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JANUARY 2023 | VOL. 3, NO. 1



Making memories Melody Moore, of Orr's Island, and her daughters, Leona, 3, and Liberty, 1, get a photo with Santa during the holiday fair at the Orr's Island Schoolhouse on Dec. 3. (JESSICA PICARD PHOTO)

Uncle Pete's Community Market for sale — but not to just anyone



Owner Pete Arnold helps a customer at Uncle Pete's Community Market on Dec. 6. (ROBIN CASEY PHOTO)

BY CONNIE SAGE CONNER
Uncle Pete's Community Market, which opened less than two years ago, is for sale. Don't worry, said owner Pete Arnold, he won't sell it to just anyone. It will be someone who has his vision, loves the

community, will keep the store's 15 employees on the payroll, and will continue to sell gas and diesel from the store's 1989-model pumps. Why sell now after remodeling the building in March 2021? "I'd like to

move on to the next chapter, something not motivated by money," said Arnold, 62, a Harpswell native who grew up on Potts Point and lives on Ash Point.

"I've aged five years in the last two," Arnold said with his distinctive laugh. "I'd like to go places. I like to travel. The hardest part are the hours. The toughest part? There's no personal life."

Arnold hasn't ruled out working for a new owner, without the stress of keeping the same long hours. "I feel as though, in my role, I took a defunct store and a sad building and turned it into a viable business," he said. "It's been very successful. I'm not looking for an investor."

Arnold said the market, next to the post office at 1220 Harpswell Neck Road, will remain open until he has the right buyer, except in January. **See UNCLE PETE'S on Page 20**

Town may buy back Coastal Academy campus

BY J.W. OLIVER

The town of Harpswell will enter negotiations to buy back the Harpswell Coastal Academy campus as the charter school prepares to close after 10 years.

In a 3-0 vote on Thursday, Dec. 15, the Harpswell Board of Selectmen agreed to notify Harpswell Coastal Academy of the town's interest in the property.

In November, Harpswell Coastal Academy had offered to sell the campus to the town. The offer was a condition of the property's sale from the town to the nonprofit Harpswell Coastal Academy Inc. in 2015. The sale price was \$150,000.

Harpswell Coastal Academy had leased the property since 2013 and the town credited \$40,000 in lease payments toward the purchase. HCA put down \$10,000 at closing and agreed to pay off the

\$100,000 balance with annual installments of \$10,000. The school owes the town \$30,000.

The property at 9 Ash Point Road encompasses 7.73 acres, according to town records. The school building dates to 1964 and, with a 1989 addition, totals 16,899 square feet.

The property has a town-assessed value of \$1,022,200 — \$928,200 for the building and other improvements, plus \$94,000 for the land. Before Harpswell Coastal Academy, it was home to West Harpswell School, a K-5 public elementary school that closed in 2011.

Harpswell Coastal Academy, a public charter school for grades five through 12, will close at the end of the school year after the Maine Charter School Commission declined to renew its charter in October. The commission cited concerns

See CAMPUS on Page 18

McCreight reflects on 8 years in Legislature

BY J.W. OLIVER

After the maximum four consecutive elections and eight years in the Maine House of Representatives, Harpswell Democrat Joyce "Jay" McCreight's last day in office was Dec. 7. As she finished a job she described as exciting and intense, grueling and rewarding, she was feeling a mix of sadness and satisfaction.

The former public school social worker was a relative newcomer to both Harpswell and politics when circumstances helped launch her first run in 2014. She campaigned hard and captured 53.3% of the vote to take the seat. No opponent would come within 15 percentage points for the next three elections.

McCreight rose to positions **See MCCREIGHT on Page 19**



Jay McCreight at her home in Harpswell on Dec. 7, hours after the end of an eight-year tenure in the Maine House of Representatives. (J.W. OLIVER PHOTO)

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- Everest climber, Page 8

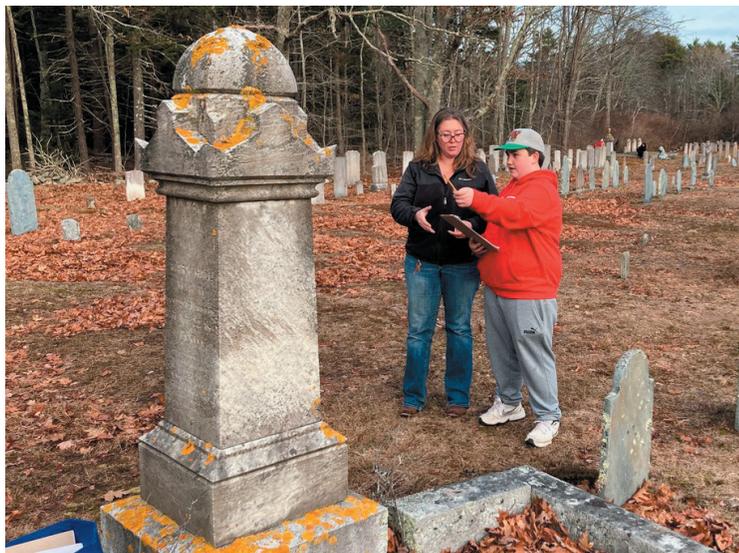
Harpswell Coastal Academy students learn and serve with cemetery project

BY DOUG WARREN

Most days, the cemeteries of Harpswell are places of quiet beauty and solitary reflection where "the rude forefathers of the hamlet sleep," to lift a line from "Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard," penned by Thomas Gray in England back in 1750.

But on this Friday in early December, the scene at the Common Burying Ground behind the Harpswell Meetinghouse is anything but elegiac. Students from Harpswell Coastal Academy are busily, and somewhat noisily, wrapping up a six-week elective class in collaboration with the Harpswell Historical Society. The project is focused on surveying and mapping the graveyard, which dates back to the era when Thomas Gray was writing his poem.

Under the watchful eye of science and math teacher Ashley Butterfield and Dave Hackett, president of the Historical Society, the students are scattered across the cemetery,



Harpswell Coastal Academy teacher Ashley Butterfield and student Jayden Fleetwood review their research in the Common Burying Ground behind the Harpswell Meetinghouse. (DOUG WARREN PHOTO)

collecting data and examining headstones. Some are using a replica of an 18th-century transit, equipped with Hackett's grandfather's compass, to survey the grounds. They are measuring the stone walls in furlongs (roughly 16.5 feet) with a length of chain, a practice that

would have been familiar to a noted 18th-century surveyor: George Washington.

"They are learning so much through this exercise, using math and measurements and working as a team in a real-life setting," said Butterfield. "And they have big plans, including

using their tech skills on a searchable website, connected to the Historical Society's homepage."

The students also plan to post interviews with Hackett, who has ancestors buried in the cemetery, on the website (harpswellhistorical.org), along with profiles of some of the other people at eternal rest there.

"The meetinghouse is 18 years older than the United States," Hackett explained. "And the cemetery is older than that. For many years, this was the only cemetery in Harpswell. In the early days, folks from the islands brought their kin here by boat for burial." He pointed out that Clement Orr, a prominent member of the island's namesake family, was interred here in 1813.

Also buried in the cemetery is Elisha Eaton, first minister of Harpswell's Congregational church. He held services in the meetinghouse, the oldest surviving meetinghouse in the state and a National Historic

Landmark. Elisha and his wife, Katherine, had 11 children before Elisha died in 1764 and their son, Samuel, took over the ministry until his death in 1822. He and his mother are also buried here.

Academy student Jayden Fleetwood was walking among the headstones, clipboard in hand, gathering information on some of the cemetery's permanent residents. He admitted it was a little unsettling thinking about the bodies buried under his feet, but he expressed excitement about the mapping project.

"It's pretty cool coming here," Fleetwood said. "I'm excited about the website we're going to build and using my math skills." Pausing a moment to reflect, he added: "There are a bunch of memories here. It's amazing to think that some of the people here were part of the American Revolution and were alive before our country even existed."

Back across the street at the **See CEMETERY on Page 20**



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Letters to the Editor

Disappointment and disbelief

I read the article "Longtime Orr's librarian out as board pursues new vision" with deep disappointment and disbelief. The Orr's Island Library has become the Harpswell institution I love most in the five years I have lived here. The reasons are Joanne Rogers and Maura Donovan. The recognition when you come through the door; the beautiful garden; the thoughtful, spot-on book recommendations (thank you for "Spoonhandle" by Ruth Moore); the friendly chats at the desk among the patrons and librarians; the sense you have that everyone is warmly welcome. You're a fellow reader, even if you just moved here from away, and that's all that counts. It is (or now sadly was) one of my happy places on earth.

When someone asks me to describe Harpswell, I describe the time I came in to pay a 25-cent fine. Joanne explained that the fine jar supports needs that come to her attention in the community. I've never been so delighted to multiply a library fine. Technology is often overrated. Deep, genuine, wholehearted kindness is harder to find.

It seems like an unnecessarily abrupt end. If the board has received only two letters that were less than wildly enthusiastic, I wonder if it is possible that is because there was no formal survey or any other process for library patrons to voice what they value most about the library until after the fact? Orr's Island Library was the people who created it and loved it.

Kristin Brennan, Harpswell

Finest public librarian we know

My wife and I are retired from careers as librarians and library science faculty. We hold library cards for Orr's Island, Curtis Memorial, and our library system back home — Buffalo and Erie County Public Library.

With 37 branches and more than 3 million items (clinically barcoded and digitally cataloged), our Erie County library system serves us well. But the library we hold dear is on Orr's Island. This little haven, as curated by Librarian Joanne Rogers, is the beating heart of Harpswell. This has nothing to do with automation. It's the unforgettable programs and presentations, new series awaiting discovery on the display table, chats with strangers around jigsaw puzzles, food drives, browsing photos in the local history room.

We met Joanne Rogers on our first visit to Maine in 1981 and consider her the finest public librarian we know. Her commitment to community is what gives the Orr's Island Library its "sense of place." The library board's decision to fire her certainly doesn't represent the two of us as library users. If it doesn't represent you either, help set the historical record straight. Write to our newspaper of record, the Harpswell Anchor. Don't let the library board dictate the narrative of this misguided action.

*Bruce and Judith Robinson
Getzville, New York*

Theater binds us together

Thank you for including pictures from the recent production by Harpswell Community Theater in your

What Will January Bring?



TOM BRUDZINSKI * ORR'S ISLAND VISUAL STORYTELLER
INSTAGRAM * "LOBSTARTSTUDIOS"

December edition ("Harpowell Community Theater returns with pair of one-act plays," Pages 12 and 13). Along with other community organizations, such as the Harpswell Anchor, Harpswell Community Theater serves to bind us together as a grassroots New England community.

Since not all actor names were included with the photos, I would like to provide a complete list, since this was a community effort and they should be recognized for their contributions: Capt. Williams (Al Martorelli, assistant director), Detective Dennis O'Finn (Mike Brumet, director), Miss Amantha Abernathy (Kate Willeford), Miss Elizabeth Ellsworth (June Phinney), Miss Birdie Beauregard (Shirley Bernier), Miss Nettie Norton (Donnette Goodenow), Miss Hildegard Hodge (Sarah Cavarra), Detective Kramer (Tom Vurgason), Bernie Deviously (Chris Timm) and support (Jack Rowland).

Harpowell Community Theater will have an informational meeting on Jan. 20, in order to increase participation in future productions. Anyone wishing to be part of the company, either as a performer or in a support role, is encouraged to attend. For more information, contact Mike at brumetfamily@yahoo.com.

Again, thank you for helping us promote the theater. We look forward to working with you in the future.

Mike Brumet, Orr's Island

Preserving our lobstering heritage

When Maine's lobster industry looks back on 2022, we'll likely remember the challenges — high bait and fuel prices, low dock prices, shortages of marine supplies, and a complicated legal challenge that threatens to end the fishery as we know it. But we'll also remember the many heartwarming times when people and communities came together, just as they did in the Harpswell, Orr's and Bailey islands region in early November.

