



REPORTER

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Alfred reviews budget cuts

By Allison Williams

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Those attending the town warrant preview meeting March 18 seemed in favor of most budget cuts, and also appeared to favor some that weren't included. Employee benefits was a hot issue, inspiring the most heated discussion, especially as related to health insurance for families of town employees. As explained by Selectman John Sylvester, there are no benefits for retirement or sabbaticals and the family health insurance is similar to what is provided in other communities, but all were not in agreement.

No salary increases are being proposed this year.

"We did (reviewed) every department – the budget has been squeezed and squeezed," said Selectman George Donovan.

All departments had been asked to decrease their budgets by 5 percent and they complied.

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Game on

Clockwise from left, Danielle Burbank, Maddie Waugh, store owner Candace Gooch, Hannah Waugh and Sandra Waugh at family game night at the At Once All Agog toy store in Limerick. See related story on page 4.

PHOTO BY SHELLEY BURBANK

Pet store says protesters barking up wrong tree

By Ann Fisher

afisher@waterbororeporter.com

Lynne Fracassi feels so strongly about the humane treatment of animals that she formed her own group, Maine Citizens Against Puppy Mills.

For the second year in a row, Fracassi is taking her crusade to Tropic Pets on Route 202 in Waterboro, where the group plans to hold a protest against puppy mills noon to 2 p.m., Saturday, March 29.

Fracassi's heart may be in the right place, but according to officials with the Maine Animal Welfare Program and the owner of the pet store, Tropic Pets has complied with all state import laws and also passed a state inspection conducted just last year.

Tropic Pets owner, Melody Stone, also says Fracassi is barking up the wrong tree. Instead of targeting legitimate businesses, Stone said Fracassi needs to focus on the source of the problem.

In a press release about the

upcoming "peaceful anti-puppy mill protest" at Tropic Pets, Fracassi says, "documents acquired from the Maine Department of Agriculture, Animal Welfare Division have proven the fact that ALL pups/kittens sold in Maine pet stores are in FACT mill animals," and "Tropic Pets receives their pups from a puppy broker in the midwest."

Melody Stone, owner of Tropic Pets, countered in a prepared release: "Tropic Pets would never support so-called puppy mills which are unregulated and have deplorable conditions. MCAPM needs to focus their efforts to target such places as these and not broad blanket all pet stores. MCAPM demands that Tropic Pets adopt a shelter-like business model or threatens to protest until our doors are closed. While shelters have an important place in our society, so do pet stores as they provide choice for our customers who favor a specific breed."

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TOWN MEETING WRAP-UPS



NEWFIELD

Recycling center approved for transfer station

By Ann Fisher

afisher@waterbororeporter.com

A new recycling center was approved by Newfield residents who visited the polls Saturday, March 8, when the majority also decided it should be built at the transfer station on Route 11 as opposed to the original site on South Effingham Road next to the town hall.

Those who attended town meeting later that night voted to switch to semiannual tax bills; residents will now receive bills in March as well as October.

The vote was 83-36 to set aside \$15,000 to replace the recycling center, the site of a controlled training burn conducted

(Continued on page 2)

SHAPLEIGH

Parking lot, property funds pass muster

By Ann Fisher

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A push to draw more people to Shapleigh's annual town meeting had mixed results, according to Selectman Bill Mageary.

"I'm glad we did it," said Mageary. "If we didn't, I don't know what would have happened. "It was a dismal turnout, even with the signs."

Mageary based attendance Saturday, March 8 on the highest vote tally of 63-0.

"It was a pretty quiet town meeting," he said.

The board had placed signs around town to encourage more public participation, but attendance was actually a little lower

(Continued on page 2)

LIMERICK

Residents vote down land for new public safety building Sonny LePage new selectman

By Shelley Burbank

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At the March 7 annual secret ballot town vote, Limerick residents decided against purchasing 11.6 acres of land on Washington Street that could have been used for a new public safety building. The question, which was to see if the town would approve a transfer of \$150,000 from the Capital Project Reserve Account for the purchase, was defeated with 42 in favor and 453 against.

Only one other article was not approved, the appropriation of \$3,000 for the Sokokis Lake Public Boat Ramp. The 511 voters who showed up at the polls were more closely divided on this question with 256 voting no and 228

voting yes.

All other secret ballot articles were passed, including the appropriation of \$3,000 for milfoil control in Lake Arrowhead, numerous donations to local charities, and approval of a \$6,000 expenditure for town employee health insurance. One article dealt with a zoning change from Residential Zone to Business Zone for a property located beside the new Sanford Institute of Savings on Central Avenue, and was passed.

In election results, Roland "Sonny" LePage was elected with 231 votes as Limerick's newest selectman and will serve a three-year term. Howard Burnham received 207 votes and the incumbent, Wendy Thorne, garnered 67 votes.

