand. I believe good intentions can start a wave effect, so a small act might be bigger than I think.

I love that Mr. Rogers was

right and you can find helpers everywhere.

Comfortable shoes are a relief, and my L.L. Bean slippers are a revelation.

Have you ever listened to a recording of Mahalia Jackson singing "Silent Night"? The first time I heard it, I felt all the feelings and I cried. I'm glad it's almost "Silent Night" season again.

I'm grateful for my life's soundtrack. I danced in a Pizza Hut parking lot while Elvis Costello blasted from a car radio. I slam-danced to ska music in a warehouse in New York City and compared bruises with my roommate the next day.

I'm grateful my dumb choices added up to good stories and nothing more.

Children of all ages give me the gift of laughter and perspective. They look on the world with clear-eyed purpose, poise, and strength. I'm sorry for the burden we've placed on them but sleep better because I know we're in good hands.

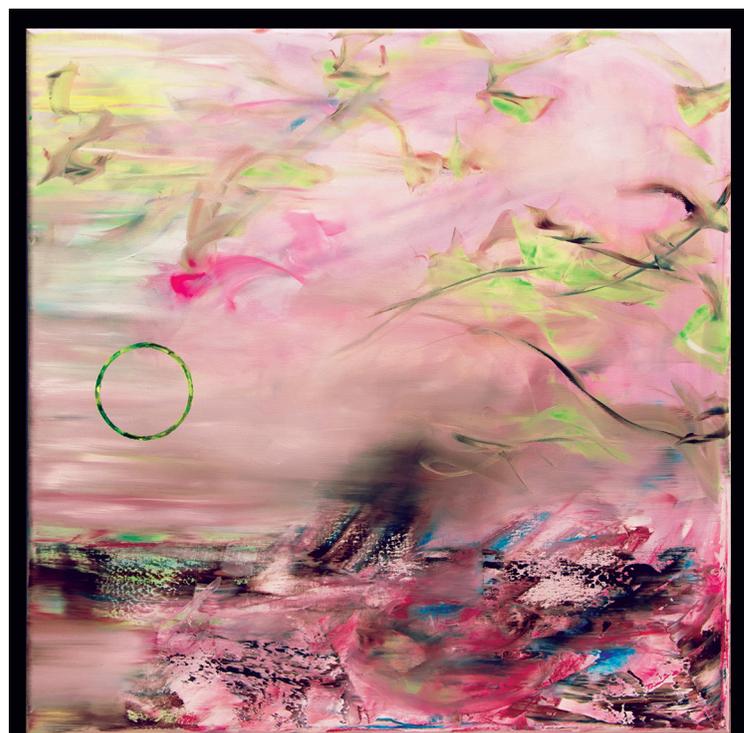
I rejoice in a good night's sleep now that I'm past the point in my life where my ability to sleep is a given.

My partner has strong, capable hands and a wealth of knowledge and ability. I love watching him work, in part because his skill is impressive and in part because if I'm watching him, I'm probably not working myself. I love that he loves me and I love him right back.

I like that people make rock cairns by the Giant's Stairs and I've made a few myself. I like staring into the endless deep sea, feeling infinite and insignificant at the same time. I love blazing sunsets and deep-pink mornings that only happen with the help of the ocean that surrounds us.

I love a magic moment. Not the cocktail or the song but the warmth, strength and connection — a fleeting and magical sense of deep peace from knowing I'm in the exact right place at the exact right time.

Erin O'Mara lives in Harpswell and serves on the Harpswell News Board of Directors. ☸



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Harpswell Naturalist: Coyotes in Harpswell

BY ED ROBINSON

September's sun warmed me as I listened to migrating warblers and local birds. Then I heard the soft brush of movement against a spruce tree to my left. Slowly turning, I saw two predators padding down the trail, unaware of my presence. They carried on with the hunt while I reflected on the encounter.

The creatures were eastern coyotes, probably juveniles from their size. The location was Orr's Island. If this surprises you, then read on. Coyotes are settled in Harpswell and I often hear from friends about seeing or hearing them. We've seen dead coyotes near our house after vehicle collisions. As with foxes, fishers and bobcats, coyotes are rarely seen because of their preference for nocturnal movement.

Coyotes originated out west, from Sonora to Alberta. As humans eliminated bears, pumas and wolves from eastern settlements, the void was gradually filled by coyotes. On their extended migrations, coyotes crossbred with dogs, resulting in larger "coydogs" that resembled German shepherds. With few populations of wolves in the U.S. and Canada, the intelligent and adaptable eastern coyote is well established as an alpha predator. A DNA study in 2014 found that the genetic mix of eastern coyotes is 62% coyote, 14% western wolf, 13% eastern wolf and 11% dog.

Today coyotes live almost anywhere, including major cities. The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife estimates the state's population at 15,000, an impressive achievement when compared to many species in decline. An adult male may exceed 40 pounds and 4 feet in length, plus a bushy tail. The fur runs light



A juvenile coyote walks through snow. (ISTOCK PHOTO)

gray or blond to reddish brown, with some black and white on the stomach, chest or chin. Average height is 2 feet, and powerful legs allow speeds up to 40 miles per hour. Their track is elongated, compared to the rounded footprint of dogs.

Coyotes live in small family groups around a mature female. Young adults may linger for two years, and bachelor males may join for short stints, allowing the pack to take on larger prey. As a female approaches estrous in midwinter, she gives off pheromones that cause multiple males to approach her and squabble for her affections. After breeding, the pair secure a den, often enlarging an existing fox den. The male supplies food while the female prepares the den, lining it with grass or her fur. As many as six pups nurse up to eight weeks, with

the parents gradually introducing regurgitated food, then bits of meat.

The family soon becomes mobile, hunting across many miles while guarding their territory. The howls, barks and yips from a pack tell the story as a hunt succeeds. Coyotes are opportunistic carnivores, eating 90% meat. Their diet is mostly smaller creatures — rodents, rabbits, birds, amphibians and insects — plus fruit, vegetables and grains.