A special thanks to Monique Coombs and her team of dedicated volunteers who organized a successful event, "All Hands on Deck," to celebrate our important lobster industry and to discuss how and why communities need to come together to preserve our lobstering heritage. Working together, this community raised nearly \$10,000 that will directly benefit the Maine Lobstermen's Association's effort to protect the industry for future generations.

We all know just how important the lobster industry is to the Harpswell region and to so many other small communities up and down Maine's coast. Thanks to the efforts of everyone involved in "All Hands on Deck," we can look forward to a new year when we are confident the opportunities for success will outweigh any challenges we may face. Thank you.

*Kevin Kelley
Director of Advancement,
Maine Lobstermen's Association*

ATTENTION HARPSWELL RESIDENTS



NOMINATION PAPERS ARE NOW AVAILABLE for the following Harpswell Municipal Offices, to be voted on Saturday March 11, 2023:

- (1) **Selectman, Assessor and Overseer of the Poor:** 3-Year Term
- (2) **District Directors M.S.A.D. #75:** 3-Year Term

Filing Deadline: **January 10, 2023**, Election Date: **March 11, 2023**

--- Catherine J. Doughty, Town Clerk, 833-5822

1 January 2023 Community Calendar

Jan. 7

The Harpswell Heritage Land Trust hosts a sunrise hike to Giant's Stairs on Bailey Island. Hikers will gather at 6:15 a.m. at the north end of the Giant's Stairs trail and walk along the trail toward the McIntosh Lot Preserve. On the trail, they will experience the twilight at 6:41 a.m. and watch as the winter sun rises on the horizon at 7:13. Wear boots and clothes suitable for a cold morning and an icy and/or snowy trail. Park on Washington Avenue or at the Episcopal chapel. Free, all welcome. Registration required: hhlmaine.org. Rain date Jan. 14.

Jan. 11

The cooks of Harpswell Aging at Home gather from 1-4 p.m. in the Mid Coast Hunger Prevention Program's new industrial kitchen at 179 Neptune Drive, Brunswick, to make dishes for HAH's Meals in a Pinch program. HAH will supply ingredients and recipes. Volunteers should bring their own aprons. To sign up, email juliemoulton28@gmail.com or call or text 207-330-5416.

The Harpswell Invasive Plant Partnership hosts its monthly planning meeting at 2 p.m. on Zoom. HIPP volunteers and anyone who wants to learn more about the partnership meet monthly to plan activities and assess where HIPP's efforts to control invasive plants are most needed. All are welcome. For the Zoom link, email hipp.maine@gmail.com.

Jan. 20

Harpswell Aging at Home's Cooking at 43° North presents "We're Freezing in January" from 4-5 p.m. via Zoom. Participants will learn how to optimize their freezer use and how to avoid freezer burn. For the Zoom link, email juliemoulton28@gmail.com or call or text 207-330-5416.

Jan. 24

Harpswell Aging at Home kicks off 2023 with Lunch with Friends from 12-1 p.m. at the Orr's Island Schoolhouse, 1594 Harpswell Islands Road, Orr's Island. Pick up a bag lunch to take home or sit and eat with friends old and new. All are welcome. Sponsored by Harpswell Heritage Land Trust.

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, 263 Mountain Road, Harpswell, 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 Jan. 3, 17 and 31. 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.

Brunswick and beyond

Jan. 5

The Southern Maine Astronomers welcome all to their monthly club meeting at 7 p.m. on Zoom. The meeting will feature a talk by Ralph Lorenz, a planetary scientist and engineer at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory who serves as the atmospheric structure investigation lead on the NASA DAVINCI probe mission to Venus. Lorenz's presentation will cover past and future missions to Venus, including the findings of the Japanese Akatsuki spacecraft and DAVINCI's operation to touch the surface of Venus and map its atmosphere. To get the Zoom link, click on the "Contact Us" form at southernmaineastronomers.org.

Jan. 6

The Union of Maine Visual Artists Gallery, 516 Congress St., Portland, presents the opening reception for an exhibit of paintings by Harpswell artist Nancy Grice. The reception will take place from 4-8 p.m., during Portland's First Friday Art Walk. The exhibit runs from Jan. 2-28. More information: nancygrice.com.

Jan. 12

All Saints Parish holds the first meeting of a grief support group from 1-3 p.m. at St. Charles Borromeo Church, 132 McKeen St., Brunswick. For more information, call Tricia Smith at 207-798-2371.

Jan. 23

The Sage Square and Round Dance Club hosts its winter round

dance open house at 6:30 p.m. at Woodside Elementary School, 42 Barrows Drive, Topsham. Round dance is choreographed and cued ballroom dancing. Beginners welcome. Partner required. For more information, call Ed Caswell at 207-729-5639, find the club on Facebook, or go to sage.squaredanceme.us.

Ongoing

TOPS, or Take Off Pounds Sensibly, meets in the basement of the Berean Baptist Church, 15 Cumberland St., Brunswick, every Thursday, with weigh-in at 5:30 p.m. and a meeting afterward. More information: 207-729-6400.

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

US HARBORS www.USHarbors.com

South Harpswell, ME - Jan 2023

Date	High				Low				Sun	Moon		
	AM	ft	PM	ft	AM	ft	PM	ft				
1	Sun	6:38	9.4	7:14	8.3	12:14	0.6	1:01	0.4	7:12	4:16	☾
2	Mon	7:34	9.4	8:13	8.2	1:13	0.9	2:01	0.2	7:12	4:17	☾
3	Tue	8:25	9.5	9:06	8.2	2:08	1.1	2:54	0.1	7:12	4:18	☾
4	Wed	9:12	9.5	9:54	8.2	2:57	1.1	3:42	0.0	7:12	4:19	☾
5	Thu	9:56	9.5	10:37	8.3	3:42	1.2	4:25	-0.1	7:12	4:19	☾
6	Fri	10:38	9.5	11:18	8.3	4:24	1.1	5:05	0.0	7:12	4:20	☾
7	Sat	11:17	9.5	11:55	8.2	5:03	1.1	5:42	0.0	7:12	4:22	☾
8	Sun	11:54	9.5			5:40	1.1	6:18	0.1	7:12	4:23	☾
9	Mon	12:31	8.2	12:30	9.3	6:16	1.1	6:52	0.2	7:12	4:24	☾
10	Tue	1:07	8.2	1:06	9.2	6:53	1.2	7:26	0.3	7:11	4:25	☾
11	Wed	1:42	8.2	1:43	8.9	7:31	1.2	8:02	0.4	7:11	4:26	☾
12	Thu	2:19	8.2	2:23	8.7	8:13	1.3	8:40	0.6	7:11	4:27	☾
13	Fri	2:58	8.3	3:08	8.4	8:59	1.3	9:21	0.8	7:10	4:28	☾
14	Sat	3:40	8.4	3:58	8.1	9:48	1.2	10:06	0.9	7:10	4:29	☾
15	Sun	4:26	8.6	4:52	7.9	10:41	1.1	10:56	1.1	7:09	4:31	☾
16	Mon	5:16	8.8	5:52	7.8	11:39	0.9	11:51	1.1	7:09	4:32	☾
17	Tue	6:12	9.1	6:56	7.9			12:42	0.5	7:08	4:33	☾
18	Wed	7:11	9.5	7:59	8.2	12:50	1.0	1:44	0.0	7:08	4:34	☾
19	Thu	8:11	10.0	8:58	8.5	1:51	0.7	2:43	-0.5	7:07	4:35	☾
20	Fri	9:08	10.6	9:54	9.0	2:49	0.3	3:39	-1.0	7:06	4:37	☾
21	Sat	10:04	11.0	10:49	9.4	3:45	-0.1	4:33	-1.5	7:05	4:38	☾
22	Sun	10:59	11.3	11:42	9.7	4:40	-0.5	5:25	-1.7	7:05	4:39	☾
23	Mon	11:53	11.3			5:35	-0.7	6:16	-1.8	7:04	4:41	☾
24	Tue	12:33	9.9	12:46	11.1	6:29	-0.8	7:07	-1.6	7:03	4:42	☾
25	Wed	1:24	10.0	1:40	10.6	7:24	-0.7	7:57	-1.2	7:02	4:43	☾
26	Thu	2:17	9.9	2:36	10.0	8:21	-0.5	8:50	-0.7	7:01	4:45	☾
27	Fri	3:11	9.8	3:35	9.3	9:20	-0.2	9:44	-0.1	7:00	4:46	☾
28	Sat	4:06	9.5	4:37	8.6	10:22	0.2	10:40	0.6	7:00	4:47	☾
29	Sun	5:03	9.2	5:41	8.1	11:26	0.4	11:39	1.1	6:59	4:49	☾
30	Mon	6:02	9.0	6:46	7.8			12:32	0.6	6:58	4:50	☾
31	Tue	7:02	8.9	7:49	7.7	12:41	1.4	1:36	0.6	6:56	4:51	☾



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Eagle Island's Peary house to see major renovations

BY CONNIE SAGE CONNER

Renowned Arctic explorer Robert E. Peary Sr.'s home on Eagle Island will remain closed in summer 2023 for a third straight year for major renovations and eradication of mold. The grounds, trails and welcome center will continue to be open to the public and staffed with park employees and volunteers.

The Harpswell cultural treasure is a National Historic Landmark and a State Historic Site. The 17-acre Casco Bay island, south of Harpswell Neck, is accessible only by water, although private companies offer trips.

During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, the home and its museum of artifacts was closed and off-limits to tourists. Meanwhile, mold, discovered in early 2021, had a field day and now needs to be remediated.

Repairs or replacements are planned for everything from the roof to the foundation, from windows to stone stairs. Also scheduled is work to prevent further damage to historical artifacts caused by pests, and upgrades to the fire suppression system.

Gary Best, regional manager with the Maine Bureau of Parks

and Lands, said he doesn't know how much the job will cost. "It's a big project, it's a complicated project, it's an important project," Best said. Work is expected to continue through June 2025. Whether the home will stay closed in 2024 and beyond is not known.

"We're taking it one step at a time," said Best. Money for the initial architectural and engineering plans will be paid from state funds. "As we look at the overall cost for the construction phase, we'll start evaluating the finances — whether (to use) state, federal, private or grant funds." No stone will be left unturned, he continued, in looking for "all funding streams."

"The good news ... we're taking a very important step of getting the engineering/architectural firm in place to help us determine timelines and cost estimates," said Best. A contract was expected to be signed by December.

Best noted that because the Peary home is on an island, there's "a whole new level of complexity as far as equipment, material, weather and transportation." The museum also is "full of collections," he added. "We'll



The Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands is planning major renovations to the home of North Pole explorer Robert E. Peary Sr., on Eagle Island in Harpswell. (PHOTO COURTESY MAINE BUREAU OF PARKS AND LANDS)

certainly be guiding and leading (the project) and have experts both in collections and construction working together."

Mold remediation won't be one of the bigger expenses, said Best, but work will be done to make sure the mold doesn't come back.

Steve Ingram, president of the nonprofit Friends of Eagle Island, said, "The mistake was leaving (the house) all closed up in a damp environment. Mold is throughout, under windows, on rugs — anywhere moisture collects."

Some of the museum relics won't be put back on the island

because they're too delicate, said Ingram, and some artifacts are temporarily removed at the end of every summer. Included is a clock from the steamship Roosevelt that Peary designed to withstand Arctic conditions. A sexton the explorer took to the North Pole and narwhal tusks also are taken off-season to the mainland for safekeeping.

Peary grew up in Portland and graduated from Bowdoin College in 1877 with a degree in civil engineering. He bought Eagle Island for \$200 in July 1881 from George W. Curtis, of Harpswell, and the island became his summer and retirement home.