(Continued on page 5)



Sonny
LePage

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The Massabesic Mustang Theatre Program's production of "No Exit," by Jean Paul Sartre, won second place in the Maine Principals' Association's Regional One Act Festival at Thornton Academy last weekend. Actors Jake Hammond, Sommer deAguilar, Will Secunde and Jane Petitt won All Festival Cast Awards. The cast and crew also won a judge's commendation for Best Set Construction.

COURTESY PHOTO

SHAPLEIGH

(Continued from page 1)

than the highest vote of 68 tallied last year, according to Mageary's estimate.

All issues passed with little discussion, he said.

The board will be drawing up specifications and seeking bids following a vote to build a parking lot next to town hall on Back Road. The parking lot will be located on the so-called Hooper property purchased by the town. Thirty thousand dollars was allocated to build a gravel parking lot

that would hold approximately 40 vehicles.

Three articles about the Williams Property, also owned by the town, were combined and passed. The 300-acre parcel off County Road was donated to the town in 2011 for recreational use by the public. Residents approved spending \$1,200 for general maintenance, \$1,200 to improve the entrance and \$900 on a bronze plaque to commemorate Roger Williams' gift to the town.

The Sanford, Acton, Shapleigh Dam Committee agreement over maintenance of the Emery Mills

Dam was amended to include the town of Acton. The amendment was proposed because Mousam Lake is located in both Acton and Shapleigh and the dam, while owned by the city of Sanford, is on Lower Mousam Lake. "That dam will affect both communities if something happens," said Mageary in an earlier article. If Acton residents agree to take up 25 percent of the cost at their town meeting in June, Shapleigh will be responsible for 25 percent of maintenance costs, down from 33 percent.

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BRIEFS

Country music show and dance

Join the fun on Saturday March 29 from 7 to 11 p.m. at the "Old" Limerick Brick Town Hall on Main Street for an evening of good music and entertainment from some of Southern Maine's finest performers including Mike Preston and Brian Wardwell, Kim Curry, Sharon Plummer and Linda-Jo. Free admission with donations accepted. Lots of great food

for purchase and BYOB, 50-50, raffles and more. For more information call Dean at 651-2015.

Library survey

Looking for a way to help out your community? Then take a few minutes and fill out the Waterboro Public Library's survey. WPL is looking for input on how they are doing. Take a few minutes to complete the survey at: <http://bit.ly/1dxlnN6>.

NEWFIELD

(Continued from page 1)

by the fire department last fall. Once the home of the Newfield Fire Department and old time block parties, the selectboard and building committee concluded the building needed too much work for repairs to be cost effective. Members of the selectboard previously said the project will go out to bid.

After receiving 10 write-in votes, Craig Parker agreed to fill a three-year vacancy on the Regional School Unit 57 board of directors.

It was announced at town meeting Saturday night that, due to redistricting, Newfield will become part of Senate District 3 and John Tuttle, D-Sanford, will be representing residents in the legislature. The town will technically remain in District 2, represented by Ron Collins, R-Wells, until Dec. 4, according to maine.gov, when the 127th Legislature convenes and new districts go into effect. However, the new districts must be used for candidates circulating nomination petitions for the 2014 primary and general elections. Tuttle attended town meeting to introduce himself and told residents he holds constitu-

ent hours at his home on Cottage Street in Sanford every Sunday from 1-4 p.m.

In other business, attendees at town meeting voted to raise and appropriate \$70,000 to conduct a town-wide reevaluation in 2015. According to town officials, residents' tax bills should not be affected by reevaluating the town's worth, but a more accurate town valuation of real estate may positively affect the amount the town is assessed by the school district.

Ten thousand dollars was also raised to set aside for a new addition to the public safety building for new town offices. The appropriation will be added to the \$5,000 approved last year.

With the exception of the two code enforcement officers, who split a \$16,000 annual salary, residents also agreed to give Newfield's town officers a 5 percent increase. The move reversed a voluntary salary decrease officials took three years ago at the height of the recession.

Residents also agreed to set aside \$5,000 as seed money to eventually build a salt/sand shed. Construction is grandfathered; a site for the proposed building, which may cost up to a half million dollars, has not been decided upon.

Author Talk

**Sunday, March 30
at 1 p.m.**

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ALFRED

Allison Williams

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Local author at library

The March 8 "cabin fever reliever" at Parsons Memorial Library was a definite success. Not only was the potluck supper well-attended, but a local author, Josh Pahigian, spoke about his recent book, "Strangers on the Beach," which the Book Discussion Group has been reading.

Pahigian said it took from March to August to finish the first draft of his first novel. "I would work from about 8 to 2, then go to the beach," he said, about his first novel. He had already written nine nonfiction books (several about baseball) and like "Strangers on the Beach," his next will

also be fiction.

"We would always see something (on the beach) that would trigger a new idea for me," he said, because the story is located in Old Orchard. "I didn't know if I was characterizing the town the right way." He admitted the plot was a struggle. "You can plot it all out," he said, in describing how some authors work, "but I wrote little situations." So he started with the characters, with three of them being introduced who seemingly are unconnected at first and who change over the course of the summer. He wrote the first chapter in longhand, then turned to his computer. "Trying to make every sentence perfect becomes paralyzing," he admitted.

