

REPORTER

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

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THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2020



Local farmers taking orders

Jason and Chase Harris stand in front of the feed barn at Harris Turkey Farm on Bridge Street, in West Newfield, where they will receive 100 poult at the end of this month, kicking off their 6th year in business.

PHOTO BY C.J. PIKE

Turkey farm named 'Best of West Newfield'

BY C.J. PIKE

The Harris Turkey Farm on Bridge Street is making itself known around town for their farm raised turkeys, pot pies, soups and homemade cheesecake, which is why they have recently received the Best of West Newfield award for a local business.

Jason and Chase Harris started the business back in 2015 with turkeys just for Thanksgiving, but by the next year, they added the turkey pot pies.

In 2016, they started working with some recipes to make the turkey pot pies, and came up with three different flavors, which really caught on. They make a 36-ounce pie, which will feed three people, and a 10-pound pie,

which will feed up to 10 or more people. The pies are made in three different flavors: Parisian Style, Albuturque Pot Pie, and Best Traditional Turkey Pot Pie, each one having the special ingredients to make it delicious, with a butter crust, made from scratch.

According to Jason Harris, business has been good and especially during this time of crisis, people want to buy homemade, and to "buy local."

Some of their other specialty items are cranberry orange relish, and four different kinds of homemade cheesecake, which are New York Style with Lemon Zest, Maple Pecan, Let's Get Toasted, and Mocha Cappuccino. Chase Harris is the 'master chef' on making the

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Partners Bank Credit Analyst Alex Shain (left) is the most recent employee to be selected for the Bank's Employee Donation Program. He selected Special Olympics Maine to receive the \$500 gift. Shain is pictured here volunteering at the recent Special Olympics Winter Games. (See story on Page 3.)

COURTESY PHOTO

King pushes to support local journalism amid pandemic

"Reliable local news and information has been critically important during the COVID-19 pandemic, yet it has become more scarce."

U.S. Senator Angus King (I-Maine) along with nineteen other senators is seeking to support local journalism and media in any future coronavirus relief package. In a letter to Senate leadership and appropriators, the senators stress that the widespread impact of the pandemic – including plummeting advertising revenue – could decimate regional and local news outlets even as communities have become increasingly reliant on their reporting amidst the public health crisis. Already some newspapers have reduced or eliminated print editions, while other news outlets have furloughed staff.

"The current public health crisis has made the already vital role of local news even more critical," the senators wrote. "Some of the

most important guidance for families and businesses during this crisis has been highly localized. Local journalism has been providing communities answers to critical questions, including information on where to get locally tested, hospital capacity, road closures, essential business hours of operation, and shelter-in-place orders. During this unprecedented public health crisis, people need to have access to their trusted local news outlets for this reliable and sometimes life-saving information."

"The COVID-19 pandemic has only increased the extraordinary value of local news outlets, which have seen huge jumps in traffic since the beginning of March. Local news stories are now among the most viewed stories in the country – even as local media fight to survive the pandemic. Without funding from the next stimulus package, we may lose one of the most important sources of information we have to navigate through this crisis," said Lisa Macpherson, Senior Policy

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LETTERS

Camp Sa-Gis-Ca – A tragic tale

The Acton-Shapleigh Historical Society gets many inquiries from people asking for information on a place they're researching or a particular family in their genealogical pursuits. Between our members and 50 plus years of accumulated materials we can usually find answers to their questions. Other times, as in the case of one recent email request, we were stumped.

The inquirer asked if Acton-Shapleigh Historical Society (ASHS) had any photos or other information on Camp Sa-Gis-Ca, the Girl Scout camp located on Horn Pond in Acton. One of the last surviving buildings is not far from the inquirer's home and she's curious as to what became of the camp. ASHS's Board of Directors had no knowledge of any photos or other material in the archives, and only one member could produce a newspaper clipping about the camp. The clipping, published after the camp had already closed, is an editorial in which the writer laments the camp's closure as

a duping of the community by the Kennebec Girl Scout Council who took over the camp and subsequently closed it. The Council removed all the equipment from the camp, put it up for sale and left hundreds of girls in the Sanford-Springvale area out of a local site to learn scouting.

