



# REPORTER



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## Sing-along

Aria LeBoeuf and Aiden Harris participated in the sing-along in Alfred's schoolhouse No. 5 last Sunday. Providing the music was Almon Williams on his autoharp. Those who had never before been in the building enjoyed perusing the many pictures on the walls of previous generations of children who had attended school there as well as in the village school.

PHOTO BY ALLISON WILLIAMS

## Need for toys up

By ANN FISHER  
afisher@waterbororeporter.com

the Don't Shake Jake Awareness Program.

The need and response for toys in southern Maine towns has grown so much in the last five years that Toys for Tots is moving its distribution center from the cavernous Curtis Lake Christian Church to an even larger space in the St. Ignatius gym in Sanford.

Rounding out the core volunteers is Stevens, who is also on the board of directors at the Parent Resource Center, as well as a child case manager for Spurwink. Stevens jokes that five years ago she was also roped into volunteering, but "I've been hooked ever since."

"Last year, there were 3,000," said registration coordinator Ricki Stevens of Limerick. "I think we'll definitely go past that this year."

All kidding aside, Stevens said as a single mom who had applied for Toys for Tots, "it was my way of giving back."

Now in its sixth year, the Southern York County Toys for Tots Partnership was founded in 2008 by Carol Lombard of Springvale, who had been volunteering in the Biddford center for several years.

Toys for Toys was founded 65 years ago in 1948 by the Marine Corps Foundation Program, and has a presence in more than 700 communities in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

Lombard needed to partner with a nonprofit organization and tapped Pam Belisle of the Parent Resource Center in Springvale. "She dragged me with her and I wouldn't leave for anything," said Belisle, the executive director of both the Parent Resource Center in Springvale and

The Marine Corps League York County Detachment #1341 is the local sponsor.

"They do a whole lot of stuff for us," said Belisle, who added one Marine dubbed the coordinators "the three wise ladies."

The local Marine Corps  
(Continued on page 4)

## Local men join 20th class of AmeriCorps NCCC

Eric Gendron of Waterboro recently began a 10-month term of service in the National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC), an AmeriCorps program. He is based at the AmeriCorps NCCC regional campus in Sacramento, Calif.



Eric Gendron

Robert Allard of Lebanon has also joined AmeriCorps; he is based at the regional campus in Denver. Gendron and Allard both began their first projects in mid-November.



Robert Allard

Founded in 1994, AmeriCorps NCCC is a residential national service program that supports disaster relief, the environment, infrastructure improvement, energy conservation and urban and rural development.

opportunities to make my mark in all the ways I've always wanted."

Gendron is the son of Mary Gendron and Roland Gendron.

Before joining the NCCC, Allard, who is the son of Pat and Bob Allard, attended Noble High School.

Allard and Gendron arrived at their regional campuses in late October to begin training. This training, which prepared them for 10 months of full-time service with AmeriCorps NCCC, emphasized teamwork, leadership development, communication, service learning and certification by the American Red Cross.

Allard and Gendron will be responsible for completing a series of six- to eight-week-long service projects as part of a 10- to 12-person team. Their first service projects will end on Dec. 19, at which time their teams will break for the winter holidays and begin a new project in a new location in January.

Over the past 20 years, 820,000 Americans have served more than 1 billion hours in the family of AmeriCorps programs.

(Continued on page 9)



## 'A Doll's House'

Will Secunde as Nils Krogstad hovers menacingly over Alison O'Brien as Nora Helmer in last weekend's performance of 'A Doll's House' by the Massabesic Mustang Theatre Program.

(See related story on page 3)

PHOTO BY SHELLEY BURBANK

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*"A little of everything for everybody"*

# Cool stuff VILLAGE



**Dealer of Redcat  
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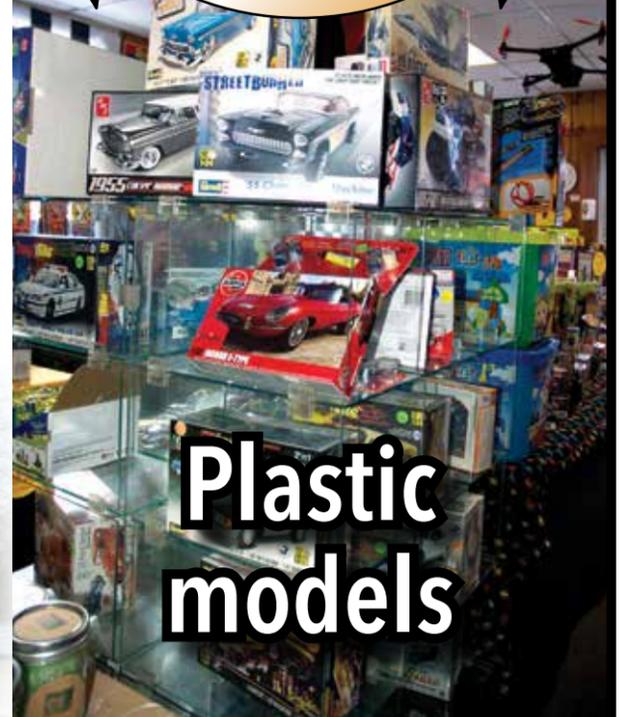
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# Mustang Theatre performs ‘A Doll’s House’

By **SHELLEY BURBANK**  
sburbank@waterbororeporter.com

The Massabesic Mustang Theatre Program under the direction of Stephanie Ross is known for taking on challenging pieces of work. This year’s winter production was no exception. Following last year’s rollicking “Twelfth Night,” Mustang Theatre chose the more serious, psychological “A Doll’s House” by Henrik Ibsen for performances Dec. 7-9.

