



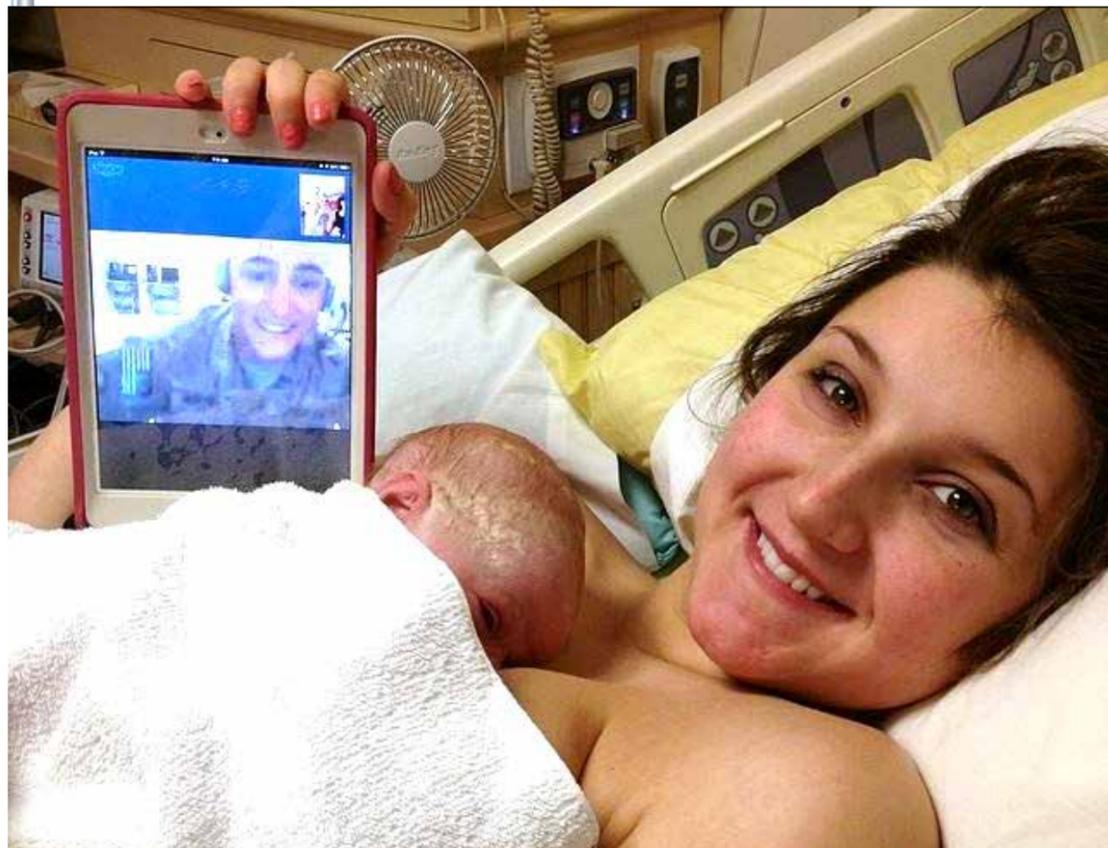
# REPORTER

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## Love at first sight

### LIMERICK FAMILY PHOTO GOES VIRAL

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

What happens when someone in the delivery room snaps a photo of a young soldier in Afghanistan witnessing via Skype the birth of his first child? The photo goes viral, of course.

SPC Matthew Norton and his wife, Canaan, had no idea their story – and the photo of their newborn daughter, Madison – would touch so many people around the country and the world. For them the photo was a record of a very special family day. However, with close to 7 million hits on Facebook alone, as well as postings on websites as far away as the Middle East and Japan, the military family from Limerick was for a time a social media favorite.

A 2011 graduate of Massabesic High School, Matt joined the Army National Guard when

he was just 17 and went to training weekends through his senior year of high school. He wanted to eventually become a police officer and decided that the military would be a good first step. Canaan graduated from Massabesic High School in 2012, but the two didn't meet until Matt returned from basic training with the Army National Guard in November of 2012. "I was really lucky to meet her," said Matt. The young couple was married July 2, 2013. A month later, Matt went overseas.

Just before deploying to Afghanistan with the 133rd Army National Guard Engineer Battalion on Aug. 13, 2013, Matt found out he was going to be a father. His wife was just 10 weeks into her pregnancy when he left for what would be a 322-day deployment. The couple would be separated until after the baby was born.

"It was hard, but we knew we'd be able to Skype all the time," Matt said.

Matt was deployed to Bagram Airfield in Afghanistan with Forward Support Company. The Maine Guards were doing mostly deconstruction work, taking down tents, picking up helicopter

landing pads, basically tearing the airfield down following the end of the war. He was busy working many hours a day, but thanks to computers was able to keep in touch with his new wife throughout her pregnancy.