Such an horrendous event must have an intriguing back story, but a search of the Internet came up quite lacking until I stumbled upon Springvale Library's digital archive of the Sanford Tribune from 1895 to 1971. A quick search of the archive produced over 300 hits – enough to piece together this camp's brief but important history and the role it played in Sanford and the surrounding communities.

The camp's story starts in 1940, when Dr. H. Danforth Ross, William Marland and Lloyd Batchelder gave 60 acres, a farmhouse and an outbuilding at Horn Pond to the Girl Scouts of the Sanford area. It is said that the farmhouse and outbuilding originally stood across the

lake and during one winter they were dragged by oxen across the ice to their present site when the Girls Scouts acquired them. The Girl Scouts began using the camp in 1941. They used the main farmhouse as dining hall downstairs and infirmary in the attic. The outbuilding was used for arts and crafts and a place to get out of the elements. There was no running water or indoor toilets at this time and water was heated on a small gas stove in the kitchen. But it was a place for girls to swim, boat, pioneer, hike and socialize.

The camp accommodated all age levels and was divided into three units for those ages: Hideaway, Hillside and Lakeside. Each level had trained staff specific to those age levels, and those staff members were certified by the Red Cross in water safety. A registered nurse was also part of the staff, and they were all overseen by a camp director.

For those first few years it was called the Sanford-Springvale Girl Scout Camp. Then a contest among the local Girl Scouts was held to rename the site, and a Girl Scout whose name is lost to history camp up with Sa-Gis-Ca – Sanford Girl Scout Camp.

In the first decade of operation, camping was divided into three 2-week sessions starting in July. With registration starting in April, all sessions usually filled by opening day. It was said that a single 2-week session was worth 2 years of troop activities.

The Sanford-Springvale Neighborhood Association, GSA, oversaw Sa-Gis-Ca, and consisted of several adult volunteers responsible for organizing troops, leaders and other volunteers in the area. In the early years they were responsible for fund raising and asking other community groups to volunteer time and resources. Volunteers helped clean and maintenance the grounds and buildings. The local

Kiwanis Club even held a benefit auction in 1951 that raised enough money to buy materials for a new infirmary. The Club went a step further and had all volunteers construct the new building.

The first camp director was Estelle Q. Clarke. A Sanford High School teacher for 24 years, Clarke was involved in Girl Scouts long before that in her native New York State. She and her husband, William, were heavily involved in all facets of Girl Scouts, ensuring that the camp was a positive experience for all attendees. In 1953 Clarke retired due to illness, and the Neighborhood Association honored her with a dinner and announcement that a campership program was set up in her name. The campership was given to a Girl Scout each year who was active not only in the scouting program but in community activities and displayed leadership, initiative and willingness to accept responsibility. The campership was one free 2-week session at Sa-Gis-Ca. The first campership was given to Miss Ellen Brackett in 1954, just weeks after Clarke passed away.

Upon Clarke's retirement, the directorship went to Norma Farrar, a remarkable woman who spearheaded such improvements as indoor plumbing, a proper kitchen and a playground. Farrar was remarkable in that she was legally blind yet ran the camp effectively with her Seeing Eye dog Patty. During her directorship more programs were developed focusing on intensive boating and canoeing and included Red Cross life saving courses for advanced swimmers. Water carnivals were held as well as "backwards suppers" where attendees wear their clothing backwards and the food was eaten, dessert first of course, with toothpicks, egg beaters and mixing spoons. Farrar's time at Sa-Gis-Ca saw the biggest jump in the local Girl Scouts – from 50 to 90 troops

and from 1000 to 2000 girls.

Also in 1954 the Gorgeana Council was formed by joining Girls Scouts of York County with Girl Scouts of Somersworth, NH to pool resources. This council needed to raise a lot of money to support all the activities these girls participated in throughout the year. They also had fund raisers specifically to cover repairs to Sa-Gis-Ca's buildings, including fixing the chimney in the farmhouse, leveling the floors and repairing the foundation.

