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What's the Limit? The Midcoast Debates, and Battles, Big Box Development

by Alice McFadden

It would be downright impossible to witness a more graphic demonstration of the role small, locally owned businesses have long played in the heart of Maine towns than occurred Saturday morning in Damariscotta as people crammed into the front of Waltz Pharmacy on Main Street in Damariscotta to kick off a campaign to prevent a Wal-Mart Supercenter from being built on land north of the Pine View Restaurant on Route 1.

Winton Jacobs, whose father-in-law opened Waltz Pharmacy in 1948, and John Reny, whose family opened the first Renys in Maine in 1949 in Damariscotta, are part of Our Town, the group that's leading the effort to put a 35,000-square-foot size cap on new retail development in Damariscotta. Eleanor Kinney, a stay-at-home mother of three, and Jenny Mayher, a stay-at-home mother of two, are the co-founders of the group. And the red Yes caps being handed out Saturday succinctly declared the group's "vote yes on the size cap" message.

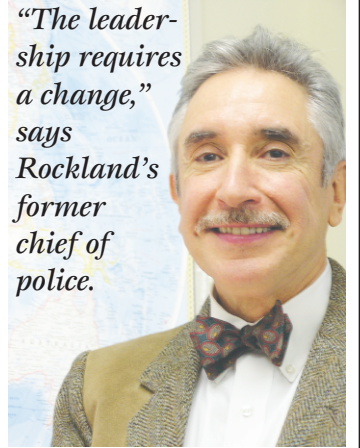
"What you have here is community," said John Reny. "This," he said, gesturing toward the packed-in crowd, "exemplifies community.... Think about why you came here [to live], or stayed here, in my case.... It's too precious. Don't let anyone take it away.... Let's keep BIG BOX DEBATES continue on p. 30



Above: Winton Jacobs, left, and John Reny, right — Main Street business neighbors.

Al Ockenfels to Run for Sheriff

"The leadership requires a change," says Rockland's former chief of police.



Alfred Ockenfels, who served as Rockland police chief for 16 years before retiring in April 2005, announced on Tuesday, January 31, that he will run for Knox County sheriff against incumbent Dan Davey.

A Republican, Ockenfels is currently collecting the required 150 minimum to 200 maximum signatures he needs to take part in a primary election in June against Davey, who is also a Republican. The winner of the primary will then go on to run in the general election in November.

Ockenfels, who spent 27 years with the Rockland force, says he is running for sheriff because "the leadership requires a change." He is basing his candidacy on his years of experience with the police department. While chief, he made certain that OCKENFELS continues on page 9

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We The Six Billion

by Joe Steinberger

The Hopeful State of the Union

Tuesday night, before Congress and the American people, President Bush pleaded for a hopeful society, for optimism and confidence, and for goodwill and respect between the political parties.

His new conciliatory tone was predictable enough, given the increasing public distrust of his administration and increasing pessimism about the direction of American policy. The war in Iraq seems a hopeless mess, and there is a growing fear that free trade is hurting American workers. Calming these worries, which he characterized as "defeatism" and "isolationism," was the obvious goal of the speech.

I reacted with less anger and contempt than I did last year. George W. Bush and his party seem less powerful, and therefore less threatening, than they did a year ago. The arrogance is subdued, and my reaction as well.

This is not to say that the president was defensive. He took pains not to be, and threw in some of the old "aggressive ... offensive ... killing ... capturing ... striking targets," etc., but this year he put more emphasis on his respect for responsible criticism and willingness to take advice from outside his own circle. Notably, he did not attempt to justify his now unpopular decision to invade Iraq, but rather asked his critics to accept that it is too late to turn back now.

It would be easy to be cynical about this change of tone, but politicians must weave and duck as any fighters must. We are seeing a normal adjustment to the pressure of public opinion. A "civil tone" in politics is what people want now.

For my part in this civil-tone movement, I must admit that I agree with the President on the two main points of his speech. It does seem unwise to abandon Iraq now. The people who put their trust in us would be killed and our worst enemies would likely take control of a strategically critical territory from which they could threaten more than they ever could from their previous sanctuary in Afghanistan. I am also as uncomfortable as Bush with the growing protectionist movement. Not only might new trade restrictions become a vicious circle that could bring down the world economy, but the growing international dependence on trade is our best hedge against new world wars. Our relationship with China, currently at the forefront of the free trade debate, is a case in point. A bipartisan effort to find the best way forward on both these issues does seem a good idea.

On some issues I sharply disagree with the president. He defended his warrantless telephone taps as "terrorist surveillance" and claimed an unspecified "constitutional" right of his agents to tap into your private conversations if they think you might be a terrorist. His continued belief that the ends justify the means is his great moral weakness, and seriously threatens American freedom.

I also disagree with the president's call to make his tax cuts permanent. They have mainly benefited a wealthy few, and have created huge deficits. He claims they have stimulated the economy, but offers no analysis of the costs and benefits. You might stimulate your appetite by eating your foot, but would that be wise? He also defends his fiscal policy by claiming that "non-security discretionary spending" has been cut every year. But spending on "security" has risen hugely.

That, it seems to me, is symptomatic of America's core problem today, one that was given only lip service in the president's speech. Our huge and growing military, and now Homeland Security, budget has become a boondoggle of unprecedented proportions. This and other spending, e.g. the new prescription drug benefit, is driven much more by pork-barrel politics than by any serious cost/benefit analysis. We are strapped for funds for Iraq because our bloated military budget is all about political payouts in key Congressional districts, not about getting any real job done. Similar political dysfunction is behind the crisis in medical care and just about everything else that we could be doing better as a nation, but aren't.

In response to the recent scandals, in which his party has been principally implicated, the president called for new ethics rules. There was no sign though of a serious commitment to changing the politics of greed that have turned American government into a payout machine.

It will be fine to be more civil, but continued incompetence and corruption will make any real progress impossible. I am pessimist enough to note that keeping the dirt under the rug is often a bipartisan project. Those in elected office, Democrats and Republicans, want to stay in office. They do it largely by distributing their share of the tax dollar pie to their supporters. It is not their interest, but the public interest, that is hurt. My hope, and I am heeding the president's call for a "hopeful society," is that the same sort of public pressure that is today pushing the politicians to adopt a more civil tone will tomorrow be pushing for a real change in this culture of corruption.

Hamas: What Now?

by Thomas McAdams Deford

Much of the recent commentary which focused on Hamas as a terrorist organization, and Fatah as a victim of its corruption, missed a key point: the Palestinians did indeed vote overwhelmingly for a militant party that refuses to accept Israel's existence, but people running victoriously through the streets shouting "Allahu akbar" were also voting for Islamic fundamentalism, just as they have recently, when given the opportunity, in elections in Egypt, Lebanon, and of course Iraq and Iran. Democracy doesn't always produce democrats.

In the '70s and '80s, it was Fatah who rejected Israel's right to exist, and while suicide bombing was not yet in vogue, it was Fatah who vowed to drive Israel into the sea; it was Fatah and its charismatic leader Yasir Arafat that the US refused in principle to talk to or recognize. Pretty much a mirror image of what faces us today, with one significant difference: Fatah was a strongly secular organization, in stark contrast to today's Hamas. Palestinians in those days, along with their Lebanese neighbors to the north, were probably the most secular of any Arabs.

Indeed, in an ironic footnote to history, Israel actually supported Hamas in its early stages as a counterpoint to Fatah. "The enemy of my enemy is my friend" is, of course, a long-standing realpolitik principle. And while this fact ultimately came out in the wash, as such things are likely to, it remained a secret at the time. By contrast, when the US, in a last-ditch effort to shore up Fatah, funneled a few million bucks its way in the weeks leading up to the election, the Washington Post, and then al-Jazeera and the Palestinian media, revealed it forthwith. It probably had little effect on the outcome, other than to further underline for the Arab World the hypocrisy behind the administration's push for free elections in the area.

So here we are, apparently back at worse than Square One: the Palestinians are run by a group bent on Israel's destruction — only this time, we're dealing with Islamic fundamentalists rather than secular nationalists. But before we wring our hands in total despair, let's review the practical realities in today's Middle East and see if there's not the ultimate possibility, if one is both careful and lucky, for actual forward movement.

As has been well analyzed, Hamas won for several reasons: Fatah corruption and incompetence, the Likud's unwillingness to support Palestinian president and Fatah head Mahmoud Abbas in any meaningful way, and, of course, the continuing collapse of the Palestinian economy. But the US has a lot to answer for, too: preferring to mouth off slogans about democracy to the more nuanced and infinitely more complex matter of seriously trying to negotiate the end of over 50 years of hostility between Israel and the Palestinians — a result that would do more to stabilize the area than the administration's hubristic war in Iraq.

Simplistically, this election would appear to disprove the Bush administration's mantra that democracy is the panacea for what ails the Muslim Middle East. But at the same time, the fact that Hamas at least chose to play the democratic game (and unfortunately played it a lot more skillfully than Fatah) is significant. They have, on one level anyway, opted into a legitimate form of power struggle within Palestine. Geographically, Palestine is a small piece of real estate (it's an even smaller one with so many Israeli settlements scattered through it, but that's a different issue), and like the rest of the Arab Levant, it remains very tribal.

Tribalism is important because while recent pictures of rioting Fatah members imply there could be a civil war, in the context of the widespread electoral support of Hamas — across all tribal boundaries — descent into factional violence is unlikely. While the US and Israel, over the last year since the death of Arafat, have been urging Abbas to disarm Hamas, he rightly refused to do so: that indeed could have ignited a civil war. Now, however — and this is for real — Hamas will

C-R-L Chamber Begins Search for New Executive Director

The Board of Directors of the Camden-Rockport-Lincolnville Chamber of Commerce announced that they have begun a search for a new Executive Director. The search will be conducted by a newly formed Search Committee comprised of three members of the Executive Committee, one additional board member, and a Chamber member-at-large.

The role of Executive Director is a key position that is instrumental in moving the Chamber forward as an influential leader in the community. "The Board recognizes the importance of strong leadership skills in working with the many facets of our membership and community and in creating a chamber that meets the needs of its members and fosters positive economic growth," said Cyndi Ostrowski, Board Chair.

The current acting Executive Director, Janet Dutson, has taken a new position at Camden National Bank. She will continue in her current role until February 24.

Interested applicants should send resumes with cover letters to: Search Committee, CRL Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 919, Camden, ME 04843.

be forced to deal with all the problems that Fatah couldn't solve. And these are not just corruption and inefficiency; they also involve having to deal with, and ultimately negotiate with, the Israelis. Fatah at least had the advantage of being the accepted interlocutor with Israel. Naturally, under the current circumstances, Israel will refuse to deal with Hamas, which has always maintained it will never negotiate with Israel. And from a practical point of view — principles aside — since Hamas openly envisions the future as one without Israel, one can hardly expect Israel to negotiate that future.

But the US should have a different sort of calculus. We wasted over 20 years refusing to talk to the PLO and Arafat. Our role must remain that of the honest broker with a view towards getting Hamas engaged — but a lot quicker than we were in dealing with Arafat. It's unfortunate, from a purely practical point of view, that we've tied our hands by designating Hamas a terrorist organization.

Basically, at this juncture, we have one of two choices: we can maintain a hard line, refusing to deal at all with Hamas (and thus, removing ourselves from any role as peacemaker between Palestinians and Israelis), urging our European allies to do likewise, and cutting all economic aid to what is already a basket-case. This no doubt would bring a certain psychic satisfaction to the neo-cons who have been running our Middle East policy for the last five years. We could cite the war on terror and demand that the Palestinian people either reverse their vote or be cut off from any communication or aid from the West. And what would we gain? Would we really expect the Palestinians, after nearly 40 years of an increasingly onerous occupation, to fold their tents and submit to Big Brother's will? On the contrary, such a stance by us would only strengthen Hamas, would further alienate Islamic fundamentalists, and would set back the chance for a resolution of the Palestinian problem immeasurably.

A key point to realize is that even within Hamas, while there are certainly serious ideological hardliners, there are also pragmatists. Our long-term strategic goal should be to strengthen the pragmatists while giving the ideologues as little ammunition as possible. That means continuing to work with the now Hamas-controlled Palestinian leadership — if necessary, through third parties and back channels initially. That's what diplomacy is all about. We must assure continued funding from the international community — and from Israel in the form of taxes paid by Palestinians but collected by Israel — without which Palestine can slide quickly into the chaos of a truly failed state. We should do what we can to encourage the Palestinians themselves to make Hamas moderate its stand. We've got to avoid the high-sounding rhetoric and behave like grown-ups in a world full of danger and complexity. But if, as has been our modus operandi these past five years, we choose instead to play the heavy-handed superpower and lump Hamas-led Palestine together with Iran and North Korea as "evil doers" — and cast them into outer darkness until they see the light emanating from that shining city on the Potomac — we'll turn Hamas into martyrs and further radicalize the Palestinians. And while we self-righteously proclaim that it was their choice, it will be we who will have made a bad situation worse.

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Left to right (back row), YMCA executive director Troy Curtis, campaign co-chairs Sally Fernald, Ann Bresnahan and Neale Sweet; (front row) YMCA basketball players Lydia Hill, Taylor Peasley, Kayloni Hall, Jill Vander Schaff, Madison Tallberg, Riley Arbour, Laurel Brooks, Kelsea Boynton and Elizabeth Cummons.

YMCA Launches "Secure the Future" Campaign

Large matching grant boosts efforts to eliminate capital debt

The Penobscot Bay YMCA has launched a \$2.3 million "Secure the Future" capital campaign aimed at paying off construction and financing costs for its new Union Street facility. An anonymous \$1-for-\$2 matching grant of \$750,000 means the YMCA must raise just \$1.5 million to complete the campaign.

"We are immensely grateful to the donors of this grant for their generous support of the YMCA and their commitment to helping us achieve a firm financial base for the future," said capital campaign co-chair Neale Sweet. "The YMCA has enjoyed tremendous success since our move, but in order to further develop our vision of providing programs that meet the needs of our wide service area, the YMCA needs to be free of debt."

Campaign co-chairs Sally Fernald and Ann Bresnahan added that eliminating debt will prevent the Y from facing revenue shortfalls that could potentially bring increased pro-

gram and membership rates or reduced program offerings.

The YMCA's finances are on a healthy footing, generating a targeted one- to two-percent surplus from operations. Membership in the organization has more than doubled since its move to Rockport in November 2002.

Building, legal and financing costs on the new Union Street facility amount to \$10.9 million, compared to the \$8.6 million raised by the YMCA during its original capital campaign and the sale of its old facility in Camden.

The Penobscot Bay YMCA serves all of Knox County plus Lincolnville with a wide range of athletic, recreational, social and childcare programs. Collaborations with a number of other community service organizations have provided health education and social services to hundreds of area youth, families and seniors.

For more information, visit www.penbayymca.org or call YMCA executive director Troy Curtis at 236-3375.

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Thomaston resident Helen Ingram (left) with Barnaby and visiting volunteer Lee Walck of Lincolnville. "We were a match from the beginning. Lee and I enjoy talking, playing Scrabble and lunching together. We just clicked."

Make a Difference – Be a Visiting Volunteer

Kno-Wal-Lin Home Care and Hospice is holding a Visiting Volunteer Training on Wednesday, February 15. The five-hour training is free, and lunch will be provided. The training is open to residents of Knox, Waldo and Lincoln counties who want to make a difference in a Kno-Wal-Lin patient's life by spending one or two hours a week with him or her. Kno-Wal-Lin's visiting volunteers provide friendly visits, companionship and escort transportation. They also make caring phone calls and provide respite for family caregivers.

"Visiting a homebound patient and offering them your friendship and time are the best gifts you can give," says Stephanie Woodman, RN, Kno-Wal-Lin's community liaison nurse. "Visiting volunteers often say they receive far more than they give."

To learn more about becoming a visiting volunteer, contact Joy Chamberlin at 594-9561.

Governors Unite for Charitable Fuel Fund

Maine's past three governors — King, McKernan and Brennan — have come together to help build Governor Baldacci's Charitable Fuel Fund. The three recently recorded a public service announcement to air on radio stations throughout the state. Money from the Keep ME Warm Charitable Fuel Fund will be used to assist those who are not eligible for LIHEAP but still need help with the high costs of heating. Those interested in donating to the fund can do so by calling 1-800-698-4959 or by logging on to www.mainecommunityaction.org.

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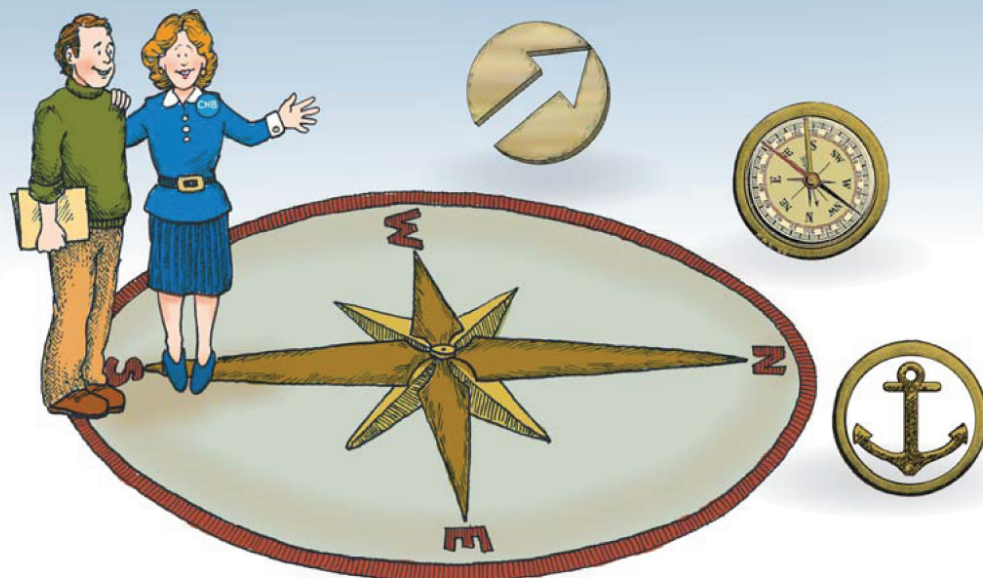
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Few Attend Hydrogen Sulfide Information Session

— by Georgeanne Davis



Dr. David Kern

A public information session held on January 27 on the hydrogen sulfide gas emitted at the Rockland landfill drew fewer than two dozen people to Rockland's City Hall. The event was characterized as the beginning of a community dialogue by Rockland City Manager Tom Hall, who introduced the evening's speaker, Dr. David Kern. Kern was director of the program of occupational medicine at Brown University before relocating to this area six years ago.

Kern began his talk by saying that, while different experts will have different strengths, he could tell those assembled what data supports and the weaknesses in the data available on the effects of exposure to hydrogen sulfide gas, which he characterized as a colorless gas with a rotten-egg smell which is formed by bacterial degradation. At 10 parts per billion, 50 percent of the population can detect hydrogen sulfide in the air; at 500 parts per million 10 minutes of breathing the gas can cause death from paralysis of the respiratory center of the brain. So, Kern said, at low levels, the gas smells bad. At high levels one can die in minutes to hours, but what about the in-between levels? "We don't know a heck of a lot."

Kern went on to say that the EPA and OSHA have built safety factors into their data to come up with an exposure that will protect everybody. Information has come from human lab studies, epidemiological studies, and animal studies, where animals were exposed at known concentrations. In preparation for the meeting, Kern said, he'd looked at information available from the last four years as well as information given him by Rockland resident Jerry Rittersdorf. After looking at the test data, Kern said it was apparent that bad things happen at high exposure rates, but what was needed for Rockland residents was results of tests done on the effects of low-level exposure over a long time, such as one done in 1985 on a population in Canada that had been exposed to hydrogen sulfide in oil fields there. The study involved studying that community, as well as a cohort study of a non-exposed group, and the 120 physicians conducting the study found "very little to worry them." Kern also cited a more recent study done from 1998 to 2000 in South Sioux City, Nebraska, where the community was exposed to hydrogen sulfide gas from the liquid waste pool at a slaughterhouse and tannery. Investigators there also found no difference in test performances during 28 separate tests given to both exposed and control populations.

In response to questions raised by audience members on studies done by Dr. Kay Kilborn on low-level, long-term exposure to hydrogen sulfide gas, Kern said Kilborn's work was "controversial at best." Kern's mission was, he said, to help the community decide where to put their time and money and elimination of the odor alone was, in his estimation, reason enough to commission an odor study at the landfill.

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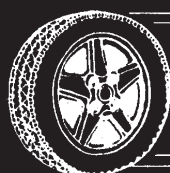
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Bank Warns Consumers About E-Mail Scam

On January 31, The First, N.A., and its parent company, First National Lincoln Corporation, issued a statement regarding a recent "Phishing" e-mail scam that targeted both customers and non-customers of The First.

Daniel R. Daigneault, president and CEO of The First, explained, "Over the past weekend some customers and non-customers of The First, N.A., received a 'Phishing' e-mail directing them to a false Web site that had the appearance of our First online banking log-in page. Both the e-mail and the Web site link were fraudulent and were in no way related to or authorized by The First."

Daigneault emphasized, "If you received this e-mail alleging to be from The First, and if you entered any personal information in response to this e-mail, please call our First Phone Banking Center immediately at 1-800-564-3195, extension 0. If you received this e-mail but did not enter any personal information in response to it, you are not at risk and there is no need for you to contact us at this time."

Daigneault's complete letter is posted on the bank's Web site at www.the1st.com, and copies of the letter are available in all 14 branch offices of the bank.

According to the Federal Trade Commission, these e-mail scams, referred to as "phishing," promise some benefit such as increased amounts of credit or indicate that an account needs to be "updated" or "validated" to keep the account active. The scam e-mails often refer people to a look-alike Web site of a bank or other business, further tricking consumers into thinking they are responding to a real request. Once at the look-alike site, consumers unknowingly provide the scammers with financial information that can be used to access their accounts, buy products and obtain credit.

Upon thorough investigation of the bank's information technology systems, The First is confident that customer information was not compromised. The bank's security systems remain intact, and customers who did not receive or respond to the "phishing" e-mail can continue to safely conduct Internet banking activities. Customers who did respond to the "phishing" e-mail should contact the bank immediately as indicated above. Once customers have contacted The First and received new log-in information, they may resume normal Internet banking activities.

However, the "phishing" phenomenon is far from over. "Phishing" is a real threat to all legitimate businesses, and consumers need to remain alert and vigilant to these growing e-mail scams. "The best protection consumers have is to not respond to this type of e-mail. Under no circumstances will The First ever solicit personal information via e-mail, telephone or the Internet. So if you receive a similar e-mail, please delete it at once. The protection and safekeeping of customer information is of utmost importance to us, just as it always has been," stated Daigneault.

The First asks that all suspicious e-mail or telephone communications be reported immediately to bank personnel, either in person at one of the bank's 14 offices, or by calling a First Phone Banking representative toll-free at 1-800-564-3195, extension 0.

For more information about "phishing" scams at financial institutions, visit this link: <http://www.occ.treas.gov/consumer/phishbrochfinal-screen.pdf>. Printed copies of this brochure are also available in each of The First's banking offices.

The First has been serving the people of Maine since 1864 with offices in Bar Harbor, Blue Hill, Boothbay Harbor, Calais, Camden, Damariscotta, Eastport, Ellsworth, Northeast Harbor, Rockland, Rockport, Southwest Harbor, Wadoboro and Wiscasset. For more information about The First, call 1-800-564-3195, or visit www.the1st.com.

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DSQ Heats Up Winter with Concerts



The DaPonte String Quartet will heat up the winter with performances of works by Mozart, Beethoven and Shostakovich. The performances will take place on Friday, February 3, at St. Patrick's Church in Newcastle at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, February 4, at the State Street Church in Portland, also at 7:30 p.m.; and on Sunday, February 5, at the United Methodist Church of Brunswick at 3 p.m.

On the program will be the String Quartet in F Major K 168 by Mozart; String Quartet No. 1, Opus 49 (1938) by Shostakovich; and String Quartet in B Flat

Major, Opus 130 by Beethoven.

The Mozart and the Shostakovich are being performed in celebration of their respective anniversaries this season (250th for Mozart; 100th for Shostakovich). Both are early works of the composers. The Beethoven, however, is one of the composer's last quartets and one of his most complex and rich works in any form.

There is no advance sale of tickets. Admission at the door is \$18; seniors, \$15; and anyone 21 or under is invited to attend for free.

For more information, call 529-4555.

GVHS Parent Group Planning an Evening of "Soup and Song"

On Friday, February 10, the Georges Valley High School Parent Group is sponsoring an evening of "Soup and Song" at Watts Hall on Main Street in Thomaston at 5:30 p.m. A variety of homemade stews and soups will be served with salad, bread and dessert. Musical stylings from Steve and Jo Lindsay, The Dock Boys — also known as Neal Guyer, Larry Schooley and Alan Letourneau — and Waiting on Ian, with band members Ned Rich, Ian Cook, Elias Edwards-Jenks and Peter Griffith, will accompany the meal.

The GVHS Parent Group has combined

the old parent group with the principal's advisory committee and has a number of active subcommittees focusing on school sports, substance abuse, student aspirations and fundraising. The next meeting will take place in the GVHS library on Thursday, February 16 at 7 p.m. and GVHS parents are encouraged to attend. The entire community is invited to partake of soup and song, which is \$8 for adults and \$5 for kids under 13, with a \$25 family cap.

For more information, call Susy Ellis at 596-6569.

Maskers Host Henry V February 12



The Belfast Maskers will host The Theater at Monmouth's production of William Shakespeare's *Henry V*, to be performed on Sunday, February 12, at the University of Maine Hutchinson Center on Belmont

Avenue, Route 3 in Belfast.

Two performances will be presented, at 2 and 7 p.m. All seats are \$12 and tickets may be reserved by calling the Maskers Box Office at 338-9668 or purchased at the door.

Southern Food, Music at Benefit Bash

The "Fat Saturday Bayou Benefit Bash" should be a sure cure for the mid-winter "blahs." The event, which will benefit hurricane recovery efforts along the Gulf Coast, will be held from 5 to 10 p.m., on Saturday, February 11, in the Parish Hall of the First Church in Belfast, on Spring Street. The literal translation of Mardi Gras is Fat Tuesday, and Fat Saturday refers to the public supper part of the event. The supper, served from 5 to 7 p.m., will offer a choice of Cajun/Creole fare or a Southern chicken dinner as well as "sinful" Southern desserts.

Shawn Mercer, singer-songwriter and Troy Howard Middle School teacher, will provide a mix of live blues, rock and folk music during supper.

From 7 to 10 p.m. Mark Elwin, volunteer

WERU DJ and owner of Executive Sounds of Rockland, will provide New Orleans brass, zydeco, Cajun, soul and funk music. Elwin resided in New Orleans from 1996 to 1999. He will host his own Mardi Gras Costume Ball in Thomaston on Saturday, February 25.

The fundraising effort also includes a raffle, with a grand prize of a full/queen-sized quilt, valued at \$600, created by Cynthia Grondin of Nancy's Sewing Center in Belfast. Other prizes include a three-month membership to the Waldo County YMCA, a hand-thrown stoneware vase by Pastor Joel Krueger, and gift certificates from Mary McCormick, licensed aesthetician, Angler's Restaurant, Wild Flowers and Lisa Nichols Salon. For more information, contact The First Church at 338-2282.

The Camden Civic Theatre's production of Hamlet, with Morgan Cooper as Ophelia, Matt Withee as Laertes and Foner Curtis as Polonius, will be presented at the Camden Opera House on Friday and Saturday, February 10 and 11, and Thursday through Saturday, February 16, 17 and 18 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, February 12 at 2 p.m. For tickets, \$16 in the orchestra, \$12 in the balcony, with a \$2 discount for seniors and students, call 236-2281.



Open House Casting Call at The Playhouse

The Playhouse is announcing a casting call for actors of all ages and experience for productions in 2006. Productions will include children's theater and plays and musicals for

the general audience. The Playhouse is an actors' studio with limited seating where the audience is close to the stage. Open house will be held on Friday, February 3, from 4 to 6:30 p.m. and on Sunday, February 5, from 2 to 4 p.m. Mary Weaver, director, will be there with scripts for reading. Playwrights, actors, singers and dancers are welcome to come talk about future productions. Call 338-5777 for more information.

CCT Accepting Plays for 2006-07

The Camden Civic Theatre's (CCT) Directors Selection Committee is now taking play submissions for the group's 2006/2007 season. Committee chairperson Mary Ann Giasson says, "We are looking for first-time directors as well as seasoned veterans who have a show they just can't wait to direct." Those who are interested should submit their name; the name of production or productions, if submitting more than one; a synopsis with general concepts; a resume including past experience; and contact information to set up interviews. The deadline

for submissions is March 15.

CCT is looking for all types of shows, from musicals to dramas — and all shows in between. Past productions have included *Oliver*, several Shakespeare productions including the upcoming *Hamlet*, *Barefoot in the Park*, *Wizard of Oz*, and *To Gillian on Her 37th Birthday*.

Send submissions to Camden Civic Theatre, c/o Directors Selection Committee, P.O. Box 362, Camden, ME 04843. For more information about CCT and upcoming productions, visit www.camdencivictheatre.com.

Maskers to Hold Auditions for Once Upon a Mattress

The Belfast Maskers announce auditions for the musical *Once Upon a Mattress* which will open the Maskers 2006 season on Thursday, April 6, and continue for a two-week

run of eight performances. The show is a hilarious musical takeoff of Hans Christian Andersen's "The Princess and the Pea," and there are a large number of singing and non-singing roles available. Teens are especially encouraged to audition.

Auditions are being held at the Belfast Free Library at 10 a.m. on Saturday, February 18, and at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, February 25. For more information, contact the Maskers at 338-9668 or check the Maskers' Web site, www.belfastmaskerstheater.com.

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OCKENFELS CONT. FROM PAGE 1

all the departmental supervisors were trained at the Babson Command Police School (now the New England Institute of Law Enforcement). While he believes that the Knox County Jail has an excellent administrator, if elected sheriff Ockenfels would like to focus on increased training for jail personnel, to cut down on the possibility of liability and lawsuits.

Drug enforcement would also be a priority, says Ockenfels. He thinks recent violence in the area is drug-related and that there needs to be a multi-pronged approach of treatment and awareness.

Ockenfels has served on the board of directors of the Maine Drug Enforcement Agency and, in addition, represented Rockland for three years on the Knox County Budget Committee. He also served on the SAD #5 school board, and is a proponent of after-school programs for children so that they can take part in structured and supervised activities rather than spend time on the streets.

In preparation for his candidacy, Ockenfels made an exploratory visit to Vinalhaven, where, he says, he "got an earful" from members of the community who say they have not been served well. As a former pilot with Downeast Air, Ockenfels delivered passengers and mail to the island and feels he knows the island people. If elected, he says, "I intend to be a frequent visitor out there." Ockenfels believes that since the islanders pay the same taxes as those on the mainland, they are entitled to the same services.

Two days after Ockenfels retired, he was married and shortly after that was recruited by the State Department to become an adviser and trainer to the National Police Force in Iraq. Leaving his new wife Betsy behind, he spent six months in the Mideast, teaching Western-style democratic methods to the Iraqi police force. Ockenfels spent his first three months teaching instructors at the Baghdad Police College and then traveled to Al-Kut in southern Iraq, where he was based with Ukrainian and Polish forces teaching senior police officials.

No matter whether one is for or against the war, says Ockenfels, it is evident that, after eight years of war with Iran and two invasions by Western forces, the Iraqi people, like people all over the world, want to raise their families in peace, have clean drinking water and have electricity at the flick of a switch. He saw evidence of torture chambers in Baghdad and says that all the top police officers, who were members of the Baathist party, were removed from office. Not all of the officers were guilty of war crimes, however, and after a vetting process to determine that they did not participate in such crimes, some of the former officers are being integrated back into the police force. Sadaam Hussein once had the fourth-largest standing army in the world, says Ockenfels, and those who assisted him at the training institutes were well-trained and highly educated, many tri-lingual, with multiple degrees.

During his time in Baghdad Ockenfels saw a lot of destruction, but, because it sits on one of the world's largest aquifers, canals and irrigation in the green zone make it a beautiful city. There is plenty of water available, he says, but insurgents target treatment and power plants to interrupt the supply. However, with the military becoming more involved, he says, "I saw the progress while I was there."

Ockenfels was born in Germany and became a naturalized citizen of the U.S. as a young man, and so he feels very patriotic, says his wife. Ockenfels says that many of his students in Iraq expressed astonishment that he would retire, marry and then go to Iraq, but he told them that, having been born in a country with a totalitarian legacy, he appreciates the advantages offered in the U.S., where he was able to receive two degrees and have two careers — one in aviation and one in law enforcement. He wanted them to realize that a country can recover from the effects of a totalitarian regime, as did Germany and Japan. However, Ockenfels recognizes that in Iraq the difficulties in restructuring are more than just political, with tribal and religious issues involved, as the tribe is an integral part of society. If there is a problem, he says, the people don't call 9-1-1; they go see the tribal sheikh, but, he adds, "They're starting to call the police more."



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Kaitlin Blackwell, Ryan Robinson, and Travis Wyman (seated) with Becky Stoddard, site director of Midcoast Children's Services, meet Pablo VI, a papier maché bull created by Dan Page for the 20th annual Fabulous Food Fare and Silent Art Auction to be held on Wednesday, February 8, at the Samoset Resort Ballroom, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. For tickets, call 594-8474.

Chinese New Year Celebration at Penobscot School

On Saturday, February 4, starting at 3 p.m., join Friends of Penobscot School, the Chinese American Friendship Association of Maine (CAFAM) and the Camden Conference in a New Year Celebration of the Year of the Dog at Penobscot School in Rockland's north end at 28 Gay Street.

Program activities include Chinese paper-cutting, jump rope and how-to-use chopsticks demonstrations for children starting at 3 p.m.; activities for adults starting at 3:45 p.m. with artist Joan L. Taylor's talk and display of her Chinese brushwork; a Taijquan — Tai Chi demonstration by Mike Shunney at 4:30 p.m.; at 5:15 p.m., a Chinese cooking demonstration by Angela Jyang Fagin of Jyang-Lee Kitchens in Coopers Mills and Jemaine Li of the Penobscot Soup Company in Rockland, and for the adults, a demonstration of how to use chopsticks; a potluck buffet supper starting at 6 p.m.; and an after-dinner presentation and discussion about living and teaching in China with Carole and Paul Johnson of Bath at 7 p.m.

Those attending should bring a potluck dish to share with others. There is no fee for this event and everyone is welcome. Donations will be accepted. For more information about the Chinese New Year Celebration, call 594-1084 or write to penobscot@languagelearning.org.

Reserve Now for Hat Trick Auction Feb. 10

Join supporters of area youth and high school hockey on Friday, February 10, for the Hat Trick Auction, taking place at the Samoset Resort in Rockport. The evening begins at 6 p.m. with a silent auction, a dinner buffet at 7:15 p.m., and live auction to follow with auctioneer Rosey Gerry.

When a single player scores three goals in one game, it's called a hat trick. What makes this auction a hat trick? Three hockey programs, Youth Hockey, Windjammers and Ice Cats are joining together to support all hockey players.

The live and silent auction features a mix of items, ranging from box tickets for Bruins games to a gourmet dinner at the Rockland Fire Station (complete with fire truck limo), to weekends at cottages, a complete set of nautical flags, Red Sox tickets, UMaine hockey tickets, a sailing cruise, and even spring yard clean-up courtesy of brawny high schoolers. To view the complete list of auction items, visit www.maineoastskaters.org. Tickets, \$25 per person, are available by calling 832-6821.

Gerritsen to Read Prologue to New Novel

Guest readers will offer translations of the prologue in six languages.



Tess Gerritsen

During the afternoon of Sunday, February 5, from 2 to 4 p.m. in the upstairs reading room of the Camden Public Library, Maine author Tess Gerritsen will read the English version of the prologue to her novel *The Surgeon*. Following Gerritsen, some of Penobscot School's teachers and friends, native speakers of Italian, German, French, Japanese, Danish and Spanish, will read aloud the novel's prologue from the published translations of *The Surgeon*. Gerritsen's novel has been published in 18 languages around the world.

Julia Schulz, acting president and co-founder of Penobscot School, a center for language learning and international cultural exchange in Rockland since 1986, will co-host the event with Dr. Betty Becker-Theye, professor emerita and former dean of the College of Fine Arts and Humanities at the University of Nebraska at Kearney, who currently teaches language classes at the University of Maine Hutchinson Center and lives in Belfast. Guest readers include: Italian, Lara Maccioni; German, Sally Burnette-Leser; French, Noémie Marciano; Japanese, Ritsuko Kato; Danish, Ib Barfod; and Spanish, Jaqueline Cazares.

Gerritsen's first medical thriller, *Harvest*, was released in hardcover in 1996, and it marked her debut on the New York Times bestseller list. Publishers Weekly has dubbed her "the medical suspense queen." Now retired from medicine, Gerritsen writes full time.

