

REPORTER

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

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What is 'Home for Good'?

Home for Good is a proposed permanent supportive housing facility that would be located at 7 Mousam Street in Sanford and would specifically serve individuals experiencing chronic homelessness, generally defined as being consistently unhoused for 12 months or more. The individuals who would be served are already part of our community and are among the people who currently remain unhoused.

The facility will operate under the evidence-based Housing First model, which recognizes that stable housing provides a foundation for addressing other challenges and building long-term stability. Rather than requiring residents to first overcome substance use, mental health, or other barriers, the model pairs permanent housing with supportive services, giving residents a safe and stable place from which to access resources and work toward greater independence.

Sanford has made significant progress connecting people experiencing homelessness, or those at risk of becoming homeless, with housing and supportive services through Coordinated Entry and Housing Navigation. To date this process has assisted 263 individuals with permanent housing. While these efforts have helped many people find housing, there remains a small population who have been unable to successfully transition into or maintain traditional housing. People experiencing chronic homelessness often face more persistent and complex barriers, making a different approach necessary. Home for Good is intended to fill that gap by providing a housing model that better meets the needs of this population.

What will living at Home for Good look like for tenants?

Home for Good will operate as permanent residential housing. Tenants will sign a lease, pay up to 30 percent of their income toward rent, and be expected to follow the

(Continued on page 5)



Waterboro's Isabelle Vanasse is the owner of Belle's Coffee, a local mobile coffee business. PHOTO BY CYNTHIA MATTHEWS

Coffee shop on wheels

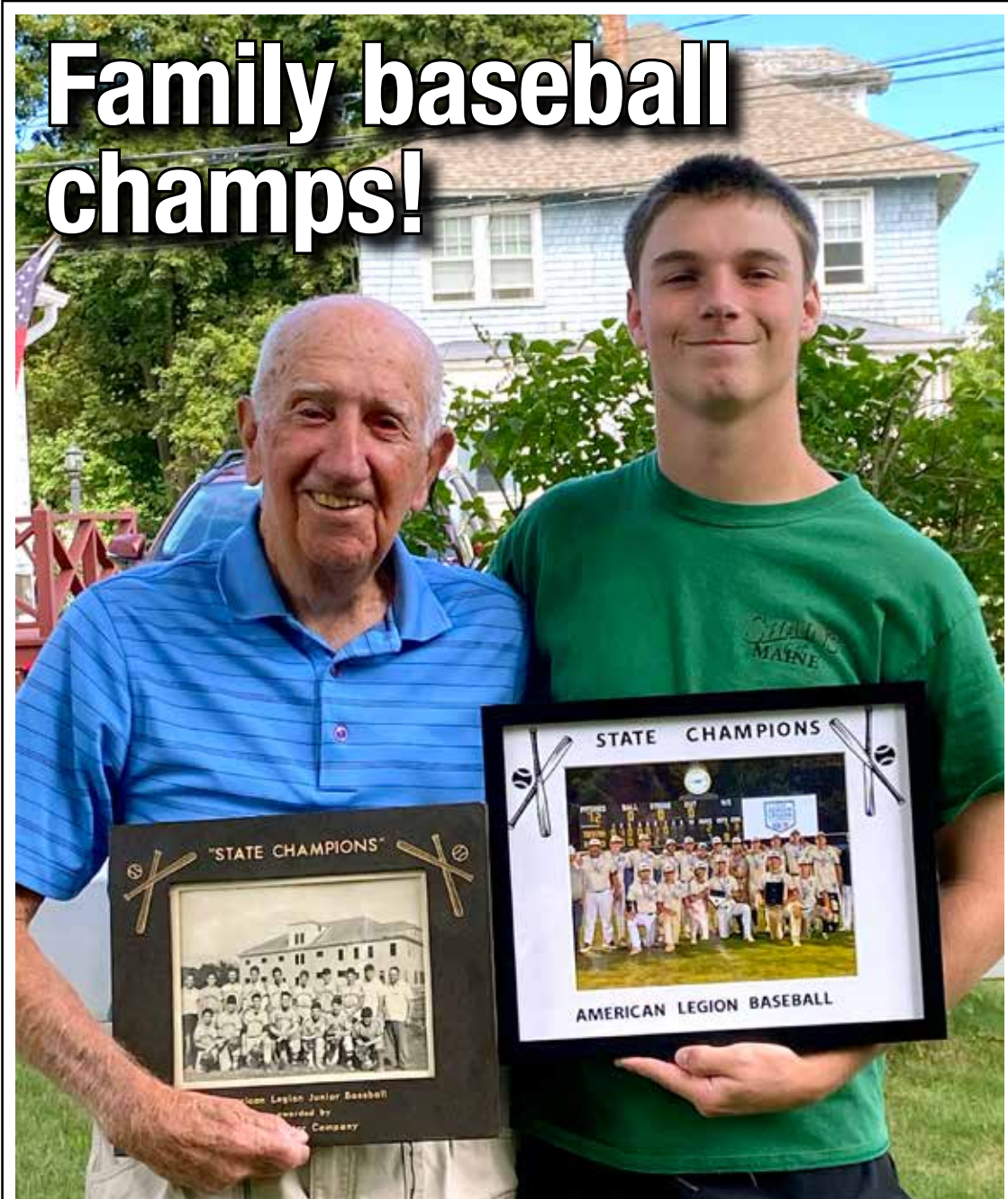
By CYNTHIA MATTHEWS

You may have noticed there's a new coffee shop in town. Well, it isn't really a coffee shop, it's a coffee trailer! Belle's Coffee has been open since October 2025, debuting at Thompson's Orchard in New Gloucester, and has been spotted in various local spots.

Belle's Coffee is the creation of Isabelle Vanasse of Waterboro, a 2024 graduate of Massabesic High School. "I've always wanted to have a coffee shop," she said. "It's always been a dream of mine." Vanasse began drinking coffee when she was about 13 years old. "I just loved it," she said. "My favorite was Brown Sugar Shaken Espresso from Starbucks. I always loved that." Eventually, she got her own at home Espresso Machine, and began experimenting. "You're not an expert until you get your own

stuff," she said. Vanasse had taken a few college classes in High School, and was able to graduate early. "I always knew I wanted to go to college," she said. "I felt like I had to." She went to Southern Maine Community College (SMCC) for a year, studying business administration. In one of her classes, she had to do a mock up of a business. Of course, hers was a coffee shop. After a while, "I saw something pop up on my phone about a coffee trailer. I had never heard of that before. I instantly knew that I wanted one." And, two weeks later, she bought it! You may be asking yourself, "How could an 18 year old purchase a coffee trailer? She must've had help." Well, yes and no. "I started working when I was 14 at Market Basket," Vanasse

(Continued on page 6)



A great grandfather and his great grandson were both on American Legion Baseball State Championship Teams, 75 years apart! The great grandfather is Richard Watson of Springvale whose team won the State Championship in 1951. His great grandson, Patrick Jones, was on the American Legion State Championship team for 2026. They are pictured here displaying their respective team photos. COURTESY PHOTO

Online debut for historical York County records

In May 1835, Ivory R. Hatch, who lived in the town of Wells, was unhappy with the result of an interaction with the town concerning a portion of his land. Wells selectmen had undertaken to lay out a road – an important decision at a time when there weren't many roads. The new road, to be 3 rods, or 49.5 feet wide, was to be built on several portions of privately held land – including 72 rods, or 1,188 feet – of Hatch's property.