In winter coyotes consume roadkill and will attack deer weakened by age, disease or starvation. While some people insist that coyotes are the primary cause of declining whitetail populations in northern Maine, researchers studied carcasses of radio-collared deer visited by coyotes and found that 92 of 100 deer died from motor-vehicle accidents.

humans being killed by coyotes, there are more than 200 recorded cases of humans being attacked.

Wolves now have numerous groups championing their cause, regardless of their impact on livestock and wildlife. Coyotes have few advocates, and many folks still feel the only good coyote is a dead one. Coyote pelts, used for scarves, muffs, coat collars or hoods, used to sell for \$200. Roughly 1,500 coyotes are trapped in Maine each year, worth just \$20 per pelt.

Wildlife biologists and conservationists understand the role that coyotes play in a healthy, balanced environment, and appreciate coyotes for keeping rodent populations in check. Perhaps we should admire an animal that has managed to thrive despite every scheme to limit their population.

(A note on last month's column: Thanks to the many readers who contacted me with feedback or questions regarding my October column on PFAS, "Forever chemicals." On Sept. 29, California passed two laws banning the sales of cosmetics, personal care items, clothing and textiles that contain PFAS chemicals. The bans will be phased in over five years. Much more information is available online.)

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



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Local scholarship fund launches annual fundraising campaign

BY KARA DOUGLAS
BRUNSWICK AREA
STUDENT AID FUND

This November, the Brunswick Area Student Aid Fund will hold its annual campaign to raise scholarship funds to support students in continuing their education.

The Brunswick Area Student Aid Fund's primary mission is to award scholarships to eligible high school graduates who pursue postsecondary education at four-year colleges and universities, community colleges, career and technical education institutions, and graduate schools. The fund provides all of its scholarships on the basis of student financial need, using data obtained from the student's Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

"Our scholarships are not awarded for merit, but for need. They will go towards the cost of two years of almost any type of postsecondary education. These range from beauty school or oil furnace technician to college graduate school," said Harpswell resident and board member Otey

Smith.

Scholarship recipients must be residents of Harpswell, Brunswick, Topsham, Bowdoin or Bowdoinham. Residents of those towns who are homeschooled or graduated from a school other than Mt. Ararat or Brunswick High may still be eligible to receive scholarship funding.

"Our scholarships are equitably distributed to the Brunswick and (Maine School Administrative District) 75 school districts. Students who are residents of these districts when they graduate from another secondary program, such as private school, may be eligible for a scholarship if they have need," Smith said.

Adults returning to school are also encouraged to apply. Eligible applicants may receive up to two years of assistance, which need not be consecutive.

As a nonprofit, the Brunswick Area Student Aid Fund is governed by a board of directors and committee members, all of whom are volunteers and reside within the towns the fund serves.

Harpswell resident John Loyd has served on the board since 1995. "Although BASAF has an endowment, the cost of higher education is increasing at a rate well ahead of inflation. If BASAF is to continue to award meaningful scholarships in real dollars adjusted for U.S. and tuition inflation and make scholarships to more students, we need to increase the endowment," Loyd said. "Contributions from the public are the only way we can grow the endowment to achieve those goals."

The organization's secondary

mission is to assist K-12 students in the served communities with overcoming challenges that interfere with being a productive student, such as assistance with the cost of eyeglasses, clothing, doctors, dentists and other necessities.

The Brunswick Area Student Aid Fund was organized in the mid-1950s by a group of local individuals led by Mario Tonon, who eventually became principal at Brunswick High School and later superintendent of Brunswick schools. At its first formal meeting, the fund

accepted a total of \$5,700 from local contributors. Since its founding, the fund has awarded more than \$10 million to upward of 5,200 graduates.

"The Brunswick Area Student Aid Fund has a long history of helping area students because so many people for so many years have cared enough to donate," said board member Linda Kreamer, also from Harpswell. "I believe receiving support from a program funded by your neighbors has special meaning."

To make a donation, visit studentaidfund.org. ☞

This Week in Harpswell: Oct. 8-16



Great blue heron at Stover's Cove. (STEVE MOORE PHOTO)



Wild turkeys off Harpswell Islands Road. (GINA SNYDER PHOTO)

HARPSWELL ANCHOR

Local businesses: Want to be part of a growing trend in local news?

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This Week in Harpswell is a project of the Harpswell Heritage Land Trust. Every year, the Land Trust selects one week from each of the four seasons and invites photographers of all ages and experience levels to take to nature with their cameras.

The Land Trust encourages photos of its preserves and trails, as well as people and pets outdoors, historic landmarks and the working waterfront.

To participate, find dates at hhlmaine.org, then submit high-resolution images to photos@hhlmaine.org. Include the photographer's name and a caption with the date and location. ☞

Library Connections: Come for the dehydrator, stay for the fireplace



Curtis Memorial Library's Fireside Writers Group meets in the 1904 Building on Oct. 14. (CURTIS MEMORIAL LIBRARY PHOTO)

BY LISA BOTSHON
CURTISMEMORIALLIBRARY

We sent our only child off to college this fall and are suffering from a form of nostalgia that some call empty nest syndrome. This is definitely a transitional moment for our family, and it has led me to revisit old photographs and memories of our son, Sam, when he was little.

One of the things we always did when it got cold was commit ourselves to spending more time at Curtis Memorial Library. The library was a haven with its kids and teen areas, and sometimes we would even be able to induce him to spend some time with us in front of the cozy fireplace in the 1904 Building.

In elementary school, Sam was determined to check out every cookbook from a children's series on world cuisines, and one of the librarians always saw us coming

from a mile away. Every week she asked what recipe he'd made from the previous set of cookbooks and what he was planning to make from the new pile. To this day, Sam takes cookbooks very seriously, an interest nurtured from his years at the library.

Although Sam had outgrown Music Fun with Miss Teresa, it's a relief to many parents that this Friday morning programming has resumed in person after a long COVID-19 hiatus. Many Brunswick and Harpswell children have grown up with her weekly explorations of music and movement, and she is no doubt responsible for numerous children's presence in the area's school music programs.

Quite frankly, it's been some time since Sam would attend the library with me; these days I go solo. But over the last few years I've been particularly excited by the Library of Things, which contains an eclectic collection ranging from acoustic guitars to rock tumblers to apple peelers.