The local Girl Scouts also sold cookies to finance troop activities, a tradition since the organization was founded in 1912. A 1959 story in the Sanford Tribune explained how five cents of each box went to buy troop flags and camping and hiking equipment. The remaining profit went toward day camping, supporting Sa-Gis-Ca and enabling qualified senior Girl Scouts to participate in national events. A lot of cookies must have been sold in 1959 because the Gorgeana Council approved three new tents, a \$1500 budget was approved to buy new equipment and Sa-Gis-Ca would see four 2-week camping sessions. The following year must have also been lucrative, 25 camperships were awarded and a new dock was made and installed by Hussey Manufacturing Company in North Berwick.

In addition to adding new equipment and making repairs each year, the mid 1950s to mid 1960s saw new activities added such as water skiing, special cycling programs and caring for rabbits. The 2-week sessions would fill up and there were waiting lists.

In 1963 the Gorgeana Council and 10 others merged into the Kennebec Girl Scout Council (KGSC). KGSC was formed to provide better service for existing programs and increase membership. By 1967, KGSC brought the number of 2-week sessions back down to three even though there was still a waiting list. But they brought in

(Continued on page 3)

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GIRLSCOUT CAMP

(Continued from page 2)

new dining room equipment. The following year there were only two 2-week sessions even though the York County Girl Scouts ordered over 9600 boxes of cookies that spring. Not much else was reported in the Sanford Tribune that year or the following.

By 1970 a new director was named for Camp Sa-Gis-Ca and there were still only two 2-week sessions. Activities seemed to be running business as usual according to the weekly reports in the paper. That is, until the last day of the last session of the season, August 14. The previous day an editorial by Nancy Emery Eastman appeared in the Sanford Tribune announcing plans by KGSC to close the camp permanently and sell the property. Eastman pointed out that the camp was given to the Sanford area Girl Scouts and that KGSC was taking it away from them. She went on to say that for many years it benefitted area Girl Scouts including herself and her daughter, and that there's never been a lack of enrollment. With the camp closing the Sanford area girls would have to travel to Bridgton, a 50 mile trek. Eastman laments the council's lack of concern for the York County Girl Scouts and closes with "it would be sad to see Camp Sa-Gis-Ca erased from the map."

Another, unsigned editorial two weeks later further explains KGSC's intentions to sell Sa-Gis-Ca and purchase another, larger

and more modern camp in Bridgton but at the expense of all the York County Girl Scouts and residents who camped there or volunteered there over the past 30 years. The writer even vilifies the national Girl Scout organization, citing its ruthless taking of a property that was not theirs to take and closing and selling it without even notifying the local community that maintained and enjoyed it for so long.

As rumors turned to facts, more editorials were published. On September 3, an editorial stated that the camp was put on the market for \$120,000 (\$800,000 in today's economy), and the writer suggested the community raise the money to buy the camp back.

Finally on September 24, Mrs. Philip W. Richards, president of KGSC, replied to the previous editorials. She started by saying there were some facts which the previous writers were unaware of. This stated the obvious since all the writers admitted that the community was not aware of what transpired at the KGSC board meetings. Richards stated that when KGSC was formed in 1963 the first order of business was to assess the attendance versus income in all the camps in their possession. She claimed the assessors found two residents camps, Sa-Gis-Ca being one, operated at deficits from 1964 through 1967 and recommended closing them. But in her next paragraph she states that in response to the recommendations the KGSC board members voted to buy a 350-acre site on Adams Lake in Bridgton, then use the proceeds from the

sale of the two residents camps and one day camp that were operating at deficits.

Richards defends the purchase by listing its "upscale" amenities such as heated building and close proximity to ski areas. And the fact that it's 50 miles from Sanford, she matter-of-factly states is "not an unreasonable distance these days." She closes by reminding the reader to "think of the talents of silver in the Bible parable," that KGSC is taking the 1940 gift by three Sanford residents to a few local girls and investing it to benefit many more local girls. However, the readers can infer that the "local girls" won't be the Sanford area ones.

The final editorial comes on Oct. 8, 1970, again from Eastman, which she calls the KGSC response inadequate. She says if they knew the camp was below capacity they should have asked themselves if they were doing all in their power to bring it to its full capacity. What Eastman concludes is that KGSC is only looking at the camps as money makers rather than as benefits for local girls. It certainly goes against Girl Scouts being a non-profit organization.

