



# REPORTER

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## Forget me not

By ANN FISHER  
afisher@waterbororeporter.com

Despite a diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease in 2009, Robert "Bob" O'Keefe of North Waterboro considers himself a lucky man.

O'Keefe, 72, refuses to let his diagnoses define him and, for his work with the Alzheimer's Association, Maine Chapter, he was awarded the state chapter's highest honor Dec. 7 at the 2013 Volunteer Recognition Reception.

The Marilyn Paige Award was created by the Maine Chapter to honor the woman who founded the Maine Alzheimer's Disease Association. Unable to find a network of support, Paige started her own support group in 1982 after her husband was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. By 1984, her initial effort had blossomed, and there were 14 support groups in Maine. The Alzheimer's Association has been giving out The Marilyn Paige Award since at least 1999, according to Jessica James, director of communications and advocacy.

"The Marilyn Paige Founders Award is given to a person who exhibits this same passion and drive for our mission," said James.

"He (O'Keefe) chooses to look at his diagnosis as an opportunity and not something to fear. He takes every opportunity to increase awareness, bring Alzheimer's more out into the open, and encourage others not to be afraid to talk to their doctors if they have questions about memory loss."

O'Keefe and his wife of 23 years, Jean, moved to Lake Arrowhead from Saco 11 years ago. "We were looking for something on the water and were lucky to find it," he said.

The couple, who raised seven sons, had lived in Saco for eight years after residing in Waterbury, Conn.

A senior insurance executive, O'Keefe had retired at age 66. He and Jean also have 11 grandchildren.

O'Keefe said he first noticed changes in his short-term memory about a year before he was diagnosed. "The first reaction from my kids was, 'Don't worry, you're just getting older.' When I was first diagnosed it was hard for them to accept."

"The long term memory is pretty good; that's not unusual for this disease," O'Keefe said. "Short term is wretched."

He quickly added, "I'm one of the lucky ones – the disease seems to be progressing slowly."

"I've known people with the disease and within a year they were institutionalized. It's a very cruel disease ... not the same for everybody."

Being named the Marilyn Page Award winner was "quite an honor," said O'Keefe. "I was astonished to learn I was going to be awarded that."

The other award winners were: Georgette Fernald of Sanford, the Marion Bennett Award for Top Individual Fundraiser; Barbara Alberda of Lewiston, the Collaborative Spirit Award; Deborah Johnson of Harrison; the Robert Stram Award for Advocacy; Maine Veterans' Homes, the Corporate Champion Award; Team Webber of Brunswick, Top Family Fundraising Team Award and Home Instead Senior Care of Gorham, Top Business Fundraising Team Award.

O'Keefe has had a place on the Maine chapter's board of directors for just over a year, serving as secretary for 2013-14. He sat on a panel for statewide educational conferences as well. O'Keefe has completed training needed to run a support group, and will be the only co-facilitator with Alzheimer's in Maine in February, when he will help co-lead a group of

(Continued on page 5)



## Lighting up the holidays

Members of the Waterboro Association of Businesses announced the winner of their annual Deck the House Holiday Lights contest on Dec. 17 at the Waterboro selectmen's meeting. The winning house was 74 Mayfair Way, North Waterboro (above). Shown to right is Jeff Walker, Julie Harrison and in front, Ethan Walker, Sierra Worth and Brody Worth with their trophy.

(See more on page 3)

COURTESY PHOTO



## Holiday book collection on display

By SHELLEY BURBANK  
sburbank@waterbororeporter.com

Years ago, when her children were small, Wende Brocke of Limerick started buying various editions of the classic children's tale "The Night Before Christmas" to read aloud on Christmas Eve. Thirty-five years later, Wende volunteered to put her col-

lection on display at the Limerick Public Library. She hopes patrons will enjoy the traditional picture books, as well as the amusing "knock-off" versions of the tale which include "A Redneck Night Before Christmas" and "Grandma Moses Night Before Christmas." Old-fashioned illustrations grace the pages of some editions, while more contemporary art jazzes up

others. All are meant to be taken off the display shelves and read, much to the delight of library patrons, staff and trustees.

"It was a Christmas Eve tradition in our house. As they got older, I would buy a new one every year and read it on Christmas Eve," Wende said. "They enjoyed seeing what pictures would be in

(Continued on page 5)



Limerick public library board of trustees with books from the "Night Before Christmas" collection. From left, Shelley Burbank, Sandra Waugh, Brenda Wedgewood, Jennifer Morrell and Stacey Dudley. COURTESY PHOTO

## INSIDE



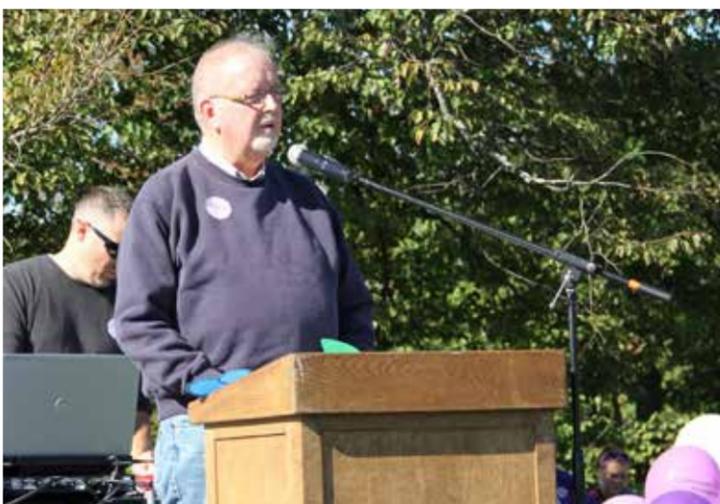
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Robert O'Keefe speaking recently about why he walks to end Alzheimer's.  
COURTESY PHOTO

# Freshman Film Festival a winner

BY DANIELLE BURBANK

The second annual Freshman Film Festival took place Tuesday, Dec. 11, at Massabesic West. A handful of students from the class of 2017 were selected to attend in their semiformal attire to showcase their homemade films. Freshman English teachers Mark Mercier and Erik Johannes hosted the event, projecting the students' films in the auditorium, where judges decided which students should take first, second and third place.

The films shown were generally impressive and well-rounded, ranging from parody to tragedy. Coming in third place was the tragic film "Turning Back Time." Jessica Toomey and Gabbie Guillemette told a cautionary tale of a girl who lost her best friend to texting and driving. Both girls were inspired both by their long-term friendship and signs around the school to enforce the message that texting and driving isn't worth the life of someone you care about.

In second place came the emotional production of "Human," created by Emily Archer, Rose Wolfe and Jackie Christie. The film centered around the idea of perfectionism and how girls struggle to be like models in the magazines, but in reality everyone is only "human." When asked what inspired them to make the film, the girls replied, "We all

have struggled with really bad self-image, and we wanted girls to know that the people they look up to, like the models, aren't even real in the first place, and that who they are is real and awesome and human." The audience was touched by the powerful message, and the girls went home with a medal and iTunes gift cards

Coming in at first place was "Baking Bad," a hilarious parody of the popular television series "Breaking Bad." Created by Russell Wright, Donovan Duffy and Jesse Chaves, "Baking Bad" told the story of two guys saving up for a gaming system by holding a scandalous – and completely illegal – bake sale. The boys were

shown baking in white lab suits and selling baggies of cookies secretly on the streets. Set to a humorous soundtrack and filled with witty banter, the audience went wild. "Our goal was to make the audience laugh," Wright said. When asked if they baked regularly, the boys replied with a resounding, "Yes."