Something I've checked out annually is the professional dehydrator. I've experimented with drying everything from local produce to leftover supermarket raspberries; the latter turned out to be great for baking during the midwinter slump. After checking out a tortilla press and raving about it to my sister, she bought one for me, so I'm no longer hogging it. Check out all that the Library of Things has to offer at curtislibrary.com/library-of-things.

And the space itself has been a haven during the pandemic, when I've needed to leave the house. There's always a quiet place to work, fast Wi-Fi and wireless printing, and there's a fire in the fireplace several days a week for quiet contemplation. The Fireside Writers Group, where those seeking a peaceable community of writers can gather on Friday mornings, is back in session.

I must confess, however, that one of my favorite pandemic-era developments has been the self-checkout area: I regularly order books online and, once notified, can scoop them up

from my spot on the shelf quickly and easily.

That Curtis is open seven days for a total of 62 hours a week is a boon for those of us in Brunswick and Harpswell. Any resident in our communities — including seasonal, taxpaying residents — can get a free library card from Curtis, even if your closest libraries are on Orr's Island or in Cundy's Harbor. The libraries work in concert, so you can have a library card from more than one.

November is the perfect time to check out what Curtis has to offer as we start hunkering down; our newly child-free

household will be patronizing it regularly. And I promise to return the dehydrator to the Library of Things soon!

Curtis Memorial Library, on Pleasant Street in Brunswick, provides free library cards to Harpswell residents. Lisa Botshon, a professor of English at the University of Maine at Augusta, serves as vice chair of the Curtis Memorial Library Board of Directors.

"Library Connections" is a monthly column that rotates among the three libraries that serve Harpswell: Cundy's Harbor, Orr's Island and Curtis Memorial. &

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Local Before and After: A crossword by Tyler and Lew Hinman

Tyler Hinman is a seven-time American Crossword Puzzle Tournament champion. He won five consecutive tournaments from 2005-2009, then two more in 2021 and 2022. He was the youngest ever to win the title at age 20.

Tyler Hinman has constructed puzzles for The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal, among other publications. He was featured in the 2006 documentary "Wordplay," about the American Crossword Puzzle Tournament.

Tyler is a software engineer in San Francisco. His parents, Lew and Krista, live in South Harpswell.

Good luck and enjoy!

ACROSS

- 1. Skylit places
- 6. Half-and-half quantity
- 11. Piece of information
- 16. Hoaxes
- 17. First name of a Dickens villain
- 18. Loos or Bryant
- 19. Heavily involved in a strip of land?
- 22. Source of 61-Across
- 23. Anvil location
- 24. Fancy scarf
- 25. Local pinniped?
- 34. German cheers
- 36. Choose
- 37. Largest of the Tuscan islands
- 38. Garfield's foil
- 39. See 81-Down
- 41. Thumper's friend
- 42. Bailey Island point, both geographically and for driving?
- 46. Lennon's mate
- 47. ___ Lingus
- 48. Publication from a business in a trail area?
- 59. Graff of "Mr. Belvedere"

60. Green Bay quarterback before Aaron

- 61. Cheese from a 22-Across
- 62. What Rosebud was (spoiler alert!)
- 63. Resin that preserves fossils
- 65. They might involve DNA
- 66. They offer views of a Gulf of Maine inlet?
- 70. Kiss's partner, often
- 71. Bother, in a Shakespeare title
- 72. "Mayday!"
- 75. Very, very close to a Harpswell peninsula?
- 83. 41-Down's buddy
- 84. Org. that cares for critters
- 85. "That Lady" brothers
- 86. Key material
- 87. Ceremonial events
- 88. Brave

DOWN

- 1. 1968 U.S. Open winner
- 2. What we want international tensions to do
- 3. 1913 Liberty Head nickel, for one
- 4. Rascal
- 5. Agreement
- 6. Database user's creation
- 7. Web string
- 8. Be unwell
- 9. Bled, as colors
- 10. U.K.'s NPR equivalent
- 11. Senegal's capital
- 12. "Conjunction Junction" word
- 13. Cravat, for one
- 14. Great Basin resident of old
- 15. Trail guide
- 20. Bundle of paper
- 21. Foolish old guy
- 26. Not new
- 27. Team leader
- 28. Prefix for some cloud types
- 29. Coral structure

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13	14	15
16						17						18				
19					20						21					
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75	76	77	78				79	80	81				82			
83							84						85			
86							87						88			

- 30. Scorch with heat
- 31. Muppet who refers to himself in the third person
- 32. Palindromic band
- 33. Yielded, as an egg
- 34. Government figure, for short
- 35. Ideal intake level, briefly
- 39. Ottawa team, in headlines
- 40. Protruding door piece
- 41. 83-Across's buddy
- 43. Dover ___
- 44. Requirement for a delicate situation
- 45. Pacino/De Niro classic
- 48. Projectile in some golf games
- 49. Scatting Fitzgerald
- 50. Shapes of some shirt necks
- 51. Like a 34-Down, often
- 52. Pseudonymous advice columnist
- 53. Word describing some shirt necks
- 54. Russell of "Felicity"
- 55. Not too many
- 56. What a doctor might advise you to eat
- 57. Mel of the New York Giants
- 58. Step on it!
- 63. Touch
- 64. Original Hungarian
- 65. Like some inadequate shoes
- 67. "Didn't see you there!"
- 68. Grandmothers, as many grandchildren call them
- 69. Banned spray
- 73. Washingtons
- 74. Vodka company (or should it be "company"?)
- 75. Snider of Twisted Sister
- 76. Royal symbol of power
- 77. Popular card game
- 78. Popular card game
- 79. Greek letter, or a tire measurement
- 80. Choose
- 81. With 39-Across
- 82. Sch. whose fans yell "Geaux Tigers!"



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Need a hand? HAH's resources team can help you find what you need

BY KATHY HICKEY

HARPSWELL AGING AT HOME

Since its inception in 2015, Harpswell Aging at Home has had one steadfast mission — to help "older adults thrive while aging in their home." Supported by a throng of dedicated volunteers, a variety of programs and services have played an integral part in making this mission a success.