Home in Limerick, Canaan would get up every morning at 6 a.m. and log onto the computer to talk with Matt via Skype. Matt was eight hours ahead in Afghanistan. They also stayed connected via Facebook, with Matt logging on later in his day to check posts and see what was going on back home.

"I'd wake up early every day and go to the Morale, Welfare & Recreation Program (MWR) computer lab to check on Facebook. It was funny how she'd show me her belly every day," Matt said.

It was pretty easy to keep to a regular Skype schedule from Bagram, but a month before Canaan's due date, Matt's company was sent to another base, Forward Operating Base (FOB) Shank in Eastern Afghanistan. There was less opportunity for communication there, and the days were long and busy for Matt. This was difficult for Canaan, but she said she

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## Back to school

### Changes in school district announced

By **ANN FISHER**  
afisher@waterbororeporter.com

Several changes in administration have been made in Regional School Unit 57 in preparation for the new school year, which begins Tuesday, Sept. 2 for all students.

Kevin Perkins is taking over as the district's new technology director, replacing Robert Stackpole, who took a job in the new Old Orchard Beach school district.

Perkins transferred from Lyman Elementary, where he was the principal. In addition to her position as principal at Alfred Elementary School, Virginia "Ginnie" Drouin will be assuming the principal's duties in Lyman as well.

"Ginnie has qualities as a principal and we want her to bring some of those skills to Lyman school," said Superintendent John Davis.

Cindy Pellerin has been hired to assist Drouin at both schools.

Christine Beritnet was promoted from assistant principal to principal of Waterboro Elementary School to replace Mark Peterson, who retired. Her new assistant principal will be Melissa Roberts, who comes to the district from Portland schools.

A change in administration has been made at Massabesic High School as well. Two new assistant principal positions have been created that will replace the two dean of students.

Marisa Penney will make a lateral move, while Jim Hand has been named a new assistant principal at the high school. Hand was principal at an Auburn middle school. The responsibilities of the position will remain basically the same, said Davis, with the addition of teacher supervision as one

(Continued on page 2)

## No boundaries for new EMS vehicle

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

The Limerick Fire/Emergency Medical Services departments recently added a new vehicle to their fleet that will make off-road rescue safer and quicker. This summer, the EMS department purchased a Polaris Ranger 6x6 utility terrain vehicle that includes a rescue body for the back to allow first responders to carry a patient out of tough spots such as woods and snowmobile trails. A track system means the vehicle can be driven in the snow.

The department is calling the machine Off-Road Rescue #3.

"It can be used to get anybody out of the woods or rough terrain," said Lt. Derek Welch. Over the past seven years, the EMS has received on average 300 calls per year. Last fall, one of those calls was for a hunter who fell out of a tree a quarter mile into the woods. The Limerick department called Acton, which had one of the off-road vehicles, and got the hunter out.

Without the vehicle, said EMS Chief Pete Proctor, if someone is stuck in the woods the department would have to wait for another

(Continued on page 4)

## INSIDE



Waterboro visit  
**PAGE 3**



Sports memorabilia  
**PAGE 4**

## NEXT WEEK Fall Sports Preview



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# Republican challenging Newfield independent

By ANN FISHER  
afisher@waterbororeporter.com

A well-known Alfred business owner is challenging independent James J. Campbell Sr. for a seat in newly created House District 21, previously House District 138.

Beginning Jan. 1 redistricting will mean District 21 will include the towns of Alfred, Newfield, Limerick, part of Parsonsfield and most of Shapleigh.

Frank L. Boucher, who co-owns Gile Orchard with Stephen Gile, has never run for public office, but feels he represents the Republican philosophy of less government and fewer taxes.

Boucher said he was also inspired to run by Rep. Jeff Timberlake, a fellow farmer who is also a friend.

"My biggest thing is, I'm more of a rural person and I'll try to protect the farmer. I also want to help the younger generation keep their (family) farm."

He said it's unfair taxation to assess farm or crop land the same as a house lot. "You can't pay



Frank Boucher

house lot prices and raise crops," he said. "The state of Maine has a lot of farms (to consider).

"Everybody wants to keep land open, but if you don't keep land affordable ..."

Campbell, who lives in Newfield, has also served in the 121st, 122nd, 123rd, and 124th legislatures in a political career that spans five terms. Citing dissatisfaction with both the state and national parties, Campbell withdrew from the Republican Party in 2009 and became an Independent.

District 138 now encompasses the towns of Alfred, Limerick, Newfield and Shapleigh.

