

- Maine Dish, Page 4
- Real Estate, Section III
- Calendar, Section IV

Arts & Leisure



Flower Power Katie's Bouquets



ELLSWORTH AMERICAN PHOTO BY JACQUELINE WEAVER

Some people have a knack for assembling flowers, whether it's daisies, Indian paintbrush and buttercups stuck in a Mason jar or a riot of dahlias and zinnias brightening a dinner table.

Katie Savalchak is among them. She grows flowers and assembles them at Sacred Bough Farm on Route 1 in Hancock (across from Knights Inn and Big Cat's Catering).

Her artful summer bouquet combines Chantilly snapdragons, campanula, stock, lady's mantle and Icelandic poppies. We will introduce readers to other gifted flower arrangers throughout the growing season.

— Jacqueline Weaver

A girl's best friend

Author explores girlhood friendships and fallouts

BY JENNIFER OSBORN

DEER ISLE — A Deer Isle-Stonington High School graduate and former children's book editor has just published her first children's book series.

Simon & Schuster has released "Anna, Banana and the Friendship Split" and "Anna, Banana and the Monkey in the Middle."

"This book is for 6- to 10-year-olds, primarily second- and third-grade" said author Anica Rissi. "I so vividly remember being Anna's age and all of the tensions of how to be a good friend."

The series centers on navigating the often choppy waters of friendship.

"I think there are a lot of books about bullying and what to do if a kid is being mean to you," said Rissi. "I don't know of

a lot of books talking about what to do when the person not being great to you is someone you love. It's really complicated territory and terrain to figure out.

"In a lot of these books, Anna has to learn how to stick up for herself."

Childhood friendships are "the precursor to learning how to have long-term relationships of any kind," she said.

Between girls, especially, "there's a little bit of a power play," Rissi said. "How mean can I be before this person walks away?"

The first book in the series is about Anna's birthday and how her best friend, Sadie, ruins it.

"Sadie starts a fight with Anna on Anna's birthday and Anna doesn't know what she did wrong," Rissi said.

The author recalls childhood birthday angst. How the cake will turn out, what the presents will be, who will come, what games will be played.

"I remember being so stressed about a birthday party when I was Anna's age I threw up," she said. "I would find myself behaving not quite the way I wanted to behave. It was a high tension time for me every year."

"Birthdays aside, I just remember fights with friends," she said.

Anna is an amalgamation of several "sweet friends" Rissi had growing up. "Honestly, I'm a bit more of a Sadie."

Book two in the series, "Anna, Banana and the Monkey in the Middle," deals with friendship triangles. A challenge in writing the series was



ILLUSTRATIONS COURTESY OF SIMON & SCHUSTER



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JEFF SIVDER

"Anna, Banana and the Friendship Split" author Anica Rissi working with her dog, Arugula, by her side at home in Princeton, N.J.

keeping the humor and the pacing tight so the books are fun to read while dealing with the "intensity of emotion" among the friends, Rissi said.

Two more books are coming out this summer and fall. Whether there are more to follow depends on how they sell, she said.

Interspersed with promoting her series,

Rissi just finished her first picture book, "Teacher's Pet," about a teacher who is so enamored of a classroom pet that he can't see all the havoc the animal is causing.

She also is working on an essay about love and dogs and relationships as

Continued on Page 6



Seaside music Oceanside Institute hosts ensemble classes and concerts

BY JACQUELINE WEAVER
GOULDSBORO — Harbor Music 2015, with performances and ensemble classes for piano and string, will have more of an international tone this summer.

A violinist and two students from Singapore and a student from Australia will be attending as well as young musicians from the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University.

The music series July 7-17 will take place at the Oceanside Meadows Institute for the Arts and Sciences in the village of Prospect Harbor.

Edmund Battersby, artistic director of the Artur Balsam Ensemble Classes for Piano and Strings, met the string coach, Qian Zhou of the Young Siew Toh Conservatory of Music, in France some years ago.

At her request, they made two recordings together in England in 1996.

"I wanted to work again with Qian Zhou," said

Battersby, who with Zhou and other faculty will perform a program of chamber works by Dvorak, Brahms and Mendelssohn July 11 at 7:30 p.m.

The Balsam series occurs every two to three years and is funded by an endowment in the late musician's name.