"We help them stay in their community," said Judy Muller, chair of HAH's Resources Committee. This highly experienced team — Muller and Margie McDougal are clinical social workers and Maureen Sullivan was the founder and owner of Just Friends Inc., an in-home companionship agency based in Yarmouth — helps older residents identify resources that will help them age safely in their own homes.

The majority of referrals to the committee start with a simple application process initiated with Gina Caldwell, Harpswell's recreation director and community services coordinator. Caldwell, who grew up in town and assumed intake duties in April, fields inquiries from residents and children of older homeowners about a variety of assistance programs.

"I've met so many wonderful people," Caldwell said. Reflecting on the calls she gets from residents' children, many of whom live out of town, Caldwell added, "They are just so grateful that HAH helps enable their parents to stay at home."

After establishing age and, for some services, income eligibility, the resident is referred to HAH for an initial discussion with a member of the Resources Committee.

Armed with small gifts, such as reading glasses and a copy of the book "Glimpses of Harpswell Past and Present," a team member visits with the homeowner to determine which services might benefit them. Guided by a questionnaire covering a variety of possible home and personal needs, the team member is able to offer a number of HAH programs.

The Home Repairs Program may be able to build a ramp, add insulation, or install grab bars in a shower; Neighbors Connecting facilitates a weekly check-in call; and the Food Team can provide



The Harpswell Aging at Home Resources Team, from left: Judy Muller, Maureen Sullivan and Margie McDougal.

occasional meal deliveries. "We sit down and listen to what people are telling us," Muller said. "It helps us to be creative in helping them with what they need."

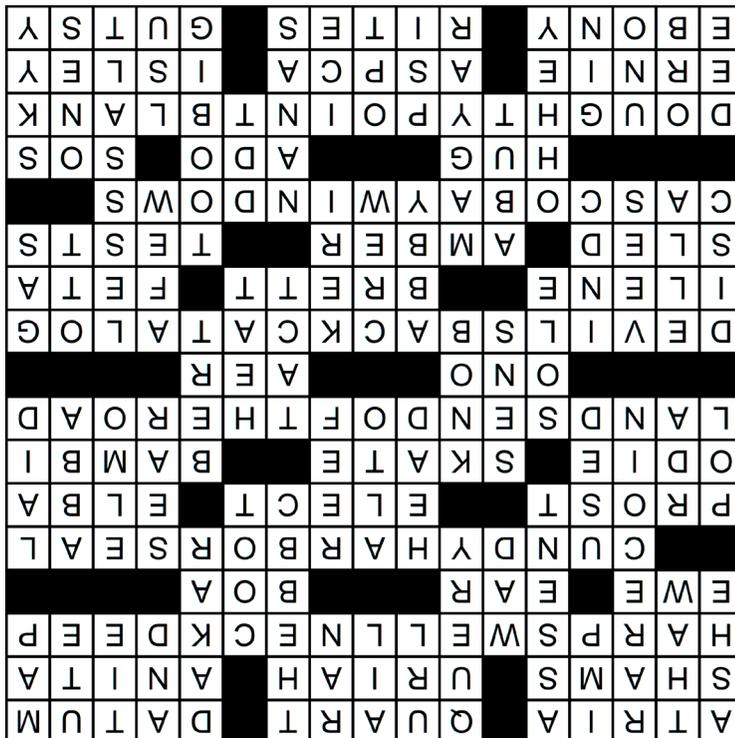
In addition to programs facilitated by HAH volunteers, the team can also connect residents to outside services, such as transportation, legal aid, and respite programs for both residents and caregivers. HAH has also started a pilot program this year, through a partnership with MaineHealth, that equips eligible residents with a Lifeline medical alert button.

Homeowners are also offered a visit by Harpswell Fire Administrator Art Howe. He will check the smoke and carbon

monoxide detectors, make sure the home is accessible to fire and emergency vehicles, and deliver a "file of life." Filled out by the homeowner, this document provides contacts and medical information that can be critical in an emergency. The file of life is left in a magnetic red pocket on the refrigerator, where emergency personnel can find it.

The team continues its outreach efforts with follow-up phone calls to ensure the individual has connected with the appropriate resource, and will periodically check in once services have been established.

In cases where there is a greater need or it has become unsafe for residents to remain in their home, team members will



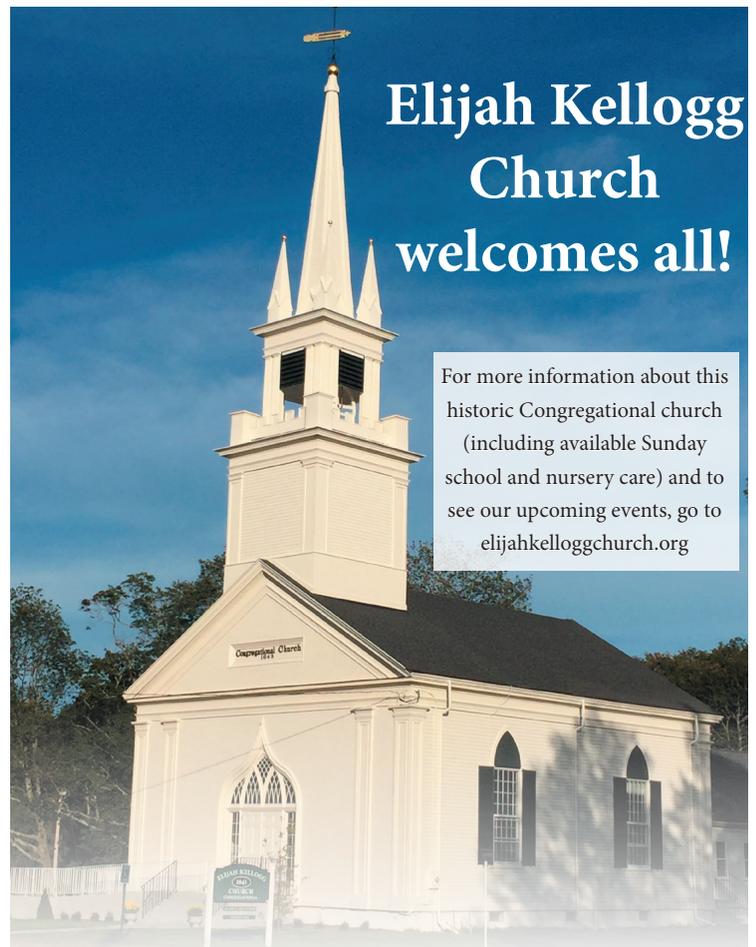
Harpswell Recreation Director and Community Services Coordinator Gina Caldwell connects residents with Harpswell Aging at Home's Resources Committee.

brainstorm options and help families navigate the transition.