“A Doll’s House” is a story of marriage, the role of women in society, and the desire of human beings to live fulfilling lives on their own terms rather than society’s expectations. The play is set in late 1800s Norway in the home of a middle-class banker, Torvald Helmer, and his wife, Nora. It is Christmas. Money is a point of contention in the relationship. Torvald is completely in charge of the family finances. As the play begins, seemingly frivolous Nora has been out shopping for Christmas presents, and Torvald patronizingly chides her for being a spendthrift. Torvald does not know that years earlier, when he was severely ill, Nora illegally borrowed money to pay for Torvald’s expensive medical treatment. Resourceful Nora has been paying the loan back a little at a time when she can.

Since Torvald has received a management promotion at the bank to start the new year, the

family’s economic situation is about to improve. However, all is put in jeopardy when a lawyer at the bank named Krogstad – who helped Nora procure the loan using a forged signature – threatens to tell Torvald about the loan unless Nora persuades Torvald not to replace Krogstad at the bank.

This conflict forces Nora to face the truth of her role as a wife, mother, daughter and woman in a repressive, male-dominated society where both law and unwritten social rules constrained women in every facet of their lives. Nora realizes that she has been nothing but a doll to both her father and Thorvald – a pretty plaything living in a doll’s house with no power of her own. As the play draws to its conclusion, Nora leaves Torvald to make her own way in society, to become a self-actualized individual.

Heavy stuff for high school students.

In her role as Nora, junior Alison O’Brien had a chance to demonstrate her versatility. At the beginning, O’Brien portrayed Nora as a shallow, flighty, slightly spoiled wife of a successful man – the woman Torvald expects Nora to be. As the scenes rolled out, O’Brien gradually dropped that façade to reveal the desperate, despairing and finally strong-than-expected Nora that lay beneath the pretty surface. O’Brien was perhaps best when Nora was at her bleakest, pacing



**Jake Hammond and Allison O'Brien.**  
PHOTO BY SHELLEY BURBANK

the stage or sitting on the couch staring with stark pain on her features declaring, “No, it is impossible!”

Senior Jake Hammond was also convincing as Torvald, cooing “my little squirrel” and patting Nora’s arms and face as one would a child or a pet. Hammond managed to capture the character’s facets quite effectively – switching from stern fatherly scolding (when Torvald believes Nora has spent too much or eaten too many sweets); to pushy, sexually-aroused man claiming his rights as a husband (in spite of Nora’s reluctance after a dance); from enraged, abusive spouse (humiliating Nora when he learns of her indiscretion with the loan); to a pleading, anxious, ultimately weak human being simmering in

the same societal stew as Nora (when Nora announces she is leaving him). Again, a tall order for a high school actor, but Hammond gave a solid performance.

Playing Nora’s old friend, Christine Linde – a woman who married a man she didn’t love for economic reasons, but who has worked to support herself over the years – Jane Pettit delivered with the same control she exhibited as a freshman last year. Scene after scene, Pettit allowed dual expressions of tension and reluctance to quietly battle it out beneath the surface. Her rational, deliberate Christine was the perfect counterbalance to O’Brien’s flighty, emotional Nora.

Will Secunde gave a brooding performance as dark, menacing, blackmailing lawyer, Nils Krogstad. Like Nora, Krogstad is caught in a role he no longer fits. Once a ne’r-do-well, Krogstad claims he is trying to be a better father, to be a good man, and to rise in society, but people like Torvald Helmer are unable to see beyond the old roles. Secunde played the part with a sincerity that had the audience rooting for Krogstad somehow, some way, to win out over Torvald without destroying Nora.

Perhaps the biggest surprise in this performance was senior Sommer deAguiar in the role of Doctor Rank. Rank is usually a male character, but deAguiar made a wonderfully cynical and fatalistic

female physician, ill with a spinal disease brought on as a result of her father’s sexual past. deAguiar nailed this role, radiating not only bitterness and resignation regarding her ill condition and impending death but also tenderness and romantic love for the beautiful Nora. Love between women was something Ibsen probably did not have in mind when he wrote this iconic play, but the timely and contemporary adaptation worked splendidly.

Other roles were played as follows: Jasmine Rouillard Anne, the Nurse; Angela Moline as Helen, the Maid and one of the children; Danielle Mailhot as the Porter and Ivar. Acacia McAdam as one of the children.

The beautiful Victorian-era set with its cozy sofa and chairs, fireplace, piano, Christmas tree, and, yes, a doll, was designed by Josh Brassard, Stephanie Ross, Jake Hammond, Jane Pettit, Jasmine Rouillard, and Sommer deAguiar. Costumes were created by Jasmine Rouillard, Sommer deAguiar, and Jake Hammond.

The difficulty and complexity of “A Doll’s House” make for some heavy theater, but the Massabesic Mustang cast and crew delivered a solid performance in the newly refurbished Massabesic High School auditorium. Said Director Stephanie Ross following Sunday’s matinee, “I always make them do demanding things, and they always come through.”



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## OBITUARIES

### James K. Monroe

James Keville "Jim" Monroe, 87, a longtime resident of Springvale, died Tuesday, Dec. 3, 2013, at his home, surrounded by his loving children.



He was born in Brookline, Mass. Nov. 18, 1926, the son of James and Beatrice (Keville) Monroe and grew up in South Berwick, graduating from Berwick Academy. When World War II began, Jim enlisted into the Navy and served aboard the USS Sullivan. The times of war forged a strength and camaraderie with his fellow sailors that would shape his future.

Upon his return from the war, Jim met and married his sweetheart, Alice Abbott and they were blessed with six children. He became a Maine State Trooper and worked out of Troop A in Scarborough. He began in 1955 and retired following 20 years of dedicated service. When out on patrol, Jim was in charge when there was an accident on the roadways or any other problems while on duty, yet if his family was hurt or needed medical attention, it was Alice that rose to the front line.