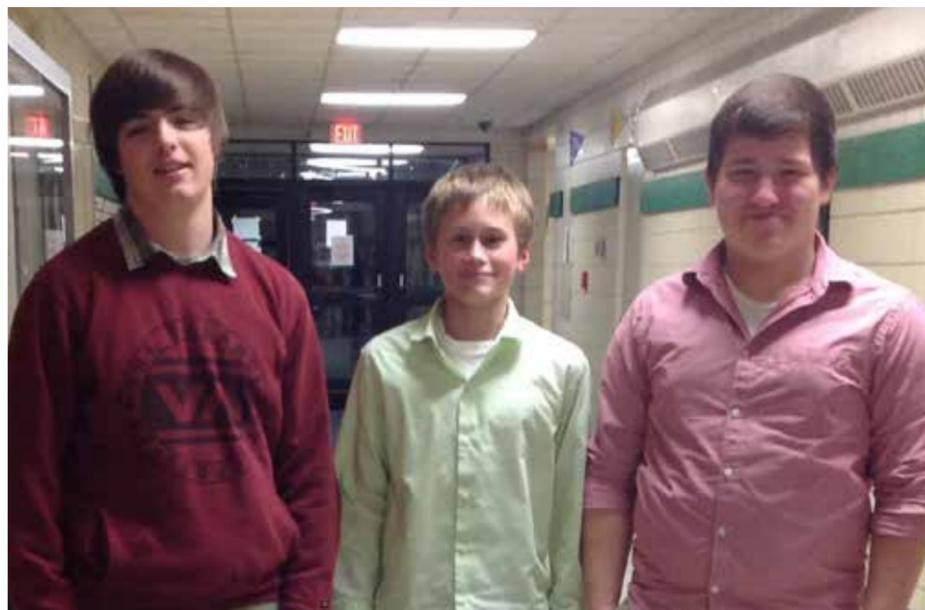
Mercier and Johannes were generally happy with the outcome of the festival and hope to host another one next year. "We wanted to incorporate the new technology into our storytelling standard, and help the students get to know their iPads," Mercier said. "We're very proud of all the students who attended."



From left, Emily Archer, Rose Wolfe and Jackie Christie. PHOTOS BY DANIELLE BURBANK



Gabbie Guillemette and Jessica Toomey.



From left, Russell Wright, Donovan Duffy and Jesse Chaves.

# MIETCALLE'S TRADING POST

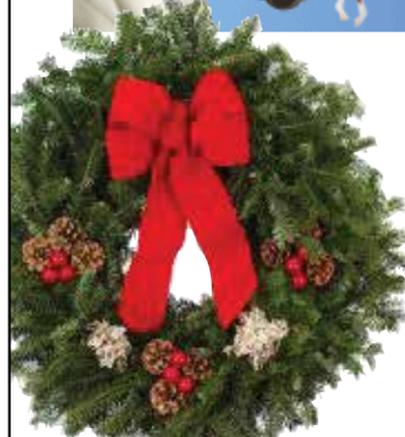
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**POLICE NOTES**

**Man killed in Hollis standoff**

A man involved in a standoff Dec. 12 at his home in Hollis was shot and killed in an armed confrontation with Maine State Police.

Police say John Knudsen, 61, was shot and killed around 2:15 p.m. after he fired a shot from a handgun in the direction of troopers, who were outside his Hollis home.

Troopers were called to the home late morning after Linda Knudsen said her husband had threatened her and then fired a shot.

According to Public Safety Department spokesman Stephen McCausland, Knudsen came to the front door of his house, made comments to police and then fired a shot. Trooper Tyler Stevenson returned fire and shot Knudsen. Stevenson, who was not injured, is a nine-year veteran of the State Police and a member of the tactical team. In accordance with standard procedure, Stevenson has been placed on administrative leave with pay.

The standoff began around noon, when Knudsen's wife fled the home and he fired a shot. Troopers closed Route 35 near the house and were joined at the scene by members of the State Police Tactical Team and negotiators.

As is standard in all police-related shootings, the matter is being investigated by the Maine Attorney General's Office, which will release a full report at a later date.

**Officer hurt in mishap at jail**

A York County corrections officer received minor injuries Dec. 16 in a mishap at the jail in Alfred.

Corrections Officers John McKinney and Brian Maddox had loaded six inmates into a van for a trip to the courthouse for judicial hearings when Maddox was accidentally pinned against the garage wall and some equipment stored in the sallyport.

The accident happened when McKinney moved the 2005 Ford van forward because it was parked too close to the wall for Maddox to get in.

A weekend storm had caused a sheet of ice to form on the garage floor, and when McKinney moved the vehicle toward Maddox and tried to stop, the vehicle went into a skid, pinning the officer.

Maddox was transported to Southern Maine Medical Center in Biddeford, where he was treated and released. One inmate complained of pain from the abrupt stop and was treated by the jail medical staff.

**Angels in Acton**

Last Friday, a 10-year-old boy went to the Acton Elementary School and told his teacher that it was "cold" in his house. Guidance counselor Bess Kiernan quizzed the little boy and learned that the boy has a little sister around 8 months old who was also in the house. Bess' actions set off a series of good deeds by concerned neighbors and officials.

Bess contacted Deputy Corey Sweatt, who went to the boy's home and verified that the home was without heat. According to the boy's mother, Jessie Trueman, her boyfriend recently lost his job, which put a financial strain on the family.

Jessie and her boyfriend, Matthew, have an 8-month-old baby girl together and were aware that the heating oil was low. They were saving for 100 gallons of heating oil to be delivered Tuesday, Dec. 17. Unexpectedly, with the frigid cold, the oil ran out early Friday morning.

Sweatt transported Matthew and the infant to a relative's house.

When Acton Selectman Ted Kryzak learned of the problem, he also sprang into action. Kryzak, a teacher who works with at-risk youth, mobilized his students to gather up firewood for an emergency delivery. The wood was delivered and, according to Trueman, provided enough heat to get through this weekend's storm.

Jessie expressed sincere appreciation for everybody's care and concern. She stated that she only moved to Acton about a year ago and cried when she realized how the Acton community came together to help her and her family.



Leo Binette, owner of Lakeside Market, presents a \$2,000 check to the town's General Assistance Director Nancy Johnson, on behalf of the Waterboro Association of Businesses for local fuel assistance.

**Giving back at the holidays**

By **KERRY DEANGELIS**  
kdeangelis@waterbororeporter.com

Members of the Waterboro Association of Businesses presented a donation of \$2,000 to the local fuel assistance fund at the selectmen's meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 17.

Leo Binette, owner of Lakeside Market, has spearheaded this project, called WAB for Warmth, since 2006, which has thus far raised \$24,000 to help keep local families warm.

Binette presented a check to Waterboro's General Assistance Director Nancy Johnson. In a thank you letter from TammyJo Girard, chairman of the Waterboro Board of Selectmen, she stated that with such cold weather, the fuel assistance account had taken a big hit and was almost depleted. "Your donation of \$2,000 was desperately needed and is greatly appreciated," said Girard.

Donations can still be made to WAB for Warmth by mailing to: WAB, PO Box 247, East Waterboro, ME 04030.

**Holiday lights winner**

In addition to the check presentation, WAB secretary, Michael DeAngelis, also announced the Deck the House Holiday Lights Contest winners who were on hand to receive their trophy.

The winning house was 74 Mayfair Way in North Waterboro, the home of Jeff Walker and Julie Harrison. Not only did the Walker-Harrison family have more than 11,000 lights on display, they held a Toys for Tots drive on Saturday, Dec. 14 with Santa and a bonfire and collected six trash bags full of toys.

Walker said they wanted to do something to help out but weren't sure what to do, so they decided to hold a toy drive. "Next year I

want to have 20,000 lights," said Walker.