(Continued on page 7)



Records like these York County Commissioner's Court documents are being carefully unfolded, humidified and flattened for scanning, with a view to being available to the public online in the spring or summer of 2027. PHOTO BY TAMMY WELLS, YORK COUNTY GOVERNMENT MEDIA

Community CALENDAR

Email non-profit event listings to: news@waterbororeporter.com

COMING EVENTS

SACOPEE COMMUNITY FORUM is hosting candidates at Pike Hall, 17 Maple Street Cornish. Saturday, Aug. 29: Rick Bennett, Independent candidate for Governor. Monday, Aug. 31: Senate District 22 candidate Nate Burnett (D), and House District 138 candidates Jon Kinney (R) and Oliver McAvoy (D). Doors open at 6 p.m. and the events start at 6:30 p.m.

Baldwin Historical Society's **ANNUAL SUMMER PICNIC** Saturday, Aug. 29 at 5 p.m. at the Chadbourne Homestead. We will supply the dogs and burgers. Please bring along your delicious salads and desserts.

3-D ARCHERY Saturday, Sept. 5 from 8 a.m. to noon at the Buxton Hollis Rod & Gun Club, 81 Plains Road, Hollis. Open to the Public. Archery equipment available for use. Adults \$10, Kids 12 & under \$5. Contact Lou Provost at 538-6891 for more information. or email: archery@buxtonhollisrodgunclub.org.

Mayo Street Arts will present The Maine Stage: **BURLESQUE, DRAG & FLOW** in Portland on Friday, Sept. 4 and Saturday, Sept. 5 at 7:30 p.m. The 4th annual Maine Stage Weekender features some of the

best burlesque, drag, and flow that Maine has to offer, curated by La Petite Mystique. Also two days of classes where community members share their skills with the general public. Classes showcase a variety of skills from movement to marketing. Tickets are \$22 in advance and \$25 at the door. Pay-what-you-can options are available. Visit www.mayostreetarts.org for tickets.

HOLLIS CENTER PUBLIC LIBRARY BOOK, BAKE AND CRAFT SALE at Hollis Center Church, 388 Hollis Rd Hollis ME Saturday, Sept. 12. Interested crafters email Heidi at helynch2@gmail.com.

THE UMBILICAL BROTHERS Wednesday, Sept. 23 at 7 p.m. at the Sanford Performing Arts Center, 100 Alumni Blvd, Sanford. Internationally acclaimed Australian comedy duo The Umbilical Brothers bring their hilarious mix of physical comedy, vocal sound effects and rapid-fire verbal interplay to the SPAC stage. Tickets: \$38-\$58. Tickets: <https://ci.ovationtix.com/35877/production/1283612>.

Harvest Fair Saturday, Sept. 26 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Arts Center at 8 Hancock in Hiram Village, sponsored by the The Hiram Cultural Center. This exciting event is a new twist on the Autumn Arti-

san Craft Fair, with the same quality of artisan wares with seasonal activities to really put you in the mood for fall. Plan to be in Hiram for lunch because the famous soups and other delicious offerings won't last all day!

ONGOING EVENTS

MAHJONG every Wednesday 10 a.m. to noon at the Acton Public Library, 35 H Road. Please bring a set if you have one. Open to new and experienced players.

CRIBBAGE CLUB Wednesdays, from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Lyman Community Library. All ages, all skill levels. FMI: 207-499-7114.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NEWFIELD, 64 Elm Street in Newfield will be open every Tuesday in August from 10 a.m. to noon and then again from 5 to 6 p.m. for visitors.

WRITING GROUP opened to all levels and genres. Meetings first and third Fridays of the month, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Hollis Center Library, 14 Little Falls Road. Call 929-6817 FMI.

ACTON SEED LIBRARY Acton Public Library has its own seed catalogue. If you would like to donate some seeds or pick them up, you can stop by the Acton library at 35 H Rd.

ALFRED VILLAGE MUSEUM current museum display is Alfred Minutemen – 250 years. Museum open Wednesdays and Saturdays, 2 to 4 p.m. through September. Any questions contact Bruce Tucker, Alfred Historical Committee, 324-5441.

ADULT COED VOLLEYBALL every Wednesday night at the Line School, 818 Water Street, West Newfield, from 7 p.m.-9 p.m. Questions? contact Dan McAllister at 247-8857.

CHESS MATES at Limerick Public Library, 55 Washington Street, Limerick. Play chess with old or new friends 2nd Wed each month at 6 p.m. **DROP-IN LEGO BUILD** every Tuesday at 3 p.m. and Sat. at 10 a.m. FMI-793-8975 or limericklibrary.org. Enjoy building a creation with our LEGO collection.

WRITERS GROUP: All levels and genres are welcome for readings and friendly discussions. From 2 to 4 p.m. on second and fourth Fridays of every month at the Limerick Public Library, Washington Street, Limerick.

NEWFIELD MUSIC JAMBOREE Town Hall, 23 So. Effingham Road, 1st Saturday of the month May-October. Summer hours 6 to 8:30 p.m. Free, open to public. Spectators welcome. All family friendly music. FMI call 468-1491.

ARTISTS OPEN STUDIO on Wednesdays from 1-4 p.m. at the Parsons Memorial Library, located at 27 Saco Road, Alfred.

RED HAT LADIES Women 50+ enjoy comradery, card games, meals out, bowling, mini golf, movies etc. Tuesday card games at 12:30 p.m.: Pay Me & Scat. Bring a snack to share. Take turns meeting at member's homes; you are not obligated to offer your home. FMI Diane Dunn 229-6135.

SHAPLEIGH CRAFT GROUP is held every second Wednesday of the month from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Shapleigh Community Center, 24 Back Road. All crafters are welcome whether you knit, crochet rug hook, embroider, etc. you are welcome at this group. You can bring some of your projects for a show and tell.

LET'S EAT!

BAKED BEAN & CHOP SUEY SUPPERS The First Congregational Church monthly baked bean & American chop suey supper the last Saturday of each month from April to September (next on Aug. 29) from 4:30 to 6 p.m. at the church, 141 North St., Kennebunkport. Two types of home baked beans, American chop suey, mac & cheese, hot dogs, rolls, and cole slaw, topped off with a slice of homemade pie. Adults and children age 12 and over \$12 per person, \$5 per child under 12.

DELICIOUS HADDOCK SUPPER BUFFET Saturday, Aug. 29 at 5 p.m. at Living Waters Church, Parker Farm Road, Buxton. Suggested donation: \$12 Adult, \$5 Child, \$24 Family. We will offer the option of takeout containers for those who do not want to come inside for seating.

The **ROAST BEEF SUPPER** at the Hiram Community Center on Saturday, Sept. 5 is the last of the season - don't miss it! Roast beef and all the trimmings costs only \$20 for adults, children 6 to \$12, children 5 and under Free. Doors open at 4:45 p.m. at 14 Historical Ridge Road, off Main Street (Route 117). FMI 256-0136.