Rosemary Herbert at Meeting of Media Women

Rosemary Herbert will present a talk called "A Hint of Mystery" when she speaks at the Maine Media Women's February meeting on Saturday, February 4, at the Stella Maris House, Route 1, Rockland. The meeting will begin with networking from 9 to 10 a.m., followed by a business meeting from 10 to 11 a.m. and the program at 11 a.m.

Herbert will discuss working with books as an author and as a media professional. The presentation will be enlivened with anecdotes about the mystery writers she has met, including Tony Hillerman, with whom she co-edited *A New Omnibus of Crime*. Herbert has spent her career working in the world of books. She has worked as a library assistant and then as a reference librarian at Harvard University's Harry Elkins Widener Memorial Library, while at the same time launching a freelance writing career. She also creat-



Lea Wait

Author Lea Wait Speaks at Belfast Library

On Monday, February 6, at 6 p.m., Edgecomb author Lea Wait will be at the Belfast Free Library on High Street in Belfast to talk about the writing of her historical novel *Wintering Well*. Wait's most recent book for children age seven and older, *Wintering Well* is set in Wiscasset from 1819 to 1820, and is on both the 2005-2006 Maine Student Book Award and New Hampshire's Great Stoneface Award lists.

Wait is also the author of *Seaward Born* and *Stopping to Home*, both acclaimed novels for children. A fourth-generation antique dealer, she also writes the Agatha-nominated *Shadows Antique Print Mysteries* series for adults, in which antique print dealer and college professor Maggie Summer solves crimes, often finding clues in her 19th-century prints.

After her presentation Wait's books will be available for purchase and signing at the library. For more information, contact the library at 338-3884, extension 24.

Film and Presentation on Cuban Five Feb. 11

The Rockland Public Library will host a film showing and a presentation by two international leaders in the fight to free the Cuban Five and end the U.S. blockade against Cuba. Learn about the Cuban Five, imprisoned in U.S. jails for fighting terrorism, on Saturday, February 11, at 3 p.m., at the Rockland Public Library. Refreshments will be served.

"Mission Against Terror" tells the story of five Cuban men who defended their nation against anti-Cuban terrorism spawned in Florida. It is the work of Bernie Dwyer, a documentary filmmaker who lives in Cuba, where she works as a journalist with Radio Havana. Father Geoffrey Bottoms is a leader in the U.K. Cuba Solidarity Campaign and head of its support campaign for the Cuban Five.

Dwyer will recount the making of the film and talk about its reception throughout the world. Bottoms will describe the international campaign for the prisoners and Cuba's fight to overcome the U.S. blockade. DVDs of the film will be available and donations to the prisoners' defense fund will be welcome. Let Cuba Live is organizing this speaking tour, which is co-sponsored by Peace Action Maine, Maine Haiti Solidarity and the Midcoast Peace and Justice Group. For more information, call 743-2183 or 594-1478.



Fr. Geoffrey Bottoms, with Bernie Dwyer seated at left.

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Witch Hazel

HOME GARDEN

by Georgeanne Davis

When I was living in Providence, Rhode Island, I wandered, one grey February day, past the entrance to the very majestic Unitarian Universalist Church and saw there, glowing like the Biblical burning bush, an enormous shrub covered with yellow-orange blossoms. I had never, to my knowledge, seen anything blooming that early in spring, long before the bright blossoms of forsythia would appear, but soon deduced that the plant must be a type of *Hamamelis*, or witch hazel.

The desire to have one of these shrubs for my very own has been simmering in my subconscious ever since that day, and recently flared to life with the arrival of Klehm's Song Sparrow Catalog. Song Sparrow Farm and Nursery is located in Avalon, Wisconsin, and specializes in rare and specialty perennials, especially peonies, although they also have many different and unusual clematis, lilacs, daylilies and hostas. As an added attraction, most of the catalog offerings are hardy in cooler zones. Klehm offers two native witch hazels — *Hamamelis vernalis* "Autumn Embers," which has orangey-yellow flowers in spring and red/burgundy leaves in fall, and *Hamamelis virginiana* "Green Thumb," a fall-bloomer with yellow flowers, whose leaves have a dark green central portion surrounded by a lighter green color. Both are hardy in Zones 4-8.

Then, on the heels of the Song Sparrow catalog came that of Avant Gardens, located in North Dartmouth, Massachusetts, with another intriguing witch hazel offering — *Hamamelis x "Diane,"* which has red blossoms in early spring and orange-red fall foliage.

Hamamelis virginiana is a common shrub of North America's eastern deciduous forest, ranging from Quebec east to Minnesota and south to Florida. One of the first New World plants to be adopted for ornamental use by European horticulturists, as early as the mid-17th century, the plant was growing in private botanical collections in London. However, most witch hazels under cultivation today come from east Asia. One is *Hamamelis japonica*, obviously from Japan. Another is *Hamamelis mollis*, a Chinese species. They have also been hybridized to produce an unusual winter or early-spring blooming ornamental, *Hamamelis x intermedia*.

Witch hazel's bright yellow, orange or red spidery flowers look incredibly delicate and yet are able to withstand the worst winter weather completely unscathed. The flowers have the ability to unfurl on relatively warm days but remain closed when it's cold to avoid damage from frost. Most varieties have a sweet, spicy fragrance. The branches can be cut just as the flowers start to open and added to indoor arrangements where they will fill the room with their scent.

Slow-growing and multi-stemmed, in the Maine woods witch-hazel typically reaches heights of 15 to 20 feet and has a vase-shaped habit. In full sun, it has a more compact, pyramidal growth habit. Kerry Hardy, director of Merryspring Nature Park in Camden, says that when taking groups of children out for an autumn nature hike on Fernald's Neck, he sometimes stops and asks if they can spot the only plant that's blooming at that time. The kids usually don't look up high enough to see the inconspicuous blooms, Hardy says, although the adults often spot them. Hardy notes that in the sun witch hazels not only adopt the more compact shape but flower and seed more heavily.

Witch hazel is unusual in that it produces flowers at the same time the previous year's fruits mature and disperse seed. It produces a capsule-like fruit with two shiny, hard black seeds with white, oily, edible interiors. When mature, the seed capsules explode apart with a cracking pop, catapulting the seeds up to ten yards from the shrub. Remember this if you bring a bouquet of witch hazel twigs indoors when flowering in autumn. The seed capsules of the previous year are there at the same time and when they heat up in the warm confines of a home, they can explode and leave one wondering what that sound was in the next room.

The native witch hazel has a long history of medicinal use. In Connecticut, where the witch hazel industry began, the Mohegan Indians used a decoction of the leaves and twigs to treat cuts, bruises, and insect bites. The witch

hazel industry is still centered in Connecticut, where the E. E. Dickinson Co., the T.N. Dickinson Co., and the American Distilling and Manufacturing Co. produce most of the witch hazel extract sold on the American market. Much of the harvest still comes from the woods of northwestern Connecticut, where harvest begins in the autumn. Branches are cut to the ground, but resprout, producing a new harvest in a few years. Portable chippers allow for on-site processing of the plant material, which is then taken to the factories, steam-distilled for 36 hours, then re-heated, condensed, then filtered. Alcohol is added as a preservative. Witch hazel is one of very few American medicinal plants still approved as an ingredient in non-prescription drugs by the Food and Drug Administration.

If you'd like your own cultivated witch hazel, the ideal garden setting is in part sun to light shade and moist, slightly acidic, organically rich soils. Since they are rather large shrubs or small trees, with large leaves, it's best to use them as background shrubs in borders, or in group plantings for summer screening. Witch hazels seldom require any pruning, and selective cutting of the branches for forcing won't ruin the shape of the plant. However, if minor pruning is necessary to keep the plant growing in a uniform shape, it should be done during the dormant months of November through February.

Garden Club Horticulture Series Continues

The Camden Garden Club horticulture series will continue with Terry and Diane Hire presenting a lecture and slide show on "150 Years of Garden Trends" on Tuesday, February 7, at The Lord Camden Inn in Camden.

The Hires are both artists. Terry is the founder and owner of an interior design company, a house designer, and a painterly art photographer. Diane is the author of two quilt books and a fiber artist. Together they have created a garden in Northport that is filled with decorative items ranging from graceful urns to abstract scrap metal sculptures made from found objects. There is an infant fruit orchard, a formal boxwood-hedged potager, and an espaliered apple tree attached to a "tree house" potting shed.

The lecture and slide show will include historic styles, structures and accessories. Noted will be the work of Beatrix Farrand and examples of other gardens, including a few in the Pacific Northwest.

Coffee will be served at 9:30 a.m. and the program will follow at 10 a.m. There is no charge to attend the program, which is open to the public.

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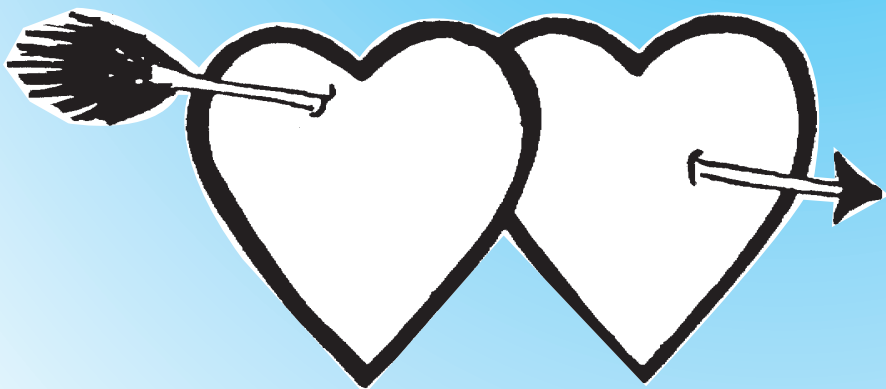
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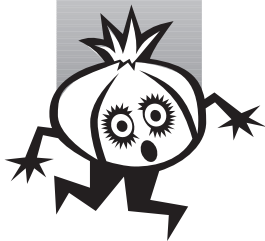
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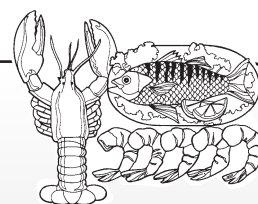
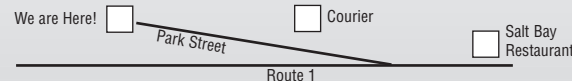
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Trying to Decipher the Dept. of Ed's New Funding Formula

by Melissa Waterman

Complexity may be the hallmark of higher forms of life, as biologists say, but to judge from the complexity in such government initiatives as the new Medicare prescription coverage program, it's also be the hallmark of political policy. The recently implemented Essential Programs and Services (EPS) funding formula for Maine's public schools shows similar signs of staggering complexity.

The EPS funding model is used by the state's Department of Education to allocate state money to Maine's public schools. The old allocation formula was based on a school's previous year's expenditures; the EPS model is based on the costs stemming from programs and services that the Department of Education says are necessary to allow all pupils to meet Maine's Learning Results standards. And, since the biggest chunk of any Maine taxpayer's property tax payment is used to fund education — according to the Maine Municipal Association, the average Maine community uses 68 percent of the property taxes it collects to fund education — it's worth a stab at understanding the nuances of the new EPS formula. That was the topic of a presentation by Dr. Daniel Innis, University of Maine Dean of Business, Public Policy and Health, last Thursday evening at Camden Hills Regional High School, which was attended by 30 school superintendents, school board members and teachers from throughout the midcoast area.

Where Did EPS Come From?

In January of 1999, the Maine State Board of Education released a two-year study on public education in Maine in which it called for funding education based on essential programs and services. That report ultimately led to the 2004 Act that replaced the old funding formula for public schools with the EPS model.

EPS is similar to the zero-based budgeting approach used by corporations and public agencies to control costs: the state wipes clean educational allocations of previous years and builds the yearly budget from zero, allocating funds based on expected need, not previous expenditures. And what does every school in Maine need? According to the Department of Education, "all schools [will] have the programs and resources that are essential for all students to have an equitable opportunity to achieve Maine's Learning Results." As Dr. Innis summarized, the EPS model aims to "match spending to need."

To determine what it should cost to allow all Maine's public students to achieve adequacy in the eight Learning Result curriculum areas, the Department of Education spent several years studying schools in the state where students performed well on Learning Result tests and where funds were most efficiently used to achieve those high scores.

How Does the EPS Model Work?

The EPS model is based on four numerical components: a base amount per pupil; a weighted amount per specific category of pupil (those with limited English or economically disadvantaged students); program costs per pupil; and targeted funds. The base amount of money per pupil is calculated specifically for each school, and is different for elementary and secondary schools. The final figure is the sum of teaching staff costs, additional staff costs, and non-staff costs to provide those programs and resources necessary to teach Learning Results curriculum.

The Department of Education has devised a chart based on the ratio of teachers, educational staff, and other staff to students found in the "high performing schools" to determine how much money should be allocated to cover salaries. The base amount allocated per pupil also factors in the expense of operating the school and providing supplies and equipment.

In an elementary school with 200 students, for example, the EPS model will provide money to cover one-quarter the cost of a full-time librarian (200/800). In such a school, just one-quarter of a full-time school nurse would be funded under the EPS model.

Schools that have high populations of students for whom English is a second language are given slightly more weight when running the EPS model. A limited English student counts as between 1.3 and 1.6 students while those from economically disadvantaged families count as 1.15 students. Thus if the base student rate per pupil is \$200, each student for whom English is a second language would be worth between \$260 and \$320.

Program costs per pupil include such items as special education costs, transportation costs, gifted and talented program costs, and vocational education. These expenses are included because the Department of Education deems them necessary to provide each student an equal opportunity to achieve the

DOE Personnel Ratios for Maine Public Schools

Personnel	Elementary	Middle School	Secondary
Classroom & Special Subject Teachers	1-17	1-16	1-15
Education Technicians	1-100	1-100	1-250
Guidance Staff	1-350	1-350	1-250
Library Staff			
Librarian	1-800	1-800	1-800
Media Assistant	1-500	1-500	1-500
Health Staff	1-800	1-800	1-800
SAD Staff	1-305	1-305	1-315
Clerical Staff	1-200	1-200	1-200

Maine Learning Results standards.

To receive targeted funds — monies that a school uses to do student assessment, improve teaching technology, and conduct special kindergarten to second grade programs — a school must submit a plan to the Department of Education outlining how those funds will be used. The Department must review and approve that plan before funds may be released.

Members of the audience nodded in agreement when Dr. Innis said, "the EPS model starts to build into larger problems for you [if classroom ratios differ from the state ratios]. The local community has more to pay for." Many of the educators in attendance indicated that they see the EPS model as the state's method of forcing regionalization among rural schools. Dr. Innis deferred those questions to Camden House Representative Stephen Bowen, who was in the audience. Bowen noted that "In the governor's State of the State speech, he said he has put more money into the budget for high performing small schools" and that the Department of Education currently is working on a funding model to be applied to smaller schools.

Curriculum areas that are not covered under the EPS model include such things as after-school programming, remedial services to under-performing students, honors programs, music studies, athletics, and costs related to students with disabilities. Those activities must be paid for with local funds.

State Assumes 55% Share

The School Finance Act of 1985 called for the state to assume 55% of the costs for K-12 public education in Maine. That goal has never been reached in the intervening twenty years; in fact, contributions to public education from general revenues decreased to approximately 42% of total costs by 2004, according to Maine Municipal Association (MMA) figures. A referendum presented to Maine voters by the MMA calling for the state to honor its commitment to fund 55% of education costs passed in June, 2004 (the School Finance and Tax Reform Act). The state will take four years to reach that goal, assuming 55% of EPS costs in 2009-2010.

That four-year period until the state meets its 55% goal poses difficulties for school administrative districts and for local towns. For this fiscal year, the state is covering only 84% of the costs associated with Essential Programs and Services, leaving a 16% gap that must be picked up by local communities. This year that difference — between the total cost for essential programs and services, as defined by the Department of Education, and the amount paid for by the state — is approximately \$283 million. Thus local towns must not only contribute their regular local share to the school administrative district budget but also find additional money to cover that 16% discrepancy. The state forecasts that

gap to be erased by FY 2008-2009.

It should be noted, however, that even when the state reaches its 55% goal for essential programs and services in FY 2009-2010, those activities not deemed essential programs and services — such as music, athletics, theater, and remedial programs — will remain unsupported by the state. If local communities want to see those activities in their schools, they will have to set aside additional funds, beyond those earmarked for essential programs and services, to support them. As Dr. Innis pointed out, research shows that athletics and music provide clear scholastic and personal benefits to young people.

Several members of the audience remarked

that in current town warrants, voters must approve two school budget figures, the first for essential programs and services and then a second figure for school costs not considered to be essential programs and services. "It's hard to convince the public that the second number is necessary," said one woman, noting that the word 'essential' implies that any funds requested above what the state requires are unnecessary. Rep. Bowen responded that a bill has been submitted this session to allow that warrant language to be changed.

The overall cost for essential programs and services is forecast by the Department of Education to rise each year, from \$1.774 billion in the current fiscal year, to \$1.866 billion in FY 2009-2010. Thus, while the percentage of costs covered by the state grows to 55%, the actual figure that must be paid for by local school districts will increase by slightly more than \$92 million in four years' time.

In January of last year, LD 1, known as the Property Tax Relief bill, was signed into law by Governor Baldacci. The Act formally changed the school funding formula to the EPS model. In addition, it required \$250 million in additional funds be allocated for education funding in the 2005-2006 fiscal year, with an additional \$100 million during the next two-year budgeting cycle. It is this infusion of \$350 million that will allow the state to reach its goal of funding 55% of public school costs by 2009-2010.

Maine voters supported the 2004 referendum calling for the state to assume 55% of school costs in part because they felt that ever-increasing school budgets were causing local property taxes to go up; by the state assuming a larger percentage of overall costs, the argument went, local property taxes would decrease. Noting the gradually diminishing gap that local schools must assume for the next several years and the overall increase in the cost of essential programs and services by 2010, Dr. Innis stated the obvious when he said, "the opportunity for tremendous savings in taxes isn't there."

On Feb. 7 in Augusta the legislature's Education Committee will learn whether the Department of Education will reshape Essential Programs and Services funding formula to diminish the disparities between funds for urban and rural schools.

About MSAD #40 Bill

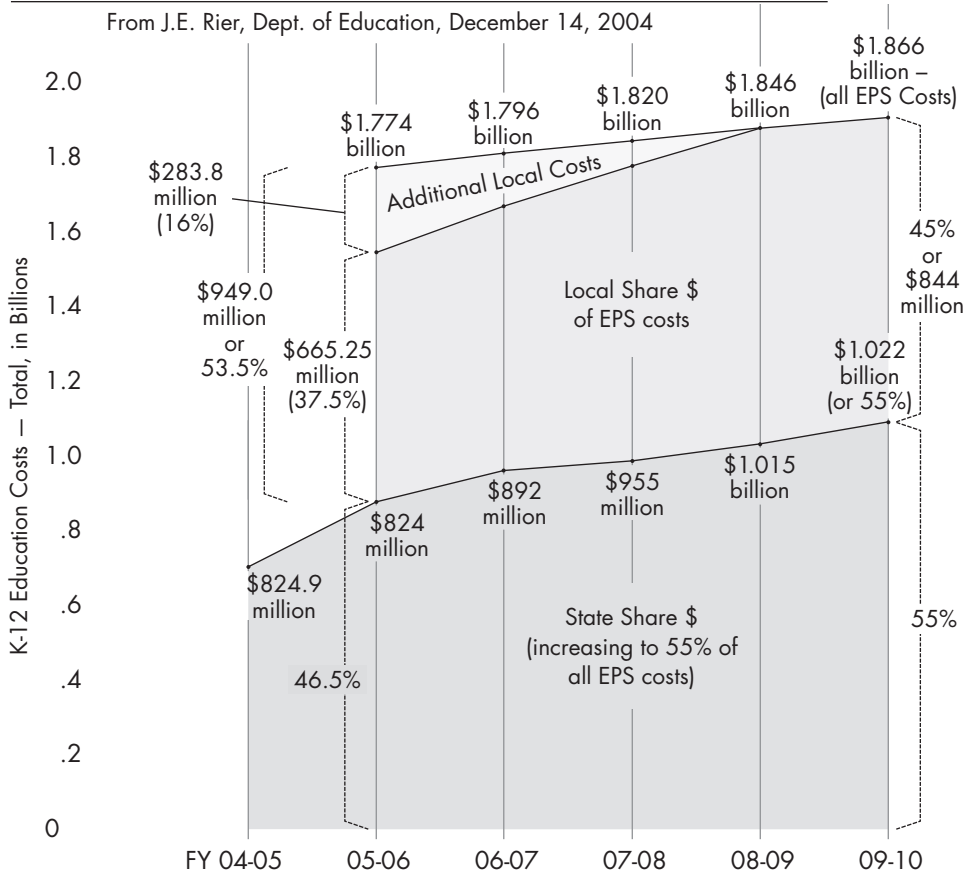
According to Senator Christine Savage, R-Union, the emergency bill, LD 1903, sponsored by Representative Lisa Miller of Somerville, to return the towns in MSAD #40 district to a 50%/50% school funding formula is the result of a missed deadline on the part of the school district.

Under LD 1 which came into force in 2005, local municipalities' contributions to the school district budget changed from a contribution based on 50% local property values and 50% student population to a formula based solely on local property values. Thus an individual town's contribution to the school district's budget bears no relation to the number of students the town has in the school system.

"A district that had towns which would suffer an adverse impact from this new system received notification that the district could appeal," explains Savage. "The SAD 40 board missed that letter because of job transitions at the time. The current superintendent didn't realize it until the deadline had passed." Within SAD 40, Friendship's share of district expenses increased this fiscal year by \$318,000; that increase came because Friendship lies on the water with property values correspondingly higher than in inland towns, such as Warren (Warren's contribution to district expenses decreased by \$258,000). "There's inequity among the towns within the district," Savage continues, "and because the deadline has passed, the only way to correct it is through legislative action."

The bill does not affect the overall EPS funding model used by the Department of Education to determine the budget for individual schools within the district. A public hearing on LD 1903 is being held today (Thursday) in Augusta.

State/Local Share of Education Costs



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Friday, February 3:
 Noon-7pm Race check-in
 10am-6pm Snow Bowl open for skiing
 1-4pm Toboggan chute open, conditions permitting
Saturday, February 4:
 7am-noon Race check-in, toboggan inspections
 9am-4pm Snow Bowl open for skiing & tubing
 9am-noon Qualifying runs for 2- & 3-person teams (1st & 2nd runs)
 1-4pm Qualifying runs for 4-person teams (1st runs)
 6-7:30pm Chili & Chowder Challenge, Rockport
 Masonic Center, 361 Main St., Rockport
Sunday, February 5:
 9am-4pm Snow Bowl open for skiing, tubing
 9am on... Qualifying runs for 4-person teams (2nd runs)
 Qualifying final runs
 Top 30 2- & 3-person teams;
 Top 75 4-person teams
 3pm Awards ceremony, raffle drawings
All race times subject to change & conditions

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Toboggan Nationals Sliding Into Town

Fasten your seatbelts: the 16th annual U.S. Toboggan Nationals are sliding into town. The 16th annual U.S. National Toboggan Championships will be held Friday, Saturday and Sunday, February 3, 4 and 5, at the Camden Snow Bowl.

It's a long, cold, 400-foot ride from the top of the mountain at the Camden Snow Bowl to the ice below on Hosmer Pond for tobogganers at the 2006 U.S. National Toboggan Championships. With 400 teams going down the chute for a total of 910 runs and plenty to do and see on the slopes and at the lodge, the three-day event promises to be an exciting weekend for spectators and participants of all ages.

Chute crew chief Stuart Young has been busy at the chute and with cold temperatures and snow predicted in the days leading up to the big event, it could shape up to be a great year.

Nearly every team slot is filled and news

around the country is that teams are busy sanding and waxing, beefing up or slimming down (depending on strategy), and practicing their mounts and dismounts with their eye on winning a mahogany trophy and bragging rights.

This year will bring back the 50-50 raffle and the drawing will be held on Sunday, during the award ceremony in the Snow Bowl lodge. The 50-50 raffle tickets are \$1 each.

The Chili and Chowder Challenge will again be held at the Masonic Center in Rockport, a popular venue last year that amply handled the overflow crowd. Vying for best chili and chowder this year are the Black Bull Tavern, Breakwater Cafe, French & Brawn, Marriner's Grille, Natalie's at the Mill, Offshore Restaurant, Pen Bay Cafe, Quarry Hill, Upper Deck Cafe, Waterfront Restaurant, Wave Cafe and Windward Gardens.

The 2006 Chili and Chowder Challenge is sponsored by West Bay Rotary Club, with

2006 U.S. National Toboggan Championships Schedule of Events

Friday, February 3:

Noon to 7 p.m. — Race check-in, toboggan inspections, Pit and Paradise parking purchases and race souvenirs at the Snow Bowl lodge.

10 a.m. to 6 p.m. — Snow Bowl open for skiing

1 to 4 p.m. — Toboggan chute open, conditions permitting

Saturday, February 4:

7 a.m. to Noon — Race check-in and toboggan inspections at the Snow Bowl lodge

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. — Snow Bowl open for skiing and tubing

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. — Race souvenirs available at Chute Shop by the toboggan chute

9 a.m. to noon — Qualifying runs for 2- & 3-person teams (first and second runs)

1 to 4 p.m. — Qualifying runs for 4-person teams (first runs)

6 to 7:30 p.m. — Chili & Chowder Challenge, Rockport Masonic Center, 361 Main Street, Rockport

Sunday, February 5:

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. — Snow Bowl open for skiing, tubing

9 a.m. to 2 p.m. — Race souvenirs available at Chute Shop at the toboggan chute

9 a.m. to TBA — Qualifying runs for 4-person (second runs)

TBA — Qualifying final runs

Top 30 of 2-person teams

Top 30 of 3-person teams

Top 75 of 4-person teams

All race times subject to change — ARRIVE EARLY!

3 p.m. — Awards ceremony and raffle drawings

Awards for first, second, and third places in each category will be based on combined times in finals.

Special Awards:

Best Team Uniform, Spirit Award, Oldest Team, Fastest Family, Fastest Women's Team, Fastest Children's Team

Pit Parking: available for \$85 at registration beginning on Friday at noon and continuing Saturday morning until sold out. Limited space available, first-come first-served.

Paradise Parking: available for \$60 at registration beginning on Friday at noon and continuing Saturday morning until sold out. Limited space available, first-come first-served.

For more information visit the Camden Snow Bowl online at www.CamdenSnowBowl.com.

Left: Traveling at speeds of more than 40 mph, toboggan teams think long and hard about their aerodynamic form in the race for fame and glory and fundraising frivolity.

Below: Racers wait their turn at the top of the toboggan chute's loading deck while one team is launched into the chute and the next team climbs aboard and settles in. The Camden Snow Bowl has one of the few remaining wooden toboggan chutes in North America. The Toboggan Nationals are held each year to raise money for the town-owned and operated outdoor recreation facility.



proceeds from the event going to the Snow Bowl and West Bay Rotary.

The challenge begins at 6 p.m. on Saturday, February 4. Admission is \$6 for adults and \$4 for children. Come and be part of the fun and enjoy some of the best chili and chowder the midcoast has to offer.

Throughout the weekend, vendors will be on hand offering fish chowder, hot chocolate,

hot cider, hamburgers, Domino's Pizza and more. There will also be toboggans for sale and alpaca fiber mittens, hats and blankets, among other items.

The Toboggan Nationals Souvenir Shack will also be stocked with newly designed posters and T-shirts, as well as hats, neck warmers and a wide variety of items to fit all budgets.

The First is proud to sponsor the 16th Annual US National Toboggan Championships at the Camden Snow Bowl

Special Thanks to our team, *A Better Way to 'Boggan*, for representing The First: Misty Jones, Heather Lewis, David Nadeau, and Lori Upham

Good Luck!



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Camden Physician Summarily Suspended

Karl F. Sitterly, M.D., was summarily suspended by the Board of Licensure in Medicine on January 31. The action means that Dr. Sitterly, who also practices under the name Fritz Sitterly, cannot practice medicine in the State of Maine at the present time. He closed his practice after a fire over the Christmas holidays destroyed his medical office, which adjoined his home in Camden.

At its January 31 meeting, the Board reviewed information regarding allegations of Dr. Sitterly's substance abuse. After review, the Board determined that there was sufficient possibility of danger to Dr. Sitterly and his patients to necessitate immediate suspension of his license pending an adjudicatory hearing. The hearing will be held within 30 days unless the physician requests a postponement or signs a Consent Agreement.

Patients of Dr. Sitterly had already been advised to contact their primary care physician, their health insurance provider, or if an emergency situation, their local emergency room for alternative treatment options.

Schrock Named Programs Director at Opera House in Boothbay Harbor



Kate Schrock

The Opera House at Boothbay Harbor (OHBH) will be experiencing some changes in 2006; executive director Stephen Coppick is stepping down after steering the Opera House through two years and helping establish the Opera House as a year-round center for performance. Since the century-old Opera House at Boothbay Harbor was saved from commercial development in 2003, the organization has worked toward the goal of becoming a modern, multi-purpose performance center. The OHBH will continue to focus on this goal and will be welcoming a new face in 2006 — director of programming, Kate Schrock.

Schrock has already begun to provide programming support and has made plans to bring in two concerts later this winter. A performer, Schrock has shared the stage with Ellis Paul, Stephen Stills and Taj Mahal. Currently, Schrock is working on a project with Glen DaCosta, longtime member of the Wailers. Upcoming concerts include WCLZ artists John Eddie and Ellis Paul. For more information about the Opera House, its events and activities, visit www.boothbay-operahouse.org or call 633-6855.

Local Foods Breakfast

Looking for a meal that hasn't been on a forklift? Maybe some yogurt that has never been ultrapasteurized and shipped 2,500 miles? The Morris Farm invites all to see how people eat locally, even in the middle of winter, at their third annual Local Foods Breakfast on Saturday, February 11, from 8 to 10 a.m.

The menu will include pancakes with flour from Webb Family Farm in Gardiner, covered with Webb's maple syrup. Eggs will be provided from farms in the Wiscasset area, bacon and sausage by the Morris Farm, cider from Ricker Hill Orchards in Turner, applesauce made from the apple trees in the Wiscasset Primary School's courtyard, and whole-milk yogurt made with milk from a local dairy farm. Only the coffee is from away.

Those attending should bring their own place setting. Cost is \$7 per person, \$20 per family. For more information, call the Morris Farm at 882-4080.

Tax Assistance Available at Coastal Community Center

It's tax time, and confidential tax assistance is available at Coastal Community Center, located at 521 Main Street in Damariscotta (the Overlook Building above Subway and across from Round Top Ice Cream). Free tax help for middle- and low-income taxpayers, with special attention to those age 60 and over, will be available on Tuesdays, February 7 through April 11, from 9 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.

AARP/IRS-trained tax counselors will be at Senior Spectrum's Coastal Community Center to help with 2005 federal and state income tax returns. E-filing will be available to most clients if taxpayer is present (both spouses must sign if married filing jointly). Call 563-1363 to make an appointment. At the time of the call, let the receptionist know if you are interested in the e-filing option. Bring last year's return, any tax packages received from the IRS or state, and all information about income and deductions.

Belfast Library to Show "My Land, Zion"

In October 2005, an Israeli mother, Yulie Cohen Gerstle, living in Israel, along with her two young draft-age daughters, came to the University of Maine at Orono with two films that she had made. What was the message that she had brought to the Women in the Curriculum Department at the University? Gerstle captures, via the perspective of her production, how she gradually learns for herself the Palestinians' history of the founding of Israel which displaced many thousands of the people who had lived on the land of Palestine for centuries. In her search for this history, she comes to the realization that the struggle between the two peoples was exacting from both Israelis and Palestinians a price neither could any longer afford to pay. The history of persecution of European and other Jewry and its deep connection to the establishment of the State of Israel; the price that Palestinians have been paying through the continuing expropriation of their land by the Government of Israel; and the multigenerational issues in her own Jewish family which these events bring to the surface as Gerstle struggles with the compulsory drafting of her daughters into the Israeli Defense Force are all brought together in Gerstle's story.

This film, entitled "My Land, Zion," is on loan to the Peace and Justice Group of Waldo County for their February Film Forum presentation and will be shown in the Abbott Room of the Belfast Free Library at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, February 8. Admission is free and discussion will follow the hour-long film. For further information, call 338-4920.

Valentine's Day Meal for Seniors Feb. 13

Stan Catell and Friends will perform at a Valentine's Day meal at the Methodist Conference Home on Summer Street in Rockland at 11:45 a.m. on Monday, February 13.

Clarinetist Catell will lead his band in all the old favorites, performing swing, Latin, waltz and jazz. Lois Stackpole-Alley will prepare a home-cooked meal as she does every Monday through Friday at the Rockland-based congregational meal site for all senior citizens in Knox County.

Tickets are \$3.50 for people over age 60 and \$5.25 for people under 60. Call the Methodist Conference Home at 594-2740 to make reservations.

Jackson Talks on Preserve America Designation

Settled in 1769, Camden prospered as a shipbuilding and wool manufacturing town. Those industries have all but disappeared, but the town has national recognition for preserving its heritage: a Preserve America designation. David Jackson, the man who worked to get that title, will explain what the designation means to the community when the Camden-Rockport Historical Society hosts its third Coffee Chat of the season on Sunday, February 12. The talk, free and open to the public, begins at 2 p.m. at the Camden Public Library.

Jackson, director of the Conservancy for Camden Harbor Park and Amphitheatre, also will discuss efforts to list the amphitheater as a National Historic Landmark. It already is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Preserve America, a White House initiative, aims to encourage greater appreciation of the nation's heritage — from monuments and buildings to landscapes and main streets. Gardiner is the only other Maine community with the Preserve America designation.

Jackson spearheaded the drive to achieve the Preserve America recognition for Camden. He also has applied for a matching grant from a \$5 million federal fund that Preserve America describes as a way to help designated communities "develop inventive tourism programs and provide historical documentation that tells a story to enhance the local visitor experience." For more information, call 236-5227.

Come Spring School Hosting Open House

Come Spring School, a private elementary school in Union, will be having an open house on Friday, February 10, from noon to 7 p.m. Visitors will have the opportunity to tour the school site and talk with staff.

Come Spring School offers a small learning environment where children receive individualized and small group instruction in a community setting. Children who have failed in other educational settings often thrive at this school. A major goal of the school is to help children return to their original school with renewed confidence and stronger academic skills, especially in reading, writing and math. Come Spring School is now accepting students for the fall 2006 session. Students are accepted both from school districts and individual families. For more information, call 785-6577



Camden Library Hosts Discussion on Books by John Berendt

The Camden Public Library is hosting a book discussion on John Berendt's books on Tuesday, February 7, at 6:30 p.m., in anticipation of Berendt's lecture at the Camden Opera House on Sunday, February 19. Carolyn Marsh will be leading the discussion at the library, and all are welcome.

Berendt is the author of *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* (1994) and recently published his next book, *The City of Falling Angels*, a book of depth and intrigue about modern Venice. The story begins with the devastating fire at the heart of old Venice, the Fenice Opera House, and uses the fire and its aftermath to uncover the true Venice.

Berendt will be speaking on Sunday, February 19 at 2:30 p.m. at the Camden Opera House as part of the Camden Public Library's Arts & Lecture Series. Tickets are still available by calling 236-2823.

Feb. 8 Forum to Address Challenges of Island Small Businesses

Island Institute, CEI, and Sunrise County Economic Council to cosponsor Rockland meeting.

From marine industries and transportation to retail and business services, Maine's island communities support — and are supported by — a diverse array of small businesses. Island small businesses face a unique set of challenges, as well as enjoying some unique opportunities. With this in mind, the Island Institute, the Small Business Development Center of CEI and the Sunrise County Economic Council will sponsor a day-long Island Small Business Forum on Wednesday, February 8. The forum will take place in the Breakwater Room at the Maine Lighthouse Museum, located at One Park Drive in Rockland. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. The forum runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with lunch provided. There is no cost to attend, but pre-registration is required. To register, contact Jeremy Gabrielson at 255-6794 or jgabrielson@islandinstitute.org.

This first-of-its-kind forum will bring together island small-business owners with small-business assistance professionals to explore the challenges inherent in running an island business. "We look forward to hearing what island business owners have to say, and we really hope that business owners will leave with a greater awareness of the resources that exist to help them succeed," says Rob Snyder, vice president of programs at the Island Institute.

Presenters will include experts from the Maine Technology Institute, CEI's Small Business Development Centers, the Small Business Administration and the Women, Work and Community program, all of whom will address the technical assistance and training resources available to islanders. Erin Fernald from the Islesford Store will talk about the challenges she has faced going into business on a small island. In a panel on business development and marketing strategies, Dianne Tilton of the Sunrise Economic Council will speak on the business-driven approach to economic renewal in the town of Jonesport; and Barbara Johnson of Chebeague.org will speak about using the Internet for joint marketing and information sharing.

