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WATERBORO Voters say no to land purchase

BY KERRY DEANGELIS

Less than 8 percent of Waterboro's registered voters turned down the town's proposal to purchase the Malone property in the March 27 Special Election. The proposal was to buy a 37-acre parcel off Route 5 for \$275,000, from the town's undesignated fund balance, to potentially be used for a Waterboro Water District storage tank and possibly a business park. A total of 372 votes were cast, including 60 absentee ballots. The results were 198 NO and 173 YES with one blank ballot.

Town administrator, Gary Lamb was disappointed with the turnout. He said in a statement, that it was a very poor turnout for a population of over 7,800 with just under 5,200 registered voters. "The voters have spoken and the Water District will pursue alternate plans," he added.

Selectmen Chair Dennis Abbott was also disappointed but wasn't surprised with the turnout. "The low turnout seems to be normal unless there is a statewide or national election concurrent with the municipal election," Abbott said in an email.

Abbott did not know what the next step for the Waterboro Water District would be, but said that the discussion several months ago with the selectmen, was to possibly lease a suitable lot from the town's

(Continued on page 3)



Mya Sage Wolfinger, of Shapleigh, and Franklin, her grandmother's Newfoundland and mascot at Maplehouse Farm in Waterboro on Maple Sunday. See Page 4 for more Maple Sunday photos. PHOTO BY KERRY DEANGELIS

LIMERICK Town applying for water and sewer grant

BY SHELLEY BURBANK

At a public hearing on March 19, selectmen and citizens of Limerick discussed water and sewer line replacement on Main Street which, if grant money is awarded, could start as early as 2019. The water and sewer lines needing replacement are from Washington Street to Elm Street near Tibbetts Memorial Park.

John Cleveland has been hired to write and coordinate the application for a State of Maine Community Development Block Grant for the estimated \$257,000 project. The grant would cover \$200,000 of the total cost, and the town recently voted to expend as much as \$100,000. According to Cleveland, who presented an outline of project at the hearing, the town's water and sewer lines on Main street were installed a century ago. They were installed in a single ditch with the water line on top of the sewer line. "The ditches were all dug by hand," he said.

There are several reasons for replacement. First, the state of Maine Department of Transportation has been upgrading Route 5 both north and south of Limerick but has been unable to redo the section through town because of the old infrastructure. Cleveland and selectmen hope that coordinating with the D.O.T. will allow both the water and sewer systems and the road and sidewalks to be upgraded at the same time, minimizing

(Continued on page 2)



Children searching for eggs at the Egg Hunt on Shapleigh Commons. See Page 8 for story. PHOTO BY JOANNE BARGIONI



Lillian Roberts displayed artwork in the Portland Museum of Art's Youth Art Month Exhibition. Lillian is an 8th grade student at Massabesic Middle School and was chosen to represent MMS for this exhibition. COURTESY PHOTO

LIMERICK

Shelley Burbank

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WATER AND SEWER

(Continued from page 1)

the disruption to traffic and Main Street businesses. "In the long term it will help facilitate the repair and rehabilitation of that section of Route 5," said Cleveland.

Second, the old sewer pipes are breaking and cracking and are misaligned and even blocked in some places. The sewage pipes, when dry, can leak through the cracks and when wet can create a surge in pressure that sucks water into the water treatment facility. This, in turn, uses capacity. By fixing the sewer lines, the water treatment system's lifespan will be extended, saving the town money in the long run.

Third, the water lines are "scaling" iron which causes a build-up and reduces the flow through the pipes. It is unclear if the blockage in the lines has caused any problems to date, but fixing the water and sewage pipes is important to public health and safety according

to selectmen and Cleveland, and this, they hope, will give Limerick a good chance at being awarded the grant money.

Cleveland and selectmen met with Main Street business owners whose concerns were voiced regarding the timeline for the project as well as disruption to their operation. Cleveland said he hopes to minimize that disruption and to avoid causing traffic issues during high-use times of year such as when traffic to the Fryeburg Fair increases in October.

Though separate from the grant, if the D.O.T. upgrades the road just after the lines have been replaced, Main Street would have new paving, new curbing, new storm drainage, and new sidewalks. Coordinating the two projects is desirable not only to mitigate traffic issues and business disruption but also to revitalize Main Street. "It would be leveraging one project with another project to have an end product that would be even a better outcome," Cleveland said.

Barbara Fifield, who has been working with a committee on Main Street revitalization, brought a couple of suggestions and questions to the podium. She said the committee is interested in eliminating telephone poles, running

the telephone and electric wires underground, putting in more decorative lighting, and including spaces for trees to be planted. Cleveland explained that running lines underground is expensive and would have to be financed through raising money or borrowing money but that some towns have kept the poles and wires but added decorative lighting. These sorts of decisions would be made during the design phase of the project, said Joanne Andrews.