Pahigian is from Buxton, but has spent a lot of time in Old Orchard in the summer and many of the impressions gathered there



Authors Elizabeth DeWolfe and Josh Pahigian discuss his latest book, "Strangers on the Beach" following the cabin fever reliever at Parsons Memorial Library last week.

PHOTO BY ALLISON WILLIAMS

provided him with fodder for his book, which is presently available at Parsons Memorial Library.

Boyle on biotechnology

During his recent talk to the New Century Club, Jim Boyle described biotechnology as "using living organisms to benefit man" and described instances in which this occurs – the bark of a willow tree to produce aspirin, molds to produce penicillin, yeast and sugar to produce alcohol. It was found cyclosporine suppresses the immune system, so it is used in transplants, allowing the body to accept an organ.

Boyle once worked in this field at New England Nuclear in

Boston. To emphasize the importance of antibiotics, he said in the 1920 influenza epidemic 900 persons out of 900,000 died. In 1960, 20 persons out of 100,000 died (of infections). The difference was antibiotics.

He explained how one's DNA sequence develops the human gene, and 99 percent of human genes are like that of chimpanzees, that 95 percent of our gene codes "make us different." What does this hold for the future? New drugs, genetic screening and forensics that may reveal one's genetic background. Cystic fibrosis is a disease carried in the genes. With genetic screening it can be detected before a couple produces children and, in the future, could

receive gene therapy. He stated there could no longer be "an unknown soldier" because his DNA would identify him.

During the club's business meeting the officers for 2014 were announced; they are the same as in 2013. President will be Arthur Dumas; vice-president, Barbara Carlson; secretary, Betty Morrison and treasurer, Ray Dupee. The club voted to establish a scholarship in memory of Jim and Bessie Mitchell. Previously one had been established to honor Katherine Sobanik and Andrea Thompson.

Harland Eastman announced the Sanford/Springvale Museum's new exhibit will be on transportation, this year to feature horse-drawn vehicles, bicycles and automobiles. The opening will be 5-7 p.m. Thursday, March 27. A concert is scheduled for April 12 at 7:30.

The topic of the April 14 meeting of the New Century Club will be "How Does a Land Trust Fit into our Changing Environment?" The speaker will be Alfred Carlson.

News from the Pews

The next free supper sponsored by the Parish Church will be an Italian meal served from 5 to 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 25.

The Rev. AbbyLynn Haskell will speak at the Parish Church Sunday, March 23 and The Rev. Diane Wendorf on Sunday, April 6, during the Lenten pulpit exchange.

ALFRED BUDGET

(Continued from page 1)

Some issues raised were about transparency, others were about ordinance changes. A lengthy discussion ensued after some disagreed with the need for an electrician to have his work inspected, particularly in a new home. The argument was that the fee to pay for an electrical inspection was unnecessary or that the codes enforcement officer was not qualified to do such an inspection. The complaint centered on this being "another bureaucracy" to raise money.

Townpeople will be asked at the March 29 Annual Town Meeting to adopt Maine's International Residential Code, International Building Code and NEPA 101 Life Safety Code. Included are sprinkler system requirements for single and multi-family homes. At present those do not need sprinklers unless there are additions to the buildings resulting in residence for three or more families.

New ordinances cover amendments to the fire prevention code, to street and sidewalk specifications, solid waste disposal, the veterans committee and building construction. These are all available at town hall, with the war-

rant, which compares appropriations for 2012 and 2013 with the proposals for 2014.

If all articles are accepted as listed in the warrant, the municipal budget will be \$2,225,513.84, with much of the increase due to road work.

Glenn Charette explained the activities of Alfred's 16-member Comprehensive Planning Committee, which has a target date of 2016 to conclude its work. The recommended budget for this committee is \$10,000, to be raised by taxation.

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George Donovan

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LIMERICK

**Limerick:
Farm & Village**

Shelley Burbank
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651-4017

**Attitude is everything
for new town selectman**

Following the annual town meeting on Saturday, March 8, Limerick's newly elected selectman, Roland "Sonny" LePage Jr. talked briefly about what he hopes to accomplish during his three-year term.

"We'll see how it turns out," he

told the Reporter from the steps of the Brick Town Hall. When asked what his goals were as selectman, he said, "I'm hoping to get the town business done in a positive manner."

The past year has seen some controversial issues come before town officials, including discussions about a new fire station/public safety building and a proposed propane tank installment on Washington Street. Less controversial but significant items from the town report and meeting included issues and costs for road maintenance and tarring, which have increased this year, and discussion of various improvements to the transfer station. The town also voted on March 8 to raise

\$45,000 for a property revaluation that will take place in 2014, leading some residents to question how their property tax bill will be affected.