Muller noted that all services are free to eligible homeowners and the homeowner makes the final decision about which services they wish to use. "We are so honored to meet so many people, hear their stories and help them to stay in their community,"

Muller said. "Community really means something here because we care about and help each other."

To learn more about resources, contact Gina Caldwell at 207-833-5771 ext. 108. To learn more about volunteering with HAH, please visit its website at hah.community. ☞



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That's Invasive: Asiatic bittersweet

BY BECKY GALLERY
HARPSWELL INVASIVE
PLANT PARTNERSHIP

What's yellow, climbs trees and utility poles, and has orange berries? Asiatic bittersweet, seen on a roadside near you every autumn.

Even in early November, its yellow leaves can be seen climbing trees and poles throughout Harpswell. Some people are tempted to use those orange-red berry-like seed capsules for decoration. For many years, those little seed capsules found their way into decorative wreaths and arrangements in homes and on doors. Please leave bittersweet out of your holiday decor! A wreath of bittersweet on your door may encourage bittersweet seed dispersal throughout the neighborhood, which leads to new shoots of bittersweet appearing next spring and summer.

Why worry? What harm can a few bittersweet plants do? As an aggressive, nonnative plant, bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*) can crowd out native shrubs and trees. When bittersweet climbs a tree, it "strangles" the tree, eventually causing the tree to die.

Since its introduction to North America from eastern Asia as an ornamental vine around 1870, bittersweet has spread from the intended landscapes and naturalized extensively in the eastern half of North America. Thanks to prolific seed production, rapid growth rate, wide tolerance of soil and light conditions, root-suckering, and its attractiveness to people, this plant is categorized as "severely invasive" by the Maine Natural Areas Program.

Some marketing strategies touted the imported bittersweet as being "pest-free," meaning it did not suffer damage from insects nibbling on its leaves. According to entomologist Douglas Tallamy, this means that bittersweet is not a food source for native insects. His research shows that native plants support a greater number and variety of insects than the most common invasive plants, including bittersweet.

In recent years, Maine has prohibited the sale and propagation of several dozen invasive species, including bittersweet. This plant is now on Maine's "banned" list.

The Harpswell Invasive Plant Partnership has been working

throughout our town to slow the spread of invasive plants. We have removed bittersweet from several Harpswell Heritage Land Trust preserves. While complete eradication is still a goal, we are seeing a reduction in the numbers and size of bittersweet infestations. Volunteer work days at Johnson Field, Otter Brook and Curtis Farm preserves in September and October continued the battle with this persistent invasive plant. Many of the largest vines have been removed and hope remains that one day we will have this alien plant under control.

In the meantime, what can you do for your holiday decorations? Bright-red winterberries make an excellent addition to arrangements. While this native plant does not twine into a wreath, sprigs of berries brighten any wreath or arrangement. Think native when you put together a natural arrangement or decorate your holiday wreath. Dried flowers and fresh, red winterberries will look delightful in your holiday decor.

For further information about invasive plants, visit HIPP's website at hippmaine.org. You may also email your questions to hipp.maine@gmail.com.



Bittersweet climbs a utility pole. (BECKY GALLERY PHOTO)



A bittersweet tangle at George J. Mitchell Field, prior to control efforts. (BECKY GALLERY PHOTO)

Honesty

-- from an Anchor reader

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HCA

From Page 1

year, amid declining enrollment and financial struggles. With commission approval, the school moved grades nine through 12 in with grades five through eight at its original location, the former West Harpswell School.

"HCA does an amazing job at welcoming its students and helping them feel safe, happy, and loved. However, the primary purpose of school is to educate," the report by the commission's staff states. "HCA has been unable to meet the academic standards. Taxpayer dollars are being used to fund a school where more than half of the student population is chronically absent."

Harpswell Coastal Academy had asked the Charter School Commission to delay its decision to November, so the school could present information on improvements in attendance and both participation and performance on the NWEA test.

"HCA believes that fairness, equity and due process support its request to postpone a decision on its renewal application until November," Amy Dieterich, an

attorney for the school, said in an email to the commission. "The decision about HCA's renewal is critically important to the hundreds of people who attend the school, work at the school and are parents of students at the school."

The email mentions that three of the commission's seven members just joined the body, and at least one has never visited the school.

But the commissioners were not swayed.

"I can't see that two months is going to make any difference at all. To me, it's just kicking the can down the road, quite honestly," Commissioner Victoria "Tori" Kornfield said. "The school is 10 years old. It seems to always be in coming-from-behind mode."

One of the new commissioners, James Handy, objected to the suggestion that the newcomers might not be ready to vote.

"I got to say, it has stuck in my craw that I keep hearing this chorus repeated that 'they're new board members,' like we just graduated kindergarten," Handy said. "Well, frankly, I'm a pretty good study and I have adequate information to make a decision."

After the narrow vote against

the delay, the commission heard from Harpswell Coastal Academy and from the commission's finance and school performance committees on the question of whether to renew the charter without conditions.

Cynthia Shelmerdine, chair of the Harpswell Coastal Academy Board of Directors, said that the commission and the school have "very different perceptions" of the school's achievements.

"For various reasons, many of our students didn't — couldn't — learn at their previous schools and they were ready to give up," Shelmerdine said. "We've seen them come to HCA and build the confidence to learn after all, to enjoy their education after all, and to graduate after all."

The school's application to renew its charter cited above-average graduation rates for students who take more than four years to finish high school, above-average graduation rates for students with disabilities, and below-average dropout rates.