Here the case goes cold. The camp was sold into private ownership. KCSC bought the Bridgton site which still operates today as Camp Pondicherry on Adams Pond. Within a decade Camp Sa-Gis-Ca had been "erased from the map" and from the memory of most everyone not intimately involved with it.

- By Tracey Levasseur Shapleigh

Special Olympics Maine receives \$500 from employee donation program

Thanks to Alex Shain, Credit Analyst at Partners Bank, Special Olympics Maine will be receiving \$500 through the Bank's Employee Donation Program. Shain is the 48th selected employee to have the opportunity to choose an organization to receive the program's monthly gift.

Special Olympics Maine, which is a subset of the Special Olympics organization, creates an inclusive and accepting environment of those with intellectual disabilities. Its mission is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults. Members of the program are provided ample opportunity to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, and experience the growth of friendship through friends, family and other Special Olympics athletes in the community.

The Maine-based chapter serves over 4,400 athletes and offers over 70-plus events at the local, state, national, and international level.

Shain has volunteered at several

Special Olympic Maine events this past year and stated how hard the athletes work during these events, as well as how much they enjoy participating. He hopes this donation will help with the on-going need for the organization.

"I personally just hope this donation can go to helping as many athletes as possible so that they have a positive experience with competition and sports," Shain said. "If you haven't had the chance to volunteer for Special Olympics, I highly recommend it. It is a very rewarding experience for everyone involved."

"We applaud Alex on choosing Special Olympics Maine as this month's recipient," Bank President, Blaine Boudreau said, "Organizations like Special Olympics provide such a rewarding service to the community and we thank Alex for his volunteerism to them as well."

To learn more about Special Olympics Maine visit <https://www.somaine.org/> and <https://www.specialolympics.org/>.

See related photo on front page.

LOCAL JOURNALISM

(Continued from page 1)

Fellow at Public Knowledge.

Senator King has fought to protect local journalism in the face of growing economic stresses. He was one of the lead sponsors of the PRINT Act, legislation which aimed to reverse a tariff

that would have greatly increased the cost of newsprint and hurt local papers across the country. He also testified before the International Trade Commission (ITC) in opposition to this tariff; the ITC judgment agreed with the assessment of Senator King and others and chose to end the tariff in question.

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joannebargioni@gmail.com

News from town hall

On April 2, the town municipal officers released a statement regarding the town's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. "The Municipal Officers are taking this very seriously and are being told to assume the virus is in our town," said the declaration.

The town hall will only be open for emergency transactions and these must be approved through the internal department heads by the Town Administrator. If you believe you have an issue that cannot wait please call the appropriate department and leave a message. If you have not received an answer in 48 hours

call back and speak to the Town Administrator. The Library will continue to be closed but wi-fi is available in the parking lot.

As we are currently under a Stay-at-Home order issued by the Governor's office it is time to hunker down more than ever, however please take the time to telephone and check on neighbors especially the elderly or those who live alone.

If residents or someone you know are struggling with this in any way please contact the Town Administrator at 636-2843 or the Selectmen: Jennifer Roux, Chairman at 459-4256, Scott E. Cudworth at 206-4550 or William Mageary at 636-1357.

Selectmen Sign Civil Emergency Resolution

On March 31 the Board of Selectmen declared the existence of a local disaster in Shapleigh. It was in response to a case of

COVID-19 in Maine and to "slow or stop the spread of the virus and to protect the health, safety and welfare of the residents of the town."

By signing this Emergency Resolution it enables the Selectmen and the Emergency Management Director to take all the appropriate action to alleviate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Changes to transfer station

On April 8, when the transfer station opened, the lower level was closed. It will temporarily stop accepting recycling and any demo material. Household trash disposal will continue on the upper level. Residents are asked to stay inside their vehicle until the car in front of them is done. Remember social distancing when disposing of household trash.

NEWFIELD

C.J. Pike

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TURKEY FARM

(Continued from page 1)

cheesecakes, and I've heard that they are 'to die for.'

Harris says that they don't keep any turkeys through the winter, but make roast turkey, for the pies and soups. The soups are very popular and they make two kinds and turkey chili, which they sell in quarts. Everything is frozen to keep it fresher.