BCC Announces First Annual Choral Festival

Bay Chamber Concerts invites all adult choristers to be part of the Brubeck Choral Festival, celebrating the choral works of jazz pianist and composer Dave Brubeck, May 30 to June 3, in Camden. This is an opportunity to rehearse and perform this choral repertoire under artistic director Russell Gloyd, Brubeck's longtime musical collaborator. The main work will be "Earth Is Our Mother," with narration by Passamaquoddy storyteller Allen Sockabasin. The musical accompaniment will be provided by the Brubeck Brothers Jazz Quartet and other professional musicians, for performance on Saturday, June 3, at the Camden Opera House.

In addition to two daily rehearsals (morning and evening), choristers will choose from a variety of musical, cultural and recreational activities that explore the environmental theme of "Earth Is Our Mother" including yoga classes, a Native American flute workshop, museum outings, or simply relaxing and enjoying midcoast Maine.

The cost for participants is \$450, which includes tuition, meals, all lectures and workshops, and social and recreational activities. Singers are responsible for their own accommodations. To register, or for more information, visit www.baychamberconcerts.org and click on Adult Residential Workshops, or call 236-2823.

Swiss Journalist Shows at The Studio Gallery

Among the works on display at The Studio Gallery, on Main Street



in Newcastle, are the vibrant paintings of Swiss journalist Marcus Wuest. On his annual visits to the Damariscotta area, Wuest brings along several examples of his large, colorful paintings for display at the gallery. This month, he has on exhibit two landscapes and joins local artists Valerie Tamplin, Jane Murdock, Martha Krieg, and Wally Huber-Schweighauser.



Earrings by Nancy Tang

Glass Jewelry Workshop at Lincoln Street Center

Lincoln Street Center for Arts & Education will offer a one-day Saturday workshop titled "Making Dichroic Glass Jewelry" on Saturday, February 4, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The cost of the workshop is \$315 plus \$65 for materials. The instructor for the workshop is Nancy Tang, a world-renowned dichroic glass jewelry artist.

This will be a comprehensive, one-day workshop; topics covered will be: safety, materials, tools and techniques used in creating kiln-fired, dichroic glass jewelry. Students will learn to create cabs, beads, and pendants using several techniques with an emphasis on the creative use of color. Students will leave this class with many pieces of finished jewelry, a 20-page handout covering everything done in class and reference information, as well as the knowledge they need to go home, set up a studio, and begin fusing on their own. Students are mentored after class at no charge for as long as they wish.

Tang has been fusing with dichroic glass for 10 years and teaching fusing for seven years. Her work, sold under the name Glass Orchids, can be found in approximately 300 galleries across the United States with 70 of those in Maine, and can be seen online at Tang's Web site, www.glassorchids.com.

Pre-registration for the workshop is required. Call the center to reserve space for this one-day dichroic glass jewelry workshop at 594-6490 or visit the center online at www.lincolnstreetcenter.com.



First-place Maarta Laiho's poster design.

Camden celebrates Winterfest 2006 with several new events, one of which is a poster design contest. The contest was open to all area middle and high school students. Entrants were asked to design an image that represented the artist's vision of a festive community celebration of winter in the Camden Amphitheatre & Harbor Park. The winning entry has been used on this year's Winterfest 2006 poster, which is widely distributed throughout the community as well as on limited-edition shirts. The artist will be signing these t-shirts and they will be for sale at the event.

Poster design winners, all students at Camden Hills Regional High School, were first place, Maarta Laiho (senior); second place, Isaiah Pottle (senior); third place (shared), Peter Doubleday (freshman) and Tana Scott (senior).

The Camden Downtown Business Group provided gift certificates as prizes for poster-design winners. The group is also producing a poster celebrating the design winners.

All poster-design entries will be on display in the Camden Public Library the day of the event: Sunday, February 12, beginning at noon.



Second-place Isaiah Pottle's artwork.



Shared third-place winners: Tana Scott (left) and Peter Doubleday.



Christie Mounts February Show at Bagel Café

Heather Christie, of Rockport, has hung more than 25 photos from her collection of portraits at the Bagel Café, in Camden, through the month of February. The exhibit includes portraits of family and friends, as well as children, teens and adults she has photographed over the years.

Christie relates a story about photographing her grandmother and her great-grandmother:

"My grandmother said, 'Oh, Heather, please. I look absolutely terrible in photos. You know I dislike having my photo taken. My hair is a mess. I haven't put on my makeup. Oh, Heather.'

"I expressed to her how important it is for me to record the images of all stages of life. That the beauty of a baby

is equal to the awkwardness of a teenager. That the graceful elegance of growing old is a gift for the world to share. 'As much as you enjoy looking at photos of your grandchildren, I enjoy the beauty of you, Grandma.'

"She, being a wonderful grandmother, as most grandmothers are, agreed. We next had to talk to my great-grandmother. A stroke some eight years ago not only confined her to a wheelchair, but left her with the inability to speak English; she now only speaks in her native tongue, Italian. A very broken and scattered Italian at that.

"Grandma talked with her mother about the photographs, but from the looks Great-grandmother gave me, I could only

assume she was saying no. The dialogue between both grandmothers continued until Great-grandmother gestured for me.

"While my great-grandmother and I loved our conversations in earlier days, I also remember all too well the passion she could give with her short temper and commanding demands. But, being an adult now, I knew I could talk to her and we would have a mature conversation. As I sat next to her at her kitchen table of the house she's lived in for more than 75 years, I said, 'Great-Grandma, please. Let me take a photo of you and Grandma. Mom wouldn't let me photograph her before she died and I really wish I would have pushed her more to do it for me. Just allow me to do this. It would mean so much to me and Grandma's already agreed.'

"Great-grandma looked at me, smiled and smacked me on my head. She said to me, 'You such a baby,' and with fake sobs and tears, she mocked me. I was stunned. My grandmother chimed in and said, 'Mama, stop teasing her. You already said yes to me. Why put her through this. Please, Mama.' Great-grandmother laughed and hugged me. I guess I was the highlight of her day. She pointed to my camera and gestured for me to pick it up and to get started."



Heather Christie's Grandma Langello, 83, and Great-Grandma Imbriaco, 103.

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Finalists in Winterfest Poster Design

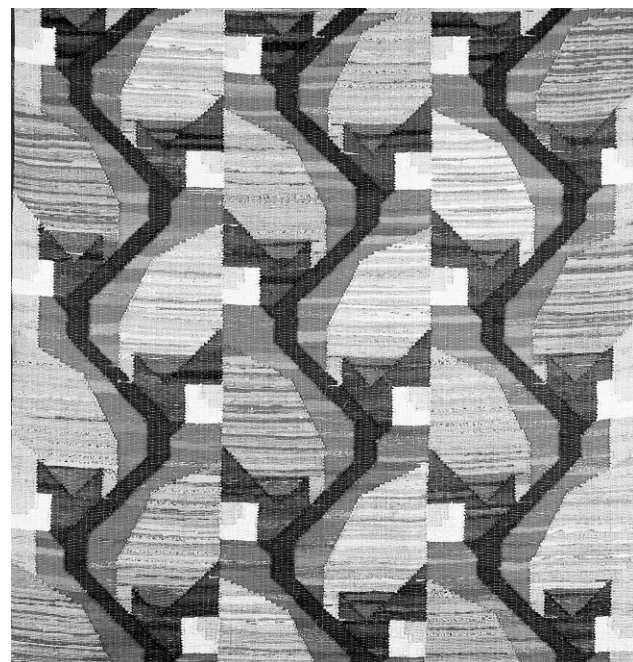
Camden celebrates Winterfest 2006 with several new events, one of which is a poster design contest.

The contest was open to all area middle and high school students.

Entrants were asked to design an image that represented the artist's vision of a festive community celebration of winter in the Camden Amphitheatre & Harbor Park. The winning entry has been used on this year's Winterfest 2006 poster, which is widely distributed throughout the community as well as on limited-edition shirts. The artist will be signing these t-shirts and they will be for sale at the event.



Second-place Isaiah Pottle's artwork.



"Whirled Leaves," by Sara Hotchkiss.

Tidemark Gallery's Featured Artist Wins National Acclaim

Waldoboro artist Sara Hotchkiss' 7' x 7' hand-woven carpet entitled "Whirled Leaves" will be featured at Tidemark Gallery in Waldoboro from February 8 through February 11. Her work will then compete with the 191 selections out of 1,000 entries for the NICHE award at the Philadelphia Buyers Market of American Craft. The awards program is sponsored by NICHE magazine, the exclusive trade publication for North American Retailers of American Craft. The winners will be announced on February 19. More examples of Hotchkiss' hand-woven carpets are included in a Tidemark Gallery mid-winter show entitled "Floor Show" from February 15 through March 11.

Also featured at the Gallery's February show will be works by Friendship artist Patience Sampson. Her display will showcase various original creations including her signature painted floor cloths, placemats and shower curtains.

Tidemark's mission is to serve as "heart of the art community" showcasing Waldoboro-area fine artists and artisans working in pottery, metal, jewelry, photography, fiber arts and furniture painting along with acrylics, watercolor and oils. Artists regularly exhibiting works at the gallery include Audrey Bechler, John Blamey, Holly-Marie Haining, Mary and Joe Devenney, Ardy Greatorex, Stephen Hensel, Patience Sampson, Greg Holmes, Diane Crowley and Roberta Goschke. New members and featured guest artists will be announced throughout the winter season.

The gallery is located at 902 Main Street, Waldoboro. Winter hours are Wednesday through Saturday 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. For more information, call Charlotte Davenport at 832-7897.

Logo Design Contest

WERU-FM, a community radio station, invites local artists to submit designs for the 2006 Full Circle Fair logo. WERU will use the winning design in publications as well as on posters and T-shirts.

Those interested in participating should send WERU a copy of original black-and-white camera-ready art (in any size) and have it include the following: distinctive circular graphic reflecting the spirit of the station and the theme of the fair, "Celebrating Community Radio"; "WERU-FM Blue Hill 89.9 & 102.9 Bangor" and "www.weru.org" should be included in the design; also "2006 Full Circle Fair"; and the designer's signature.

The dates of the fair, July 22 and 23, may be added but are optional. All entries must be received by February 28. Submissions should include a name and phone number. Entries may be sent to: WERU, P.O. Box 170, East Orland, ME 04431, or e-mail to denis@weru.org.

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Drawing by Stell Shevis, 2005

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Lincoln Street Center Hosts Community Valentine Workshop

Because nothing expresses love like a handmade Valentine, Lincoln Street Center (LSC) is hosting a Valentine Workshop for people of all ages on Thursday, February 9, from 3 to 5 p.m. Lincoln Street Center studio artist Kalla Buchholz is organizing the workshop, along with artists Robert and Su.Sane Hake, who will provide guidance and inspiration. All materials for making Valentines will be provided, including papers, lace, fabric, envelopes and red pens for writing a special message or verse.

The cost of the workshop, including materials, is \$5 per person. Children aged seven and younger need to be accompanied by an adult.

To register, go the LSC Web site at www.lincolnstreet-center.org or call the center at 594-6490.

Lincoln Street Center Studio Members Invitational Exhibition

The Lincoln Street Center for Arts & Education (LSC) in Rockland announces an exhibition featuring LSC studio member artists and their invited friends. The exhibition will take place in the second-floor gallery at 24 Lincoln Street. Work includes recent mixed-media works, paintings, photography, drawings and three-dimensional work by LSC studio artists and invited friends. The diverse array of work on exhibition is representative of the artist community at Lincoln Street Center.

The show will open on Monday, February 6, and runs through Friday February 24. An artists' opening reception will take place on Friday, February 10, from 5 to 7 p.m. The center's gallery is on the second floor of the building at 24 Lincoln Street in Rockland (the old Rockland High School). Regular gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Lincoln Street Center for Arts and Education offers all members of the community opportunities to enrich their lives through learning and creativity. LSC strives to reach out to all ages and backgrounds. Through the sharing of resources, talents and skills with the community, LSC helps to build lifetime learning

experiences for individuals and families. Classes are regularly scheduled in writing, music, dance, acting, art, photography, sculpture and pottery. There are often presentations of art exhibitions, dance performances, concerts, plays, stand-up comedy and poetry readings.

For more information, give the center a call at 594-6490 or visit them online at www.lincolnstreet-center.org.



Oil on canvas, 2006, by Erika Manning.



Fiber art piece, titled "Puppet," 2006, by Kalla Buchholz.



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Clark's Trailer Park	9:30	11:00	12:31 pm	McLeod's Trailer Park
Keene's Trailer Park	9:32	11:02	12:33 pm	Belfast Agway
Bayhead Apartments	9:37	11:05	12:38 pm	Penobscot Shores
Belfast Center	9:43	11:11	12:42 pm	Huntress Gardens
Belfast Sq. Apts.	9:46	11:14	12:45 pm	Waldo Cty Gen Hosp.
Pine Apts.	9:50	11:18	12:49 pm	Volunteer of Amer. Apt.
Belfast Co-op	9:54	11:22	12:53 pm	Belfast Birches
Main St. Market	9:57	11:25	12:56 pm	Hilltop Birches
Ambassador Apts.	10:00	11:28	12:59 pm	Renys Plaza
Renys Plaza	10:03	11:31	1:02 pm	Main St. Market
Hannaford	10:07	11:35	1:06 pm	Belfast Co-op
				10:12
				11:40
				1:11 pm
				10:14
				11:42
				1:13 pm
				10:16
				11:44
				1:15 pm
				10:20
				11:48
				1:19 pm
				10:22
				11:50
				1:21 pm
				10:29
				11:59
				1:30 pm
				10:32
				12:02 pm
				1:33 pm
				10:35
				12:05 pm
				1:36 pm
				10:44
				12:14 pm
				1:45 pm
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Highlights of Events
February 6th at 6pm, *Meet the Author* Lea Wait who has written three award-winning historical novels set in 19th-century Maine. Lea writes books for adults as well as children; her latest book *Wintering Well* is a Maine Student Choice Award Nominee for 2005-2006.
February 14th at 7pm, *Be Our Valentine* Come enjoy an evening of love poems read to you by Kathleen Ellis, Elizabeth Tibbetts, Christian Barrer and George VanDeventer
Camden Conference Community Events
February 7th, 6:30pm, Book Discussion Series *War Trash* by Ha Jin
February 16th 5pm, Chinese Foreign Policy Gaming Event with Belfast Game Loft
February 21st 12 Noon Lecture, *China As In My Memory* with Lin Fan. Focusing on changes in business and legal systems
School Vacation Week Programs
Tues., Feb. 21 10am, *Yoga for Kids* with Lily Goodale, ages 6-9. At 2pm a reading and book signing with Jenna Shue, grades K-4.
Thur., Feb. 23 4pm, *Chickadee Book Club* (first of 5 meetings) for grades K-3
Fri., Feb. 24 10am, *If You Give a Pig a Pancake*, Meet the PIG, hear pancake stories, eat pancakes! For grades Pre-K-2.
Other Programs of Interest
Wed., Feb. 15 6:30pm, Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition presents: *Lives On the Passy*. Recollections of old-time Belfast with those who have grown up near the Passy. Moderated by local historian Jay Davis.
Tues., Feb. 28 6:30pm, Tuesday Talks series continues with a program titled "The Mystic Vision: A Timeless Seeing" with Megan Don, author of *Falling Into The Arms of God: Meditations with Teresa of Avila*.
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February Programs at Belfast Free Library

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Ongoing Story Hours for Children	Mondays 10am - Terrific Toddlers Story Hour (18 mos.-3) Tuesdays 10am - Preschoolers Story Hour (3-5) Thursdays 10am - Lappsitters Story Hour (0-18 mos)	1	2	3	WERU goes to the movies 7pm. Free <i>A Great Day in Harlem</i>	4
5	6 Meet the Author Lea Wait 6pm	7 Chinese Fiction Book Discussion 6:30pm	8 Peace & Justice Group Film: <i>My Land Zion</i> 6pm	9	10 Foreign Film Series 7:30pm <i>Winter Light</i>	11
12	13	14 Valentine's Day Poetry Reading 7pm	15 Genealogy Group 2pm Belfast Bay Watershed 6:30pm <i>Lives on the Passy</i>	16 Chinese Foreign Policy Gaming Event 5-8pm	17 Foreign Film Series 7:30pm <i>Nobody Knows</i>	18
19	20 Library Closed for Presidents Day	21 See Highlights for Schedule of Children's programs and noontime lecture	22 Film/Discussion <i>Making of the Mayan Calendar</i> 5-8pm	23 Chickadee Book Club K-3 Grade 4pm	24 Special Story Hour, 10am See Highlights. Foreign Film Series 7:30pm <i>I'm Not Scared</i>	25
26	27	28 Tuesday Talks <i>The Mystic Vision With Megan Don</i> 6:30pm	Hours: Mon. 9:30-8 Tues. 9:30-6 Wed. 12-8 Thur. 9:30-6 Fri. 9:30-6 Sat. 10-2 Sun. Closed			

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- March 2006 — Stone Soup Kitchen
- April 2006 — Waldo County TRIAD
- May 2006 — GreenStreets!
- June 2006 — Friends of Belfast Library
- July 2006 — American Red Cross
- August 2006 — Waldo Community Action Partners
- September 2006 — The Game Loft
- October 2006 — Books for Babes
- November 2006 — Waldo County Time Bank
- December 2006 — Belfast Institute of Lifelong Learning

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China: The World's Awakening Dragon

by Matthew R. Simmons, Simmons & Company International

Midcoast Maine's highly acclaimed Camden Conference is focusing its 2006 program on China, whose emergence as a superpower will likely become the most important event of the 21st century. China has always held world leaders' intrigue. Two hundred years ago, when New England's clipper ships sent goods to China and brought back equally valuable merchandise, China was the epicenter of mystery and intrigue.

Today, China is already the world's second-largest economy. High-quality and inexpensive "made in China" products have already made changes to the concept and meaning of globalization. The superficial statistics are impressive but the underlying statistics are far more powerful.

China's gross national product has grown at almost double-digit rates for the past decade. Most economists still think this growth is not sustainable. Many economists seem certain that China's economy is soon headed for a "hard landing." So far, even a soft landing does not seem likely. Instead, recent data continues to revise even higher the growth China is experiencing.

A decade ago, Chinese products were still a novelty in most parts of the world. Today, over 80 percent of all the goods sold at Wal-Mart stores around the USA (along with most other merchandizing outlets throughout North America and Europe) come from China. It took Japan two decades to overcome the image that "made in Japan" was a slur on the quality of what one bought. China made this transition in half a decade.

The impact that China's economic revolution is having on the world's energy markets is profound. Two decades ago, China was still one of the world's largest oil exporters. In 1994, China's growth in oil use finally exceeded its oil supply, making the country an oil importer for the first time in its history. By 2005, China's oil imports were third-highest in the world and should soon exceed Japan's oil imports.

Now, China is the world's second-largest oil consumer, second only to the USA. But, China's per-person oil use is still tiny relative to Europe and Japan and the U.S. In total volume of oil consumed, China uses less than one-third that of the U.S.A. Translated into per-person consumption, the Chinese consume 2 barrels of oil per person per year compared with the USA, whose per-person use exceeded 26 barrels in 2005.

China has a clear and admirable mission of creating 300 million prosperous citizens by the time the 2008 Olympics are held in Beijing, and an even more ambitious plan to eliminate poverty throughout all of China by 2020. If the country comes close to achieving even its 2008 goal, its growing use of all energy forms will be staggering. The energy challenges this will create for the world's energy markets are enormous.

Today, about 65 percent of China's energy needs come from burning coal to create electricity. This ranks China

Feb. 11 Symposium on Energy and China Has Sold Out

China and the Global Competition for Energy, a day-long symposium to be held on February 11 at the Hutchinson Center in Belfast, hosted by the Camden Conference, has sold out. So, while it's too late to get to hear from all five energy experts who will be involved in the discussions, in this article you can hear from one of the five — Matthew Simmons, founder of Simmons and Co. International, an energy investment banking firm, and author of *Twilight in the Desert: The Coming Saudi Oil Shock and the World Economy*.

For more information on the 19th annual Camden Conference, China on the World Stage, February 24 to 26, or for tickets to Ambassador James Lilley's keynote address on Friday, February 24, at Strom Auditorium, call 236-1034 or visit www.camdenconference.org.

as the world's second-largest coal user. As China's growth accelerates and this high coal use remains intact, China could darken the Asian skies. Yet there is no viable plan in place to begin weaning China from using so much coal. China has little natural gas; it has already used up most viable hydro sites. It is planning a variety of new nuclear plants but these take time and will barely dent its electricity growth.

China's coal supply is anchored by a multitude of poorly run, low-quality coal mines. The government has just announced a new policy to shut down around 5,000 sub-standard coal mines. There are unsettling reports that China's high-quality black coal is rapidly depleting, just as coal is depleting in the USA. If China's growing use of coal means increasing low-BTU brown coal usage, this heightens Asia's already daunting air-quality problems.

China's insatiable energy needs are best summed up by focusing on its use of oil. A decade ago, China's oil use was just over 3 million barrels of oil per day. Now, China uses close to 7 million barrels a day. Fueling this fast growth is a rapid increase in cars and trucks on China's rapidly expanding highway system. There are now about 20 million cars in China. But there are close to 300 million Chinese who are aiming to be successful enough to finally afford a car. If they attain this economic success, it implies that China's oil use will grow 15 times today's rate.

At some point, China's vast need for more energy will finally tax the global energy system beyond its limit to satisfy this demand. How the world copes with this energy clash will likely be the big story of how the 21st century unfolds.

The biggest geopolitical mistake the world can make is to make China nervous about its energy future or, worse, to try and block further access to China using more energy. This is how wars begin. How China resolves its insatiable thirst for an ever increasing use of energy will likely be the seminal issue of the 21st century.

"Postmen in the Mountains" at Rockland Library



The award-winning Chinese film "Postmen in the Mountains" will be shown on Thursday, February 9, at 6:30 p.m. at the Rockland Public Library. Admission to this Community Program of the Camden Conference is free.

Can You Haiku?

The winner for week four in Youthlinks' haiku contest is:

Longing

Unseen, far away—
You live instead inside me,
Never far apart.

- Becky Brace, Rockport

The haiku contest is beginning to heat up, making it increasingly difficult to pick a winner from the weekly entries. This week's winner followed a slightly more formal haiku rule, where the haiku is cut into two parts and either the first or second line ends with a colon, long dash (em dash), or ellipsis.

The upcoming themes might be seen to reflect another common rule, the use of a *kigo* or "season word" to indicate the time of year in which the haiku is set. Just as cherry blossoms might indicate spring, so could SHADOW (Jan. 29-Feb. 4) suggest Groundhog's Day, or SPORTS (Feb. 5-11) make you think of Super Bowl Sunday, or CHOCOLATE (Feb. 12-18) remind you of Valentine's Day. Haiku are generally (but not always) composed of three lines, consisting of 5, 7, and 5 syllables.

Youthlinks haiku drop boxes are available now at Second Read Books & Coffee, 328 Main Street, and at the Breakwater Bookland, 91 Camden Street, both in Rockland. Stop in and browse their poetry sections for more ideas on haiku, then enjoy a cup of coffee while you pen your entry to leave in the drop box. A \$5 fee buys you three chances on any of the themes and makes you eligible for upcoming prizes. You can also enter online at www.youthlinksonline.org or send your entry (include \$5, your name, and your town, please) to Youthlinks Haiku, 420 Broadway, Rockland, ME 04841. All money goes to benefit Youthlinks programs in the midcoast area.

A year of poetry from a wealth of Maine poets — Getting the Wood Split and Stacked

by Elizabeth W. Garber, Belfast's Poet Laureate

When I visit my 76-year-old mother, Jo, down in Freeport, I make sure to go out to the woodshed to admire her steady progress in getting her wood split, stacked, and ready for her wood cook stove. Admiring seems to be the best word I know for that warm appreciative look we give our friends as we pause and gaze at the orderly cords of wood in their woodlot. There is a science that everyone works out for their woodshed, where to put it, what size it should be, what's the least distance to haul the wood, and how to get it into the house the best way. Visiting country friends in Maine usually includes getting the tour of their woodshed and hearing the story of how they figured out their system for the woodpile. This week I'm including two poems that honor the essential activity of getting the wood split and stacked.

This first is by George V. Van Deventer, both a poet and enthusiastic promoter of poetry for seven years in the form of Live Poets Society, and now with a variety of lively poetry events. He is the editor of the fine poetry journal *Off the Coast* and the invaluable Web site www.offthecoast.com, which has an updated calendar of everything that's happening in poetry in Maine. Born in New Jersey, he's been a truck driver and a house painter, cleared land and run a dairy farm in Washington, Maine, with his wonderful wife Arlene. They now live in Bristol, where their life is filled with playing and singing music and reading poetry.

Cordwood

I like to look
at the wood I cut.
It takes

four to five weekends
to cut five plus cord of hardwood.

I stack it where I can see it.

Four feet high
and forty feet long —
maple,

birch, oak and ash
and a few pieces of softwood.

I say, "If I cut it, I use it."

The boy that works with me admires the pile.

I catch him standing back
to check the top line, if it's level.

We both agree it's good to look at.

Each end-stick speaks of our labor —
trees chosen, cut, bucked and hauled home.

I leave them to season
the winter months
and daily admire
the circles squared off in a pile.

("Cordwood" by George V. Van Deventer, 1994, from the chapbook *Singing*, reprinted with permission from the poet.)

This second poet takes the stance of the admirer of the wood splitter, writing a love poem for her husband Wayne. Janet L.G. Smith lives in Hope, retired after 34 years as a teacher, guidance counselor, and National Board Certified Counselor in private practice. She is living out her lifelong dream of having more time to write poetry, fiction and her memoir. Her poems have been published in the literary journal *Animus*, The Camden Herald, and in *A Sense of Place: Collected Maine Poems* edited by Lillian Kennedy, Alice Persons and Nancy Henry.

Wood, Fire, and Stone

He tromps into my kitchen
where the bread dough rises —
beans bake and venison fries
removes his old mackinaw —
too many burn holes to count —

hangs his wool cap on a peg
and releases white winter air
of pine-pitch and frigid frost.

Outside: split wood stacked into cords
brush pile of hot orange embers —

and just *one* warm stone in the wall
where he sat to sip his coffee
for the short break he must take
to catch

a fleeting gray glimpse
of our January deer —
pawing for frozen corn cobs
in the abandoned winter garden

Same time
same sacred place —
swinging his axe, piling the brush,
lighting a match, stacking the cords —
a man of wisdom owns his days.

("Wood, Fire, and Stone" by Janet L.G. Smith, 2006, reprinted by permission of the poet.)

I am open to your suggestions about particular poems and Maine poets. You can write to me at ewgarber@adelphia.net or at 66 Miller Street, Belfast, ME 04915. It is a rich opportunity to have so many poems to choose from each week.

Remember, poetry is food for our lives.

What's happening in poetry in Belfast this month:

The Belfast Poetry Project, organized by Nancy Burwell, will resume their second-Sunday-of-the-month gathering from 2 to 4 p.m. at Scoops on February 12. The theme will be love poetry, from poets old and new. For more details and to sign up to read, call 338-4240.

Valentine's Day Reading at the Belfast Free Library, High Street: Come Be Our Valentines — 4 Maine Poets will read you Love Poems! Christian Barter (Mt. Desert), Kathleen Ellis (Orono), George Van Deventer (Bristol), Elizabeth Tibbetts (Hope). Tuesday, February 14, 7 p.m. For more information, call 338-3884.

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Talk on Japanese Gardens Feb. 9

Merryspring's Winter Talk Series resumes on Thursday, February 9, at 2 p.m. with Douglas Roth, publisher of the Journal of Japanese Gardening, presenting slides and remarks on the tradition, myths and some popular misconceptions regarding the use of stone as a design element in Japanese gardens.

In America anyone can call themselves a gardener, but in Japan there are rigorous requirements that go with the title. Studies in architecture and design, history, plants and a lengthy apprenticeship are all part of the preparation for professional gardeners there; and an essential part of the garden's year-round beauty is the stonework that frames it. Roth and his wife Tamao will take their audience on a visual tour of some stonework in both historic and modern Japanese gardens, and give insight based on their own years of experience as trained garden makers.

Roth divides his time between Japan and his home in Rockport. In 1988, he developed a children's English language school in



Hayama, Japan. After passing the Japanese National Language test, he began a traditional five-year gardening apprenticeship in Kamakura. His specialties include engineering, arboriculture, water feature construction and traditional Japanese architecture.

The talk is free for Merryspring members, \$5 for non-members, and refreshments will be served. Merryspring's Ross Center is located at the end of Conway Road in Camden. For more information, call 236-2239.

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Italian for Travelers Workshop

Learn some basic Italian phrases to make the most of your travels to the Florence region of Italy. Lara Maccioni, a native of Tuscany, will teach those attending the Italian for Travelers Workshop, Day I and II — Beyond Florence: A Native Perspective, how to greet people, ask for directions, order in a restaurant, count money, and more — in Italian. Held at Penobscot School, 28 Gay Street in Rockland, on two consecutive Saturdays: February 11 and 18, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., both workshops are for beginners and advanced beginners. Participants may elect to attend only one event. Included in each workshop is a typical Italian lunch of pasta, salad, wine and dessert. The fee for registration in both workshops is \$170 or \$108 for a single workshop, and includes instruction, materials and lunch.

Those attending will learn about the local culture in Tuscany beyond Florence. Maccioni will tell about places off the beaten path — places that normally cater to the locals but welcome tourists. The first workshop will emphasize language. The second workshop will focus on Florence and towns in the region just beyond the city, including Vinci (the home of Leonardo da Vinci), Larciano (Maccioni's home town), Pistoia province and more. Learn about local transportation and eateries, the wine of the region, summer festivals, museums and gardens, shopping in

the outdoor markets vs. expensive Florence shops and walking tours.

Penobscot School's current weekly class offerings for Italian language courses include Beginning Italian II, Advanced Beginning Italian, Intermediate Italian and Advanced Italian Simposio. For a complete schedule and more information, refer to the target language Web page at www.languagelearning.org/Italian.html or call 594-1084.

Maccioni is Penobscot School's Italian exchange teacher for 2005-2006. She majored in philosophy as an undergraduate in Florence and earned a graduate degree as a teacher of Italian language to foreigners from a university in Siena. She also studied in Konstanz, Germany, on an Erasmus fellowship. Maccioni enjoys cinema and literature, and she came to Penobscot School with recommendations from her friend and colleague Roberta Bianucci, Penobscot School's 2004-2005 exchange teacher. For more information, contact Maccioni at 594-7688 or laramaccioni@hotmail.com.

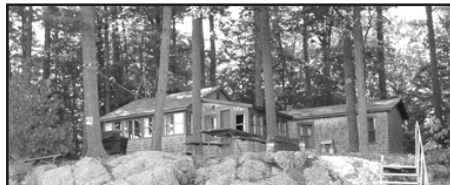
To register for a workshop, weekly class or immersion program, visit the school, call 594-1084, write to penobscot@languagelearning.org, or fax a completed registration form to 594-1067. Registration forms and information are also available on the school's Web site at www.languagelearning.org/registration.html.

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UNION - 3-bedroom ranch home with attached garage and beautiful panoramic views on quiet, scenic country road. \$149,500



APPLETON - Beautifully maintained 2000 Champion mobile on 1.9 quiet, wooded acres. Oversized 16 x 72 with 2 BRs, 2 baths, front and rear decks. Easy commute to Augusta or the coast. \$117,000



UNION - Sporting camp or family getaway on 14 acres, deep in the woods. No utilities, rustic living at its best. Built in 1999, excellent condition with separate workshop/privy, large fire pit, furnishings and equipment. \$99,000



UNION - Two-unit building on idyllic Union Common. Presently storefront with apartment above. Many improvements already made, awaiting your plans. \$199,000



WASHINGTON - This perfectly maintained 1850 village home has an inviting sun porch, large level yard with huge stone walls and 32 x 24 barn. Great location for antique shop or other home business. \$199,900



UNION - Nicely renovated duplex just steps from Union Common. Each 2-bedroom unit has separate furnace and utilities. Vinyl siding, new septic, public water. \$199,900

LAND

- UNION - 1.4-acre waterfront lot on beautiful Sennebec Pond. \$295,000
- APPLETON - 27 acres of pristine, mature woods on Jones Hill Road. Tote roads, stone walls, babbling brooks, and rock outcroppings, and lots of privacy! \$109,000
- UNION - 10 acres on Crawford Pond with about 550 feet of waterfront. Beautiful views, private woods, but no deeded access. \$125,000
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NEW LISTING!
Planning on building this spring? Consider this cleared, soil-tested & surveyed 2.3-acre parcel. No mobile homes or commercial uses allowed. **St. George \$59,000**



NEW PRICE!
This is a wonderful opportunity to have an in-home business w/a 4-BR, 3-bath home with great visibility. There are 1.5 tastefully landscaped acres & the home has been lovingly restored including siding, windows & floors. **Rockport \$379,000**



NEW PRICE!
There are 10+ acres here, a 9-room, fire-placed 1860 Colonial, a detached 2-car garage w/overhead studio & a 95' x 38' 4-story barn. The home boasts a cherry chef's kitchen, a MB suite & circular staircase. **Union \$374,000**



This 10-room Federal boasts 7 acres, a new kitchen w/granite countertops, a formal dining room w/wide pine floors, a fireplace, 5 BRs, 2 full baths, 2 half baths, an in-law apt. & a 2-car garage. Wow! **Jefferson \$315,000**



Only steps away from the boardwalk, this duplex has a corner lot and harbor views. Let your tenant help pay the mortgage! Watch the boats in the harbor from your deck! **Rockland \$250,000**



This light-infused, spacious contemporary faces southwest & features 3 BRs including a master bedroom w/bath, an extra room for an office or family room & a large barn. Located at the end of a dead end road on 1.5 acres. **Hope \$189,526**



Absolutely adorable on a .25-acre lot on a dead end road, this 2-BR home has a 1st floor laundry & is ready to move into! **Rockland \$160,000**



This is a classic NE post Colonial with many original features and charm and character throughout. The 9-room home is on a large double lot and has high traffic exposure suitable for home occupation or office! **Rockland \$249,000**

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15 Payne Ave., Rockland
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Consider this 3.24-acre parcel for your dream home! There are fabulous views and a true country ambience without being far from town. The views have it in **Rockland \$99,000**



Walk to town and the harbor from this 2-BR, 2-bath home featuring all new surfaces and GVI router and Internet cables in every room! Adorable shed and privacy hedges complete the picture! **Rockland \$189,000**



Located in a quiet area on a 1-acre lot, this inviting 3-BR home w/a 1-car garage has a newly remodeled kitchen, a walkout basement and a large reception deck. **Warren \$169,900**

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This home features 1-floor living and is close to town and all it has to offer. There is a large lot and 3 bedrooms. Convenient in **Rockland \$135,000**



This is a lovely 2-BR cottage w/a boat house on Nabby Cove with 260 feet on the water with Camden Hills views. Just a short distance to the public launch and deep water in Penobscot Bay in **South Thomaston \$459,500**



This is a well-maintained 7-unit apartment building located on a large .62-acre lot within walking distance to schools and shopping. Possibilities abound for professional or residential use. What does your imagination see? **Thomaston \$415,000**



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APPLETON 50 Waldron Lane. 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, 840 sf., 1.26 acres. **\$139,900**



APPLETON - 9 Town Hill Rd., 3 bedrooms, 1 bath **\$149,900**



APPLETON 33 Cedar Lane. 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, 1792 sf., 6.5 acres. **\$240,000**



CAMDEN - Lot #8 Mountainside Park. 2 bedrooms, 1.5 baths **\$45,000**



CAMDEN - 99 Cobb Road. 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, 960 sf., 0.24 acre. **\$167,500**



CAMDEN - 58 Hosmer Pond Road, 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, 1068 sf., 0.37 acre **\$179,900**



CAMDEN - 50 Simonton Road, 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, 1275 sf., 0.83 acre. **\$189,000**



CUSHING - 1 bedroom w/ outhouse. 350 sf., .9 acre **\$59,000**



CUSHING - 347 Cushing Road, 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, 924 sf., 13 acres. **\$115,000**



CUSHING - Lot 16, Woody Lane, 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths. 2356 sf., 1.34 acres, **\$269,900**



LINCOLNVILLE - 6 Heal Road. 0.43-acre corner lot with Barn, foundation and garage. **\$119,500**



OWLS HEAD - 30 Smalls Lane. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1904 sf., 0.81 acre. **\$268,700**



NEW LISTING
ROCKLAND - 69 Oliver Street. 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, 1060 sf., 0.40 acre. **\$107,300**



ROCKLAND - 18 Jefferson St. 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, 0.26 acres, 99 sf. **\$109,000**



ROCKLAND - 6 JRL Drive, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 0.47 acre, 1456 sf. **\$152,000**



ROCKLAND - 179 S. Main Street, 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, 1590 sf., 0.10 acre **\$175,000**



ROCKLAND - 85 Acadia Drive. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1118 sf., 0.23 acre. **\$179,000**



ROCKLAND - 32 West Meadow Road. 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1155 sf., 0.25 acre. **\$190,900**



ROCKLAND - Seavey Lane, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1176 sf., 0.70 acre. **\$225,000**



ROCKLAND - 44 Camden Street, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. 1864 sf., 0.19 acre. **\$249,000**



NEW CONSTRUCTION
ROCKLAND - 99 Acadia Drive. 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, 1032 sf., 0.23 acre. **\$249,000**



NEW LISTING
ROCKLAND - 246-250 Main Street. Commercial building, 4600 sf., water views. **\$399,000**



ST. GEORGE - 77 Horse Point Road, Port Clyde. 5 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, 1908 sf., 1 acre. **\$899,900**



WATERFRONT
ST. GEORGE - 118 States Point Road. 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, 2160 sf., 1.25 acres. **\$1,100,000**



SOUTH THOMASTON - 205 Westbrook Street. 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, 1040sf., 1.08 acres. **\$157,000**



SOUTH THOMASTON - 408 Spruce Head Road. 3 bedrooms, 1-3/4 Baths, 1102 sf. 1 acre. **\$175,000**



SOUTH THOMASTON - 179 Westbrook Street. 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, 1092 sf., 1 acre. **\$179,000**



PRICE REDUCED
THOMASTON - 10 Kossuth St. 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, 609sf., 0.12 acre. **\$75,000**



THOMASTON - 23 Oyster River Road. 3 bedrooms, 1 Bath, 1796 sf., 1.90 acres. **\$175,000**



THOMASTON - 51 Fluker Street. 4 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, 0.47 acres, 1764 sf. **\$234,900**



THOMASTON - 363 Main Street. 2 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, 1000 sf., retail space, 0.29 acres. **\$279,000**



THOMASTON - 12 Wadsworth Street. 4 bedrooms, 5 baths, 2711sf., 0.47 acre. **\$309,000**



UNION - 130 Guinea Ridge Rd., 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1800 sf., 5 acres **\$289,900**



WALDOBORO - 320 Friendship Road. 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, 1652 sf., 0.31 acre. **\$169,000**



WARREN - 1018 Wotton Mill Road. 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, 1000 sf., 1 acre. **\$130,000**



WARREN - 16 North Pond Road. 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, 1192 sf., 0.90 acre. **\$139,900**



WARREN - 478 Carroll Road. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2016 sf., 4.5 acres. **\$239,000**



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CUSHING - McCarter Point Road. 5.2-acre lot surveyed and wooded. **\$87,500**



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LINCOLNVILLE - Slab City Road, 3 acres. Surveyed, driveway started, old soil test. **\$57,000**



LAND
ST. GEORGE - 359 Island Rd., 0.94-acre lot. Soil tested, surveyed. Over 300 ft. of frontage also includes a 5,000 lb. mooring. **\$429,500**



LAND
SOUTH THOMASTON - Lot 33 Four Winds. 2.12 acres near the water. **\$78,900**



LAND
UNION - corner of Depot & Indian Knoll. 5.3 acres with soil test, frontage on 2 roads and 300 feet, on Seven Tree Pond. **\$310,000**



LAND
WALDOBORO - 364 Feylers Corner Road. 6 acres frontage on a brook. **\$29,900**



LAND
WARREN - 2 lots available on a private road. Wooded, private and mobile homes welcome. Soil test will be provided. **\$27,500 take your pick.**



LAND
WARREN - Camden Road. 1.32-acre lot with frontage on Route 90. **\$40,000**

All dimensions and square footage are approximate. All data should be independently verified.