Jim possessed a lighthearted personality and was forever telling a joke to his family and friends. When his daughters started to show an interest in boys and they came by to pick them up for a date, James had his fingerprint kit sitting next to his chair in the living room. He was always available and was a dedicated and loving Dad.

Jim enjoyed hunting and absolutely loved fishing, especially going with his sons-in-law. He always said he liked them better than the girls. James was active within his

community and was a 32nd degree Mason with the Springvale Masonic Lodge #190 AF & AM and was a Shriner with the Kora Temple in Lewiston.

Jim lived a rich and rewarding life. He raised his family, gave his time and talents to his community, and his influence and love will long be remembered by his children and grandchildren.

Survivors include his six children, Rebecca Kelley and husband Paul; Melany Thompson and husband Dave; James B. (Jim) Monroe; Blaire Fagan and husband Michael; Jennifer Frith and husband Steve; and Laurel Muse and husband Robert; 19 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild; his sister, Connie Butler; his nieces, Donna Onato and Lilly Maiser; and dear friend, Trudy Knox.

James was predeceased by his wife of 63 years, Alice Monroe on May 20, 2013 and by his sister, Mary Knight.

Family and friends are invited to call from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 13 at the Autumn Green Funeral Home, 47 Oak St., in Alfred, where a Masonic Service will be held at 7:30 p.m. Committal prayers and burial will be later in the spring.

### Patrick Lewis Maloney

Patrick L. Maloney, 32, died suddenly at his home on Sunday, Dec. 1, 2013, in Waterboro.

Patrick was born at home in Durham, N.H., a son of Lewis F. and Lauri (Sims) Maloney.

Patrick grew up in the Sanford/Waterboro area; graduating from Massabesic High

School with the class of 2001. He was very proud to be a Massabesic Mustang.

Patrick served in the Navy with distinction and great courage, returning home in 2007. He worked as a residential care worker with Waban and Sweets-er.

When Patrick returned home, he had many adjustments to make. He had a PTSD (Post Traumatic Syndrome Disorder), but this would not define who he was. Patrick possessed a loving and generous spirit. He willingly helped his family and his many friends. He was the one in the group that made everyone laugh and smile. Patrick had a sense of style with his taste in clothing.

Patrick was blessed within his marriage to Sophy, and together they celebrated owning their home in Waterboro. He was a loving father to his son Phoenix and daughter Selena Kou. He will be forever loved by his mother, Lauri Maloney and his stepfather Jeff Ladebush; his father, Lewis F. Maloney Jr. and wife Jean Macley; his siblings, Timothy Maloney and wife Karleen, Samuel Maloney, Shannon Kinkaid and Daniel and Dustin Sims, David Ladebush and Kiana Ladebush.

A funeral service was held Friday, Dec 6, 2013 at 8 p.m. at the Alfred Parish Church, 12 Kennebunk Rd., in Alfred.

To leave a message of condolence for the family, please visit [www.autumngreenfuneralhome.com](http://www.autumngreenfuneralhome.com)

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made towards Phoenix Maloney's education fund, Ocean Communities Federal Credit Union, 48 Alfred St., Sanford, ME 04073.



Patrick Maloney

### TOYS FOR TOTS

(Continued from page 1)

League "built it, they run it, they're a tremendous help also during distribution," Belisle said. They also organize several events every year to raise money for the program.

In years past, people from the Waterboro and Sanford areas traveled to the Biddeford Toys for Tots distribution site to get Christmas gifts for their children. Southern York County Maine Toys for Tots was started as an offshoot of the Biddeford center. "I was volunteering six or seven years when we were asked to split from Biddeford," said Lombard.

Southern York County Toys for Tots serves the Sanford area, the Waterboro area, Shapleigh, Newfield, Limerick and Limington, among other towns. "We cover Sanford south and the RSU 57 region," said Belisle.

It's become big enough to outgrow the annual distribution center, Curtis Lake Christian Church in south Sanford. For the first time, toys will be distributed from St. Ignatius gym, 22 Riverside Ave., Sanford.

Registrations were accepted for infants through 18-year-olds until Dec. 13, and no one who applies is ever turned down. "That's something we like about Toys for Tots," Belisle said. "If they need our help, we're here. We'll find a way to make it happen."

There is one caveat: no double dipping. Said Belisle, "We do have a strict policy; parents can only apply to one program."

Southern Maine Toys for Tots shares lists with other local charities that distribute free toys, including Santa's Workshop in Waterboro, the Buxton Toy Box and Santa Bil in Biddeford "so we can make things go further,"

Belisle added.

"Our number of registrations has increased dramatically," over the past several years, said Belisle.

The large white boxes with the Toys for Tots logo are put out Nov. 1. "We put them out early to remind people," said Lombard.

But what happens after a toy is placed in a box? First, designated volunteers pick up the toys and store them until distribution. All are counted and inventoried, along with cash donations. This year Sanford Police Cadets will be doing the loading at St. Ignatius for the group. According to Lombard, about 30,000 toys will be given out on Friday, Dec. 20 and Saturday, Dec. 21.

The toys are set out by age groups. Having made an appointment, the parents are taken into "Santa's Workshop" by an "elf."

"We really believe in letting the parents pick for their child," said Belisle. "They know their children."

Each child receives a large gift and two small toys, with a total value of between \$50 and \$75. Each family is given a game and each child also receives a coloring book and crayons.

Even the 18-year-olds? "Absolutely," Belisle replied. "It was always special in our family, right up until my Nanny died."