BEAN SUPPER Saturday, Sept. 5 from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Historical Society of Newfield building, 64 Elm Street, Newfield.

BEAN SUPPER at St. Thomas School, 69 North Avenue in Sanford. Saturday, Sept. 5 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. \$12 per adult, \$8 for children 6-12, and children under 6 free. FMI call Ray at 324-7589.

The Acton-Shapleigh Lion's Club **MONTHLY PANCAKE BREAKFAST** the first Saturday of every month (Next on Sept. 5). \$7 includes pancakes (plain or blueberry), scrambled eggs, sausages, toast, orange juice, beans, and coffee, tea, and milk. The breakfast will be served from 8 to 9:30 a.m. at the Shapleigh Community Center at 24 Back Road, Shapleigh, next door to the Shapleigh Town Hall.

BEAN SUPPER Massabesic Lions monthly dine-in or take-out the 2nd Saturday of the month (next on Sept. 12), 4 to 6 p.m. at the Lions Regional Medical Center, 813 Main St. Waterboro. Adults \$15. Children 6 to 12 are \$8, kids 5 and under are free. Pint of chop suey for \$8. Kidney and navy beans, chop suey, ham slices, red hot dogs, coleslaw, "our homemade" biscuits and dessert.

COFFEE HOUR every Wednesday from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at Hiram Arts Center, 8 Hancock Avenue, Hiram. Come for coffee, conversation, companionship, and community.

COMMUNITY CAFÉ at Southern Maine Agency on Aging, 2nd and 4th Friday, at 21 Braeden Street, Springvale (Use the entrance on Bodwell Ct.) and the 1st and 3rd Wednesday at Mayflower Place, 27 Mayflower Drive, Sanford. Call 396-6500. Suggested donation \$8.

ATM inside!

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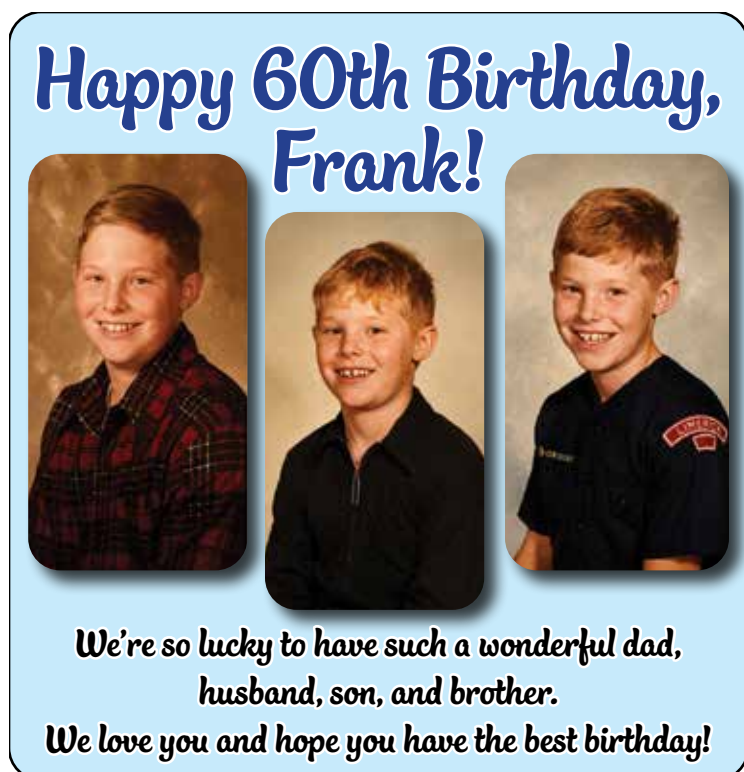
Gina's She Shed

at 881 Sokokis Trail, N. Waterboro

will be open throughout the month of September on Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays - 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Quilts, fabric, and complimentary items will be available!

Happy 60th Birthday, Frank!



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SAT. & SUN. 12-8 PM

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Visit us at Acton Fair!
Sugarhouse open 4-8 PM Aug. 27-30

PATRIOT PAINTERS

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Maine’s Hands Free Law

A reminder about safe driving from the Sanford PD

Under Maine law, a person may not operate a motor vehicle on a public way while using, manipulating, talking into, or otherwise interacting with a handheld electronic device or mobile telephone. That includes when the vehicle is temporarily stopped in traffic, at a traffic light, or at a stop sign.

Drivers who are at least 18 years old and are not operating with a learner’s permit or intermediate license may use a device in hands-free mode. If the device is mounted where it does not interfere with the driver’s view, the law allows one swipe, tap, or push to activate or deactivate a feature.

The law provides limited exceptions, including certain emergency communications, qualifying commercial or school-bus use, and using a device after pulling to the side of or off the public way and stopping where the vehicle can safely remain.

A violation is a traffic infraction for which a fine of \$50 may be imposed for a first offense and \$250 for a second or subsequent offense.

Why are we bringing it up?
When we checked Maine-DOT’s Public Crash Query Tool

on Aug. 13, 2026, it returned 2,750 statewide crashes for 2025, the latest completed calendar year, under the broad “Distracted” behavior category. That figure includes all reported forms of distraction, not just phones. Within those records, “Hand-Held Mobile Phone” was recorded 294 times as a source of driver distraction.

That number may not reflect the full extent of the problem. NHTSA cautions that distracted-driving crashes are likely underreported. Drivers may not admit to using a phone immediately before a crash, and investigating officers may not have witness accounts or other evidence needed to establish that distraction occurred.

In other words, 294 represents what was documented in the crash reports. The actual number may be higher, but NHTSA has not established a reliable correction factor that would tell us by how much.

The practical takeaway is simple: if you need to hold or work with your device, don’t do it while you are in traffic. Pull over somewhere the vehicle can safely remain stopped.

Supporting Agriculture

My name is David Mongeau. I am the unenrolled candidate for District 141 in the Maine State Legislature covering Springvale, Shapleigh, and Newfield. As part of that I was invited to a Legislative Farm tour, where sitting prospective legislators, and senators, tour a number of farms and get to understand the industry better.

It was beautiful. The breadth of agricultural businesses in the State was impressive. Over 100 independent dairy farms. We saw only 5 examples out of over 500 farms and agribusinesses across our great State. The farms were beautiful, the people were amazing, And, I do not mean some nostalgic look at the past. These people were building businesses in Maine that were exporting goods, and bringing money back to Maine, with the potential to grow markets.

This is exactly what Maine needs. A business where we can use the resources already here to create something of value. An industry where we can make demonstrable, and measurable improvements to help Maine businesses build economies of scale, and move themselves up the value chain.

Unfortunately, we are not doing that. Only 6% of Maine is Farmland, and the Farm Land Trusts are woefully underfunded, and have only protected about 5% of that 6% (meaning about 1/3rd of 1% of Maine land). This is a part of the economy we should protect and preserve, and it will take at least \$5 million annually to do it.