"In short, we see a school that is successful by the measure most important to both your mission and ours — successful students who become thriving citizens," Shelmerdine said. "HCA

produces graduates who have met their academic standards, become creative thinkers, and contribute their talents to society in meaningful ways — not the outcome some of them could envision before they walked through our doors."

But the commission unanimously voted not to renew the charter without conditions, giving the reason that the school had failed to make sufficient progress toward performance expectations in its charter contract, specifically with regard to academic growth, chronic absenteeism and fiscal sustainability.

Next, the commission weighed whether to renew the school's charter with conditions. The school would have had to increase enrollment from 172 to 200 students and reduce chronic absenteeism to less than 18% by Feb. 28, 2023, among six conditions.

Clare Vickland, a consultant to the commission, said the conditions were both "absolutely essential" and would be "a challenge to complete."

After much discussion and the addition of two more conditions, the commission voted 4-3 to renew

the charter with conditions, one vote short of the supermajority.

"That means that we have exhausted our options for renewal," said Wilson Hess, chair of the commission. He said the commission's staff would communicate with the school about next steps.

State law requires the commission to work with charter schools when they close to ensure "orderly transition of students and student records and proper disposition of school funds, property and assets." After the school pays employees and creditors, any balance goes into the state treasury.

'There's only one HCA'

The Oct. 11 vote followed a Sept. 29 hearing where students and alumni, along with parents and other supporters, made their case for renewing the charter.

Dozens testified in the gym at Harpswell Coastal Academy, with more participating via Zoom. One speaker after another shared stories about the school's positive and often life-changing impact.

Laurel Wishman started attending Harpswell Coastal Academy in 2015.

"I have struggled with my



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dyslexia throughout my high school and middle school career, and I've doubted that I can do so many things, but HCA has taught me resilience, and that just because I have a learning disability does not mean that I'm disabled," Wishman said.

Wishman discovered a love for building at Harpswell Coastal Academy. She graduated in 2022 and enrolled at Southern Maine Community College, where she is studying construction technology.

Sam Mathis, a parent of a senior at Harpswell Coastal Academy, lives in Cumberland, near one of the best public high schools in the state. But his daughter drives an hour each way to attend Harpswell Coastal Academy because that local school could not meet her needs.

"There are a lot of good school systems in Maine and plenty of schools for kids on that traditional high-school-to-college track, but there's only one HCA, and if you close it, you're going to be leaving a lot of kids with no place to go," Mathis said.

Returning to public school is "not an option for a lot of kids at HCA, and if HCA closes, they will become dropouts and all that comes with it," Mathis added.

2020 graduate Xander Rabii said he dropped out of a public high school in Massachusetts during his freshman year because of mental and physical health issues, for which the school offered little in the way of support or accommodations.

Rabii resumed high school at Harpswell Coastal Academy, where teachers worked with him to stay on track, despite frequent



Supporters of Harpswell Coastal Academy testify during a public hearing in the school gym on Sept. 29. From left: senior Nolan Kalil, sophomore Alesandra Williams, board member and Brunswick Town Councilor Kathy Wilson, and Harpswell Historical Society President David Hackett. (J.W. OLIVER PHOTOS)

absences for health reasons. He graduated from HCA in 2020 with 12 college credits from dual-enrollment classes at Southern Maine Community College.

"At HCA, I found a space to exist, belong and thrive," said Rabii, who now attends Hampshire College in Massachusetts. "My previous school made me feel inferior, like my disabilities meant I just wasn't cut out for school — not smart enough or good enough — but my time at HCA taught me that I am capable of such amazing things. I just operate a little differently than others and that's OK."

Harpswell Coastal Academy sophomore Alessandra Williams

said that because of her "deep connection" with her teachers, she was able to move up a grade.

"It really helped me that my school saw me and wanted to put me in a place where I felt like I belonged and I've thrived here and I've led classes, I've created clubs. ... It feels like I'm really seen and part of my school community," Williams said.

Three state legislators — Reps. Jay McCreight, D-Harpswell, Poppy Arford, D-Brunswick, and Steve Moriarty, D-Cumberland — testified in support of renewal, along with Harpswell Selectman David Chipman and Brunswick Town Councilor Kathy Wilson. Wilson serves on the school's board of directors.

McCreight, a former public school social worker, did not immediately embrace the concept of charter schools. But after learning about students' experiences and visiting the school, "I have come to appreciate the importance of the school to students, families and community," she said.

Representatives of Harpswell Aging at Home and the Harpswell Historical Society also spoke in favor of renewal, citing positive experiences with students.

'A transformation in their education'

In a letter to the school community before the hearing, interim Head of School Mel Christensen Fletcher highlighted successes at HCA. The school has

seen increases of 30% and 20% in the number of students meeting their growth goals in math and language, respectively, on the NWEA assessment; and 100% of students are participating in at least one postsecondary readiness activity, such as early college, an internship, or a vocational course.

HCA's 40-page application for renewal went into more detail about its mission and the challenges it brings.

"Learning at HCA is project-based and place-based, grounding students in a purposeful exploration of the natural and human worlds," the school's mission statement says, in part.

From its founding in 2013, the school's goal was to raise graduation rates for students who struggle in traditional public schools, and to prepare those students for success after high school.

"Our special education population has varied from 20-40% from year to year, often double the state average," the application states. "We also support a disproportionately large population of students who live with mental health challenges, trauma, or difficult situations at home."

The usual measures of academic success do not always capture the progress and achievement of Harpswell Coastal Academy students, the school says.

"Students graduate from HCA having experienced a transformation in their education.

Not every student graduates with the intention of going to college or with high standardized test scores, but our students do leave with an improved sense of their self-worth and their role in the broader community," the application states. "HCA students learn that they have a variety of opportunities ahead of them as adults, and develop the skills they'll need to work towards their next personal, career, or educational goals."

The application acknowledged "unexpected financial setbacks" in 2021-22, including a budget error by a former director of finance and the need for renovations at its Brunswick building "to bring it up to code."

But the school's budget projections showed that it would end each of the next three years with a positive balance, even after increases in salaries, benefits, and other expenses.