The timeline for the project, if all goes well is as follows:

- State of Maine CDBC grant application due at the end of March 2018
- Notice of award in May 2018
- Environmental review, design of system, compliance with regulations done by early 2019
- Request bids for construction in early 2019
- Project completion by late 2019 or early 2020.

Research club hosting music and art event

The Research Club of Limerick will be hosting "A Night of Music & Art" at Limerick's Brick Town Hall on Tuesday, April 3 at 7 p.m. This event will showcase the Massabesic High School Mu-

sic Ensemble led by band director, Adam Goad, and chorus director, Heather Guilfoyle.

In addition to the music, the public will also be able to see entries in the high school art contest run by the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC), the mother-organization of the Research Club. Entries this year are from Bonny Eagle High School, and the winning entry will go on to the district competition. Judges for the competition are local artists, Diane Snow and Frank Jedrychowski.

Refreshments will be served by the Research Club, and the public is warmly and enthusiastically invited to join in and enjoy the music and art of local students.

Paint day at the library

On March 24, eight Limerick Public Library patrons gathered in the meeting room to enjoy a morning of acrylic painting with Limerick artist Kelsey Harris. Starting out with blank canvases and palettes of black, white, yellow, purple, several shades of green, and even glitter, the students followed Harris's instructions and example, first outlining the graphic shape of an elephant and then proceeding to create funky stripes and white

mandala-type designs on a black background.

Harris, who has her own online retail art business called Designs by Kelsey Kay, also has one of her quilts displayed near the circulation desk of the library this month. She offers her painting classes at various venues in the area. More information about upcoming classes and available art for purchase can be found on her Facebook page @handmadebykkh.

Upcoming mosaic class at the library

In April, Waterboro artist, Brigit McCallum, will be teaching a mosaic class where participants will create their own mosaic house-number sign. The two-session class will be held April 14, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and April 21, 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Participants will learn how to safely cut glass, design their own house number on a slate shingle, learn about grout color selection and application, and will come away with a beautiful piece of art to display on or in their home.

McCallum is a member of the Society of American Mosaic Artists and the Contemporary Mosaic Art community, and she has studied under Seattle-based mosaic artist, Kelley Knickerbocker. On her website, McCallum states, "As a determined recycler and reuser, I seek out ways to work with repurposed slate roof shingles, scrap glass and tile, found furniture, and rusted metal, turning them into art. Using what others decide is junk allows me to articulate some of my personal core beliefs."

The cost for the class is \$18 per adult with an 8-person limit. Contact the library to sign up.

CORNISH

Society events

The Cornish Historical Society will hold a Tea and History event on Sunday, April 8 from 3 to 5 p.m. at Pike Memorial Hall, 17 Maple Street (Route 25), Cornish. This benefit, to help fund stage renovations, will feature a short talk on how Cornish was named in 1794, a presentation and tea-tasting by the proprietor of the Clipper Merchant Tea House, and short film on Cornwall England. The fifth annual Duck Derby on the Little River behind Main Street will be Saturday, April 28, rain or shine with the race starting at 11 a.m. The annual Vintage Baseball Tournament at Cornish Fairgrounds is scheduled for June 23-24. For more info contact Sandy Howe, President Cornish Historical Society, 625-4813 or thehowefamily@hotmail.com.

Auction

A Take-A-Chance Auction will be held April 14 at the Sacopee Valley Elementary School in Hiram. Doors open for viewing from 4 to 6:30 p.m. Auction starts at 6:30 p.m. with hundreds of items and refreshments available for purchase. Sponsored by the Ossipee Valley Agricultural Society. For more info call Dwayne Woodsome at 929-0056.

Spring SPORTS PREVIEW

Show support for our local athletes!

The Spring **SPORTS PREVIEW** will be published on April 13, with complete schedules for the upcoming high school spring sports programs, including baseball, lacrosse, track and field, tennis and softball. Show your support for your favorite teams and athletes!

GOOD LUCK MUSTANGS!

Wishing all of the Massabesic athletes a great season.

-from the staff at the Reporter

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WATERBORO

ELECTION

(Continued from page 1)

Bennett Hill Road property where the Transfer Station is, to locate their proposed water storage tank.

When asked what will now come of the undesignated fund balance, Abbott said it will continue to be used during annual budgeting as it has been in the past. "Certainly there are numerous capital improvements that some may be applied to, but generally, we will propose the utilization of a prudent amount annually after consulting with the Town's Audit Firm. This helps minimize tax rate increases," he said.

According to the landowner, John Malone, he has a number of interested parties and says the land is valued at \$350,000. "I'm not going to give it away. The town was offered this parcel below market price," said Malone. He says he is meeting with another potential buyer this weekend.