At the second Farm, the owner tore into the current legislators (which was fantastic to see) about a bond that failed to make it through. This bond would have supported infrastructure upgrades, and other upgrades. Admittedly most everyone there said they did or would have voted for the bond, and that is great, but that is not the answer. This should be a regular and consistent part of the budget, not a sporadic bond issuance. What we are talking about here is business planning, and if we want to create long-term growth that can help support our economy, then stakeholders

need to know the State as part of its broader economic plan is going to support this industry. The last time I can find this happening is \$20 million in 2022.

I believe that building our economy, and helping Maine stand on its own is the best way to a brighter future for this State. This is one of my key reasons for running for office. I believe our legislature has its priorities backwards. This State spends so much of its resources mitigating the effects of poverty, and a pittance on preventing it from happening. This \$20 million investment should be annual, and it should be part of the budget.

This money would be focused on supporting an industry that employs thousands of Mainers, growing our agricultural economy, and keeping a strong, secure food system here in Maine.

Sometimes when we speak in large numbers like that it is hard to understand scale. I know I am certainly on a learning curve with it. \$25 million is the same amount of money that Mainecare spends on Suboxone*.

If you are not familiar, Suboxone is the opiod that Maine buys for people so they do not abuse Oxycontin, or heroin. Taking this version of an opiod prevents them from taking the real thing, ostensibly.

If you look at the plans from the current legislative leadership, you will see designs around spending twice that amount for suboxone, in the budget, and still creating a bond for supporting agri-business. This is not a statement against treatment, but this is what I mean by priorities. It is truly backwards to me to budget long term plans for heroin-use, but not for farming. Besides a meaningful and consistent investment Maine Farmers need:

- Better health insurance options.
- Recently a plan to allow farmers to buy into the Farmers health care cooperative that includes Tennessee and other States was blocked
- Reasonable access to seasonal labor through the H2-A visa program
- Clear regulation around PFAS.

As your representative I will look for ways for Maine to stand on its own. This means supporting our local industries and businesses so that they can help our communities grow.

Learn more at www.votefordave141.com

POLITICAL AD PAID FOR BY THE CAMPAIGN TO ELECT DAVID MONGEAU.

BRIEFS

The Shop on Shaker Hill

The Alfred Shaker Museum is proud to introduce the Shop on Shaker Hill, 118 Shaker Hill Rd. inside the museum. This was previously the Alfred Shaker Museum gift shop. They decided on the new name as the Shop is so much more than a gift shop.

The Shop on Shaker Hill is a “mixture of handmade and vin-

tage items as well as antiques and collectibles with inventory that is always evolving,” said the Alfred Shaker Museum organization. Prior to the Apple festival, they are focusing on increasing this inventory and the visits to the shop.

The shop is open on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 1 to 4 p.m. and of course it will be open during the Shaker Hill AppleFest on Sept.19 and 20.

New office hours at Shapleigh Town Hall

The town of Shapleigh has changed its office hours and will be closed on Saturdays. The new schedule is Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Thursday from 12 to 7 p.m. On Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday they are closed from 12 to 12:30 p.m. for lunch.

– By Joanne Bargioni

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CONSTITUENT OFFICE HOURS: Thursday, Sept. 3
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(207) 283-5729
John.eder@maine.legislature.gov



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Alfred's Revolutionary Shaker Veterans

It seems strange to speak of Shaker war veterans since one of their basic tenets of Shakerism is pacifism. Yet, many Shakers served as soldiers in the Revolution before they had ever heard of the Shaker faith. There are at least seventeen Shaker soldiers buried in the small Shaker Cemetery on Alfred's Shaker Hill—probably the highest concentration of Revolutionary veterans per square foot in any cemetery in York County.

Where Alfred Shaker Veterans served

Alfred residents John and David Barnes and Isaac Coffin enlisted in local Massabesic companies and went to war. Most other soldiers fought for the hometowns where they were born, before they moved to Alfred and joined the Shakers. The largest contingent of Alfred's Shaker soldiers fought for Gorham: Samuel Brown, Ezekial Hatch, Robert McFarland, Joseph Stone, and Elisha Pote. Brothers John, James and William Anderson served from Falmouth [Portland]; James, James Jr. and William Philpot served from Berwick, Jonathan Nowell served from York, John Wooley hailed from New Hampshire, Eliphaz Ring joined a regiment in Kingston Massachusetts and Thomas Cushman served in Plympton, Massachusetts. All

these men eventually joined the Shakers after their Revolutionary service and if they had families...their families joined the sect as well. Most of the above named Shakers are buried in the Alfred Shaker Cemetery.

Frontier Strife- circa 1780

Soldiers returning to Massabesic from Revolutionary service found their wilderness homesteads in disarray. Obviously, no progress had been made on their farmstead during their absence but their families had somehow managed to ekk out a very bare existence. Wartime inflation caused food prices to soar, adding to their misery. Returning soldiers brought a small pox epidemic to Massabesic which swept the Shaker Hill area particularly hard in 1780. Lack of physical comforts aside, returning soldiers found no steadying religious influences that could bring them comfort. The Massabesic frontier was awash in preachers and prophets who offered salvation—some from established religions such as the Congregationalists, Baptists and Quakers and some from lesser known sects. These preachers would preach “fire and brimstone” and leave suddenly, abandoning the frontier to religious turmoil. Some in Massabesic formed their own local folk religion, a combination of various

doctrines sweeping the frontier. They called their sect the Merry Dancers. Their religious practices included frenzied dancing in forest clearings and marching around Massabesic Pond [Shaker Pond] howling at the moon. The first Shaker missionaries arrived in Massabesic in 1783 and found the Merry Dancers ripe for conversion.

It seems likely that Revolutionary veterans found aspects of the Shaker faith very appealing. Certainly they had experienced the benefits of communal effort—by sticking together veterans had defeated the British army, the most powerful armed force on Earth. They had done this by focusing on a common goal and cooperating to the extreme. If the same shared effort and energy could be applied to improving their frontier farms, the veterans reasoned, comfort and prosperity would be their reward. The Shakers also offered an established religion to fill the frontier's spiritual void. Eventually, every aspect of their lives were governed by Shaker church leadership.

Shaker Pensions

When a person joined the Shakers, they pledged all their worldly possessions to the religious order, including land, livestock, money and all household belongings. Husbands and wives no longer lived together because

the entire Shaker community was considered their family. Members lived and worked communally. Pension rights for military service was another asset that became the property of the church. As pacifists, Shaker veterans were discouraged by Shaker hierarchy from applying for their pension as it was seen as profiting from war. But Shaker hierarchy never forgot those pension rights were there.

Conscientious Objectors

In 1863— the depths of the Civil war— Shaker elders visited Abraham Lincoln to make their case that Shakers were pacifists and should be exempt from the military draft. Part of the Shaker argument was the society was legally owed over \$439,000 dollars in unclaimed pension money due members who had served in the Revolution and War of 1812. Legend has it, Lincoln leaned back in his chair and granted the Shakers draft exempt status but commented, “You ought to be made to fight. We need regiments of men of just such as you.”