The Walker-Harrison family will keep the trophy for a full year until next year when they pass it along to the 2014 winner.

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# ALFRED



Aiden Adams holds up the nutcracker who represented the music inspiring Alfred's first and second graders to improvise some lively dances. They were videotaped for Monday's school concert.

COURTESY PHOTO

*Allison Williams*  
awilliams@waterbororeporter.com  
324-5823

## Holiday concert

The first and second grades at Alfred Elementary School presented an animated concert of Christmas music the evening of Monday, Dec. 16. It began with a video of the children dancing to music from "The Nutcracker," including the Russian dance and the segment of the mice who fought the Nutcracker, also a graceful ballet with scarves. Then the children filed in, boys in bright shirts and the girls in their best holiday dresses, all of them lined up flanking a cardboard school-house, complete with bell.

Their first number, "I Love Mud," by Rick Charette (who used to teach in RSU 57) was sung with active hand motions. It was followed by "An Old Austrian," "My Mother is a Baker," "Tiger's Cage" and others, concluding with "Twelve Days of Christmas." No Hollywood performance was ever greeted with more enthusiasm by an audience.

Proud parents and siblings crowded the gym and took pictures with their cell phones. Deb Crowley, the music teacher, was

accompanist on the piano. At the conclusion of the program the art work along the walls was viewed with appreciation as parents filed out to claim their youngsters and find their vehicles in the crowded parking lot, where snow had made parking even more difficult than usual.

There will be a sing-along by the whole student body Friday, Dec. 20 at 1:45 p.m.

## Appreciation shown

Alfred has lots of volunteers – at least 179 – and approximately 70 of them were on hand for dessert and beverages during the Alfred Appreciation Night held Dec. 13 in Conant Chapel. Certificates of appreciation and day books were presented to each volunteer by the selectmen after each committee had been asked to stand up. There were 22 staff and committee members present. The evening also included door prizes donated by local businesses.

## Parsons Memorial Library

A Holiday Tea and Tunes will be held in the library from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 22. Tunes are provided by Bill Vivian, Jesse Greer and Gus (Robison) Hedden.

Free computer help is available at the library on Sundays from 1 to 3 p.m. Applicants are asked to pre-register.

The Reading Group's current title is, "The Snow Child" by Eowyn Ivey, which will be discussed Monday, Dec. 23 at 7 p.m. The January title will be "Strangers on the Beach" by Josh Pahigian. All are welcome to join the group. Copies of the current title are available at the desk.

The next "Yoga With Babu!" session during the Tuesday, 10 a.m. pre-school story time will be Jan. 28. The leader for this activity is Peggy Greer and it is much enjoyed by the children.

## News from the pews

The Christmas pageant, which had to be postponed because of a storm, will be held Sunday, Dec. 22 during the 9:30 a.m. service. The Dec. 15 service was practically snowed out, but there was an informal service held in Conant Chapel (minus choir and Sunday School), with four parishioners present.

Christmas Eve services will be held at 5 and 9 p.m. on the 24th.

The Christian Education Committee will lead a community caroling following a soup and sandwich supper in the chapel at 5:30 p.m.

The Rev. Pat Smith will lead the service on Sunday, Dec. 29.

## Parish Paddlers

The Parish Paddlers have rescheduled the meeting to this Sunday, Dec. 22 at 4 p.m. at the home of Jim Litchfield, not Joyce Krahlings. Those attending are asked to bring an ornament to swap and notify Joyce Krahlings.

**Gift cards available!**

*Happy New Year*

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**FORGET ME NOT***(Continued from page 1)*

newly diagnosed people.

He also volunteered as the blue flower representative at the Portland and Lewiston Walks to End Alzheimer's held this fall.

James explained, "At each walk there is a ceremony that honors the different reasons why people come together to end Alzheimer's. Participants hold a colored flower to represent their connection. People who hold blue flowers are living with the disease. In Portland and in Lewiston, Bob spoke during the ceremony as the blue flower representative and talked about why he walks to end Alzheimer's."

"When speaking at our Champions Breakfast this year, (held to honor top fundraisers in the annual walk to end Alzheimer's and other dementia) Bob told the audience that, in spite of his diagnosis, he still aspires to a life of joy and hope as he has always done," said James.

In addition to medication and his volunteerism, O'Keefe said he tries to keep his brain sharp by doing puzzles and reading. What O'Keefe enjoys the most, however, is his year-long participation in the Legacy Writers Group, which meets in Scarborough and is sponsored by the Maine chapter. "It has been great for me," he said. "It's been a lot of fun to join it." A former English teacher who taught creative writing, O'Keefe welcomes the opportunity to stretch his writing muscle through facilitated prompts, but it's also an opportunity to chronicle his life. "I draw blanks, and I go back and remember things," he said.

More importantly, he said, "With so many kids, I promised to write something they would always have."

O'Keefe stressed the importance of seeking help and support after a diagnosis of dementia. "It was the first thing I did when I was diagnosed," he said.

"I want to emphasize the Alzheimer's Association of Maine as a source of help to people newly diagnosed," said O'Keefe. "It offers many programs for such folks."

**FAST FACTS**

- At the Volunteer Recognition Reception, the Maine Chapter also honored top fundraisers who participated in the 2013 Walk to End Alzheimer's. The 2013 Maine walks exceeded the chapter's goal by raising more than \$505,000.

- More than 5 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's disease, including as many as 37,000 in Maine.

- The Alzheimer's Association, Maine Chapter offers comprehensive education and training programs throughout Maine, provides 24/7 information and referral services, leads advocacy and awareness efforts, and organizes fundraising activities to support research.

- Volunteer support through the donation of time, effort and expertise is crucial to delivering core services across Maine. For more, see [www.alz.org/maine](http://www.alz.org/maine).

Source: Alzheimer's Association, Maine Chapter

# RSU #57 Athletic Field Renovation Project

## Q & A from November Public Forum:

**Q: When would the project start? Can we bond this by June and is it possible time-wise?**

**A:** *The project would start during the Summer of 2014. No, the bond would only be acted on once voters have had their say on the article. Currently the town meeting and town vote does not take place until May/June. Once the community has authorized, then the Board would seek a Bond.*

**Q: Will the financing all be by bond or would some of it be part of the school budget?**

**A:** *The Board will determine this decision once they have reviewed the many options. It seems logical that the financing will be a combination of bond and use of reserves.*

**Q: What if one town declines to pass funding?**

**A:** *The school district was not established with allowing any one town to have a veto over the expressed will of the other five towns. The District is set up as a political unit and operates under the rule of majority vote. All decisions put forth to voters will be determined by majority vote.*

**Q: Does the proposal factor in increases in costs due to the length of time the project will take?**

**A:** *Yes. The numbers are projected forward, using historical cost data to estimate cost for the timeline we are considering.*

**Q: Are these just basic plans? What is the life expectancy of the facility?**

**A:** *The plans are generally complete but more specific architectural drawings of the buildings to be constructed will be included as well as a more specific plan for the track layout and ball field orientation plan. The life expectancy of track/turf is 10 years.*

**Q: The original engineering firm was bought out so who is the new firm?**

**A:** *Same firm; new name.*

**Q: Will we be trying to use local contractors to do this work?**

**A:** *This will be encouraged and considered wherever possible.*

**Q: Will there be updates posted online for the project?** **A:** *Yes.*

**Q: If we do not do this, do we go down to Class B?**

**A:** *No. This is based on school enrollment and not quality of facilities.*

**Q: Is the plan addressing the weight room? Nothing has been done there for years.**

**A:** *An adjustment to the plan has been made that will incorporate a weight room facility that will effectively meet the needs of all students.*