#### FAST FACTS

- Cash donations are accepted online at [www.toysfortots.org](http://www.toysfortots.org) and can be designated to benefit a local area. Donations can be made in memory or in honor of a loved one, and the organization will send an email or a card to note the donation.

#### UPCOMING FUNDRAISERS

**Saturday Dec. 14**  
4:30 to 7 p.m.: the home at 74 Mayfair Way in North Waterboro (LAC), will be lit up with more than 11,000 lights. New, unwrapped toys will be collected, and there will be a special appearance by Santa and his helpers, who will be passing out free candy canes and hot cocoa.

7 p.m.: Toys and cash donations will be collected at Iron Tails in Acton. Like the Facebook page to learn more. Local 109 band will be playing.

#### DONATION BOX LOCATIONS

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# ALFRED

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## Church vandalized

When the church custodian walked into Alfred's Conant Chapel on Monday, Dec. 2, she was greeted by a dismaying scene. Someone had sprayed the contents of a fire extinguisher all over the room. They had also helped themselves to donation money in a jar. Further inspection revealed a broken window in a downstairs room where the thief had apparently gained access.

By the time Janet Tucker had thought to call the fire department about whether the fire extinguisher's contents could be harmful to herself or the plants in that room, she had most of it cleaned up. The sheriff's office was contacted, and at the church council meeting that night a security system was discussed. There have been other recent break-ins in Alfred, including at the "crooked house" on Gore Road where the copper pipes were removed.

## Brothers contribute to community

One of the services rendered by the Brothers of Christian Instruction is church services at the York County Jail on Saturdays. Br. Ted Letendre and Br. Henry Monday carry on a program begun about 10 years ago. Br. Ted is also available for consultation once or twice a week or whenever the jail chaplain contacts him.

Br. Henry (from Uganda) is a participant with other volunteers in a retreat at the Warren State Prison twice yearly, then once a month team members conduct three-hour Saturday reunions and worship.

## Santa coming to Masonic hall

Youngsters wanting to visit with Santa will find him at the Masonic hall on Saturday, Dec. 21 from noon to 3 p.m. Admission is a can of food or monetary donation for the York County Shelter.

## News from the pews

The Noonings Study Group will meet Wednesday, Dec. 18, at midday.

Caroling after a soup and salad supper in Conant Chapel will be held Dec. 20 at 5:30 for children and adults.

There will be a holiday shopping trip to Portsmouth, N.H. for United Church of Christ youth in Alfred, Sanford and Acton on Sunday, Dec. 15. There will be a sign-up sheet or email Bruce Burnham at apucc@gmail.com. The cost for meals and transportation will be \$5-\$6.

Cloth bags decorated by the Sunday school were distributed to parishioners, who will fill them with food for the Christmas holiday.

## Village Notes

The first and second grades at Alfred Elementary School will hold their holiday concert on Monday, Dec. 16 at 6:30 p.m.

There will be an Eagle Scout Ceremony on Thursday, Dec. 19 at 6 p.m. in the fire station.

The Parish Paddlers will hold an ornament swap at the meeting on Sunday, Dec. 15 at 4 p.m. Joyce Krahlung is the hostess.

On Saturday, Dec. 14 there will be an acoustic country jam in the American Legion Hall from 1 to 4:30 p.m. Donations are \$1 and there will be food and drink available.

Town Clerk Andy Bors reports there were two births in November, no deaths or marriages. Twenty neutered dogs were licensed, four unaltered and eight hunting and fishing licenses sold.

Travel basketball begins this month for both boys and girls in grades three to six. Students are asked to check on the town of Alfred web page or Alfred Parks and Rec on Facebook if interested. This is a competitive league so tryouts are held.

# Waterboro girl wins peace poster contest

Sarah Cloutier, a sixth grade student at Massabesic Middle School, has taken the first step to becoming an internationally recognized artist by winning a local competition sponsored by the Massabesic, Lyman-Dayton and Acton-Shapleigh Lions Clubs.

Cloutier's poster was among more than 375,000 entries submitted worldwide in the 26th annual Lions International Peace Poster Contest. Lions Clubs International is sponsoring the contest to emphasize the importance of world peace to young people everywhere.

"I would like to see peace in the world soon," the 11-year-old from Waterboro said. The poster was selected by PDG Louise Doughty of Lyman, PDG John Kustron of North Waterboro and Lion Tonya Nason of Shapleigh for its originality, artistic merit and portrayal of the contest theme, "Our World, Our Future." The judging was held on Nov. 12 at the Massabesic Middle School.

Massabesic Lions Peace Poster Chairwoman Anne Kustron said she was impressed by the expression and creativity of the more than 60 students at the Massabesic Middle School. "It is obvious that these young people have strong ideas about what peace means to them. I'm so happy that we were able to provide them with the opportunity to share their visions."

According to Kustron, Cloutier's poster will advance to face stiff competition through the district and international rounds of competition if she is to be declared the international grand prize winner.

One grand prize winner and 23 merit awards will be selected. The grand prize includes a cash award of \$5,000 plus a trip for the winner and two family members to the awards ceremony at Lions Day at the United Nations. The 23 merit award winners will each receive a certificate and a cash award of \$500.

"Our club is cheering for Sarah as her poster advances in the competition and we hope that her vision will ultimately be shared with



Sarah Cloutier with her contest-winning Peace Poster.

COURTESY PHOTO

others around the world," Kustron said.

Lions Clubs International is the world's largest service club organization with 1.35 million members in more than 46,000 clubs in 207

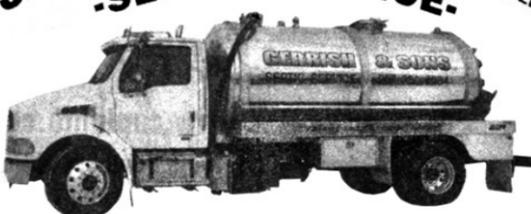
countries and geographic areas. In addition to its efforts toward conquering blindness, the organization has made a strong commitment to community service and helping youth throughout the world.