The Shaker hierarchy was not being totally candid. The Shaker church did claim several Revolutionary pensions in the name of deceased veterans, usually in the name of the veteran's widows who were still Shaker members. The claims were made through

a Portland lawyer named Zebulon K. Harmon who specialized in pension claims and retained a 5% commission for his services. Ezekiel Hatch, Joseph Stone and brothers John and David Barnes were among Alfred Shakers whose claim was handled by lawyer Harmon and forwarded to the Shakers.

Isaac Coffin

Isaac Coffin was a son of Alfred pioneer Simeon Coffin. He was about seven years old when his father pioneered Alfred and nineteen when the Revolution commenced. He was a Minuteman in Morgan Lewis's Company when it marched in 1775. He enlisted in Scammon's Regiment immediately upon return from the alarm march and marched to Bunker Hill. When Scammon's Regiment was mustered out, Isaac Coffin enlisted in a New Hampshire company, built fortifications around Boston and served until the British evacuated Boston March 17, 1776.

Isaac Coffin had his own checkered past with the Shakers. Isaac apparently left the sect a couple times and purchased land and saw mills in Waterboro in conjunction with other lapsed Shakers James Barnes and Jotham Emery. Isaac eventually purchased a farm adjacent to the Alfred Shaker sawmill and gave it to his son— Shaker elder Peter Coffin— who conveyed the farm to the Shakers the next day. Perhaps Isaac Coffin's life “in the world” gave him a more secular, pragmatic approach to life. He unabashedly claimed his own pension as a Shaker in 1832 at age 76, and succinctly stated his reasons why he did so— in a clear Patriotic voice:

“I think I have always had the good of the American people at heart, I rejoiced in taking up arms in their cause. It certainly was not the cause of the rich against the strong, of power against right. I felt pride in being a soldier in such a cause, but soon after my return home I became deeply conscious of sin. I was brought to see and believe that war was against the Devine command. I joined the Society of Friends called Shakers in Alfred where I now reside and have ever since been a humble, though perhaps an unworthy, member. I have been told that the country wish to give to those who serve in its service, if it be their will to bestow upon me, so far as it will enable me to be more useful in charities to the poor and the needy around me, it will be acceptable. I hereby relinquish every claim to a pension except the present and my name is not on any other pension rolls.”

Isaac Coffin lived the rest of his life with the Shakers, both he and his wife are buried in the Alfred Shaker Cemetery.

For more information on Alfred's Revolutionary soldiers, visit the Alfred Village Museum, open 2-4 Wed. & Saturdays. Admission is free.

— By Bruce R. Tucker
Alfred Historical Committee

TOWN OF SHAPLEIGH

Public Hearing Notice

The Shapleigh Select Board will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, September 15, 2026 at 7:00pm at the Shapleigh Community Center

to discuss a proposed Municipal Tax Levy Ordinance that will be voted on at the November Election as a result of a voter's petition. Exact language of the proposed ordinance can be viewed in person at the Shapleigh Town Hall or on the Town's website at: <https://www.shapleigh.net/other/public-hearings>



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WEEKLY CIRCULATION 7,500

TOWN OF ACTON

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING and MEETING NOTICE

The Town of Acton Zoning Board of Appeals will meet on Thursday, September 10, 2026, at 6:00pm at the Acton Town Hall, 35 H Road, Acton, Maine 04001.

After the Election of Officers, the Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on an Appeal from Apple Valley Development, LLC / Iron Tails Saloon, 559 Route 109, Acton, RE: Notice of Violation and \$5,000 Assessment.

At the conclusion of the Public Hearing the Zoning Board of Appeals will meet to discuss and deliberate the appeal.
THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND.

SANFORD

HOME FOR GOOD

(Continued from page 1)

terms of their lease, as well as the rules and expectations of the property.

The facility will be staffed 24/7 with on-site support for residents, including clinical services, social workers, behavioral health services, and substance use services. Around-the-clock staffing provides residents with consistent access to resources, allows staff to build relationships with tenants, and ensures support is available when a crisis or other immediate need arises.

Tenants will also go through a screening process as part of the housing application and eligibility determination. Conducted in coordination with the Sanford Housing Authority, this process will include background screening and a review of eligibility requirements. Certain factors, including placement on the sex offender registry, a history of violence, or certain felony convictions, would make an individual ineligible.

What does the research show?

For someone experiencing chronic homelessness, meeting basic needs can consume much of their time and energy. When necessities such as food, warmth, sleep, and personal safety are uncertain, it can be difficult to focus on longer-term goals such as employment, education, treatment, or recovery.

Research on permanent supportive housing and the Housing First model shows that combining stable housing with access to supportive services can improve housing stability and create bet-



A rendering of the proposed 'Home for Now' facility on Mousam Way in Sanford. COURTESY IMAGE

ter conditions for individuals to address other challenges.

Housing First programs have demonstrated a strong housing-retention outcome, with many programs reporting 80 - 90% housing retention after five years. This is particularly important for individuals who have experienced chronic homelessness and struggled to maintain housing through traditional approaches.

How this fits into the long-term homelessness efforts

Home for Good is part of the City's broader strategy for addressing chronic homelessness and was identified as one of the City's 19 Local Strategies to Address Closing the Encampments.

York County has historical-

ly faced significant barriers to substance use treatment, including limited detox and residential treatment capacity and access challenges for uninsured individuals. The proposed Home for Good facility will also complement the York County Substance Use Treatment and Recovery Center, which is nearing completion on Layman's Way in Alfred.

Together, these facilities can provide a connected pathway of support for individuals who need both stable housing and substance use treatment. An individual may first enter Home for Good, where their basic needs for safety, shelter, food, and stability are met while they have access to supportive services. When in-patient treatment is appropriate, they can transition to the York County Substance Use Treatment and Recovery Center in Alfred

for more intensive recovery services, including detox, individualized treatment plans, and 24/7 specialized recovery support.

Following treatment, the continuum of care continues through ongoing housing and support services, with individuals working toward long-term stability with assistance from the Recovery Center, the Sanford Housing Authority, and other community partners. By connecting housing, treatment, and ongoing support, these resources can help address some of the service gaps currently facing individuals experiencing chronic homelessness in Sanford. These efforts benefit the entire community by connecting individuals with stable housing and services while helping reduce the broader challenges associated with long-term homelessness.

BRIEFS



Back to School Safety Reminder School Starts on Aug. 31

As students head back to school on August 31st, you'll see more children walking, biking, and riding the bus. Please do your part to keep our community safe by staying alert and driving carefully!

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 - Slowdown in school zones pay close attention to posted speed limits and watch for changes near schools.
 - Be alert at crosswalks and intersections children may cross unexpectedly. Always stop when directed by crossing guards.
 - Eliminate distractions please put down your phone while driving and keep your eyes on the road.
- Let's work together to make sure our students get to and from school safely.

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ELITE



Belle's Coffee will be set up at the Acton Fair this weekend, Aug. 27-30 selling frozen frappes, fall lattes and more. PHOTO BY CYNTHIA MATTHEWS

BELLE'S COFFEE
(Continued from page 1)

said. "My parents always said, 'If you really want something, you work for it.'" And she did. "I've always saved," she said. "I've always been very frugal with my money." She admits that at first, she was so excited to have money that she went on too many shopping sprees, "but I learned what I could have done." Her first goal was to buy a car, so she did. "Within a year, I paid it off in full." When the opportunity came up to buy the coffee trailer, she paid for it all in cash. That was June 2025.