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WINTERPORT 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, deck, 2-car garage. On cul-de-sac. In move-in condition **\$229,000**

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This Sunday, Feb. 5, 1-4pm

On the corner of Miller and Court in Historical Downtown Belfast.



Historic Gothic Victorian, 1879. Desirable in-town neighborhood. 12 lg updated rooms, period details, hardwood floors, move-in condition. If buyer wants all furniture along with the price of the home the price is \$650,000. Listed at **\$499,000.**

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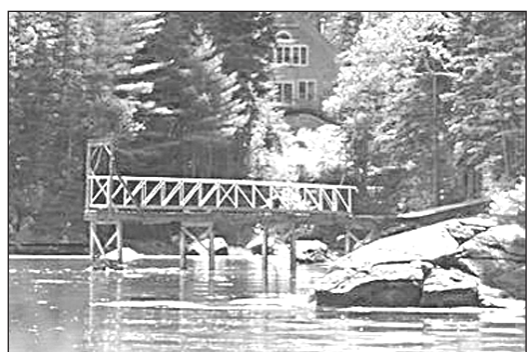
Water view on Otis Point: Year-round home with 33' ROW to deep water and mooring. Home has 6 rooms with 2 rooms still under construction. Exterior work including cedar shingles, 2 porches and all ground work will be completed by seller before closing. **Tenants Harbor** gem at **\$339,500**



Tenants Harbor: Spacious and charming circa 1850 farmhouse with attached barn and workshop. Bountiful perennial gardens. Four bedrooms, 1-3/4 baths. Walk to the harbor, restaurants, and other village amenities from this fabulous in-town home. **\$327,000**



Cushing: 3-bedroom home on one-plus acre. New roof, siding, windows, porch, insulated foundation and power. Only partitioned off in the interior. Good well and septic, just needs to be finished for a really fine home. **\$125,900**



Extraordinary 3+/- acres with 300'+/- of beautiful Maine coast with dock. Mooring on mile-wide tidal river. Dock is accessible at all tides. Boat house too. Property could be family compound with the purchase of adjacent waterfront property; site soil tested for additional 3-4 bedroom home. Home has 3 bedrooms and 5 fabulous baths. Wonderful gourmet kitchen, cyprus floors and cathedral ceilings.

St. George \$1,600,000



Treasure Point waterfront with 456' frontage on Cutler Cove. Pretty 2+ acres ready for your dream home. **St. George \$247,500**

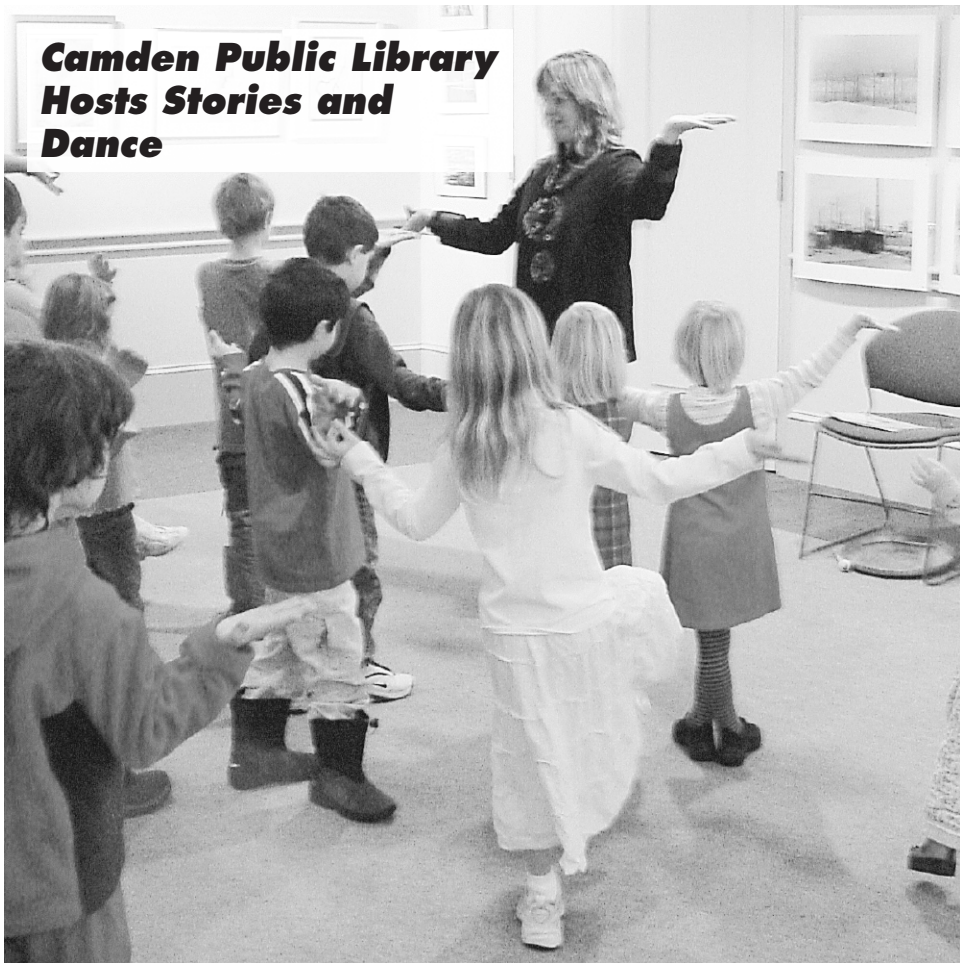


3-BR ranch in excellent condition. Just a couple of minutes' walk to the town landing and harbor. Hardwood floors, immaculate kitchen and a walk-out basement that would make a nice family room. Many other wonderful features. Always well cared for. **Tenants Harbor \$175,000**



St. George: 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, on 2 acres. Great garden spots, privacy and a really nice, well-maintained home. This stonecutter's farmhouse would make a special residence for you and your family. **\$198,000**

Camden Public Library Hosts Stories and Dance



Erma Colvin leads children in dance at the Second Saturday Stories and Dance Hour at the Camden Public Library. The program continues through April and children of all ages are invited. The programs are at 10 a.m. on Saturday mornings, February 11, March 11 and April 8. February's theme is "Stories and Dances for Mardi Gras and Carnival." Colvin will read stories and teach dances from New Orleans and Latin America. There will be an art project and a culminating parade through the library. Colvin is a dance educator in Maine. She specializes in integrating dance into the academic curriculum of students. She has taught dance at the Riley School and the Children's House Montessori School and is presently working in the Camden-Rockport school system.

In preparation for a mission trip to the Dominican Republic some area church youth will be participating in a "polar plunge" fundraiser on Sunday, February 5, at 2:30 p.m. at Snow Marine Park in Rockland. Donations for the dip will go towards construction costs for building a school and church in San Pedro de Macoris for both the Haitian and Dominican workers that live in poverty in that area of the Dominican Republic.

Local Youth Take the Plunge for Poverty

Also taking place at the event will be a clothing and supplies drive. Each person going on the trip hopes to take two bags each filled with 70 pounds of relief items for the community they will be serving. Items needed include adult and children's clothing and shoes, school supplies, vitamins, hand tools and toiletries. For further information or to make a donation, e-mail Abbie Newcomb at abbiejn@yahoo.com.

Free Stick-and-Tissue Model Workshop at Transportation Museum



On Saturday, February 11, at 1 p.m., aspiring model builders, young and old, are invited to "An Introduction to Stick-and-Tissue Model Airplanes" at the Owls Head Transportation Museum. The workshop is free but limited to 12 people so pre-registration is required. Children should be 10 years or older; parents are welcome to attend. To pre-register, call the museum at 594-4418.

The AMA Cub was designed for the Academy of Model Aeronautics and is the most popular model airplane of all time. It is very

easy to build and yet is capable of amazing flights. The Cub features a ready-to-use one-piece fuselage, printed covering material on which the wings and tail surfaces

are constructed and a molded plastic propeller assembly. The museum will provide all of the materials for building the model.

This is the third in a series of eight Winter Education programs offered by the Owls Head Transportation Museum. All programs begin at 1 p.m. and are free to public. Pre-registration is required for the April 8 program. All other programs are general seating.

The remaining Winter Education programs at the Owls Head Transportation Museum are: February 25, Engines 101; March 4, Postcards and Transportation (note new date); March 25, Preserving a WWII Jeep: Honoring the Past Through Accurate Vehicle Restoration; April 8, Introduction to Water Rocketry; and April 29, American Pursuit Aircraft of World War I.

For more information on the Owls Head Transportation Museum's Winter Education Programs, contact the museum at 594-4418, visit the Web site at www.owlshead.org or e-mail Ethan Yankura at eyankura@ohtm.org.

Football Questionnaire at Camden Hills Regional High School

The Five Town CSD School Board would like to announce that a questionnaire, drafted to measure student interest in a club-level football program at Camden Hills Regional High School (CHRHS), will soon be distributed to students during the seminar period.

The questionnaire — drafted by the Five Town Football board members, with input from the Five Town CSD School Board — initially queries students on their desire for a developmental football program at CHRHS. Additional questions measure student interest in participation within the team structure (players, managers, assistant trainers, statisticians, video crew) and participation in related activities such as home-game line crew, home field crew, home-game play-by-play announcer, home-game pre-game and halftime ceremonies/entertainment, pep band, cheering and concessions.

The request to administer the questionnaire came from the Five Town Football Association, which is a volunteer organization of interested parents who have established a non-school football program for students in grades 5 through 8. The Five Town CSD School Board has not endorsed football or made any financial commitment at this time.

At the January 4 Five Town CSD School Board meeting, representatives from Five Town Football (FTF) presented the initial questionnaire draft and copies of the FTF 2006 Program Overview. The overview doc-

ument details the FTF organization, its goals through 2009, its 2005 season accomplishments as a privately funded club equipping three squads of grades 4 through 8 for regional play, a summary of 2005 program costs, projected 2006 program costs and a listing of FTF donors. The document also includes results of a "Survey of 14 Maine High School Football Programs" as an appendix. This survey of notable Maine football programs indicates that — coaching stipends aside — established football programs statewide are self-funding, deriving revenues from gate receipts, concessions, school and private booster fundraising activities, home-field banner sales and player participation fees for game jerseys with their names. The survey reveals that the vast majority of student athletes participating in organized football statewide are students who would otherwise not play a fall sport. The survey also attributes strengthening of community to high school football programs. The survey includes cost information about equipment, equipment maintenance, game officials, transportation and insurance.

Results of the survey will be shared with the Five Town CSD School Board for consideration.

Individuals with comments or suggestions may either e-mail the superintendent's office at office@fivetowns.net, call 236-3358 or e-mail Mark Vogt at mark-vogt@fivetowns.net.

Herring Gut Learning Center to Attend Nonprofit Day at Capitol

Herring Gut Learning Center will be one of 18 Maine nonprofits chosen to exhibit at the third annual Nonprofit Day on Wednesday, February 8, from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Hall of Flags in the State House in Augusta. The event is open and free to the public. A late-morning press conference titled "Your Taxes and the Maine Nonprofit Sector: What Is Your Quality of Life Worth?" will cap the event.

Herring Gut is a nonprofit organization that offers aquaculture and marine science education programs to area K through 12 students year-round. Its programs encourage the exploration of marine-related topics in the

classroom, laboratory and field settings.

Begun in 2004, Nonprofit Day is a new event sponsored and hosted by the Maine Association of Nonprofits (MANP). The goals of Nonprofit Day are to increase visibility of nonprofits and their crucial contributions to the state of Maine; strengthen relationships between nonprofit leaders and public officials; encourage individual nonprofit leaders to see themselves as part of the greater nonprofit sector.

For more information on Nonprofit Day, call 871-1885. For more information on Herring Gut Learning Center, call 372-8677 or go to www.herringgut.org.

Youth Half-Hull Model Making at the Apprenticeshop



Students in a half-hull model making workshop at the Apprenticeshop.

The Apprenticeshop of Atlantic Challenge will offer a three-day workshop for boys and girls ages 8 to 15 during the winter school break. Students will have the opportunity to learn the principles of boat design and tool use while constructing their own half-hull models. Instructors and volunteers will be on hand to teach tool use and safety. This course is appropriate for those with little to no previous woodworking experience.

The workshop will run from 1 to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, February 20, 21 and 22, at the Atlantic Challenge north end facility, 643 Main Street, Rockland. The cost is \$130 including materials. Class size is limited; early registration is encouraged.

For further information, contact Atlantic Challenge at 594-1800 or visit the Web site atlanticchallenge.com.

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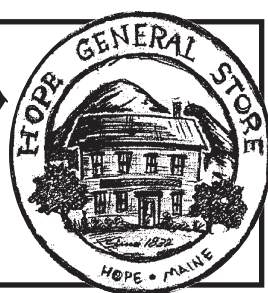
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I went for a walk this past Sunday along the harbor here in Rockland. It was a warm day, for January, and the dominant color was cool gray across the water and the sky. The world seemed to be hibernating: I spied one long-haired man walking his dog, a middle-aged couple eating sandwiches in a truck by the public landing, and the ever-present flock of seagulls dismembering starfish in the park. Scattered around the noisy flock were the empty carcasses of green sea urchins. In one hollowed-out shell I saw traces of the urchin's orange roe, which in the early 1990s became the bane of the poor creature's existence.

Maine's green sea urchins are marine invertebrates, meaning they have no backbone. They are echinoderms, similar in design to starfish, sea cucumbers and sand dollars, all of which are marked by their body's five-part symmetry. A green sea urchin covers its internal organs with a hard, calcareous shell armed with spines. As we use our legs to move, so the sea urchin uses its spines. The sharp points also come in handy as weapons or as tools for trapping particles of food drifting in the water.

Long ago, the Greek philosopher Aristotle examined a sea urchin found on the island of Lesbos and then described the creature in his book called the *Historia Animalium*.

He named the sea urchin's mouth, which lies on the underside of the shell, "Aristotle's lantern." A sea urchin's mouth would make a dentist shudder. It is a complex arrangement of 50 skeletal plates and teeth arranged in five parts, worked by 60 different muscles. The urchin uses its mouth to gnaw algae from rocks and to chew on its preferred food, kelp. In fact, green sea urchins are to kelp what sheep are to grass, the ultimate mowing machines.

For years scientists were puzzled by the animal's ability to grow. Sea urchins don't shed their shells as lobsters do. As a sea urchin matured and put on weight, how did the seemingly static shell expand? Several years ago two biologists at Bowdoin College found out. They discovered that when urchins grow too tight for the shell, the tissue inside, outside and between the plates of the shell softens. Bit by bit the hard shell inflates like a balloon. The collagen stretches the gaps between the plates without allowing the animal's body to ooze out. Eventually, the tissue between the plates is reabsorbed and replaced by hard shell.

Contained within a growing sea urchin's body are five skeins of roe. This roe is considered a delicacy in Japan, where it is called uni. Green sea urchins had been harvested in Maine since 1933, when the urchins were hand-harvested with 10-foot-long dip nets. Then in the early 1990s, the Japanese, faced with a sharp decline in their own sea urchin population, began to buy sea urchins from the U.S. At first the animals were shipped live to Japan. Then processors learned to remove the roe and ship it fresh or salted directly to Japanese buyers. Maine became known for the quality of its urchin roe. Clear, bright yellow or orange roe is best for the fresh market; for salted roe, the preferred color is a strong orange.

Sea urchin landings in Maine increased to 41 million pounds in 1993. The very next year the Maine Department of Marine Resources finally instituted management requirements on the sea urchin industry, including a closed season from May 15 to August 15, a minimum size limit of 2 inches and the prohibition of night harvesting. Unfortunately, by then harvesting pressure had taken its toll on the sea urchin population in Maine. In 2004, just 5.7 million pounds were landed in Maine.

Sea urchins take up to three years to reach sexual maturity. Males and females spawn in later winter or early spring. At that time they are usually about 1 to 1.5 inches in diameter. Unfortunately, the highest-quality roe seems to come from the younger urchins. Of course, one doesn't know the quality of the roe until one opens up the animal, thus many older sea urchins were harvested and then discarded due to the non-marketable quality of their roe.

The green sea urchin population in this state is still recovering from the fevered boom of the early 1990s. But, as with salmon and shellfish, entrepreneurial souls are trying to raise sea urchins through aquaculture. Two sea urchin hatcheries have been built in New England — a commercial hatchery in Lubec begun in the mid-1990s and a second one run by the University of New Hampshire.

So when you see those evocative empty shells littering the shore, remember that the odd little creature that lived inside once was the object of fascination for Aristotle and is now a native species trying to rebound from our lucrative and devastating harvests.

Sea Urchins



by Melissa Waterman

Aqua Maine Posts New Signs on Mirror Lake and Grassy Pond Watersheds

Aqua Maine is posting new signs on and around the watersheds of Mirror Lake and Grassy Pond in Rockport as part of its ongoing efforts to balance the public use of these watersheds and control of the land for water quality and environmental purposes.

The new signs directly around Mirror Lake now clearly state "No Trespassing" since there is no public access or use of this lake allowed. While this is not a new restriction — Mirror Lake has been closed to the public since the early 1900s by state law — in the past year, there have been a few instances where people or their dogs have been seen swimming in the lake. People have also been seen skating on the lake this winter, and these activities violate the water quality regulations to which Aqua Maine is held. Aqua Maine's chief plant operator and watershed monitor Dana Ayers said, "We were granted a waiver from filtration by our water quality regulators, and one condition of our ongoing waiver is strict prohibition of activity on Mirror Lake. We appreciate the public's ongoing efforts to respect this condition."

Aqua Maine continues to allow public access to the watershed lands of both Grassy Pond and Mirror Lake through the use of the foot-traffic-only Highland Path, developed by the Georges River Land Trust. In addition, other limited recreational use is allowed on both water-

sheds and on Grassy Pond. New signs have been posted in the areas where this limited public use is allowed, after receiving permission from Aqua Maine, to promote a shared and prudent stewardship of natural resources and its use for responsible recreational activities. "We ask the public to contact me at Aqua Maine for permission of activities beyond the Highland Path. Our water quality regulations are becoming more strict, and in order to maintain the best water quality most efficiently, we need to control activity on the watersheds," Ayers continued. If the filtration waiver is lost, Aqua Maine's Camden & Rockland Division would be required to build a costly filtration plant.

"We want to thank everyone who has called or stopped in to inquire about our recreational use policy," said Ayers. "At Aqua Maine, we have worked hard to be a good neighbor and to share the watersheds with those who respect the balance that we must maintain."

Anyone with questions about the recreational use policy around Grassy Pond and Mirror Lake should contact the company at 1-800-287-1643 or visit the company's offices at Mirror Lake on Route 17 in West Rockport, located at 855 Rockland Street in Rockport, weekdays between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.



Bring your bird field guides and binoculars and join resident ornithologist Tom Arter for a morning of bird identification and natural history, on Sunday, February 5, from 9 a.m. to noon.

The Damariscotta River Association (DRA) Great Salt Bay Farm will be the starting point; other birding sites may include Damariscotta Mills and the Damariscotta/Newcastle harbor. Winter residents will be well established by this time and other more northern species may be visiting; participants will be looking for snow buntings, cedar waxwings, grosbeaks, kinglets, crossbills and brown creepers. A straggler or two, such as a great blue heron, may also be spotted. Those who attend should go home with some good sightings and newfound birding tips.

The DRA Great Salt Bay Farm is located at 110 Belvedere Road, Damariscotta. Dress appropriately for the weather. For more information, call 563-1393 or e-mail dra@draclt.org.

Squirrels — Friend or Foe

MID-COAST
AUDUBON
WINDOW

— by Joe Gray,
interpretive naturalist

Depending upon one's viewpoint or the activity one is engaged in, squirrels, both red and gray, may offer both challenges and benefits.

The gray squirrel principally inhabits deciduous forests where acorns and other seeds may be abundant, while the red squirrel inhabits the conifer forests which may be limited to the conifer seeds.

To the hunter, gray squirrels present an opportunity to test the individual's skill at stalking, patience and shooting ability, with rewards as a tasty dish on the table. The observant squirrel hunter may also enhance his outdoor skills by listening and watching the activities of birds and other mammals of the forest.

At the bird feeder, squirrels have the uncanny ability to stay one step ahead of the homeowner, challenging ways to provide seed for birds and yet discourage squirrels. Often the remedy is only short-lived, until the squirrels develop counter measures to gain the seed.

Squirrels normally forage for food in woods and fields, but when humans introduce sunflower and other seeds for songbirds it becomes a public supper for wildlife.

The ability to jump 12 feet, climb and chew are the squirrel's tools of the trade. It's a challenge to develop bird feeders that exclude squirrels. One method that has worked for me is mounting the hopper-style feeder five feet above ground on a metal pipe and surrounded by a piece of four-inch PVC pipe. But this too must be beyond the extent of a squirrel's jump.

Yet both red and gray squirrels are also necessary conservationists, collecting and storing seed in caches below ground, which if undiscovered, are the beginning of new plants and forests. Squirrels also are nature's method of widely distributing acorns and nuts well beyond their free fall from the tree.

To the home or camp owner, red squirrels may become a problem, finding their way into unoccupied buildings and literally chewing items at their discretion.

Nature has a way of keeping the squirrel population in balance too. Most rodents are infected heavily with mites, ticks and intestinal parasites, limiting their life span, and both red and gray squirrels are easy prey for marauding goshawks, barred and great horned owls as well as fisher, long-tailed weasels, coyotes and bobcats.

In spite of our individual attitudes about squirrels, humans have worked their way into and between the squirrels and their natural habitats and predators.

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE FORECAST for Knox County

THURSDAY NIGHT: A chance of snow, mixing with rain after 1am. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 32. South wind between 11 and 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40%. New snow accumulation of less than one inch possible.

FRIDAY: Rain or freezing rain likely, mainly after 8am. Cloudy, with a high around 42. Breezy, with a southeast wind between 16 and 22 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70%. New precipitation amounts between a half and three quarters of an inch possible.

FRIDAY NIGHT: Showers likely, mainly before 10pm. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 43. Breezy, with a southeast wind 19 to 22 mph becoming west 11 to 14 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70%. New rainfall amounts between a quarter and half of an inch possible.

SATURDAY: A slight chance of rain showers before 10am, then a slight chance of snow showers. Partly cloudy, with a high near 43. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

SATURDAY NIGHT: Partly cloudy, with a low near 25.

SUNDAY: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 40.

SUNDAY NIGHT: Cloudy, with a low around 35.

MONDAY: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 35.

MONDAY NIGHT: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 12.

TUESDAY: Partly cloudy, with a high near 29.

ROCKLAND AREA TIDES February 2 to February 9

	High AM	High PM	Low AM	Low PM
Thursday	1:19	1:42	7:28	7:55
Friday	2:11	2:38	8:24	8:47
Saturday	3:05	3:36	9:24	9:43
Sunday	4:03	4:39	10:25	10:43
Monday	5:03	5:46	11:31	11:47
Tuesday	6:07	6:53	---	12:37
Wednesday	7:11	7:56	12:53	1:40
Thursday	8:10	8:52	1:53	2:36

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Thomaston Planning Board Hears from Public on Size Limits on Retail Development

by Melissa Waterman

Fifty people attended the Thomaston Planning Board's public hearing on the two citizen petitions limiting retail building size in the town on Monday evening. The planning board ultimately voted to not make any recommendation for or against either petition to the Board of Selectmen but to allow both petitions to go to town vote.

John Chandler started off the public hearing by castigating Planning Board attorney Cliff Goodale for implying in a local newspaper that the 70,000-square-foot petition, if passed, would be "meaningless" under the law or that the town's recently adopted Comprehensive Plan was "pie in the sky." Goodale quickly responded that "the petition is not meaningless, it will have the fullness of law if passed, and would be retroactive. And in reference to the Comprehensive Plan, the plan by itself has no legal import, no regulatory power. Only the town's ordinances do."

Daryl Hahn submitted written testimony for the group "Our Town — Thomaston." She highlighted the comments in that document, noting that "the Comprehensive Plan refers to our small-town character 30 times and commercial development only 10 times." She stated a fact that was echoed many times by others in the audience, that the Comprehensive Plan Committee changed its limit on retail development from 70,000 square feet to 150,000 square feet at the very last moment. "Those 150,000-square-foot developments will be stores that will serve the region, not us," she said, referring to Thomaston. She further urged the Planning Board to listen to the evening's comments with "open minds."

The meeting veered off topic briefly when audience members demanded to know whether it was a conflict of interest for Code Enforcement Officer Peter Surek and a member of the Planning Board to have circulated the 150,000-square-foot petition for signatures last fall. Goodale said, "There is no legal prohibition against municipal employees circulating non-partisan petitions." Planning Board member Richard Catalan responded heatedly that "Peter Surek is a resident in town, he has the same right to collect signatures as anyone else, same as a member of the Planning Board can." Philip Reynolds spoke from the audience, saying "seems to be an implied conflict of interest. The COE has a position of enforcement authority, same as a police officer has of enforcing the law." Melissa Reynolds, who chaired the hearing, closed discussion of the topic by saying it's something that should be addressed by the selectmen, not the Planning Board. Questioned later, Surek said that he did solicit 197 signatures on the petition but on his own time, not during work hours.

Margaret McCrea asked the board to "think long and hard how we want our gateways on the east and west [of Thomaston] to look. Please think, listen, and get all the information you can."

Judith Kinney, who noted that she had moved to town three years ago, said she was opposed to anything larger than 70,000 square feet being built in Thomaston. "The history of the town is important. If we have these big stores, it will no longer be a lovely and gracious place to live."

Bill Hahn said that situating 150,000-square-foot buildings in the land available for building in Thomaston didn't seem sensible. "I'm not against development in that area over there. It seems to me that the scale doesn't fit. You can put a 427 [engine] in a Model T but you've got to do a lot of work to get it there," he said to laughter from the audience.

Jill Goodridge said, "It bothers me that this is just a Thomaston decision. It's a midcoast decision, a decision of how our communities are planned." Sheri Frazier brought the image of Wiscasset in the summer to mind when she noted that large-scale development "will make us a place you dread because it takes so long to get through. The number of cars leaving these places will have a huge impact on Thomaston. Life will be very different."

Coldwell Banker SoundVest real estate broker and town resident Doug Erickson, who represents the estate of Shirley Yattaw, said that the property next to Dorman's Dairy Dream now optioned by the Richmond Group had been on the market for five years. "Developers have said that they won't buy the land if they can't build a big box. With a 70,000-square-foot limit, no one's going to come here," he stated.

Steven McCarthy asked a question that seemed to be on the minds of many when he asked, "Do we need a Lowe's here? I could move that land [Yattaw property] without someone coming in with a 150,000-square-foot building. Couldn't we have a 70,000-square-foot supermarket and have that be the anchor store?"

County Commissioner Mason Johnson and several other members of the audience spoke in favor of the 150,000-square-foot size limit, citing the need for additional business in town in order to increase tax revenues and create more jobs.

The two petitions will be put to a town-wide vote at the next town meeting, in late May or early June.

Big Box Battle in Damariscotta Area continued from page 1

Damariscotta and this whole area this way."

Jenny Mayher said, "We're hoping to have red signs in every window on Main Street — and not just Main Street.... The quickest way to send our hard-earned dollars out of state is to spend them at big-box stores. This message is about quality of life and who controls the future of Damariscotta." Referring to the red Yes caps, she said that, while people are encouraged to wear them every day, Tuesday is officially cap day — to remind people that on Tuesday, March 21, Damariscotta voters will decide whether to cap retail development at 35,000 square feet. Mayher said, "I've seen the effect in other places in the country. I think this community is unique in that downtown is a real community hub, and I want to fight for it."

Susan Porter, owner of Maine Coast Book Shop & Cafe on Main Street, said, "The ranks of independent booksellers are being decimated by big boxes coming in," and encouraged residents to "stop big-box sprawl from invading this area."

Winton Jacobs said his first thought when he first heard Wal-Mart wanted to come to town was, "What do we have to do to keep them out?" If Wal-Mart comes in, said Jacobs, "Forget it. Downtowns get boarded up.... 186,000 square feet, 15 acres of asphalt and parking lots — all those things we don't need, so, hopefully people will turn out and vote to stop this."

"This effort to protect our town is really crucial," Eleanor Kinney said, noting that size caps have been used successfully elsewhere to stop big-box development. Kinney said the group looked at the scale of the businesses that are in town, surveyed business owners to see what their size is currently, talked to the business community, and determined that the 35,000 number protects the scale and character of the town and allows for a variety of goods and services. "This size cap is a fair way to put developers on notice of what the scale of retail development in our town can be," said Kinney. She also

Five Years After Its 75,000-Square-Foot Size Cap, Belfast Reviews "Where We Are Now" by Melissa Waterman

Belfast city planner Wayne Marshall says the new Retail Review Committee, appointed in December, came about as a result of citizens' confusion concerning changes in Belfast zoning ordinances made in recent years. "To figure out 'where are we now' — that, more than anything else, led to establishment of the Retail Review Committee," Marshall says.

For the committee's second meeting, held on Tuesday night, Belfast Mayor Mike Hurley had invited a developer to explain what a development company looks for when deciding where to locate and construct large retail stores. The Hecht Company, based in Concord, Massachusetts, agreed to answer the committee's questions — via conference call. Currently, the Hecht Company is pursuing 30 retail development projects in New England — and is the developer that wants to build a Wal-Mart Supercenter in Damariscotta, on land they have an option on — north of the Pine View Restaurant, near the intersection of Route 1 and Damariscotta's Business Route 1.

Ken Hecht said that a developer uses many kinds of analyses to decide where a retail store would be best situated — including the market area for a given location, demographics, drive-time studies, and population numbers. Hecht said developers look at geographic realities and factor in population densities when looking at potential markets. As Hurley summarized it, "[a development company] wouldn't put large retail stores in Rockland, then Lincolnville, then Belfast."

Developers, Hecht said, know exactly what large retail corporations, such as Target or Staples, need to make a new store successful and so will go to communities on their own to seek available land. "They [developers] are like the personal shoppers for these large retailers," commented Hurley, "they do all the leg work and assume the risk."

After the meeting, Mayor Hurley concluded that "the notion that we've got to get out more and promote Belfast can be completely dismissed. Retailers and developers are aware of Belfast. The hurdle is the size cap because large retail stores won't come in [at 75,000 square feet] and smaller retail stores won't come without the large stores as the attraction."

Hurley says that the information he has gathered from the committee's work so far has led him to a different point of view concerning large retail stores in Belfast. "We don't have discount retail stores here — other than Renys and the new Ocean State Job Lot, which I'm very, very, very, very happy to see.... What we're being told is that we can't have our cake and eat it too: we can't have a 75,000-square-foot size limit and have large retail ventures. Five or six years ago I fought hard against big boxes in Belfast. I thought we'd be able to get other retail stores. I'm learning that that's not going to happen."

Asked if he regrets his earlier position against big-box stores, Hurley quickly replies, "No, I don't regret it. My position is evolving. How I feel personally is different than how I feel as mayor. We are doing this review [the Retail Review Committee's work] because people are unhappy with the current situation. We are looking at what it might take to change the situation." As mayor, Hurley says that he must work to respond to residents' expressed wishes. "The community is divided still, people are angry, frustrated, and they hold deep beliefs on all angles of this issue. What I want is for all the community, not just the Retail Review Committee, to be educated about developers," Hurley explains.

The Retail Review Committee began its study of the relationship between developers and retailers earlier in January,

emphasized that the Our Town effort is a regional one and involves Nobleboro and Newcastle as well as Damariscotta.

Of Our Town's regional effort, Frank Juchnik, a member of Newcastle's Select Board, said, "We have to support our neighbor. We're like brother and sister. We try to work together as a small tourist community, and we want to keep it as it is." Newcastle residents will vote on an amendment to the town's land use code which would cap the size of new retail development at 35,000 square feet at their town meeting on March 27. Lee Straw, chair of the town's Select Board, said that when a group of residents brought the issue to the Board's attention, there was strong support on the Board for a size limit, and they referred it to the Planning Board and town lawyer to draft the amendment.

Meanwhile, Nobleboro's town lawyer is now in the process of drafting a similar measure. It has not yet been finalized, but it will be ready to be voted on at Nobleboro's town meeting on Saturday, March 18.

Patrick Cleary, Vice President, Development, with the Hecht Company — the development company based in Concord, Massachusetts, that is working to locate a Wal-Mart Supercenter in Damariscotta — said in a phone interview on Wednesday that the Our Town group "ultimately is doing a disservice to the town because controls are already in place because we need a zone change, which has to be approved by the town, to go ahead with a supercenter." Despite rumors to the contrary, said Cleary, "We can't do what we want on that site without the zone change." He said that if the size cap passes, the town "will have to live with the repercussions of that cap for years to come." Representatives of Wal-Mart and the Hecht Company will hold a public information session to describe their plans on Tuesday, February 7, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Skidompha Library in Damariscotta.