**Q: Has any thought been given to turning the baseball fields around?**

**A:** *This will be considered and potentially done if the engineers determine this can happen without adding significant expense to the overall project budget.*

**Q: Can we move the football field scoreboard? It's too hard to see in the sun.**

**A:** *This could happen. The scoreboard would be replaced and we have used the current scoreboard to serve baseball as well. We will look to locate it in an area where it could be used for both again, but be out of the sun.*

**Q: Doesn't the septic system about the softball field?**

**A:** *The septic system is actually under several of our fields currently.*

**Q: Is anything being done about the youth football storage?**

**A:** *This is not currently part of our plan.*

**Q: How can people help?**

**A:** *Support the plan, provide feedback to the committee, help spread the word and encourage people to vote.*

**Q: Has any thought been given to promote this project to the community with a sub-committee?**

**A:** *We have a Public Relations subcommittee that is working on this.*

**Q: Can recreation programs at all towns do anything to help with this project?**

**A:** *Support the plan, provide feedback to the committee, and help spread the word, encourage people to vote. Potentially advertise at your events to encourage support and voting.*

**Q: Are we pushing our responsibilities to other districts because our track is not usable?** **A:** *Yes.*

**HOLIDAY BOOKS***(Continued from page 1)*

the newest addition each year, and could recite the story – or read it – with us. When they got older, we started to read and enjoy the parodies. You know how these things grow with kids."

Wende recently moved to Maine from New Hampshire after retiring from a career in education as a high school biology teacher, teacher trainer and principal. She also worked in a college library archives and reference departments, where she learned how to preserve archival materials. When she arrived in Limerick, Wende decided to visit the library and ended up volunteering. Now she is working on a project to preserve some old library documents. She also saw an opportunity to share her love of books with patrons.

"When my grandchildren are around, they enjoy picking 'the' one to be read, but they live far away and that doesn't happen too often. So, I asked Cindy [library director Cindy Smith] if she'd like to share them with the children and families at the library. She has the whole collection, and you may notice some are better used than others. But all are to be read, and I don't worry about wear. They need to be loved by sticky fingers and adoring par-

ents, so I hope folks will enjoy them. It's good for the books."

According to the website of scholar and collector Nancy Marshall, the beloved poem was originally titled "A Visit from St. Nicholas," and was first published Dec. 23, 1823, in the *Troy Sentinel* newspaper in New York. Clement Clarke Moore, a literary and theological scholar, wrote the poem for his children. The poem was then reprinted in other newspapers and in the "New-York Book of Poetry" in 1837. According to the Marshalls' website, the first time "The Night Before Christmas" was published as a single title book was 1863 by publisher Peter G. Thompson. It was illustrated by B. Geysler. By writing what he considered a frivolous poem for his children, Clement Moore ended up penning what grew to become one of the most famous Christmas children's stories, securing his place in literary history.

As for Wende, she said she enjoys the idea of parents writing poems and books for their children. "What child doesn't enjoy a good story? Especially one that was penned just for him or her? Imagine if every parent would write a story each year for their children? One of their lives, or the lives of their families, or a lesson learned, or a risk taken? What a wonderful way to pass along a family's lore, tradition, and values."

**For more information,  
please attend the next forum  
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**REPORTER**  
YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

# Strength in numbers

BY KERRY DEANGELIS  
kdeangelis@waterbororeporter.com

Despite the cold and windy conditions, twenty six runners came out on Thanksgiving morning for a run to raise money for some local families. They called it the Turkey Day 5K and it was organized by the Bantz family of Waterboro by posting the event on Facebook.

Darren Bantz, his wife Kim and four daughters, Amber, Jordan, Haley and Madison had recently run together in Manchester, N.H. with Darren, Amber and Jordan running a full 26.2 mile marathon, and Kim, Haley and Madison running a half-marathon.

After helping coach his daughters sports teams for years, last November, Darren had set a goal to run a marathon, which he completed in June with his family there to support him.

Darren's daughter Jordan was inspired by her father to also run a marathon, and she wanted to do it before she graduated high school in 2014. Jordan completed that

feat in November in Manchester, N.H.

"I remember how I felt when I saw the mile 26 marker, and how excited and relieved I felt to only have .2 miles left to go. Crossing the finish line with my Dad right next to me was so awesome, and I instantly started crying," Jordan said.

As a goal to continue their training, the Bantz had planned on running another race on Thanksgiving in the Portland area, which would have cost them \$120 to enter as a family. "At the last minute, we decided to try and do our own Thanksgiving Day run and give that money to a family we knew in town," said Darren. "We had no idea if anyone other than the six of us would join in," he added. "When the run started we were so excited to have a total of 26 people joining together for a local cause."

In addition to her marathon goals, Jordan plays soccer and runs outdoor track at Massabesic High School and is a captain for both. She also holds the school record for the triple jump.



Twenty six runners participated in a Turkey Day 5K at Massabesic High School. COURTESY PHOTO



The Bantz family, from left, Amber, Kim, Haley, Jordan, Madison and Darren running a marathon together in Manchester, N.H. COURTESY PHOTO



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# LIMERICK

## Limerick: Farm & Village

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### Bank opens new building

Sanford Institution for Savings opened the doors to its new Limerick branch on Central Avenue Monday, Dec. 9. This was followed Dec. 11 with a festive ribbon-cutting ceremony outside the bank. President/CEO Mark Mickeriz and Branch Manager Faith Smith had the honor of cutting the ribbon, while Executive Vice President Blaine Boudreau and members of the board – Barbara Low, Andre Chabot and



A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held at the new SIS in Limerick. From left, Barbara Low, board member; Blaine Boudreau, executive vice president; Mark Mickeriz, president & CEO; Faith Smith, market manager/Limerick branch; Andre Chabot, board member; Robert Dubois, chairman of the board.

PHOTO BY SHELLEY BURBANK

Robert Dubois – looked on. Vice President and Marketing Manager Deb Mullen organized the activities while bank employees and customers went about their business, mingled and sipped coffee while chatting about the bright, new building.

Customer response to the new space was positive. “It’s nice,” said Peter Washington of Newfield as he stood inside looking around at the freshly painted walls and new furniture. “It’s much more cheerful, much lighter. It gives people much more room to work.”

According to the SIS website, the bank was founded in 1933 as a mutual savings bank that was owned by deposit customers. Because every person who has a checking, savings, money market, or CD account is an owner of the bank, the bank still exists to serve the needs of customers, not stock investors.

Mickeriz addressed the crowd gathered outside for the rib-

bon-cutting, mentioning the safe and eco-friendly design of the new building, parking lot and drive-thru banking.

“We are excited how it turned out. This is the model for new banks in the future,” he said. Mickeriz mentioned that the best result of moving from the old location on Main Street was having an up-to-date ATM and better safety for customers. Because the building is being heated with geothermal technology, the bank will have a smaller carbon footprint as well.

As part of the grand opening celebration, SIS offered special mortgage rates, incentives for opening personal Ultimate Checking accounts and replaced old smoke alarm batteries for those customers bringing in their old ones. As a fun – and potentially lucrative – incentive, SIS also replaced some of the \$20 bills with \$50s to surprise customers withdrawing funds from the ATM. The specials and “ATM Gone Wild”

will continue through the end of the year.

When asked if the old building was up for sale, Smith confirmed that it is, indeed, on the market.

### Walking away the pounds

One of the amenities of living in Lake Arrowhead Community is the use of two clubhouses that are maintained through annual dues. Along with two indoor pools and one outdoor pool, there is also a weight room, billiards room, game room, meeting/party space, cardio room, and a Pilates room spread out between the two clubhouses. Over the past months, a group of LAC members has been meeting in the Pilates room on Monday and Thursday mornings to work out to a set of Leslie Sansone “Walk Away the Pounds” DVDs. The exercise is more like a low-impact aerobics workout with a few simple moves such as walking in place, gentle kicks, side to side movement and stretching. The workout is divided into one- two- and three-mile “walks.”