Then she needed to build her business. "I had enough to start on my own, but I didn't want to use all of my money," she admitted. So her Dad split the cost of the espresso machine, inventory, and other items 50/50. Her

grandfather, an electrician, did all the electrical work as a gift. Her cousin, a plumber, helped with the plumbing. Her Dad, who works in construction, and her boyfriend, Aaron, helped with creating the look of the trailer on the inside. "I designed a layout and determined where I wanted things to go," she explained. "We cut things out, laid them on the floor to determine where things like the sinks would go." The ice maker and the fridge, it was decided, would go under the counter. They worked on it all summer.

Of course, Vanasse also needed coffee. "I joined a Facebook Group for mobile coffee shop owners and asked for advice," she explained. "They said, 'Go local. Somewhere close to you, in case you need it at the last minute.'" She tried several local roasters, and initially bought coffee from a local roaster nearby, "but I didn't like it. I couldn't

make it work with my drinks." She had received samples from "Coffee on the Porch" in Camden. "I loved all their samples," she said, "and I loved their black coffee - Yum!" She continued, "It was SO much better. I loved it." She added, "I'm so glad I trusted my gut. Everyone loves it." She explained, "Every coffee has a different flavor to it. Some are more fruity. Coffee on the Porch is more chocolatey. I enjoy it much more than the fruity tones. It is easier to mix with different drinks."

Now, what about the drinks? "I do a mixture of things," Vanasse said. "Sometimes I follow the trends. For example, right now I offer a Fluffernutter latte. But I also create my own, such as Coconut Dream." She added, "I also do seasonal drinks as well. Fall is pumpkin, winter is peppermint. It's easier to plan." She continued, "I had Maple Pancake

for Maple Weekend. That was a huge hit. So delicious!" Vanasse added, "I don't like to sell something I don't like." So she trained herself to like almond milk. "I used to think it was too thick. Now I love it." Macha is popular now, and she is trying various combinations using Macha. She made herself a macha drink before our interview, and finished it by the end. "Yeah, I like that. That's good," she said.

Where can you find Belle's Coffee? Watch for posts on Facebook. This Reporter found Belle's Coffee at JD's Package Store in Waterboro, where Vanasse has been setting up weekly. "During the school year, business was amazing," she said. "Summer has been a little slower." But she added, "We've probably had 3 or 4 times more customers here now than when I first came. It's crazy to think about where I was last year."

Having a coffee shop is no longer the dream. "Now I can only imagine how much work that would be," she said. "I'd like to have the trailer on a piece of land, as a drive thru, where people can come, get their drink, sit down and chat."

Vanasse, has two employees, Ali and Ella, and sometimes her boyfriend Aaron, working the coffee trailer.

In addition to sites around town, Belle's Coffee will be at the Fryeburg Fair this year, the weekend before the one-year anniversary. If you are interested in booking the coffee trailer for a private event, visit her website, bellescoffee.co and fill out the form. "I love doing private events," she said. "As a business owner, it's helpful - you know exactly what to plan for."

Also, look for Belle's Coffee at the Acton Fair this weekend, Aug. 27-30.

Sacopee Community Forum (SCF)
is a non-partisan group of folks from our neighboring towns who discuss and act on world and local affairs. The group has been active for the past 25 years and we meet monthly via Zoom. Because the elections taking place on November 3 are so important, the SCF is bringing candidates to the area for voters to meet.

**Election for Maine Governor
SATURDAY, AUGUST 29**
PIKE HALL, 17 MAPLE STREET, CORNISH
DOORS OPEN AT 6 – EVENT BEGINS AT 6:30

Rick Bennett, Independent candidate for Governor
Other candidates being invited for other dates:
Hannah Pingree (D) and **Bobby Charles** (R)

**Election for State Senate and
State Representative
MONDAY, AUGUST 31**
PIKE HALL, 17 MAPLE STREET, CORNISH
DOORS OPEN AT 6 – EVENT BEGINS AT 6:30

Senate District 22
Naples, Sebago, Baldwin, Standish, Hiram, Cornish, Limerick, Porter, Parsonsfield, Newfield, Shapleigh, Acton, Limington
Nate Burnett (D) has accepted
Kim Pomerleau (R) has been invited

House District 138
Cornish, Limington, Buxton (part), Hollis (part)
Jon Kinney (R) has accepted
Oliver McAvoy (D) has accepted

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ONLINE RECORDS

(Continued from page 1)

“Aggrieved,” in the amount of offered compensation, according to historical documents, Hatch hired attorney J. Dane, and took the next step – appealing to the York County Commissioners for relief.

The matter is outlined in the May 1835 minutes of York County Commissioners Court. It does not address the amount Hatch was originally offered – nor does the commissioners’ decision come in the May session.

In the next several months, however, folks should be able to find out what happened in this matter, and many, many others. Soon, York County Commissioners’ long-held desire to provide more information to the public about the rich history of York County and its people will come to fruition.

In the spring or summer of 2027, folks with an interest in what took place in York County as it relates to the county government will be able to read about it online. And the York County Commissioners meeting accounts are expected to be just the beginning. York County was founded in 1636, and while some records are currently held with the Maine State Archives, there are thousands and thousands of documents here. The current estimate of York County Commissioners records alone is 300,000 to 500,000 documents, according to York County Records Management Specialist Andrew O’Neill.

Back in 2022, York County Commissioners took steps to have the old county records examined, contracting with Lilly Archival of Blue Hill to take a preliminary look at the material.

“What is remarkable is the continuous series of records, between what you have in Alfred on the shelves, and the state ar-



York County Records Management Specialist Andrew O’Neill has been preparing some of the county’s historical records that are expected to go online for public viewing in the spring or summer of 2027. While the original documents will be preserved and will remain with the county, folks will be able to see scans of the documents and a summary of each online.
PHOTO BY TAMMY WELLS, YORK COUNTY GOVERNMENT MEDIA

chives,” Lilly Archival owner Paige Lilly told York County Commissioners in a report following her 2022 review of historical documents. “Overall, the preservation status of the physical materials is very sound.”

On Aug. 5, the 5-member commissioner’s board approved a contract with Just Appraised, Inc., a California-based company that will use AI to read scans of the documents and provide an overview of what each of them contain. Folks will be able to access the material online, via a link on the York County Government website. They’ll see a scan of the document itself, and a summary.

O’Neill said Just Appraised Inc. has estimated that the AI programming they use currently results in 80 to 85 percent accuracy and may hit 90 percent with the county’s records.

Before Just Appraised Inc. can work its magic, the documents must be prepared, and it is a delicate, careful process.

The handwritten were tri folded, at some point in their long history placed in bundles, and then into small metal storage containers. Many are very fragile, the ink has faded, and the handwriting can be difficult to read.

To ready them, O’Neill carefully unfolds the documents page by page, humidifies them, flattens the pages, and then scans them. O’Neill estimated he can prepare up to about 300 a day. The scans will sent off in batches to Just Appraised, Inc. – the physical documents themselves remain with the County of York and will be preserved.