Peary made multiple expeditions to the Arctic, including two with his wife, Josephine. Their daughter, Marie, known as "snow baby," was born in 1889 in Greenland.

Peary's claim to have been the first to reach the North Pole has been disputed, but he is considered one of the greatest and most famous Arctic explorers. Between expeditions, he served in the U.S. Navy, ascending to the rank of rear admiral.

Peary died in 1920. His wife and son, Robert Peary Jr., and his son's family summered on the island after his death. The Peary descendants donated the home to the state in 1967.

"It's disappointing that people can't get in to see (the home)," said Ingram. "It will be nice when it's cleaned up and back in business."

Best said the state is committed to the project. "We're excited," he said. "We're going to make sure we move as thoughtfully and swiftly as possible."

Or, as Adm. Peary proclaimed: "Find a way or make one."

Connie Sage Conner is a retired editor of *The Virginian-Pilot*. She lives in Harpswell and serves on the Harpswell News Board of Directors. ☺

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NEWS BRIEFS

Town election season begins

Harpswell will elect one member of its Board of Selectmen and two representatives to the Maine School Administrative District 75 Board of Directors in March, all for three-year terms. As of Dec. 1, candidates can take out nomination papers at the Town Office to make the ballot for those positions.

To appear on the ballot, a candidate must take out nomination papers, collect signatures from at least 25 and no more than 100 registered voters, then return the papers to the Town Office by 4:30 p.m. on Jan. 10.

The incumbents are Selectman Kevin Johnson and MSAD 75 Directors Eric Lusk and Margaret "Greta" Warren.

Johnson chairs the select board. During a Dec. 1 board meeting, he confirmed his intent to seek a fourth consecutive three-year term. The board has a "lot of irons in the fire," he said. Johnson has returned his nomination papers, according to the town clerk's office.

Lusk, a financial adviser, joined the school board in 2020. With no candidate on the ballot, he garnered 17 write-in votes in a March election to secure a three-year term. The Times Record reported at the time. Lusk has taken out nomination papers, according to the town clerk's office.

Warren, a nonprofit administrator, joined the school board in March, when the select board picked her from among four candidates to fill a vacancy left by the resignation of Alison Hawkes. Warren did not respond to an inquiry about whether she would seek election.

An early entrant into the race is Gregory Greenleaf, an English teacher at Greely High School in Cumberland. Greenleaf, of Cundy's Harbor, was one of the four candidates who sought Warren's seat in March 2022.

(Editor's note: Gregory Greenleaf writes the "Lost on a Loop Trail" humor column for the Harpswell Anchor.)

Another of those four candidates, Tyler Washburn, said in an email that he is

considering a run and hopes to decide by Christmas. Washburn, a former Bowdoin representative to the school board, now lives on Orr's Island.

With two seats on the ballot, both for three-year terms, voters can select up to two candidates for school board and the top two vote-getters will take the seats.

MSAD 75 consists of Bowdoin, Bowdoinham, Harpswell and Topsham. Harpswell has four seats on its 14-member board.

The election will coincide with Harpswell's first traditional town meeting since 2019, on March 11 at Harpswell Community School. The polls for the election will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., while the business meeting will commence at 10 a.m.

Short film earns accolades

Brody Bernheisel chose Harpswell for the first short film he has written, directed and produced, and it was a success. "A Mother's Nature," a six-minute narrative, was shot off Mountain Road in June 2021 and won awards nationally and internationally.

Bernheisel and his wife, Carrie Erving, live in New York City. Erving's mother, Nancy Grice, has a home on Mountain Road, where the couple stayed during the COVID-19 pandemic. They now co-own the home with Grice. "We have foreseeable roots in Harpswell. I try to be up there as much as possible," Bernheisel said in a telephone interview.

Bernheisel, who produces



Tara Westwood appears in a scene from the short film "A Mother's Nature."

commercials nationwide, won best first-time director in the Best Actor and Director Awards — New York. Tara Westwood, the star of the film, was named best actress at the 2022 Berlin (Germany) Shorts Awards, as well as last year's San Francisco Indie Shorts.

Other international recognition includes selections as a finalist in last year's Paris International Short Festival and this year's Hamburg Film Awards. It was 2022's "official selection" at both the Venice

Shorts and Amsterdam Short Film Festival, and was chosen in the same category for the (Las) Vegas Shorts.

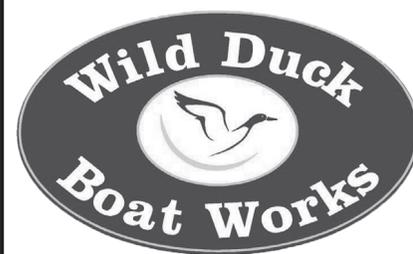
The film — see it for free at vimeo.com/623908621 — is based on a true story. Bernheisel said he and his mother were at a lake in Michigan some years ago when she spotted a man's body in the water, dragged him to shore and attempted to revive him.

"In the real-life situation, the person in the water died,"

Bernheisel said. "When the emergency crew arrived, she just came home. She was very muddy, worried and distraught."

"A Mother's Nature" cost \$20,000 to produce and was shot in the area of Lombos Hole and Reach Road. When Bernheisel needed an ambulance on set, producer Joel Inchaustegui rented a Brunswick ambulance and medic's time for a day.

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NEWS BRIEFS

of people putting love and positive energy in, you yield good results. The team is crucial," Bernheisel said.

Bernheisel said he didn't have any expectations from the more than 40 festivals he entered. "It panned out," he said.

The awards helped make up for what he described as "a pretty traumatic year." He had a rough case of COVID-19 and his best friend died in a Colorado avalanche. "You take it as it comes," he said. "Having the film win awards — those are the things you don't really expect."

Grant to fund LED lights for Town Office

A \$32,203 grant from Maine's Community Resilience Partnership will allow the town to install efficient lighting and conduct an energy audit of the

Town Office.

Most of the funds will go toward the replacement of the building's lighting with LED lighting, while \$4,500 will pay for the energy audit. The audit could result in recommendations to further reduce the building's energy use.

The project is part of the town's sustainability plan and seeks to reduce the town's carbon emissions.

The Harpswell Resiliency and Sustainability Committee developed the sustainability plan and shepherded the town through the steps necessary to join the Community Resilience Partnership.

Selectman Jane Covey recognized those contributions following the announcement of the grant during a selectmen's meeting on Dec. 1.

"I think it's also a testament

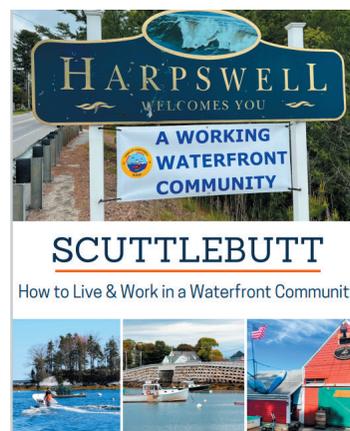
to the pre-work that's been done over many years so that Harpswell is ready to go as this program has been initiated, and I think we really need to thank and congratulate everyone who worked on it for a long time," Covey said.

Established in December 2021, the Community Resilience Partnership helps municipalities and tribal governments reduce carbon emissions, transition to clean energy, and increase their resilience to the effects of climate change. The Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future administers the partnership.

The creation of the partnership was a recommendation of Maine's four-year climate action plan, "Maine Won't Wait."

Gov. Janet Mills announced \$2.9 million in grants from the partnership to 91 communities, including Harpswell, on the plan's second anniversary.

"We are making unprecedented strides to embrace clean energy, to reduce carbon emissions, and to help our communities fight, at every level, the greatest danger of our time," Mills said in a speech at Colby College on Dec. 1. "With our climate action plan as our guide, we will be the generation that protects this precious place we all call home, so that future generations may live in a Maine that is as beautiful and bountiful as it is today."



Guide to Harpswell waterfront published

A new guide to the Harpswell waterfront aims to educate both current residents and newcomers about the community they share.

"Scuttlebutt: How to Live & Work in a Waterfront Community" is a collaborative effort among the Maine Coast Fishermen's Association, Cundy's Harbor Library, Harpswell Anchor, Harpswell Heritage Land Trust and Holbrook Community Foundation.

"Sustaining Maine's fishing communities for future generations is a critical part of the Maine Coast Fishermen's Association's mission," said Monique Coombs, director of community programs for the association. "Working with community partners and sharing information about Maine's working waterfront and commercial fishing are an integral part of that work. MCFA was pleased to collaborate on publishing this guide for Harpswell and hopes that it

might serve as a model for other communities."

"Scuttlebutt" includes facts about Harpswell fisheries, advice for homeowners to protect the coastal environment, tips for cooking local seafood, and information about preserving access for future generations to work on the waterfront, along with other resources. The title of the guide speaks to its intention to provide insider information, or "scuttlebutt," in order to foster a sense of community and shared values.

"Scuttlebutt" is a great resource for those new to Harpswell so they can get to know and understand our local community," HHLT Executive Director Julia McLeod said.

The guide was created following a series of panel presentations held in fall 2021 and spring 2022, "Living and Working in a Waterfront Community: A Conversation Series." These presentations aimed to create a dialogue in the community. Topics included the seasonality of fisheries, fishing through the generations, access to the waterfront, and etiquette on the water.

The panel presentations were recorded and accompanied by articles in the Harpswell Anchor. The articles and recordings are available on HHLT's website. Go to hhlmaine.org and click on "Working Waterfront" in the drop-down menu under "Resources."

"We are committed to continuing conversations and providing resources like this guide that bring us together across our islands and harbors," said Heather Logan, director of the Cundy's Harbor Library.

Copies of "Scuttlebutt" will be available at the Cundy's Harbor Library, the HHLT office, the Harpswell Town Office, and online, at mainecoastfishermen.org/working-waterfront. To learn more about the guide, contact Coombs at monique@mainecoastfishermen.org.

This month's News Briefs are by the Harpswell Anchor and the Maine Coast Fishermen's Association (waterfront guide). Have news to share? Send it to joliver@harpswellanchor.org. To find guidelines and more information, go to harpswellanchor.org/submissions. &

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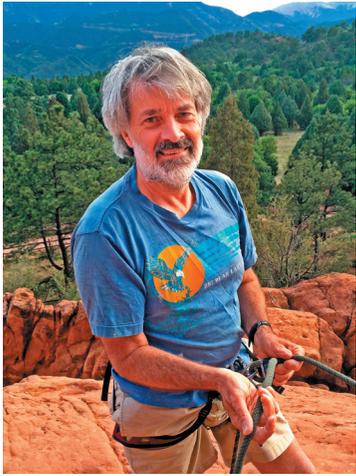
WE WELCOME YOU!

HARPSWELL ANCHOR

Happy New Year from the Anchor!

And thanks to the many readers who supported our 2021 Newsmatch appeal with their generous gifts!

Famous for '88 Everest ascent, Harpswell Neck mountaineer dies at 66



Ed Webster rock climbing in Colorado in 2018. (STEWART GREEN PHOTO)

BY SAM LEMONICK

Legendary mountaineer Ed Webster died suddenly on Nov. 22 of natural causes at his home on Harpswell Neck. He was 66. Webster helped pioneer a new route up Mount Everest and established new rock climbing routes across New England, Colorado, and western North America. He was an author and lecturer, speaking to audiences as far away as Antarctica and as close as Woodside Elementary School in Topsham. He and his wife, Lisa Webster, raised their daughter, Joyelle, in Harpswell, where he also nurtured a prolific vegetable garden.

Webster's climbing career began in the trees in his backyard in Lexington, Massachusetts, and soon expanded to the cliffs of Massachusetts and the White Mountains. At 11, his stepmother gave him a book describing a 1963 American expedition up Mount Everest, which kindled a lifelong obsession with the world's tallest peak.