"Five or six years ago I fought hard against big boxes in Belfast. I thought we'd be able to get other retail stores. I'm learning that that's not going to happen." - Mayor Mike Hurley

when planner Wayne Marshall gave committee members a full 20-year history of development in Belfast. He noted that in the mid-1990s the city adopted a Comprehensive Plan that met state standards. In 1995 the city adopted a Site Plan Review ordinance which defined the process by which the Planning Board would review future proposals. By 1999 the Comprehensive Plan Committee had completed a review of retail development in the city and made recommendations concerning performance standards for new development and controls on the size of new retail stores. As a result the city council created a Corridor Committee to prepare new land use regulations; the committee focused on revised zoning ordinances for the Route 3 commercial district. The next year Wal-Mart came to town, announcing that it had an option on property in that commercial district. In July 2000, the city council adopted a temporary moratorium on retail construction larger than 20,000 square feet. Wal-Mart surrendered its option and MBNA promptly bought the property.

In January 2001, the city council adopted new zoning regulations for the Route 3 commercial zone which limited the size of new buildings to 75,000 square feet and set forth new performance standards. The council also extended the building moratorium until June 2001. Meanwhile, another company expressed interest in a tract of land along Route 137 in which to build a 300,000-square-foot development.

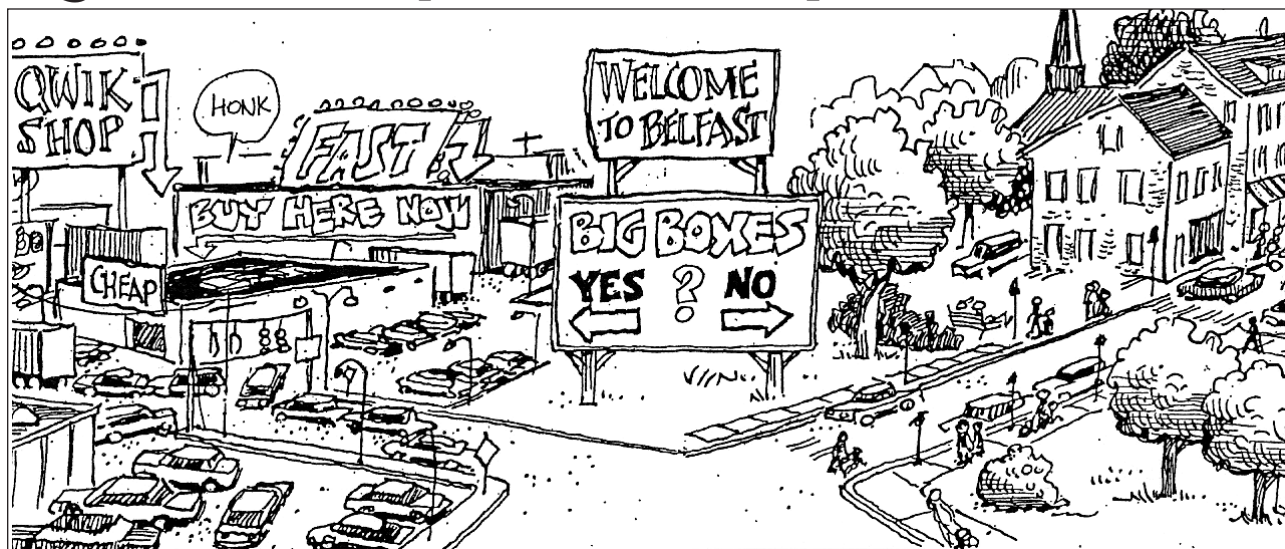
In June 2001 Belfast citizens in an advisory vote recommended limiting retail buildings to 75,000 square feet. By August the council had revised zoning ordinances to reflect citizens' wishes, restricting new retail construction to 75,000 square feet along Route 3 and Searsport Avenue. The building moratorium then expired. Things seemed to quiet down in Belfast after 2001. The Ames department store closed while small-scale growth continued in the downtown and waterfront areas of the city.

In June 2004, a citizen's initiative was submitted to the city council requesting a city-wide vote on permitting retail development up to 200,000 square feet in a limited area of Searsport Avenue. In November the initiative passed by about 200 votes. The result was a special Searsport Avenue Commercial District comprising four properties in which 200,000-square-foot structures would be allowed. A local group called Belfast First and adjacent property owners Laurence and Mia Roop filed suit in Superior Court challenging the legal basis of the initiative. The court case resulted in a ruling in January that the plaintiffs did not have standing to bring the case before the court. The Roops, who live in Lexington, Massachusetts, plan to appeal that ruling, according to Marshall.

Meanwhile the city council put an amendment to the city charter, removing the ability to amend land use ordinances by the citizen initiative process, to a city-wide vote in November 2005. That amendment passed.

In December, the council created the Retail Review Committee. Charged with reviewing the history of the last six years of Belfast retail proposals, and gathering and considering information about retailers and developers, its goal is to make recommendations to the Belfast City Council to encourage the growth of retail choices for Belfast and the area.

Belfast Panel to Speak in Damariscotta on Big-Box Development February 8



cartoon by Douglas Coffin

Three residents of Belfast, which has been embroiled in debate over big-box development for five years, will participate in a panel discussion on Wednesday, February 8, at the Second Congregational Church in Newcastle. The program, part of a monthly public forum series sponsored by Citizens Offering New Alternatives (CONA), will begin at 7 p.m. in the church's Fellowship Hall.

Mike Towey, a former Belfast City councilman who has also served on the Comprehensive Plan Committee and the Planning Board, was an organizer of Belfast First, a group formed in response to an announcement in 1999 that a big-box superstore intended to build on improperly zoned land. The Belfast First initiative to limit retail stores to 75,000 sq. ft. was supported by voters in a 2001 referendum. In 2004, a counter-referendum to overturn this zoning in one specific part of the city won by a slim margin, but since has been subjected to a legal challenge by Belfast First.

Jon Cheston served on the Belfast City Council from 1996 to 2001, during which time the city adopted a one-year moratorium on big retail establishments. He then served on

the Corridor Committee that adopted zoning changes along Belfast's corridors. He is also a member of the Belfast First citizens' group and serves on a commission to study future retail business in the city.

Petra Hall was an organizer with Belfast First in both the 2001 and 2004 referendum campaigns. In the 2004 campaign, she also initiated the Belfast Shopping Task Force, the goal of which was to find ways to meet local shopping needs while preserving the retail zoning limit. She continues to support and advocate size-appropriate, locally determined alternatives to big-box development in Belfast and the midcoast.

Wal-Mart has made public its desire to build a store in Damariscotta. A local citizens' group, Our Town Damariscotta, formed to limit big-box development in town and has succeeded in getting a referendum on the ballot for March, which will limit new retail stores to 35,000 sq. ft. Newcastle and Nobleboro are also currently working on zoning changes to limit large-scale retail development.

Home Rule in Searsport —

Several members of Searsport's Comprehensive Planning Committee have written letters about varying aspects of land-use management, but one of the most compelling to me is the legal concept of "home rule." The right of self-determination for a community, akin to the rights of individuals, grants us authority to make any determinations critical to our current and future lives, including how to protect the citizens of our community, our seafaring history and our environment, and how to set forth our visions for business and population growth. This concept is clearly stated in Maine law, where local rule is described as trumping state law when a land-use ordinance is found to be consistent with the State Planning Office guidelines of the Growth Management Act and is adopted by the community with a simple majority vote.

Our comprehensive plan has been deemed consistent by the State Planning Office; all that remains is an endorsement of the ordinance by our townspeople at the annual town meeting in March. I think we all have a desire to influence the direction we take as a community and we have a variety of insights into the forms that direction takes. We are part of a larger coastal community as well, and contributing to coastal policies is part of our mandate as a good neighbor. While we strive to work cooperatively with state agencies or any groups that have a vested interest in how we grow, we also want to have our priorities be paramount, and it's important that they carry the legal clout of home-rule precedence.

It's a matter of being in the driver's seat as much as possible where land use is concerned, and a strong ordinance helps us to guide changes as they come, not just react to them when they're here.

PHYLLIS W. SOMMER, Chair
Comprehensive Planning Committee
Searsport

Draft? —

The news media is saying that military recruitment is at an ebbing situation. The government is now offering more enticing offers along with the college education deal.

I am sure that our young people are aware that in order to take advantage of these offers, when they finally get home, they must be alive and physically and mentally able.

If the recruitment does not improve soon, we should expect reinstatement of the draft.

MILTON DYER
Camden

LETTERS OPINIONS

Questions Still Unanswered on Richmond Co. Phone Survey—

During and after the Richmond Company's meeting on January 5 at Watts Hall in Thomaston, I attempted to get answers to questions I raised about a telephone survey conducted for the Richmond Company, for which I had been called.

During this telephone survey, I was asked personal questions about members of the community. I felt they were highly inappropriate and refused to answer them. When I refused to answer very personal questions about a member of the community, I asked the person who had called me who was paying for the survey. She did not answer and hung up.

The moderator of the January 5 meeting stated there would be answers to my questions. After the meeting, the Richmond Company's attorney requested and received my phone number, mailing address and e-mail address. I again requested a copy of the survey script in order to verify my concerns. To date, I have received no information to allay my concerns.

MICHAEL E. MAYO
Thomaston

Volunteering for Barbara Merrill

As an independent voter, I have been alarmed and disappointed to see the Democratic Party leadership in Augusta stooping to financial gimmickry as dubious and as dangerous as that being used by the Republican leadership in Washington, DC. As a result I was very pleased to see State Representative Barbara Merrill of Appleton rebel against these practices and drop her membership in the Democratic Party and the Democratic House majority in protest.

Now Barbara is running for governor of Maine as an Independent, and I mean to support her. To get on the ballot she will need to collect thousands of signatures on petitions, signatures which can come from any Maine registered voter, no matter what their party affiliation or lack thereof. Furthermore, Barbara is planning to run as a "Clean Elections" candidate (i.e., not rely on donations from special interests), but to qualify for money from the Maine Clean Elections

Update on RES West Addition The Need for a K-4 Facility —

A Principal's View

By Jan Staples, K-4 Principal

Currently three sites house the K-4 students in MSAD #28. Rockport Elementary School (RES) East Campus houses one kindergarten class, students in grades 1 & 2 and Primary Multiage which is comprised of K-2 students; RES West Campus houses students in grades 3 & 4; and RES North Campus (Camden-Rockport Middle School) where four kindergarten classrooms are housed.

The logistics of having students located at three sites creates a variety of challenges for the students, staff and parents. It affects programs, services, curriculum and instruction. Even though all staff work hard to make everything run as smoothly as possible and to provide the highest level of support for all our K-4 students, we have incidents that occur on a daily basis that we believe would not exist if we were all in one facility.

One of our greatest challenges is the loss of instructional time as we must bus grade three and four students from the West to the East for art, music and physical education (PE). RES West does not have a cafeteria, gym, art room, or music room. The busing accounts for 40 minutes of lost instructional time each week per classroom. We have also had to reduce the amount of instructional time in the art, music and PE classes in order to make a schedule that works with all the time the busing requires. With the kindergarten students' move to the North Campus, those same teachers must travel to this location and teach in the classrooms (except for PE). This limits the type of instruction the students receive because of space and materials.

We have students in two programs, Bridges and Spectrum, who require support above and beyond what a classroom teacher can provide. This staff is stretched across three sites. Many times the teachers of these programs are called from one site to another because of emergencies with students. I believe this compromises the effectiveness of the programming for these students and for the other students in the classrooms as well.

K-4 students need opportunities to work together which enhances the development of a variety of social skills. We are missing opportunities where older students can become academic buddies with younger students. Older students can be such good role models for younger students and this opportunity is missed when we have students located in three facilities.

K-4 teachers need opportunities to share ideas about curriculum and instruction in professional learning communities. Teachers across grade levels need to talk, share and learn from one another. When teachers collaborate, students benefit.

This is just a sampling of the challenges we face with so many sites needed to house our K-4 students. With one K-4 site most of the areas of concern would go away. There would be more instructional time gained, students with special needs would have their needs attended to in a more timely manner, costs to the district for busing students would be reduced, students would be receiving instructions for specials in appropriate places, opportunities for students and classrooms at different grade levels to work together would increase, teachers would have more opportunities to collaborate, parents would not have to travel to so many sites, and selfishly, the principal and the assistant principal would be available to respond to student and staff needs in a more timely manner.

I have worked in this district for 34 years and we have never had our elementary students located in one facility. It is my hope that within the next couple of years I will be walking into a school designed for grades K-4 along with our students, staff, parents, and community members.

Fund she will have to collect some 2,500 checks for \$5 each.

I have volunteered to help her with these two projects and am looking for helpers. If you believe that an independent candidate or, better yet, an independent governor, can make Maine a better place, please give me a call at 236-1059 and we can discuss how you can help.

CHARLIE GRAHAM
Camden

The Free Press welcomes and encourages your letters about whatever is on your mind. Include your name, town of residence, and phone number (in case we need to contact you). Send letters to: The Free Press, 6 Leland St., Rockland, ME 04841 (fax 596-6698; email editor@freepressonline.com).

Ending the Corruption

by Congressman Mike Michaud,
representing the Second District of Maine

The charges being brought against many members of the Congressional Leadership are part of a wave of corruption that has occurred in our nation's capitol.

In the past few months, this pattern of corruption has been seen in the way that the Congress is being run. We can see it in the way that crucial votes are being held in the dead of night to give favors to big corporations, in the admission by lobbyists like Jack Abramoff that they have traded campaign contributions for votes from Congressional leaders, and in the maneuvers used by the leadership to play partisan politics with important issues.

I know that people in Maine and throughout America are sick of it. The House of Representatives is supposed to represent the best of America. Members of Congress must maintain the very highest ethical standards. That is sadly not the case right now. The American people deserve real change and they deserve it now.

This corruption is an insult to our democracy. But beyond that, there is also a very real price to pay for this corruption, and it's the American people and the people of Maine who are forced to pay it.

For example, pharmaceutical lobbyists and insurance companies largely wrote the new Medicare prescription drug plan in back rooms with Congressional leaders. As a result, the plan prohibits negotiating for lower-priced prescription medicines, and begins to privatize the Medicare system. These are multibillion-dollar giveaways to the insurers who will offer the drug plans and the drug companies who can charge whatever prices they want while the taxpayers foot the bill.

We have seen similar giveaways in the energy bill, the defense bill, and in tax bills, to name just a few. These have meant giant subsidies for oil companies, legal protection for pharmaceutical companies if their drugs make people sick, and incentives for American companies to create jobs overseas. All of these giveaways have cost consumers money, made us less safe, and cost taxpayers hundreds of billions of dollars to enrich some of the most profitable corporations in America.

Congressional leaders in Washington were elected to Congress to represent the people in their states and districts, not the special interests that can afford to pay.

I have been cosponsoring a number of measures to end the corruption in the House, including bills that would eliminate lobbyist-sponsored travel, investigate ethics lapses, and require that members be able to review bills for at least 24 hours before a vote, to eliminate the recent trend of Congressional Leadership giving away favors to corporate backers and hiding them in last-minute bills rushed to the floor in the dead of night.

It is unfortunate that it has taken such major scandals to convince the current leadership that they must stop their practices and change.

This should not be a partisan issue. Honest leadership is not a partisan goal. It is the key to a stronger country, and a value that we all share, and that we should all expect from our government.

We must all work together so that we can focus again on the urgent needs of the American people: good jobs here at home, affordable health care, fair trade, real security overseas and in this country, economic strength, energy independence, retirement security for our seniors and a future for our children.

Samuel Alito —

First, I want to applaud the Free Press for presenting many differing views from their columnists and postings to their letters to the editor.

By the time this letter is posted, we will probably know if Samuel Alito has been approved by the Senate to a lifetime position on our Supreme Court.

I am one of those Americans who has encouraged our national Democratic and Republican senators alike to vote against his appointment. I'm one who viewed the Judicial Committee hearings on Alito a farce, with Republican senators not asking serious questions of Alito but forming a cheering committee, and Democratic senators being left with their questions unanswered by a candidate who talked around but never answered specific questions.

The American public has not really been informed about what Alito will do or not do on the Court because our so-called media has not bothered to do any serious detailed research on his record, or report on what his past decisions might mean in relation to his decisions if he is on the Supreme Court.

But I've been hugely encouraged by the grassroots blogging community across this country who have called, written, e-mailed and faxed our elected senators across the country to inform them that we have a voice and that they should begin paying more attention to those who they represent and who elected them, and stop letting their decisions be ruled by the self-serving insiders in Washington, DC.

In this letter, I want to hail all those who have the courage to speak out and take the risk of being true patriots.

JO ANN SIMON, Camden

Sound Like Democracy? —

It would seem America is descending into a lawless, careless era of exploitation and a frightening kind of world imperialism. Spying on American citizens, secret prisons, incarceration without representation, "legalized" torture, the wanton bombing of innocent civilians? Does this sound like democracy?

Our government's response not only to Katrina but to hundreds of thousands of deaths in the Pakistan earthquake, hundreds of thousands of deaths in Darfur and the mass of children that die daily worldwide of starvation is an atrocious social policy. With our billions, can't we help these people? The War in Iraq is a manufactured war being used to disguise corporate seizure of Iraqi oil and infrastructure, and almost everyone above kindergarten knows it. Yet the media routinely stifles dissent. Is this freedom of the press?

During the last five years, oil and gas have doubled along with health insurance. College education is stratospheric. Millions of our jobs have been shipped out. Wages remain stagnant. Minimum-wage laws won't even bring you up to the poverty level. The public is being sucked dry by corporate America, with the help of our elected leaders and representatives. But we're told "the economy" is wonderful. For whom?

The Abramoff lobbying scandal in Washington is the most devastating political corruption story in decades, but it's carefully shoved to the back pages. As long as the media is owned and bows to the corporate mentality and corporate morals, average Americans will never have the information necessary to alleviate this abysmal decline in American spirit, living standard, pride and real democracy.

We could do so much for ourselves and the world if the people of this country were, as the Constitution demands, actually in charge of it.

DENNIS LOPEZ, Rockport

LETTERS OPINIONS

Clear Plan for Victory in Iraq—

President Bush has a clear plan for victory in Iraq that begins with training Iraqi forces so they can defend their country and fight the terrorists. We are making tremendous progress towards this objective. Earlier this year, Iraqi forces led the fight in clearing out terrorists during the crucial battle of Tal Afar, with U.S. troops in a supporting role, and every day Iraqis are taking more control of the situation on the ground. Withdrawing from Iraq, as some Democrats in Washington propose, would send a dangerous signal to our enemies that we cut and run when the going gets tough. President Bush is offering a clear strategy to win, not a political quick fix.

I firmly agree with his foreign and domestic policies when it involves the fight against terrorism. If he doesn't succeed, the next thing will be a war on domestic soil. Anything is worth it if it prevents that. We haven't lost any men compared to the people we will lose if that happens.

DOROTHY SHARON SHERMAN, Rockland

SAD 34 Budget —

It has been reported in many of our local weekly newspapers that the SAD 34 budget for this fiscal year is short by more than \$700,000. According to these newspaper articles, it is a case of possible fiscal mismanagement by the superintendent. It is also reported by some of these weekly newspapers that SAD 34, with the approval of the school board, hired five additional employees in August 2005 (teacher's aide, janitor, school bus driver, etc.), fully aware that there was already a budget shortfall. Now it is reported that SAD 34 and the school board want the voters to approve a budget referendum to allow borrowing the more than \$700,000. There are no viable proposals to pay back this large sum of money. What is said is that it will be rolled over into SAD 34's next year's fiscal budget. As I see it, the proposed next year's budget will match the current budget but include an extra \$1,500,000 or more to cover the current budget shortfall (more than \$700,000) and an additional more than \$700,000 to cover SAD 34 next year's budget expenses, if cuts are not approved and implemented.

So who will ultimately pay for this budget nightmare? Belfast property taxes would have to be substantially increased to help pay for this fiscal folly. The SAD 34 budget appears to me in need of a reality check. Everyone is feeling the financial crunch from soaring property taxes (in some cases a 200% increase over the past eight years), increased heating oil fuel (from \$1.30 per gallon January 2005 to \$2.30 per gallon January 2006 — almost a 100 percent increase in 12 months), increased gasoline (also up about 100 percent in the last year). Many residents in our area are on fixed incomes and have been "budget-belt-tightening" for a few years, and some are going into debt using credit cards to make up their budget shortfall. Unpleasant steps will have to be taken with the SAD 34 budget, and that means personnel cuts as well as other onerous cuts that unfortunately will adversely affect some of our citizens. The bottom line is that everyone is affected. Reality can be a harsh thing to confront.

No matter the outcome of this budget referendum, soon to be scheduled, hard budget decisions will be required by SAD 34 administration officials and the school board. It is a daunting issue.

MILES GRAY, Belfast

Congressman Michaud Hosts Public Forum on Iraq War

by Alice McFadden



"Wow, what an earful," was Congressman Mike Michaud's opening comment after having listened for about 90 minutes to those who turned out last Sunday afternoon for a forum on the war in Iraq sponsored by Michaud, who represents Maine's Second District in the US House of Representatives.

Thirty of the approximately 150 people who attended the session at the University of Maine Hutchinson Center in Belfast spoke publicly during the session. At the beginning of the forum, Michaud had asked all present to listen with respect to those speakers with whom they disagreed. However, as it turned out, every single speaker condemned the



This speaker, from Appleton, said the war is bankrupting the country and urged Michaud to stand up in Congress and force it to focus on the economic costs of the war in Iraq.

conduct of the Bush administration, many also condemned the US Congress, and several said the president should be impeached, citing various grounds, ranging from war crimes to lying to the public in order to wage war. Here's a tiny sample of remarks made by speakers throughout the afternoon:

- "Congress so far has chosen misery over mercy... The war is robbing us of our ability to help the needy."

- "Why does Congress have so much trouble finding money for healthcare, rebuilding New Orleans, hunger, AIDS, social programs, but no trouble finding money for the war

in Iraq?"

- "I object to being taken to war under false pretenses. I would like you as a Congressman to do what you can to extricate us."

Remarking on the unanimity of opinions expressed during the forum, one speaker explained it as follows: "I don't think this is an occasion where people of good will can disagree. This war is wrong."

Michaud said he would tell the other members of Maine's Congressional delegation what he had heard on Sunday.

Calendar of Events

PLEASE TAKE NOTE:

Calendar listings should be mailed to: *The Free Press Calendar*, 6 Leland St., Rockland, ME 04841 (FAX: 596-6698, or E-mail: editor@freepressonline.com) **by noon the Friday before the Thursday publication date.** Please include your name, address and phone number.

Noteworthy

THURSDAY, FEB. 2:

► **Camden Library Coffeehouse**, 7 p.m. Featured performer is Dean Stevens, a guitarist whose repertoire includes a wide spectrum of songs in English and Spanish. David Dodson will be appearing with Stevens. \$7/\$5 seniors and students.

► **Dan Stevens in Performance**, 7 p.m., King Eider's Pub, 2 Elm St., Damariscotta. FMI: 563-6008.

► **Groundhog Day Celebration**, 10 a.m., Berry Manor Inn, 81 Talbot Ave., Rockland.

FRIDAY, FEB. 3:

► **National Toboggan Championships**, Fri.-Sun., Feb. 3-5, Camden Snow Bowl. 400 teams compete for trophy and bragging rights. Fri. is check-in and toboggan inspections. Races begin at 9 a.m. Sat. & Sun., with final awards ceremony at 3 p.m. Sun. FMI: www.camdensnowbowl.com.

► **Ladysmith Black Mambazo in Concert**, 8 p.m., Pickard Theatre, Bowdoin College, Brunswick. The Grammy-winning South African group is celebrating the release of its new album, "Long Walk to Freedom," which features guest vocal performances by Emmy Lou Harris, Melissa Etheridge, Taj Mahal, Sarah McLachlan and others. Tickets are \$15 for the general public, \$5 for students. FMI: 725-3375.

► **Performance by Theater of the Spirit**, Fri. & Sat., Feb. 3 & 4, 7:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall, Second Congregational Church, Newcastle. "Readers' Theater in Concert: Complexions of ... Love" will feature selections from five of Shakespeare's amorous plays, supplemented by instrumental and vocal English madrigals. Sweet confections will also be served. Tickets, \$10 in advance, available at Maine Coast Book Shop, Damariscotta and Day's Emporium, Newcastle. \$12 at the door.

► **Contra Dance**, 8 p.m., Opera House at Boothbay Harbor. John McIntire calls to the music of Calliope. \$7.

► **DaPonte String Quartet in Concert**, 7:30 p.m., St. Patrick's Church, Newcastle. Music to be performed includes works by Mozart, Shostakovich and Beethoven. Concert repeated on Sat., Feb. 4, 7:30 p.m., State Street Church, Portland, and Sun., Feb. 5, 3 p.m., United Methodist Church, Brunswick. \$18/\$15 seniors/under 21, free. FMI: 529-4555.

► **Lie, Cheat & Genuflect**, members only Fri., Feb. 3, 7 p.m.; public performances Sat., Feb. 4 and Fri. and Sat., Feb. 10 & 11, 8 p.m. and Sun., Feb. 5, 2 p.m., Waldo Theatre, Main St., Waldoboro. A comedy featuring con artists, horse racing, a will, an Avon lady and a wayward nun. Tickets: orchestra \$15/balcony \$13 adults and \$11 age 12 and under. FMI: 832-6060.

► **Bad Dates**, Fri.-Sun., Feb. 3-5, The Public Theater, Lewiston. A comedy about a single mom who begins dating after a 12-year dry spell. Performances Fri. & Sat., 8 p.m.; and Sunday, 2 p.m. FMI: 782-3200.

► **Winter Cabaret**, Fri.-Sun., Feb. 3-5 and 10-12, 8 p.m. on Fri. & Sat. and 2 p.m. Sun., The Theater Project, School St., Brunswick. Ninth annual cabaret with comedy, music and delicious desserts and coffee. FMI: 729-8584.

SATURDAY, FEB. 4:

► **Jon Gailmor in Concert**, 7 p.m., Strom Auditorium, Camden Hills Regional H.S., Rte. 90, Rockport. Gailmor has been performing for family audiences since 1971. \$8/\$5 students and children. Snow date is Sun., Feb. 5 at 2 p.m.

► **Trekpalooza/Battle for the Bus!**, 7 p.m., Strand Theatre, 345 Main St., Rockland. Capital campaign for Trekkers' purchase of a new bus includes a Battle of the Bands, with cash prize for winner. Bands to perform include Waiting on Ian, Taco Apocalypse, NFR, PD and J, Edible Ted and Matching Thermos. Tickets, \$7, available at the door or by calling 594-5095.

► **Fundraiser for Common Ground Collective**, 2-4 p.m., Second Read, 328 Main St., Rockland. DJ Mark Elwin will play street sounds of New Orleans brass, rhythm and soul from his collection and there will be Mardi Gras treats in the pastry case. Those who donate to Common Ground Collective will receive an official Mardi Gras Costume Ball dancing alligators poster signed by artist Deb Atwell. Common Ground Collective is a community-run organization of volunteers offering support for rebuilding of communities affected by the hurricane in New Orleans. FMI: 594-4123.

► **St. Lawrence String Quartet in Concert**, 8 p.m., Olin Arts Center Concert Hall, Bates College, Lewiston. Canada's premiere chamber ensemble, and a favorite at Bay Chamber Concerts, plays works by Beethoven, Mozart and Shostakovich. \$8/\$5 seniors and non-Bates students. FMI: 786-6135.

► **Dave Mallett in Concert**, 7:30 p.m., Chocolate Church, 798 Washington St., Bath. Folk singer and Maine native Dave Mallett's career has spanned four decades, with 11 albums, two books and numerous awards to his credit. Tickets are \$17-\$22 and available by calling 442-8455.

► **Winter Ecology Festival**, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Merryspring Nature Park, Conway Rd., Camden. Sled dog and winter survival camping demonstrations; bird walk and tree identification walks; live owls on display; youth program on making bird feeders at 10:30 a.m., and 12:30 and 2 p.m.; and Star Party after sundown. Hot soup, warm drinks and sweets available all day. FMI: 236-2239, 529-2722 or 563-3578.

► **Cabin Fever Reliever**, supper 5-6:30 p.m.; auction at 7 p.m., Waldo County YMCA, Rte. 3, Belfast. Dinner is \$5/\$3 children/\$15 per family. Items are wanted for the auction and may be dropped off at the Y. FMI: 338-4598.

► **19th Annual Snowfest/Fishing Derby**, early a.m.-3 p.m., Washington Pond (provided there is ice), Washington. Rain date Feb. 11. Prizes include \$20 for largest fish in 4 categories; \$75 for largest fish overall. Weigh-in must be completed by 3 p.m. The event also includes raffles, door prizes including \$200 cash, and a poker run if there is enough snow. Refreshments will be available. FMI: Bill Goff, 845-2719.

► **Chili and Chowder Challenge**, 6 p.m., Rockport Masonic Center, 361 Main St. (between Rte. 1 & Simonton's Corner). Challengers include Black Bull Tavern, Breakwater Café, French & Brawn, Mariner's Grille, Natalie's, Offshore Restaurant, Pen Bay Café, Quarry Hill, Upper Deck Café, Waterfront Restaurant, Wave Café and Windward Gardens. \$6/\$4 children. Proceeds benefit Snow Bowl and West Bay Rotary charities.

► **Freestyle Dance**, 8 p.m.-midnight, Watts Hall, Main St., Thomaston. Collective Freedance presents music for moving and dancing. No partner needed. \$6. FMI: 589-3552 or 594-0881.

SUNDAY, FEB. 5:

► **Polar Plunge Fundraiser**, 2:30 p.m., Snow Marine Park, Mechanic St., Rockland. Area church youth take the

plunge to raise funds for a trip to the Dominican Republic, where they will assist in building a school and church. Also taking place is a clothing and supplies drive. Needed are adult and children's clothing and shoes, school supplies, vitamins, hand tools and toiletries. FMI: abbiejn@yahoo.com.

► **Country Music Benefit for Jerry Lindsey**, 1-5 p.m., American Legion, Rte. 17, Augusta. FMI: 377-3597 or 426-9580.

MONDAY, FEB. 6:

► **Talk by Author Lea Wait**, 6 p.m., Belfast Library. Wait will talk about writing *Wintering Well*, her new historical novel for children set in Wiscasset in the early 1800s. Wait is also author of the *Shadows Antique Print Mysteries* series. FMI: 338-3884, ext. 24.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 8:

► **Fabulous Food Fare & Silent Auction**, 5:30-8:30 p.m., Samoset Resort, Rockport. The 20th annual fundraiser for Mid-Coast Children's Services offers wine, hors d'oeuvres and desserts from 30 of the area's best restaurants and auction items from 65 artists. Tickets are \$45, available by calling 594-8474.

THURSDAY, FEB. 9:

► **The Persuasions in Concert**, 7:30 p.m., Franco American Heritage Center, Lewiston. Five voices and four decades of a cappella singing materials from Dylan to Zappa, with gospel, doo-wop and oldies in between. The heavyweight champions of a cappella. \$20/\$17 students and seniors. FMI: 782-7228, 1-800-639-2919, or www.laarts.org.


COMING UP:

► **An Evening of Soup and Song**, Fri., Feb. 10, 5:30 p.m., Watts Hall, Main St., Thomaston. Homemade soups and stews served with salad, bread and dessert, with musical stylings by Steve Lindsay, the Dock Boys and Waiting for Ian. Sponsored by GVHS Parent Group. \$8/\$5 under 13/\$25 family cap.

► **Hat Trick Auction**, Fri., Feb. 10, 6 p.m., Samoset Resort, Rockport. Silent auction, dinner buffet (7:15 p.m.), followed by live auction. Benefits area youth and high school hockey programs. Auction items range from luxury box tickets to Bruins games to gourmet dinner at the Rockland Fire Station (with firetruck limo) to cottage get-aways and Red Sox tickets (visit www.maine.coastskaters.org for complete listing). Tickets are \$25 per person. FMI: Becky Ayotte, 832-6821.

(Continued on p. 35)

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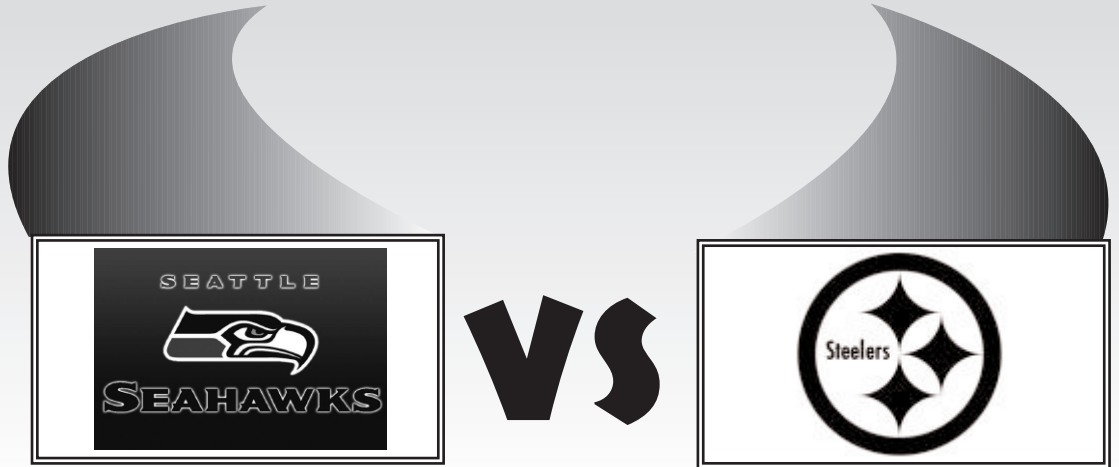
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Calendar of Events

(Continued from p. 33)

► **The Reggae Cowboys in Concert**, Fri., Feb. 10, 7:30 p.m., The Grand, Ellsworth. Jamaican rhythms and Western-flavored lyrics. Special guests for this dance party are Angeline the Baker, a roots-rock collective. Tickets are \$15, or a Spotlight Series (10 events) flexpass is available for \$100 members, \$125 non-members. FMI: 667-9500.

► **Hamlet**, Fri. & Sat., Feb. 10 & 11 and Thurs.-Sat., Feb. 16-18 at 7:30 p.m. and Sun., Feb. 12, 2 p.m., Camden Opera House. A production by the Camden Civic Theatre. Tickets are \$16 orchestra/\$12 balcony/\$2 discount for seniors and age 18 and younger. FMI: 236-2281.

► **The Vagina Monologues**, Fri. & Sat., Feb. 10 & 11, 7 p.m., Olin Arts Center Concert Hall, Bates College, Lewiston. A Robinson Players production. \$3 admission benefits women's advocacy efforts. FMI: 786-6135.

► **Nzinga's Daughters in Concert**, Fri., Feb. 10, 7:30 p.m., Chocolate Church, 798 Washington St., Bath. A women's ensemble performing prose, poetry, stories and songs that reveal coded messages about the Underground Railroad hidden within Negro spirituals, field songs and everyday objects. Tickets are \$10-\$14 and available by calling 442-8455.

► **Cabin Fever Concert Series**, Fri., Feb. 10, 6:30 p.m., Belfast Music, 102 Main St. This week: Dave Wooley plays acoustic country. Free admission. FMI: 338-4250.

► **Fat Saturday Bayou Benefit Bash**, Sat., Feb. 11, 5-10 p.m., First Church Parish Hall, Spring St., Belfast. Public supper from 5-7 p.m. offers choice of Cajun/Creole fare or Southern chicken dinner, as well as "sinful" Southern desserts. DJ Mark Elwin will provide New Orleans brass, zydeco, soul and funk from 7-10 p.m. Benefits hurricane recovery efforts. FMI: 338-2282.

► **Introduction to Stick and Tissue Model Airplanes**, Sat., Feb. 11, 1 p.m., Owls Head Transportation Museum, Rte. 73. For ages 10 and up; limited to 12, so reservations are requested for this program. FMI: 594-4418.

► **PORTopera Auditions**, Sat. & Sun., Feb. 11 & 12, Immanuel Baptist Church, Portland. Auditions are for the summer production of Mozart's *Don Giovanni*. On Sat., at noon, auditions for chorus begin. Accompanist provided; singers should prepare one piece that highlights their voice. To schedule a time, call 879-7678. On Sun., starting at 1 p.m. auditions for the Maine Emerging Artists program will be held. Download an application at www.portopera.org and mail to PORTopera to schedule an audition time.

► **"Under the Big Top,"** Sat., Feb. 11, cash bar 6 p.m.; dinner 6:30-7:30 p.m.; cabaret 8 p.m., Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland. Gay Men's Chorus fundraiser showcases the best voices in southern Maine accompanied by a live band. Dinner & performance tickets are \$50 and must be reserved before Sat., Feb. 4. Cabaret only, \$25 at the door. FMI: www.maine-gay-mens-chorus.org.

► **Concerts at Jewett Series**, Sun., Feb. 12, 2 p.m., Jewett Hall auditorium, UMaine Augusta. The DaPonte String Quartet will perform Mozart's Clarinet Quintet with guest clarinetist Karen Beacham of the Nordica Trio, as well as other works by Mozart and Beethoven. A pre-concert talk begins at 1 p.m. \$10/\$5 students/12 and under, free. FMI: 621-3551.