The state funds charter schools based on enrollment. The school planned to increase enrollment from 172 to at least 190 by the 2024-25 school year and 200 by 2025-26. Enrollment ranged from 195-205 from 2016-2020, but dropped during the pandemic.

The application also showed that the school has weathered extraordinary turnover in the last year — five of five administrators and 15 of 18 teachers left HCA at the end of the 2021-22 school year amid uncertainty about the school's future. HCA was back at full staff in September. ☺

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Golek

From Page 1

She has knocked on the doors of modest homes with six to eight adult residents who live together "because they either can't find housing or can't afford housing on their own," she said.

Golek cited a statistic from the Maine State Housing Authority that in Cumberland County, 66% of households cannot afford the average rent for a two-bedroom apartment.

The lack of housing affects issues like health care and the economy, according to Golek. In Harpswell, for example, the housing crunch contributes to a shortage of labor.

For years, Golek said, she has watched fishermen move out of Harpswell "because they couldn't afford to live here."

Golek feels the effect on labor herself as co-owner of The Vicarage by the Sea, a home for people with dementia. The Vicarage has "lost really good employees simply because they couldn't afford to live

close enough to where they work," she said.

Golek supports abortion rights and Maine's current law, which allows abortion "before viability" and, when necessary to preserve the health of the mother, after viability.

"If that could be made stronger by being a right put in our constitution, I would fully support it," Golek said.

"It really shouldn't be a decision up to me or anybody else, and it sure shouldn't be part of the political conversation," Golek said. "It should just remain a right."

As a legislator, Golek would seek to include the lobster fishery in deliberations about laws or regulations that affect lobstermen's livelihoods. She said she will always stand behind the fishing community.

"Sadly, most of the regulations that are affecting the lobster fishery currently are federal regulations," Golek said, like those from NOAA Fisheries that seek to reduce the number of buoy lines to protect right whales — despite regulators'

admission that they have never linked a right whale's death to entanglement in Maine lobster gear.

State government is opposing those regulations in court, and Golek said that she will "always fully support the state" in its opposition to federal regulations that harm the fishery.

Regarding inflation, Golek wants to look into whether the state can restrict "price-gouging" on necessities like gas and rent.

"How do we put a limit on how much at a time that can be increased? Is it possible at a state level? I think we can affect that," she said.

Golek has near-total hearing loss and communicates through a combination of hearing aids, lip-reading, and captioning devices. She wants to help the State House make proceedings more accessible to people with disabilities, not just those who are deaf or hard of hearing.

As the Legislature returns to pre-pandemic protocols, she wants to continue allowing testimony

through technology like Zoom, which makes hearings accessible to people with disabilities and workers who could not otherwise attend a weekday hearing in Augusta.

Golek said that she has knocked on more than 3,000 doors in the district and has spoken to thousands of people, including Republicans and independents.

"I view being a representative of a district as being an advocate for the district, so it's important to me to make sure I'm listening to the people who live in the district," she said.

Golek grew up in poverty in the Cook's Corner area of Brunswick. Today, she uses her firsthand experience with poverty and social services to advocate on poverty-related issues.

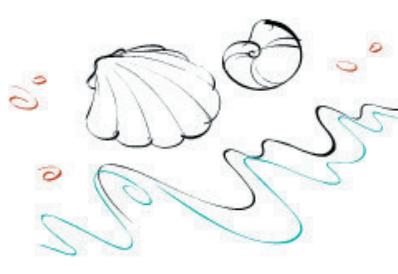
As a member of the Equal Justice

Partners Circle, she has testified before legislative committees. She recently served on the Legislature's Commission to Increase Housing Opportunities in Maine by Studying Zoning and Land Use Restrictions.

"I've been an advocate on these issues for years, way before I decided to run for office," Golek said. "I'm willing to do the hard work. I show up."

She moved to Harpswell for the first time in 1986 and settled there permanently around 1995. She and her partner, Johanna Wigg, founded The Vicarage by the Sea in 1998, and live on the property. Golek has two adult sons and two young daughters.

"It sounds corny, but I'm running for state representative to give back to a community that has just given me so much my entire life," she said. ☺



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Davis

From Page 1

of the families in Harpswell and Brunswick and the state of Maine is huge, and being able to hand a heritage down to your children, I think, is a great thing," he said.

Challenges for Maine's lobster fishery include federal regulations that seek to reduce the number of buoy lines in the Gulf of Maine to protect right whales from entanglement.

Davis questions the science behind those regulations. The federal government acknowledges that it has never linked a right whale's death to entanglement in Maine lobster gear.

Davis believes the regulations have a connection to the federal government's support for efforts to develop wind power in the Gulf of Maine. "I'm dead against windmills in our ocean," he said.

Davis does not object to wind power on land, but has concerns about the environmental impact of offshore wind and the logistics of turbine maintenance at sea.

His other three priorities are the elderly, veterans and vocational education. He wants to encourage students to learn a trade so they can help fill the demand for carpenters, electricians, mechanics and plumbers. He wants to learn what he can do to prevent veteran homelessness, calling it

"unacceptable." And he wants to ensure the elderly enjoy a "peaceful" lifestyle.

With Maine employers struggling to find workers, Davis would like to reexamine the state's approach to unemployment as it emerges from the pandemic. "I don't think that the state should be paying people to stay home," he said. Maine's unemployment rate was 3.1% in August.

"I think we have to encourage people that they need to go back to work, and they're going to better their lives," he said. He would like to see the state connect homeless people with jobs.

Housing is a problem statewide, Davis said. He has

heard from fellow Harpswell natives that their children cannot afford to stay in town. He said he would ask his constituents how he and fellow legislators can help.

With U.S. inflation at 8.2%, Davis said he would listen to what district residents want from the Legislature and consider what he can do to improve quality of life for Mainers. "Gas prices are ridiculous right now," he said. "That affects everybody."

As some states restrict access to abortion after the U.S. Supreme Court's reversal of Roe v. Wade, Davis said that it is important to maintain access to abortion in cases of rape and incest, or when the health of the mother is at risk.