Tree removal at fire station

According to the Waterboro Fire Department, the town's DPW Director David Benton began looking at the trees surrounding the central fire station last year as many were diseased or unhealthy. Benton and a logging company worked out a deal to remove the damaged softwood trees at no cost to the town. The hardwood trees remain and the end result will be a grassy park-like area around the station. They also hope this will help with visibility when emergency vehicles are leaving the station, as the fire station can now be clearly seen from Route 5 and Old Alfred Road.

Plumbers rebuilding

Plumber's Ace Hardware in Waterboro has finally begun their



Softwood trees surrounding the Waterboro Central Fire Station property have been cut down as a matter of safety and aesthetics. PHOTO BY KERRY DEANGELIS

rebuilding process after losing their building to a fire last July. Excavation started at the site on March 26 including deliveries of pieces of the new building. Concrete was poured on March 29.

They are anticipating a late summer opening, and the Family Dollar store will be returning to the building as well.

Trails closed

The Ossipee Mountaineers Snowmobile Club has announced that the trails are closed for the season. They are asking riders to respect the landowners and stay off the trails.

Cyr awarded \$10,000 scholarship

Emily Cyr of East Waterboro was one of 615 high school students recently awarded the 2018 Horatio Alger State Scholarship of \$10,000. The nonprofit organization honors the achievements of outstanding individuals for their admirable commitment to continuing their education and serving their communities, despite facing significant adversity.

The scholarship recipients have maintained an average GPA of 3.67. Cyr is a senior at Massabesic High School.

Last day of school

The RSU 57 School Board has voted to make the last day of school for students June 22 by reducing the number of student days to 175 and utilizing time from early release days on April 4 and May 16 which are now full student days. Middle and high school students will be dismissed at noon and elementary students at 1:15 p.m. on June 22.

Building code workshop

A workshop at Waterboro Town Hall regarding the newly adopted 2015 Maine State Building Codes will be held on April 13. The cost is \$25 in advance or \$35 the day of the event. Call Tammy Bellman at the Code Office to register at 247-6166, ext. 121.

Swim team pet food pantry drive

A stuff the truck event to benefit the No Bowl Empty Pet Food Pantry in Hollis is going on now through April 8. Donations can be

dropped off at Leighton's Garage in Waterboro or at Massabesic Middle Middle School on April 8. This is a Massabesic Middle School Swim Team community service project. Items needed are cat and dog food, clumping cat litter, cat and dog treats and toys, pet beds, carriers and more. The pet food pantry provides assistance to over 400 families every week in Southern Maine.

Bank matches funds for library

Biddeford Savings Bank has pledged to match the bids/donations for the Waterboro Public Library's Silent Auction up to \$1,000. Many items are up for bid at the library. The money raised will redecorate the little children's playroom that is off the larger Children's Room and buy new materials for the wee ones! Auction ends April 7. Come on in and bid!

Business expo

A Business Expo will be held on Wednesday, April 25 from 4 to 7 p.m. at 10 Goodall Drive, Waterboro (formerly Good for All Pharmacy). Sponsored by the Massabesic Business Exchange, this event is free and open to the public.

BRIEFS

Arrive Alive creative contest now accepting submissions

The 14th annual Arrive Alive Creative Contest is open to graduating high school seniors in Maine who wish to send a message to their peers about the dangers of drinking and driving and/or distracted driving.

Sponsored by the Law Offices of Joe Bornstein, students may enter a creative project of their choice depicting the dangers teenagers face when behind the wheel. Past winners have included essays, poems, paintings, videos, original songs, public service announcements, t-shirt designs, board games, drawings and more.

First-place winners receive a new laptop computer, second and third place winners receive a new iPad, and all entrants receive fun prizes from the law firm. The deadline for this year's contest is Friday, May 11.

In the past 13 years, the Law Offices of Joe Bornstein has given away over \$120,000 in prizes to graduating high school seniors to help promote safe driving practices. A complete set of rules and all past winning entries can be viewed online at www.arrivealivecreativecontest.com.

Harvey the rabbit

April 13 through April 22 an invisible 6 foot rabbit named Harvey is making his stage debut at Schoolhouse Arts Center. Harvey, is directed by Chris Roberts and assistant directed by Hollie Pryor. The show plays Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 and Sundays at 2 p.m. This is a hilarious comedy for the whole family. Join the mayhem at Schoolhouse Arts Center, 16 Richville Road (route 114) in Standish. Make your reservations at www.schoolhousearts.org.

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Maple Sunday

MARCH 25



Tommy and Mason Kimball of Arundel.



Mackenzie Clancy, almost 5, of East Waterboro super happy to locate maple cotton candy at Maple Hill Sugar House in West Newfield.



Katherine Carroll from Vickie's Olde School Gift Shoppe and Maple Sugar House in Limerick handing out ice cream and Maple Syrup.

PHOTO BY JOANNE BARGIONI



Rod Dyer, left, owner of Triple C Farm and Brad Kimball.



