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Reflections of sailboats on Indian Lake

Local youth who participate in the Downeast Community Summer Sailing Series spend memorable summer days here, on Whiting's Indian Lake, where instructors use six red-sailed boats to teach them how to sail. By the end of their week, the children are racing one another in a regatta. The Mirror sailboats used by the camp are built in England, and named for the Daily Mirror, a UK newspaper. Photo by Phil Brehmer

Region buzzing with preparations for 44th Annual Machias Wild Blueberry Festival

by Sarah Craighead Dedmon

While enthusiastic spectators counted backwards from 10, a giant blueberry descended from the steeple of Centre Street Congregational Church on Sunday, Aug. 11 signifying the official start to the 44th Annual Machias Wild Blueberry Festival. Festival planners Ellen Farnsworth and Nancy Lewis said they were banking on one critical thing for this year's festivities.

"It won't be raining," said Farnsworth.

Two back-to-back rainy festivals have festival fans thinking dry thoughts for next weekend, too, and so far it seems to be working. The current forecast is for clear skies and 70 degrees. That's good news for the 150-plus vendors renting spaces from both the church and

the Machias Bay Chamber of Commerce (MBCC). Starting on Friday, Aug. 16 vendors will start to set up the church commons, then on Saturday all of the other local lots will be filled as streets are closed off and Machias becomes a hotbed of blueberry activity.

MBCC Executive Director said that the Chamber's parking lots, those that surround Machias Savings Bank, its training center, plus the Colonial Parking Lot, will be filled with local crafters, fine jewelers, estate jewelers, fine artists, maple syrup purveyors and local service agencies like Next Step Domestic Violence Project. The Colonial Parking Lot will once again be home to a food court, this year including a seating area for people to enjoy their meals,

(Preparations cont. pg. 13)

Unique lighthouses unveil special talents in Milbridge

by Ruth Leubecker

Those lighthouses in Milbridge have been a triple win: nudging a growing influx of visitors to town; showcasing phenomenal local talent; and prodding theatre fundraising.

The 10 lighthouses, seven feet tall

and colorfully unique, are each a special testament to 10 area artists who have each adopted one. The high-impact, very visual exhibitions will be on display for the next three weeks in the downtown area. The artists are Ray Carbone with

Nicole DeBarber, Joanne Halpin, Ora Aselton, Ken Graslie, Karen Schevenieus, Jane Snider, Reneen Freeman, Maeve Perry, Heidi Beal and Anthony Surratt.

Although it will be tough to pick (Lighthouses cont. pg. 12)

PRSWDD requests guaranteed tonnage reduction from MRC

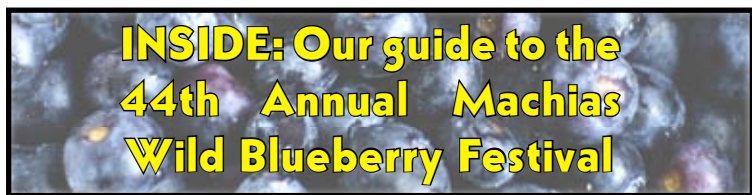
by Nancy Beal

By formal letter following the July 19 meeting between the Pleasant River Solid Waste Disposal District

(PRSWDD) board of directors and representatives from the Municipal Review Committee (MRC) (see July 24, 2019 MVNO), PRSWDD

asked MRC to reduce the annual tonnage that it agreed to send to MRC's designated disposal site. PRSWDD's current required tonnage is 500 tons, and because of the expected departure of Jonesport and Columbia Falls, which together generate 199 tons, PRSWDD directors want its obligation reduced to 300 tons.

PRSWDD's 500 tons is part of (PRSWDD cont. pg. 14)



INSIDE: Our guide to the 44th Annual Machias Wild Blueberry Festival



Cooper's Pledge raises funds for Downeast Recovery Support Center

Cooper Robicheau is going into the eighth grade with a lengthy track record of charitable efforts. Last week he set up this lemonade stand to raise money for the Downeast Recovery Support Center, something he has done for more than six years to benefit various charities. Robicheau said he chose this year's cause in memory of Sean Murphy, a local football coach who died of an overdose. Robicheau will also set up his stand during the Machias Wild Blueberry Festival at the Downeast Recovery Support Center, 11 Free Street. Photo by Sarah Craighead Dedmon



The smile at the end of the rainbow

Luke Maker knows a good thing when he sees it, and especially when he sees it doubled! These two rainbows and their reflections were captured by his father, Ryan M. Maker, after thunderstorms passed over their home in Machiasport on Saturday, Aug. 10. Photo by Ryan M. Maker

Waterspout adds note of adventure to local sailing camp

by Sarah Craighead Dedmon

It was Gianna Hall's and Helen Racherla-Mace's first day at sailing camp when a rare waterspout kicked up on Indian Lake in Whiting. The two girls were out for a sail with their instructor, Scott Fraser, on Monday, Aug. 5 when Fraser noticed the increase in wind speed that often accompanies a wind shift. Then, their sailboat capsized. It was a clear, sunny day.