Elisa Ouellette is leading the group through the winter, and she says there are still spaces left in the class, which is limited to 10. The group talks and laughs through the three-mile walk, she says, which makes exercising more fun.

To try the class, LAC members are welcome to come to Clubhouse 1 in Limerick on Monday mornings 9-9:45 a.m. or Thursday mornings 8:30-9:15 a.m.

### Library board meeting

The Limerick Public Library trustees conducted their regular meeting Thursday, Dec. 12, the last before the beginning of the new year. Director Cindy Smith reported that Faith Smith of SIS

bank donated several chairs and other pieces of furniture to the library from the old SIS building on Main Street. “There are two rolling desk chairs, three wooden oak chairs, and a small table,” Smith said. The trustees expressed appreciation for the very nice donation.

An exciting possibility for new library programming may come via Cornerstones of Science, a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving community life and scientific literacy by working with public libraries. Cornerstones of Science recently held a “library partner summit” to gather ideas from librarians about how the group can best serve the libraries in this endeavor. The group has traveling science kits available for libraries to borrow for up to three weeks. The curricula focus on the STEM subjects – science, technology, engineering, and math – as well as some ecological and agricultural opportunities. The science focus fits in very well with next summer’s reading program, which has a techno-robotic theme, said Smith.

Finally, the library is exploring the possibility of circulating video games for Wii, X-box and Playstations 1 and 2. Already some games have been donated to the library, and staff will review these donations to see which ones may be put in the book sale and which ones may be added to a new collection of games.

### Correction

In last week’s column, the Feliz Navidad float that was part of the the Village Christmas parade was attributed to the wrong organization. The colorful float was created by Line Elementary School.

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# SPORTS

## Massabesic downs McAuley Cryer, Houk pace pool rout

BY MICHAEL DEANGELIS  
mdeangelis@waterbororeporter.com

Ashley Cryer and Morgan Houk were both part of two relay-race wins, and they each chipped in with two more victories in individual events to help pace Massabesic's girls' swim team to a 101-51 win at McAuley Friday, Dec. 13.

The Mustangs won 10 of 11 events on the night, and the freshman Houk kicked off the meet by swimming the first leg of the 200-medley relay with another Morgan – Morgan Wass – swimming the anchor. Autumn Nostrom (winner of the 200-IM) and Cryer filled out the rest of the unit. Their 2:15.32 secured first place.

Houk's 2:34.82 gave her first place in the 200-freestyle, and later she posted a 1:21.85 in the

100-backstroke for a win. She swam the anchor, and closed out the meet, in the 400-freestyle relay for her fourth gold of the day. Helen Anderson, Cryer and Joanna LaFrance rounded out the unit. Massabesic posted a 4:30.30 in the heat, nearly 40 seconds ahead of second-place McAuley.

Cryer got her first individual win in the 100-butterfly with a 1:09.11. The senior's 1:19.99 in the 100-breaststroke was also good for first. LaFrance won the 100-free as Massabesic got contributions from up and down its roster.

Anderson secured wins in two events for the lady Mustangs. Pulling short duty in the 50-free she posted a 29.22 for the win, and pulling long duty in the 500 she touched first in 6:35.39.



Massabesic's Ashley Cryer swimming the butterfly.

PHOTOS BY GARY MAYHEW



Mayhew and Messier swimming the breaststroke.

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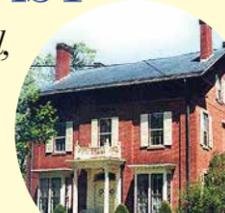
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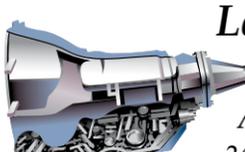


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# SPORTS

## ON THE MAT

### Mat men keep busy

By MICHAEL DEANGELIS  
mdeangelis@waterbororeporter.com

Massabesic hosted a 12-team wrestling tournament Dec. 14. The format for the event was pool style, with six teams in each pool. Massabesic topped Sanford 48-27 to get their day going, but fell to Bishop Hendricken, R.I., 42-33, in their round two match up.

The Mustangs handled York 45-21 in contest number three, but reigning state champ Marshwood was next, and they prevailed 46-30 over Massabesic, who beat Wells 48-34 in their final match.

Head coach Rick Derosier said he liked where his team is at during this early point in the season.

“We want everyone to contribute when we’ve got dual meets, as a team we’re looking good and working hard,” said DeRosier.

Tyler Everett and Mike Risti were both perfect for the tournament, as was Leo Amabile.

On Wednesday, Dec. 11, the Mustang wrestling team handed host Windham a 57-18 defeat. Tanner Andrews (285), Trevor Burns (182), Tyler Everett (138) and Mike Risti (220) each secured first-round pins for Massabesic.

Leo Amabile (106) won a 4-1 decision, Logan Martin (152) battled for a 5-4 decision and Nick Staples (145) also took to the winner’s circle with a 6-5 triumph in his match as Massabesic continues to look solid early on.



Michael Risti pins an opponent. COURTESY PHOTO BY JASON GENDRON, S4 ACTION PHOTOGRAPHY



### HOOPS ROUNDUP

The Mustang boys’ varsity basketball team evened their early season record at 1-1 with a come-from-behind victory at Biddeford on Friday, Dec. 13.

Massabesic cut a 28-19 half-

time deficit to just 3 points at 39-36 to end the third behind 11 points from sophomore Dan Amabile in the frame. He finished with 23.

The Mustangs held Biddeford (0-3) to 8 points in the final quarter. Trevor Mack hit a pair of three-pointers in the fourth and Cale Thornton had 5 of his 12 points in the same frame to help Massabesic close out a 55-47 win.

On Wednesday, Dec. 18 Cheverus (3-1) hung a 71-44 loss on the host Mustangs, dropping them to 1-2. They were set to host Scarborough (3-1) on Friday, Dec. 21 after the Reporter’s deadline.

\* \* \*

The Mustang ladies varsity basketball team remained winless after losses at home to Biddeford (45-32) and on the road at Cheverus (75-29).

Massabesic (0-4) trailed the Tigers (1-2) just 4 at the half, but was forced to foul down the stretch to try to extend the game. Biddeford made their free throws late to close out the victory.

Jolena Lampron had 13 points and added 7 rebounds and 3 steals. Chelsie Goodwin had 12 points and Monica St. Amand had 5 assists.

Lampron had 17 points and 5 rebounds in the Cheverus (3-1) loss.

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# SPORTS

## Off and running Indoor track teams get season going

BY MICHAEL DEANGELIS  
mdeangelis@waterbororeporter.com

Massabesic's track teams visited USM on Dec. 14 for a five-team track meet with Deering, Portland, Scarborough and South Portland. The men finished fifth with just 20 points, while the ladies were fourth with 68.

There were plenty of fine individual performances despite the low team totals.

Kym Hendrix had a pair of third-place finishes and a runner-up spot as well. She got the day started with a speedy 7.99 in the 55-meter dash, just behind South Portland's Lauren Magnuson, who ran a 7.94. Her 29.28 in the 200 and her shot put throw of 27-08.75 were both good for bronze.

Angel Waters and Gabby Johnson, who both turned in superb seasons on the Mustangs' cross country squad (team runners-up to champ Bonny Eagle), were second and third, respectively in the two-mile. Waters' time of 11:58.36 was just one of two under the 12-minute mark, and, for good measure, the senior took gold in the one-mile with a 5:47.93, barely topping Scarborough's Laura Volan (5:48.26). Sophomore Roshelle Morrison was fifth in the one-mile and sixth in the two-mile.