## The following new RSU 57 staff members have been hired:

James Hand	Assistant principal	MHS
Erin Hoy	Spanish teacher	MHS
Thomas Wilson	English as a second language	MHS
Jennifer Walker	Chemistry	MHS
Heather Good	Ninth-grade physical science	MHS
Hillary Cusack	SUCCESS ELA/SS	MHS
Emily Dodge	Seventh-grade science	MMS
Rebecca Federico	Health	MMS
Christopher Perks	SUCCESS math/science	MHS
Amy Beth Watt	Special education/resource	WES
Nicole Winship	Special education/behavioral intervention	WES
Melissa Roberts	Assistant principal	WES
Cindy Pellerin	Assistant principal	Lyman/Alfred
Rani Wright	ELA	MMS
Marc Jaro	Tech support	District
Allison Hunter	Social studies	MHS
Carlena Smith	Music (halftime)	Lyman
Kristen DalPra	Special education – autism	Alfred
Maryanne Dunfey	Resource room	MHS
Heather Guilfoyle	Chorus	MHS
Victoria Smalley	9th grade social studies	MHS
Alex Whalen	8th grade math	MMS
Ilaria Zinser	Social worker	Shapleigh
Christopher O'Brien	English (halftime)	MHS
Robert Lansing	Math	MHS
Julia Townsend	ELA	MMS
Amanda Buckley	English	MHS
Charles Cianciolo	Tech. integrator	District

## BACK TO SCHOOL

(Continued from page 1)

of the duties.

Deb Crowley transferred within the district from Shapleigh Memorial and Line Elementary schools and is taking over the music department at Waterboro, with one day a week at Alfred Elementary. Crowley replaces Waterboro music teacher Leo Todd, who retired at the end of the school year.

The changes were made with two things in mind, Davis said. First, the district has seen a decline in enrollment of 500 students over the last five years. According to a study commissioned by the town of Waterboro, there were 3,760 students district-wide in 2003. That figure is projected to drop to 2,783 by 2025.

"We're preparing the district to how best provide services without constantly requiring more resources," Davis said. "How to absorb that financial change."

Number two is, "long range, how we can provide a better quality administrative team."

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# POLICE LOGS

from the York County Sheriff's Dept.  
JULY 22-AUGUST 1

## Tuesday, July 22

Cedric T. Murley, 18, of Northland Road, Waterboro, was summonsed at 11:49 a.m. for operating an unregistered ATV.

Thomas E. Rolfe, 48, of Beaver Dam Road, North Waterboro was charged with operating under the influence of drugs/alcohol on Hideaway Circle in Waterboro at 6:53 p.m.

Ashley Sinclair, 29, of Kennebec Drive, Lebanon, was served a warrant at 7:35 p.m. on Layman Way, Alfred. (York County Jail.)

Luke P. Barker, 21, of Old Alfred Road, Waterboro, was charged at 11:21 p.m. for drinking in public, possession of a usable amount of marijuana and furnishing alcoholic beverages to a minor on Old Alfred Road. A 14- and 15-year-old were charged with illegal consumption of alcoholic beverages by a minor.

## Wednesday, July 23

Rebecca Sari Grant, 40, of Biddeford, was charged at 6:43 p.m. for domestic violence assault and criminal mischief and issued a warrant on Cape Road in Limington.

Robert W. Ferrera, 24, of Oakhill Road, Shapleigh, was charged at 10:11 p.m. with aggravated criminal mischief and violation of condition of release on Oakhill Road.

## Thursday, July 24

Tanya V. Lombardo, 28, of New Town Road, York, was issued warrant at 9:49 a.m. on Layman Way, Alfred (York County Jail.)

Christopher S. Michaud Jr., 23, of Wescott Street, Limerick, was issued a warrant at 10:15 a.m. on Wescott Street.

Michael Richard Parkhurst, 24, of Pearl Street, Waterboro, was summonsed at 11:39 a.m. for unlawful trafficking, possession and importation of scheduled drugs on Main Street in Waterboro.

## Friday, July 25

Jeffrey Grant, 51, of Tanglewood Drive, Hollis, was charged with obstructing government administration at 5:42 p.m. on Tanglewood Drive.

Dawn L. Coish, 49, of Triptown Road, Hiram, was summonsed at 9:57 p.m. for harassment on Moffett Road in Limerick.

## Sunday, July 27

Andrew D. Lucas, 44, of Justin Way Extension, Waterboro, was summonsed at 7:07 p.m. for theft of motor vehicle on Main Street in Waterboro.

## Monday, July 28

Richard Donald Stewart, 35, of Calvins Way, Sanford, and Jeremy David Cook, 40, same address, were charged at 4:42 p.m. with burglary on Elm Street, Limerick.

## Tuesday, July 29

Alexander Adinolfi, 22, of North Road, Parsonsfield, was summonsed at 10:55 a.m. on Shapleigh Corner Road for improper plates.

Tammy L. Smith, 48, of Washington Street, Sanford, was summonsed at 12:16 a.m. for operating after suspension on Limerick Road in Arundel.

Richard Donald Stewart, 35, of Calvins Way, Sanford, and Jeremy David Cook, 40, same address, were charged at 2:36 p.m. with burglary on Hideaway Circle, Waterboro.