Since he began working for the county a couple of years ago,

O’Neill has deciphered more than 2,500 documents himself, along with tending to other aspects of his multi-faceted job, but it can be slow-going. When the prospect that the documents could be digitized – and contents deciphered through the AI process emerged – he and other county officials gave it thorough study and careful thought.

Commissioners first discussed the project following a presentation by O’Neill in May.

“This is really fascinating, and it makes history come alive,” said Commissioner Justin Chenette.

“It looks like a good plan,” said Commissioner Richard Clark.

“There’s a long way to go, but we are excited about the prospect,” said O’Neill. He said the result should be very user-friendly.

The contract, about \$88,000 in the first year – about \$454,000

total over five years – provides for the online preservation of about 45,000 fragile documents annually. “We have the funding set aside, and there is absolutely zero tax impact,” County Manager Greg Zinser told Commissioners prior to their unanimous Aug. 5 vote. York County has long has a fund dedicated to preservation efforts, funded by user fees.

As to the Hatch appeal filed in May 1835, O’Neill explained that a decision could have been rendered in the October session or in the following May. In those days, the York County Commissioner’s Court met for 1-3 days in May, and again in October, dealing with up to 20 agenda items per session, ranging from ordering the building of roads, issuing bids for work, and issuing bonds for civil servants and the sheriff of the day.

“There were lots of road complaints,” from the public, O’Neill noted.

Finally, in the mid-1800s, commissioners began taking all paper records dealing with a specific issue and filing them at once with any final action taken.

And while commissioners at that time did create roads through the municipalities, the towns and cities themselves had the authority to create town ways.

Commissioners in the early days also examined the county payroll and voted to pay workers in their October sessions – and while they no longer order that roads be built, some early tasks remain in today’s commissioners’ purview – like approving warrants (paying the bills) and awarding bids for items ranging from vehicles for sheriff’s deputies to construction projects.

“We think it’s an exciting opportunity to put the records out to the public,” said Zinser.

– By Tammy Wells,
York County government media

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STATE NEWS



Secretary Bellows statement regarding lawsuit filed by coalition of states regarding USPS anti-mail voting rule

Maine Secretary of State Shenna Bellows has issued the following statement in response to 24 states and the District of Columbia filing a lawsuit today challenging the U.S. Postal Service’s finalized anti-mail voting rule:

“This is not over. Today, Maine joined states across the country in filing a lawsuit to stop this unconstitutional attack on every American who votes by mail. It is unconscionable that the Trump Administration and the U.S. Postal Service would try to change the rules around voting by mail. With Election Day now just 69 days away and voting for military and overseas voters less than a month away, it’s important for Maine voters to realize that nothing has changed when it comes to the fundamental voting rights of every American in this country. You can still vote by mail. Even though Trump and the U.S. Postal Service seem to be doing their best to try to stop that, they have not yet been successful.”



State Police investigating Sanford death

On Thursday, Aug. 20, shortly after 5 a.m., the Sanford Police Department responded to a residence on Twombly Road in Sanford following a report of a deceased male located in the backyard by a fire pit. The Sanford Police Department notified the Fire Marshal’s Office, which subsequently notified the Maine State Police Major Crimes Unit- South. Detectives and investigators from the Maine State Police Major Crimes Unit, Maine Fire Marshal’s Office, and Sanford Police Department remained on scene throughout the day. The remains were transported to the Medical Examiner’s officer for an autopsy. The identification, as well as the cause and manner of death are pending. The investigation is still ongoing. There is no danger to the public. No further information is available at this time. Additional updates will be provided as appropriate.

Maine Lobstermen’s Association warns Canadian tariffs could devastate Maine’s Fall lobster fishery

The Maine Lobstermen’s Association (MLA) is deeply concerned by Canada’s announcement that it will impose a 25% tariff on American lobster beginning September 8.

Canada is one of the most important markets for Maine lobster, purchasing roughly half of our lobster during the critical fall fishing season. A 25% tariff could disrupt that market overnight, putting significant downward pressure on the price paid to lobstermen.

The impact would be felt immediately on Maine’s docks. Lobstermen are already facing historically high operating costs, an increasingly difficult business environment, and razor-thin mar-



MAINE Lobstermen’s Association, Inc.

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gins. If prices fall far enough, many simply will not be able to afford to fish.

“Maine lobstermen should not become collateral damage in a broader trade dispute. Losing access to such an important market at the height of our fall season could be devastating to fishermen and coastal communities,” said Patrice McCarron, MLA’s executive director.

The MLA urges the Administration to act immediately to protect American fishermen and preserve tariff-free access for Maine lobster before September 8. The Administration has pledged to strengthen America’s commercial fishing industry and keep U.S. seafood competitive. Protecting access to one of Maine lobster’s most important markets is essential to fulfilling that commitment.

“Maine lobstermen produce a premium, sustainably harvested American seafood product. They need fair access to their markets and the ability to compete—not another economic burden that could keep them tied to the dock,” McCarron said.

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NOTICES

**TOWN OF SHAPLEIGH
Request for Proposals
2027-2029 GROUNDS
MAINTENANCE**

The Shapleigh Select Board is now accepting proposals for 2027-2029 Grounds Maintenance for municipal locations.

Detailed specifications can be found on the town website at: https://www.shapleigh.net/operating_hours/requests_for_proposals.php

Contact the Town Administrator with any questions at 207-636-2843 ext. 0

Please submit sealed bid no later than 4:00pm, October 3, 2026

Town Administrator -Attn: Grounds Maintenance Bid, P.O. Box 26, Shapleigh, Maine 04076, or deliver in person to 22 Back Road, Shapleigh, Maine.

**TOWN OF ALFRED
Parsons Memorial Library
NOTICE OF INVITATION TO BID**

Parsons Memorial Library will receive bids for the replacement of existing ceiling pendant light fixtures' lightbulbs with energy-efficient LED bulbs at the building located at 27 Saco Road, Alfred, Maine until Monday, August 31, 2026 at 5:00 pm. All bids will be reviewed by the Library Board of Trustees at the September 2026

Trustees meeting and a recommendation of service will be presented to the Town of Alfred Board of Selectmen. The Town reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids received.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:
www.parsonsmemoriallibrary.com/about**

**TOWN OF ALFRED
Parsons Memorial Library
NOTICE OF INVITATION TO BID**

Parsons Memorial Library will receive bids for repair/replacement of the HVAC system as per the recommendations from the HVAC Retro-Commissioning report completed July 2026 of the building located at 27 Saco Road, Alfred, Maine until Monday, August 31, 2026 at 5:00 pm. All bids will be reviewed by the Library Board of Trustees at the September 2026 Trustees meeting and a recommendation of service will be presented to the Town of Alfred Board of Selectmen. Completion of work to be done as soon as possible. The Town reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids received.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:
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NEXT ISSUE:
Thursday, Sept. 3

DEADLINE:
Tuesday, Sept. 1



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Obituaries

Bob Allen Plouff

Bob Allen Plouffe, 61, passed away on Aug. 15, 2026, following a long-term illness. He was born on Friday, June 4, 1965, to Willis and Mary Ellen (Bowerman) Plouffe of South Portland, Maine.