Fellow selectman Dean LePage told voters at the annual meeting that in general one-third of property owners see a reduction in their taxes, one-third see an increase, and one-third stay the same following a revaluation.

As for LePage, the newly elected official indicated that when it comes to town leadership, attitude is important. "I think I can make a difference," he said when asked why he ran for the office of selectman. "A positive attitude can make a difference."

All 'Agog' for games

Candace Gooch, proprietor of Limerick's toy store, At Once All Agog, and assistant, Sandra Waugh recently attended the American International Toy Fair held in New York City "Sandy and I attend on Feb. 16, 17, and 18," said Gooch following a family game night held at the toy store the evening of Friday, March 14. "I bought many, many things at the toy fair – something for everyone." Items ordered at the fair have been staggered to arrive throughout the spring, said Gooch. HABA toys, Folkmanis puppets and Asmodee board games are just a few of the fun merchandise that has already arrived.

At Once All Agog has been hosting a family game night every month to give families a chance to try out some of the new games. Last week, a few teenagers, including Waugh's daughters, Hannah and Maddie and their friend, Danielle Burbank, tried out the Asmodee game Concept, which is a board-game variation of charades. The game elicited conversation and laughter, and perhaps most important to parents looking to challenge their children, thinking skills.

Family game night is held from 6-8 p.m. on the second Friday of each month.

PUPPY PROTEST
(Continued from page 1)

According to state records, Stone has a state license that is valid until Dec.14, and health certificates for all the animals in her care.

"Tropic Pets chooses reputable USDA licensed kennels and breeders that are inspected, regulated and are the best available," said Stone. "Tropic Pets and the kennels and breeders they choose are 100 percent in compliance with all state and federal regulations."

Tropic Pets is one of only six privately owned pet stores in Maine, according to Fracassi. Franchise pet supply stores such as Petco don't sell dogs and cats, according to the state animal welfare program.

Fracassi said it isn't where the animals are taken to, it's where they come from that can be the problem.

Melissa Freeman, office manager for the state animal welfare program, said according to records she could immediately access, Tropic Pets imported dogs from Pinnacle Pet in Neosho, Mo. in November and December 2013, and from Mid America in Neosho, Mo. on other dates last year.

Mid America Pet bills itself as a "pet distributor" on its website, saying "We are well known for supplying the very best representation of breeds, for our superior health care program and for ensuring all of our pets are from reputable and licensed breeders."

"Mid-America has no red flags," said Fracassi. "Our concern is the parents of the puppies. 99.999 percent come from large-scale breeding facilities."

Stone said Mid-America has since gone out of business. A call to the number listed on the website was diverted to a recording

referencing another number and an invitation to leave a message. A message was not returned by the Reporter's deadline.

When asked where she gets her pups, Stone replied, "Reputable breeders." When asked if some of the dogs come from Maine, Stone said she procures animals from breeders she approves of who are legally "up front," with healthy animals that are treated humanely. Some are from Maine, some are from other places.

It's the large-scale breeders that supply the dogs to the distributors that can be unethical and immoral, selling animals that are diseased and infested with parasites.

According to Fracassi, the USDA, which is charged to inspect animal breeding facilities, has reported some breeders the brokers use have infractions. Unfortunately, the USDA only has 113 inspectors nationwide,

and their priority is inspecting the nation's food supply. Fracassi could not name specific breeders she called puppy mills she says supplied Mid America – which she believes was the parent corporation of Pinnacle. However, she said there were "horror stories" about breeders Mid America has used in California.

Fracassi said in the three years she has researched so-called puppy mills she has amassed a 30-pound file documenting cases of infractions reported by the USDA. According to Fracassi, in response to inhumane treatment by some facilities, the sales of puppies and kittens in pet stores has been banned in more than 50 cities. Fracassi and her group plan to submit a bill during the next session of the Maine Legislature calling for a "ban of puppies and kittens sold in Maine pet stores, sourced from inhumane breed-

ing facilities."

"People need to educate themselves about where their animal comes from," said Liam Hughes, the director of the Maine Animal Welfare Program. Hughes said "fly-by-night rescue groups can also be a problem," when people from other states sell animals they call rescues, but are in fact animals from puppy mills.

"Question breeders and animal shelters," Hughes said. "There's lots of questions the public needs to ask."

Stone said her puppies speak for themselves.

"They are happy, they play, they interact with each other. They are raised cage free," said Stone. "Tropic Pets always has and always will provide the best quality care for our animals in a safe and loving environment."

"Anyone is welcome to come and see my shop and I encourage them to do so."

REPORTER

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

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Students helping out at lunch

By Joy Spencer

When there is a large or complicated lunch being served at Lyman Elementary two students from the fourth and fifth grades take turns to help younger children with the process. When all the trays are successfully filled, the two volunteers go into the lunch room to help the teachers on duty. This gives them the opportunity to interact with children and teachers they don't ordinarily connect with and it gives the older children a chance to feel that they are doing something important.