Balsam was a teacher,



Guilherme Monegatto

recitalist, chamber musician, accompanist to many of the greatest musicians of the time and soloist with many world-famous orchestras.

Deirdre McArdle is executive director of the program and houses most of the students at her home in South Gouldsboro.

"This is the first time we have an association with this particular conservatory," she said of Qian Zhou. "It brings a new energy to this program."

"And I'm really excited that this is here, in Prospect Harbor," McArdle added. "I feel like Indiana University has been really supportive of the move of this program to this rural area in Maine."

McArdle said it also is generous that Battersby is willing to share his private space and relaxing time — he owns a cottage on the Schoodic Peninsula — with the students.

Other faculty in addition to



PHOTOS COURTESY HARBOR MUSIC

Derek Maninfor



Shi Xiaoxuan



Edmund Battersby



Qian Zhou

Battersby and Qian Zhou will be cellist Evangeline Benedetto, pianist Archie Chen of the Dublin International Piano Festival and pianist Evelyn Brancart.

Battersby said the program runs 10 days because less than one week is not long enough to prepare the master works, particularly for musicians who are playing together for the first time.

The students follow a traditional schedule with practice in the morning, coaching and rehearsals in the afternoon and master classes or performances in the evening.

"The master classes are

where the students really learn by hearing people play pieces that they are not playing," Battersby said.

"Most schools today are performance schools. We're trying to learn about styles, interpretations, not just a perfect performance. Interpretation is how you feel."

The seven musicians from the Jacobs School are: pianist Andreas Ioannides, a native of Nicosia, Cyprus; cellist; Hao-jian Wang, a native of Yantai, China, who plays the viola; pianist Nan Yang, a native of China; Alexander Beresovsky, a pianist and native of the

Continued on Page 6



In "Anna, Banana and the Friendship Split," illustrator Meg Park captures girlhood angst with her portraits of Anna and her best friend Sadie.

The Devil goes Downeast

Charlie Daniels Band to play at Balsam Amphitheater



BY TAYLOR BIGLER
COLUMBIA FALLS — The devil may have gone down to Georgia, but

the Charlie Daniels Band is going Downeast. The iconic Southern rocker Charlie Daniels and his

band will play on Saturday, July 11, at the Balsam Valley Amphitheater.

While Daniels, 78, is best known for his 1979 hit "The Devil Went Down to Georgia," his influence on country, bluegrass and Southern rock music goes much deeper than that.

Before he made it big with his now-classic hit, Daniels played electric bass on three Bob Dylan albums from 1969 to 1970, and played fiddle on several Marshall Tucker Band albums in the early '70s.

Daniels said it was an honor to work with Dylan decades ago, which is what influenced the band's latest, "Off the Grid — Doin' it Dylan," an album of 10 Dylan covers.

"I'm a big Dylan fan, and he's meant a lot to me

Continued on Page 6



PHOTO COURTESY CHARLIE DANIELS BAND

The Charlie Daniels Band will take the stage Saturday, July 11, at the Balsam Valley Amphitheater in Columbia Falls.

Raising the flag

The last really great costume we wore was in 1976. We played Betsy Ross in the Williams Air Force Base Elementary School celebration of our nation's bicentennial.

Gone Shopping



FILE PHOTO

We felt quite important being the only student on staff in a rocking chair holding an embroidery hoop with a needle and a piece of cotton to represent an American flag in progress.

Lucky for all of us, there's no need to sew your own. You can buy crisp, sturdy American flags at hardware stores. We found a slew of them at Bucksport True Value on Route 1.

If you're looking for a flag to hang outside your house nine months of the year, we recommend an Annin 3-foot-by-5-foot nylon flag, which includes a 6-foot aluminum pole and a metal bracket for attaching to the house or garage. Those fetch \$39.99 and should last you at least a few years if you remember to bring it in on stormy days.

If you're looking for ornamental flags, for a window box, or to wave around on the Fourth of July, there are several options. Bucksport True

If you need a flag to wave this fourth of July, there are plenty of flags, big and small, at Bucksport True Value.

Value has a two-pack of 12-by-18 flags for \$3.29. Or there is a porch and deck three-flag display kit for \$10.99. Those flags measure 8-by-12 inches and are made by Annin.

There are also flag garlands and pleated fans, which we call bunting. Or you can get tiny flags, about the size of a large index card, on a stick for 59 cents.