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# LIMERICK

## A Village Christmas rings in the holiday

By **SHELLEY BURBANK**  
*sburbank@waterbororeporter.com*

Saturday's A Village Christmas Festival brought the town together for the eighth year to ring in the holiday with fun and good cheer. Craft sales were held in the Brick Town Hall and the congregational church. The Line School PTC sponsored a special character breakfast for the kids in the Brick Town Hall. Farther along Main Street, the congregational church served up a luncheon, and lunch was also available on the second floor of the town hall for those who needed to warm up and fuel up after the parade.

The parade was led this year by the Limerick Fire Department's emergency medical services vehicle, followed by many groups and organizations. The Girl Scouts personified the Twelve Days of Christmas. The Boy Scouts marched with American and troop flags flying, while some of the troop members demonstrated how

to properly carry an injured person on a stretcher. The Scouts had also built some emergency shelters on display near the Limerick Post Office. Characters like Minnie and Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck, Rudolph and, of course, Santa Claus waved their way down Main Street. A miniature pony, Dancer, was led by the Thayer family. Ossipee Valley Christian school's float was themed Feliz Navidad with a definite South of the border flavor. The Lions' hay wagon joined in as well, between giving rides before and after the parade.

Following the parade, a line of parents and kids snaked their way out the door of the Limerick fire station, where Santa greeted everyone and listened carefully to the wishes of children young and old. Cookies and punch were available for nibbling while everyone had a chance to mingle.

The festival culminated with the traditional tree lighting and Christmas carol sing-along at the

gazebo in front of the Limerick Academy building. Following the caroling, the community was invited to the Brick Town Hall for cookies and hot cocoa sponsored by the Limerick Research Club. Drawings for the stocking and sleigh raffle went to Jeri Libby and Tina St. Pierre, respectively. Deedee Tibbetts, who was chairwoman of the Village Christmas committee, thanked everyone on the committee for their hard work and thanked the community for coming to celebrate another holiday season together.



Members of Limerick's A Village Christmas Festival gathered on the stage after the tree lighting and sing-along at the gazebo in front of the Academy Saturday evening. PHOTO BY SHELLEY BURBANK



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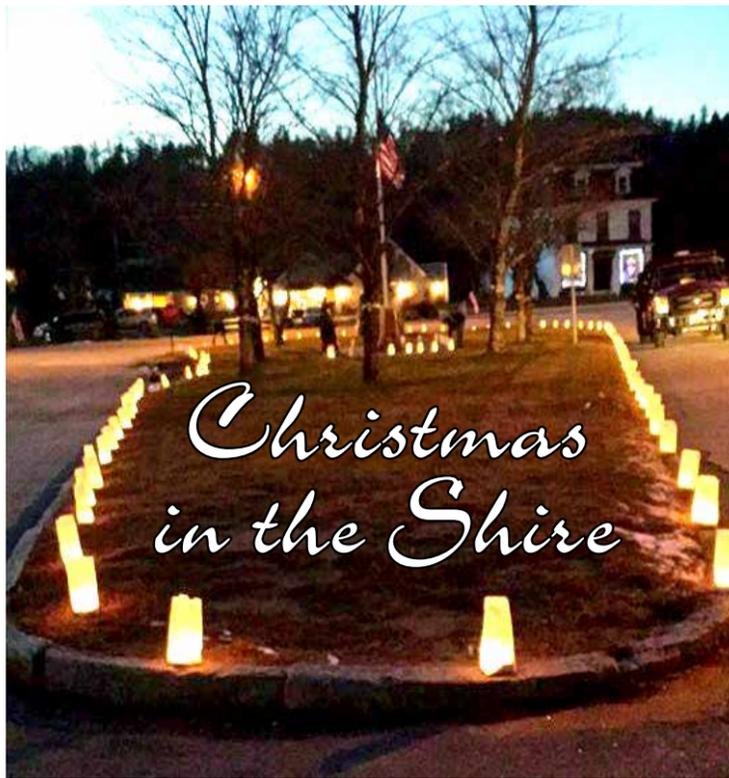
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*Christmas in the Shire*

At left, Santa and Mrs. Claus; center, luminaries surround the Alfred Village Square on Dec. 7; Above, the tree lit in the center of Alfred Village. COURTESY PHOTOS

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**BRIEFS**

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 A holiday concert/art show featuring Shapleigh Memorial School students in kindergarten through grade two will be held at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 18. The public is invited to view the art in the cafeteria and hear the students who will be performing under the direction of teacher Joe Abbiati. For more information, call 636-1751.

**Bean supper**  
 The Massabesic Lions Club will hold its monthly bean supper this Saturday, Dec. 14, at the Massabesic Medical Center in Waterboro from 4:30-6:30. The cost for adults \$7, children 5-12, \$4 and under 5, free. Proceeds support Lions Club activities.

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**AMERICORPS**

(Continued from page 1)

About 80,000 people serve in AmeriCorps programs nationwide each year; around 2,500 serve with AmeriCorps NCCC.

Fifty-six teams composed of more than 600 Corps members and team leaders began service projects in November throughout the Pacific and Southwest regions, based in Sacramento and in Denver respectively. Some of these projects include providing services to homeless clients at Sacramento Loaves and Fishes, completing environmental restoration projects in Death Valley National Park, supporting a nature reserve in Missouri and a children's hospital in Arkansas, and assisting with flood recovery in northern Colorado, among others. There are three additional

NCCC campuses located in Perry Point, Md., Vinton, Iowa, and Vicksburg, Miss., each of which is a hub for its respective area of the country. The other campuses begin their 10-month cycles at different times of the year.