Workers at Triple C Farm, from left, Sheri Huff of Raymond, Lise-Lotte Kammerer Nichols of Waterboro and Kim Labbe Andrews of Newfield.



Sap bucket race at Hilltop Boilers. You must run with a bucket of sap in under 9 seconds. David Phinney, right, ran under 9 seconds winning a whoppie pie and Luke Cloutier missed out by a second winning a maple candy. Both from Waterboro.



Brandon Marby of Limerick.



Ava Kimball, left, and Laura Clukey, both of Arundel, sampling maple lollipops at Triple C Farm in Lyman.



Ian Chaney, owner of Scenic View Sugaring in Limerick had a great Maple Sunday watching the whole process evolve.



Amy Kimball and grandson Mason.



From left, Faith, Jovie and Selene Mayo of Waterboro.



From left, Rachel Fletcher of Alfred, Sydney Sotir of Buxton, Abby and Sam Weisenbach of North Waterboro and Ricky and Michael Hendrix of North Waterboro.

NEWFIELD

C.J. Pike

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793-8760

Memories of Willowbrook

Donald and Marguerite King opened the 19th Willowbrook Museum on Elm Street in 1970 and operated it for more than 30 years.

Newfield Historical Society brought these memories back by displaying them at an exhibition of the museum's memorabilia at their Open House at 64 Elm Street on Sunday, March 25.

According to local history, King first came to Newfield in the 1960's on a hunting trip and loved the area. He eventually bought the Durgin house and barns on Elm Street, to use as a hunting lodge.

He loved old tools, gadgets, old cars, home furnishings, carriages, and anything from the by-gone days, so he spent many hours going around to estate sales and old farmsteads combing through them to see what he could buy to put into his collection.

He eventually bought old buildings and moved them to the area, and had others built, to house his growing collection. By the late 1960's he had the idea to open a museum to display everything for others to see and enjoy.

Historical society curator Johanne Vaters helped to organize the exhibition with photos of various items too big for the building, and arrange other items around the inside for easy viewing. Paintings and photos were hung on the walls and set on the tables.

Historical society member Clayton Chute brought a painting of his great grandmother's house, which is still standing on Water Street. The painting was done by his wife Sylvia and depicts the house with an attached shed and barn, the way homes were built back 1898, when it was purchased.



Curator Johanne Vaters and President Joe Iannazzo of Newfield Historical Society stand by a portrait of Maude Moore, who taught music back in the early days of Newfield. The portrait was a donation from the 19th Century Willowbrook Museum.

PHOTO BY C.J. PIKE

Other recent photos were of the members moving the items that were donated to them when the museum recently changed ownership. One in particular was of Wayne Vaters moving the old hearse from where it had been on display to its new location, rolling it across the street with the help of Joe Iannazzo.

Another photo was of Maude Moore, Newfield's music teacher. She lived with her parents, Ann and John Moore, in the Durgin house and taught music there.

The house was one of the first houses in the area to have running water installed with lead pipes. Two Moore family members mysteriously died during the time they lived at the house, possibly for that reason. The house was also used as a tavern and a stage coach stop at one time.

The historical societies open house as a great success with people coming from the Berwicks, Limington, Limerick, Wells, and as far away as Laconia, New Hampshire.

Liz Tuttle won the "Early Families of Newfield" book; Mary Ritchie won the tote bag of maple syrup products; and I was lucky enough to win the gift certificate donated by Country Goods and Groceries.

Newfield Democrats seek active members

Newfield Democrats are looking for people to step up to form a Newfield Democratic Committee and to serve as its officers.

Hilary Wallis was elected chair at the March 4 Newfield Democratic Caucus, and Virginia Woodwell was elected secretary of the caucus. However, that was for the caucus meeting only, and at this time, they invite people to form the Newfield Democratic Committee and lead it to an active future. Anyone interested in volunteering, may contact Hilary at 793-4428.

Coming soon is the Maine Democratic Convention, which will be held on Friday, May 18 through Sunday, May 20, at the Colisee in Lewiston. The party is still looking for delegates to go to the convention. For more information, please call her at the above phone number.

Happy birthday!

Birthday wishes go to Michael Polcaro, who celebrates on April 1.

Meetings

Cub Scout Pack #329 - April 2, at Line School at 818 Water Street at 6 p.m.

The American Legion - April 2,

Massabesic walkout

By Emma Sweeney

On Friday, March 16, about 40 students of all ages at Massabesic High School participated in a walkout to bring awareness about school shootings. It was also to honor the lives of the 17 students at the Stoneman Douglas school shooting in Parkland, Florida. At 10 a.m., during the event that was entirely organized by students, they

walked to the flagpole by the East building, and stood there for 17 minutes. There was staff outside making sure everyone safe and behaving.