The volunteers can have their lunches at the table in the kitchen where the "lunch ladies" Holly McIntyre and Doreen Vigneault have their lunches. The kitchen staff wait on the volunteers to promote a family-style atmosphere so the older students are comfortable around staff they don't usually interact with. McIntyre added that the student volunteers enjoy the experience.

Mrs. McIntyre and Mrs. Vigneault also go into the classrooms to talk to the children about the choices they can make for better nutrition under the new regulations. Supervisor Lynnette Hariman is very supportive of these

interactions with the kids and encourages them.

Mrs. McIntyre stated that the kitchen staff believe "this is a good way for the students to get to know the human under the hair net."



From left, Elijah Lavigne and Maia Rosen, recent student lunch helpers at Lyman Elementary School.

PHOTO BY SUSAN RICHARDS

LIMERICK

(Continued from page 1)

Thorne, however, was elected for a three-year term to the budget committee as a write-in candidate.

Other town official elections were as follows: Steven Grigg, write-in for Budget Committee; Stacey Dudley and Sandra Waugh, re-elected for trustee of Limerick Library; Aaron Carroll, elected to Limerick Planning Board; Wendy Ferrand, write-in for Limerick Planning Board; Ilene Dashner, elected for Limerick Planning Board; Thomas LePage and James Carroll, write-ins for RSU 57 director, Steven Richardson, write in for trustee of Limerick Sewerage District and Limerick Water District.

At the annual town meeting on March 8, Limerick residents assembled at the Brick Town Hall to decide on a municipal budget, including a \$10,000 expenditure for the repair of the current fire station roof and \$15,500 for continuing a paving project at the transfer station.

All articles passed as recommended by the selectmen and budget committee except for increases to two articles. The first raised the amount of money spent for local, state, and federal elections by \$300, from \$11,945 to \$12,245. This change was moved by Tony Carroll, who argued that ballot clerks should at least be paid \$10 per hour. This suggestion followed a challenging ballot count at the March 7 election which was made difficult due to lack of candidates for many positions this year, resulting in many write-in votes.

Another increase was approved for the care and maintenance of Highland Cemetery and the Annex with the suggestion that the town begin the process of caring for some of the more than 90 family plots located within town borders. Voters approved an increase from \$3,700 to \$4,200.

Prior to the annual meeting on March 8, state Rep. James Campbell addressed constituents,

reporting that the state legislature was able to work together to pass the budget and to also raise \$40 million in state funding for cities and towns in Maine.

Chief Deputy William King Jr. of the York County Sheriff's Office also spoke to residents, discussing an uptick in crime and drug activity in Limerick this year. There were 2,391 calls this year compared to 1,041 in 2012. King attributes the increase in criminal activity to Limerick's lack of a contract deputy. "When there's a bigger presence in another town, you often see an uptick," he said. King also spoke about possible repercussions if the state government decides to assume control of the county jails. "York County has

the second-largest jail," he said. "They will put that jail to capacity." This could jeopardize some special programs at the jail, such as a welding program and an embroidery program, King said.

Richard Nass, who acted as moderator for town meeting, also spoke and gently admonished voters to take the election of public officials more seriously. "There were a lot of open offices, and we ended up with a whole pile of write-ins. It's a little discouraging to see how blasé some people are about elections." Nass mentioned that some people had written in names like Daffy Duck. "We need to take this more seriously. We need more candidates."



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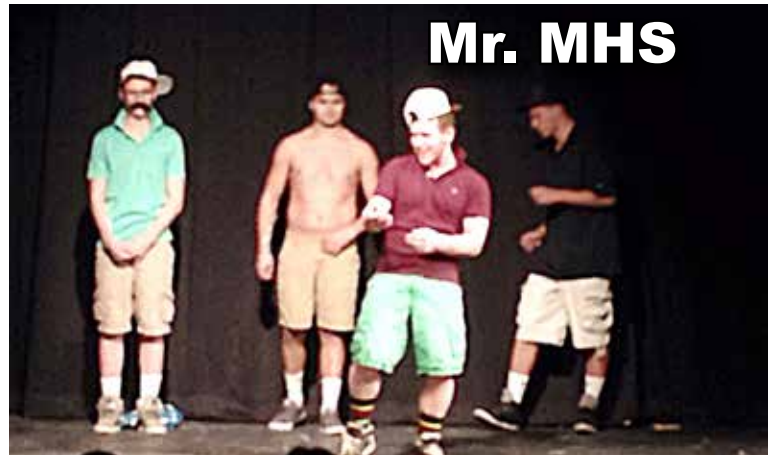


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Mr. MHS



From left, Jon Dubois, Tyler Bear, Nick Vigue and Conor Lane perform the senior class skit.

PHOTO BY DANIELLE BURBANK

Vigue crowned Mr. MHS

Senior Nick Vigue claimed the crown of Mr. MHS at Massabesic High School's popular annual performance held March 13 in the auditorium.

The event was presented by Massabesic Student Council and hosted by Nick Staples and Justin Langlois.