"I just saw a little puff coming across the lake, and next thing you knew we were heeled up really hard," said Fraser. "We ended up in the water very quickly."

Fraser, an instructor with the Outdoor Adventure Center at Washington County Community College, estimates the waterspout that capsized their Mirror sailboat

measured two feet in width, and from the vantage point of his boat, it only looked like spray kicked up by the wind.

"We had a support boat right there, and they got to see the whole thing which is how we found out what happened," said Frasier.

"It felt like you were surfing because the boat was up on its (Sailing camp cont. pg. 4)

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OPEN HOUSE Sunday August 18, 2019 12-2pm

MVNO00000719

Lighthouses Continued from page 1

a winner from this clever project, community voting online will select one on August 23. So for those who haven't been through Milbridge to view these works of art, the time is now.

"We hope you'll have a chance to come and see the lighthouses along Main Street over the next couple of weeks," urges Richard Bondurant, chair of Gateway Milbridge and the Milbridge Theatre Project.

The artists provide a blend of distinctive local talent, very individual and creative, each in their own right. Ray Carbone's focus as an artist is on sculpture, and the wood and stone from Maine's forests and quarries provide the raw materials for his work. His gallery and workshop are on Pigeon Hill Cove in Steuben. He creates affordable pieces for homes and gardens, and all are welcome to visit his gallery. For his lighthouse, Carbone carved the base out of stone and DeBarber did the painting.

Halpin, who has lived in Milbridge since 1996, creates a range of artwork dominated by seascapes and sailboats. She currently exhibits collages in area galleries such as the Schooner in Milbridge and The Commons in Eastport. Her multimedia talents have led to her leading several workshops in collage-making.

Aselton has four children and nine grandchildren, and has lived Downeast since 1976. In 1984 she started the first visual arts program at Narraguagus High School,

developing the curriculum for grades 9-12, and teaching the program for 24 years. In 2007 a high point of her career occurred when she was awarded a Maine Arts Teachers Fellowship that funded a month-long study of painting in Umbria, Italy. She is a true community artist via an informal "plein-air" painting group, a variety of workshops, and painting projects for the Women's Health Resource Library fundraisers.

Graslie began his art studies at the New England School of Art, continuing with a two-year painting program emphasizing large-format landscapes at Monserratt College of Art. His painting style captured the grandeur of the Southwest after he moved to New Mexico to expand his horizons. For the next 25 years his work was shown in a number of galleries in and around Boston and southern New England. Now living in Addison, his work is further inspired by the beauty of the Downeast coast.

Schevenieus, a Milbridge native, has always been passionate about art. In the beginning a hairdresser, she has been receptive to a diverse number of art forms, allowing her to mix various mediums and create unique styles. Her work is on display in several businesses around town.

Snider at the age of 10 decided she wanted to be an artist. McClellan Park Summer Program for Milbridge kids provided the inspiration for the next steps in her self-taught career. She has painted auction pieces for the Maine Discovery Museum, and

was named Maine Middle School Art Teacher of the Year. She has illustrated a children's book and believes in constantly challenging her creativity.

Freeman, also a Maine native, works at Kelco Industries and Schooner Gallery. She has a craving for art, though has never taken any art classes. She loves being creative, whether drawing, painting, woodburning, making wreaths or baking. She is presently working on the seventh of a series of decoys called "Not Your Daddy's Decoys." Her decoys and wooden eggs are featured on her Facebook page "Reneen's Designs."

Perry credits her family with inspiring her creativity and always encouraging her ability and imagination. Besides her portraits and murals, Perry for the past 12-plus years has painted faces on the Milbridge Theatre lawn. Currently working in social work, she dreams of someday supporting herself as a freelance artist. The aim would be to follow festivals, painting faces beside blue water and white sand through the winter, then heading back to Maine to do the same face-painting here in spring and summer.

Beal, a native Beals Islander and lover of lighthouses, began painting a series of lighthouses in Maine and New York, selling many prints in local gift shops. Although she primarily works in acrylics, she has tried murals, body-painting and photography. She has received several awards for her photography.

Surratt, who has lived in Milbridge for 10 years, discovered art after retiring from a lengthy corporate career in Virginia. His art has grown from a weekend hobby to a primary focus in his life. He paints with acrylics and mixed media, and his subject matter ranges from dogs and puffins to landscapes. His work has been shown in galleries in Georgia, Vermont and Maine.

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