By the end of the month, they will be getting 100 poults that will be in the nursery for a couple of weeks before moving them move out to the pasture. It takes 15-18 weeks for them to grow, and be ready to sell as whole turkeys or to process. They have a more than three acres for the turkeys to roam around. Feed for them comes in bulk and is stored in a large grain bin. The turkeys that they will receive are heritage, bronze breasted, and large white breasted.

This spring will also bring their new food truck to the road. They will be set up at Congdon's After Dark in Wells on several days throughout the summer, and they hope to be at the Iron Tails Saloon in Acton in September for the jazz festival; and at Pumpkin Valley Farm in Dayton through October.

You can order online at harristurkeyfarm.com, or send an email to them at harristurkey@gmail.com or call 432-5223. Curb service is available at 267 Bridge Street, just call in your order beforehand.

You could say that they have made their mark around town with the pot pies, turkey soups, whole turkeys, and cheesecakes. It gives the locals the opportunity to have a little Thanksgiving dinner year round.

Chase and Jason send out a lot of appreciation to the community for all of their support over the last 5 years, and are looking forward to a new year.

Food pantries

The St. Matthew's Food Pantry serves residents of Limerick, Newfield, Parsonsfield and registered Parishioners of St. Matthew Church, at 19 Dora Lane in Limerick. The Food Pantry hours are: 1st Monday of every month from 6-7 p.m. and every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to noon.

The Wakefield Food Pantry is also open and serves, the New Hampshire towns, as well as Newfield. Call them at 603-522-3094 to find out their hours and their policy during this virus. Their web page says that they are open on Wednesdays, but it is best to check. They are located at 1500 Wakefield Road. Their email address is: info@wakefieldfoodpantry.org.

Happy birthday!

Birthday wishes go to: Michael Polcaro, Bella Mae LeBlanc, and Marion Kreamer

Gun range is open

The Northern York County Rod and Gun Club gun range on Lewis Hill Road is still open for anyone who would like to use it. Please practice the 6 foot social distancing.

Roadside clean-up

A big thanks to everyone who is out picking up the trash alongside the roads; Stevens Corner Road, Stone Road, Rte.110, Rte.153, Hobbs Road and Demeritt Road.

Meetings

There will be no meetings for the town, but they will be announced when it is cleared by the CDC. That includes firefighters, selectmen, planning board, committees, etc.

Kryzak seeking re-election in house district

Representative Ted Kryzak (R-Lebanon) has announced that he will be seeking a second term in the Maine House of Representatives this fall. Kryzak, who represents Acton, Lebanon and part of Shapleigh, serves on the Legislature's Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee as well as its Taxation Committee.

"It's quite an honor to serve on two committees," Kryzak said. "I've always believed that farming is the backbone of Maine's economy - especially now, during this coronavirus outbreak - and have worked hard to promote it in our communities, in our schools, and across the state. And tax policy is just as important because it can make or break a small business owner, whether they are a farmer, a fisherman, an electrician, or a local restaurant. It can help or hurt the economy depending on what we do in Augusta."

Kryzak went on to say that both

committees will have a huge impact on how quickly Maine rebounds from the COVID-19 crisis.

"Locally grown, produced, sold food is going to relieve a lot of pressure on our grocery stores, especially if this drags on for weeks or months," he said. "And even after its over, we are more apt to trust our local farmer than something we get out of a chain store, so being aware of that, leveraging it for our state's future, is only going to help our economy rebound."

As for tax policy, Kryzak said that small businesses who are struggling need encouragement, not higher taxes.

"Our state is in a bind over this COVID-19 outbreak, and is going to have to be wise with its dollars going forward, because small businesses are at the end of their rope and need a little understanding from the Legislature," he said. "We're going to have to look out for our most needy, but



Rep. Ted Kryzak. COURTESY PHOTO

we're also going to have to be frugal with every dollar we spend, and resist the urge to raise sales, meals and lodging, and income taxes, especially at a time when so many Mainers don't know where the next paycheck is coming from, and most employers don't know whether they're going to be able to keep their doors open."