After four years of taking second in the event, Vigue was delighted to receive the crown. His talent consisted of an outrageous lament over an acoustic guitar, and a shocking conclusion when Vigue slammed the guitar on the floor, shattering it to pieces.

By the time showtime came around at 7 p.m., the auditorium was jam-packed with excited students and parents. The event featured four young men from each grade, elected by the student body who competed on stage for the ultimate title of Mr. MHS.

Judges determined the winners by likability, talent, dress and, most importantly, humor. The contestants participated in a variety of events, including Casual Wear, in which the boys took the stage in their most outrageous outfits. Each class performed a skit, and performed their talents individually, including stand-up com-

edy and acoustic guitar. The contestants were then escorted onto the stage in their formal wear by Rayne Whitten, Gabrielle Sawyer, Kaitlyn Laverriere, Kari Ledoux, Jackie Guillemette, Hannah Lundrigan and Erin Roberts. The senior girls were dressed in glamorous formal dresses generously donated by Bridals by Sandy on Route 111 in Alfred.

Second was taken by junior Jack Melanson, a three-year participant who performed a silly newscast that had the audience roaring in laughter. Taking third place in the event was junior Adam Marcotte, winning the audience over with stand-up comedy and a hilarious impersonation of the MHS staff. The efforts of all the contestants were noticed and appreciated, including freshmen Matt Landry, Roger Langlois, Justin Goodwin, and Jared Vigue, sophomores Nate Baert and Derek Coulombe, juniors Larry Fournier and Will Secunde, and seniors Tyler Bear, Jon Dubois, and Conor Lane. All proceeds from the show go to the students of Massabesic High School in an attempt to keep a positive environment for students and staff.

By Danielle Burbank

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Maine Maple Weekend

**March
22-23**

Maine Maple Sunday this weekend

The flow of maple sap surely means spring is on the way

Nearly 100 Maine sugarhouses will be open to the public Sunday, March 23, as part of the 31st Maine Maple Sunday. During the annual event, held every fourth Sunday in the month of March, participating sugarhouses will be open for visitors to enjoy freshly made maple syrup and candy, demonstrations of syrup production, sugarbush tours and a variety of other family activities.

"According to a recent study, Maine's maple industry contributes an estimated \$27.7 million directly to the Maine economy," said Gov. Paul LePage at a Blaine House tree tapping earlier this month. "That same study also shows that Maine's maple industry has an annual statewide economic contribution, including multiplier effects, of an estimated \$48.7 million in output, 805 full- and part-time jobs and \$25.1 million in labor income."

The study conducted by the University of Maine also showed:

- Maine has the third-largest maple industry in the United States.
- Maine's maple industry is characterized by a relatively small number of farms accounting for the vast majority of syrup that is produced.
- Maine's licensed maple syrup producers have been in operation an average of 24 years, and many of the farms span multiple generations.
- Maine's maple industry —

which counts the licensed producers and sales at retail food stores and businesses impacted by Maine Maple Sunday — generates 567 full- and part-time jobs and \$17.3 million in labor income.

Some sugarhouses will hold

events on both Saturday and Sunday. For a list and map of participating sugarhouses, visit the Maine Maple Producers Association website at <http://www.maine-mapleproducers.com> or <http://www.getrealmaine.com>.

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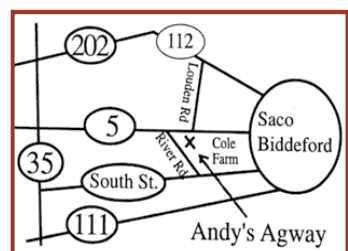
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OBITUARIES

William M. O'Brien

William Michael O'Brien, 61, of Kennebunk, passed away suddenly Tuesday, March 11, 2014, with his family by his side.

Bill was a kind, gentle man with a generous heart. Regardless of what was needed he was there ready to lend a hand, whether that meant cooking pancakes and sausages for the Fat Tuesday celebration at St. David's Church, volunteering for the Boy Scouts, moving his daughters cross-country (and back), or fixing a stranger's flat tire. His smile, sense of humor and endless supply of stories will stay with all who were blessed enough to know him.

Bill grew up on Plum Island in Newburyport, Mass., the third of four children born to Daniel and Claire (Callahan) O'Brien. After graduating from Newburyport High School in 1973, Bill joined the Navy, served with the Seabees for four years and in the reserves for 12 years. After his discharge, he married the love of his life, Roni (Mello) O'Brien. Together, they made a home in Kennebunk



**William
O'Brien**

with their three children Kristen, Audrey, and Benjamin. Bill worked at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard from the time of his discharge until this past week. Known as "Obie" to his friends at the yard, he truly enjoyed going to work each day.

In recent years, Bill was delighted to be surrounded by his four beautiful granddaughters. Evelyn, Reyna, Charlotte, and Lydia were adored by their Papa, who made sure everyone knew how much he loved them. He can now tell Roni all about them as he joins her in heaven.