Rebecca S. Grant, 40, of Cape Road, Limington, was charged at 9 p.m. on Cape Road with violating conditions of release.

## Wednesday, July 30

Richard Donald Stewart, 35, of Calvins Way, Sanford, and Jeremy David Cook, 40, same address, were charged at 11:55 a.m. with burglary on Cape Road, Limington.

Erika M. Graupner, 20, of Bennet Street, Sanford was charged at 1:20 p.m. with theft by unauthorized taking or transfer on Sokokis Trail in Waterboro.

## Thursday, July 31

A 16-year-old from Waterboro was summonsed at 12:01 p.m. for harassment by telephone.

Paul Michael Olsen, 33, of Elliot, was summonsed at 12:10 p.m. on Kennebunk Road in Alfred for violation of a protection from abuse order.

# Riding for awareness



U.S. Sen. Susan Collins, right, helps local residents take a stand against breast cancer at Woodsome's Feeds 'n Needs in Waterboro on Wednesday, Aug. 27. Breast cancer survivors are sitting in the Breast Cancer Awareness wagon created by Roger Boucher of Limerick. The wagon is owned by Boucher's son David of Giles Farm in Alfred. It was created to honor three-time breast cancer survivor Barbara Carroll, who is the wife of F. R. Carroll of Limerick. Along with the pink Carroll fuel truck, the wagon made its first appearance at the Ossipee Valley Fair three years ago, and later was part of the Komen Walk for the Cure in Portland. Each time it is filled with survivors. Andy "Bimmy" Woodsome, owner of Woodsome's Feeds 'n Needs, has been working for his brother David Woodsome's run for state Senate. Woodsome is standing at left in the green shirt. Bimmy Woodsome, whose wife Gail is also a survivor, arranged to have the Susan Collins "All of Maine" Bus Tour stop for a meet and greet and to speak about breast cancer awareness. Frank Boucher, standing behind David Woodsome, is a GOP house candidate. COURTESY PHOTO

## TOWN OF NEWFIELD

Tickets are available for 1 cord of dried, cut and split wood to be delivered locally. Tickets are \$5.00 per ticket or 3 for \$10.00. All proceeds to benefit the Newfield Heating Assistance. Tickets are available at the Town Office or at the Transfer Station during business hours.

## TOWN OF NEWFIELD

The Newfield Planning Board will hold a public hearing for Map 51 Lot 8 for a conditional use permit for a towing company. On Wednesday, September 3, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. there is a site walk followed by a public hearing at the Newfield Public Safety Building.

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Theresa Vermette Gaetjens of Limerick takes a look at old yearbook photos from Limerick High School. On display were photos, articles, trophies and varsity letters to accompany a lecture and slide presentation by Shirley Staples Keller.

PHOTO BY SHELLEY BURBANK



Some members of the Limerick Fire/EMS Department with Off-Road Rescue #3, a new utility terrain vehicle used for rescue in difficult terrain. Front row, from left, Pete Proctor, Audrey Walsh, Richard Gurney, Michael McLean, Nick Pellegrino. Back row, from left, Thomas Thayer, Derek Welch.

PHOTO BY SHELLEY BURBANK

**NO BOUNDARIES**

(Continued from page 1)

town, such as Acton, to arrive or to have 10-12 people carry the patient out on a stretcher. With the vehicle, patients can be rescued more quickly, more safely and with fewer volunteers.

“It’s a great addition to our response vehicles,” said Fire Chief Michael McLean.

The funds for purchasing the new utility vehicle were provided by a generous donation from John and Marian Forsyth 20 years ago that has been managed by the Cummings Foundation. The department wrote a grant application to the foundation for the vehicle, the track system, a 16-foot utility trailer for hauling the vehicle, and the removable rescue body. The total cost of the vehicle and equipment was \$23,668. The department would also like to purchase extra equipment so the UTV can be used for firefighting as well.

“Marian left money to the fire department in her will,” said McLean. “Last year we made a request for a power stretcher for the ambulance.” The power stretcher can lift up to 700 pounds and goes right into the ambulance.

“We are going to see about getting a fire skid with a tank, pump, and hose for forest fires,” said Welch. “The town of Limington has one already set up for use in fighting wildfires. It will be multi-purpose.”

Limerick will now also be able to help out other local fire/EMS departments when the need arises, and the Limerick volunteers said that makes them feel good. Welch said, “Waterboro doesn’t yet have this kind of equipment, and it gives us a chance to help out the other communities that help us. We can give back.”

Most volunteers for the Fire/EMS department will be trained to use the vehicle. “We are a cross-trained department with few exceptions, which is something we are proud of,” said Proctor.

In fact, training is an area where volunteers for the fire/EMS department put in more time than the general public realizes. “We are held to the same standards as a full-time fire department like Portland,” said McLean. “Every year the list of training requirements from the state grows.”