For weeks before the event, social media was flooded with information on the walkout, and people were expressing their opinions on it. There were many differing opinions regarding the walkout. It had different meanings for different people. For some, it was to honor lives that were lost, for others bringing awareness to school shootings, and some people thought it was about gun control.

Principal James Hand sent an email to the students saying they will not be disciplined,

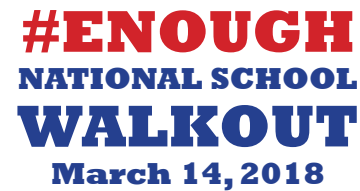
however, they will be responsible for any work missed. Teachers remained in their classrooms for students who did not want to participate. Sophomore Kayleen Turner said, "I did it because I'm fed up with unnecessary violence. It's not that I'm anti gun, its that I'm anti violence." Instead of doing the walkout,

some students chose to write letters to send to students of Stoneman Douglas with materials that were set up during lunch by the guidance department.

Despite missing the national walkout day due to snow, Massabesic still had theirs, just two days later.

Emma Sweeney is a freshman at Massabesic High School. She is a member of the NJROTC program at MHS, a member of the Drill Team and the Upward Bound program.

She lives in North Waterboro and has a cat named Rufus.



at the Brick Town Hall at 19 Main Street in Limerick at 7 p.m.

Boy Scout Troop #329 - April 2, at the Scout Hall at 7 School Street in Limerick at 6:30 p.m. New members always welcome. Jim Dion is the Scoutmaster. Call Joe Iannazzo at 850-6237.

Newfield Firefighters training session - April 3, at the Public Safety Building at 85 Water Street in West Newfield at 7 p.m. New members are welcome to attend.

Tea Time - April 4, at the Newfield Village Library at 637 Water Street at 3 p.m.

The Comprehensive Planning Board monthly meeting - April 4,

at the Public Safety Building at 85 Water Street at 7 p.m.

Newfield Planning Board - April 4, at the Public Safety Building at 85 Water Street, at 8 p.m. following the comprehensive planning board meeting.

Newfield Rescue training session - April 5, at the Public Safety Building, at 85 Water Street, at 7 p.m. Anyone interested in volunteering may contact Dick or Hazel McGlincey at 793-2045 or any rescue member.

Northern York County Rod and Gun Club - April 6, at the clubhouse at Lewis Hill Road at 7:30 p.m.

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Our Students Give Thanks...

On behalf of the entire Waterboro Elementary School student body, the following students (who were selected by their teachers for consistently demonstrating our school rules of: Be Respectful. Be Responsible. Be Safe. Be Trustworthy, and Be Kind), joined together to give thanks to the Boston Bruins for a generous donation of street hockey equipment to our school! We are beyond thrilled to have received such an amazing gift and look forward to the snow clearing so that we can get outside and start playing.



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OBITUARIES

Robert D. Davidson, Sr.

Dateline: Limerick/Alfred
Robert D. Davidson, Sr., 99 years old, died peacefully on March 25, 2018 at the Gosnell Memorial Hospice House in Scarborough.



Robert D. Davidson, Sr.
the son of Robert M. and Maude (Cole) Davidson.

Robert was born on June 16, 1918 in Mt Kisco, New York, the son of Robert M. and Maude (Cole) Davidson. During World War II, Bob served with the Merchant Marines, supporting the troops with supplies. Upon his return home, he met and married Mary T. Gallant on January 26, 1949. They raised six children together, Mary was primarily a homemaker, and she kept the household running efficiently with a good dose of humor. Robert began a long and rewarding career as a Signal Man & Signal Maintainer with Boston & Maine and Maine Central for over 30 years.

Both Bob and Mary believed in giving back to their communities and found lifelong friendships with their memberships of the Ruth Chapter # 14 Order of Eastern Star in Sanford. Bob was a fellow Mason with the Alfred Masonic Lodge # 55 AF & AM for over 50 years. He was also a member of the Grand Lodge of Maine and the Kora Shriners; where he held many leadership positions. Bob was also of member of the American Legion Post # 19 in Sanford and supported many VFW functions to help those who needed a hand up. He was very proud to be an active member of the Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen, Local 120. Bob had many stories and adventures to share with his days working on the railroads!

Bob and Mary were longtime parishioners of Alfred Parish Church and made their home in Alfred for over 40 years. Bob was the sexton at Alfred Parish for close to 15 years. He made sure the grounds surrounding the church were mowed and the church was clean and ready to be

used not on for Sunday services, but during the week by different groups.

Bob was a quiet and thoughtful man; who believed in working a full day at work and treating others with kindness and respect. He enjoyed taking day trips and tending his many rose gardens around his home. If you needed to find him around Noon time, he'd be off to Wendy's with his "coffee buddies." He was also happy going off to Walmart not necessarily to shop, but to do a bit of "sight-seeing."

Bob wanted to reach his 100th birthday. . . His long and fruitful life will be remembered and cherished by his family and many friends.