For more information about Kryzak, or to find out how you can get involved with his campaign, contact him at 752-2775 or by email at tkry@metrocast.net.

REPORTER MONTHLY FEATURE

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Adopting during pandemic

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Adoption appointments can be made by calling (207) 985-3244 ext. 125 between the hours of 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. and you must speak to a staff member directly. If no one picks up, please do not leave a voicemail as that will not guarantee an appointment. Understand that appointments will be limited to 5 each day, as to promote social distancing. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we work to find our pets home and keep our community safe at the same time.

As always, adoptions are first

come, first serve, meaning the person who calls first gets their choice of available appointment times and thus his/her choice of animals to meet and adopt. We are not able to extend holds on any animals at this time, so we ask interested adopters to make their adoption decision during their appointment and be prepared to take their new pet with home with you.

Our adoption pages are REAL TIME, so as soon as an animal is adopted, it will "disappear" from the website, <https://animalwelfaresociety.org>.

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York County Shelter Programs thanks those supporting them during this difficult time

York County Shelter Programs (YCSP) wants to thank its partners and its communities for their extraordinary support during these difficult times. YCSP continues to offer shelter to homeless individuals and families, and to operate its twice-weekly food pantry.

The agency has been adhering to stringent sanitation and preventive protocols since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak several weeks ago. The agency is on lockdown, and essential personnel are being screened before entering facilities.

The food pantry, which is at 5 Swetts Bridge Road in Alfred, has changed the way it provides food. Previously, patrons shopped for their food. Now, food is pre-packaged in boxes, which are delivered to patrons who drive through the parking lot for pick-up. All staff and volunteers are following protocols, which include wearing gloves and masks. The pantry is also sanitized according to CDC guidelines.

The pantry is open every Tuesday and Friday, from 12 - 3 p.m.

Due to these difficult economic times, the pantry has seen increased numbers of patrons, but has been able to meet food needs, thanks to support from others.

YCSP has recently received several grants from foundations recognizing its status as an essential service, and we have also received donations from community organizations, businesses and individuals.

For more information about YCSP, visit www.yorkcountysHEL-

terprograms.com or find us on Facebook page. We can accept donations on both sites. Also, we have a donation box at the food pantry for those who would like to make a donation of nonperishable food items. You can also arrange drop-offs by contacting Food Pantry Coordinator Mike Ouellette at mikeo@ycspi.or or call 391-3125.



YCSP receives \$10K grant from United Way

York County Shelter Programs (YCSP) has recently received a one-year grant of \$10,000 from United Way of York County. Half of the grant will go towards YCSP's Food Pantry; the other half will be used for psychiatric services.

YCSP provides shelter to homeless individuals and families. Its comprehensive programs help people address the issues that led to homelessness. YCSP offers therapeutic support, substance abuse counselling, and job skills training. It connects people to other community resources, as well. The agency seeks to help people find perma-

nent housing. YCSP also includes Layman Way Recovery Center and a food pantry that feeds approximately 3000 people every month.

United Way of York County mobilizes people, resources and expertise in order to improve the lives of citizens of York County. Because of the continued support of local individuals, businesses and organizations, this year the United Way is investing in 63 programs that serve children, teens, adult and families.

"Each year we are very proud to invest financial and in-kind resources into high-quality direct services that support York County

residents and that align with our strategic priority areas," said United Way of York County President and CEO Barb Wentworth. "Those areas include providing the best start for our youngest children, increasing access to healthy foods for children and seniors, engaging youth in meaningful service, and meeting basic needs - all critical components of our collective efforts to build an even stronger York County."

York County Shelter Programs, www.yorkcountysHEL-terprograms.com or call 324-1137.

United Way, www.buildcommunity.org or call 985-3359.

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BRIEFS

School nutrition delivery changes

Taking effect April 6, meals delivered by school buses for RSU 57, will be delivered once per day. The meal delivery routes will run at the current scheduled lunch times, starting at 11 a.m. Each child will receive a bag containing a breakfast and a lunch. The intent is for the lunch to be consumed that day and the breakfast will be for the following morning. For the bus route schedule visit www.rsu57.org.