Johnson's 1:38.25 in the 600 gave her the silver, with Maquila DiMastrantonio fourth in the same event.

The ladies won the 4 x 800 relay with a 10:59.44.

Brandon Pratt was third in the 600 for the men. His 2:16.88 in the 800 was only good for fifth, but the battle for bronze was the most heated part of the race with just :05 separating the three.

Stephen Duffy just missed the podium in three events. He turned in a 7.26, and won his heat, in the 55-meter sprint from a field of 33 runners, but settled for fourth. He was fourth in the triple jump and long jump as well.

## MUSTANG FALL 2013 SPORTS AWARDS

### Cheering

Kaitlynn Laverriere, Most Valuable Player  
Molly O'Brien, Most Improved

### Cross Country Girls

Angel Waters, Most Valuable Runner  
Jolena Lampron, Most Improved Runner  
Gabby Johnson, Coaches Award  
Maquila DiMastrantonio, Coaches Award  
Roshelle Morrison, Most Improved Runner

### Cross Country Boys

Brandon Pratt, Most Improved Runner  
Michael Aboud, Most Valuable Runner  
Remington Gaetjens, Coaches Award  
Andrew Mongiat, Coaches Award  
Noah Harfoush, Most Improved Runner

### Girls' Soccer

Meghan Neyer, Most Improved Defense  
Chelsie Goodwin, Most Improved Offense  
Emily Foglio, Most Valuable Defense  
Kym Hendrix, Most Valuable Offense  
Rayne Whitten, Coaches Award

### Boys' Soccer

Andrew Wicklund, Most Valuable Player  
Stephen Duffy, Coaches Award

### Football

Tyler Everett, Most Valuable Player  
Tyler Bear, Coaches Award  
Colin Belanger, Most Improved  
Mike Risti, Heavy Hitter Award

### Field Hockey

Mackenzie Kidder, Team Spirit Award  
Maggie Redman, Hustle Award  
Emma Desrocher, Rookie of the Year  
Alex Staples, Coaches Award  
Abbie Staples, Most Improved Player  
Alexis Foglio, Unsung Hero Award  
Jackie Guillemette, Most Valuable Player Offense  
Bailey Ohman, Most Valuable Defensive Player

### Golf

Andrew Lee, Most Valuable Player  
Matt Allen, Most Consistent Golfer

### INDOOR TRACK & FIELD

Date	Opponent	Time
12/21	Scarborough, So. Portland, Westbrook, Windham	8:30am 7:30 arrival
1/4	Thornton, Westbrook, Windham	3:30pm
1/18	McCauley, Noble, Scarborough, Windham	8:30am 7:30 arrival
1/25	Cheverus, Deering, Gorham	8:30am 7:30 arrival
2/8	Southwesterns	8:30am, 7:30 arrival



## 2013 HOLIDAY HOOPLA



The 57 Stallions Youth Basketball Association is hosting its 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Holiday Basketball Tournament!!!!

**When:** December 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> from 9am-9pm

**Where:** Massabesic High School

**Who:** 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade Travel Teams: Waterboro, Alfred, Lyman, Biddeford, Bonny Eagle, Springvale, Noble, Limerick/Newfield, Kennebunk.

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# MHS students take on NYC

BY JON SIMONDS



Freedom Tower in New York City. PHOTO BY JIM CHAMOFF

Led by English teacher Nori Chamoff, 50 Massabesic High School students embarked on a weekend jaunt to New York City, Saturday, Dec. 14 for the Culture Club's annual trip to see The Big Apple dressed in all its Christmas décor. The bus departed Massabesic High School at 6 in the morning for a high noon arrival at J&V's pizzeria in Bensonhurst, Brooklyn.

Mother Nature may have delayed things for an hour, but did little to keep students from devouring five pies in addition to three Sicilian pies, a thick crust pizza rarely found outside of New York. In New York, pizza is hand tossed, and the pizza maker certainly enjoyed showing off his talents. Some students were even treated to good ole New York hospitality as a few patrons picked up their plates of food and surrendered tables to the folks from Maine.

New York hospitality continued as the crowd went next door for the subway ride to Rockefeller Center with a horde of Santas all dressed up for Santa Con. "I'm just going to buzz the rest of you through," the token booth clerk announced, after selling several transit cards and saving the group a small chunk of the fare. The subway, which races underground through Manhattan, shared no news of the storm above. Once up on the street, however, the pre-winter storm descended upon the hundreds of thousands of tourists without mercy, the Massabesic Fifty among them.

Manhattan is a tapestry of towers reaching for the heavens. These giant structures redirect the mightiest of wind down into the

streets below, creating wind tunnels, and the wind on this night was nothing less than a brutal beast, driving snow and stinging sleet into a horde of determined faces. The tree at Rockefeller Center shined brightly, welcoming the masses with cameras flashing, families posing and quickly seeking shelter in surrounding stores.

The Massabesic Fifty sought shelter in Saint Patrick's Cathedral. In spite of ongoing renovations, the church, which has stood its ground since 1879, is a glorious work of architectural wonder first begun with public funding, redirected by war as America found itself caught in the clutches of the Civil War. The church is open for prayers and candle lighting 24 hours a day. After thawing out, the mystique of Times Square was captured, but the likes of China Town, Little Italy and the Village would be lost to the fury of ole Mother Nature.

The following morning, how-

ever, the day would begin with the sun playing its own version of peek-a-boo and inevitably chasing the clouds away as the Massabesic Fifty were dropped into the heart of Herald Square, home of Macy's, which only recently lost its title as the world's largest department store to a store in South Korea. First built in 1901, Macy's Herald Square is the final stop on the Macy's annual Thanksgiving Day Parade, an epic of grand proportion, as are the Christmas animations gracing the windows of Macy's flagship store every holiday season. Then it was off to the Empire State Building.

The trip moved south to Battery Park for a look at Lady Liberty, a symbol of the freedoms we hold dear before turning and walking to a symbol of our strength and resolve – Freedom Tower – on the very site where the Twin Towers once stood. Richard Gosslin, one of the many chaperones, choked up when walking through the memorial, honoring those who worked and died in those Towers. "We should never forget," he said. "They were just working people like us, trying to support families." He reminded me of the heroics of those who sacrificed their lives trying to save as many as they could.

"They were good people," he said, and later that night I couldn't help but smile over the good people waiting for their children to come running off the bus when it returned from the Big Apple around 7 p.m. Sunday night. Instead of sitting in the warmth of their cars, they climbed into the snow digging out and cleaning off all the vehicles of those parents and teachers who volunteered to serve as chaperones for the weekend venture.

## LETTERS

### An open letter to York County residents:

Since Aug. 1, you have been reading about the state's new system to provide non-emergency medical transportation to MaineCare members. The roll out of the new system, which interposes a third party – or a "broker" – between riders and the transportation provider has not gone well.

Last week, York County Community Action Corporation (YCCAC) announced that, despite our best efforts, we can no longer sustain this part of our transportation program. We have been providing this service to York County residents for more than 30 years; we hope you understand that this is not a decision we came to lightly.

Providing high quality, reliable and affordable transportation to MaineCare members is something we have taken great pride in over the years. Our program has been successful because it was implemented by dedicated staff and remarkably generous York County volunteers, who have given of their time and driven millions of miles annually using their own vehicles, so that their vulnerable, disabled and elderly neighbors could get essential health care.

It is important to bear in mind that this service does not belong to YCCAC, and it doesn't belong to the state or its Atlanta-based broker. It is 100 percent publicly funded, and therefore it belongs to you, the taxpayers.