He was a member of three expeditions to Mount Everest in the 1980s, culminating with a 1988 ascent up an unclimbed route on Mount Everest's remote and technically challenging east face. The four-person team climbed without oxygen bottles, radios, or Sherpa climbing guides.

Webster lost eight fingertips to frostbite when he took a series of photographs of the rising sun's light against the mountains, and three toes as well. He did not reach the summit, stopping a few hundred feet short after bouts of hallucination and losing consciousness.

But decades later, he would tell Woodside students that success means having a goal and trying to reach it, regardless of whether or not you do. "Ed helped me define what success

really is," says Helene McGlaufflin, a retired Woodside counselor.

With Webster she created a program for fifth graders called Mount Everest Base Camp. Each winter the classes would set up tents in the snowy field behind the school. Over hot cocoa and Pop-Tarts — the most popular breakfast on Mount Everest, according to Webster — he would talk about success, survival, and the beauty of the Earth. McGlaufflin says students looked forward to it all the way through elementary school.

His longtime friend and climbing partner Jimmie Dunn tells a story from another elementary school, in Boulder, Colorado. A boy in the audience raised his hand after Webster's Everest lecture to say that he had gotten frostbite on his toe, and asked if he would be OK. Dunn remembers Webster crossing the room and getting down on eye level with the child to assure him that yes, he would be OK.

Friends and climbing partners in Colorado remember Webster as a person who lived for climbing. He first moved to the state as a student at Colorado College in 1974 and lived there intermittently until the early 2000s. He made numerous first ascents of climbing routes across Colorado, in the Moab Desert, and beyond, helping to push the sport of rock climbing forward in its early years.

When you climbed with Ed, "you reckoned you'd get up something," says another old climbing buddy, Stewart Green. "He didn't like backing down."

Webster was always a great storyteller, friends say. From the beginning he wrote magazine articles about his adventures, which, along with his photography, helped him make a living and climb prolifically at the same time.

They also remember him having a romantic view of climbing and mountaineering and the explorers who he read about in books from an early age. Webster was acutely aware of his own place in that history, obsessively taking notes on his own outings, even during the ascent of Mount Everest.

He wrote guidebooks to climbing spots and an account of his expeditions to the Himalayas, "Snow in the Kingdom." At the time of his death he was working on a book about the climber Fritz Wiessner and other projects.

Webster received awards for his writing and his mountaineering, and one for saving the life of a climbing

partner who was trapped by a falling boulder.

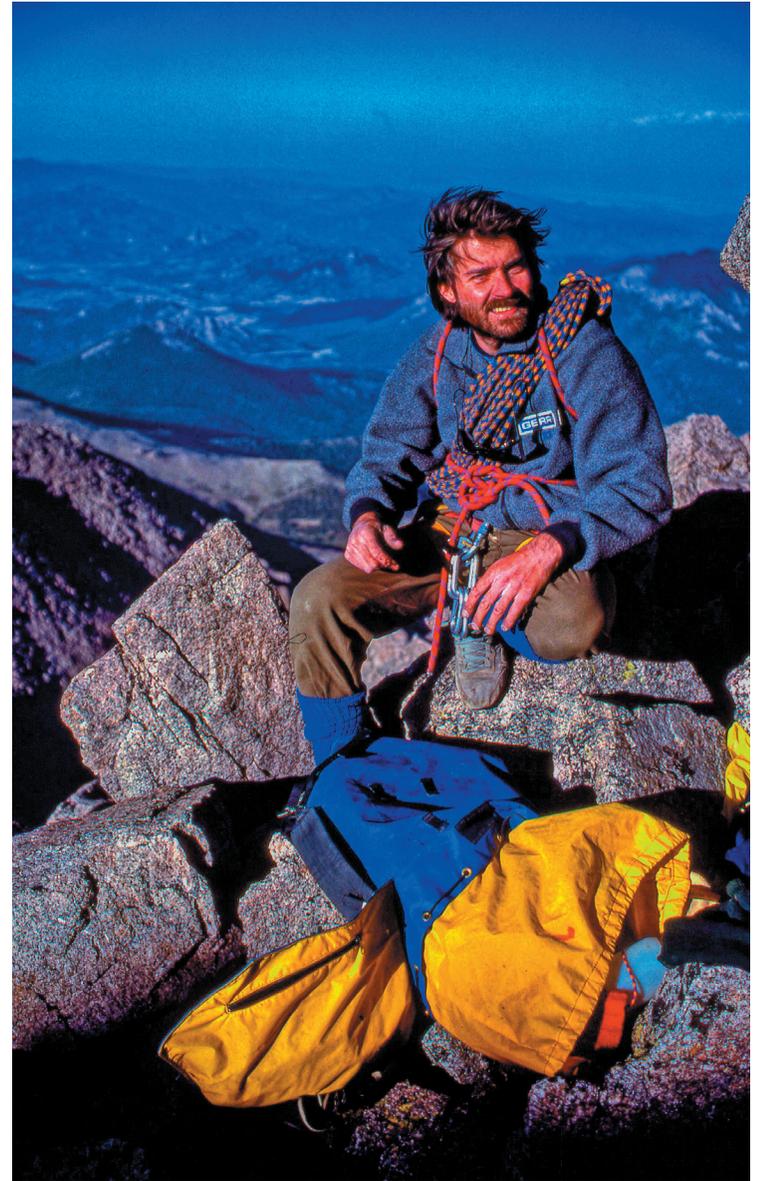
Kurt Winkler, a friend and partner of Webster's in New England, says that Webster's own hardships — losing fingertips and toes to frostbite, and the 1984 death of a girlfriend in a climbing accident — helped shape Webster's character and gave him a powerful ability to relate to people.

Winkler recalls his own experience of recovering from frostbite, during which time Webster drove from Colorado to New Hampshire to take Winkler out climbing. The two made it up a new route, even with Winkler's fingers in bandages, and helped restore Winkler's confidence. "I think he kind of knew that's what I needed," he says.

That talent for connecting with people didn't stop when he moved to Harpswell, whether it was telling his stories at Woodside Elementary or dropping off bags of his vegetables to his neighbors. And Winkler says that even after a long day climbing in New Hampshire's White Mountains and getting back to their cars after dark, Webster always wanted to drive home to be with his family.

"We tend to often think about people in terms of the achievements, the things they did," says Green. "At the end of the day, the person Ed was was more important than all that stuff was."

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



Ed Webster in 1985 at the summit of Longs Peak in Colorado. (STEWART GREEN PHOTO)



Harpswell Community Theater is looking for actors!

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Harpswell Community Theater will have an informational meeting on January 20th, in order to increase participation with future productions. Anyone wishing to be part of the company, either as performers or in a support role, is encouraged to attend. For more information, contact our Director Mike Brumet at brumetfamily@yahoo.com

HAH volunteers use experience and interests to make a difference

BY KATHY HICKEY
HARPSWELL AGING AT HOME
Volunteer opportunities allow us to utilize our past experiences and skills. Over the years, Harpswell Aging at Home has benefited from the talents of many volunteers and has, in turn, provided those volunteers with an outlet to pursue their interests and passions.

A conversation at a meditation class brought Dave Brown and Jess Maurer together to start Harpswell Aging at Home. Brown, a retired college professor and organizational development consultant, and Maurer, the executive director of Maine's Council on Aging, saw an unmet need in Harpswell. They wanted to provide our neighbors with ways to successfully age in their own homes, and they started building the blocks seven years ago.

Drawing on their own outreach skills, "We started recruiting

others who we thought might be interested and helpful," said Brown. Through surveys and focus groups, they identified concerns that included food, transportation and home repairs. HAH grew from there. "It was about neighbors helping neighbors," Brown added.

Retired teacher and school administrator Surrey Hardcastle joined the group and became chair of the Food Committee. "My husband does the cooking!" Hardcastle said, laughing. "I'm not a foodie. But food is very social – it was perfect."

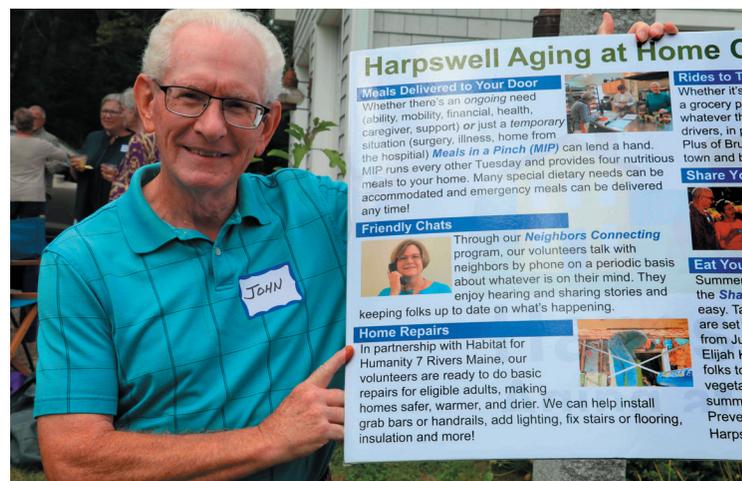
Hardcastle uses her leadership and organizational skills to oversee a team of hundreds of cooks and make sure programs like Meals in a Pinch, Lunch with Friends and Snacks with Friends run smoothly. HAH also played a role in connecting with the Mid Coast Hunger Prevention Program, which now offers a mobile food pantry behind the Town Office

each Thursday morning.

After starting her career planning programs with the Red Cross for American GIs in Korea, Karin Soderberg spent 14 years as a program director for membership at Mystic Seaport. "It was fun," remembered Soderberg. "I got to call up people from all over the world and ask them to speak to our members and plan trips as well."

Soderberg now lends her talents to help organize cooking workshops and demonstrations with Cooking at 43° North, which recently offered a Thai cooking class, a cookie swap, and a Feast of the Seven Fishes demonstration. The program will hold an oyster-focused event in February.

Soderberg's experience working with presenters has helped HAH's guest speakers feel supported and comfortable. "I'm not really a good cook," she said. "I can, however, bring organizational



Harpwell Aging at Home volunteer John Ferraro highlights the efforts of the Home Repairs Team.

skills to planning events up front."

Kathy D'Agostino, who originally volunteered as a cook with HAH, turned her curiosity into a monthly column in the Harpswell Anchor that focuses on recipes and the stories behind them. "I'm reserved, but I'll talk to anyone," said D'Agostino, who brings life to favorite recipes from Harpswell neighbors and local restaurants. She loves meeting people and getting the "scoop" from everyone about their dishes.

As the leader of the Home Repairs Team, John Ferraro brought his extensive experience as an engineer with a power company, along with construction skills learned from his father. "When I retired, I was looking for something to do with my time," said Ferraro. "I'm a hands-on person."

The group that performs

repairs each week includes four project coordinators, assisted by members who develop materials lists. Ferraro helps with individual projects and serves as a liaison to Habitat for Humanity and the HAH Steering Committee. "I'm organized by nature," he said. "I enjoy working with the crew and helping them set up for the next week's work."

Volunteers who sought to meet people and contribute to their community have been encouraged and supported to bring new ideas to HAH in an effort to lend a hand. "All skills are welcome," noted Soderberg. "The more diversity of skills and ideas, the better the programs will be."

If you are interested in putting your background and experience to great use, please visit HAH's website at hah.community to explore possibilities. ⚓



Harpwell is a special place. Our small businesses are a big part of that.