He is lovingly survived by his wife of 69 years, Mary T. Davidson of Limerick; his children, Bruce C. Davidson and wife Barbara Cumberland; Jon S. Davidson and wife Mel of Mecca, AZ; Patricia J. Sheehan and husband James of Baldwin; and Mark P. Davidson and wife Sharon Nevada; 12 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

Bob was predeceased by his son, Robert D. Davidson, Jr and his daughter, Linda A. Davidson; and by his siblings, Eleanor New, Franklin D. R. Ranson and Ethel Ranson.

A Funeral Service will be held on Saturday, March 31 at 2 p.m. at the Alfred Parish Church, 12 Kennebunk Road, in Alfred with Rev. Sara Bartlett officiating. A calling hour will be held at the church beginning at 1:00 p.m. Following the service, you are invited to a reception in the parish hall next to the church. Committal prayers with military honors will be held later in the spring at the So. Maine Veterans Cemetery.

To leave a message of condolence for the family, visit www.autumngreenfuneralhome.com.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society, New England Division, Inc., 1 Bowdoin Mill Island, Suite 300, Topsham, ME 04086.

The Autumn Green Funeral Home is respectfully handling arrangements.

Ruel W. "Skip" Ricker III

Ruel W. "Skip" Ricker III, 79, of Buxton, died the evening of March 22 in the company of his wife and daughter after a long struggle with cancer. Born in Waterboro on December 6, 1938, to Ruel W. Ricker II and Bessie Hamilton Smith Ricker (both deceased), Skip grew up on a farm in Saco, raising dairy and beef cattle, pigs, horses, and other farm animals; tending acres of vegetable gardens and woodlands; and cultivating his lifelong love of tractors. A 1956 graduate of Thornton Academy, where he ran track, he went on to earn a degree in civil engineering at the University of Maine, Orono, graduating in 1961.

During his childhood and college years, Skip worked as a filling station attendant, a lumberjack, a heavy-equipment operator, and an engineering aide. Upon completion of his engineering studies, he worked as a civil engineer for the Maine Department of Transportation. In 1973, he became Highway Design Chief for the City of Portland, where he redesigned downtown Congress Street, as well as capital and neighborhood improvement projects, and contributed to state-aid construction projects. He also monitored updates to the Portland International Ferry Terminal. In 1978, Skip became City Engineer for South Portland, where he reviewed projects presented to the planning board and was instrumental in leading business expansion projects, with a focus on the Maine Mall area. Skip was an active member of the American Public Works Association for many years, serving as President of the State of Maine Chapter in 1979. From 1985 through 1990 he worked for R.J. Grondin & Sons in Gorham as a construction su-

perintendent and estimator, and then opened his own estimating business. After some health issues, Skip drove Shaw's Supermarket tractor-trailer trucks for Clifford W. Perham Trucking in Scarborough, and continued estimating on a smaller scale, working with Emery Brothers, Inc., in Buxton.

Skip was involved with the fire service in some aspect throughout most of his life: volunteer firefighter in Saco and South Portland, member of the Buxton fire-police, fire service training instructor for the Maine State Department of Education 1973-1978, and member of the Southern Maine Fire Notification Association in his retirement years, including a brief period as secretary. He served on the Buxton planning board 1989-1992. Skip loved chain saws and cut his share of cord wood over the years. He also refereed youth hockey in the 1970s and '80s; and loved tinkering on old tractors, plowing snow, and flying planes on his home flight simulator.

Skip is survived by his wife, Margaret A. "Peggy" Ricker, of Saco; daughter Barbara J. Ricker Foster, of Buxton; son Howard B. Ricker and wife Lisa M. Ellis Ricker, of Saco; and granddaughter Kassandra M. Ricker Foster and husband Gregory M. Foster, of Saco.

Visiting hours were held on March 29 at the Chad E. Poitras Cremation and Funeral Service Chapel, 498 Long Plains Road (Rt. 22) in Buxton. Burial will be at a later date at Pine Grove Cemetery in South Waterboro.

Online condolence messages can be submitted at www.maine-funeral.com.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Buxton Fire Department, 185 Portland Rd., Buxton, ME 04093.

OPINION

LETTERS

Required viewing for cable execs and republican legislators

"Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" (1939) and "Born Yesterday" (1950) both portray the deleterious effect of corporate lobbying in the halls of Congress and should always be "required viewing" for those in power.

Charter Communications, new to Maine in 2016, has been the subject of complaints received by the Attorney General's office for non-compliance with State cable franchising laws and would benefit from the lessons learned in those two films. Better known by their product line "Spectrum" and newly energized by a reported \$9.9 billion dollar profit in 2017, thanks partially to the new federal tax bill, Charter/Spectrum flexed their corporate muscles in February and joined with Comcast lobbyists to squash (along strict party lines) a small piece of proposed emergency legislation that would have benefited 300,000 cable viewers in Maine.