AmeriCorps NCCC members, all 18 to 24 years old, complete at least 1,700 hours of service during the 10-month program. In exchange for their service, they receive \$5,550 to help pay for college. Other benefits include a small living stipend, room and board, leadership development, team building skills, and the knowledge that, through active citizenship, they can make a real difference. AmeriCorps NCCC is administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service. For more information about AmeriCorps NCCC, visit the website at [www.americorps.gov/nccc](http://www.americorps.gov/nccc).

**Research Club Christmas party**

The Research Club of Limerick gathered together to celebrate the Christmas holiday at the Jeremiah Mason House on Main Street in Limerick on Tuesday, Dec. 3. The Christmas party was hosted by club member and proprietor, Kyle Osborne. Twenty-one club members enjoyed an extensive array of goodies prepared by Lovedy Alexander, Kyle Osborne and Trula Woods.

The common room fireplace was lit, carols were sung, and Yankee Swap was the highlight of the evening. Gifts for veterans were donated, and a collection taken up

for Caring Unlimited.

Club President Jeanine Housley was happy to report that the group's Thanksgiving pie sale was a success, and moneys raised will be going toward town projects and community needs. The Research Club is also promoting its Red Bow Project again this year, and the bows will be used to decorate the village gazebo Christmas tree. The donations will be given to the "Wounded Heroes of Maine Program," which aids Maine military men and women and their families in need of assistance on their return from service.



Anyone interested in funding these projects while having fun, meeting new friends and getting to know neighbors is welcome to join.

-By Shelley Burbank

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# Poland Spring employees help for the holidays

Every year, Poland Spring's Hollis management team gives a turkey to each plant employee at Thanksgiving. This year, instead of taking them home, 100 employees chose to donate their turkeys to the Hollis Center Baptist Food Pantry.

"The thing I love most about Poland Spring employees is their commitment to community. They understand that too many people struggle to put food on the table, and they want to help," said Glenda O'Brien, Hollis plant manager. Poland Spring also recently

awarded a \$2,000 Good Neighbor Grant to York County Food Rescue, an Alfred-based organization that supplies food to 47 food pantries and soup kitchens across York County.

The \$2,000 grant will be used to purchase turkeys for families in need over the holidays, according to Jodi Bissonnette, the program's

director. "The number of people needing food assistance goes up every year, and unfortunately, so does the price of turkey. York County Food Rescue would never be able to meet this growing need if it weren't for caring people and companies like Poland Spring," said Bissonnette. Established in 1845, Poland

Spring today operates three bottling plants in Poland Spring, Hollis and Kingfield. Poland Spring operates additional spring sources in Fryeburg, Poland, Dallas Plantation, Pierce Pond Township, Denmark and St. Albans.

For more information about Poland Spring visit <http://www.polandspringworksforme.com>



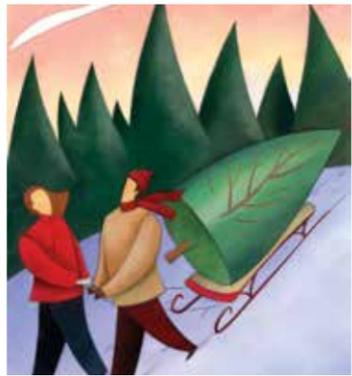
York County Food Rescue Director Jodi Bissonnette (right) accepts a \$2,000 donation from Heather McBean, Poland Spring's community relations manager. The Poland Spring Good Neighbor Grant will be used to purchase turkeys for families in need over the holidays.



Poland Spring employees from the Hollis Bottling Plant donated 100 turkeys to the Hollis Center Baptist Food Pantry. Accepting the turkeys were (left to right) Jim Greenacre and Bill Sargent, Hollis Center Baptist Food Pantry volunteers, and Jim McKay, food pantry administrator.

Poland Spring employees Annette Phillips and Mike Spugnardi are also pictured. COURTESY PHOTOS

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# OPINION

## Why our luck runs out on Friday the 13th

Today is Friday the 13th and, according to National Geographic, some 21 million people in the United States won't even get out of bed. Donald Dossey, who founded the Stress Management Center and Phobia Institute in North Carolina, tells the magazine up to "\$900 million is lost in business on this day," as people refuse to invest, fly or conduct business as usual. Dossey found a folklore historian from England who cites two separate incidents associated with Friday and the number 13, accounting for the stress and fear now associated with the date.

The first has to do with a dinner party in Valhalla, a mythical place of Norse origin. This was a dinner party for the Gods and there were 12 of them in all. In the midst of this feast, an uninvited guest crashed the party and killed Balder, the blind God of Darkness. The earth grew dark and we mortals mourned. This, of course, made for a really bad day, and thus began the marriage of



by  
Jon Simonds

the word unlucky and the number 13. For the record, the party crasher was Loki, the God of Mischief. I think somebody needs to corner that box office superstar Thor and ask him where was he on that fateful day.

The fickle finger of fate, however, wasn't quite satisfied with marking Friday the 13th as one bad day. To reiterate how bad a day this promises to be, Judas, who betrayed Jesus, was the 13th guest to show up for the Last Supper. Still not convinced? Ask a witch about the number 13. Everyone knows at least one and witches everywhere know the importance of limiting their gatherings to 12 because the 13th is said to be the devil.