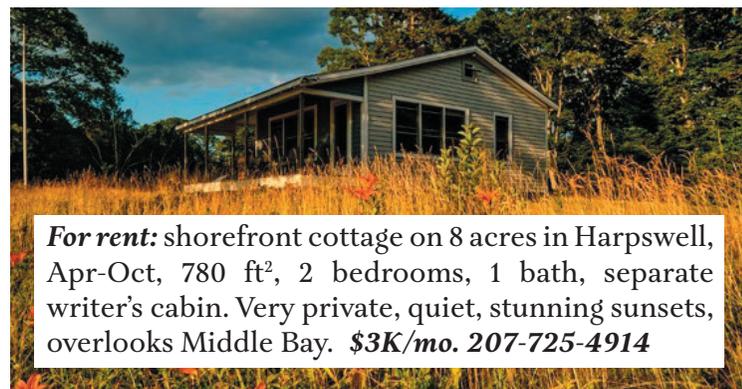
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For more information, contact Janice Thompson at janice@harpwellanchor.org or (207) 504-4428.

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Cundy's Harbor rings in the season with Christmas fair

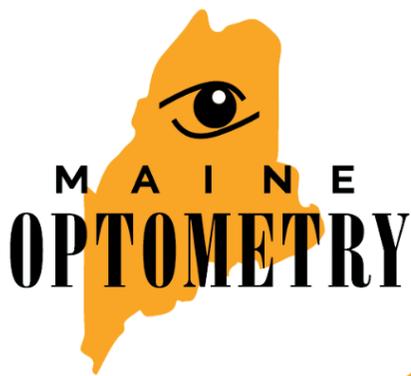


Bird ornaments on display at the Christmas craft fair in Cundy's Harbor. (JESSICA PICARD PHOTO)



Lisa Bisson (left) and Meriel Longley pose for a photo during a Christmas craft fair at the Cundy's Harbor Community Hall on Dec. 3. Longley is president of the Cundy's Harbor Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary, which organizes the fair. (JESSICA PICARD PHOTO)

About the photographer: Jessica Picard, of Newcastle, works for the Maine Department of Labor, writing and photographing in her spare time. She previously worked as a journalist and photographer in Midcoast Maine and Massachusetts.



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Garden Club, Historical Society light up Harpswell Center tree



Lights twinkle on the Christmas tree at Centennial Hall as celebrants gather on the deck after the ceremonial lighting. (LOU KIMBALL PHOTO)

Members of the Harpswell Garden Club and Harpswell Historical Society celebrate under Christmas lights and festive ribbons on the deck of Centennial Hall in Harpswell Center on Dec. 3. (LOU KIMBALL PHOTO)

About the photographer: Lou Kimball, a retired architect, lives on Harpswell Neck, where he builds wooden boats and brews beer. Prior to becoming an architect, he was a photographer and taught at Ansel Adams' workshops.

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DEB PENNEY



AMANDA MCGOVERN

Thinking in Public: Anticipation



BY BUTCH LAWSON

It's chilly, 24 degrees with a 20-mph northwest breeze. For dramatic effect, I'd tell you what the "wind chill" factor is, but you and I don't need any more drama. Just figure it's 24 degrees and blowy. Dress accordingly; summer is both a distant memory and too far away for anticipation. Think back a few months, grab a Moxie from the fridge and let's talk about the season opposite this one.

The pale chevrons on the tops of my feet from a flip-flop-based summer wardrobe are faded now and hidden by colorful and toasty Acorns from Renys. No doubt in my future are a pair of black, Velcro-closed, clown-size sneakers conforming to the apparent footwear rules for male residents in the dementia ward. Or maybe I'll go '50s vintage rock 'n' roll with a pair of oxblood Snap Jacks. (Google it, children.)

Sorry, the train left the tracks for a sec.

The signs of last summer's end began appearing before summer ended in the third week of September, an annual event that always hits me hard, right in my ambivalence. While I enjoy most of the things that characterize the warmest season, it can and often does overdo it, as we saw for weeks straight this past summer. Since my return home to the islands 15 years ago, the blessing of air conditioning has never been more appreciated than this past summer. Also, this past summer was the first summer we had it.

Being indoors to escape the humidity made it tempting to turn on the idiot box for some diversionary entertainment. However, 2022 being an

election year meant I had to mute the TV for five minutes every three minutes if I wished to avoid the political hissy fits that were obviously scripted by highly paid staffs of poli-sci-bound third graders. I am neither gullible nor ignorant enough to believe all that palaver, yet I understand that the First Amendment allows them the freedom to freely annoy the crap out of me. Speaking of annoyances, I also thank the Lord for the miracle of caller ID and phones with a "ringer off" option.

Between Thanksgiving and Christmas, the same type of childish hissy fit displayed in some of those TV political ads occurs in the toy departments of every Walmart in the country. Predictably, these tantrums lack an announcer admitting at the end that they are, in fact, the suspect, and, incredibly, they approve this particular misrepresentation.

Our television got a lengthy rest over a few months as we turned it on only for the evening weather tease and the in-case-you-missed-it-this-is-what-happened-today weather segment. That's followed by a weather tease, then the in-case-you-don't-

have-windows-this-is-what's-going-on-in-your-dooryard-right-now weather segment, another weather tease, and, finally, the weather forecast, all of which were repeated each half-hour between muted political ads leading up to the elections.

Summer hung around into November, with cold-blooded native kids still swimming in a couple of the warmer coves. Then, in an instant, summer packed up and headed south, leaving autumn, a disappointing substitute, in charge. Remember Buffalo's 6 feet of snow the week before Thanksgiving? Yup, autumn.

Time flew by this fall, with the entire world seemingly out of kilter. As Christmas drew down upon us, we decided to scale down our gift-giving to nearly zero (grandkids excepted, of course). Hold your fire and don't be charging me with aggravated humbuggery just yet. I am an enthusiastic participant in the celebration of Christmas and, as they say, the reason for the season. Instead of buying gifts for ourselves because that's what we've always done, we put our money where it would do more good for some

who truly need the help this season. In the end, we got more joy from that than from unwrapping packages of stuff we simply don't need. We have everything we need. This Christmas felt good.

Under my socks remain the pale chevrons, a reminder of those days, not long ago, when the quiet hum of the mini-split was enough to make me happy. Now I'm ready for something else. I want time

to slow to a crawl for a while. I want the peace and quiet in my home to last, and I am perfectly willing to pay for it in snowstorms. But while these Acorn socks are comfy, I do admit to looking forward to having my flip-flops back in the rotation.

Maybe I'm anticipating after all.

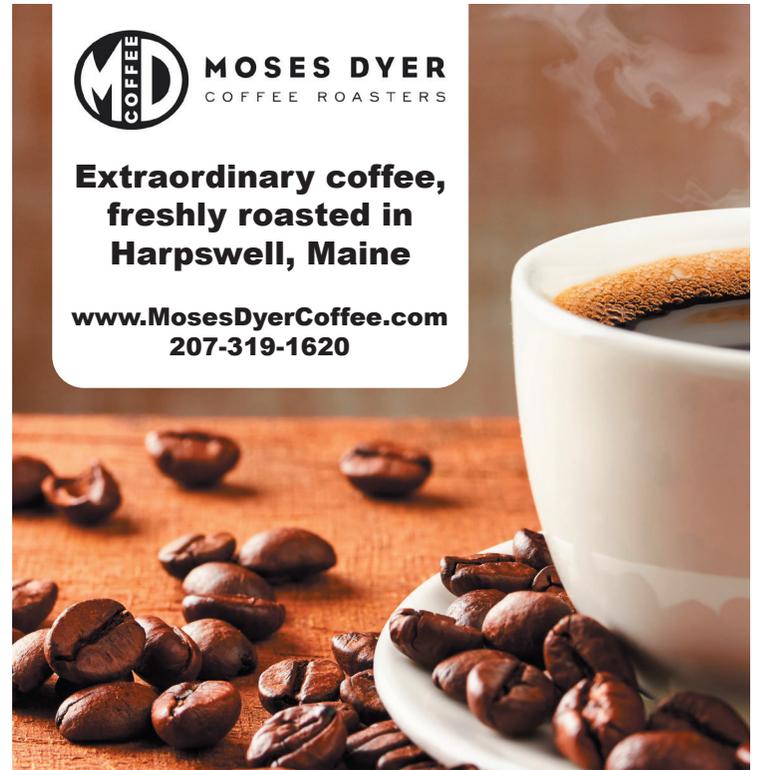
Butch Lawson is an observer of life. He lives on Bailey Island. ☺



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Cooking at 43° North: A recipe to warm a winter's night

BY KATHY D'AGOSTINO

The holidays are over. It's typical to feel a bit deflated this time of year. The hustle and bustle are behind us. In December it was about comfort and joy. In January it is about comfort and warmth. We are in the throes of winter here in Maine and personally, nothing warms my soul in January more than comforting food. If it's really cold outside and the sleet is tapping against your windows, by all means, get yourself into the kitchen and create a dish that will fill your heart — and fill your home with a delicious aroma. I promise you, it will make you feel better.

I was seeking a recipe from someone who has lived in Maine for a while and knows a thing or two about Maine winters.

If you live in Harpswell, it's a well-known fact that you can't pay a visit to the transfer station without running into Donnette Goodenow. If you

see her, I can guarantee you will leave with a smile on your face. It's just who she is.

Donnette was born in Brunswick and spent her childhood on a farm in Bowdoinham. She has lived in Harpswell for more than 35 years. If anyone would have a down-home, stick-to-your-ribs Maine recipe, Donnette would. Indeed, she gave me a recipe for her version of shepherd's pie. I'm glad I asked her. It's both delicious and easy.

SHEPHERD'S PIE

Ingredients:

- 2 1/2 pounds ground beef
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 14-ounce can sweet corn (drained)
- 14 ounces creamed corn
- About 5 medium potatoes
- Salt and pepper to taste

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Brown meat in olive oil. Salt and pepper to taste. Drain the

meat. Spread the mixture in a 9-by-13 baking dish, sprayed with cooking spray. Mix the two types of corn and spread over the meat. Peel potatoes and cut into approximately 2-inch cubes. Cook potatoes in salted water for about 20 minutes, until tender, then drain well. (To make creamy, no-fail mashed potatoes, heat about 1/2 cup whole milk with 5 tablespoons butter until butter is melted, then add warm milk mixture to the hot potatoes slowly while mashing with an electric mixer until desired consistency is obtained.) Spread potatoes over corn. Bake at 375 degrees for about 45 minutes. Serve with a side salad and biscuits or crusty bread.

There are many variations on this recipe. Many add a diced onion when browning the meat. Some use lamb instead of beef. Others add string beans or peas to the meat mixture, or top the dish with gravy. Use your imagination.



Nothing warms the soul in January more than comfort food, like Donnette Goodenow's shepherd's pie. (KATHY D'AGOSTINO PHOTO)

Enjoy!

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.

HAH 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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-- from an Anchor reader

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Harpswell Naturalist: Too many deer?

BY ED ROBINSON

One of the joys of writing about nature is hearing from readers who share stories or ask questions about a species of interest. The most common topic is the white-tailed deer, a familiar creature around Harpswell. In the last few years, as their population has climbed, attitudes regarding deer have been in flux.

Many of us grew up with the Walt Disney movie "Bambi," which portrayed deer as gentle, benign creatures who suffer greatly at the hand of mankind. There was good reason for that belief in the early 1900s, because we had exploited the deer herd in America, reducing it to fewer than 500,000. Thanks to regulated hunting seasons and the conversion of farmland to suburbia, the deer herd is now estimated at 34 million and growing. The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife puts the population in Maine at 320,000.

Northern Maine long had a reputation for producing reliable harvests of big deer, the heaviest on record topping the scales at more than 400 pounds. But as marginal farmland reverted to forest, the deer population dropped. It is still declining, partly due to changes in timber harvesting.

In southern Maine it is a different story, as deer have readily adapted to living among suburban developments and hunting access is increasingly restricted. Global warming is a contributor, as recent mild winters resulted in higher survival rates and birth rates are rising. A healthy doe may produce up to 25 fawns during her lifetime.