Upload photos to our Facebook page at "Reporter207"

or email them to news@waterbororeporter.com



ALFRED

Allison Williams

awilliams@waterbororeporter.com
324-5823

Prayer Flag

If you have wondered what that string was in front of Conant Chapel, it is a prayer flag. If you wish to attach a flag for someone with a prayer on it, you are welcome to do so. The prayer does not have to be about a church member, but anyone in the community.

I Fish; Therefore, I Am

This is the title of a book by Patrick F. McManus. I recently discovered it on my bookshelf and realized I had only read it about a fifth of the way through, probably because the title had been more interesting than the book. It claims to be three best sellers in one volume. It might have been referring to my father, who fished only because he grew up on an island. So what else was there to do?

The island was surrounded rather well by weirs, which were nothing more than huge fish traps. A huge net served as the door and when an eager weir man went out at night when the tide was high, he brought along a pole to check on the number of fish trapped in the weir. All he had to do (honest!) was poke the pole down into the mass of trapped fish (after he had closed the door to the weir by letting down the net) and he would guess on the approximate number of fish in his catch. I never tried it myself but was told that the fish bumping against the pole gave him some indication of the size of his catch. Of course, you needed to be skilled at interpreting those bumps against your pole.

When he left home, met my mother at a dance and married her, my father left the weirs behind him but returned every summer to that world of fishermen. When I went out to the weirs for the first time I was very nervous that the dory we were in would tip over in spite of an aunt's reassurance – it did lean over a long way to the gunnel (gunwale) but she was right – it didn't tip over!

It was very exciting to see the men pull in the net with thousands of fish flipping their tails. Something big and black was also caught – a fisherman grabbed it and attempted to throw it over the weir,

explaining to me that it was just a skate! He didn't manage to throw it far enough so the poor thing just dangled there. It made a big impression on me. I expect it left on the next tide.

We returned to the island each summer, but World War II intervened. We didn't have enough gas coupons to go that far. My father needed some place to fish so when someone told him about Lake Champlain, he went with friends, found a cottage to rent, and returned with his family. He was even able to rent a boat for fishing. We children would stay on the shore and play with the children whose family owned that bit of shore. It was the perfect vacation.

Until the night my folks decided the whole family would go out fishing. There wasn't a breeze disturbing the water, but a full moon provided a golden path on the water's surface. It was pure magic until it was time to go home, where-ever that was. My Dad headed the boat for shore except he couldn't seem to find the right shore. He kept stopping at islands where there were cottages but no one seemed to be home. At one he was stopped by a very unfriendly dog; common sense told him to pass up that one. My little brother by now could barely stay awake; he was told to lay down on the life preservers in the bow and sleep.

Good fortune was ours. We were on a lake known for its quick storms but that night the water was absolutely still. And my father finally found a cottager who explained we were on the wrong side of the lake and besides, everyone was at a dance which was why my father could find no one at home. The cottager headed us in the right direction which was King's Landing where there was a crowd waiting for our return and thinking they should start a search party! We were happy to be back before that happened.

I believe the next year the war was over and we could go back to the island, where something new had been added, electricity! An aunt demonstrated how it worked – you pulled a cord and voila! It was light!

Obituaries

NoraBelle Wilcox

NoraBelle Wilcox of North Waterboro passed from this life to the next on March 19, 2020 following her beloved Roger after 63 years of marriage and 69 years of being best friends. They both leave behind son Bill and Ilana Wilcox, daughter Kate Wilcox, son Ron and Nancy Wilcox, and daughter Karen and Mark Stokoe, as well as 8 grandchildren, 6 great grandchildren and many loved nieces and nephews.

Belle began her life in Quincy, MA, the daughter of William and Gertrude Deininger. When Willy died when Belle was 5 years old, she was cared for by her Grandma and Grandpa Miller. Gert remarried Arthur Neville when Belle was 11. Gert called Belle "Noddy" and Belle called Art "Daddy" and gained a big brother, Art Jr, who invited her to spend time with him in California. When she was a teenager she joined the youth choir at Christ Church in Milton where she met Roger and began a friendship that will last forever. Roger called her "Freddy". She began nursing school at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester, NY but didn't complete her studies there before she married Roger and joined him in Army life in Huntsville, Alabama. Bill, their firstborn was born in Orlando, Florida. Roger, Belle, and Bill eventually purchased the house in Mansfield, MA which they would own for 50 years and raise Kate, Ron, Karen, and numerous dogs, cats, a horse, goats, chickens, ducks, guinea pigs, hamsters... In 1986 Rog and Belle purchased the land in North Waterboro, ME that would eventually become their beloved "North Wilderness".