— Jennifer Osborn

Are flags part of your summer outdoor display? Email josborn@ellsworthamerican.com.



Take Heart

A Conversation in Poetry

Editor's Note: Those who live on or frequent certain Maine islands may be familiar with the wheelbarrows of this poem, available for hauling luggage. But the fresh observation of today's poem by Elizabeth Garber of Belfast gives them a new look.

"Island Transport"

By Elizabeth Garber

Just off the long granite-bermed dock the wheelbarrows wait under birch shade in feathery grasses. They are beamy, like oxen flicking their tails, ready to haul with hand-hewn oak handles, hammered leg braces, and oiled axles.

Hours after summer people propelled them, loaded and wobbly, across the island, they have settled beside the Big House. The wheelbarrows are painted sky blue, aqua, salmon, like cheerful aprons with roomy pockets. Wide-hipped, they linger like chatting aunts. They would shuck corn or snip peas off the back porch if they could.

"Take Heart: A Conversation in Poetry" is an initiative between Maine State Poet Laureate Wesley McNair and the Writers & Publishers Alliance. Questions about submitting to "Take Heart" may be directed to Special Consultant Gibson-Fay Le Blanc to the poet laureate, at 228-8263 or mainepoetlaureate@gmail.com. "Take Heart: Poems from Maine," an anthology collecting the first two years of this column, is available from Down East Books.

A girl's best friend

Continued from Page 3 well as a young adult novel.

Rissi was a children's book editor for several years before putting on a writer's cap.

"I fell into publishing through dumb luck really," Rissi said.

After graduating from Yale University, Rissi followed her friends to New York City. It was the fall of 2001 and there weren't a lot of jobs. Rissi was working at a cheese shop.

"She had dinner with friends one night, one of whom was a friend of a friend who worked as a headhunter.

The headhunter decried the cheese shop position as "not a real job," and implored Rissi to send her a resume.

During dinner, the headhunter asked Rissi, "If you could do anything with your life, what would you do?"

One of Rissi's ideas was to reinstate a March of Dimes fundraiser where people raised donations for each book they read.

The next day the headhunter called her.

"I have the perfect job for you and I know what you should do with your life," Rissi recalled her saying. She sent Rissi to interview for a job as a children's book editor.

"It was a really lucky, wonderful thing," Rissi said, adding that she never would have explored work as a children's book editor on her own.

"Coming from Deer Isle, I knew about writers and librarians but didn't know about editing as a career, Rissi said.

"One of my first projects was editing 'Boxcar Children No. 99,'" she said. "I got back in touch with where I fell in love with reading. I was that kid sneaking books under my desk trying to read when I was supposed to be learning. I was a regular at the Stonington library."

Childhood books "are the books that change the way you think and show you kids like you and show you kids

different from you," she said.

"I loved Beverly Cleary," the author said. "The Ramona books were a heavy influence." She also loved L.M. Montgomery's "Emily of New Moon." In fact, Rissi was so loyal to the "New Moon" series she wouldn't read Montgomery's "Anne of Green Gables" series.

"I refused to read Nancy Drew because I was loyal to 'Trixie Belden.'"

It wasn't easy for Rissi to take off her editor's cap and don a writing one.

"As an editor, I didn't necessarily know how to write, but I did know how to revise," she said. "I did many, many drafts, the first of which were really horrible."

Amica Morse Rissi is planning a trip to Maine in August and this fall. Any teachers or librarians interested in having Rissi speak should send her an email at amica.rissi@gmail.com.

The Devil goes Downeast

Continued from Page 3

career and he's really invited me to play tribute to him," Daniels said.

He said that fans will hear his old hits, some of the Dylan covers and "a few little surprises we throw in to keep it interesting."

Daniels still performs about 100 concerts per year. Throughout his 62-year career, Daniels won a 1979 Grammy Award for best country vocal performance for "The Devil Went Down to Georgia," and was inducted into the Grand Ole Opry in 2008, and the

Musicians Hall of Fame and Museum in 2009.

He also spends his time working with the Journey Home Project, of which he is chairman of the board. The nonprofit organization based in Mount Juliet, Tenn., connects volunteers to veterans who have recently returned home from military service.

"When our veterans come back from overseas, whether it's medical needs, material needs, whatever it happens to be, we need to be there for them," Daniels said.