This year the state will pay the new broker in York County \$5.3 million to arrange transport for MaineCare members. This is considerably more money than has historically been spent on Medicaid transportation in our region,

and it is a significant investment. You have the right to demand that the service be responsive and reliable.

Since Aug. 1, we have spent thousands of dollars and untold hours attempting to redesign our work flow to fit with the new system. Regrettably, we have not been successful in achieving a work flow that is compatible with the broker's business methodology, nor have we been able to negotiate rates that cover our costs.

Because of this, our board of directors made the very difficult decision to begin to wind down the volume of transportation we provide for MaineCare members via a contract with the new broker.

We want the community to know that we stand ready to do whatever is functionally and financially feasible to make sure that MaineCare members do not fall through the cracks.

And, we want you to know that our other public transit services are alive and well, including the Sanford Transit, the WAVE vehicles, the Sanford Ocean Shuttle and the seasonal Shoreline Explorer. In addition, our volunteer drivers will continue to provide transport to certain non-MaineCare members under a variety of contracts, including those needing access to cancer care and children in protective and foster care.

Please do not hesitate to contact either of us if you would like additional information about this transition.

*Claudette Dupee, President  
Barbara Crider, Executive  
director  
York County Community  
Action Board of Directors*

## INDOOR Softball Clinics

Every Sunday  
Dec. 1 - March 16

Massabesic High School Gym

**\$40 for 12 sessions**

*All proceeds go directly to the high school softball program.*

2:00-3:00 p.m. – Skills and drills (ages 7-10)

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**Pitchers and Catchers (beginners and advanced)**

- Basic fundamentals will be taught for beginners
- Pitchers are strongly encouraged to provide their own catcher

4:30-6:00 p.m. – Skills and drills (11 and up)

**Skills and Drills station work**

- Throwing drills
- Infield
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- Hitting
- Bunting
- Base running

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Clinic instruction will be provided by the Massabesic High School Coaching staff along with Middle School and Little League coaches.



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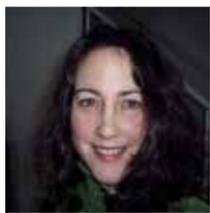
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**Happy Holidays!**

## OPINION

## A very cranberry Christmas

Here we are, smack-dab in the middle of another holiday season, singing along with the carols playing nonstop on 94.9 WHOM, finishing up our shopping and wrapping of presents, and turning thoughts toward special holiday foods.



by  
Shelley Burbank

Yes, this is the season of Christmas cookies, nut bread, fruit cake and eggnog. Peanut brittle, peppermint bark, snickerdoodles and hot cocoa with whipped cream. Depending on our family traditions, we may enjoy turkey, ham, lasagna, baklava, corn bread stuffing, sweet potato casserole, or those glorious Franco-American pork tourtières.

And anything cranberry.

In my family, a traditional treat is cranberry bread. My mother serves it on a silver tray at her Christmas Eve dinner of fish chowder and crackers, jello fruit salad and homemade sour pickles. Cranberries are fun to string together and hang as a garland on the fir tree. Frozen into an ice-ring, cranberries add a splash

of color to a holiday punch bowl. Added to champagne cocktails, frozen cranberries not only keep the beverage chilled, but look very pretty rolling around in the glass. (A mint leaf provides good contrast, too.) There are cranberry sauces and jellies, cranberry pancakes, and don't forget cranberry nut muffins with a little spread of butter to warm up chilly winter mornings.

There is something just so festive about those bright red berries that contrasts with the uber-whiteness of the snowy winter world outside.

As more and more people are coming to realize that eating locally with the seasons makes sense from a health and environmental perspective, here in New England we can feel confident about choosing cranberries in late fall and early winter. According to the Cape Cod Cranberry Growers Association, cranberries – along with blueberries and Concord grapes – are a native North American fruit. Native Americans used

the cranberry in a sort of protein bar called pemmican which was made of crushed berries, deer meat, and melted fat. They also used the berry as a dye and as a medicine. Later, American sailors took cranberries with them on sea voyages to stave off scurvy, as the cranberry has a high vitamin C content.

Cranberries are also grown commercially right here in Maine. According to the Maine Cooperative Extension, cranberry production is a new-old industry since cranberries were grown here in the past, disappeared in the first half of the 1900s, and then experienced a rebirth in the 1990s, when new commercial production began. Last year, I bought a 10-pound box of the ruby-red berries from a local food co-op organized by Ossipee Towns for Sustainability (check out the Facebook page). The group orders from Crown o' Maine Organic Cooperative, which markets products from Maine growers.

I had good intentions when I bought those berries, but somehow after sticking that box in my freezer I forgot about it ... until last week. All of a sudden, as we

rounded the corner to Christmas, it hit me. Cranberries! I decided I wanted to try making chutney to include in my Christmas dinner menu and also to give as handmade gifts. It doesn't get much more local than your own kitchen, right?

I searched the Internet for a recipe, found one I liked on the Ocean Spray website, gathered my ingredients, and set the pot to boiling. The first batch came out a little more runny than I wanted, but the flavor was tangy-sweet and spicy. Making a few modifications the following evening, I ended up with a firm, spreadable chutney with a glorious dark garnet-red color and just the right blend of spices. I can't wait to serve this with my Christmas turkey, not to mention all the leftover turkey sandwiches!

If you would like to try it yourself, see the recipe to the right.

Happy holidays!

*Shelley Burbank is a contributing writer for the Reporter and freelance writer and independent blogger @Localista: Life & Style Close to Home, shelleyburbank.wordpress.com.*

## Shelley's Second-Batch Christmas Cranberry Chutney



1 ½ cups water  
1 ½ cups sugar  
2 cups frozen Maine cranberries  
1 cup vinegar  
1 cup raisins  
½ cup small dice apple  
½ teaspoon each allspice, ginger, cinnamon  
¼ teaspoon ground cloves

Combine sugar and water in a medium saucepan and bring to a boil over medium high heat. Add remaining ingredients. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer for 45 minutes, stirring often to avoid sticking. Pour into glass bowls and cool to room temperature. Refrigerate. Stir before serving to show off all that chunky deliciousness.

If you like your chutney more saucy, reduce cooking time. The longer you cook, the more "set" your chutney will become.

## Rumors of his demise are greatly exaggerated

Dear Mr. Simonds,

I'm writing you this letter to clarify a few things and disperse of my rumored demise. I assure you, I am very much alive and well. As is the norm when the years pile up, we do tend to slow down a bit. Not by choice, mind you, but merely the very



by  
Jon Simonds

virtue of our age. This is not to suggest I've lost my appreciation of gazing upon the beauty of say, Rhiannon, but the thought of all the energy required to keep up with one so young usually drives me to remove my spectacles and nap.

Secondly, I should like to clarify my whereabouts. Yes, I have a home in the north, but I mostly live in Florida. I like Florida. On the Gulf, temperatures rarely dip below 60, nor do they often rise above 85. Rudy does need a flea dip every now and then, but he seems rather content lying about in the den, snoozing beside my chair whilst I enjoy my classical music.

Our home in the north is just a small apartment we maintain in the Bowery. The Missus and I love the city crowds, smells of the subway, the fragrance of food and the nightly symphony of traffic humming beneath our window marred only by the occasional crunch of a bass drum.

Not lastly, I should like to straighten out much of the disin-

formation regarding my attire. For example, I rather prefer blue Armani pinstriped suits, (though I must confess to having several plain gray ones from JC Penney) as opposed to the gaudy red one everyone dresses me in. In spite of my size, I'd rather not stand out in a crowd like Lil Wayne weighed down with heavy gold chains draped around his neck. If it weren't for my love of anonymity, I would have approached the producers of the "Biggest Loser" ages ago, but this would never do, as it would draw paparazzi, thoroughly upsetting the Missus and I wouldn't want to do anything to disturb our blissful marriage.