Did you know there are only 12 tribes of Israel? You won't find a 13th sign in the Zodiac, or a 13th floor in most skyscrapers, which I don't understand. If the 14th floor is the next floor after the 12th floor, isn't it the 13th floor anyway? If Ms. Gallo, of

Massabesic High School, asks me for the sum total of six and seven and I answer 14, doesn't elevator logic make me right? Did you know there is no exit 13 on the Maine Turnpike, or on most interstate highways across America? In Florence, Italy there isn't a single house with the number 13, and many of us are old enough to remember the tragedy of Apollo 13.

Friday the 13th is no joke, but there are things you can do to keep the bad luck at bay. When the clock strikes midnight, throw salt over both shoulders, but make sure no one is standing behind you first. Go to the top of a mountain and burn every sock you own with holes in them. Touch wood. Stay away from black cats, and most important of all? Keep your fingers crossed, which is easily accomplished with the right brand of Scotch tape. Of course, if you're anything like me, Friday the 13th isn't that big of a deal at all, probably because our luck isn't any better on the other 364 days of the year.

Jon Simonds is a contributing writer for the Reporter and lives in North Waterboro.

## Mandela's Principles

TAKE FIVE

by  
Jon Gale

Nelson Mandela's greatness is universally known because of his leadership in dismantling apartheid in South Africa. That country was divided and ruled by ethnic class. The ruling European whites had total authority socially and in governance. Those South Africans at the bottom of the apartheid spectrum were the local blacks who were also in the vast majority of the population. The ruling whites lived in continuous fear of the potential power of their native citizens. That fear was translated into hate and suppression over several hundred years.

Nelson Mandela had several basic principles by which he lived his life that were the driving force of his leadership, energy, and years of unblinking focus. His respect has been universal on all five populated continents.

We all have been told by our parents that developing strong principles is important. Our churches continuously instruct their members of the religious principles by which they should live their lives. Our politicians run their campaigns on their personal and party principles. Why aren't we all like Nelson Mandela? Why are we ever so fast to "square off" against our neighbors when it

comes to defending our principles? The principles of a "woman's right to choose" vs the "rights of the unborn," the "right of gays to marry" versus "the traditional family," and "the right to own and bear arms" versus "gun control" just to cite a few. Nelson Mandela did not get caught up in these types of issues. He concentrated on the BIG principles...the universal principles. Freedom, equity, reconciliation.

I think Nelson Mandela understood that the self-styled narrow principals are created to emphasize differences in people, and set them apart...like apartheid. He concentrated on reconciliation. He even invited his jailers (27 years) to sit in the front row when he was inaugurated as prime minister of South Africa. He dedicated his whole life toward freedom and equity for all South Africans and opposed any efforts by blacks to get revenge once given the power to do so. He always sought to unite people and find ways to alleviate fear and divisiveness. Looking inward, need any more be said?

Jon Gale lives in North Waterboro and is a Waterboro Selectman and retired educator.

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## SPORTS

ON THE MAT

# Mat men take gold at Westbrook

## Six wrestlers capture titles

BY MICHAEL DEANGELIS  
mdeangelis@waterbororeporter.com

Mustang wrestlers turned in a dominating performance, securing wins in six of 14 weight classes, at an 11-team invitational meet held Saturday, Dec. 7 in Westbrook.

Massabesic finished with 188 points, Mountain Valley was second with 166 and Mt. Ararat was third with 120.5. Host Westbrook, Cony and Sanford were fourth, fifth and sixth, respectively.

Trevor Burns (182), Zac Richard (160) and Mike Risti (195) all were a perfect 3-0, each capturing wins in their weight class, while Tyler Everett (132), Nick Staples (138) and Trevor Walton each went 2-0, with an early round bye, to capture their titles.

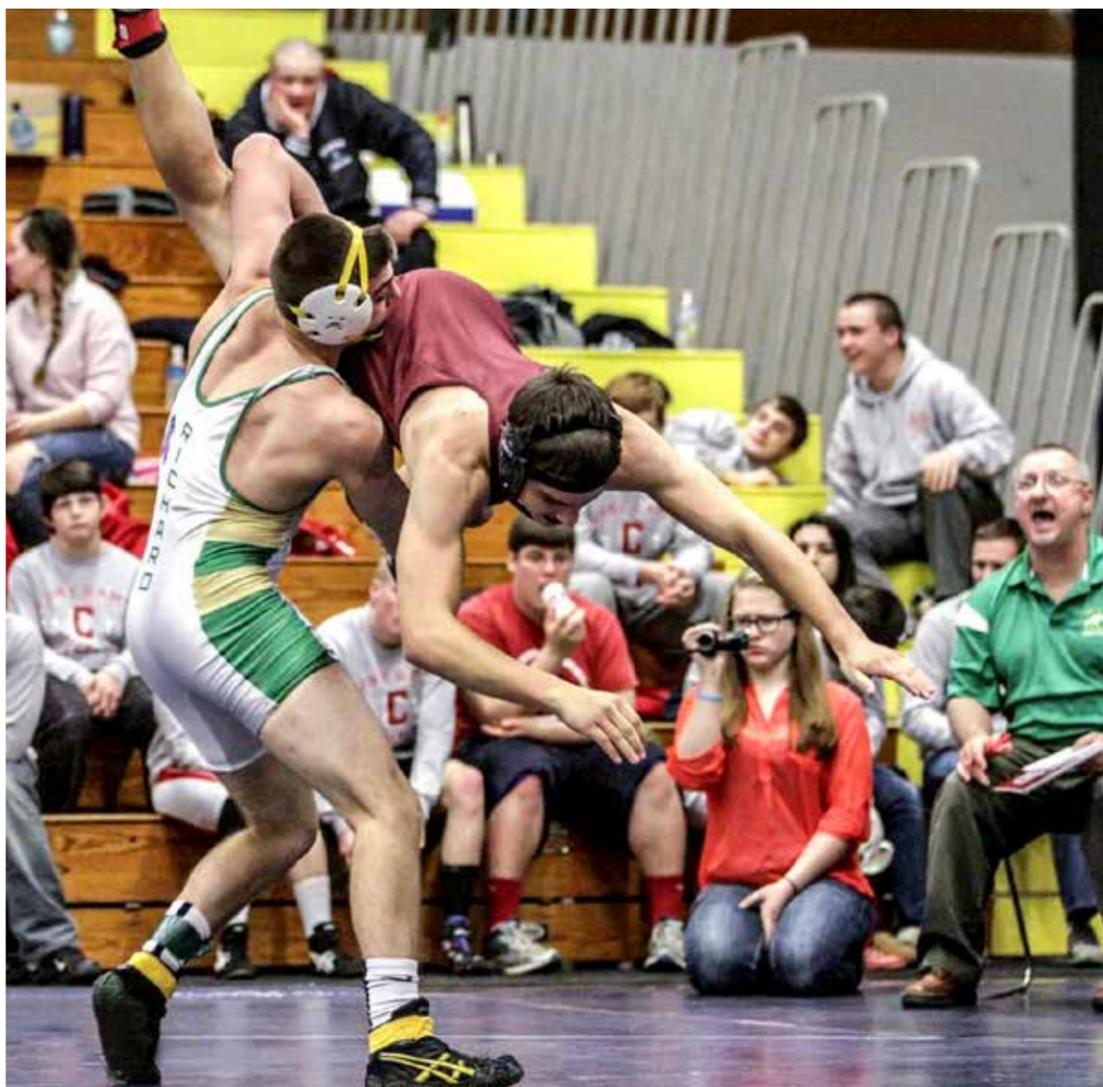
Risti's three victories each came by pinning his opponent. The junior, who was Class A state runner-up last year at 182, pinned Mt. Ararat's Nate Brewer in 73-seconds in his first round