Bob Allen Plouff

Bob—not Robert—was the youngest of five children, and he certainly caused enough trouble to prove it. He graduated from South Portland High School in 1984 and wore many hats throughout his working years. He worked alongside his father in construction, as a patient transporter at Maine Medical Center, at Wood Structures Inc. in Saco, Home Depot, as a school bus driver for MSAD 6 and MSAD 57, and at Aubuchon and Ace Hardware in Buxton. Bob was always keeping busy with side construction projects, and he was never shy about sharing his opinions.

Bob was a dedicated volunteer firefighter, serving with the Hollis Fire Department, Chickapee in Buxton, and Limington. He enjoyed going to the races at Beech Ridge and Oxford Speedway and was an avid NASCAR fan. In his later years, Bob discovered a creative side, making jewelry and knitted accessories to sell while living in nursing homes.

Bob was predeceased by his parents; his infant daughter, Allyson Mary, in 1990; and his older brother, Barry of Auburn, in 2015.

He leaves behind his beloved daughter, Kari May Plouffe of Hollis; his son, Ryan Newton Pierce Plouffe and his wife, Ashley, of South Paris; and his two cherished grandchildren, Ellie Mae and Leo Algy of South Paris. Ellie and Leo will dearly miss their Papa Bob.

He is also survived by his special sister, Bonita “Bonnie”

Heatley and her husband, Richard “Dick,” of Norway, Maine; brothers Bruce and his wife, Lynn, of Saco, Maine, and Ben Plouffe of Haines City, Florida, and Hollis, Maine; and his nieces and nephews, Christie (Plouffe) Libby of Hollis, Joey Plouffe of Plymouth, Massachusetts, Samantha (Plouffe) Anthony of Limington, Cori Heatley of Auburn, Amanda Heatley of Steep Falls, and Rick Heatley of South Portland.

Bob will be remembered for his hard work, strong opinions, sense of humor, willingness to help others, and the many lives he touched along the way. Most of all, he will be deeply missed by his family, especially his children and grandchildren, who will carry the memory of Papa Bob in their hearts.

Bob will be buried at Meeting House Hill Cemetery in Hollis on Aug. 29. The service will be private. The family appreciates your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Chad E. Poitras Cremation and Funeral Service, Buxton, www.mainefuneral.com.

Ayden Thomas Smith

Ayden Thomas Smith, of Hollis Center, entered this world already stubborn. After refusing to submit to being born and putting his mother through three days of labor, he finally made his entrance via C-section on June 2, 2002.



Ayden Thomas Smith

He spent his early years on the banks of the Saco River, fishing at the home of his Bup—his best friend—and Neen. It was his most treasured childhood home, where the laundry chute doubled as his secret hideout. As the first grandchild, great-grandchild, nephew, and favorite little cousin, Ayden was loved beyond measure from the very beginning.

Ayden was born to Melissa Johnson Feeney and G. Steven Smith and was raised by his dad, Frankie R. Feeney, of Hollis.

Ayden spent his youth keeping his family on their toes and staying busy with just about everything. He was a Cub Scout with Pack 323, a Hollis Little League championship pitcher coached by his Dad and Bup, a Bonny Eagle Soccer Club player, and a Bonny Eagle Little Scot football player. He attended Bonny Eagle High School, where he played basketball, baseball, and golf and made many great and lasting friendships. Ayden also attended PATHS, where he earned his welding certification.

An entrepreneur from an early age, Ayden was always trying to figure out how to make money. He landed his first job at a local golf course—before they realized he was actually too young to be working there.

Ayden's working years officially began at age 15, when he and his best friend, Mark Tibbets, started working as technicians at Town Fair Tire. Ayden quickly worked his way through various positions, eventually becoming an assistant store manager in Topsham at age of 18. It was then that he decided if he was going to work that hard, he was going to do it for himself.

Ayden went on to own and operate his own mobile tire and auto detailing business, Smith's Tire and Auto Detail, in Hollis. He could often be found out in the yard doing customer work or in the garage hanging out with his Bup, his dog Harley, and his brother Landen, or pushing Griff on the swing, and perfecting his patch of grass.

Ayden had a heart of gold and gave so much of himself to others. He was a champion of the underdog, always looking out for people and often going out of his way to help. He donated to local sports organizations, toy funds, and the Town of Hollis Holiday Fund, never needing recognition for doing something good.

Ayden lived life entirely on

his own terms—all gas and no brakes. He lived fast, loud, and with his whole heart. He loved riding his motorcycle and especially cherished the last few summers spent on the lake with his friends Caleb and David.

Ayden was predeceased by his great-grandparents, Bob and Shirley Libby, Harold Johnson Jr., Beverly Rittenhouse, and Beatrix Cormier.

Ayden is survived by his Mom and Dad, Melissa and Frankie Feeney; his brothers, Landen and Griffen Feeney; and his grandparents, Bruce and Tracy Johnson, all of Hollis. He is also survived by his grandparents, Deborah and Walter Smith of Texas; his Auntie Lindsey Johnson; cousins Rory and Marlow; great-aunts and great-uncles Patti Stone, Robin Smith (Dennis), Rhonda Feeney (Frank), Wendy Buzzell (Peter), Mike Johnson (Lynda), and Stuart Johnson (Debbie) Ken Stone; and his great-great-uncle John Wilder (Lil).

Ayden also leaves behind his girlfriend, Hannah Lawler, and her son, Stetson; his beloved German Shepherd, Harley; his special cousins Nick and Andy, Kyle, Ryan, and McKenna; his best friends, Ashley Welch and Amanda McKay, Caleb Gooch, Mark Tibbets, Derek Mckeen; and countless friends and customers whose lives were made better simply by knowing him.

Following injuries sustained in an automobile accident on July 19, Ayden led us on a 24-day journey that showed all of us the stubbornness, strength, and determination that defined him throughout his life. He fought with everything he had.

Held by his Mom and girlfriend, and holding the hands of his Neen, Bup, and Auntie, Ayden took his last breath on Aug. 12, 2026.

Our family would like to extend our deepest gratitude to the staff of SCU4 at Maine Medical Center for the exceptional care, compassion, and dignity they provided to our son throughout his hard-fought battle.

We are also incredibly grateful for the tremendous amount of love and support shown to our family on Ayden's behalf and for the constant coordination, help, and friendship of our dear family friends Amy Ayotte, Honorary Auntie Angela Harris, Michelle Meserve, and Laurie Bruce.

Life is precious, and you never know when a split second can change everything.

Pay attention behind the wheel.

Tell your children you love them every chance you get—even when they tell you to stop loving them so much.

Visitation was held on Friday Aug. 21, followed by a service to celebrate Ayden's life at the West Buxton Baptist Church, 62 Parker Farm Road, Buxton. A reception immediately followed at the Hollis Town Hall.

In Ayden's honor, donations may be made toward a future scholarship for a student pursuing a technical career in the trades. Donations may be mailed to:

Bonny Eagle High School
C/O Ayden Smith
700 Saco Road
Standish, ME 04084

Arrangements have been entrusted to Chad E. Poitras Cremation and Funeral Service, Buxton, www.mainefuneral.com.

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