► **Atlantic Clarion Steel Band in Concert**, Sun., Feb. 12, 3-5 p.m., Lincolnville Central School's Walsh Common. \$5/\$3 children under 12/\$15 family of 5 or more. Tickets available at HAV II in Camden, by calling 236-6777, or at the door. FMI: 763-3712.

► **Henry V**, Sun., Feb. 12, 2 & 7 p.m., Hutchinson Center, Rte. 3, Belfast. Production by the Theater at Monmouth. \$12. FMI: 338-9836.

► **Camden Winterfest**, Sun., Feb. 12, Harbor Park and the Snow Bowl, Camden. Ice carving contest, sledding, snowball Olympics, street hockey on Atlantic Ave., live music, horse & wagon rides, food and more. The Snow Bowl will offer a cross-country ski race at 9 a.m., discounted lift tickets to those who wear old-fashioned ski wear, free hot chocolate and birthday cake at day's end and torch-light parade at 5:30 p.m. (to participate in parade, call 236-3438 in advance). Those interested in participating in the ski race should call Dave Ridley at 236-8567.

► **Talk by John Berendt**, Sun., Feb. 19, 2:30 p.m., Camden Opera House. Berendt, author of *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*, is speaking as part of the Camden Library Lecture Series. \$25 & \$18 for adults/\$8 students. FMI: 236-2823.

► **Pianist Alexander Kobrin in Concert**, Sun., Feb. 26, 2:30 p.m., Rockport Opera House. Bay Chamber Concerts presents the winner of the International Van Cliburn Piano Competition. Kobrin will perform works by Schumann, Rachmaninoff and Chopin. FMI: 236-2823.

► **Toby Keith in Concert**, Thurs., Mar. 2, 7:30 p.m., Civic Center, Portland. Keith, Country Artist of the Year 2005, will appear with Joe Nichols. Tickets: 775-3331 or -3458 or www.ticketmaster.com.

► **Johnny Winter in Concert**, Fri., March 3, 8 p.m., Camden Opera House. Classic blues in the style of Eric Clapton and Jeff Beck. James Montgomery plays harp for the evening. Tickets, \$38, available at Wild Rufus and HAV II, Camden; Grasshopper Shop, Rockland; Fertile Mind, Belfast; or by calling 242-9412.

Children's & Teens' Events

THURSDAY, FEB. 2:

► **Italian Cooking Lessons for Girls**, six Thursdays, starting Feb. 2, 3-6 p.m., Blackberry Inn B&B, Camden. Series for girls in grades 9-12 is taught by cookbook author Nancy Harmon Jenkins. Lessons focus on making pastas and risotto, pizza and bread, vegetables, meat, beans and rice, and fish dishes, with field trips to markets and local gardens as well. \$200. FMI: 236-8152.

FRIDAY, FEB. 3:

► **Thomaston Library Activities**, 3:30 p.m., Thomaston. Susan Beebe will lead a class in papier-mache.
► **Web Design Workshop**, 3:30-5 p.m., Platform Shoes Studio 21 Digital Lounge, Rockland. Eight-week session. Learn to make your own basic Web site using Dreamweaver. For junior high and high school students. FMI: 594-1842.

SATURDAY, FEB. 4:

► **Creative Acting Sessions**, Sat., Feb. 4 & 11, The Playhouse, Belfast. Ages 5-9 will meet from 10 a.m. to noon, ages 10 and older from 12:30-2:30 p.m. FMI: 338-5777.

SUNDAY, FEB. 5:

► **Rick Charette in Concert**, 3 p.m., Samoset Resort, Rockport. The well-known children's performer will give a concert to benefit the Toy Library in Rockland. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$5 children. Family discount tickets are \$20 (2 adults/2 children). Tickets available in advance at the Toy Library on Thurs. & Fri. 9 a.m.-noon; and at St. Peter's Episcopal Church Community Room, White St., Rockland. FMI: Melissa Boggs, 594-4623.

MONDAY, FEB. 6:

► **Thomaston Library Story Hour**, 1-2 p.m., Thomaston. Storytelling by Jan Zimmermann.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 8:

► **Puppet Show**, 10:30 a.m., Rockland Library, 80 Union St. Puppeteers from the Ashwood School will give a performance for the children.

COMING UP:

► **Valentine's Day Gift Workshop**, 2-3:30 p.m., Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens Horticulture Bldg., Barbers Island Rd., Boothbay. Decoupage class using pressed plants. Kids ages 7-12 are encouraged to bring family photos or one of themselves for this project. \$8/\$6 members. FMI: 633-4333.

► **S.A.T. Prep Course**, begins week of Feb. 13 in Belfast, Searsport, Waldoboro and Thorndike. High school juniors can receive either partial or full scholarships. Applications are available at school guidance offices, by calling 338-8002 or 1-800-753-9044, or download application form at www.hutchinsoncenter.umaine.edu.

► **Morris Farm Winter Camp**, Mon.-Fri., Feb. 20-24, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m., Morris Farm, Rte. 27 N, Wiscasset. Camp for ages 6-11 has daily themes from farm work to cooking to exploring how animals survive in the winter. Sign up for a day or the week. Fee is \$40 per day/\$175 week, with aftercare until 4:30 p.m. available for an additional \$3 per day. FMI: 882-4080.

► **Chewonki Winter Vacation Camp**, Mon.-Fri., Feb. 20-24, Chewonki Foundation, 485 Chewonki Neck Rd., Wiscasset. Activities for children in grades 2-8 include showshoeing, live animal presentations, nature-inspired clay art, outdoor cooking, wooden sled building and much more. FMI: 882-7323, ext. 37 or www.chewonki.org.

► **Brown Bag Theater Workshops**, Tues.-Thurs., Feb. 21-23, 9 a.m.-noon, The Theater Project, 14 School St., Brunswick. Workshops for those in third through fifth grade explore a different theme or story each day and result in a short performance at noon which parents and friends are invited to see as they eat a brown bag lunch. \$30 per day/\$75 all three days. Register by Fri., Feb. 17, by calling 729-8584.

ONGOING:

► **Warren Library Story Hour**, Fridays, 10-11 a.m. Story and activity for ages 3-6. No story hour on public school holidays and snow days. FMI: 273-2001.

► **Belfast Library Story Hours**, Mondays, 10-10:30 a.m., for ages 1 to 3, followed by informal playtime. Birth to age 1, Thursdays at 10 a.m. Stories and crafts Tuesdays at 10 a.m. for ages 3 to 5.

► **Rockland Library Story Times**, Wed. & Sat., 10:30 a.m., 80 Union St.

► **Books, Babies, Toddler Time**, every Wed. & Fri. at 9:30 a.m. for parents and youngsters from newborns to age 2; Tues. 9:30 a.m. for ages 2 to 4. Story Book Room, Skidompha Library, Damariscotta.

► **Vose Library Preschool Story Hour**, Fridays, 10:30 a.m., Union. Story hour features simple stories, songs and games for children under 5. FMI: 785-4733.

► **Toy Library Center**, Thurs. & Fri., 9 a.m.-noon, St. Peter's Episcopal Church, White St., Rockland. Creative play for children under age 7, accompanied by a parent or caregiver. All are welcome. FMI: 594-4623.

► **Storytime for Babies** Fridays, 10 a.m., Rockport Library, 80 Union St. A few minutes of meeting one another, singing songs, simple hand games, stories featuring rhymes, repeating sounds and bright colors.

Film

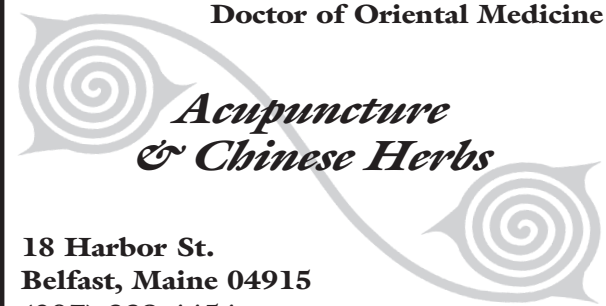
FRIDAY, FEB. 3-THURSDAY, FEB. 9:

► **BAYVIEW STREET CINEMA**, Camden: "Brokeback Mountain" 7 p.m. nightly; 7 & 9:15 p.m. Fri. & Sat.; 3 p.m. Sun. Ends Thurs.: "Bee Season."

► **COLONIAL THEATRE**, Belfast: "Brokeback Mountain," "Last Holiday," "Hoodwinked," "Good Night, and Good Luck." See ad on p. 37 for movie times.

(Continued on p. 37)

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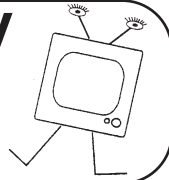


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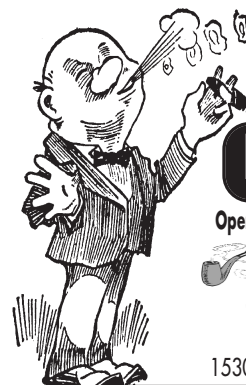
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LOW-RISK DISCS

By Gordon MacLachlan

We have a lot to cover so let's just get to it.

First of all, the 25th Sundance Film Festival came to a close this past week, and since the festival honors both documentary and drama equally, we have two big winners to look out for this year: "Quinceanera," which focuses on family struggles and triumphs through the lens of Latino culture; and "God Grew Tired of Us," a documentary exploring the lives of Sudanese émigrés looking to start a new chapter in the U.S. You could always do worse than to check out the Sundance winners.

As for discs that are being released this Tuesday, probably the finest, and funniest, is the "Wallace & Gromit 2 DVD Cracking Collector's Set." These smart and charming adventures of a self-important British part-time hare-brained inventor, and his poor dog who must constantly and thanklessly bail him out of trouble, are brilliantly plotted and often amazing to watch. These are stop-action, claymation creations, and director Nick Park and his team at Aardman Animation never fail to deliver a meticulously crafted, exciting, hilarious little masterpiece. Some of the most elaborate sequences were filmed at a rate of eight seconds PER DAY, so you can be sure there's great reward in enjoying the details.

On the other end of the comedy/adventure spectrum is the career of the incomparable (and also British) Cary Grant, five of whose films are packaged and packed with extras in "The Cary Grant Box Set." An actor like Grant doesn't come along much, usually never, and the effortlessness with which he seems to carry off the most complicated situations and emotions is extraordinary. The demeanor that makes him seem casual, the accent that makes him seem exotic, the sexiness that's never pushed, and above all the mastery, again, of the details and nuances of comedy and pathos put Grant virtually in a class by himself. It didn't hurt that he chose to pair up with superb directors (Howard Hawks, Leo McCarey, George Cukor, George Stevens) and strong, smart actresses (Rosalind Russell, Katharine Hepburn, Irene Dunne, Jean Arthur and Rita Hayworth). Included in the set are comic gems like "The Awful Truth" and "His Girl Friday" (which remains for me the zenith of the rapid-dialogue, screwball comedy genre). Also here is "Only Angels Have Wings," in which you can hear Grant deliver lines like "Yes, Judy" and "Oh, Judy," but never the immortal "Judy, Judy, Judy," a line impersonators have long latched onto but was never uttered by Grant in a film.

Also available next week, at a reduced price, is an excellent edition of William Friedkin's "The French Connection," which won the Best Picture Oscar for 1971. As I write this, the Oscar nominations for 2005 are being announced, and there's never a lack of impassioned debate when it comes to which films, actors and crew deserve to be chosen as the best American studios have to offer in any given year. The Saltwater Film Society is producing an event at The Strand on Oscar weekend called "Red Carpet Robberies," which is devoted to honoring films and actors that were unjustly snubbed in the years they were nominated for Academy Awards. In the next few weeks I'll focus a bit on each of the three films that will be screened March 4th and 5th. Hindsight can indeed be clearer, and looking back at the cinematic golden era that was the early 1970s in America, it would seem that "The French Connection" was a weak choice. It's entertaining, but doesn't hold up well—its grittiness has to work too hard to cut through the melodrama. Gene Hackman and Roy Scheider do better work elsewhere. But the film won the Oscar, and that's because it falls into the rarer of the two categories you can count on to determine the winner in any given year: the compelling, violent, action drama ("The Silence of the Lambs," "Unforgiven," etc.). Typically, the Best Picture Award could be more aptly named The Sentimental Drama With The Longest Running Time Award ("Chariots of Fire," "Gandhi," "Terms of Endearment," "Out of Africa," "The Last Emperor," Schindler's List," "Forrest Gump," "Braveheart," "The English Patient," "Titanic," et cetera, et cetera). Looking back, the Best Picture of 1971 could have more legitimately been awarded to Stanley Kubrick's "A Clockwork Orange," but except for the blip that was 1969 where Oscar voters honored a rated-X "Midnight Cowboy," any film that is especially disturbing in its truth-telling doesn't have a shot in hell ("Taxi Driver," "Goodfellas," well, let's just say most Martin Scorsese films).

So a more astute, consensus pick for 1971 would have been Peter Bogdanovich's "The Last Picture Show," a poignant, rough drama set in a Texas town that, unlike lucky Rockland, is about to shut down its Main Street movie house, while the futures of two of its high school football players are less certain. With memorable performances from Jeff Bridges and Cybill Shepherd, along with Cloris Leachman, Ellen Burstyn, Timothy Bottoms and Randy Quaid, this stark and evocative film will come alive in all its big-screen glory at the "Red Carpet Robberies" as the second movie in Saturday night's double-feature. More to come soon on the first film of the double feature, a Little Engine that Could called "Citizen Kane."

Gordon MacLachlan is a digital editor and cameraman and the owner of SoundOnScreen Video Services in Thomaston.

VIDEOS & DVDs

Just Released 1/31 —

CORPSE BRIDE PG/Fantasy, Animation/Dirs: Mike Johnson and Tim Burton (Voices: Johnny Depp, Helena Bonham Carter, Emily Watson) Depp voices Victor, a young man set to make a favorable marriage until he becomes the obsession of a beautiful corpse (Carter). She sweeps him into a colorful underworld filled with the passion and joy missing from Victor's life.

Recent Releases —

BROKEN FLOWERS R/Dramatic Comedy/Dir: Jim Jarmusch (Bill Murray, Julie Delpy, Heather Simms) As the devoutly single Don Johnston (Murray) is dumped by his latest girlfriend (Delpy), he receives an anonymous pink letter informing him that he has a son who may be looking for him. The situation causes Don to examine his relationships with women instead of moving on to the next one, and he embarks on a cross-country search for his old flames who might possess clues to the mystery at hand.

THE CONSTANT GARDENER R/Dir: Fernando Meirelles (Ralph Fiennes, Rachel Weisz, Danny Huston) An adaptation of a John Le Carre novel that retains the author's nuance with its multi-tonal cinematography and first-rate script. Fiennes appears as Justin Quayle, a British diplomat stationed in Kenya whose young wife (Weisz) is mysteriously murdered. Transformed from an avid, withdrawn gardener into an outraged widower, Quayle travels the African continent to investigate her death.

FLIGHTPLAN PG-13/Thriller/Dir: Robert Schwentke (Jodie Foster, Peter Sarsgaard, Sean Bean) The emotion-charged, action-packed trailer ought to win an award of its own. Foster is devastatingly good as Kyle Pratt, an aeronautics engineer onboard an intercontinental flight with her young daughter when the child mysteriously disappears. Passengers and crew alike insist the child was never onboard, leaving Kyle, who, fortunately, designed this particular plane, to conduct a secret search of her own.

LORD OF WAR R/Comedy/Dir: Andrew Niccol (Nicolas Cage, Ethan Hawke, Jared Leto) Cage is perfect for this unusually smart satire centered around Yuri, an emigrant to the U.S. who uses his Ukrainian connections to procure and sell illegal arms. Yuri's falsehoods include insisting to his wife Ava (Bridget Moynahan) that international transport is his business and pretending to everyone else he is a religious refugee. Yuri's conscience suddenly awakens, but his clients threaten to kill Yuri unless he continues to fill their orders. Cage narrates, explaining the illegal arms business with wry wit and succinct observations.

MADAGASCAR PG/Animated Family/Dirs: Eric Darnell, Tom McGrath (voices: Chris Rock, Ben Stiller, David Schwimmer, Jada Pinkett Smith) Pampered at New York's Central Park Zoo, a lion (Stiller), a zebra (Rock), a giraffe (Schwimmer), and a hippo (Smith) are kidnapped, then shipwrecked off the coast of Madagascar. Together, the animals struggle to fend off jungle predators, until the lion casts a hungry eye on his zebra friend.

MARCH OF THE PENGUINS G/Documentary/Dir: Luc Jacquet A look at the annual journey of Emperor penguins as they march — single file — to their traditional breeding ground.

MUST LOVE DOGS PG-13/Comedy/Dir: Gary David Goldberg (Diane Lane, John Cusack, Dermot Mulroney) This adult romantic comedy places Sarah (Diane Lane) at the center of a crazy love triangle. Sarah's sisters decide it's time Sarah pair off, so they place her personal ad online. Their efforts unearth a series of disastrous suitors until boat builder Jake (Cusack) expresses interest. Meanwhile, a perfect match already exists in Bob, single father to one of Sarah's students.

THE WILD PARROTS OF TELEGRAPH HILL G/Documentary/Dir: Judy Irving (Mark Bittner and numerous herry-topped conures) A homeless musician finds meaning to his life when he starts a friendship with dozens of semi-wild parrots.

In Our Theaters

mostly by Lisa Miller *Week of February 3 — February 9*
Short descriptions of movies that are playing locally

BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2 PG-13/Comedy/Dir: John Whitesell (Martin Lawrence, Emily Procter, Nia Long) This time Martin Lawrence dons fat grandmotherly prosthetics for a film echoing "Mrs. Doubtfire." Disguised in Big Momma's floral muumuu, FBI agent Malcolm Turner (Lawrence) becomes a nanny attempting to catch his partner's killer. But the real crime is Big Momma decked out in swimwear, trying her hand at skateboarding, or leading a cheerleading squad. It's all in a woman's workday as Malcolm gains new appreciation for his wife's (Long) motherly duties.

BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN R/Drama/Dir: Ang Lee (Jake Gyllenhaal, Heath Ledger, Michelle Williams) While working in the remote reaches of a Wyoming sheep ranch, cowboys Ennis and Jack (Ledger and Gyllenhaal) fall in love. It's 1963, and frightened by their passionate encounters, the men go their separate ways when summer ends. Both marry, but after several years they rekindle their affair. Torn by guilt, the cowboys deny their feelings, even as their respective marriages fail. From a story by Annie Proulx.

THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: THE LION, THE WITCH & THE WARDROBE PG/Fantasy/140 mins/Dir: Andrew Adamson (Georgie Henley, Skandar Keynes, Tilda Swinton, voice of Liam Neeson) C.S. Lewis penned this fantasy that closely parallels the birth of Christianity. Four children discover a secret entrance to Narnia, an alternate reality where talking animals are led by a prophetic lion (Neeson). The land is locked in winter and the kids battle the evil White Witch (Swinton) in an attempt to free their younger brother.

FUN WITH DICK AND JANE PG-13/Comedy/Dir: Dean Parisot (Jim Carrey, Tea Leoni, Alec Baldwin) Wealthy Dick and Jane Harper (Carrey and Leoni) turn to crime for funds to finish their house remodeling. It happens because Dick loses his cushy job when the company goes bankrupt. The couple decides to maintain their tony lifestyle at any cost, going after the dirty corporate executive that bankrupted Jack's former company.

GLORY ROAD PG/Drama/Dir: James Gartner (Josh Lucas, Derek Luke) In 1966, Coach Don Haskins (Lucas) is promoted from coaching a high school girl's basketball team to lead the Texas Western University men's team. Lacking the budget to recruit talented white players, Haskins assembles an all-black team that subsequently trounces its all-white opponents. An uplifting winner of a movie.

GOOD NIGHT, AND GOOD LUCK. PG/Drama/Dir: George Clooney (David Strathairn, Robert Downey Jr., Patricia Clarkson) Broadcast journalist Edward Murrow looks to bring down Senator Joseph McCarthy.

HOODWINKED PG/Comedy, Animated/Dirs: Cory Edwards, Todd Edwards (Anne Hathaway, Glenn Close, Patrick Warburton) A retelling of "Little Red Riding Hood" using a team of animal investigators to look into the home invasion at Granny's (Close). Hathaway voices martial arts babe Red, Patrick Warburton intones The Wolf and Jim Belushi speaks for the dense Woodsman.

LAST HOLIDAY PG-13/Comedy/Dir: Wayne Wang (Queen Latifah, LL Cool J, Timothy Hutton) A shy cookware saleswoman, Georgia (Latifah) is erroneously told she has mere weeks to live. Determined to grab a piece of her unfulfilled dreams, Georgia cashes in her savings for a swanky European romp, and is soon the toast of the Grandhotel Pupp. Georgia is widely acclaimed, and finds romance in Europe as well.

MUNICH R/Drama/Dir: Steven Spielberg (Eric Bana, Daniel Craig, Ciarán Hinds) During the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich, eleven Israeli athletes are taken hostage and murdered by a Palestinian terrorist group known as Black September. In retaliation, the Israeli government recruits a group of Mossad agents to track down and execute those responsible for the attack.

NANNY McPHEE PG/Comedy/Dir: Kirk Jones (Emma Thompson, Colin Firth, Angela Lansbury) Actress Emma Thompson adapted this screenplay from the books by Christianna Brand, smartly writing herself into its starring role. She's magical Nanny McPhee, using her abracadabra to educate the seven unruly children of widower Mr. Brown (Firth). As the kiddies learn to love McPhee, the nanny's homely appearance mysteriously begins to improve. Lansbury takes on the nasty auntie role, a wealthy matriarch planning to disinherit socially awkward Mr. Brown unless he marries within 30 days.

THE PRODUCERS PG-13/Dir: Susan Stroman (Nathan Lane, Matthew Broderick, Uma Thurman) A film version of the hit Broadway musical. Lane and Broderick reprise their stage roles, playing broadly to the bleachers. The pair schemes to bilk investors with their flop production, "Springtime for Hitler."

UNDERWORLD: EVOLUTION R/Horror/Dir: Len Wiseman (Kate Beckinsale, Scott Speedman, Bill Nighy) More butt-kicking Kung Fu from vampire warrior Selene (Beckinsale) and her beau, a werewolf named Michael (Speedman), as the pair set out to uncover the secrets of the undead. Bill Nighy plays a lively vampire lord intent on genetically merging werewolves and vampires. Numerous fight sequences rely on tight shots and quick cuts that confuse the CGI action, but viewers can easily follow the blood splatter trail.

WALK THE LINE PG-13/Drama/Dir: James Mangold (Joaquin Phoenix, Reese Witherspoon, Ginnifer Goodwin) Phoenix and Witherspoon are Johnny Cash and June Carter musical knock-offs in this bio-pic. Cash's humble beginnings on a cotton farm, his first recording contract and performance tour, his protracted pursuit of June Carter and his acclaimed Folsom prison concert are contrasted against the singer's drug use and bouts of low self-esteem. Like a "Beautiful Mind," the film hangs its hat on the healing power of love.

WHEN A STRANGER CALLS PG-13/Horror/Dir: Simon West (Camilla Belle, Brian Geraghty, Tommy Flanagan) Seven years after a killer terrorized her and murdered the children she was babysitting, Jill (Belle) is a young mother with kids of her own. The killer, newly escaped from a mental institution for the criminally insane, locates Jill and her family with plans to settle an old score. A remake of the 1979 horror film of the same name.

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Calendar of Events

(Continued from p. 35)

► **FLAGSHIP CINEMAS 10**, Rockland: "Chronicles of Narnia," "Nanny McPhee," "When a Stranger Calls," "Brokeback Mountain," "The Producers," "Fun with Dick and Jane," "Big Momma's House 2," "Munich" "Underworld: Evolution," "Hoodwinked," "Glory Road." See ad on p. 37 for movie times.
► **STRAND THEATRE**, 345 Main St., Rockland: "Walk the Line." See ad on p. 37 for movie days/times. FMI: 594-0070.

FRIDAY, FEB. 3:

► **WERU Goes to the Movies**, 7 p.m., Belfast Library. Film is "A Great Day in Harlem," a documentary telling the story of the 1958 gathering of jazz greats for a photo. Free.

MONDAY, FEB. 6:

► **"The Navigator,"** 7:30 p.m., Skidompha Library, Main St., Damariscotta. T his 1924 silent film starring Buster Keaton is considered by many critics to be the best and funniest of his 114 films. \$5 donation requested.

TUESDAY, FEB. 7:

► **"The Gold Rush,"** 7:30 p.m., Merrill Auditorium, Portland. Chaplin's 1925 film is part of the Friends of the Kotszschmar Organ's Silent Film Night and features guest organist Dennis James, house organist for the El Capitan Theatre in downtown Hollywood, accompanying the slapstick comedy. \$10. FMI: 883-9525.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 8:

► **"My Land, Zion,"** 6 p.m., Belfast Library. A film by Israeli Yuri Cohen Gerstle on the history and struggle of the Jews and Palestinians and issues surrounding the compulsory drafting of her two daughters into the Israeli Defense Force. Free; discussion follows. FMI: 338-4920.

THURSDAY, FEB. 9:

► **"Postmen in the Mountains,"** 6:30 p.m., Rockland Library, 80 Union St. An award-winning 1999 film about a rural Chinese postman whose son is taking over his three-day, 754-mile delivery hike and how the pair get to know and appreciate one another for the first time in their lives. Free admission.

COMING UP:

► **Belfast Film Series**, Fri., Feb. 10, 7:30 p.m., Belfast Library. Ingmar Bergman's "Winter Light" (1962) is the second film of a trilogy about trying to find meaning without God, following Bergman's 1961 film "Through a Glass Darkly."

► **Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour**, Fri., Feb. 10, 7 p.m., Strom Auditorium, Camden Hills Regional High School. Cultural, action, environmental and adventure films — award-winning films and audience favorites from the approximately 300 films entered in the annual festival. Sponsored by Maine Sport Outfitters. For tickets and more information, call 236-7120.

Art

THURSDAY, FEB. 2:

► **Free Bowl-Making Workshop**, 6-9 p.m., Lincoln Street Center, Rockland. Participants will learn to make simple bowl forms and decorate them with colored clays. Bowls will be sold in a celebration dinner held on March 25 to benefit Youthlinks. FMI: 845-3142.

FRIDAY, FEB. 3:

► **"Interiors,"** opening reception 5:30-7:30 p.m., Eastern Tire's Garage Gallery, 70 Park St., Rockland. New exhibit by "Nine Lively Ladies and Shevis."

► **"Underexposed,"** opening reception 5-8 p.m. Fitzpatrick Gallery, Maine College of Art, 522 Congress St., Portland. Center for Maine Contemporary Art in Rockport brings to Portland an exhibit of 13 Maine photographers whose work, ranging from the traditional to the experimental, has rarely or never been seen in Portland.

► **Harlow Gallery Exhibit**, opening reception 5-8 p.m., 160 Water St., Hallowell. "Small Movements: Interpreting Discernable Motion" is a show of contemporary work by young artists in their 20s from the capitol region. On view through Feb. 26. FMI: 622-3813.

► **"Black Bangor: African Americans in a Maine Community,"** Glickman Family Library, University of Southern Maine, Forest Ave., Portland. An opening reception will take place from 4-7 p.m. The exhibit's curator, Maureen Algersman Lee, will be available to sign copies of her book *Black Bangor: African Americans in a Maine Community, 1880-1950* from 5 to 7 p.m. FMI: 780-4800.

SATURDAY, FEB. 4:

► **Glass Jewelry Workshop**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Lincoln Street Center, Rockland. Nancy Tang is the instructor for this

workshop on making dichronic glass jewelry. \$315 fee plus \$65 for materials includes many pieces of finished jewelry, a reference handout and post-workshop mentoring. Pre-registration required. FMI: 594-6490.

► **"War Flowers: From Swords to Ploughshares,"** opening reception 2-4 p.m., Picker Room, Camden Public Library. The reception will include an artists' discussion and an ongoing interactive art project. Sponsored by Peace Action Maine and the Union of Maine Visual Artists, the exhibit features work by artists from all around the state. FMI: 236-3440.

MONDAY, FEB. 6:

► **LSC Invitational Exhibition**, Lincoln Street Center, Rockland. Exhibition features LSC studio member artists and their invited friends. Work includes recent mixed-media works, paintings, photography, drawings and 3-D works. Artists' reception will take place on Fri., Feb. 10, 5-7 p.m. Exhibit runs through Feb. 24.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 8:

► **Hand-woven Carpet on Display**, Wed.-Sat., Feb. 8-11, Tidemark Gallery, 902 Main St., Waldoboro. A hand-woven carpet entitled "Whirled Leaves" by Waldoboro artist Sara Hotchkiss is on display before traveling to compete for the NICHE award at the Philadelphia Buyers Market of American Craft. FMI: 832-7897.

THURSDAY, FEB. 9:

► **Community Valentine Workshop**, 3-5 p.m., Lincoln Street Center, Rockland. Artists Kalla Buchholz and Robert and Su.Sane Hake provide guidance, inspiration and all the papers, lace, fabric, envelopes and red pens for creating a special message or verse. \$5 per person/age 7 and under must have adult accompaniment. FMI: 594-6490.

► **Digital Valentines**, 1 p.m., Senior Spectrum's Coastal Community Center, Overlook Building, 521 Main St., Damariscotta. Learn how to turn digital photos into a card, photo album or poster using PhotoShop Elements. \$15. FMI: 563-1363.

COMING UP:

► **UMVA Members & Friends Invitational Exhibition**, Fri., Feb. 10, Maine Photographic Workshop's Union Hall Galleries, Rockport. Through March 25.

ONGOING:

► **Farnsworth Museum**, Rockland. "Maine in America: Approaching Abstraction," showing through June. "Stewart Henderson: Rethinking the Enigma," through Feb. 5. "James Wyeth: Selected Works," Upper Church Gallery. Marine paintings, portraits, animals, birds, landscapes and still lifes documenting the artist's work from his teens to the present; on view through May. Open 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Tues. through Sun. FMI: 596-6457.

Partial list of 78th annual Oscar nominations announced by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences:

Best Picture: "Brokeback Mountain," "Capote," "Crash," "Good Night, and Good Luck.," "Munich"

Actor: Philip Seymour Hoffman in "Capote"; Terrence Howard in "Hustle & Flow"; Heath Ledger in "Brokeback Mountain"; Joaquin Phoenix in "Walk the Line"; David Strathairn in "Good Night, and Good Luck."

Actress: Judi Dench in "Mrs. Henderson Presents"; Felicity Huffman in "Transamerica"; Keira Knightley in "Pride & Prejudice"; Charlize Theron in "North Country"; Reese Witherspoon in "Walk the Line"

Supporting Actor: George Clooney in "Syriana"; Matt Dillon in "Crash"; Paul Giamatti in "Cinderella Man"; Jake Gyllenhaal in "Brokeback Mountain"; William Hurt in "A History of Violence"

Supporting Actress: Amy Adams in "Junebug"; Catherine Keener in "Capote"; Frances McDormand in "North Country"; Rachel Weisz in "The Constant Gardener"; Michelle Williams in "Brokeback Mountain"

Director: Ang Lee, "Brokeback Mountain"; Bennett Miller, "Capote"; Paul Haggis, "Crash"; George Clooney, "Good Night, and Good Luck."; Steven Spielberg, "Munich"

Foreign Film: "Don't Tell," Italy; "Joyeux Noël," France; "Paradise Now," Palestine; "Sophie Scholl - The Final Days," Germany; "Tsotsi," South Africa

Adapted Screenplay: "Brokeback Mountain," Screenplay by Larry McMurtry & Diana Ossana; "Capote," Screenplay by Dan Futterman; "The Constant Gardener," Screenplay by Jeffrey Caine; "A History of Violence," Screenplay by Josh Olson; "Munich," Screenplay by Tony Kushner and Eric Roth

Original Screenplay: "Crash," Screenplay by Paul Haggis & Bobby Moresco, Story by Paul Haggis; "Good Night, and Good Luck.," Screenplay by George Clooney & Grant Heslov; "Match Point," Written by Woody Allen; "The Squid and the Whale," Written by Noah Baumbach; "Syriana," Written by Stephen Gaghan

Animated Feature Film: "Howl's Moving Castle," Hayao Miyazaki; "Tim Burton's Corpse Bride," Tim Burton and Mike Johnson; "Wallace & Gromit in the Curse of the Were-Rabbit," Nick Park and Steve Box

Art Direction: "Good Night, and Good Luck.," Art Direction: Jim Bissell, Set Decoration: Jan Pascale; "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire," Art Direction: Stuart Craig, Set Decoration: Stephenie McMillan; "King Kong," Art Direction: Grant Major, Set Decoration: Dan Hennes and Simon Bright; "Memoirs of a Geisha," Art Direction: John Myhre, Set Decoration: Gretchen Rau; "Pride & Prejudice," Art Direction: Sarah Greenwood, Set Decoration: Katie Spencer

Cinematography: "Batman Begins," Wally Pfister; "Brokeback Mountain," Rodrigo Prieto; "Good Night, and Good Luck.," Robert Elswit; "Memoirs of a Geisha," Dion Beebe; "The New World," Emmanuel Lubezki

Documentary Feature: "Darwin's Nightmare," "Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room," "March of the Penguins," "Murderball," "Street Fight"

Documentary (short subject): "The Death of Kevin Carter: Casualty of the Bang Bang Club," "God Sleeps in Rwanda," "The Mushroom Club," "A Note of Triumph: The Golden Age of Norman Corwin"

Animated Short Film: "Badgered," "The Moon and the Son: An Imagined Conversation," "The Mysterious Geographic Explorations of Jasper Morello," "9," "One Man Band"

Live Action Short Film: "Ausreisser (The Runaway)," "Cashback," "The Last Farm," "Our Time Is Up," "Six Shooter"

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Fri. & Sat. 6:45 & 9:20
Sun. to Thurs. 6:45
Matinees: Sat. & Sun. 1:45
LAST HOLIDAY -PG13-
Fri. & Sat. 6:55 & 9:10
Sun. Mon. Tues. & Thurs. 6:55
HOODWINKED -PG-
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Nanny McPhee
12:45, 2:50, 4:55, 7:05; Fri. & Sat. Only 9:15 (PG, 1:47)
Big Momma's House 2
12:50, 2:55, 5:00, 7:25; Fri. & Sat. Only 9:35 (PG13, 1:47)
Underworld: Evolution
1:30, 4:15, 7:30; Fri. & Sat. Only 9:55 (R, 1:54)
Glory Road
1:20, 4:10, 7:20; Fri. & Sat. Only 9:45 (PG, 2:06)
Hoodwinked
1:00, 3:00, 4:50, 7:15; Fri. & Sat. Only 9:05 (PG, 1:29)
Brokeback Mountain
1:10, 3:55, 7:00; Fri. & Sat. Only 9:40 (R, 2:22)
Munich
3:30, 6:45 (R, 2:52)
Fun With Dick & Jane
1:25; Fri. & Sat. Only 9:50 (PG13, 1:39)
The Chronicles of Narnia
1:05, 4:00, 6:50; Fri. & Sat. Only 9:30 (PG, 2:28)
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Calendar of Events

- ▶ **"Summoning the Spirits: The Saints of Santeria in Cuban Art,"** Moulton Union, Bowdoin College, Brunswick. Work by self-taught Cuban painter Elio Vilva. Through Feb. 28. FMI: 729-7624.
- ▶ **"Erratic Locations,"** Atrium Art Gallery, Lewiston-Auburn College, 51 Westminster St., Lewiston. Installation by Dudley Zopp, on view through March 4.
- ▶ **Painting Raffle, "Roadside Poppies,"** by Celene Farris, is on display in the lobby of Waldo County General Hospital, 118 Northport Ave., Belfast, and will be raffled off to benefit the Surgical Services Capital Campaign. Tickets are \$1/6 for \$5, and are available at the hospital gift shop. Ticket will be drawn on Feb. 14. FMI: 338-6204.
- ▶ **Works by Nancy Benner-Gifford,** on display at Camden National Bank, Main St., Thomaston, through February.
- ▶ **Three Exhibits at UMaine Museum of Art,** Norumbega Hall, 40 Harlow St., Bangor. Exhibits include recent black-and-white photographs of the built Maine environment by Michael Alpert; conceptual sculptures that twist nature with the man-made by Lauren Fensterstock; and five large summer landscape paintings by artists Lois Dodd, Rackstraw Downes, April Gornik, Vaino Kola and Neil Welliver. FMI: 561-3350.
- ▶ **"Activator,"** Bates College Museum of Art, Olin Arts Center, 75 Russell St., Lewiston. Six installation artworks by artists Nate Aldrich and Zach Poff, Astrid Bowlby, Amy Stacey Curtis, Eric Hongisto, Nicola López and Jason Rogenes. Through March 20. FMI: 786-6158.
- ▶ **Surrealist Works from the Julien Levy Collection,** Portland Museum of Art, Seven Congress Sq. More than 100 works, including drawings, watercolors, collages, prints, photographs and films by such artists as Joseph Cornell, Salvador Dali, Man Ray, Max Ernst and many others, are being shown in "Accommodations of Desire: Surrealist Works on Paper Collected by Julien Levy." Through March 19.
- ▶ **Photography by Carol Latta,** on view through March at the Hardcover Café at the Breakwater Bookland, Rte. 1, Rockland.
- ▶ **"Sheep Thrills,"** Tuesdays, 2-4 p.m., Buchholz Studio, #22A, Lincoln Street Center, Rockland. Informal gatherings for knitters and others working in fiber. Free; bring current projects. FMI: 594-6490.
- ▶ **"Butterflies of Acadia,"** Thorndike

- Library, College of the Atlantic, Bar Harbor. Digital photo exhibit by Norman Talbot, on view through Feb. FMI: 288-5015.
- ▶ **"Sewing Trees: Three Chambers, Three Layers,"** Blum Gallery, College of the Atlantic, Bar Harbor. Sculptural installation by Barbara Andrus, on view through Feb. 19. FMI: 288-5015.
- ▶ **Four Exhibitions,** Center for Maine Contemporary Art, 162 Russell Ave., Rockport. "Still Life" presents works in various media by 40 artists; "Facing Up" contains photographic portraits of Maine artists by eight photographers; "Drawings," by Anna Hepler; and "Free Hand," drawings and prints by Andrea Sulzer. On view through Feb. 25. FMI: 236-2875.
- ▶ **Oils and Pastels by Jennifer Litchfield,** hall gallery at Miles Memorial Hospital, Damariscotta. On display through Feb. 24.
- ▶ **Recent Paintings by Karen Jelenfy,** Gibbs Library, Washington. Mixed-media works are on view through March 1.
- ▶ **Photography Exhibit,** Chocolate Church, Washington St., Bath. Annual Juried Photographic Exhibit runs through Feb. 11. FMI: 442-8455.
- ▶ **"Ten Paces,"** Salt Gallery, 110 Exchange St., Portland. New exhibit includes black-and-white photography, documentary radio and nonfiction writing by 31 graduating students of the Salt Institute's 2005 documentary studies program. Through Feb. 18.
- ▶ **"Woodworkers of Midcoast Maine,"** Messler Gallery, Center for Furniture Craftsmanship, 25 Mill St., Rockport. Furniture, carving, sculpture and turned objects by 19 woodworkers from Bath to Orland. Through March 2.