Bill is survived by his mother, Claire; his brothers, Daniel and Michael; his sister, Mabel; in-laws John and Ellen Thurlow; son-in-law, Benjamin DalPra, as well as his daughters, Kristen of Alfred and Audrey and a son, Benjamin; four granddaughters, and many nieces and nephews.

A memorial service was held Saturday, March 15 at St. David's Episcopal Church in Kennebunk.

In lieu of flowers, Bill's family encourages donating blood or donating to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of America, 1311 Mamaroneck Ave., Suite 310, White Plains, NY 10605.

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

Almon W. Wooldridge

Almon W. "Al" Wooldridge,

of Peabody, Mass., died at the Melrose Wakefield Hospital Sunday, March 9, 2014, at the age of 76. Al was born in Somerville, raised in Burlington and attended Burlington High School.

He resided in Sanford for the past 35 years. Al was a self-employed foundry worker for many years in Sanford, and will be greatly missed by his family and many friends. He loved to spend his time riding his motorcycle with friends and enjoyed traveling all across the country.

He was the devoted son of the late Thomas "Luke" and Mabel (Farnell) Wooldridge, and was also predeceased by a brother and five sisters. Almon was the caring brother of Alice Bowman of Rockland, Roberta Beyer of E. Hampton and Chesley Wooldridge; father of four daughters and one son; cherished uncle of Karen Welch of Melrose, Wayne Petrino of Bridgewater and Rick Petrino of Peabody. Funeral services will be private, with arrangements by



**Almon
Wooldridge**

the Gately Funeral Home, Melrose. A family gathering will be held 1-5 p.m. March 30 at 286 Newbury St., Lot 112, Peabody, MA.

Richard Irwin Bedell, Sr.

Richard I. Bedell Sr., 81, of Sanford, died peacefully at home on March 17, 2014.

He was born in Sanford on Jan. 22, 1933 the son of Lyle and Vera (Hiltz) Bedell and attended local schools.

Richard was better known by his nickname, Rich or Dick and retired from the shipping and receiving department of Goodall Hospital in Sanford.

Dick was an avid outdoorsman, who enjoyed fishing and hunting, whether climbing up on Abbott's Mountain or his secret fishing hole off Owl's Nest Road. He was a longtime CB enthusiast with the call letters "Raven" used locally and "232" for many years outside of the State of Maine.

Richard found comfort in reading his Bible and being visited by the Jehovah Witness Congregation.

Richard possessed a good sense of humor and enjoyed his home. He met his wife Cecile over 40 years ago when they both worked at the W.T. Grant Store in Sanford.

Family was important to him and

he was content to live a simple, yet full life.

He is survived

by his wife, Cecile Bedell and their children, Jeffrey and Nathan Bedell, and Christopher Lantagne; by his children with his first wife, Marion, Richard Bedell

Jr., Debbie Gilbert and Gary Bedell; 11 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Richard was predeceased by two children, Gail Chasse and Dennis Bedell and by two brothers, Ralph and Dennis Bedell.

All services for Mr. Bedell will be private.

The Autumn Green Funeral Home, 47 Oak St. in Alfred, is respectfully handling arrangements.



Richard Bedell

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SPORTS

Tourney wrap-up

By MICHAEL DEANGELIS
mdeangelis@waterbororeporter.com

On Saturday, March 8, Waterboro Recreation wrapped up its ninth annual double elimination travel basketball tournament with championship games and trophy presentations.

In the boys' A bracket Waterboro took the title with Springvale runner-up. The two teams finished in the reverse order last year. The boys' B bracket winner was Shapleigh, who topped a solid Waterboro squad that won two of its preliminary contests in overtime, one a triple-overtime thriller that took place in round one.

St. Thomas' girls won the A bracket. Like the Shapleigh boys, they finished the tourney without a loss. Arundel's girls' won the B bracket in the same fashion, going undefeated and capturing the crown with a finals win over Line school, who worked their way into the title game after a first-round loss to Waterboro.

This year's sportsmanship award went to the boys, A team from St. Thomas, who finished with a 3-2 record that included a triple-overtime win.

Each of the more than 230 players (24 teams) in the event received a commemorative T-shirt.



The Waterboro boys' A team took first place in their bracket at Waterboro Parks & Recreation's ninth annual travel basketball tournament.

COURTESY PHOTO



The St. Thomas boys' A team won the sportsmanship award at Waterboro Parks & Recreation's ninth annual travel basketball tournament.

COURTESY PHOTO

NEWFIELD

Ann Fisher

afisher@waterbororeporter.com

Town news and notes

A new Tower Committee was formed at the March 18 selectboard meeting after Industrial Tower made a bid to renew a permit to erect a communications tower in Newfield. A few years back Industrial Tower got a permit to place a tower at the corner of routes 110 and 11, but it never materialized. If a tower is approved, the company said the town would have its own frequency. A committee that includes Fire Chief Dave Neville, Rescue Chief Dick McGlincey, EMA Director Tom Johnson, one selectperson and a resident will meet at 7 p.m., Monday, March 24 at the Public Safety Building.