Belle (and Roger) invested in



NoraBelle Wilcox

their family and others, particularly young people. She worked with the choir and served with the vestry at Saint John's church in Mansfield, Massachusetts. She had a den of Cub Scouts that met at her home, and later worked with the Girl Scouts as well. At First Christian Church in West Mansfield she was choir director and pianist for many years.

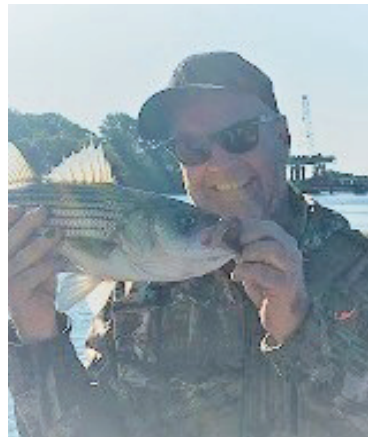
Eventually Belle joined Roger at North Wilderness. She decorated the house and created a Craft Workshop in the barn she called "The Imagination Station" where she taught craft classes. She became a member of Community Baptist Church where she led and then sang with the choir.

Although you will be missed terribly Mom, we are very happy that you are once again with Dad in a place where your piano will never be out of tune, your smoke detector will never sound, and you will be able to see the beauty and hear the music perfectly. Love you lots!

A service will be held later and will be announced.

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

The Autumn Green Funeral Home is respectfully handling arrangements.



Kevin Thomas Welch

Kevin Thomas Welch

Kevin Thomas Welch "Kevin," 57, of Acton, lost his battle with life on Sunday, March 30, 2020.

Born in Dover, New Hampshire on June 2, 1962, he was the son of Richard and Jeanette.

He is survived by his wife, Susan; stepson Brady; son Zachary and his wife, Laurie, of Farmington, New Hampshire; one grandson Brock; brother Brian and his wife, Jean, of Brookfield, New Hampshire; and sister Sharyn of Eliot. He was predeceased by his father, Richard Welch.

Kevin felt most at peace when he was outdoors with nature. He spent a lot of time hiking, hunting, fishing and golfing. He hiked all of the 4,000 footers in New Hampshire and was a member of the 4K club. He put over 250,000 miles on his Harley Davidson Road King with his wife in tow. He was a master machinist and welder and fabricated a lot of custom pieces. Kevin had a big heart and would go out of way to help the ones he loved. Kevin's son was his number one and always in his thoughts. He taught his son everything he knew about fishing. Kevin also loved his grandson dearly and enjoyed hiking with him and watching him play basketball.

A memorial service with immediate family will be held at a later date. To leave a message of condolence for the family, visit www.autumngreenfuneralhome.com.

Donations may be made in memory of Kevin to NAMI www.naminh.org.

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REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT NO. 57

2020/2021



Children **MUST** be
5 years old by
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Kindergarten registration for 2020/2021 is open as of **February 24th!** Please go to <http://www.rsu57.org/parents/registration> to register your child. Once you have completed the online registration, you will need to schedule an appointment with our District Registrar and bring the following documents to complete the enrollment process.

- Original proof of birth document (we do not keep)
- Immunization Records
- Proof of residency (utility bill, lease agreement/title of primary residency, paycheck stub)
- Court issued custody paperwork (if applicable)

The Registrar's Office has two kiosks that can be used for online registration.

If you already have a student in the district and have a ParentVue account, you would use that existing account to register your student.

If you have a child in PreK this year, you do not need to enroll them in Kindergarten. They will automatically be enrolled for the 2020/2021 school year.

Please complete registration by **APRIL 24, 2020** and setup a time to meet with the Registrar. Screening appointments for May will be made at the registration meeting.

For more information call: (207) 247-3221 ext. 2264