The musician credits his six-decade career to "the

blessing of God and desire."

"I love to do what I am doing," he said. "I can't think of a better way to spend my life, and I don't want to go play golf all the time and I don't want to go hunting or fishing; I want to play music."

The Charlie Daniels Band will perform on Saturday, July 11, at the Balsam Valley Amphitheater in Columbia Falls. Tickets start at \$25, and veterans and active duty military get in free. Gates open at 4 p.m., and the concert begins at 4:30 p.m. For tickets and information, call 812-3877 or visit www.balsamvalley.com.

Crockett Cove homes

Continued from Page 5 Road. While each cottage is unique, "their design incorporates the stark ethic of the rocky shore of Deer Isle," blending "seamlessly with their surrounding environment."

Muir stated that she knew she "...could do something really special, convenient, livable, interesting, pleasing; a home that fit in the countryside with even a small surprise here and there." Indeed, dramatic views, tiny interior gardens, extraordinary use of natural materials, and unconventional shapes are only some of the small surprises that await tour participants.

Numbered for identification, the houses may be visited

in any sequence. Library volunteers will provide a shuttle service but all the houses are within walking distance of each other. In fact, walkers will experience a bonus — the unique beauty of a coastal "fog forest."

Tickets cost \$20 per person and are available in advance at the library, as well as at Boyce's Motel, Dockside Books, Island Approaches and the Turtle Gallery. On the day of the tour, tickets will be on sale at the Burnt Cove Community Church, located at the corner of Airport Road and Route 15A. For more information, call 367-5926 or email stoningtonlibrary@stonington.lib.me.us.

Seaside music

Continued from Page 3 Ukraine; pianist Mark De Zwaan of Grand Rapids, Mich.; and Derek Maninfor, a graduate student in piano performance.

Lachlan Dent, a cellist, is a native of Australia. Ukrainian violinist Oleksandr Korniev, and violinist Shi Xiaoxuan from China both study with Qian Zhou.

The interns are soprano Elizabeth Faranda and pianist Deiran Manning of Gouldsboro, both of the Jacobs School of Music.

—The American.—

Bar Harbor

Acadia Frameworks
Custom picture framing
Frame shop and wildlife art gallery
288 Main Street
info@georgesanker.com

Art on West
Rasmussen - watercolor
Smus - sculpture
Mann - pottery
Palmer - photography
78 West Street on the waterfront

Blue Hill

MAY 24 - OCTOBER 12
CYNTHIA WININGS GALLERY
24 PARKER POINT ROAD
www.cynthiawingsgallery.com
CONTEMPORARY ART

Liros Gallery
Fine 19" & 20" Century Art
14 Parker Point Road
Blue Hill, ME
Summer Hours:
Open Daily
lirosgallery.com
207.374.5370

Blue Hill Bay Gallery
Fine Paintings of Maine
Open Tues. - Sat. 10-4
Main Street
207-374-5773

DOWNEAST Gallery Guide

Ellsworth

MONTEUX gallery
In the Flexit building
192 Main Street
610-5001 • 408-1413
monteuxgallery.com
monteuxgallery@gmail.com

Mount Desert

Gallery at Somes Sound
Open 7 days a Week
1112 Main Street
207-244-1165
galleryatsomesound.com

Southwest Harbor

Eclectia Art and Accessories
Monday-Saturday 10-5
336 Main Street
244-4430

Salty Dog Gallery
Fine Art
332 Main Street
207-244-5918
www.philipssteel.com

Northeast Harbor

Smart Studio
Fine Art, Unique Finds, Custom Framing
Tues.-Fri 10-5, Sat. 12-5
Main Street
276-5152
www.smart-studio.com

SHAW CONTEMPORARY JEWELRY
contemporary jewelry • applied arts
126 Main Street
276-5000
www.shawjewelry.com

D'Alessio Gallery
Colorful expressions and paintings
by Russell D'Alessio
12 Mount Desert Street
207-351-5450

Winter Harbor

LITTLEFIELD GALLERY
WINTER HARBOR, MAINE
Fine Art & Sculpture
Open Daily, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.
207.963.6005
www.littlefieldgallery.com

Discover the Great Outdoors in Your Own Backyard!

What are you doing this weekend?

Look for Out & About at retail locations all over Hancock County and get inspired by everything our area has to offer!

out&about

www.acadivisor.com