- Union St. Blaine Curtis will speak on a trip made by 11 Rotarians in October 2005 to help rebuild houses in villages affected by the tsunami.
- ▶ **Coffee with Champions,** 9:30-10:30 a.m., Skidompha Library, Main St., Damariscotta. Dr. Clifton C. Olds, former director of the Bowdoin College Museum of Art, will speak on "Is Beauty Really in the Eye of the Beholder? The Human Face in Western Art." \$5 donation suggested.
- ▶ **Information Session on Nonprofit Forums,** 5-6:30 p.m., UMaine Hutchinson Center, Rte. 3, Belfast. "Paddling the Rapids," a strategic collaboration of non-profit leaders, is a program of the Eastern Maine Development Corporation. Free. 236-0287 or 338-2162.

FRIDAY, FEB. 3:

- ▶ **Games Social,** 7 p.m., Evening Star Grange, Old Union Rd., Washington. Cards and games, with coffee and refreshments. For all ages, with or without partners.
- ▶ **Benefit Jewelry Sale,** 7 a.m.-4 p.m., classroom on lower level, Waldo County General Hospital, Northport Ave., Belfast. Sale of sterling silver and 14K gold jewelry will benefit Waldo County General Hospital Aid. FMI: 338-6204.
- ▶ **iPhoto/iMovie Workshop,** 10-11:30 a.m., Platform Shoes Studio 21 Digital Lounge, Rockland. Eight-week session. Learn how to take better digital photos and make better family movies. For adults. FMI: 594-1842.

SATURDAY, FEB. 4:

- ▶ **Asian New Year Celebration,** noon-3 p.m., South China Community Church, Jones Rd., So. China. Maine Families with Children from Asia, a group of adoptive families with Asian children, is hosting a gathering to celebrate Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese New Year. Activities for children include making red envelopes, dog puppets, bookmarks, lanterns and shuttlecocks, followed by a lantern parade. There will be a potluck, so bring a dish to share. RSVP to Lisa Montagna, 445-3179.
- ▶ **Free Homestly Breakfast,** 7:30-10 a.m., People's United Methodist Church, Chapel St., So. Thomaston. Menu includes scrambled eggs, pancakes, sausages, bacon, hash browns, muffins, coffee and juice. Donations accepted for Souper Bowl of Caring collection to benefit local food banks.

Miscellaneous

THURSDAY, FEB. 2:

- ▶ **Program for Nurses on "Finding Balance,"** 4-6 p.m., Quarry Hill, Camden. Program for nurses on balancing home and work includes stress management tips from Cynthia Swan; feng shui advice from Carol Daigneault, and information on how to creatively achieve goals, from life coach Nancy Lubin. Hors d'oeuvres and door prizes offered. To register, call 230-6101.
- ▶ **Slide Talk on Building Houses in Sri Lanka,** 6:30 p.m., Rockland Library, 80

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FEBRUARY 3 - FEBRUARY 9

Friday, February 3 — The Moon is in slow-paced Taurus today, helping us to relax. Watch out for worried thoughts, which will try to kidnap your brain between 12:30 and 2:30 p.m. The Moon will be harshly aspecting Saturn, making worry seem like reality. Mercury is aspecting Pluto today and tomorrow. Your mind is able to penetrate and reveal lies. Notice the "lies" that your criticizing self tells you about yourself. This is a good aspect for those who like to solve mysteries and mechanical problems. Between 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. your intuition will be sharp while the Moon nicely aspects Pluto.

Saturday, February 4 — If you're up between 7 and 9:30 a.m. you may awaken feeling irritable due to financial stress because of the Moon aspecting Saturn harshly. The Sun and Neptune are conjunct (close together) and in a positive aspect to Venus. Your ability to love is increasing, if you allow it. Music will touch you profoundly. You can express your affection with ease, and it comes from an authentic place within. This will feel liberating. Mercury is harshly aspecting Mars, speeding up the mental process to the point of causing you (or someone else) to be too blunt and abrupt, thus causing hurt feelings. It's likely that you'll be feeling super-sensitive. This is a good time for meditation, yoga, tai chi, etc.

Sunday, February 5 — The Sun is aspecting Jupiter, bringing out denial and arrogance. You may need to confront someone you really care about. There's quite a bit of disillusionment taking place. It's time to see things as they are and feel the pain of disappointment. By denying it, the pain is simply prolonged (and intensified). Mercury is sharply aspecting Mars — watch out for the hazards of impatience. You may be quick to anger, regretting it terribly later on. The good news is that Mercury is also aspecting Pluto, which brings realizations.

Monday, February 6 — The Sun is still aspecting Jupiter, which may find you overwhelmed and involved with too many projects and commitments. Your expecta-

tions may be so high that you're inevitably setting yourself up to be let down. You could find yourself arguing against someone's fanatical perspective, which would ultimately be very frustrating. From 2 to 4 p.m. the Moon will favorably aspect Saturn, offering peace and emotional stability. Mercury is aspecting Pluto for the last time today, which helps your memory and aids you in learning something new.

Tuesday, February 7 — From 9 to 11 a.m. your thoughts are elevated and you'll be thinking idealistically due to an aspect between the Moon and Neptune. Don't make any important decisions while the Moon is harshly aspecting Jupiter from 10 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Your hopes are so high that you're not able to see the whole picture. Then, from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m., the Moon in Gemini will nicely aspect the Sun in Aquarius, which is great for philosophical conversations and brainstorming.

Wednesday, February 8 — Mars will be in a conflicted aspect with Pluto, which spells violence. Be careful and very alert. "Road rage" fits right in with this aspect. Mercury will be entering into Pisces at 8:22 p.m. and will remain until April 16. This position ignites the imagination. Reading fantasy and science fiction books may take you completely into another realm. You may find that your thinking is a bit fussy and that you're more forgetful than usual.

Thursday, February 9 — Today finds us still dealing with the tension of Mars aspecting Pluto. It's bound to trigger a confrontation due to an unyielding stubbornness. The news will reflect this, I'm sure. Anyone with issues with authority figures will find today troubling (yesterday, too). Anyone who was born on May 17, 18 or 19 or December 18, 19 or 20 of any year will be affected very personally by this aspect. On a more cheerful note, the Moon will favorably aspect Jupiter from 9 to 11 p.m. tonight, bringing optimism and playfulness.

Ananur Forma lives in Rockland and can be reached for a personal astrological reading in person or by phone at 594-2565.

Calendar of Events

► **Free Tax Assistance and E-filing**, Saturdays, through April 15, Stockton Springs Community Library. For low- and middle-income taxpayers. Call 567-3137 for an appointment.

► **Meeting of Maine Media Women**, networking 9-10 a.m.; business meeting 10-11 a.m.; program 11 a.m., Stella Maris House, Rte. 1, Rockland. Guest speaker Rosemary Herbert, currently a publicist at Down East Books, will give a talk entitled "A Hint of Mystery," about her work as an author and editor of detective and mystery collections.

► **Public Supper**, 5:30 p.m., John Street United Methodist Church, 98 John St., Camden. Baked beans, casseroles, salads and pies. \$6/\$3.

► **Chinese New Year Celebration**, 3 p.m., Penobscot School, 28 Gay St., Rockland. Celebrate the Year of the Dog with 3 p.m. demonstrations for children of paper-cutting, jump rope and how to use chopsticks. For adults, a 4:30 p.m. tai chi demonstration; a talk on Chinese brushwork at 3:45 p.m.; demonstration of Chinese cooking at 5:15 p.m.; a potluck dinner at 6 p.m.; and after dinner, a presentation on living and teaching in China by Carole and Paul Johnson at 7 p.m. Free; all are welcome and donations appreciated. FMI: 594-1084.

► **Access 2006 Meeting**, 10:30 a.m.-noon, Norway Savings Bank, 240 Rte. 1, Falmouth. Meeting to update the public regarding bill LD1805, which will allow adult adoptees born in Maine access to a copy of their original birth certificate. A 20-minute documentary, "Vital Records" by Jean Strauss, will be available for viewing. RSVP rbbeavers@comacast.net.

► **Flea Market**, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Thompson Community Center, Rtes. 17 & 131 S., Union. Over 90 tables.

► **Beekeeping Workshop**, 10 a.m.-noon, Morris Farm, Rte. 27 N, Wiscasset. Session 1 will cover bee basics and preparing hives. Session 2, on Sat., May 20, will focus on installing bees in the hives. Participants may order bees through the farm and pick them up after session 2. \$10 one session/\$15 both. Pre-registration suggested. Call 882-4080.

► **Winter Beach Party**, 7-11 p.m., Thompson Community Center, Rtes. 17 & 131 S., Union. Featuring D.J. McCoy Mobile Music Show. Costumes optional. BYOB; snack bar is open. Door prize and 50/50 raffle. \$8/\$15 couples. FMI: 785-2202.

► **Game Night and Potluck Supper**, 6 p.m., Reuillard home. Sponsored by People's United Methodist Church, Union. Bring a dish to share and your favorite game. FMI: 273-3844.

► **Skating Lessons**, 8:50-11:50 a.m., Mid-Coast Recreation Center, Rte. 90, Rockport. Children's Snowplow Sam lessons for beginners; Children's Basic Skills 1, 2 & 3; and Beginner/Intermediate adult lessons. FMI: 236-9400.

SUNDAY, FEB. 5:

► **Super Bowl Sunday Subs**, Sun., Feb. 5, pick up at Broad Cove Community Church, Pleasant Point Rd., Cushing. Homemade 12-inch Italian subs with

turkey or ham and a cookie/bar dessert for \$6. Order by Fri., Feb. 3 by calling 354-2279 or -2212.

► **Midwinter Mental Cleanse**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Westwinds Retreat, Liberty. Facilitated by Jude Spacks, the cleanse is based on the work of Byron Katie. \$65. FMI: 589-6006.

► **Soup and Bread Luncheon**, following 10:30 a.m. service, People's United Methodist Church, Depot St., Union. Bring a pot of soup or loaf of bread to share if desired, and a can of soup or stew, crackers or bread mix to donate to the Come Spring Food Pantry. Free will offering will benefit Good Shepherd Food Bank in Lewiston. FMI: 785-4114.

► **DRA Winter Birds Field Trip**, 9 a.m.-noon, meet at Great Salt Bay Farm, 110 Belvedere Rd., Damariscotta for trips to other sites, led by resident ornithologist Tom Arter. FMI: 563-1393.

► **Taize Music Open Rehearsal**, 3 p.m., United Christian Church, Rte. 73, Lincolnville Center. Instrumentalists and singers interested in learning Taize music are welcome to participate. Music provided. FMI: 785-3521.

► **Soup Bowl Luncheon**, noon, Episcopal Church of St. John Baptist, Main St., Thomaston. A variety of soups and breads will be available for a donation to benefit St. John's support of a school in rural Haiti. Those who plan to attend are asked to call 354-8734.

MONDAY, FEB. 6:

► **Meeting of Tray Favors Craft Group**, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Education Center, Waldo County General Hospital, Northport Ave., Belfast. Group will prepare Valentine's Day tray favors for hospital patients. FMI: 930-2677.

► **Business Computer Workshop**, 5:30-8 p.m., Hannibal's Café, Union Common. "Business Technology — Entry Level and Beyond" is a free event, open to all area businesses. Sponsored by Damariscotta Bank & Trust and Union Chamber of Commerce. FMI: 785-5935 or -4826.

► **Red Cross Blood Drive**, 12:30-5:30 p.m., First Congregational Church, 55 Elm St., Camden. Drop in or make an appointment: 236-4746.

► **Free Health Care Classes**, first Mondays, 6 p.m., Betz Family Chiropractic Clinic, Rte. 1, Lincolnville. Classes last 30 minutes and cover a wide variety of topics. Reservations required. Call 236-6272.

► **Living Landscape Sustainability Action Meeting**, 5 p.m., UU Church, Miller St., Belfast. Interest areas include farmland preservation, community gardens, permaculture, co-housing, public transportation, living off the grid and more. FMI: 772-3654.

► **College Planning Workshops**, 5:30-8:30 p.m., University College at Thomaston. Maine Educational Opportunity Center (MEOC) assists in choosing a college; tutoring; personal and financial counseling; career counseling; and college and financial aid applications.

All MEOC services are free. To sign up, call 1-800-281-3703.

TUESDAY, FEB. 7:

► **GVHS Future Options Task Force Report**, 6:30 p.m., Cushing Community School. The Task Force will share their report with the community on the future options available to Georges Valley High School. FMI: 354-2555.

► **Book Discussion on John Berendt**, 6:30 p.m., Camden Library. In anticipation of Berendt's lecture at the Camden Opera House on Feb. 19, Carolyn Marsh will lead a discussion of his books, *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* and *The City of Falling Angels*. FMI: 236-3440.

► **Adult CPR Class**, 5:30-9:30 p.m., American Red Cross, 312 Broadway, Rockland. FMI: 594-4576.

► **Multi-media Slide Show on Utah's Wilderness**, 2-4 p.m., Skidompha Library, Main St., Damariscotta. "Wild Utah: America's Redrock Wilderness" features images by wilderness photographers and the voice of author Wallace Stegner. Presented by Mainers for Utah Wilderness. FMI: 729-5825.

► **Talk on Shamanism**, 6-8 p.m., Camden Library. Scarlet Kinney will speak on "The Shamanic North: Feminist Aspects of Depth Shamanism" and teach two shamanic chants. FMI: 236-3440.

► **Panel Discussion by Former Sweatshop Workers**, 4 p.m., Keck classroom, Pettengill Hall, 4 Andrews Rd., Bates College, Lewiston. A touring group of women who worked in sweatshops producing goods for Wal-Mart stores present a panel discussion. Free and open to the public.

► **"150 Years of Garden Trends"**, 10 a.m. (coffee at 9:30 a.m.), Lord Camden Inn, Camden. Slide-illustrated talk by artists Terry and Diane Hire. Sponsored by the Camden Garden Club. Public welcome.

► **Maine Women's Network Meeting**, 7:30-9:30 a.m., John Street United Methodist Church, Camden. Featured speaker Barbara Babbirk will present "Making Career Decisions with Your Heart in Mind." \$16/\$12 members. Pre-register by Fri., Feb. 3 at www.maine-womens-network.com or mail to MWN Midcoast, 13 Trim St., Camden, ME 04843.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 8:

► **Carpentry Basics for Women**, Wednesdays, Feb. 8-April 5, Lincoln Academy, Newcastle. Class covers tool use, safety and common approaches to household tasks. Choose a project and finish it in this course. \$60. FMI: 563-2811 or www.schoolunion74.org/adulted.htm.

► **English Country Dancing**, 7-9:30 p.m., Harvest Moon Grange Hall, Rte. 139, Thorndike Village. John McIntire and Nancy Rosalie calling to live music by John Kuehne and friends. \$5 suggested donation; all dances taught. FMI: 568-7597.

DAVE Barry

Auto Safety Made Easy

Automobiles are a mixed blessing. On the one hand, they provide us with benefits that were undreamed-of in the "horse-and-buggy" days. For example, any time we get hungry, we can simply hop into the car, pull up to the drive-through window of a fast-food restaurant, purchase a tasty hot meal, spill our coffee on our thighs and sue a major corporation for millions of dollars.

On the other (or "left") hand, automobiles can be very dangerous. The modern car is a complex and powerful machine; if we do not treat it with proper respect, it could put a radio antenna way up our nose. This actually happened to a man in Gresham, Oregon, according to a news item from The Portland Oregonian that was sent to me by many alert readers. The article states that the man, who wound up in the hospital, doesn't know exactly how it happened; he was talking with some friends, then turned to leave, and "the next thing he knew the antenna on his 1984 Fiero was up his nose." The article states that the antenna "pierced his nasal membrane, his sinus membrane and entered his brain cavity, where it destroyed his pituitary gland."

The question is: What are we, as a nation, going to do about this problem? The practical solution, of course, is for the government to order a mandatory recall of all cars ever made, so that they can be refitted with antennas made from a safer, softer, less-penetrating material, such as cheese. Until this can be done, the public should be made aware of the danger via public-service TV spots featuring graphic filmed demonstrations showing exactly what can happen when automobile antennas are rammed way up the noses of actual Tobacco Institute scientists.

Also, everybody should wear nose plugs. I think this is a good idea anyway, because let's face it, nostrils are disgusting. I mean, think about it: Right in the middle of your face, plainly visible to everybody, are these holes, leading directly into one of the grossest areas of your entire body, with ugly little hairs and God knows what else festering in there and poking out at the least opportune times, so that you'll be giving a crucial business presentation, thinking that you're really impressing some prospective clients, when in fact the reason they're all watching you so intently is that they have a betting pool going on how long it will take you to realize that you're sporting a booger the size of a cocktail olive.

In the words of the late Winston Churchill: "We will know that we have evolved into a truly civilized society when we start wearing little underpants on our noses."

Speaking of underpants, another automotive safety issue is raised by a report from the Fort Myers, Florida, News-Press, written by Denes Husty and sent in by alert reader Elaine Belling. This report states that police, responding to an early-morning burglar alarm, saw a man running away from a lingerie store. The man jumped into his car and drove off, but according to a police spokesperson, his car was so full of assorted women's underwear that "apparently some of it got wrapped around his head or the steering wheel, causing him to lose control." The car smashed into a palm tree; the man then jumped out and dove into a lake, pursued by a police dog, which he attempted to drown. Three officers then jumped in and apprehended the man, who was charged with various offenses, including — and I wish to stress that I am not making any of this up — "attempting to kill a police dog."

What lesson can we, as motorists, learn from this incident? We can learn that if we are the type of individual who for whatever reason is likely to be driving with women's lingerie wrapped around our head, then we should make it our business to drive in areas that do not contain palm trees.

Our final automotive safety issue comes from a St. Petersburg Times article, written by Roger Clendening II and alertly sent in by Luann Prosek, concerning a young man whose car would not start because the catalytic converter had clogged up. (In case you are unfamiliar with automotive terminology, I should explain that a "catalytic converter" is apparently some kind of thing in a car.)

The man, who was late for his job at a Sears auto center, wanted to fix the converter by drilling a hole in it, but he couldn't find a drill. So, as a trained automotive professional, he decided to make the hole by shooting the converter with a .22-caliber rifle. This repair technique worked flawlessly, in the sense that the man got out of the hospital the very same day. Apparently the bullet hit a bolt, and the man wound up with metal fragments in his thigh. The emergency-room doctor advised the man to leave the fragments in there, but when the man got home he decided (I am still not making any of this up) to remove them himself, using a knife and a pair of tweezers. He told The Times that this operation was successful. He also said that his car started, although two days later the engine blew up.

But that is not the point. The point is that if you, after shooting your car for whatever reason (and I can think of many), find that your body contains metal fragments, you know where to go for prompt, no-nonsense treatment: Your local Sears auto center. They can also give you a good deal on batteries, tires and brain surgery. Happy motoring, and take that brassiere off your head.

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This classic Dave Barry column was originally published on August 13, 1995.

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Calendar of Events

- **Beekeepers Marketing Meeting**, 7 p.m., Extension office, Manktown Rd., Waldoboro. Marc Plaisted of PB Honey Richmond will speak on how to market hive products such as candles, honey, hand cream and more. Beekeepers, families and all others interested are welcome. FMI: 563-7564 or www.klcbec.com.
- **Nonprofit Day**, Augusta. Maine Association of Nonprofits presents displays from 19 nonprofits from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Hall of Flags, a Blaine House reception for nonprofits' staff and volunteers from 1:15 to 2 p.m. and an education session for nonprofits on the pending TABOR referendum from 2:15 to 4:15 p.m. at UMA's Jewett Hall. FMI: 871-1885.
- **ShareShop**, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Belfast Co-op. Have fun, share cooking ideas and shop together. FMI: 338-2532.
- **Island Small Business Forum**, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m., Maine Lighthouse Museum, Park Dr., Rockland. Forum brings together island small business owners with small business assistance professionals from Island Institute, CEI and the Small Business Administration. Free, but pre-registration required. Call Jeremy Gabrielson at 255-6794 or e-mail jgabrielson@islandinstitute.org.
- **TOPS Meetings**, Wednesdays, 5 p.m., First Baptist Church, 95 High St., Belfast. Weigh-in from 5-6:30 p.m., followed by brief business meeting and programs on topics related to weight control and maintenance. FMI: 338-3555 or -4425, evenings.
- **E-Commerce Workshop**, 1-4 p.m., Hanley Center, Fox Ridge Office Park, Rte. 1, Rockport. "Marketing and Promoting Your Web Site" teaches what is involved in getting a site listed on search engines, how to find free links, and ways to use both Web site and non-Web site promotion tools to increase Web business. \$20. FMI: 1-877-340-2649 or e-mail tar@ceimaine.org.
- **Social Lunch and Jewelry Design**, 11:30 a.m., Senior Spectrum's Coastal Community Center, Overlook Building, 521 Main St., Damariscotta. After lunch, Ronna

- Lugosch of Natural Expressions Jewelry Gallery in Round Pond will give a presentation about her life as a jewelry artist. Suggested donation is \$3.50 for those over 60 and \$4.50 for others. *Reservations and entrée choice required by noon Tues.* FMI: 563-1363.
 - **College Planning Workshops**, 9 a.m.-noon, Hutchinson Center, Rte. 3, Belfast. Maine Educational Opportunity Center (MEOC) assists in choosing a college; tutoring; personal and financial counseling; career counseling; and college and financial aid applications. All MEOC services are free. To sign up, call 1-800-281-3703.
 - **Panel on Big-Box Development**, 7 p.m., Second Congregational Church Fellowship Hall, Newcastle. CONA program presents a talk by three Belfast residents who have had experience as part of Belfast First, a group advocating size-appropriate locally determined alternatives to big-box development.
 - **Waldoborough Historical Society Board of Directors Meeting**, 6 p.m., Beverly Slye's residence, 588 Friendship St., Waldoboro. The upcoming season, special programs and other business will be discussed. Public welcome.
 - **Local Emergency Planning Committee Meeting**, 9 a.m., Knox Cty. EMA office, Knox County Courthouse, 62 Union St. Public welcome. Park in front lot and enter through new main entrance.
- THURSDAY, FEB. 9:**
- **Merryspring Winter Lecture Series**, 2 p.m., Merryspring Nature Park, Conway Rd., Camden. Doug Roth, editor of the Journal of Japanese Gardening, and his wife, Tamao, speak on the functional and aesthetic considerations behind the use of stone in Japanese gardens. \$5/members free. FMI: 236-2239.
 - **Talk on the History of Camden Harbor**, 7:45 p.m., Rockport Opera House. Guest speaker at the meeting of the Rockport Booster Club meeting is Willard Wight, chairman of the Camden Harbor Committee, who will speak about the his-

- tory and development of the harbor, as well as what its future might hold. Public is welcome.
 - **Conservationists Meeting**, 1 p.m., USDA Field Office, Rte. 90, Warren. Knox-Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District meetings are open to the public. FMI: 273-2005, ext. 101 or www.knox-lincoln.org.
 - **Talk on Hydrogen Energy**, 5:30 p.m., The Green Store, 4 Pleasant St., Brunswick. Paul Faulstich of the Hydrogen Energy Center will speak on "Hydrogen Energy: For Maine and the World." Free and open to the public. FMI: 729-4050.
 - **Shamanic Storytelling Event**, 6-8 p.m., Camden Library. Scarlet Kinney presents her original shamanic myth "The Stone Heart Turtle People," assisted by members of the Turtle Mountain Drummers. Free. FMI: 236-3440.
 - **College Planning Workshops**, 6-9 p.m., Great Salt Bay Community School, 559 Main St., Damariscotta. Maine Educational Opportunity Center (MEOC) assists in choosing a college; tutoring; personal and financial counseling; career counseling; and college and financial aid applications. All MEOC services are free. To sign up, call 1-800-281-3703.
- COMING UP:**
- **Real Estate Sales Agent Course**, Fri.-Sun., Feb. 10-12 and 17-19, McLain School, Lincoln St., Rockland. Classes held Fri. from noon-6 p.m.; Sat. 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Sun. 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Completion of the 39-hour course and passing with a 75 or better qualifies student for a sales agent license through the real estate office of their choice; no state exam necessary. FMI: 354-3532, 596-2018, or e-mail rightrty@adelphia.net.
 - **Beef Stew Dinners to Go**, Fri., Feb. 10, pick up 4-7 p.m. at kitchen of People's United Methodist Church, Depot St., Union. Stew in pints for \$5 and quarts of \$10 each; two yeast rolls for \$1; and apple crisp for \$2.50 per serving. To order, call 785-4687 by noon on Wed., Feb. 8.

A variation on the traditional bean supper

Stew-to-Go on Feb. 10

Ready for a change from bean suppers? The People's United Methodist Church (PUMC) of Union will offer Beef-Stew-to-Go dinners on Friday, February 10. Hearty beef stew will be available in pints for \$5 each and quarts for \$10 each, two yeast rolls packaged for \$1, and apple crisp for \$2.50 per serving. Everything is homemade, of course.

To place an order, call Jan at 785-4687 by noon on Wednesday, February 8. Pick-up will be from 4 to 7 p.m. on Friday in the kitchen on the lower level of the church, which is located on Depot Street, just off the Common in Union. This fundraiser is being held to assist in the work of the church.

TRIAD Holding Spaghetti Supper and Auction

On Saturday, February 11, from 4 to 6 p.m., Waldo County TRIAD will be hosting a spaghetti supper with an auction to follow at the Troy Howard Middle School in Belfast. The auction follows dinner promptly at 6:30. The auctioneer will be Peter Sanderson and it is estimated that there will be 50 to 60 items up for bid. Some of the items being auctioned off include a \$500 women's leather jacket, a one-night stay with buffet at Foxwoods casino, and a handmade afghan, to name a few. All proceeds from the supper and the auction are to benefit Waldo County TRIAD.

Waldo County TRIAD members help distribute medical Files of Life so personal health information is readily available to ambulance personnel; chips that make regular light bulbs flash to guide emergency responders; reflective house number signs to mark houses, especially those hidden from the road; and quarterly newsletters. For more information on any of these programs or services, call 1-866-928-7423.

Talk on History of Camden Harbor

Willard Wight, chairman of the Camden Harbor Committee, will be the guest speaker at the Rockport Booster Club meeting on Thursday, February 9, at 7:45 p.m., in the Rockport Opera House meeting room. Wight will discuss the history and development of Camden Harbor, as well as what might occur in the future. The public is invited.

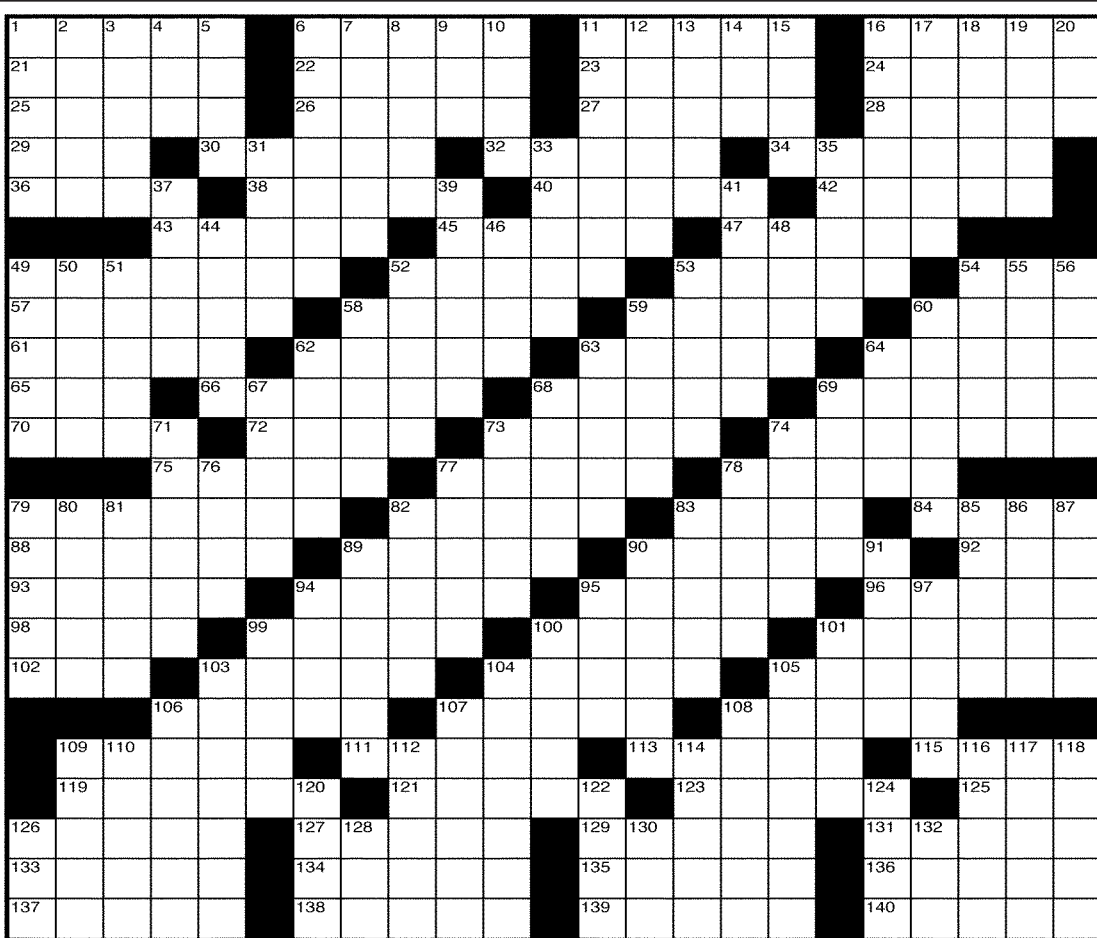
ACROSS

- 1 Foul-up
- 6 Seafood garnish
- 11 Was adventurous
- 16 Artist Edouard —
- 21 Doctrine
- 22 Light incense to
- 23 Helen, in Spanish
- 24 Banded stone
- 25 Place for a rodeo
- 26 Triangle parts
- 27 Ring-shaped cake
- 28 Las Vegas show
- 29 Dorm climber
- 30 It makes waste
- 32 Disgrace
- 34 Made a salary
- 36 Deli loaves
- 38 Moves fast
- 40 Ocean fish feeders
- 42 Championship
- 43 Fall flower
- 45 Uniform fabric
- 47 Cypress features
- 49 Read quickly
- 52 Motor parts
- 53 Pyramid builders
- 54 Incan treasure
- 57 Ploy
- 58 Snapshot
- 59 Carved pole
- 60 Petty quarrel
- 61 Tavern sign (2 wds.)
- 62 Prompting
- 63 Immature raptor
- 64 Understand (2 wds.)
- 65 Cattle call
- 66 Chews out
- 68 Greenhouse trays
- 69 Brown and simmer
- 70 Impudent
- 72 Refs
- 73 Mid-length skirts
- 74 More intense
- 75 Elizabethan collars
- 77 Full of cargo
- 78 Tint again
- 79 Please
- 82 Lady fox
- 83 Shredded
- 84 Venison
- 88 Removes all doubt
- 89 Pesto ingredient

- 90 Pina — (rum drink)
- 92 Green seed
- 93 Made a typo
- 94 Pound sounds
- 95 Hard roll
- 96 Berry patch hazard
- 98 Layer of paint
- 99 PC lists
- 100 Paretsky and Teasdale
- 101 Bring out
- 102 Utility bill abbr.
- 103 Hint of color
- 104 Throws over
- 105 Geronimo's warriors
- 106 Chili-pepper dip
- 107 Wish granter
- 108 Search for weapons
- 109 Fridge maker
- 111 Capital of Tibet
- 113 Greek column type
- 115 Shut noisily
- 119 Dissembles
- 121 Top story
- 123 Overbearing
- 125 Stun
- 126 Narrow crest
- 127 Graceful
- 129 Armored-car job
- 131 — box
- 133 Easy-to-find constellation
- 134 Earth color
- 135 Prince Valiant's wife
- 136 Winter wear
- 137 Intended
- 138 Rips open
- 139 Desperado-chasing group
- 140 Detroit dud

DOWN

- 1 Ladder cousin
- 2 Brazen
- 3 In the blink of —
- 4 Swamp
- 5 Bryce Canyon state
- 6 Roped
- 7 Publishing VIP
- 8 Internet hookup
- 9 Copper source
- 10 Monster-hunter's loch
- 11 Leaves the ship
- 12 Grads
- 13 Ms. Zellweger
- 14 Cease
- 15 Evening out
- 16 Says "I do"
- 17 Models' need
- 18 Kind of orange
- 19 Debussy music
- 20 Road sign symbol
- 31 Montezuma's empire
- 33 Center
- 35 First-stringers (hyph.)
- 37 — Fe Trail
- 39 Flocks of geese
- 41 Chases the puck
- 44 Prunes
- 46 Knack
- 48 No, to Ivan
- 49 Tread heavily
- 50 River transport
- 51 Oscar nominee
- 52 Football fields
- 53 Sheds
- 54 Important nerve
- 55 Salary increase
- 56 Aquatic mammal
- 58 Sleazy tabloids
- 59 Samuel Clemens
- 60 Grilled a steak
- 62 Cozy
- 63 Bygone
- 64 Dingy
- 67 Smacks
- 68 Premier Castro
- 69 Waited awhile
- 71 Hot dish holder
- 73 Long skirts
- 74 Untamed
- 76 Drew on
- 77 Mispronounces



- 78 Cameos, maybe
- 79 Mote
- 80 Direction-pointing symbol
- 81 Rabbi's reading
- 82 Hold dear
- 83 Forum attire
- 85 Memorable time
- 86 Spooky
- 87 Carries on
- 89 Type of tiger
- 90 Hauled away
- 91 Globe substitute
- 94 Sudden urges
- 95 Exotic island
- 97 Rubes
- 99 City in Italy
- 100 Red Sea peninsula
- 101 Film spectaculars
- 103 Off on a — (digressing)
- 104 Medieval clowns
- 105 Grain bristles
- 106 Viet Nam city
- 107 Come together
- 108 Decorates a cake
- 109 Blazing up
- 110 News services
- 112 Yoga type
- 114 Drama prizes
- 116 Refuges
- 117 Stopped sleeping
- 118 Refinery output
- 120 Job opening
- 122 Roughen from cold
- 124 Cry of surprise
- 126 RAM counterpart
- 128 Polar cap
- 130 "Hold on Tight" rockers
- 132 Family member

Crossword solution on page 47.



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Calendar of Events

(Continued from p. 40)

► **Shamanic Drumming Workshop**, Fri., Feb. 10, 6:30-9 p.m., Camden. Scarlet Kinney presents a workshop on basic shamanic drumming techniques. \$35; pre-registration required. FMI: 299-4015 or 667-4772.