There are a minimum of about eight mandatory training hours required by the state “before you can set foot on a scene,” said Adam Ma-

son, the department’s training officer. “Most people do about 40 hours of training per year.”

While fire and emergency medical services volunteers receive a small stipend when they are out on a call, the members of this close-knit group put in many more hours, including the training, which is completely voluntarily. Volunteers meet weekly at the station, both formally and informally. It is a close-knit group. At a time when volunteer firefighters numbers are dwindling across the country, Limerick’s volunteer force is holding steady.

When asked why they do it, Pete Proctor replied, “It’s the camaraderie.”

McLean said, “It’s the smile on people’s faces when we can help someone. It’s two in the morning, below zero, and somebody’s carbon monoxide detector goes off. We help the person, warm the person up, tell them it’s going to be O.K. and they are grateful.”

“The smiles and thank-yous,” Welch agreed, adding that he also enjoys getting out into the community at events such as Lions On The Lawn.

“Besides, who doesn’t want to drive a fire truck,” he said with a smile.

**BRIEFS**

**Candidate forum slated**

Eleven candidates running for state Senate seats in the November election have been invited to speak at the Twelve Town Group meeting slated for Monday, Sept.

8 at 6:30 p.m. at the Waterboro Fire Station. Maine Municipal Association will conduct the meeting and has compiled a list of questions for the candidates.

The candidates for Maine House will be invited to the October meeting of the 12 Town Group.

Founded in 2002, members of the group are selectmen from the towns of Acton, Alfred, Buxton, Dayton, Hollis, Limerick, Lyman, Newfield, Parsonsfield, Sanford, Shapleigh and Waterboro.

The group meets regularly to discuss matters of common interest.

The Waterboro Fire Station is located at 6 John Smith Road in East Waterboro.



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**LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT**

(Continued from page 1)

was lucky to have had support at home from her family and Matt's family.

As Canaan's due date in March got closer, Matt would go to the MWR wondering, "Is the baby here yet?"

"The doctors told me I'd probably be early," Canaan said. "But then I went over my due date. I was four days overdue when I finally went into labor."

Matt and Canaan spoke at about 10 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on March 5. Canaan's water broke at 11 p.m. just one hour after they had spoken, and she left for Southern Maine Medical Center in Biddeford. Matt, meanwhile, had gone to work for the day. Everyone who knew the couple left Facebook messages, hoping Matt would log on and find out the baby's arrival was imminent.

"I always went to the computer lab right after work, but this particular day I decided to go to the store to get snacks - a bag of stale potato chips for \$5," he said with a laugh. "When I came back to the barracks, I had my friends take my groceries so I could go to the MWR." Matt said he logged onto Facebook and was instantly bombarded by messages. He logged onto Skype, hoping he hadn't missed the birth of his daughter. "My heart was pounding."

Matt's mother, Sherry, was documenting the birth on an iPad. "I was holding the iPad out like this," Sherry said, stretching her arm out as wide as it would go. Matt was able to log onto Skype at 6:55 so he could be there, at least electronically. "It was hard. I was listening to her, and I couldn't be there to hold her hand." But he was able to witness his first child's entrance into the world. At 7:05 on March 6, baby daughter Madison was born.

"It was amazing," Matt said, remembering that day. "There were so many emotions. I was so nervous."

"It was almost like she waited for him," said Canaan.

The use of technology like Skype and Facebook, iPads and computer labs set up on a military base in the Middle East made the long separation easier, said Matt.



At 4 months old, Madison met her daddy, SPC Matthew Norton, for the first time, on July 2, when he came home from Afghanistan. COURTESY PHOTO

"I'm just thankful it wasn't like World War II, depending on handwritten letters that might or might not get there. Sometimes it would be frustrating when the connection wasn't good," Matt said, but overall having the technology helped with communication and staying connected to his wife and family.

"It was hard, but we were thankful," said Canaan.

One of the more amazing results of social media and technology was the popularity of a photo taken minutes after Madison's birth. The baby is lying on Canaan's chest, Canaan is smiling at the camera, and behind mother and child is Matt on the iPad screen looking down at his baby daughter.

"The photo went viral from Facebook," said Canaan. "It's had 7 million hits." According to the couple, the picture was posted on 15 different websites and in different languages, including Persian and Japanese. It was also featured on Reddit.com, a news and enter-

tainment website whose content is created by registered community members. It was the number eight photo on The Chive, a photo entertainment website, and it placed 10th in an Operation Homefront photo competition on Facebook. Judges picked the top nine, Canaan said, and the 10th photo was chosen as the top fan favorite. "Fans liked our photo the most."

As wonderful as technological communication is, there is nothing like the real thing. When the 133rd came home on July 2, Matt was reunited with his family and met his daughter. Canaan and Matt's parents and other family and friends drove up to the Augusta Armory where a homecoming was held. Everyone was thrilled and carried signs welcoming the returning soldier.