Maine's law allows abortion until the point of viability, and after viability when necessary to protect the mother's health. Davis said he does not support changes to the law, but would listen to his constituents on the issue.

"Who am I to decide what a woman can do with her body?" Davis said. "But I do not want to see it used as birth control."

Davis urges everyone to vote, whether they vote for him or not. "Don't let others make choices for you. Don't let others make choices for your heritage. Don't let other people make

choices for your livelihood," he said.

Davis encourages voters to support "the right person for the job," regardless of party, and said that he has voted for Democrats when he considered them the best option. In Brunswick, one voter has Davis' sign between two signs for Democratic candidates. "I love seeing it," he said.

Davis calls himself "a proud native son" of Harpswell. He retired from Bath Iron Works after 37 years, 31 as an engineer and supervisor. He has worked as a fisherman before, during and after his career at BIW. He has long coached youth sports in the area.

After retirement, he ran for office "to give back to the community," he said. He first ran for the House two years ago, collecting 41.82% of the vote in a challenge to three-term incumbent McCreight.

This year, he won a contested primary to secure the Republican nomination. He took 77.4% of the vote to defeat Michael Lawler, of Brunswick, according to official results from the Maine Department of the Secretary of State.

Residents of District 99 "should vote for me because I'm just an average guy working for the average person," Davis said. ☺



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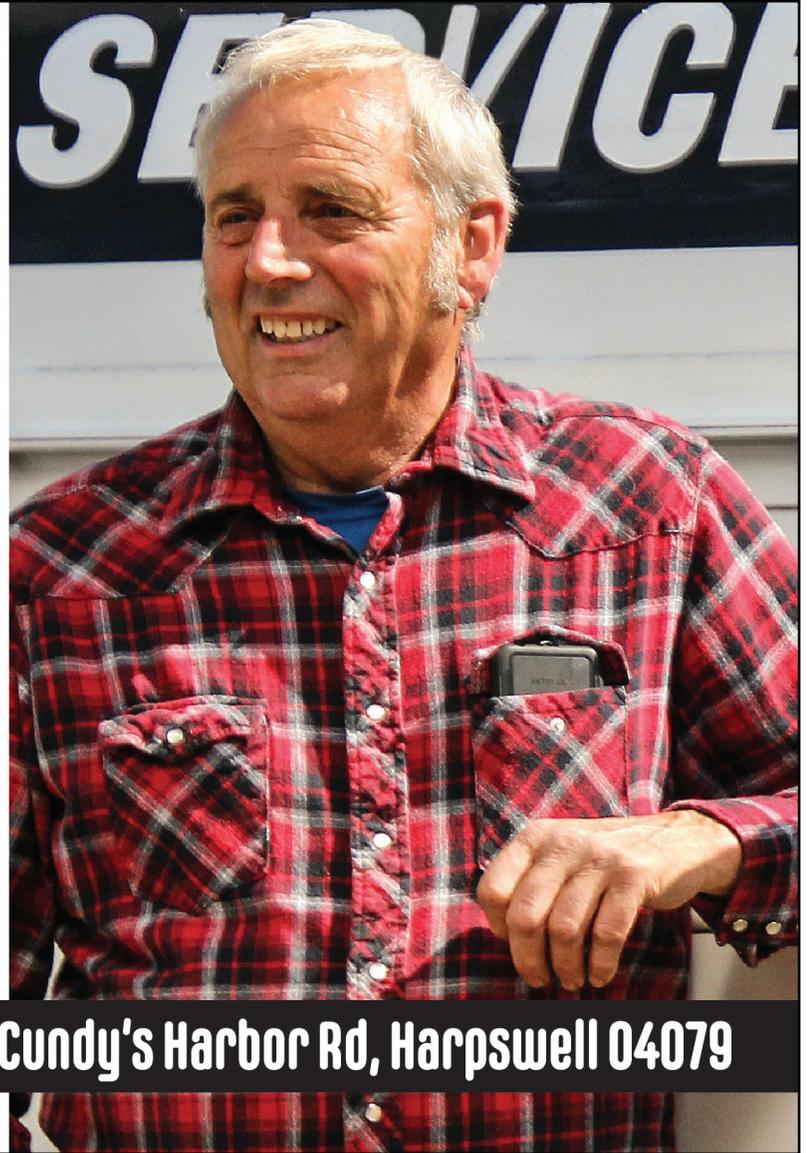
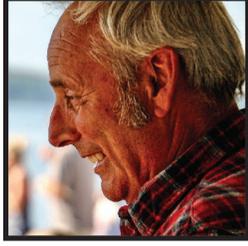
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MEET OUR HARPSWELL ADVISORS



Libby Hunt (Advisor/Office Manager) | 207-319-5095
 Raised in Brunswick, and then settling in the Midcoast region after college, Libby understands the many facets of the Midcoast region. Libby's studies led to a 20+ year career teaching in Midcoast Maine, which has connected Libby with numerous people and organizations. Libby's life-long residency and relationships only enhance her dedication to her clients.



Mike Moody | 207-751-4842
 If you are looking to buy or sell in Northern/Western Maine, Mike would love to help you find your next adventure! When he is not busy in the Real Estate world, he is a Registered Maine Guide and you can likely find him in the mountains or out on the lake. Let him be your guide to finding your Maine lake house or Cabin!



Nathan Norton | 207-798-1544
 After attending college in Boston and spending some time there, Nathan returned home to the Harpswell area, where he grew up. Joining the family business was only natural to him and would love to share his real estate expertise and local knowledge with his clients.



Nicholas Karahalios | 207-939-7606
 Nicholas brings over 30+ years experience in the Real Estate business- with a focus on land sales. As a year-round Falmouth resident and summer resident in Harpswell, for over 40 years, his wealth of area knowledge is endless! He is ready to help both buyers and sellers in the Casco Bay area.



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Paul Clark IV
 Born and raised in Brunswick, Maine, Paul has always loved the Mid Coast region. A graduate of Maine Maritime Academy in 2008, followed by some time working on yachts in Florida, Paul found himself being drawn back to Maine. As a 3rd generation Realtor, Paul eagerly shares his extensive local knowledge and real estate expertise with his clients.