► **Local Foods Breakfast**, Sat., Feb. 11, 8-10 a.m., Morris Farm, Rte. 27 N, Wiscasset. Menu includes pancakes made with local flour and eggs, served with the farm's maple syrup, bacon and sausage; local cider and applesauce; and local yogurt — only the coffee is from away. \$7/\$20 per family. FMI: 882-4080.

► **Italian for Travelers**, Sat., Feb. 11 & 18, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Penobscot School, 28 Gay St., Rockland. Workshops for beginner and advanced levels, with lunch of pasta, salad, wine and dessert included. \$170 for both or \$108 single workshop. FMI: 594-1084.

► **Parents Night Out**, Sat., Feb. 11, 5-9 p.m., Appleton Village School. Parents can bring children age 4 and up for a light dinner, snacks and fun and games with adult chaperones and members of the eighth-grade class while they enjoy a night out on the town. \$10 per child. Contact Carrie Horne at 785-6586 by Wed. Feb. 8.

► **Shamanic Workshops**, Sat. & Sun., Feb. 11 & 12, Camden. Scarlet Kinney presents workshops on an introduction to shamanic meditation from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; on the medicine wheel mandala from 2-8 p.m. on Sat.; and one especially for women from 11 a.m.-8 p.m. on Sun. Pre-registration required. FMI: 299-4015 or 667-4772.

► **TRIAD Benefit Supper & Auction**, Sat., Feb. 11, 4 p.m., Troy Howard Middle School, Belfast. Spaghetti supper from 4-6 p.m., followed by an auction with auctioneer Peter Sanderson. FMI: 1-866-928-7423.

► **Living Anatomy Series**, Sun., Feb. 12, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Avena Institute, Mill St., Rockport. Karin Spitfire teaches the skeletal-muscular anatomy of the lower body to the spine from the perspective of movement, balance and relationships. FMI: 592-2403.

► **Moonlight Ski & Snowshoe Tour**,

Sun., Feb. 12, 6:30 p.m., Aldermere Farm, 20 Russell Ave., Rockport. Guided tours along the farm's cross-country trails, ending with refreshments and a bonfire overlooking Penobscot Bay. Free, but donations are appreciated. FMI: 236-2739 or jjardine@mcht.org.

ONGOING:

► **Living Landscape/Sustainable Future**, first Monday of each month, 5-7 p.m., Belfast Free Library, High St. Soup provided; bring mug and spoons. FMI: 338-8980.

► **Area Interfaith Outreach Food Pantry**, 16 Brewster St., Rockland, former Salvation Army headquarters — *not the former thrift shop*. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 9:30 a.m.-noon. FMI: 596-1043.

► **Hot Meals for Seniors**, Mon.-Fri., 11:45 a.m., Methodist Conference Home, Rockland, and Fridays at noon at John Street United Methodist Church, Camden. Suggested donation is \$3.50. Reservations must be made 24 hours in advance by calling 594-2740.

► **Hot Meals**, 11:30 a.m., Mon.-Fri. at St. Bernard's Parish Hall, 150 Broadway, Rockland. Sat., at 12:30 p.m., and Sun., at 1 p.m., St. Peter's Episcopal Church, White St., Rockland.

► **Mid Coast Depression & Bipolar Support Alliance Meeting**, 2 p.m., first & third Wednesdays and second and fourth Thursdays at 7 p.m., First Universalist Church, 345 Broadway, Rockland. All meetings are informal and friendly; family and friends welcome. FMI: 354-7239 or 832-6044.

► **Support Group for Family Caregivers**, fourth Tues. of every month, noon-1 p.m., Waldo Cty. General Hospital's Education Center, 118 Northport Ave., Belfast. Gain and share information on local resources; learn new ways of coping with stress, frustration and depression. Sponsored by Waldo Cty. Home Health and Senior Spectrum. FMI: 338-2268.

► **Senior Walking Program**, Mon.-Fri., 6-7:30 a.m., Hope, Appleton and Lincolnville Elementary schools. Bring non-marking shoes. Open every day except

during school vacations, through May 1. FMI: 236-7800, ex. 274.

► **Coastal Area N.A.M.I. Support Group**, third Thursday every month, 6-7 p.m., Pen Bay Medical Center, Social Worker's Conference Rm., outside of the PARC Unit. Coastal Area National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (N.A.M.I.) is for those with mental illness, their family and friends. FMI: 236-6110 or e-mail tsballou@verizon.net.

► **WIC Program for Women, Infants and Children**. If you are pregnant, breastfeeding, or have children under age 5, you may qualify for help with free healthy foods and nutrition information. Clinics are held in Rockland, Union, Vinalhaven, Waldoboro and Damariscotta. Call 594-4329 or 1-866-260-6609 to see if you qualify.

► **Parkinson's Support Group**, meets first Tuesdays, noon-1:30 p.m., Media Rm., first floor of Independent Wing, Anderson Inn at Quarry Hill, Camden. Bring a bag lunch; drinks and desserts provided. FMI: 230-6224.

► **PFLAG Meeting**, first Mondays, 7 p.m., John Street United Methodist Church, John St., Camden. Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) is a national grassroots support group with more than 400 chapters. FMI: 236-6271.

► **Amnesty International Meetings**, 6:30 p.m., third Tuesday of each month, Our Lady of Good Hope Church, Union St., Camden. FMI: 273-4046 or 354-8551.

► **Anonymous HIV Testing**, at Mid-coast Health & Family Planning. Call for an appointment. Rockland: 594-6880; Belfast: 338-3736.

► **Weekly Events at Greenfire Women's Retreat**, Wallston Rd., Tenants Harbor. Sunday meditation and worship for women of all traditions at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday meditation and potluck at 5:30 p.m.; bring a dish to share. FMI: 372-6442 or www.greenfire.org.

► **Free Yoga Classes**, Wednesdays, 5:30-7 p.m., Wellness Center, 67 Elm St., Camden. All levels welcome. Call or e-mail Jory Squibb for exact schedule: 236-8962 or jsquibb@verizon.net.

Business Computer Workshop in Union

Wish your computer knew how to do more for your business? Damariscotta Bank & Trust and the Union Area Chamber of Commerce are co-sponsoring a workshop — "Business Technology: Entry Level & Beyond" — to address this issue. The free event is open to all area businesses and will be held at Hannibal's Café on Union Common, Monday, February 6, from 5:30 to 8 p.m.

Topics to be covered include "How can my computer help my business?"; "Business applications made easy"; "Web sites — what can they do for me?"; and "When it doesn't work, where do I find help?"

For more information, contact Debbie Anderson at Damariscotta Bank & Trust, 785-5935, or Paul Gaudreau of the Union Area Chamber of Commerce, 785-4826.

"Searsmont Shares" Show Opens Feb. 10

A new show, "Searsmont Shares," will be displayed in the Searsmont Town Library from Friday, February 10 until March 31. Residents of Searsmont will be lending objects from their personal collections to the library for this exhibition, including memorabilia, flea-market finds, paintings, handmade items, things collected while traveling, oddities — a varied and eclectic mix. Each item will be accompanied by a brief narrative describing the owners' connection to it.

An opening reception will be held Friday, February 10, from 5 to 7 p.m. At this event Kathy Hoey, the town's librarian for over six years, will be honored, as she is resigning to assume new duties in the Searsmont Town Office.

Real Estate Sales Agent Course

Rockland Adult and Community Education will offer a Real Estate Sales Agent course on two weekends: Friday through Sunday, February 10 through 12 and 17 through 19. Friday classes are from noon to 6 p.m.; Saturday's from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday classes 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The cost of \$310 includes textbooks. All classes will be held at McLain School in Rockland. Once this 39-hour class is successfully completed and passed with a 75 or better, students will be qualified to apply for a Sales Agent License through the real estate office of their choice; no state exam is necessary. For more information, call Steve Powell at 354-3532; Tom Mellor at 596-2018, or e-mail righthtry@midcoast.com.

Market Basket

Deadline is 4 p.m. on Mondays

PLEASE READ: As long as the TOTAL price of ALL your items is \$100 or less, it's FREE (ads must include prices for all items or we cannot run the ad).

Market Basket ads run for two weeks. Only one ad per household per week will be printed. We can only accept ads that are 20 words or less. We cannot accept ads over the phone — we do accept faxes (596-6698). Market Basket ads must be received by 4 p.m. Mon. for inclusion in that week's issue. **NO BUSINESS, SERVICE OR YARD SALE ADS** qualify for the Market Basket. **Ads which do not follow these guidelines cannot be printed.**

For Sale

Great for Valentine's, full-length faux-fur ladies coat, "mink?" black, size L, like new, \$90. 236-8301.

Craftsman 18.0-Volt Cordless Tool Kit, industrial 1/2" drill, 5-1/2" trim saw and worklite/flashlight in box or carrying case and two batteries, \$75. 548-2787.

Four Studded Snow Tires, Nokian radials, 185/65 R15, like new, \$100. 548-2002.

V-Day's Coming! 14K gold earrings and pendant, paid \$150, asking \$75. SS blue topaz earrings and pendant, \$25. 354-0178.

6-foot Mickey Mouse, cost \$389 new, \$100 firm. 563-3208.

Stanley Duplex Rabbit Plane, No. 78, never used, \$75. 832-4384.

Sturdy Mixer, Dormeyer, not a lightweight, unique, \$15. 563-5663.

12-Gallon Humidifier, like-new condition, \$75. 354-0260.

Bradford Zig-Zag Sewing Machine, \$20. 12 different Avon collectible plates, \$3 each. 354-6526.

New Michelin Radial, never mounted, 215-75-14, first \$35. Alloy wheel, '96 Caprice, 15-inch, \$35. 785-2370.

Four Clean 16" Wheels, eight lug, not split rim, off '86 Chevy, four for \$80 or \$25 each. 785-4517.

Sharp 100 W Stereo, 3 CD, tape player, \$50. Unfinished wood cabinet, 3' x 1', excellent condition, \$50. 236-8897.

Coffee Table, old, with glass inserts, two end tables, exc., needs sanding or paint, \$100. 596-5718.

All You Need Is A Lizard, complete kit: tank, heat lamps and more, costs \$150, sell for \$75. 542-1980.

Light Stained Wood Entertainment Unit, holds 28" TV, has shelves and doors. \$25. 594-8062.

Ladies Shoe Skates, size 7, \$5. Window shade, new, white, 120" long x 34" wide, quality material, \$10. 594-8121.

Heavy-duty Wheeled Wrought-Iron Caddy, \$25. 338-3979.

Designer Wall Unit, wall-hung storage, desk, shelf, excellent condition, \$100. 596-0318.

New Maple Vanity, 32"H x 30"W x 22"D, new oval almond Kohler sink, fixtures, almond countertop, \$100. 236-8680.

Full-Size Mattress, clean, \$25. Paintball gun, \$30. Radio-control monster truck, \$10. 596-2932.

One Chris Smither Ticket, for 8 p.m., Jan. 27, Camden, donated to WERU, \$20 (reg. \$22). 832-8225.

Full-Size Gas Dryer, \$75. VCR, \$20. 542-2328.

Trek Mountain Bike, hard tail, original \$700, selling \$100, firm. 596-5688.

Olympus Stylus 35mm Camera, weight 7 oz., autofocus F3.5 lens, auto exposure control, film wind, flash, date, manual, \$25. 594-5278.

Metallica Bass Guitar Book, brand new, never used, \$10. 594-4753.

Crestline Insulated Window, 16" x 40" with casing and hardware, \$75. Rocker panels for '72 Dodge p/u, \$15 for pair. 596-0742.

Record Collection, \$1 each, you choose. 338-0401. ■

Four Kitchen Chairs, blue, \$100. 338-3227.

Canon Rebel 2000 Camera Lens, 35-80 mm, exc. condition, \$100. OBO. 594-0284, leave message.

Four Maple Kitchen Chairs, great condition, \$50 OBO. 594-7480.

Baby Clothes, 25¢ to 50¢ each. End tables, \$5 each. Bradford sewing machine, \$20. Graco playpen, \$25. 354-6526.

New Doll in Box, green velvet dress, muff, ice skates, \$20. Costume jewelry brooches, \$20 each. Necklace, glass beads, \$20. 845-2617.

Elmo Scooter Infant Toy, Winnie the Pooh pull wagon, learn-to-walk toy, all three \$15. 354-2456.

Brown Burlap Curtain, 12"x8", with pipe and fittings, \$15. Camera tripod, \$5. 542-3717, evenings.

New Twin Box Spring and Mattress, excellent condition, \$40. 236-1088.

Washer, Kenmore, large capacity, heavy duty, less than five years old, works great, looks great, brand new pump, \$90. 785-2902.

MPI Monitor 40, works perfectly, we changed to radiant heat, \$100. 596-6344.

VCR and remote control, Orion, fairly new with manual, \$20 firm. 763-3971.

Ceramic Figurines, from Red Rose Tea, animals and birds, 50 for \$25. 594-1885.

Rocker Recliner, one year old, mostly brown, \$100. 354-6010.

Bookshelf Loudspeakers, two pair, only \$25/pair, both very solid and good sounding, one refurbished commercial, other DIY. 236-6845.

Calendars, mint condition, \$15 each: Bill's Place Garage, Belfast, 1934; V.A. Simmons Store, Searsmont, 1934; Maine Blueberry and 4-H, 1954. 236-3665.

Baseball Cards, over 500, \$10. Arctic Passage, framed print from 1940s-50s, \$75. 596-2932.

Antique Victorian-style Mirror with brass figure at center top, exc. condition, \$100. 596-6427.

Small Couch, 72" long, x 32" deep x 28" high, rust color, good condition, lightweight, \$50. 372-8103.

RCA Digital AM/FM Stereo, 5-CD carousel changer, never been taken out of box, \$80. 596-6209.

Gas Dryer, \$75. Nintendo system, \$25. 542-2328.

Wanted

Wanted: Bottles and Cans to help senior citizen in Rockland area with expenses. 594-4788.

Wanted: Internet Capable Computer, prefer PC with Windows 98 or higher. 594-7282.

Wanted: Singer Sewing Machine, model #301. 832-6949.

Wanted: Cleaning out? Don't have time to drop boxes at Goodwill? I will pick them up, only boxes. Also, Legos, small original size, we are collecting them, free or cheap, please. 322-2220. ■

Wanted: Violin Instruction, inexpensive or barter, for mature lady beginner, I read music for piano. Also, Suzuki books. 734-8332.

Wanted: Lightweight Sail Fabric, free or cheap, for school project. Call Cody, 594-2954.

Wanted: Woodworking Hand Tools, planes, chisels, saws, vise, adze, measuring tools, any condition, for woodworking classes. 596-0863.

Market Basket ADS

FREE

MARKET BASKET RULES:

1. Maximum # of Words per Ad = 20
2. TOTAL of all items added together MUST BE \$100 or less!
3. Ads MUST be priced or we cannot run them.
4. We cannot run Wanted ads seeking items costing over \$100.
5. ONLY ONE AD PER WEEK per person/phone number.
6. NO BUSINESS, SERVICE OR YARD SALE ADS accepted.

Please use the regular classified ad form for these and all other ads which don't fit the above guidelines — sorry, ads that don't follow these guidelines cannot be printed!

!Market Basket Ads Automatically Run For Two Weeks!

Mail To: **The Free Press MB**, 6 Leland St., Rockland, ME 04841
Sorry, we CANNOT take Market Basket ads by phone or e-mail, but you can fax your ad to 596-6698. However, we ask that you NOT copy this form and then fax it — copies from newsprint don't fax well, and we can't read them — just write your ad on a white sheet of paper and fax that — do not forget your phone #.

And about the handwriting: If we can't read it, we can't run it. ! MARKET BASKET AD DEADLINE IS 4 PM ON MONDAYS !

Free

Free: Acer PC, keyboard and mouse. 563-5663.

Free: Whirlpool Portable Dishwasher with butcher block top, works fine, have no room. 596-0192.

Free: Misc. Building Lumber, mostly boards and some pressure-treated wood. 596-5688.

Free: National Geographic, 1964-2000, all issues, perfect condition. 763-4162 or 691-8576.

Free: Older Sears Treadmill, medium fast speed only. 354-0968, 11-9. ■

Free: Light Bar with lights to fit the bed of a small pickup, as is, where is. 354-8748.

Free: Very Sweet, Male, neutered, 9-year-old, black-and-tan German shephard, has all his shots, call after 5, 785-2258.

FREE PRESS CLASSIFIEDS

Vehicles

1995 4X4 CHEVY BLAZER, automatic, loaded, runs good, many new parts, needed larger vehicle. \$3,500 OBO. 273-2271. (2/2)

Compost

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GOLD-SILVER-PLATINUM JEWELRY made to order or from stock — repairs, restorations, re-knotting pearls and beads as well. Over 20 years' experience. RUSSELL'S, 20 Main St. Camden, 236-GEMS. www.RussellsofCamden.com. (k/r)

WEDDING DRESS, lovely beaded & sequined silk chiffon with slip attached, tiered skirt, tea length, size 14 (approx.) for tall lady, \$175. 542-8139. (k/r)

LA-Z-BOY, cafe stuffed lounge, teddy bear color chair and ottoman, \$450 together. Cross trainer, \$600. 338-4810. (kr)

THIS-END-UP THREE-PIECE LIVING ROOM SET, \$175. Five-piece dining room set, \$200. Clean, twin mattresses, \$30. Nordic Track ski machine, \$100. 354-6235. (2/2)

ASH 8' BILLIARD TABLE, 1" slate, Simonis cloth, leather pockets, complete with ball set, cues and cover, brand new/boxed, retail \$3,500, sell \$1,450, can install. 865-3547 (2/9)

PEDESTAL SINK, \$175. Clawfoot bathtub, \$275. 16 x 14 Victorian floor register, \$45. Large blacksmith anvil, \$250. Vise, \$100. Square china cabinet, \$275. 542-2328. (2/2)

Firewood

FIREWOOD FOR SALE, seasoned or green. 763-4093. (kr)

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JR'S PAINTING Fine Interiors/Exteriors Painting & Staining, Sheet Rock Repairs. Free estimates. References. Fully Insured. 273-6116. (k/r)

BUSY B'S CLEANING We clean anything and everything inside your house. 594-4960. (kr)

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE Fall Cleanup Pruning Tree, Brush & Junk Removal Snow Plowing & Shoveling Free Estimates 763-4358. (k/r)

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RN WILL MAKE HOUSECALLS to cut toenails, \$20. Please call 549-5301 for appointment. (2/9)

COASTAL HOME IMPROVEMENT If it's an improvement on your home, we do it. Remodeling Carpentry Building and Property Maintenance Sign a 2006 spring contract now and receive up to 20% discount on spring clean-up and other projects. 763-4325 or 322-2196 (3/16)

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MAID FOR YOU Entire House Cleaning Reasonable Rates Please call Jennifer 691-3554. (2/16)

Art Classes

Learn Drawing, Watercolor Children Tues. 3:15-4:45 p.m., \$10/week **Adults** Weds. 6-8 p.m.; \$15/week Studio #2, Lincoln St. Center, Rockland Call Catinka Knoth: 596-0069 http://catinkacards.com (2/16)

Real Estate

WINTERPORT — Newer home on cul-de-sac, 1.3 acres, move-in condition, 3 bedrooms, master bedroom has huge closet space and full bathroom, 1/2 bath with laundry room, living room with cathedral ceiling, dining room, kitchen with new appliances, family room, two-car garage, pressure-treated deck with spa included, \$239,000. Sally Epply home office, (207) 338-4810, epplyjon@verizon.net, Realty of Maine. (kr)

28 PAT, BELFAST — Fixer-upper profit maker, put in the work and make money by renting or selling, easy to buy at only \$47,500. Free recorded info 975-HOME (4663) or www.GreatHome4You.com (2/16)

Real Estate

WASHINGTON, 106 wooded acres, town road, frontage on Medomak River, high land, view, landscaping rock on property, \$129,500. **WASHINGTON**, 5 wooded acres, surveyed, deeded right-of-way, view, southern exposure, \$29,500. **APPLETON**, 9 wooded acres, deeded right-of-way, view, \$35,000.

Rock Maple Realty 785-4305 rockmapl@midcoast.com (kr)

8 LELAND, ROCKLAND — Large 4+ BR, perfect location for home office or home-based business, on the edge of downtown, gorgeous, \$222,500, adjacent lot also available. Free recorded info 975-HOME (4663) or www.GreatHome4You.com (2/16)

36 BOB, THOMASTON — Your chance to buy "up" — owner will trade, superb 10 rooms plus 2 big bonus rooms, in-law suite possible, ROW to water, only 1 year old, worth every penny at \$329,500. Free recorded info 975-HOME (4663) or www.GreatHome4You.com (2/16)

49 SOUTH, ROCKLAND — Sweet 2-BR with a water view, costs only \$917/mo., in great condition, \$129,500. Bruised credit? Buy anyway, special programs, details at www.GreatHome4You.com. Free recorded info 975-HOME (4663) (2/16)

60 SWAN, BELFAST — Owner will trade, the big 4-BR colonial with the affordable price, \$159,500. Special finance programs available for bruised credit. Details at www.GreatHome4You.com. Free recorded info 975-HOME (4663). (2/16)

249 HIGHLAND, WARREN — Affordable 3-acre, 4-BR dream home in the country, \$149,500 when renovations completed. Income good, credit not so good? Buy anyway. Special programs. Details at www.GreatHome4You.com. Free recorded info 975-HOME (4663). (2/16)

277 LINC, BELFAST — Nice 3-BR ranch, nice country lot, needs our paintbrush, only \$109,500. Bruised credit? Buy anyway. Special programs, details at www.GreatHome4You.com. Free recorded info 975-HOME (4663). (2/16)

381 BAY, DAMARISCOTTA MILLS — Affordable, charming 2-3 BR renovated cottage. Wonderful water view, \$139,500. Bruised credit? Buy anyway. Special programs, details at www.GreatHome4You.com. Free recorded info 975-HOME (4663). (2/16)

For Rent

ROCKPORT — Housemate to share 2-BR, 1-1/2 BA, great location, fireplace, studio and garden space, \$400/month plus 1/2 utilities. Please call 469-5240. (2/16)

For Rent

ROCKLAND — Newly renovated 2-BR apartment, walking distance to downtown, includes W/D, heat and all utilities, \$850/month, first, last, sec., references a must. 596-9977 or 226-7310. (kr)

COTTAGE ON MOOSEHEAD LAKE, sleeps 9, few weeks open between May and October, fully equipped kitchen, indoor bathroom, \$850/week. 785-4878. (2/2)

CAMDEN — 2-BR, 1-BA house, dishwasher, W/D, full basement, garage, beautiful backyard, some pets okay, no smoking, 1-year lease, \$890/mo. (207) 338-6674 or (207) 323-3302. (2/9)

BELFAST — Lovely, modern 1-BR apt., quiet neighborhood, private entrance separated from attached home, spacious living room, modern kitchen with dishwasher, small dining room, laundry room, ample off-street parking, non-smoking, \$500/mo. plus utilities (completely furnished \$590/mo. plus utilities). 763-3749. (2/9)

ROOMMATE WANTED — to share 4-BR house in Rockport, fun, social atmosphere, wireless Internet, picturesque setting, convenient to town, \$375/month includes everything, available Feb. 1, contact 236-4231. (2/2)

ROCKLAND — Harbor view, furnished, 1-BR apt. with hardwood floors throughout, living room, dining room, kitchen and bath, includes all utilities and parking. **NO PETS**. 1 yr. lease at \$695/month plus security deposit. Call 594-5010 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday for appointment. (kr)

Seasonal Rental

BELFAST — Lolly Lupine Cottage, Stay and meet Sally & Larry's rabbits. Have openings in December 2005. Sleeps four, \$800/week or \$100/night, plus 7% tax. Call Sally Epply, 338-4810, or epplyjon@verizon.net (kr)

Help Wanted

QUALITY CARPENTERS WANTED Steady employment, job advancement, paid holidays, vacations, health plan, IRAs. Join Lorraine Construction, a company with an excellent reputation. 236-3736. (2/9)

CARPENTERS & LABORERS WANTED G.W. Gordon, 74 Pascal Avenue, Rockport, ME. 236-0729. (2/9)

Wanted

GOLDEN HAND looking for better consignment furniture and accessories for our shop. Call 236-0765 or www.thegoldenhand.net. (k/r)

Weddings

HAVE YOUR WEDDING THE WAY YOU WANT IT! Kitchen Dance Floor Tables Large Porch Chairs Privacy www.echohillinc.com **ECHO HILL**, St. George 372-6503. (7/14)

NOT JUST FOR BRIDES-MAIDS! Exceptional, cultured freshwater pearls in most wonderful, unique colors. Gifts and wedding flowers made in Maine. Also 2004 wedding photographs. "google": aldaflower Alda Stich, (207) 342-5796. (8/11)

THE INN AT MOUNT 'N SEA — 11-bedroom estate, vast accommodations, weddings, receptions, reunions. www.maineweeklyrental.com or 1-800-338-5706. (5/4)

Psychology

FREE TO BE ME COUNSELING SERVICES Specializing in: addiction, alcoholism, co-dependency, affected others and couples counseling. Melody Seekins, LADC 596-9977. (k/r)

Storage

INDIVIDUAL 8' X 12' UNITS are secure, clean, dry and private. Only \$40 monthly. Call anytime, 832-4204, Friendship. (k/r)

Self Help and Support

CRISIS LINE Maine's Statewide Toll Free Crisis Hotline — 1-888-568-1112. The Maine Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services' 24-hour crisis line links to the center in Maine nearest you.

NICOTINE ANONYMOUS MEETING Every Tuesday evening 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Conf. Room A (by the cafeteria) Pen Bay Hospital, Rockport. For more info call 354-6339. (k/r)

AA Hotline 1-800-737-6237 **Al-Anon Hotline** 284-1844 / 1-800-498-1844 Hotline numbers are manned 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

For information about area NA meetings, call 1-800-974-0062.

Youth Recovery Group for youth ages 13-21 who want to stop using alcohol and drugs, in a confidential and supportive environment. Every **Wednesday, 4:30-5:30 p.m.**, at the Breakwater Shelter, 218 Main St., Rockland. For info call: 596-5793.

ATTENTION: SENIOR CITIZENS

Applications now being taken for **Rankin Center in Rockland Knox Hotel in Thomaston** Maximum qualifying incomes are: **1 Person - \$28,750 • 2 Persons - \$32,850** Please call 596-6477 TDD/TTY 1-800-545-1833 Ext. 702 Professionally Managed by ElderServ, Inc. 

AVAILABLE NOW! Methodist Conference Home Accessible Efficiency Apartment with "Enhanced Living" services

Services include - meals, housekeeping, Lifeline, preventative care, case management and activities. Rent includes all utilities, elevator and parking. Rent is 30% of income or max of \$405 Services are 20% of Adjusted Income Income limit for rental subsidy is \$17,950 annually For Information call Sherry Reimer 594-2743 

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WANTED TO BUY BOOKS POSTCARDS 596-0077

Self Help and Support

NOON AL-ANON MEETINGS Tuesdays @ noon, 138 Union Street, Granite & Union Bldg., Rockland (1st floor conf. room — enter from deck on south end of bldg.)

Every 8 Seconds Someone Starts A Home Business. What are YOU Waiting For? Do you want to run your own business, but don't have thousands for start-up costs? Want financial independence but don't know where to turn? The Unfranchise® Business Development System from Market America offers anyone willing to follow a proven business plan the opportunity to gain financial independence using the latest internet technology in 2-3 years—not 45 years like the average worker.  Call Today For a FREE Brochure VME 1 (866) 513-9066 or visit: www.letsinc.net

Run your ad ONE WEEK for only \$5/week for 20 words – 20¢ each additional word.
Run your ad for TWO WEEKS for only \$4.50/WEEK for 20 words – 15¢ each additional word.
Run your ad for THREE or more WEEKS for only \$4/WEEK for 20 words – 10¢ each additional word.
(Please print clearly & include your phone number!) **DEADLINE IS MONDAY AT 4 p.m.!**

I would like my ad to read: _____

Please run my classified ad _____ times and list it under:
 ___ Vehicles ___ Boating ___ For Rent ___ For Sale
 ___ Help Wanted ___ Real Estate ___ Services ___ Wanted
 ___ Other _____ YARD SALE

Name _____
 Address _____
 Town _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____

Cost for 1st 20/words/week = _____
 Additional words = \$ _____
 Subtotal = \$ _____
 Times # of weeks ad to run x _____
TOTAL Due = \$ _____

IF PAYING BY CREDIT CARD:
JUST CALL IN YOUR AD COPY — 596-6696
 Or, enclose payment and bring or mail to:
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TV Listings

Listings brought to you by

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212 Park St., Rockland
596-6554

CHANNEL LINE-UP Knox County

- 2 CKSH - French
3 UPN - WPME
4 FOX - WFPO
5 CBS - WABI
6 NBC - WCSH
7 PEG - Public
8 ABC - WMTW
9 Adelphia 9
10 MPBS - WCBB
11 PEG - Education
12 WB - WPXT
13 CBS - WGME
14 QVC
15 HSN
16 CHLT
17 Shop NBC

- 18 TV Guide
19 C-SPAN
20 C-SPAN2
21 PAX TV
22 PEG - Government
23 NESN
24 FOX Sports Net
25 ESPN
26 ESPN2
27 MTV
28 GAC
29 VH-1
30 Lifetime
31 Spike TV
32 CMT
33 Weather Channel
34 NECN
35 FOX News
36 CNN
37 Headline News
38 Knox TV
39 CNBC
40 MSNBC
41 Court TV
42 TCM
43 Movieplex
44 TNT
45 Comedy
46 FX
47 USA
48 TBS
49 Oxygen
50 A&E
51 AMC
52 Ovation
53 Bravo
54 E!
55 HGTV

- 56 Food Network
57 Travel Channel
58 EWTN
59 Hallmark Channel
60 TBN
61 History Channel
62 TLC
63 Discovery
64 TV Land
65 BET
66 ABC Family
67 Nickelodeon
68 Disney Channel
69 Animal Planet
70 SCI-FI
71 TV5
72 PIN
73 INSP
74 Cartoon Network

FRIDAY EVENING FEBRUARY 3, 2006
Table with 12 columns (7:00-12:30) and 69 rows of programming details.

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596-6554
212 PARK STREET, ROCKLAND
Celebrating 16 years of business!
OVER 300,000 AUTO & TRUCK PARTS AVAILABLE!
CUSTOM MIXED PAINTS & SUPPLIES
OVERNIGHT PARTS SERVICE & DAILY SHUTTLE SERVICE
SUPPORTER OF MANY LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS
OPEN M-F 7:30-5:30, Sat. 7:30-4:00, Sun. 9:00-1:00

SATURDAY EVENING FEBRUARY 4, 2006
Table with 12 columns (7:00-12:30) and 69 rows of programming details.

SUNDAY EVENING FEBRUARY 5, 2006
Table with 12 columns (7:00-12:30) and 69 rows of programming details.

MONDAY EVENING FEBRUARY 6, 2006. TV schedule grid with columns for time slots (7:00-12:30) and rows for channel numbers (3-69).

TUESDAY EVENING FEBRUARY 7, 2006. TV schedule grid with columns for time slots (7:00-12:30) and rows for channel numbers (3-69).

SEE US FOR ALL YOUR GLASS NEEDS. HOME • AUTO • BUSINESS. PEN-BAY GLASS CLASSIC VINYL WINDOW. Route 1, Thomaston Line, Rockland, 594-0766.

Sterling Ambulance & Specialty Transport. *SPECIALIZING IN LOCAL AND LONG DISTANCE AMBULANCE TRANSFERS. *ALSO OFFERING HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION. UNION, ME 785-3100.

WEDNESDAY EVENING FEBRUARY 8, 2006. TV schedule grid with columns for time slots (7:00-12:30) and rows for channel numbers (3-69).

THURSDAY EVENING FEBRUARY 9, 2006. TV schedule grid with columns for time slots (7:00-12:30) and rows for channel numbers (3-69).

CLICK & CLACK

TALK CARS

What's Up with Car Making Sounds Like Gunfire?

DEAR TOM AND RAY: I have a new 2005 Chevy Tahoe LS that I just purchased, and the entire time that I'm driving — and even after the car has been shut off and I'm no longer in the vehicle — there are very loud bangs that come from somewhere under the car. It's extremely loud and sounds like gunfire. I'm told it's the catalytic converter expanding (or something like that). The dealer says that it's normal, yet I don't hear anyone else's Tahoe making these noises. It's quite embarrassing. Ever hear of this, and is it OK?

— Steven

TOM: Are you sure you're not driving in Iraq, Steven? Because if not, you shouldn't be followed by the sounds of gunfire every time you drive.

RAY: It IS normal for exhaust systems to expand and contract. When they do that, they often make popping or banging noises. If you've ever lived in an old apartment building, you've probably heard the pipes banging when the heat goes on and off. That's the same phenomenon.

TOM: But two things you say make me conclude that it's not just your exhaust system expanding and contracting. One: The noise continues the "entire time" that you're driving. Normally, you might hear this for the first minute or two of driving or, more likely, for five or 10 minutes after you shut off the engine. But hearing it continually is unusual.

RAY: Two: You say it's extremely loud, and sounds like gunfire. I've heard it described as pinging, ticking or even clanging, but never as some kind of assault weapon.

TOM: Your dealer has given you the time-honored response "They all do that." I suppose that could be true — although I can't imagine they'd sell many Tahoes, in that case. So I suggest you test the dealer's theory.

RAY: Start by going back and asking the service manager to take a ride with you. The dealer may be basing his response on your description of the noise, rather than on the noise itself. Once the service manager hears the noise, he may say, "Wow, it shouldn't be that loud — that's something else." Or he may say, "They all do that."

TOM: If he sticks with his story that they all do that, ask to take a test drive in another '05 Tahoe. If it's quiet, then you can insist that they fix yours, because clearly they don't ALL do that.

RAY: But if the other Tahoe does make the same noises, then I guess the dealer is telling you the truth, and you'll just have to live with it. Maybe they all DO sound like they're spraying gunfire as they drive down the road. Maybe it's a brilliant new anti-theft system GM has come up with.

Bumps and potholes do more than merely annoy drivers. Find out what, and how you can ease the pain, by ordering Tom and Ray's pamphlet "Ten Ways You May Be Ruining Your Car Without Even Knowing It!" Send \$4.75 (check or money order) to Ruin, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.


Got a question about cars? Write to Click and Clack in care of The Free Press, 6 Leland Street, Rockland, ME 04841 or e-mail them by visiting the Car Talk Web site at www.cartalk.com.


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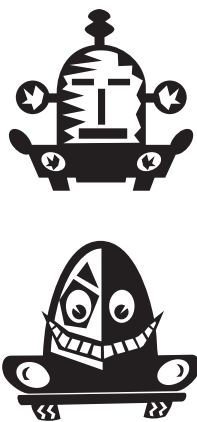




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An SUV with altitude.

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S	N	A	F	U	L	E	M	O	N	D	A	R	E	D	M	A	N	E	T
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E	R	R	E	D	Y	E	L	P	S	B	A	G	E	L	T	H	O	R	N
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The Wine Seller, Rockland BY DAN KIRCHOFF

FEATURE OF THE WEEK:

'00 FORD EXPLORER

\$7,995

4x4, 70K Miles



'00 Toyota Corolla\$6,795
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<h4 style="margin: 0;">00 NISSAN FRONTIER</h4>  <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">\$8,995</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Ext. Cab, Auto., A/C, Only 58K Miles, Stock# 350851</p>	<h4 style="margin: 0;">02 CHRYSLER SEBRING</h4>  <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">\$8,995</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Leather, Sunroof, Only 54K Miles Stock# 760073</p>	<h4 style="margin: 0;">01 CHRYSLER PT CRUISER</h4>  <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">\$8,995</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Touring, Sunroof, CD, Auto. Only 52K Miles, Stock# 36010</p>
<h4 style="margin: 0;">01 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN</h4>  <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">\$8,995</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">V6, Tinted Windows, 7-Pass. Stock# 760451</p>	<h4 style="margin: 0;">02 CHEVY K 1500 PICKUP</h4>  <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">\$8,995</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">4x4, Auto. Stock# 750822</p>	<h4 style="margin: 0;">03 DODGE NEON SXT</h4>  <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">\$8,995</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Only 31K Miles Stock# 350731</p>
<h4 style="margin: 0;">01 DODGE CARAVAN</h4>  <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">\$8,995</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Only 45K Miles Stock# 35012</p>	<h4 style="margin: 0;">99 GRAND CHEROKEE</h4>  <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">\$8,995</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">4X4, Auto. Stock# 750661</p>	<h4 style="margin: 0;">02 CHRYSLER PT CRUISER</h4>  <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">\$8,995</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">5-speed, 40K Miles, CD Player, P.W., A/C, Stock# 751071</p>

*We reserve the right to correct typographical errors. Pictures may vary. Bring in this ad for sale price.



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