"When Matt got home, I was holding up a sign. When we saw him, I held Madison up in the air so he could see her," Canaan said. Matt was able to hold his daughter



SPC Matthew Norton and his wife, Canaan, with an American flag and medals he earned serving overseas in Afghanistan for a 322-day deployment during which the couple's daughter was born. PHOTO BY SHELLEY BURBANK

in his arms for the first time. Now he and Canaan and Madison are getting the chance to be together as a family. Matt has been on vacation this summer, and Canaan is on maternity leave. The couple has been enjoying their time together with their daughter, adjusting to life as young parents. Matt hopes to become a police officer in the near future.

Baby Madison, her parents

say, seems to have developed a fondness for computer screens even at the early age of 5 months. "She smiles at the iPad," Canaan says, laughing. "We used to say, 'There's daddy' before he came home." Madison is, according to her parents and grandparents, a very happy baby. "She just laughs for no reason," Canaan said. "She's the happiest baby in the world."

**Pie and book sale at the Newfield Library**  
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**POLICE NOTES**

**Local man dies in car accident**

A Parsonsfield man was killed when he was ejected from the vehicle he was driving during a single-car accident Aug. 25.

John H. Bubar, 28, was found in a ditch about 120 feet from the scene of the crash, according to Chief Deputy William King Jr. of the York County Sheriff's Office.

York County Deputies responded to Pendexter Road in Parsonsfield at approximately 2:15 a.m. to find the unoccupied 1998 Subaru Legacy four-door sedan had crashed into a utility pole. Deputies called the Kezar Falls Fire Department for help locating the driver and any passengers who may have been ejected.

It took first responders about two hours to locate Bubar.

The crash is being re-constructed by the York County Sheriff's Office. King said the initial report shows the vehicle left the road, hit a rock and slid on its side. The car then struck a telephone pole and the driver was ejected.

The investigation into the crash will continue.

*Brigit McCallum*

brigit@waterbororeporter.com

**Snowmobile club gearing up for season**

The first meeting of the new season will be held Saturday, Sept. 6 at the clubhouse at 255 Old Alfred Road. There will be a meal at 6 p.m. and the meeting will start at 7 p.m. Current memberships expire Sept. 30. Application forms are available on the club website at [www.OssipeeMountaineers.com](http://www.OssipeeMountaineers.com). Trail work will begin soon on Sunday mornings 8 a.m. to noon. Visit the club also on Facebook. The annual OMSC Swap Meet is scheduled for Oct. 19 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the clubhouse.

OMSC begins its new season tied for the Coastal Region Club Membership Award from the Maine Snowmobile Association with the Saco Pathfinders Snowmobile Club. Both clubs have 74 members, and coincidentally, both clubs celebrated their 40th Anniversaries in 2014.

All in the region who love snowmobiling are invited to join this active club.

**Library plans autumn silent auction**

The Waterboro Public Library's fall silent auction will run from Oct. 1 through Nov. 14 and will raise funds to add materials to the collection. The theme is "Christmas Gifts" and the goal is to have items for people of all ages.

Anyone interested in supporting Waterboro's 1925-era two-room schoolhouse library can participate in a variety of ways. One is to contact businesses in town to donate gift certificates or items for the auction. Another is for folks who make handmade items to donate something they've made. This is also an opportunity for anyone to "regift" something new. In the past, patrons have donated earrings, handmade sweaters, scarves, framed pictures, restaurant certificates and handmade cards as items to bid on.

Donated items are needed by Sept. 15 at the library. For more information, email [librarian@waterborolibrary.org](mailto:librarian@waterborolibrary.org) or call 246-3363.

**Ossipee Mountain ATVers news**

The local ATV club is holding an annual fundraiser raffle at Lakeside Market. Tickets cost \$10 for one and \$25 for three. Money raised will support the trail building and charitable work of the club in the community. The group meets the first and third Tuesday of each month. Meetings include work parties from 5 to 6:30 p.m., and meetings follow at 6:30 at the clubhouse on Old Alfred Road. OMATV is a family oriented club, with many activities and events throughout the season. The club works hard to support its community with charity events, fundraisers, and community service. OMATV club is located in Waterboro, but serves the towns of Waterboro and Shapleigh, with access to Lyman, Al-

fred and Hollis. For more information see <http://omatvers.net>.

Membership is open and all are invited to join the club and support its efforts to become Maine's most recognized club.

**Chili, chowda and apple dessert contest**

The sixth annual Chili, Chowda and Apple Dessert contest, sponsored by the Waterborough Historical Society, will be held at the Grange Hall, 31 West Road in South Waterboro, on Saturday, Sept. 13. The judging starts at 4:30 p.m. after which the public tasting will begin at approximately 5 p.m. Winners will be announced and prizes awarded in all three categories at 6 p.m.