In summer and autumn, deer prosper on vegetation, fungi and fruit. Deer readily adapt to winter conditions by eating a diet heavy on browse, the new growth of trees and shrubs. Some well-meaning people resort to winter feeding of deer in the mistaken belief that this helps deer survive. Not only does this concentrate deer near feeding sites, it may draw in predators like coyotes and it increases the risk of landscaping damage and road accidents. The availability of winter foods like cracked corn can harm a deer's digestive tract. The Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife is now concerned about the spread of chronic wasting disease. Please note that Maine legislation restricts feeding deer between June 1 and Dec. 15, and baiting for hunting or photography is illegal.

A recent issue has driven significant change in attitudes about deer in Harpswell. The ongoing growth in tick populations has led to rising incidence of tick-borne diseases like Lyme and anaplasmosis. Local resident Russell Turner questioned if we have too many deer because he and his wife, keen gardeners, have been forced to deal with more tick bites and many neighbors have become ill.

Russell is on solid ground here, because deer are significant hosts to both nymph and adult ticks, leading the Maine Medical Center Research Institute to label southern deer populations as a public health hazard. Deer feeding in your yard can drop hundreds of ticks during the year, many of them harboring disease-causing microbes.

While Maine has a long tradition



The Maine Medical Center Research Institute has labeled deer a public health hazard in southern Maine because they host ticks, which transmit diseases like Lyme and anaplasmosis. (ED ROBINSON PHOTO)

of big-game hunting, and most of the population supports the activity, many newcomers to the state are against hunting, particularly near their homes. As towns like Harpswell gain population, larger blocks of land are split up for home sites, and historic hunting land is lost. Across the country, many communities have wrestled with deer numbers, experimenting with trap-and-transfer programs and even sterilization efforts. After many failures, the consensus is that the only effective way to manage deer populations is via regulated hunting. Locally I have seen a change in recent years as three landowner groups opened their forest areas to a limited number of hunters. Harpswell restricts hunting to archery equipment, shotguns and black-powder weapons.

In answer to Russell's question, the facts point to local deer populations being in excess. The Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

estimates that in southern counties like Cumberland, deer densities may reach 40 per square mile, well beyond the carrying capacity of the land. Deer can strip a forest of new growth below 6 feet and eliminate plants that may be endangered. In response, the department introduced a new any-deer harvest plan this year, encouraging hunters to take both bucks and does in our region. Final harvest numbers are not yet available, but it appears the total will exceed 42,000, a new record.

What can we do? Choose native plants for landscaping, those that deer will not eat. Fence your garden. Suspend deer feeding programs. If you have a few acres, consider allowing access to experienced, responsible hunters who emphasize safety.

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 education efforts. ♪

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--- Catherine J. Doughty, Town Clerk, 833-5822

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Joanne Tarlin
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Never Not Amazed: Announcing the year of ...

BY ERIN O'MARA

I'm disingenuous about New Year's resolutions, so I quit making them a long time ago. In the very moment I'd vow to lose weight, exercise more, cook nutritious meals with joy, and somehow be a better person, generally or specifically, my inner voice mocked my earnest intentions and I knew I'd never follow through. When everyone else is frustrated in the third week of January because they haven't made it to the gym at 5 a.m. three days a week like they promised, I'm at peace, self-satisfied and way ahead of the acceptance curve.

You'll never hear me share my New Year's resolution but I'm a sucker for a theme.

A well-considered, intentional, meaty, sink-my-fingers-in-and-hold-on theme is a beacon and an animating force. And thanks to creative friends and respect for tradition, I've lived more annual themes than I can remember.

We declared one year "The Year of the Hard Body" and since my friends share my resolution apathy, we gave ourselves lots of latitude. We could live the theme by improving personal fitness or by dating someone who was fit. This was a spectacular failure, for all of us, on both counts.

There was "The Year of Amore," when I dated a very nice guy with a cheese phobia, though he claimed to love pizza. He planned a date at a pizza joint and when the cheesy pizza he picked arrived, he sent it back because the cheese gave him a bad feeling. I endured the waiter's imploring looks as my date assured him that he absolutely wanted cheese and he'd know it was right when he saw it.

As our puzzled waiter walked away, my date explained

that Parmesan has a similar composition to vomit and I decided I wasn't hungry and I needed more boundaries.

The following year was "The Year of the Bitch."

When we wanted to emphasize the importance of laughter, we ushered in "The Year of Fun." Do you remember times when you laughed so hard you cried and your cheeks cramped? Times when laughter has a life and momentum, and if you're able to stop laughing to grab a breath, you can't look anyone in the eye without bursting into giggles? Movies like to write these scenes into funerals, and we wanted to appreciate all laughter whenever and wherever real life allows.

The next year was "The Year of Yes." I've come to believe all those childhood promises: ask and ye shall receive, you reap what you sow, I'm rubber and you're glue. It felt reckless for "yes" to be the standard for the year since there are lots of things nobody should say yes to and there's no need to invite those things around. I've come to understand that being too open-ended or too narrow is a problem.

We had a "Year of Adventure" and defined "adventure" as anything new. "The Year of No Fear" was awesome because the theme rhymes and because it was about going after dreams. We probably came up with it the year that meme went around asking what you'd do if you knew you couldn't fail.

The "Year of Well and Good" followed. After the highs of fun, yes, adventure and no fear, everyone needed rest and balance.

We've rolled through purpose, beauty, reckoning, harmony and bitch (again).

Looking back, it's easy to see how our chosen themes mapped

our reactions to our lives and world, ping-ponging from one standard to the next as we tried to find the recipe for a rich, contented life.

If a theme could have all the answers and a tweak in mindset could stiffen our spines, could make us laugh more and achieve more with an abundance of joy, then it was certainly worth a try. When things felt out of control, we buttoned the year up. Need to push back? We've got a theme for that. Need energy to harness talent and pay attention to the future? Done. Need to recuperate and reflect? We got that too.

2021 was the "Year of Silver Linings." It seemed like a good time to count our blessings. 2022 was the "Year of Possibility" and, because we continue to count our blessings, it hasn't disappointed.

We've learned a good theme

requires nuance. We don't have perfect answers or a perfect path and we can be humble and thoughtful. So when 2023's theme came up and someone suggested it could be the "Year of I Don't Care," we paused and dug in. This group cares deeply about many, many things, so what were we going for?

A friend explained that a project detail kept tripping her up. She couldn't quite place the problem but couldn't ignore it either. Then she had an aha! moment and realized she was agonizing over a pebble, not a boulder, and for now, she could stop ruminating and step over it. In this moment, she shouldn't care.

The problem, or rather the epiphany, is that sometimes, there are some things that don't deserve our energy.

This aha! moment led us to

consider "The Year of Aha!" but epiphanies are stunning and profound because they can't be planned. Like watching a pot waiting for water to boil, waiting for an aha! seems like a guarantee it won't come.

2023's theme had to leave room for possibility, for being open to letting go of petty annoyance and things out of our control while still moving in a positive direction. Why not? Why not ask for everything or nothing or something in between? 2023 is "The Year of Why Not?"

Why not chat with friends about the year that's passed and the time ahead, and why not keep important connections and traditions alive?

I wish everyone a 2023 full of blessings. Why not?

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



Holiday harmonies The trombone quintet Dem Bones performs during the "Light up the Bandstand" event at the Harpswell Bandstand by the Sea on Dec. 8. From left: John Ewing, Justin Spear, Janice Thompson, Ann Cauble and Chris Hall. (ROBIN CASEY PHOTO)

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Lost on a Loop Trail: Memento mori quack quack



BY GREGORY GREENLEAF

I am standing in my backyard and looking up into a tree. Beside me is my loyal black Lab, Echo. He is looking up into the same tree. Staring down at us from the vast distance of 20 feet — and I use the term "staring" loosely because Echo had long ago decapitated the toy duck's head — is the body of the duck, swaying in the wind, its throw rope wrapped several times around a branch.

I consider myself a coordinated person. I might even say, an athlete. But on that day, three years ago now, my athletic ability to toss a toy duck a great distance and with great accuracy failed me and the duck got tangled in a tree. And there it remains — resolute in its ducky stuckiness.

Will Echo and I ever play with the toy again?

Quoth the duck: Nevermore.

When I was a boy, it was not uncommon to have toys get stuck in trees. I'm talking about kites, and footballs, and Frisbees, and playground balls. But they always came down — either by me knocking them out of the tree

with a different ball, by climbing the tree to get the prodigal toy, or with the help of a great gust of wind.

But this duck won't behave. It isn't like the other toys. And believe me, I've tried to get it down a lot over the years. I've pummeled it with basketballs, footballs, golf balls, hockey pucks, Frisbees, sticks, rocks, tennis balls and even the cans that tennis balls come in. No amount of whacking has dislodged it. And on this tree where the duck has decided to make a nest, there are no branches close to the ground to climb. And I do not own a ladder tall enough to reach it.

Quoth the duck: Nevermore.

It's exhausting to be mocked by a headless duck but some days are more exhausting than others and on those more exhausting days I feel compelled to grab my basketball.

On one occasion when the only things getting knocked from the tree were brown needles and sticks, I heard someone whisper (I swear it came from somewhere above me) the Latin phrase "memento mori" — "remember you will die."

That wisdom permanently put an end to me trying my luck ... to get the duck.

Memento mori thinking makes me concerned with the immediate. I think about using my time well and not wasting even a second by throwing all

kinds of things at a duck stuck in a tree. I'll never get those minutes back, minutes I could have used for the betterment of myself, my family and my community.

So I ordered a new duck and decided to throw it only in the front yard.

For a few weeks, Echo and I enjoyed playing with that duck. Until one day I threw it upward instead of outward. Alas, that duck is now stuck in a tree, too.

Quoth the ducks: Nevermore.

To my credit, I have never tried to get that duck down. Instead, I have used my time better by passing along this New Year's lesson I am taught each day when I look up at the stuck ducks: Live life with urgency and immediacy. As the poet Robert Herrick wrote a long time ago: "Gather ye rosebuds while ye may, / Old Time is still a-flying."

And as for those ducks swaying in the high branches — time, the wind or lightning will take down those trees someday and then the ducks, too, will fall back to earth.

Quoth the human: What goes up, must come down.

Gregory Greenleaf lives in Harpswell and teaches high school English. He ascribes, prescribes and subscribes to many old-fashioned ideas, but especially Charles Dickens' observation that "There is nothing in the world so irresistibly contagious as laughter and good humor." ☘



Antique technique, fresh treat Ingrid Svenson (left) and Kiley Locascio crush apples with David Hackett, of the Harpswell Historical Society. The members of Harpswell Girl Scout Troop 1263 learned to make cider the old-fashioned way with apples donated by the Hawkes family and two antique presses provided by the Coombs family and Hackett. (ABIGAIL SVENSON PHOTO)



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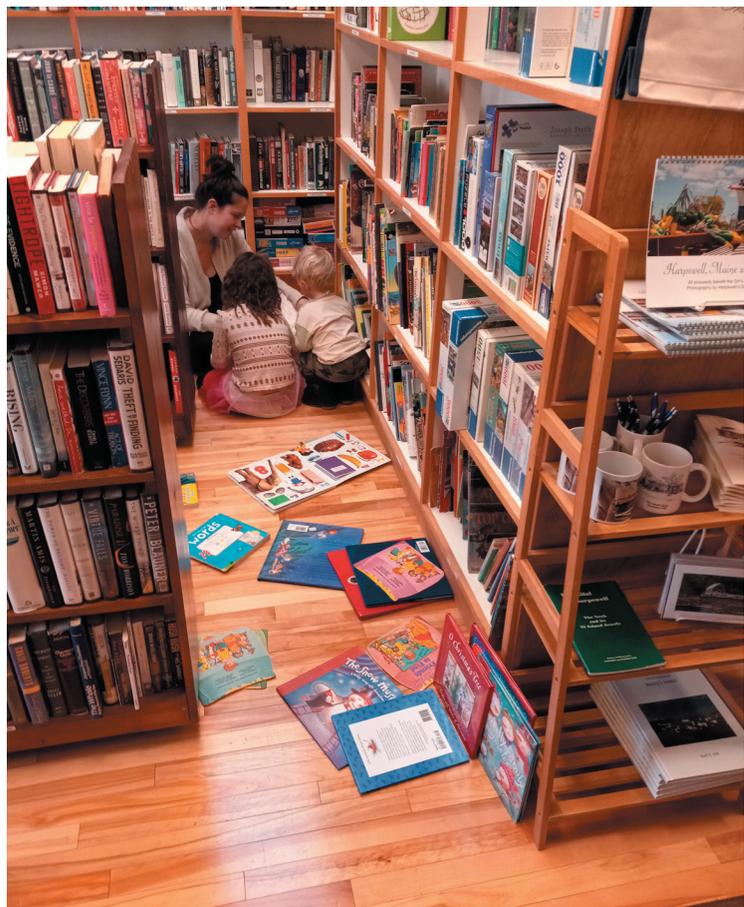
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Library Connections: Choosing your preferences



Young patrons leave a trail of discoveries at the Orr's Island Library.