match, and followed that up with fast pin of Russell Barlow from Bonny Eagle. Zach Cross of Mountain Valley (MV) fell to Risti in the final early in the last period.

Burns had pins in his first two contests (:35 and 4:53) before topping Ian Austin of MV 8-3 in the final. The Mustang was also second last year at state's, wrestling at 145.

Richard squeaked out a 3-2 win in his final with Chris Paradis of Cony. His semi-final victory came against Chase Eldridge of Sanford, 10-3, and his first round win was a pin of Gorham's Abraham Eaton.

Massabesic got contributions from up and down their squad. Leo Amabile (106) and Logan Martin (145) both were runners-up for the Mustangs, losing in the final. Adam Cloutier (113) captured third and Jordan Drain (285) was fourth.



Zac Richard vs. opponent on Dec. 7. COURTESY PHOTOS BY JASON GENDRON, S4 ACTION PHOTOGRAPHY

## Swimmers start strong

Swim teams from Massabesic got off to a winning start with a first meet triumph at Portland on Friday, Dec. 6. The men secured a 95-56 win and the ladies won 82-66.

Cameron Mayhew had wins in the 50-yard freestyle and the 100-yard breaststroke and teammate Nate Messier chipped in with wins in the 200 individual medley and the 100 backstroke.

Garrett Lafrance won the 200 freestyle and Hunter Tarbox was first in the 500 freestyle.

Ashley Cryer and Elaine Dudley got two wins each for the lady Mustangs. Cryer won the 100 backstroke and 100 butterfly. Dudley won the 200 IM and the 500 freestyle.

Freshman Joanna Lafrance captured her first high school win in the 100 breaststroke.



## HOOPS ROUNDUP

Portland held the Mustangs to just eight first quarter points and by halftime the score was 46-14 as the Bulldogs, 14-4 last year, cruised to an easy 84-31 victory on Friday, Dec. 6 at Massabesic.

Dan Amabile led Massabesic with 10 points. The Mustangs, who are looking to improve upon back-to-back single win seasons, were scheduled to travel to Biddeford on Thursday evening, Dec. 12 for a 7:30 p.m. contest that fell after the *Reporter's* deadline.

\* \* \*

The lady Bulldogs handed the Mustangs a 59-36 loss that was closer than the score showed as Massabesic went into the half trailing by just eight at 25-17.

Jolena Lapron led the Mustangs with nine points and seven rebounds. Monica St. Amand chipped in with eight points and Emma Desrochers and Karlie Pike both had six points.

Host McAuley pushed the Mustangs to 0-2 with a 68-20 win on Tuesday, Dec. 10. Lapron again led Massabesic with nine points and six rebounds. Chelsie Goodwin had eight points.



Noah Gerry

## Varsity hockey returns

Massabesic returned a team to varsity hockey after entering a junior varsity team only last year. The Mustangs again join forces with Old Orchard Beach to create the Sea Stangs, who suffered a 10-0 welcome back thumping on Saturday, Dec. 7 at Biddeford

ice arena against Windham (1-0, playing out of Class A east).

Massabesic will face Marshwood/Traip on Friday, Dec. 13 in Dover, NH and follow that up with a game in Rochester, N.H. versus Noble/Wells on Wednesday, Dec. 18.

## Turf girls honored

Massabesic's Jackie Guillemette and Alex Staples were recently named to the 2013 Harrow Sports National Field Hockey Coaches Association (NFHCA) All-Region Team.

The Mustang pair, who also played for team Katahdin at the 2013 West Palm Beach Field Hockey Festival that fea-

tured over 60 teams, joined fellow Mainers Maddy Dobecki of Scarborough and Winslow's Bethany Winkin on the prestigious 12-person roster.

The Northern New England Region houses all high schools in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont.

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