To support the society and enter their favorite dish at no charge, area cooks, both professional and amateur, are invited to participate. Contest food will be accepted between 4 and 4:30 p.m. Chilis and chowdas need to arrive hot in crockpots. For more information, call Dianne Holden at 247-5926.

**BRIEFS**

**SMHC appoints Manning as ACOG chair**

Southern Maine Health Care (SMHC) physician Peter Manning, MD, has been elected to serve as chair of the Maine Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG). Dr. Manning is a member of SMHC Physicians and practices with SMHC Women's Health.

"Dr. Manning embodies the qualities of SMHC's core values," said Ed McGeachey, president and CEO of SMHC. "His leadership skills and expertise in women's health make him a valuable member of our team

here at SMHC. He will be a strong advocate for ensuring that Maine women have high quality health care and that the physicians who provide their care receive professional support."

"Physicians have an opportunity beyond the exam room to positively impact health care for their patients," said Manning. "I am honored to be able to hold this position within ACOG to advocate for quality health care for

women and offer my fellow women's health physicians opportunities to learn more about best practices and treatments."

As the section chair for Maine, Dr. Manning is responsible for organizing the state level meetings, aligning the organization's efforts with the Maine Medical Association to educate the legislature about women's healthcare

issues, host educational meetings and support physicians in training. Manning previously served as treasurer and vice chair of the organization. The section chair is a three-year appointment.

Dr. Manning is a graduate of Colby College and the University of Vermont College of Medicine. He completed his internship and residency at Maine Medical Center and is board certified in obstetrics and gynecology. Manning began caring for patients in York County in July 2007.



Peter Manning

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LETTERS

Head Start thanks local Lions Clubs

YCCAC Head Start would like to thank the Lions Clubs of York County for donating their time and expertise in providing children in our programs with free vision exams using the SPOT Vision Screeners.

The SPOT Vision Screening devices identify children whose eyes may have some type of defect, which if left untreated, may lead to a lifetime of vision problems or blindness. Readings are taken of the child's eyes while the child looks at the SPOT "camera" used for the screening. It is as easy as having the child's picture taken. No physical contact is made with the child and no eye drops or medications are used. Exams can be done on children as young as 6 months old!

The Lions Club volunteer takes a digital measurement of the child's eyes from a comfortable distance of 3-4 feet. Invisible, infrared light is projected through the pupils onto the retina. The vision screening can detect

near sightedness, far sightedness, astigmatism, amblyopia (lazy eye) and eye misalignment.

The eye, muscles that control the eye, optic nerve, and the area of the brain that gives us vision are completely developed, no matter how perfectly or imperfectly, by the age of 6, which is why early detection is so critical. The earlier vision problems are diagnosed, the better the chance of correction and the easier and less expensive the treatment.

Head Start families that attended screening days were given results of the exam for their records and to give to their pediatrician and/or eye doctor. What an amazing tool that gives families valuable information about their child's eyes that they may not have had access to, even from their own pediatrician.

Many thanks, Lions Clubs of York County, for donating your time, expertise and SPOT vision screeners for our little people of Head Start.

*York County Head Start,  
a program of York County  
Community Action Corp*

LePage has passion for Maine and its taxpayers

Having survived homelessness in Maine, few Americans have experienced poverty like Paul LePage. He has a passion for Maine and its taxpayers of which he has a plan; stop spending and taxing. He cares especially for the homeless and the disabled who are citizens of Maine. That's why Paul volunteered for years at Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter and charities for the disabled. As our governor, he is there for the families of Maine who truly need some help.

Gov. LePage is not a smooth-talking Washington politician. He is an honest, hard-working businessman and job creator with a vision for a better Maine. Under his pro-jobs reforms over 11,000 new private-sector jobs have been created since Gov. LePage took office. Gov. LePage is committed to fixing Maine's longtime broken budget bequeathed to him

by those who tax and spend. He began with paying a hospital welfare debt left behind by the last governor. Washington politicians raised taxes while Gov. LePage pushed through the largest tax cut in Maine's history.

The governor is committed to the following: stopping domestic violence, improving education, recognizing our military and veterans, protecting our liberties, protecting our 2nd amendment rights, safeguarding Maine's environment, and fixing our roads and bridges for the safety of Maine citizens. Gov. LePage is truly working for the citizens of Maine.

I urge your readers to vote either by absentee ballot or on Election Day, Nov. 4 to keep an honest, hard-working business man working for Maine.