The one page bill, created with the help of a loosely organized group of Town Managers, Select Boards and Community Television volunteers with legal counsel, was sponsored by Senator David Miramant (D-Camden). If passed by the legislature, it would have prevented cable operators in Maine from moving the local Public, Educational and Governmental (PEG) channels from the easy to find single digit locations on cable TV systems where they have been for 30 years, up into a digital limbo in the 1301, 1302 etc. channel locations.

Charter maintains that this is a necessary part of their "digital encryption" project but fails to mention why the local commercial broadcast channels are not being moved as well. Ironically, it is because of the prime location on the dial that Charter has taken this step, as those lucrative channel locations can be leased to shopping networks, generating significant new revenue for the cable operator.

By making the PEG channels less conspicuous and less viewed, towns will be less likely to require increased franchise fees and capital grants from cable operators at franchise renewal times, a double win for the cable industry.

In addition, Charter refuses to carry local PEG channels in high definition and will down convert the HD signals to near VHS quality, even if HD signals are provided to them by the PEG originator.


Both issues and other enhanced consumer protections will be addressed in a new version of the bill which will be re-introduced in the next session of the legislature. Until then, our group stands ready to debate these issues with cable industry representatives in a televised open forum as opposed to behind closed doors at the State House.

Stay tuned.

Tony Vigue
Standish

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ALFRED

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Maple Sunday

In spite of rather chilly weather there were many people showing up at Giles Sugar House on Shaker Hill to taste this year's offerings. It was the first time the new sugar house had been opened for Maple Sunday; the ample space was a definite asset for boiling down the sap and making maple goodies.

These included maple coated peanuts, maple syrup apple crisp, cider donuts, crackers with maple butter, mulled cider with syrup and apple cider, and whatever else could be imagined using maple syrup. Norma Boucher, Shirley Boucher and Sylvia Gile were kept busy handing out samples.

Steve Gile, who co-owns the business with Frank Boucher, said they hang out approximately 800 buckets which are emptied daily. They will continue gathering sap for the next two weeks, weather permitting. Outside the sugar house the American Legion was selling hotdogs and French fries, and the Girl Scouts had their cookies for sale. It was a good afternoon for hungry people.

To benefit bats and birds

Upwards of 50 youngsters (including parents) showed up at Alfred Town Hall to engage in carpentry for bats and birds on March 22. Never mind that snow was still deep in most places. When the birds arrive there will be homes for them.

This was a Conservation Commission project for youngsters – and at least one oldster. Members of the committee had prepared the kits and most youngsters brought hammers and nails. Parents helped by holding pieces together while the children wielded the hammers. Bill Bullard, Fred Frodyma and Dominique Zulueta were on hand to pass out the kits and help where needed. There were at least as many mothers as fathers taking part in the project and keeping an eye on where the hammers landed.

Kim Schutsky had provided the patterns which the committee used. Recalling that last year only one youngster showed up to make a bird (or bat) house, this time it could be termed an over-



From left, Norma Boucher, Shirley Boucher and Sylvia Gile (in rear) were kept busy at Giles' Sugar House handing out maple goodies on Maple Sunday. PHOTOS BY ALLISON WILLIAMS

whelming success. The sound of all those hammers was somewhat deafening.

A nonliterary rabbit

Last Sunday approximately 100 children visited Parsons Memorial Library but they weren't really focusing on books. The attraction was a rabbit who was handing out candy. It is assumed some of them also took books home.

New books at the library include "Address" by Fiona Davis; "As You Wish" by Jude Deveraux; "Crimson Lake" by Candice Fox; "Duel to the Death" by Judith Jance; "Every Note Played" by Lisa Genova; "Bishop's Pawn" by Steve Berry; "Fade to Black" by David Rosenfelt; "I'll Be Your Blue Sky" by Merisa De Los Santos; "Red Alert" by James Patterson; and "Rising Sea" by Clive Cussler.

Parish church

The Easter Sunrise Service on April 1 will be held at the memorial garden beside the church, at 6 a.m. Following the service a breakfast will be served.

This past Sunday a procession of congregants left Conant Chapel carrying palms for the first service in the sanctuary in several weeks. Services will be held at 10 a.m. through the spring.

Following the service a baby shower for Karen St. Pierre was held, with everything that a well dressed newborn would need, including a bassinet and car seat.

The next session of Sunday School will be April 8.

Shaker speakers

Topics for the 2018 Sidney Emery Memorial Forum, sponsored by the Alfred Shaker Museum and the Sanford-Springvale Historical Society will include some diverse speakers. On May 20 Steve Folven, a Babe Ruth impersonator will lead the group. The June 24 speaker will be Mayor Tom Cote of Sanford on the city's 250th year. Eleanor Phillips Brackbill whose pioneer ancestor became a legend in Alaska will speak on Aug. 26 and on Oct. 14 a staffer at the Center for Wildlife in Cape Neddick will be a speaker.