The selectpersons also discussed four dilapidated buildings in town to see what steps need to be taken to remediate the properties. Because the owners need to be contacted to see what their plans are, secretary Ann Dailey declined to identify the properties.

At the next selectmen's meeting March 25, agenda items include meeting with Limerick Selectman Dean Lepage and surveyor Mike Lelonde to discuss a town line marker that was placed on Route 11 near the Line School without notifying Newfield's municipal officers.

The board meets at 7 p.m. at the public safety building.

According to Vice Chairwoman Gloria Dyer, the planning board has asked the selectboard about securing storage space for public records and planning board materials. Selectwoman Wanda Neville said file space was supposed to be in the back bathroom of the public safety building. Concerns were raised about moisture control, space limitations in the designated bathroom and security. Dyer said planning board records are stored at the town hall and the meetings are held at the public safety building.

Sweet Sunday

Maple Sunday is hands down the busiest day of the year in Newfield, with hundreds of cars lining the roads in front of the town's sugar houses. While other towns have summer festivals, we seem to have found our niche in March; Marian Bryant said her family hosted more than 6,000 people at Hilltop Boilers last year.

To fuel up for all the fun March 23, start the day at the public safety building on Water Street, where a pancake breakfast will be served from 8-11.

The menu includes maple syrup from local sugar houses, sausage, bacon and beverages. Admission is by donation.

The Historical Society of Newfield will be open noon-3 p.m. for an exhibit at the society's building on Elm Street titled

"Made in Newfield: Then and Now..." Anyone who has items – they don't have to be old – they would be willing to lend for the day can drop them off between 10 a.m. and noon.

A copy of Ruth Ayers' definitive history, "Early Families of Newfield, Maine" and a basket of maple products donated by Thurston & Peters Sugar House will be given away as door prizes at 3 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

Local businesses that will be open for samples, tours and other activities include Thurston & Peters on Bond Spring Road, which is owned by Deb and Harry Hartford; Ashley Gerry's Sugar Hill just off Route 11 towards Newfield village and Hilltop Boilers on Elm Street in Newfield.

Emergency calls

Newfield Rescue Squad responded to 15 emergency calls in February, with nine transports to area hospitals, according to Emergency Management Director Tom Johnson.

Johnson also reported that the Newfield Fire Department responded to seven emergency calls in February:

- mutual aid to Wakefield, N.H. that was canceled en route
- a carbon monoxide alarm on Mann Road signaled an issue with the furnace. The family evacuated the building.
- a call for smoke in a house on Lost Mile Road. A plugged chimney was found.
- a two-vehicle accident on Bond Spring Road near the intersection with Shady Nook Road.
- a call about a smell of propane on Onamor Drive was caused by empty propane tanks.
- a structure fire in a chicken coop on Sanborn Road.
- a call about a chimney back up on Lost Mile Road.

Johnson said Newfield emergency services always need new volunteers. The fire department meets in the public safety building on the second Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. The Newfield Rescue Squad meets in the Public Safety Building on the third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m.

Bake sale success

The fire department auxiliary made \$284 at the bake sale held at town hall during voting and at town meeting March 8. There were pies, whoopie pies, cookies, bars and breads for sale, among other goodies. The auxiliary will be discussing at its next meeting in a few weeks how the funds will be used, according to Ann Winn Johnson.

Heating help

Between ticket sales and raffles, the proceeds from the St. Patrick's Dance held March 15 were \$974. The funds are used for Newfield's heating assistance program, which runs from October to April.

Shaker Valley

LITTLE LEAGUE

Limerick and Waterboro residents and students:

Tryouts & Team Placement

Sunday, March 23

Massabesic High School Gym

SOFTBALL: 8 to 9 a.m. - Registration
9 to 10 a.m. - Ages 8-10
10:15 to 11:15 a.m. - Ages 11-12

BASEBALL: 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. - Registration
12 to 1 p.m. - kids born between May 1, 2001 and April 31, 2004 (league age 10-12)
1:15 to 2:15 p.m. - kids born between May 1, 2004 and April 31, 2006 (league age 8-9)
2:30 to 3:30 p.m. - kids born between May 1, 2006 and April 31, 2008 (League age 6-7)

SOFTBALL/BASEBALL: 3:30 to 4 p.m. - Evaluations for kids that were not able to make their scheduled time

JR/SR LEAGUE SOFTBALL:
Any kid that goes to school at the Massabesic Middle or High school between the ages of 13 and 16 is eligible.

JR/SR LEAGUE BASEBALL:
Any league age 13-16 year old that goes to school at Massabesic Middle or High School is eligible to play on our new Jr/Sr league baseball team(s).
Kids born between May 1, 1997 and April 31, 2001 are league age 13-16.

Mavericks Jr/Sr softball and baseball players can register anytime between 8 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. on March 23.



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