*Donna Flanagan  
Biddeford*

Poetry Corner

The nightbirds of my dreams

Here them sing, on fluttering wings  
The nightbirds of my dreams

Into the night, soft birds in flight  
Reflecting moonbeams

Silently glide, on magical ride  
To kingdoms near or far

Gently set down, not bearing a sound  
Navigating by stars

When dreams come alive, they  
soar and they dive  
Through landscapes unseen

Then suddenly gone, to the deep  
dark beyond  
Where angels sweetly sing  
And cathedral bells still ring  
Like shadows on the sun  
The magic journey done  
They leave a mystery  
The nightbirds of my dreams



*Mark Kelley  
North Waterboro*

OPINION

God is probably speechless in face of world events



by  
Jon Simonds

What would God say about all that's going on today? Residents of a Ukrainian city, once home to half a million people, no longer have electricity. The tap water they drink is untreated. The grocery stores feature shelves long since bare of food. Children go hungry. The city's mayor points to citizens dying on the streets as whole buildings crumble under the weight of rockets launched by Ukraine's Army in an attempt to take back their city from pro-Russian rebels.

What does God say to Michael Brown, sentenced to death for the commission of a misdemeanor or crime? Maybe police officers shouldn't address petty theft like the one committed by he and 43-year-old Eric Garner. Garner is dead from a chokehold applied by a police officer on Staten Island for the crime of allegedly selling cigarettes without tax stamps. Doesn't it stand to reason ignoring petty crimes, usually born of poverty, would lead to an increase in petty crimes and a break

down of social order – the same social order recently convicting Bank of America of a housing scam triggering the greatest economic collapse since the 1930s. Never has a corporation faced so big a fine. The whopping \$9.6 billion fine will offer nothing in the way of relief for those who lost homes, or cut into the annual bonuses of top executives who knew what they were doing when the deeds were done. Are we no longer ultimately responsible for the result of a chain of events our decision leads to?

What does God think about the Israeli response to the constant lobbing of rockets into its cities? The blinding flashes and crushing thunder, illustrated on TV screens with images of slain and bloodied children. Entire families are wiped from life's landscape as easily and thoughtlessly as a nest of hornets set ablaze. A woman from Gaza cries, "God help us!" as God's chosen people destroy hundreds of tunnels winding from Gaza into Israel, en-

abling Hamas to jump like rabbits from holes, kidnapping and slaying Jews. Is hatred such an all-consuming emotion it blinds a leader's ability to see the death and destruction it reaps upon its own people?

What does God feel as churches are burned to the ground, and Christians are beheaded for their failure to believe in God as ISIS defines him.

ISIS storms through towns in Iraq and Syria, taking oil fields and advanced weaponry in their declaration of a new Islamic nation. This is covered by a brave young New Hampshire journalist driven by faith and love to bear witness to the madness of our world. Isn't there a commandment reading 'Thou Shalt Not Kill'?

What does God make of humanity, gazing down upon humanity and what does all humanity now make of him? And what of his children's children? One can hear them talking. One can see their anger in places like Ferguson, Staten Island, Jerusalem and Gaza. What would he say to them?

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

LETTERS

Senator's column misses the mark

In a recent column by state Sen. John Tuttle, he talked about the increase in poverty among Maine children. While I respect the senator's stance on the second amendment, he is way off the mark on how he feels Maine can help these children.

Sen. Tuttle states, "One in five children are living in poverty." Does the senator ever wonder how it got so bad in our state? Well, here are some statistics to help jog his memory:

- The people of Maine hold the 14th highest place for state and local taxation in the country
- The people of Maine have to endure the ninth-highest sales taxes in the country
- The people of Maine are 21st in paying the highest individual income taxes
- Maine is the 18th highest in the nation on gas taxes
- Maine is the 11th highest in the nation on tobacco taxes (not taking a stand on smoking- just being statistical)
- Maine has the 23rd and 30th highest taxes on spirits and wine, respectively
- Beer is taxed at the 18th highest rate in the nation
- Maine is the 10th most taxed state (cumulatively) in the nation behind California, Hawaii, Oregon, Minnesota, Iowa, New Jersey, Vermont, D.C., and New York

Perhaps even the senator can see the correlation between taxing the people of Maine way beyond what they can afford to pay and the increase in poverty – especially in what once was the middle class. Did anyone read any of the taxation statistics above coming even close to the fact that Maine ranks number 32 in the nation in median income? I didn't.

In a recent survey only 39 percent of the people responding said that they had an emergency rainy day fund of three months' income. But the more telling story is that 48 percent of respondents said that if an emergency arose costing only \$400, they would have to either sell something or borrow money to cover that emergency. That is an appalling figure, and our legislators, including Sen.

Tuttle, ought to be ashamed of themselves for representing one of the highest taxed states in the union.

Taxation is a way to raise revenue to pay for expenses – it ought not be used to micromanage our economy. That's why Maine is in the shape it is. Every time a need is found, taxes are their solution. Any thoughts to all of us who are paying the taxes? Tuttle says, "We need an economy that works for everyone." I couldn't agree more; however, how about a little more consideration for all of us paying into the system – we're part of that "everyone" too. Or are you going to tax us until we are all lined up at DHHS for a check?

*Carmine Castaldo  
North Waterboro*

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