As has been the custom, these talks will take place on Sunday afternoons and there will be no admission.

Village notes

The Food Pantry hours have been changed to Tuesdays and Fridays which is now down by the "elephant grave" in the old sheriff's building, from 12 to 3 p.m.

What did the prisoners eat in the old county jail? According to the information found by Bruce Tucker in his research, there was bread and tea for breakfast and supper. For dinner there was soup, stew, chowder or baked beans. This was in 1902, and it cost \$1.75 per inmate per week.

Ashley Cryer is in New Zealand on a student exchange visit. She is the daughter of Kim Cryer.

The next meeting of the New Century Club will be Monday, April 9, and the topic will be "Thriving in Place" a local county program to help seniors stay in their homes. Harland Eastman will be the speaker and co-hosts will be Alix and Stanley Gutkowski.

During the Alfred Historical Society meeting last week, Harland Eastman announced the Sanford/Springvale Historical Society is having the Southern Rail Bluegrass Concert perform April 7 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for adults and free admission for those under 18.

Local persons have been invited to attend "Tea and History" (We know how tea started a war in Boston) at Pike Memorial Hall in Cornish on Sunday, April 8 from 3 to 5. It is being held to fund to Pike Memorial Hall. Seating is limited and the cost is \$10. Scones will be served and tastings of different teas.

SHAPLEIGH

Joanne Bargioni

joannebargioni@gmail.com

Easter Egg Hunt

It was an egg-citing morning on Shapleigh Commons on Saturday, March 24 as the children of Shapleigh gathered for the Annual Easter Egg Hunt. With the sun poking out of the clouds and snow on the Commons, the Chairman of the Shapleigh Recreation Committee, Jessica Eastman, along with members of the Committee Kathy Fagan, Sandra Anderson, and Kristen Bennett hid about 1,000 eggs over Shapleigh Commons.

The multi-colored plastic eggs contained candy and toys and were hidden in plain site. The children started to congregate just before 10 a.m. The younger children were sent onto the Commons first with their Easter baskets in hand. Children over the age of 5 years were called to the hunt a few minutes later. There were plenty of eggs for everyone.

Approximately 40 children attended the event and in about ten minutes all the eggs had been discovered. The children, with their baskets full of eggs, made their way to the refreshment table to enjoy hot chocolate and cookies. All the children received toy prizes based on the amount of eggs collected.

Shapleigh Memorial School News

Shapleigh Memorial fifth grade students are taking a stand on waste. Their teachers, Felicity Kearns and teacher specialist Claire Ledue are teaming up with the students to reinforce a Recycling and Zero Waste Unit. According to Marisa Penney, Assistant Principal of SMS, the fifth-graders are to take on a leadership role for the entire school. Students are researching where garbage goes and how it is processed. In addition to looking into waste issues at their own school they have visited the Shapleigh Transfer Station and were scheduled to embark on a field trip to ecomaine this month. Ecomaine is Maine's largest recycling facility and is located in Portland.

On Jan. 30 the Town Selectmen, the Superintendent of Schools and the Assistant Principal were invited to the students presentation to enhance the idea that we all share the responsibility of waste disposal. It is important to the students to inform the community and parents of their findings. The students declared "we feel we need to improve our recycling, reusing and reducing habits in the 21st century. We are first trying to work with town officials as to how we can get an extra recycling



Harper Allaire proudly shows her eggs. PHOTO BY JOANNE BARGIONI

dumpster and how we transport our recycled items to the Transfer Station."

The students are grateful that they have received a grant from ecomaine to help get the recycle program up and running and to provide educational learning. Going forward these fifth grade "garbolgists" will pass the torch to the lower grades before heading to middle school.

Pancake breakfast

The Acton-Shapleigh Lions Club will be holding a pancake breakfast on Saturday, April 7 at the Acton Town Hall, 35 H Street from 8 to 10 a.m. The breakfast includes sausage, beans, toast, eggs, orange juice, milk, tea and coffee and of course pancakes. The price for breakfast is \$5 and the proceeds go to help the many agencies sponsored by the Lions Club.

Upcoming meetings

The Shapleigh Community Library Board of Trustees will meet Monday, April 9 at the Library, 607 Shapleigh Corner Road at 6:30 p.m. for the election of officers and to meet the two newly elected board members. The public is invited to attend.

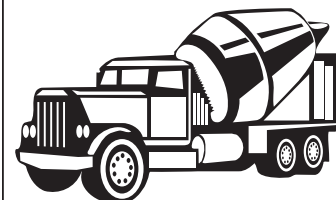
Happy Birthday!

Happy birthday to my grandson, Doyle Carter, who turned 6 years old on March 22.

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