Furthermore, does anyone truly believe I go flying around all night in a sled, slipping down chimneys? Anyone who values their marriage doesn't go out half a night, let alone all night and, quite frankly, at my age, chimney sliding is out of the question. Besides, does anyone really believe there is a chimney for every home? There are a lot of apartments out there you know, and I don't discriminate. When I first started this gig there were a lot less of you. I had a roach issue in Florida once and believe me. They cannot maintain the pace of humanity.

Also, elves are not toy mak-

ers. Where ever did that silly idea come from? Nowadays, those would be the Chinese, although I do have several elves helping me. Eliot, for example, makes the best baked Alaska in the world and Ella is obsessive about cleanliness.

And finally, just to let you know how I do get it all done. Have you never heard of things like Toys for Tots, food drives, or ever felt an impulse to buy for someone? It takes a steady stream of focus and concentration and oh, by jingo bells, it works! You may not always get what you want, but as I told that chap over a cold ale one night back in '67, you'll find you get what you need. Now there was one of the most underappreciated Christmas gifts I've ever given. Sympathy for Santa would have been most appreciated.

Forgive an old man his ramblings when all I really meant to do is thank you for this opportunity to dispel rumors of my demise. Christmas may come only once a year, but the spirit of giving never goes away in spite of the collection of scrooges you've assembled for that mess hall you call Congress. May you and your readers have a very merry Christmas and of course, a most prosperous year.

Sincerely yours,  
Kris Kringle

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

## Christmas awakening

TAKE  
FIVE

by  
Jon Gale

It's not just the colored lights or the wreaths on doors that has me humming Christmas carols, although I have a tree lashed to the luggage rack on my car and am

in a good mood, revved up for an oncoming storm. Hooray! Maybe 14 inches of snow, and now some real cold. My fingertips, sensitive from years of partial frost bite, are reminding me of how winters used to be ... fun and painful at times. But I digress from what got me to the keyboard.

Besides having purchased our Christmas tree, I have come from the Waterboro Transfer Station with a hot cup of coffee. The Lakeside Community Baptist Church members are out in the 4 degree weather giving dump patrons free coffee, and are eager to help people unload their trash bags. Man, is that nice! I told the fellow who came to my car that I usually throw my bag at the hopper with the goal of a direct hit ...not to the head of attendant Bob Gobeil. I made a high arching underhanded throw and ... plopp ... right in the middle. The man next to my car threw up both of his hands as if I'd scored a long field goal.

What really made my heart sing was the sight I beheld as I entered my driveway. There were four young children with sleds, joyously sliding on the sparse snow cover. It was cold and the kids were outside. They were not

cooped up in a heated enclosure with their eyes glued to an electronic device. When I left for the dump and the tree farm, the kids' dad or uncle was out in the field walking with

a heavily clad 3-year-old and the family dog. Hooray! Adults out with kids in the REAL cold. This is the first step in this child learning to love the outdoors and Maine winters. I free associate, and see Jimmy Stewart in the final scene of "It's a Wonderful Life," standing in the falling snow with both arms raised, yelling at the top of his lungs. "MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYBODY!"

I harkened back to my early childhood in the 1950s. Late dusk and a Flexible Flyer sled in tow. My mittens are frozen solid, snow is encrusted on my knit hat and my nose is ready to drop off. I am counting my steps and looking across the snow-laden field at the warm yellow lights coming from the windows of my destination. My fingers sting and tears are freezing to my cheeks. Oh, how that memory makes the Christmas carol come to my lips. I want to hug those kids and their parents, the church people at the Waterboro dump and especially my long-departed mother who made the doors to my home swing out easier than in.

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

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## Sanford chamber welcomes Shaw's Hardware new owner

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held by the Sanford Springvale Chamber Ambassador Committee at Shaw's Hardware in downtown Sanford welcoming new owner Richard Cote. As the sign says above the group, Shaw's Hardware is Sanford's oldest hardware store. Pictures from left, Gina Sawtelle of Above & Beyond Catering, Shawn Dumont of Edward Jones Investments, Stephanie Wilkins of Roux's Kitchen & Bath, Richard Cote owner of Shaw's Hardware, Ann Lapierre of Town Square Realty, Evelyn Libby of the Sanford News, Rachael Spina, Chamber Ambassador, and Rick Stanley chamber president. Shaw's Hardware is located in downtown Sanford across the street from Sanford Institution for Savings. COURTESY PHOTO



### Opening of the Maggie Taylor Reading Nook at Waterboro Library

In memory of an active Friend of Waterboro Library, a new quiet cozy space has been created. While it can't really be called a "room," it will allow patrons a lovely place in town to read or work on a laptop. From left, Max, Emma and Corrie Sweeney enjoying time in the reading nook. Corrie is holding one of the new eReaders. PHOTO BY BRIGIT MCCALLUM

## REAL ESTATE



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# NEWFIELD

Ann Fisher

afisher@waterbororeporter.com

## Weekend sale winding down

Still looking for that unique Christmas gift? This will be the last weekend Mary Doyle will offer books, art, rubber stamps, clothes, toys and more at her workshop/barn at 515 Garland Road. The sale is being held to raise money to support Unique Maine Farms Project, an educational outreach program founded by Doyle. Part of the proceeds will go towards the cost to publish Doyle's book 224-page book, which she hopes to distribute free to schools around the state. For more information, visit [www.uniquemainefarms.com](http://www.uniquemainefarms.com).

## Christmas services

Special Christmas services will be held at the Newfield Methodist Church on Route 11, 10:30 a.m., Sunday, Dec. 22.

"We'd like to invite everyone to come worship and have a good time," said Pastor Hale. There will be treats, children's activities, special music and more.

Christmas carols will be sung at the Newfield Congregational Church Sunday, Jan. 5 at 3 p.m., followed by refreshments. The church is located across the bridge in Newfield near Willowbrook.

## Biggest buck, doe

The winner of the buck pool at K & D Corner Store was Reginald Tapley, who tagged a nine-point, 190-pound deer. The second-largest deer was an 186-pound buck tagged by Ronald Comeau. Steven Greenhalgh tagged the biggest doe, which weighed in at 152-pounds. The hunters who tagged the largest deer of each gender won a \$50 gift certificate from the store.

## Papers available

Nomination papers are now available for one seat on the board of selectmen for three years; the incumbent is Bruce Colwell. There is also an opening for one, two-year term on the Regional

School Unit 57 Board of Directors to replace Ryan Durfee. One, three-year-term on the school board is also available.; Lisa Richardson is the incumbent.

## Fire & Rescue

According to Emergency Management Director Tom Johnson, the Newfield Fire Department responded to a structure fire on Shady Nook Road at 4:39 a.m. on Nov. 13. Mutual aid was provided by Limerick, Shapleigh and Wakefield (N.H.) fire departments. The Newfield Fire Department Auxiliary responded with hot coffee and food.

The Newfield Rescue Squad responded to 16 calls in November, 12 of which resulted in transport to a hospital.



Donna Guzman, left, bends down to talk to her granddaughter at the tree lighting held at the gazebo in Newfield Friday, Dec. 7. Guzman's husband Jack Guzman, is holding the couple's dog, Larry. The annual event is cosponsored by 19th Century Willowbrook Village museum and the Historical Society of Newfield.

Ann Cuffey, above, who is the secretary for the society, leads the carol singing at the tree lighting, which drew about two dozen people. Refreshments in the society building followed.

PHOTOS BY ANN FISHER

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