

Mysterious red flares spur fruitless search

BASS HARBOR — Multiple sightings of red flares off Bass Harbor Saturday night sent the Southwest Harbor Coast Guard Group and the Tremont constable searching for the cause of the flares.

But after five to six hours of turning up only negative sightings, the case was suspended pending further developments, according to a Coast Guard spokesman.

BM3 Edward Sampson said the first sighting of four red flares was reported to the Coast Guard at 9 p.m. Saturday. Soon after that, 12 more people from different areas called to report seeing the flares.

Workshops to explore radiation

PRESQUE ISLE — The health effects of radiation and nuclear power will be the subject of four workshops to be offered throughout Aroostook County Wednesday and Thursday, May 26 and 27, entitled "Radiation and Health: Is There a Connection?"

The workshops will address issues of interest to Maine citizens as well as the global implications of continued nuclear technology, and are open to all interested individuals.

The workshops will be presented at the following times and locations: From 1 to 3 p.m. Wednesday, May 26, at Houlton Regional Hospital; 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, May 26, at the Lions Club Community Center in Caribou, sponsored by Cary Medical Center; 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Thursday, May 27, at the A.R. Gould Division of The Aroostook Medical Center; and 1 to 3 p.m. Thursday, May 27, at the University of Maine at Presque Isle, Folsom 105, sponsored by UMPI and Citizens of Aroostook for Safe Energy.

All presentations are being coordinated by Northern Maine RAISE, an

The Coast Guard pinpointed the location of the flares north of Bass Harbor, off Lopaus Point. A Coast Guard vessel already underway was diverted to the area, and the Tremont constable was asked to check the shoreline.

"We didn't see anything," said Sampson. "We were looking for a vessel in distress or objects or debris in the water. The area was thoroughly covered. We made negative sightings."

Sampson refused to speculate on the source of the flares. Asked if the Coast Guard suspected the flares to be smugglers' signals, Sampson said, "I can't say the cause or the reason. I'm not at liberty to say."

Tremont Constable Chandler Kelley said Sunday that he had searched the coastline for three to 3½ hours from Moose Island to Bass Harbor. He saw a flashing light, sighted by fishermen, too, off Swan's Island and three red flares.

"I narrowed the (location of) the flares down to somewhere between Mitchell Cove and the outer end of Bass Harbor Head, but I couldn't find anything or anybody in trouble. It was a very dark night. I did spot the Coast Guard boat."

Kelley said he knew of no distress signals intercepted by fishermen or the Coast Guard. "It could have been just someone with extra flares shooting them off," he said. "Of course, you don't dare take a chance."

MS research leading to

By Jeanne Curran
Of the NEWS Staff

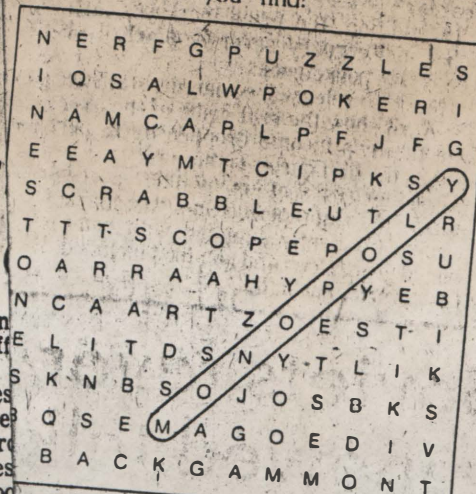
Describing the latest advances in research on multiple sclerosis, Dr. Robert J. Slater of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society's New England chapter of the organization the success should result in a cure for the disease "so

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