(DANIEL HOEBEKE PHOTO)

BY DANIEL HOEBEKE
ORR'S ISLAND LIBRARY

You walk into a hardware store and ask for a screwdriver. The clerk points to a small array. "Where are your cordless ones?" "We don't have any. The standard ones are plenty good." You'll walk out thinking, "Well, that place was quaint, but they didn't have many options."

During the last few years, the Orr's Island Library Board of Directors has been thinking about what the library can offer now and how we can best serve Harpswell in the future. One word kept coming up — technology. Deciding how to use technological advances can be daunting, even threatening. However, when used properly, technology can be an exceptional tool. And it can be done while enhancing the essential character of the library.

Do you want to use our free 24-hour Wi-Fi? If that is your preference, you can.

Do you want to go online to reserve a book from our library? If that is your preference, you can.

Returning to our hardware store story, you expect the clerk not only

to carry a wide variety of tools, but also to be able to explain to you how they work. The same concept applied to our search for a new librarian. It is just one reason why the library board selected Anne Wilkes from the more than 20 people who applied for the position.

As Anne puts it, libraries are part of her DNA. Both grandparents were librarians and curators at the New York City Public Library, and that love of books was passed on generationally. The Wilkes family has lived on Orr's Island for decades and Anne now resides on the family homestead, giving her an intimate appreciation of the character of Harpswell. Anne impressed the board with the breadth of her reading interest and knowledge across all major genres, including fiction, nonfiction, young adult and children.

As a volunteer, Anne previously spearheaded the complete digitization of the Orr's Island Library's resources, a required standard of the Maine State Library Association. This system upgrade also will allow reserving books online and arranging for home deliveries for our senior residents —

again, if that is their preference.

Anne brings a much-needed technological expertise to the position. Library patrons still ask for assistance in selecting books, which Anne is delighted to provide. However, Anne is also equipped to help people with their day-to-day technology issues. Through our new "Borrow a Librarian" program, Anne will sit down with library patrons and help them figure out how to set up an email, resolve a cellphone issue, or navigate Word, Excel or Adobe issues.

Anne also embraces the board's vision of increasing the library's reach into underserved segments of the Harpswell community through expanded programming, active collaboration with other community organizations, and providing meeting space to local organizations. She plans to encourage our next generation of library patrons through monthly programs and summer activities, augmented by an enhanced library selection of award-winning literature for children and young adults.

Joanne Rogers served as librarian for 35 years and provided an outstanding foundation and legacy on which to build for the future. We will always be grateful for the leadership and passion she provided. The board recognized that her successor needed exceptional vision, coupled with technological and organizational expertise and sensitivity to the unique character of Harpswell. Anne Wilkes provides all of that, with a smile that is welcoming to all.

Isolation in Harpswell can be an issue in the winter. Think of the Orr's Island Library as a place where you can go for a bit of respite. Scattered chairs have been replaced with comfortable seating areas where you can read or chat with friends. Browse the bookshelves, visit the used bookstore, find a few pieces on the jigsaw puzzle, or just sit quietly by the fire with a cup of hot chocolate. Feel free to use our public computers and printers. As with all the other technological offerings of the library, you can use them to the extent they serve your needs.

Please join us for an open house on Saturday, Jan. 21, from 3-5 p.m.

First Thursday programs will return on Feb. 2 at 7 p.m.

Serving Harpswell since 1905, the Orr's Island Library has an on-site inventory of nearly 10,000 books, DVDs and audiobooks. Daniel Hoebeke is president of the library's board. ☺



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Campus

From Page 1

about chronic absenteeism, academic performance, school finances, and the condition and size of the building.

Cynthia Shelmerdine, chair of the Harpswell Coastal Academy Board of Directors, offered to sell the property back to the town in a Nov. 10 letter to Town Clerk Catherine Doughty.

The 2015 agreement between the nonprofit and the town gave the town 45 days from receipt to accept the offer. The town received the letter on Nov. 14, so the deadline would have fallen on Dec. 29.

Once Harpswell Coastal Academy receives notice of the town's decision, the sides will have 45 days to negotiate a price. If they reach a deal, the purchase will need approval from Harpswell voters. If negotiations fail, Harpswell Coastal Academy can sell the property to any buyer.

On Dec. 15, Town Administrator Kristi Eiane told the select board there had been "no discussion" with the school about the price.

Eiane said that she and Selectman Jane Covey had met with the Harpswell Coastal Academy Board of Directors the previous evening.

A few Harpswell Coastal Academy board members want to see another school in the space, Eiane said, and suggested that another school may have interest.

"They're not the only ones," Selectman Dave Chipman said. "Many people would like to see that."

But the board decided to protect its right of first refusal and, after just a few minutes of discussion, voted to notify the school of its interest.

The select board had first reviewed the offer on Dec. 1. Eiane told the board that the town's Recreation Committee and its Affordable Housing Working Group had discussed the matter.

"I do think we're hearing that there is definitely interest in the town considering the repurchase," Eiane said.

At the Affordable Housing Working Group's meeting on Nov. 30, members expressed support for exploring the

purchase amid doubts about the property's suitability for a housing development.

Members brainstormed possibilities for the property, estimating that a developer could convert all or part of the building into anywhere from six to 29 apartments. They floated the idea of converting the original section of the building into housing and the addition, which includes a gymnasium, into a community center.

Potential obstacles include the capacity of the building's septic system, the need to amend zoning to allow more than four units, possible opposition from the neighborhood, and the economic feasibility of a housing project — whether affordable rents could cover a multimillion-dollar investment. The existing septic system dates to the 1990s and would support 11-12 units, according to Town Planner Mark Eyerman.

Zachary Stoler, an associate member of the working group, suggested the possibility of converting the building into office space for rent. "There really is no office space available in the town anywhere," he said.

But regardless of whether



Scout serenade Members of Girl Scout Troop 1263 and participants in a Cooking at 43° North holiday cookie swap pose for a photo at St. Katharine Drexel Chapel on Dec. 18. The Girl Scouts serenaded the swappers with Christmas carols. (JANICE THOMPSON PHOTO)

redevelopment will work or what it would look like, the working group agreed that the town should buy back the property. Even if the town ultimately demolishes the building, its ownership could prevent the structure's abandonment, which could turn it into an eyesore and safety hazard, members said.

"I think we can all probably

imagine this building could just sit there for 30 or 40 years, falling apart," Stoler said.

Kevin Johnson, chair of both the Board of Selectmen and the Affordable Housing Working Group, said "it would be foolish not to take" the building back, but added that "it depends on what we can get it for."

"I think this is a positive opportunity, seriously," said

Courtenay Snellings, a member of the working group. "We don't really know exactly what can be done, but it seems like there are enough ideas as to why the town should acquire it that that sounds like a good thing to me — just explore acquiring it."

The select board will meet again on Dec. 29, when it may discuss who will lead negotiations for the town. ☎



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For more information on how you too can help, contact us at hipp.maine@gmail.com or visit our website: hippmaine.org



McCreight

From Page 1

of influence in the Legislature, serving as House chair of both the Marine Resources Committee and the Opioid Task Force. An advocate for health care — especially mental health and reproductive rights — and the marine environment, she introduced bills on each subject and shepherded them into law.

Joyce Edwards grew up in the city of Rochester, New York, on Lake Ontario, attending public schools in Rochester. She was Jay to her family and later to classmates at Ohio's College of Wooster, where she met her husband, Tim McCreight — pronounced McRight. They married in 1971 and she graduated with a sociology degree in 1973.

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, college campuses were simmering with student protests against the Vietnam War. An hour from Wooster, Kent State University became the epicenter of the movement in 1970, when National Guardsmen killed four protesters.

McCreight had grown up in a Republican family, but had not engaged in politics before college. She experienced an awakening amid the protests, marching in Washington, D.C., during her freshman year.

McCreight said she connected to Democratic values, like “looking out for the most vulnerable.” But she never expected to become a lawmaker.

After Wooster, the McCreights lived in Vermont, then Massachusetts, before Tim McCreight took a job as a professor of metalsmithing at the Portland College of Art, now the Maine College of Art and Design, and the family moved to Cape Elizabeth.

Jay McCreight earned a master's degree in clinical counseling from the University of Southern Maine in 1993. She worked for Head Start, an adoption agency, and the mental health provider Sweetser. For 20 years, she was a social worker with South Portland Public Schools.

McCreight balanced a caseload of up to 50 students. Her favorite part of the job was working with autistic children, in classes and one on one, to teach social skills. She also led groups that helped kids navigate grief and divorce.

For McCreight, social work “was all about advocacy.” So, too, was her work in the Legislature years later. “I think the advocacy is the link — advocacy not just for but with people,” she said.

In search of a more tranquil place to live, the McCreights found Harpswell. Jay McCreight was “mesmerized” by the beauty of the place during an early visit. They bought property on Great Island in 2001 and built their home in 2007-08.

A Harpswell neighbor, Helen Regan, encouraged McCreight to get involved with politics. During President Barack Obama's 2012 reelection campaign, McCreight ran a Grandmothers for Obama volunteer group that mailed postcards to Maine's 2nd Congressional District.

One of her volunteers, Judy Kahrl, founded Grandmothers for Reproductive Rights, or GRR, and invited McCreight to the first meeting. When the organization took its cause to the State House, McCreight felt energized by the atmosphere and activism.

McCreight's neighbor, Regan, was volunteering with Jeremy Saxton, a Harpswell Democrat who was challenging the Republican representative of Maine House District 51 — Harpswell, West Bath, and a slice of Brunswick. McCreight signed on as volunteer



State Rep. Jay McCreight speaks at a forum about politics for social workers. (PHOTO COURTESY JAY MCCREIGHT)

coordinator.

She immersed herself in the role, canvassing for Saxton, meeting fellow volunteers, attending events. Saxton won the 2012 election, while McCreight took on another background role as chair of the Harpswell Democratic Committee.

After one term, Saxton decided not to seek reelection.

“We started looking for a candidate and we weren't getting any eager takers,” McCreight said. “And then I started having people say to me, ‘Why don't you run?’ And I said what everybody says: ‘I'm better behind the scenes.’”

But the questions kept coming. “It makes you think, and it's flattering, and you begin to think, ‘Could I?’” McCreight said.

She could — and she spent almost every day on the trail to win her first term. “It was so energizing to knock on doors, to meet people,” she said.

McCreight's first bill addressed reproductive health care — and so would her last. The first expanded Medicaid coverage for reproductive health care and family planning, while the last allowed health care facilities to establish “safety zones”

where protesters cannot block entrances or harass patients.

McCreight sees reproductive health care as an issue of bodily autonomy and the “right to personal choice.”

“It's not for politicians to decide,” she said. “It's between a person and their provider.”

She fought one of her “hardest battles” to pass a bill aimed at moving kids with behavioral health issues out of emergency rooms and into appropriate treatment.

Kids “were getting stuck for days, weeks, months, because there was no place to go,” she said, and the atmosphere can further traumatize vulnerable children.

Another McCreight bill required schools to treat absences for mental health the same as absences for physical health.

As a representative of a fishing community, McCreight served on the Marine Resources Committee for most of her eight years in the Legislature, including four years as House chair.

She was proud to work with fishermen on the concerns they brought to her — sponsoring a bill to set up a process for disposal of expired marine flares, which pose environmental and safety hazards; and a bill to allow an immediate family member of a lobsterman to fish with their license while the lobsterman has a serious illness or injury. She introduced the latter bill after hearing from a lobsterman with cancer who wanted his son to keep hauling his traps.

Another of her bills requires the state to map eelgrass, which provides habitat for baby lobsters, among other benefits.

McCreight, who lost her father and two other relatives to lung cancer, received recognition from both the American Lung Association and the American Cancer Society for bills to equalize taxes on tobacco products and fund efforts to prevent tobacco use.

In 2017, McCreight was House chair of the Legislature's Opioid Task Force, which issued numerous recommendations in the areas of prevention, treatment and law enforcement.

Maine continues to feel the ravages of the crisis, with a record 627 deaths from drug overdoses in 2021. “We need more treatment,” McCreight said. “We need to destigmatize.”

State Rep. Denise Tepler, D-Topsham, worked alongside McCreight throughout her tenure, terming out at the same time. “For

eight years, Jay sat at one or the other of my elbows,” Tepler said. “She was just always right there for me.”

McCreight would lean on Tepler for advice on tax issues, while Tepler would turn to McCreight for insight on marine issues. Tepler described McCreight as calm, kind, patient and “very, very persistent” in pursuit of her legislative aims.

McCreight has mixed feelings about the end of her time in the Legislature.

“I'm really sad about it and I miss it, but it's so intense,” she said. “I've never worked harder in my life, and I've always worked hard. It's so exciting — and it's so draining.”

Maine law restricts legislators to four consecutive terms. Many take a term off and run again, or switch back and forth between the House and Senate.

McCreight is unlikely to run again. “I can't really say no, but I'm satisfied with what I accomplished and what I learned,” she said. “Being given the opportunity, the honor and privilege, of doing that, is quite something. It's kind of indescribable.”

McCreight will continue to serve the community as a member of the Harpswell Aging at Home Steering Committee, the Harpswell Resiliency and Sustainability Committee, and the Midcoast Council of Governments Board of Directors. She also belongs to an informal group of Harpswell residents working on youth mental health first aid.

In life after the Legislature, she looks forward to travel and more time with friends. An avid reader, she belongs to a book group at the Orr's Island Library. She also enjoys sewing.

She lives on Gun Point, overlooking Ice Pond, with her husband, an author and well-known metalsmith. They have two adult children and four grandchildren, plus a surrogate family of sorts.

The McCreights hosted asylum-seekers from the Republic of Congo at a house in Brunswick that served as the headquarters for Tim McCreight's business. A two-month stay turned into 18 months, because of the COVID-19 pandemic and because there was no place for the family to go.

The family has a new home in Brunswick now, but didn't forget their hosts. They just had their fourth child, a girl. They named her Joyce, and they call her Jay. ☘



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Uncle Pete's

From Page 1

when he's taking a vacation and "doing a deep clean" of the store.

"I'd sell the place to the right person rather than sell it to the wrong person," he continued. "I want someone who can keep the employees and keep the integrity." He wants a buyer who shares his "vision for a community."

Arnold peppered his sentences with the word "community" during a recent morning interview. Watching him hold court at one of three tables in the rear of the 2,179-square-foot market, it's easy to see why "community" is his mantra. Pete's is not just a store; it's a gathering place.

"I think it's terrible" that he's selling, said Harpswell Road Commissioner Ron Ponziani, who was eating breakfast at a corner table. "There will be nowhere else to go." Danny Latham said he comes to the store "sometimes" for coffee, paused, chuckled and added, "like every day," then sat down across from Ponziani. They hope it doesn't sell, he said.

Arnold was wearing a bright orange, tie-dyed T-shirt and jeans, with black glasses perched on his balding head. He tossed a fuzzy green ball to Daisy, his black-and-white shih tzu, and spoke to everyone by name at the coffee bar. He doesn't always know customers' names but he still greets them with a hearty laugh when he's behind the counter crowded with candy, sundries and four rotating tiers of pizza and sandwiches on a warmer. Five members of his extended family work with him, sometimes selling lottery tickets and more often handling gas sales.

The market sells typical convenience store fare, with

everything from Oreo cookies to Meow Mix cat food, Swain ice cream to craft beer. It has had several occupants since the gray-painted building was constructed in 1960, including a temporary post office while the new one was being built. Arnold bought the former Ship to Shore from Gail Johnson in 2020. Johnson had owned the store since 2009, according to Arnold, but it had been closed for a year.

Arnold's family has been in Harpswell since 1912. His parents met at the Auburn Colony. A World War I propeller from a three-cylinder biplane called a pusher stretches across the wall over the checkout counter. The plane was piloted by his grandfather, who was forced to land in the area when

the engine ran out of fuel. A framed, yellowing front-page newspaper story recounting the incident hangs on another wall.

After the sale, Arnold plans to resume volunteering for Passion for Pets, which places dogs in foster care until they have what he called their "forever home."

"I'm not going anywhere," said Arnold. "I have a very deep and genuine love for Harpswell. It's in my soul."

The building and business are listed for \$549,000 with Eric Humes, of All Points Realty in Phippsburg.

Connie Sage Conner is a retired editor of The Virginian-Pilot. She lives in Harpswell and serves on the Harpswell News Board of Directors. ☞

Cemetery

From Page 2

Harpswell Historical Society Museum, volunteer Dave Sparks is overseeing another elective class for Coastal Academy students. This group is building three-legged stools, largely using woodworking tools from Colonial times. Sparks demonstrates a "shaving horse," used to strip bark and trim wooden poles to be used as stool legs.

"This is straight out of ancient times," he said. "And the kids seem to enjoy using it."

Hackett said a new set of elective classes for students would be starting up soon at the Historical Society, but with the

Coastal Academy scheduled to close at the end of school year, the future of the programs is uncertain.

"There's a need for this sort of thing," Hackett said. "Adult education? I'm not sure. But I do know that when folks come to the museum, they'll see things they won't see anywhere else."

The Harpswell Historical Society Museum is currently open by appointment only. Call 207-833-6322 for information. It will reopen to the general public on Memorial Day.

Doug Warren, of Orr's Island, retired from a career as an editor at the Portland Press Herald, Miami Herald and Boston Globe. He serves as vice president of the Harpswell News Board of Directors. ☞

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OBITUARY

Trash Talk 101: Resolve to recycle in the new year



The attendants at Harpswell's Recycling Center and Transfer Station, like Donnette Goodenow, are glad to answer questions about recycling. (GINA SNYDER PHOTO)

BY GINA SNYDER
HARPSWELL RECYCLING
COMMITTEE

We know a product is recyclable when we see the “chasing arrows” symbol. But not many know that the symbol came from a design contest sponsored by the Container Corporation of America in 1970. The designer, a college senior named Gary Anderson, explained that the arrows represented the steps to recycling. The first arrow represents the materials and their place in the bin on the curbside. The second arrow signifies manufacturing, with the curve denoting the transformation of used materials into new products. The last arrow represents the purchasing step — when consumers buy recycled items, they start the process over again.

Recycling has come a long way from those early days. But one thing that hasn't changed is that the whole process starts with all of us putting recyclables into the bin to be recycled.

Today, the three arrows are more often taken to symbolize the three R's: reduce, reuse, recycle. With 292.4 million tons of municipal solid waste generated in 2018 — or 4.9 pounds per person per day, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

(tinyurl.com/59uwftfn) — it's more important to reduce, reuse and recycle than ever before.

While the chasing arrows are used on plastic, usually with a number in the middle to denote what type of plastic it is, there are many things beyond plastics that can be recycled, even though they don't all have the chasing arrows! From aerosol cans (empty) to wine bottles, so much of what gets thrown away as trash is actually recyclable.

Harpswell has an “A to Z” guide on the town website to give guidance on all sorts of solid waste and where it should go at the Recycling Center and Transfer Station (tinyurl.com/mryucat3). Books and bottles, cans and cardboard, magazines and milk cartons, paper and plastic — all of these can be recycled, and more. The color-coded guide can be printed out and posted for guests, too. If you're ever unsure, you can ask the attendants at the Recycling Center. They are always glad to help you help our town recycle right!

Harpswell has a host of information on the Recycling Center and Transfer Station webpage (tinyurl.com/5n8n3usf) to help you manage all your solid waste. The page includes details on everything you can recycle and compost. ♻️



**Daniel Harold Smith
Dec. 6, 1943 – Nov. 22, 2022**

Sangerville, Maine — Daniel Harold Smith, 78, died on Nov. 22, peacefully at home. He was born in Brunswick on Dec. 6, 1943, a son of Harold and Lillian M. Smith. Daniel graduated from Brunswick High School. He was a lobsterman, Maine Line bus driver, and train shop owner in Brunswick.

He was a volunteer of the Orr's Island Fire Department for 15 years. He was an avid Lionel toy train hobbyist, repairman and collector.

He is survived by his siblings, Doris E. Darling, of Harpswell, and Gary B. Smith, of Sangerville; his son, Michael H. Smith, of Sangerville; his daughters, Pamela L. Smith, of Harpswell, Stephanie R. Alexander, of Topsham, and Heidi R. Smith, of Brunswick; 12 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

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Prior to working in Real Estate, Christina worked in the medical field for over 10 years. More recently, she had the opportunity to work alongside her husband in his construction business, designing spec homes. This sparked her passion for real estate and changed the course of her career. She continues to build trustworthy and compassionate relationships with those she works with. Whether buying or selling, she will be your best advocate and work tirelessly on your behalf. She is thrilled to be a part of the Engel & Völkers Casco Bay team and invites you to reach out, if she can be of any help in finding your dream, home.



Amy Saxton (Advisor/Managing Broker) | 207-522-1065

Amy grew up in Cundy's Harbor and is actively involved in many community programs. She has distinguished herself as a top advisor in all types of real estate transactions including: coastal properties, new construction and land development. Whether she's assisting sellers or buyers, Amy prides herself on doing her homework, negotiating carefully and making a great match.



Jeannie Parker | 781-715-5937

Jeannie is excited to be part of Engel & Völkers Casco Bay, a collaborative and supportive group of professionals, whose goal is to deliver an innovative and customized experience for both buyers and sellers. She loves living in Maine and is known to unabashedly share her enthusiasm for all the benefits the area has to offer. Wherever you are in your life's journey, she will work hard to find the best solution to your individual real estate needs. She is committed to helping you navigate the exciting - and oftentimes complex - process of making the move to your next chapter.



Chelsea Kershner | 207- 522-0372

Raised in the Mid Coast and working in the surrounding community for many years, Chelsea has been providing years of service with honesty and passion. When she decided to expand her horizons from managing a local credit union, to join a locally owned and operated real estate brokerage, she knew she wanted to be a part of the Engel & Völkers Casco Bay team. This has allowed her to work alongside a dynamic group of professionals, focused on supporting their clients to their highest and best level. She is eager to represent you and guide you through your real estate needs, either as a buyer or a seller.



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